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### Braddock Road Study Information

A study is currently being conducted to evaluate potential improvements to Braddock Road from Guinea Road to the Beltway. A plan for widening on Braddock Road was first adopted by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1990. Then later, the Northern Virginia 2010 Transportation Plan recommended HOV widening on Braddock Road from Burke Lake Road to I-495 and conventional widening from Guinea to Burke Lake Road. These are ideas that have been around for quite some time, but haven't been thoroughly examined or studied due to lack of state construction funding. With funding now available, the County is conducting the first in-depth study of these suggestions.



**Supervisor Cook has served on Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and lives in Kings Park with his wife and children.**

Ensuring the community is actively involved in the decision making process is very important to Supervisor Cook. In February of last year, Supervisor Cook hosted a community information meeting with FCDOT staff. Subsequent to that, Supervisor Cook created a fifteen member Task Force composed of representatives of the various HOA and Civic associations in the potential project corridor. Since then, the citizen task force has met frequently to provide input and direction to the County as it collected traffic counts and other pertinent data. In June, Supervisor Cook held a second community-wide information meeting to keep people apprised of updates to the study and to gain a broader array of feedback from community members. A third community meeting is currently being planned for early next year.

The study will be examining a number of potential improvements to the corridor including improving the entrance of the 495 Express Lanes; implementing a prior plan to create a single perpendicular intersection at Wakefield, Braddock, and Danbury Forest Drive; completing the bike and pedestrian trail between Holy Spirit Church and Rolling Road; constructing safer pedestrian crossings of Braddock and Burke Lake Roads; the potential construction of one Express Bus/HOV lane in each direction from Burke Lake Road to the Beltway; and more commuter parking. Supervisor Cook is opposed to suggestions to add a tolling option to any new lanes. These ideas are currently in a study stage and any options would be subject to a cost-benefit analysis before further consideration. Any potential changes would be vetted through the citizens committee and be subject to extensive public input before any decisions are made.

Quite recently, county staff completed its study of a “no-build” option. This analysis shows most of the corridor at an “F” starting by 2040. It further shows rush hour travel times as high as 25 minutes between Guinea Road and the Beltway by 2040 absent improvements. Various alternatives are currently in design for further study. Community involvement is crucial and your feedback will help tremendously as improvements continue to be studied. [We will be updating the website with any new developments, so please click here for more information.](#)

## **Sexual Assault Prevention Task Force Established by Supervisor Cook Issues Final Report & Recommendations to Board of Supervisors**

The task force established by Fairfax County, at Supervisor Cook’s request, to reduce the occurrence of sexual assaults issued its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at the Human Services Committee meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Sexual Violence Task Force determined that in order to change the community’s attitudes toward sexual assault, strategies would need to be developed that would target behaviors at all points on the sexual violence spectrum: beginning with verbal harassment and ending with sexual assault and serious injury. In developing its recommendations, the task force reviewed school curricula and broadened its scope to include the following: how community organizations could use their influence to provide youth with positive messages of respect when it comes to the opposite sex, how to provide every victim with access to support services, and how to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

The Task Force also provided the Board of Supervisors with two overarching recommendations. The first includes establishing a Sexual Violence Curriculum Workgroup by February 2016, which would evaluate and recommend curricula that could be used within Fairfax County Public Schools. Second, the Task Force recommended establishing a position by July 2016 which would focus on facilitating the new county-wide sexual violence coordinating team, assist with the implementation of messaging campaigns, and serve as a point-of-contact in the community for sexual violence related issues.

The task force was established after a March 11<sup>th</sup> report from county staff in response to Supervisor Cook’s December 2<sup>nd</sup> board matter. Supervisor Cook’s unanimously-passed Board Matter asked staff to review the messages given to our youth and to determine ways to improve our communications with them about sexual assault. Supervisor Cook noted that the sexual assaults that are prevalent on college campuses would seem to arise out of values, or the lack thereof, dating back to high school. County staff summarized and assessed current efforts to prevent sexual violence within Fairfax County Public Schools. The findings demonstrated that school curriculums include a foundation for educating students on the seriousness of sexual assault, but found that there was more work to be done in order to change the culture of acceptance and apathy toward sexual assault in the community. Following the release of the memo, the community-wide sexual violence task force was formed to draft recommendations, which were presented and accepted by the Board on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

The task force has been meeting since April 2015 and consists of staff from different county agencies, Fairfax County Public Schools, community leaders, and staff members from the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services. [To view the full report click here.](#)

## Supervisor Cook Hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Stop Domestic Violence Event



Domestic violence is the leading cause of homicide in Fairfax County and, in hopes of raising awareness, Supervisor Cook hosted his 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Stop Domestic Violence Event on October 15<sup>th</sup>. His co-hosts, and champions in domestic violence prevention, were Sheriff Stacy Kincaid and Mayor Scott Silverthorne. The event took place at Chuy's Mexican Restaurant and featured information tables and support opportunities for nonprofit organizations involved in domestic violence prevention, treatment and awareness. Thank you to all who came out to show your support for such an important cause.

## Braddock Neighborhood News

Supervisor Cook hosts a monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16, which is available on most cable networks. Each month, Supervisor Cook invites topical guests on to share pertinent and informative items with the viewers.

Domestic Violence can affect anyone regardless of wealth, age or race and its impact can be severe. Here in Fairfax, Domestic Violence is the leading cause of homicide and a principle driver of homelessness, particularly for children. Advocates are working hard to raise awareness and ensure that those impacted get help. Two folks on the front lines joining Supervisor Cook on this month's show are Yolanda Thompson, from the Office for Women and Sexual Violence Services, and Jacquelynn Smith, the Domestic Violence Detective with the Fairfax County Police Department.



The shows air throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 5:00 p.m.

## School Board FY 2017 Community Budget Meeting - October 21st

Braddock District's School Board Member, Megan McLaughlin, will be hosting a community budget meeting regarding Fiscal Year 2017 on October 21st. At the meeting, she will provide a summary of the recent work of the task force that was formed to identify potential budget cuts. There will also be time for discussion and questions. **The meeting will take place in the Kings Park Library Meeting Room and will run from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.**

## Park Authority Weather Closures No Longer Tied to Schools

Effective November 1, 2015, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) will no longer follow the closing schedule of public schools during inclement weather. Instead, in response to customer concerns about the number of closures and weather-related cancellations of classes and programs, the Park Authority will follow Fairfax County Government closures. Unless Fairfax County closes all county facilities, RECenters and other park facilities will remain open for general use. Classes, team practices, parties and even weddings will go on as planned at Park Authority facilities, unless cancelled by the customer or by FCPA.

It is important to point out that there will be some exceptions to the rule. For example, participants in Park Authority programs held at non-Park Authority sites will need to check with these private business locations before heading out. Similarly, Park Authority classes and programs held in Fairfax County Public School buildings cannot take place when schools are closed.

For the most up to date weather related closure information visit the Park Authority website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weather/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weather/) or call the inclement weather line at 703-324-8661. Additional notifications will be made via social media on Facebook and Twitter.

## Supervisor Cook in the Community

**Annual Vietnamese Community Picnic:** On September 6<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the Annual Vietnamese Community Picnic which was held at Mason District Park.

**Lake Braddock Community Association Labor Day Celebration:** On September 6<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended a Labor Day Celebration which was put on by the Lake Braddock Community Association.

**St. Mary of Sorrows Labor Day Picnic:** On September 7<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook celebrated Labor Day by attending the picnic put on by the members of St. Mary of Sorrows Church. As with every year prior, he was able to enjoy a succulent chicken meal.

**National Alliance on Mental Illness Business Leadership Lunch:** On September 9<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook addressed a Business Leadership Lunch

that was hosted by NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, which was held at the Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner.

**NVCC Recognition Dinner:** On the evening of September 9<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the annual Northern Virginia Community College Recognition Dinner at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner.



**Burke Centre Festival:** On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook made opening remarks and officially opened the Burke Centre Festival on the Conservancy Grounds.

**Holy Spirit Church Picnic:** On September 13<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the Annual

Picnic which is put on every year at Holy Spirit Church.

**Fairfax Education Association Event:** On September 18<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended an event put on by the Fairfax Education Association titled “Put Kids First” which was held at the FEA Headquarters.

**PEATC Summit:** On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook gave opening remarks at a Summit put on by the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC).

**Long Branch Stream**

**Valley Cleanup:** On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook stopped by the Canterbury Woods Pool to greet and thank citizens who had been out doing a cleanup of the Long Branch Stream Valley.



**NAACP Freedom Banquet:** On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the Annual NAACP Freedom Banquet.

**Springfield Chamber’s Education Night:** On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook was invited to come to the Richard Byrd Library for the Springfield Chamber Educator’s Night. At this event, teachers from local schools were allowed to come and select a few of the books that were donated during the Chamber’s book drive. The Braddock Office collected an enormous amount of books and the organizers wanted to thank Supervisor Cook for all of his hard work and dedication.

**Ribbon Cutting for Sensory Playground:** On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook was invited to say a few words and take part in a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Olde Creek Elementary School for a new Sensory Playground which will benefit children of all ages and levels of disability.

**Annual Oak Hill Day:** On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the Annual Oak Hill Day Open House and gave welcoming remarks.

**Chapel Square Civic Association Block Party:** On September 27<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook stopped by the Chapel Square Civic Association Block Party which was held on Five Gates Road in Fairfax.

**Northern Virginia Aging Network Legislative**

**Breakfast:** On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN) 16th Annual Legislative Breakfast which was held at the Fair Oaks Marriott.

**Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance**

**Seminar:** On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance’s 11th Annual “What You Need to Know about Transportation” Seminar which was held at the Fairview Park Marriott.

## Land Use Update

**5210 Dunleigh Drive (SE-2015-BR-011)** On October 6 the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the application of PG Associates, Inc. and Jaye S. Bawa to rezone a 74,000 square foot lot in the Dunleigh subdivision. This application received a unanimous recommendation from the Planning Commission and the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee. The new homes will now be incorporated into the Dunleigh Homeowner Association which was instrumental in developing conditions that were imposed on the developer to ensure that the project is harmonious with the existing homes.

**Congregate Living Facility. (SE-2015-BR-015).** The application for a Special Exception filed by Suoliang “Leon” Xie for a congregate living facility at 4008 Taylor Drive remains under staff review and analysis. A public hearing before the Planning Commission has now been deferred until November 19th, and may be deferred further. On September 22nd, Supervisor Cook and Supervisor McKay presented a joint Board Matter which was subsequently approved by their colleagues, asking staff to look more closely at the land use and human services aspects of this filing and determine whether these issues needed to be examined more closely. A copy of that Board matter is available through the Braddock office and can be provided electronically.

**Fairfax Center “Core” Study.** The Fairfax Center Area Study (PA 2013-III-FC1 (B)) citizen working group held its fourth meeting on September 29th and looked in detail at what land bays should constitute the “core area” of the Suburban Center and at possible future densities and transportation impacts. Handouts from the meeting can be found here. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 232 of the Government Center and is open to the public.

**Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment on Alternative Lending Institutions.** The Board of Supervisors has become increasingly concerned with the proliferation of motor vehicle title lending companies and other “payday” lenders currently allowed to open “by-right” in most commercial districts in Fairfax County. The purpose of the Zoning Ordinance Amendment is to define and establish *alternative lending institutions* as a distinct land use with possible limitations. A link to the Staff Report can be found here. A Planning Commission Public Hearing will be held October 21st, 2015 at 8:15 p.m. and a Board of Supervisors Public Hearing is scheduled for November 17th, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

## Royal Lake Dredging Project Ready for Bid

Supervisor Cook is pleased to announce that the long awaited dredging of Royal Lake is now ready to move into the bidding and contract award phase. After working to secure sufficient construction funds and find a location to accept the dredge materials, the County’s Stormwater Planning Division and its consultant, Michael Baker, have recently completed a final design for this project which calls for removal of a minimum of 55,000 cubic yards of sediment from Royal Lake.

The Utilities Design and Construction staff anticipates soliciting bids for this project by December and have bid openings in January, 2016. The project will be bid with the option for either a dry or wet mechanical dredge. It is currently expected that a Notice to Proceed will be issued sometime in Spring 2016.

The county currently expects a total project duration, including site restoration and planting, to be about 12 months. As with other lake dredging projects, there will be a need to relocate existing fish from the lake if the low bid requires lowering the lake. Upon completion, the lake will be restocked over a period of three years. At this time, there are two construction entrances and staging areas proposed for use by the contractor: Lakeside Park off Pommeroy Drive, and Royal Lake Park off Gainsborough Drive.

This is the last and largest of the Pohick Dams to be dredged; completing a multi-year commitment by Fairfax County to meet current dam standards to protect residents in the flood zones of these lakes and to dredge them to ensure that they prevent phosphorous and nitrates from reaching local streams and the Potomac River as part of the ongoing cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay. Once the contractor is selected, Supervisor Cook will host a Pardon our Dust meeting so that residents can better understand what to expect.

### **Chick-fil-A Project Approved in Burke Centre**

After a year of community and staff review, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the motion by Supervisor Cook to allow Chick-fil-A, Inc. to construct a new 4,770 square foot drive-thru fast food restaurant at 5815 Burke Centre Parkway, on a closed bank pad site adjacent to Kohl's Department Store. The structure will be 25 feet tall, although only about 10 feet, including a decorative parapet will be visible from the road. The restaurant will have about 100 seats, 44 parking spaces and a small indoor children's play area. There will be 26 dual stacking spaces for drive-thru ordering and the facility will be open Monday through Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. During the review process, the building was shifted away from the eastern lot line to protect a ravine and preserve additional trees. Stormwater is provided via catch basins and a detention system under the parking lot.



The realignment of the building will result in the construction of new retaining walls parallel to Burke Centre Parkway and adjacent to Burke Presbyterian Church. The applicant has proposed to construct a guardrail and pedestrian safety fence along of the top of the southern retaining wall. A new sidewalk will also be constructed from Burke Centre Parkway to the restaurant, and the new entrance will line up with the existing entrance to Kohl's. The dumpster will be shielded and will house both a grease trap and a separate drain into the stormwater detention system. Significant new planting around the entire periphery of the site has been proffered by the applicant. Chick-fil-A has already submitted its site plan to the county and hopes to be under construction in 2016.

## **New Law in Virginia: “Slow Down to Get Around”**

Virginia has joined eight other states by signing the “Slow Down to Get Around” bill into law on July 15th, 2015. The “Slow Down to Get Around” law requires drivers to change lanes, slow down to at least 10 miles per hour below the posted speed limit, and pass at least two feet to the left of any stationary vehicle that is collecting trash or recycling. The new law was enacted to keep Virginia’s waste and recycling industry workers safe and carries a penalty of up to \$250. Please be cautious when driving near a waste or recycling vehicle!

## **I-66 Outside the Beltway Public Information Meetings**

The Virginia Department of Transportation will hold public information meetings regarding the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway project's recommended design concept or "Preferred Alternative." VDOT will also share information on the proposed phasing of the project.

There will be two meetings in our area. The first will take place on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at Oakton High School (2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181). The second meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office (4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030). Both meetings will be held from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Presentations will begin at 7:00 p.m. [To view a video of the project click here.](#)

## ***Human Services Corner***

Domestic violence is the leading cause of homicide in Fairfax County. Every month, there are over 160 domestic violence related arrests, 65 victims file for family abuse protective orders, 260 calls are made to domestic violence hotlines, and fourteen families take shelter at emergency domestic violence homes across Fairfax County. Last year, 467 children were homeless in our community, primarily because they and a parent fled their homes due to domestic violence. However, for every family that flees, several stay in the home out of fear that if they leave, their abuser will track them down and harm them. Consequently, thousands of children are impacted by domestic violence, and the scars do not heal easily, if ever. Many victims feel there is no way out of the situation, but Fairfax County offers a variety of different resources to help victims and their families, and there is an increasing chorus of voices standing up to say this is unacceptable.

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October, Fairfax County is asking the community to “look again” at domestic violence. When we think of domestic violence, an image of a particular victim might immediately come to mind. However, oftentimes a domestic violence victim isn’t whom we might think. In fact, domestic violence usually does not just involve one victim, but often affects an entire household. Children in homes where domestic violence occurs often struggle the most. Studies show that the 3 million children who witness domestic violence in their homes each year will suffer significant emotional and cognitive harm, even if they are not on the receiving end of the physical abuse.

The harm goes beyond what we might even typically think of when conversations of domestic violence occur. In fact, issues surrounding family pets may sometimes prolong instances of domestic violence. Oftentimes, fear of abandoning pets is a major reason why many women feel as though they cannot escape domestic violence. More than seventy percent of women who entered shelters reported that their family pet had also been threatened, injured, maimed, and even killed by the batterer.

If you are attempting to flee abuse, are a witness to abuse, or need more information on how to address the issue if you encounter it, please call the Fairfax County 24 hour hotline at 703-360-7273 for assistance. We hope to put an end to domestic violence in Fairfax County by assisting victims and raising awareness in the community regarding the services available in Fairfax County.

## Community Events throughout October

### **SPARC 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, Oct. 19:**

Enjoy a round of golf at the beautiful Fred Couples course at Westfields Golf Club while helping Northern Virginia adults with disabilities. This stunning course is fun and accessible for any novice, yet challenging for experienced golfers. To register visit <http://sparcsolutions.org/2015-golf/>

### **Paws to Read – Story Time with a Therapy Dog, Oct. 19:**

Paws to Read starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Kings Park Library (9000 Burke Lake Road). For more information please contact Tracey Phillips Edman at 703-538-7454.

**Medicare 101, Oct 21:** This event will feature a discussion of Medicare basics. It will focus on choices, cost of not making those choices, and where and how to get the best deal for your health dollar. It takes place on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Kings Park Library Meeting Room.

**A Spooky Spectacular Halloween Party, Oct. 24:** The Halloween Extravaganza is for people with and without disabilities of all ages and families. Stop by to check out the Haunted House followed by an incredible graveyard scene including light, fog, and sound machines, and animatronics. It will be no surprise that in all this fun you will be raising awareness, and fundraising to support the critical mission and work of The Arc of Northern Virginia. [Learn more here.](#)



### **Pathway Homes – Help the Homeless Community Walk, Oct. 24:**

There are 11,623 homeless people in our region. On Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, Pathway Homes is hosting the 2015 Help the Homeless Community Walk to help those in need. Please donate new or gently used household items and consider registering to walk. The walk is one lap around a one mile circuit and will take place on Stevenson Street & Government Center Parkway. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. [For more details click here.](#)

### **JCC’s Positive Aging Fair Features Author Judith Viorst, Oct. 29:**

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia is sponsoring its 7<sup>th</sup> Positive Aging Fair on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. This year’s focus is “Tools for Creative Aging.” The day begins with a talk by best-selling author and columnist, Judith Viorst. The day also includes workshops, exhibits, lunch, and prizes. The program is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. For more details click here. If you have questions, please contact James Green (703-746-5919).

## **9-1-1: Call if You Can. Text if You Can't**

You can now send a text message to 9-1-1 in Fairfax County. Voice calls are still the best and preferred method for most people to contact 9-1-1. Remember this important phrase: Call if you can. Text if you can't. Texting to 9-1-1 is intended for a person who is deaf, hard-of-hearing or has a speech disability, for someone who is in a situation where it is not safe to place a voice call to 9-1-1, a medical emergency that renders the person incapable of speech or if you are unable to call 9-1-1 due to being in a remote location with limited voice network availability. For further information click [here](#).

## **NVFS Recruiting Volunteers to Help Clients with Health Care Enrollment**

Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) is once again helping families enroll in a health insurance plan under the Affordable Care Act. NVFS trains volunteers to become Certified Application Counselors (CACs), who provide in-person assistance during the upcoming open enrollment period, November 1st, 2015, through January 31st, 2016. Spanish, Arabic and Urdu speakers are especially needed! To register for an information session and for a volunteer application, email Terry Goplerud, Marketplace Coordinator at [tgoplerud@nvfs.org](mailto:tgoplerud@nvfs.org).

## **Foster Parent Training Available in November**

The Foster Care programs of Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) are seeking foster parents, especially those who are interested in caring for siblings and teens. The next training session's dates are November 7th, 14th and 21st (all three sessions mandatory) in Oakton, Virginia. For more information, please contact Ginny Snaider, Program Supervisor, at [gснаider@nvfs.org](mailto:gснаider@nvfs.org) or 571.748.2557.

## **Ad Hoc Police Review & Recommendations Commission**

The final recommendations from the Subcommittees were presented at the last Ad Hoc police review and recommendations commission meeting on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. The recommendations were approved by the commission, with some minor edits and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors later in October. Materials can be reviewed online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/meeting-schedule.htm>

## ***Environmental Update***

Friends of Accotink Creek, a nonprofit volunteer organization, has been recognized by Fairfax County as a 2015 Environmental Excellence Award recipient. Friends of Accotink Creek (FACC) is a nonprofit volunteer organization that works hard to restore and protect the water quality, natural habitat, and ecological well-being of the Accotink Creek watershed. FACC was nominated by Supervisor Cook and Braddock District Park Authority representative, Tony Vellucci for this honor.

Twice a year, Friends of Accotink Creek gather 300 or more volunteers to participate in cleanups at key points along Accotink Creek. FACC also partners with both county and private sector entities to work on stream restoration projects, and also concentrates its efforts on public awareness of watershed issues. FACC leads plant rescue efforts, along with invasive plant removal programs in our area, and has participated in the planting of native plants at a park and native habitat restoration in a wetland area. FACC was also responsible for the implementation of a freshwater mussel rescue program through which

volunteers returned stranded mussels back into the stream bed after storms.

Braddock resident Duane DeBruyne was also recognized as an awardee for his dedication to volunteer cleanup efforts in the Occoquan Reservoir. For many years, DeBruyne has been responsible for enlisting groups of students from Lake Braddock Secondary School to help out with biannual cleanup events hosted by Friends of the Occoquan. He has also been recognized as being a big contributor to the 60 tons of trash that have been pulled from the river.

Both Friends of Accotink Creek and Duane DeBruyne were recognized before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, October 6th for their achievement and contributions to the community. Thank you for all that you do for our community Friends of Accotink Creek and Mr. DeBruyne!

### Conservation Assistance Program

Want to do more on your civic association property? Is heavy runoff causing distress in your neighborhood association? Is your condo association paying exorbitant utility fees on leaky community-owned buildings? The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's new Conservation Assistance Program can help. It provides technical assistance and 50 percent matching funding. If interested, be sure to request a site visit for outdoor projects by October 31st. For energy projects, now is the time to form a community project team and contact the District to get started. [Learn more by clicking here.](#)

### Plant NOVA Natives Community Leader Training

Join a growing group of volunteers bringing native plants to local gardens and landscapes! Plant NOVA is offering a free training to the community to share the benefits of planting native plants in Northern Virginia. This free training is part of the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign's Volunteer Community Leader Development Program. You will learn public speaking tricks of the trade, how to reach local institutions, companies, neighborhood and workplace groups, how to successfully communicate the Plant NOVA Natives message, and how to influence the local retail market to make purchasing native plants easy and fun. The training dates are as follows: **Saturday, October 24th, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** (Morven Park Carriage House, 17263 Southern Planter Ln., Leesburg, VA 20176); **Thursday, October 29th, 7:00 - 8:45p.m.** (Prince William County Government Center, Development Services Building, 5 County Complex Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192); and **Thursday, November 5th, 7:00 - 8:45p.m.** (Northern Virginia Regional Commission, 3040 Williams Dr., Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22031).

### Lawn Care Tips for the Fall

Fall is a good time to evaluate your lawn care program and make adjustments for the coming year.

**When is the best time to Fertilize?** Fertilize in the Fall, not in the Spring or Summer! Fall is when the roots that sustain the plants through the following summer are actively growing. Spring fertilizing encourages leaf growth at the expense of root development and it also feeds weed species that can lead to disease and insect problems later in the season. If you must fertilize in the spring, limit it to a light feeding (half-pound of 10-10-10 per 1000 sq. ft.) after the initial flush of growth has subsided in May.

**When in the Fall?** The ideal periods for application are the first two weeks in September and between the last mowing and Thanksgiving. Effective lawn feeding after Thanksgiving often is hampered by wintry

conditions, during which time precipitation will wash the fertilizer into local streams, contributing to waterway pollution.

**Choosing a Lawn Care Company.** If you decide to leave lawn care to the professionals, carefully research a company's methods of operation. Does the company offer a variety of pest management approaches from which you may choose? Does it apply pesticides on a regular schedule regardless of need or does it limit pesticide use to only when needed? Does it evaluate and treat your lawn as a single entity, or does every lawn get the same treatment? Does the company routinely combine fertilizer and pesticides in each application?

**Soil Matters.** Before you fertilize, test your soil to learn what, if anything, it needs. For \$10.00, Virginia Cooperative Extension will analyze your soil sample and return the results to you. Pick up a soil test kit at any Fairfax County Public Library or at the Virginia Cooperative Extension office at the Government Center (Pennino Building—10th floor).

**Lime Tips.** If your lawn needs anything, it is likely to be lime. Most soils in northern Virginia are acidic; lime helps to neutralize the acidity. A balanced pH will improve the availability of nutrients, encourage thatch decomposition, and benefit soil microorganisms, all of which are essential to the soil's health and fertility. Lime can be applied to your lawn area any time of the year. However, because it takes several months to be fully incorporated into the soil, it is best to apply it in the fall. For turf, pelletized limestone is preferable to pulverized limestone. The pellets spread more evenly with less dust. The soil test results will reveal the amount of lime required to bring your soil to optimal levels.

**Keep It Sharp.** Sharp mower blades produce a cleaner cut that slices through grass rather than pulling it by the roots. A sharp blade will give your lawn a more uniform appearance. In addition, sharp blades help extend the life of your mower because the engine will not have to work as hard to produce the same results.

**Cut It High.** Set your blades for a mowing height that will remove only the top one-third of the grass blade. Higher settings allow the grass to compete effectively with lower growing weed species. Higher growth also shades the ground from the sun, reducing moisture requirements. If you have a small lawn, consider using a manual-reel mower. It saves energy, reduces pollution, and burns calories, too!

**Let It Lie.** Turf clippings are mostly composed of leaf tissue and thus decompose rapidly. Clippings left on the lawn will contribute a substantial amount of nitrogen and other nutrients to the soil, thus reducing fertilizer requirements.

**Integrated Pest Management.** By using healthy lawn care practices, you will cut down the need for pest control. If you use pesticides, apply only to the area that is affected by the pest. The Virginia Cooperative Extension offers a number of useful publications. Look for the links under Lawn & Garden on their publications page.

## Long Branch Falls Project

The county has begun a project to stabilize the portion of Long Branch Stream that runs from King David Boulevard to Windflower Lane. On August 20<sup>th</sup>, a group of neighbors met with the Fairfax County Project Manager from Supervisor Cook's office, Sajan Pokharel. Mr. Pokharel explained that portions of the streambed were severely eroded, causing downstream deposits of sediment and threatening the property

of several homeowners. Mr. Pokharel is considering a number of options for stabilizing the streambed. The county expects to complete its analysis and a preliminary conceptual design this November. To this point, however, the county has only funded the project through the design phase which is due next Spring. If funding for doing the project is approved, then construction is scheduled to begin in the Summer of 2016.

David Kepley and Bryan Campbell volunteered to act as liaisons between the county project team and the community. If you have any questions regarding the project please reach out to them by sending an email to [Kepley.david@gmail.com](mailto:Kepley.david@gmail.com) or [campbell@hotmail.com](mailto:campbell@hotmail.com).