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Fostering a Safe School Environment for Our Children

Back to school month is a great time to talk with children about important issues that develop during a typical school year. Of the many issues that students will face, bullying is a topic that warrants a serious discussion. While bullying may be viewed as merely a childhood issue, it can have lasting effects on children long after the bullying subsides. Child victims of chronic bullying are at increased risk for both poor physical and mental health, as well as poor academic success, which may continue as they grow and develop into young adults.

Recent studies have found bullying to be an increasingly larger issue faced by more students than ever before. A recent survey of our own FCPS students found that over 50 percent of students in grades 8-12 reported being bullied by someone at some point during the school year, and nearly 45 percent of students reported being the aggressor in a bullying situation.

Many children simply don't know how to handle a bullying situation, and FCPS is committed to fostering a safe school environment to prevent and address bullying for all students. To accomplish this, FCPS has developed a county-wide positive behavior approach to teach children how to respect one another and to resolve conflicts in positive ways. The goal is to enhance the FCPS capacity to educate children by developing research-based, school-wide, and classroom discipline systems. This will also include the development of school-wide procedures for all students and staff, and will cover all settings both inside and outside of the classroom. Students are also taught about bullying through the health and counseling curriculum. The curriculum focuses on teaching students how to recognize bullying and harassment, as well as teaching students how to report these behaviors.

When it comes to bullying, creating a safe school and neighborhood community is the first priority. It begins by talking with our children, and helping them to understand appropriate behavior. It also includes teaching them what to do when they are a victim of or witness to bullying. Practicing what to do in different scenarios helps students become more confident in these intimidating situations. To learn about other resources, please visit <http://www.stopbullying.gov>.



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

Supervisor Cook Leads Effort to Repurpose Aging, Empty Office Space

Supervisor Cook is taking a leading role in finding ways to return empty office buildings in the county to productive and tax-paying use.

It's no secret that the commercial real estate market in Fairfax County is struggling. Office vacancy rates throughout the region are at their highest since 1991. Historically, the region has relied on federal contracting and corporate relocations as major drivers of economic development. However, this is no longer a sustainable economic strategy.

In order to identify channels to diversify the local economy, the Board of Supervisors, along with the Fairfax County's Economic Commission and county staff, have developed a Strategic Plan for Economic Success. The Plan was devised to work toward creating the environment and infrastructure necessary to encourage sustainable economic growth and development. This includes policies to support and foster small business growth and opportunity.

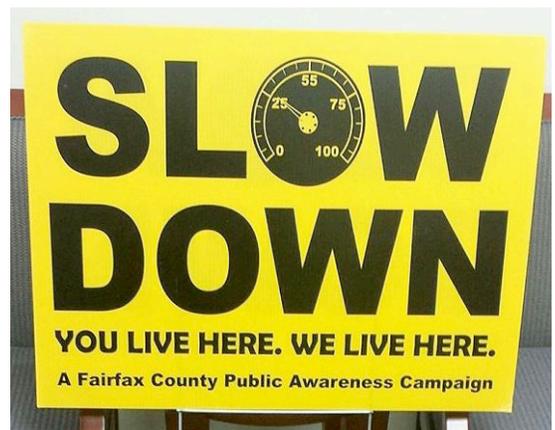
As a part of the Strategic Plan for Economic Success, a working group has been created to tackle one of the major issues facing the future of the region's economy: repurposing older, vacant office buildings for which there is little or no demand. Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Cook serve as members of the group, along with some of the area's top business leaders. In order to return these properties to economic viability, the workgroup will focus on finding new and innovative ways to repurpose existing, obsolete properties, whether as housing, schools, individual or alternative commercial structures.

As the workgroup continues to meet, it will focus on answering a number of questions, including the scope of opportunities throughout Fairfax, such as the number and location of potential properties, as well as what role the County can play in assisting the private sector in these redevelopment efforts. It will also tackle public policy that may be standing in the way of continued redevelopment efforts, such as land use, zoning, and tax policies. In addition, it will be reviewing process and code improvements necessary to facilitate and support redevelopment. In short, everything is on the table.

In order to remain competitive in a changing market, Fairfax County needs to be willing to change and adapt to current economic realities. It will require reforms to public policies, and a willingness to take what the county already has and put it back to work. The workgroup is just the first step, but it is a necessary step toward getting the region's economy heading in the right direction today and into the future.

Supervisor Cook's Speeding Initiative: Slow Down in Our Neighborhoods

With our kids back at school and people getting back to their regular work routines, it's important to stay focused on how we are driving. Please respect your neighbors: slow down in your neighborhoods and don't get distracted by texting while behind the wheel. If you would like a Slow Down sign for your yard, stop by Supervisor Cook's office in the Kings Park Library building (9002 Burke Lake Road). For more information on the Countywide Speeding Initiative developed by Supervisor Cook visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/slowdown/>.



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.

With school just starting, it is a great time to talk about important issues that develop during a typical school year. Of the many issues that

students will face, bullying is a topic that warrants serious discussion. On this Edition of BNN, Supervisor Cook is joined by Mary Ann Panarelli, the Director of Intervention and Prevention Services for Fairfax County Public Schools, and Kristen Brennan, Prevention Coordination Specialist with Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services. Together they shed some light on this problem and identify ways that bullying can be addressed. 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.



I-66 Active Traffic Management System – Online on September 16th

On September 16th, the Virginia Department of Transportation brought the new I-66 Active Traffic Management System (ATMS) online. The system is being implemented between the District of Columbia and Route 29 in Gainesville and will provide for improved safety and incident management. The Active Traffic Management system will allow for expanded use of the shoulder lanes between the Beltway and Route 50. The shoulder lanes (Red X lanes) which are currently only used on weekdays during peak traffic hours, will routinely be opened to traffic during congested times regardless of the time of day. The system will also provide new lane control signals on all lanes between Nutley Street and Route 29 in Centreville and motorists will be able to see which lanes are blocked well in advance of incidents. There will also be additional camera and dynamic message sign coverage between D.C. and Route 29 in Gainesville. This will allow transportation, safety, and law enforcement personnel to respond more quickly to incidents. The system will also include upgrades to the ramp metering system inside the Beltway allowing the ramp meters that help manage traffic merging onto I-66 to better adapt to traffic conditions. Lane control signals between Nutley Street and the Beltway will be completed in the next few weeks. Please be alert and follow the new signage accordingly.

Updates on Braddock Road /Route 123 Project

Fairfax County is moving forward on another of Supervisor Cook's plans for improving transportation. The Braddock/Route 123 project will add left turn lanes along both north and southbound Route 123, which will improve the flow of traffic in the intersection. The project will also feature pedestrian facility improvements including the installation of an additional crosswalk on the north leg of the intersection. The concrete median on Braddock Road to North Hill Drive will also be extended, and new street lights will be installed to improve roadway lighting. Fairfax County DOT has secured a staging area near Giant shopping center, and the contractor is planning to phase the work as follows: during September, October, and November, the contractor will start work on storm pipes and widening Ox Road on the eastside of the road, south of the intersection of Braddock Road and Ox Road. Once that portion is completed, they will move to

the north side of the intersection and install storm pipes crossing Kelly Drive. They will then continue with the storm pipes and structures on the median and on to the east side of Ox Road. Once the storm pipes are in place, roadway widening will follow on the east side of Ox Road, north of the intersection. As the work continues, more updates will be reported. If you have any questions please contact Ann Sharp at 703-425-9300 or ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Supervisor Cook in the Community

National Night Out: On August 4th, Supervisor Cook celebrated National Night Out by traveling around Braddock with School Board Member Megan McLaughlin and West Springfield Police Captain Chris Edmunds. Together they visited several neighborhoods that had organized events for the evening.

World Police & Fire Games Barbeque

Celebration: On August 11th, Supervisor Cook attended the World Police & Fire Games Barbeque Celebration, which was held in honor of the successful week-long event that was co-hosted by Fairfax County.

Annual Shop with a Sheriff Event: On August 13th, Supervisor Cook took part in the Annual Shop With a Sheriff event at the Burke Centre Target. The program benefits school-age children temporarily living at the Katherine K. Hanley shelter in Fairfax, Patrick Henry Family Shelter in Falls Church, and Next Steps Family Shelter in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria.

Ceremony in Honor of Judge Azcarate: On August 14th, Supervisor Cook attended the Investiture Ceremony for Judge Penney Azcarate.

Judge Azcarate's assistance has been instrumental in developing the first ever Veterans Treatment Docket in Virginia.



VietFest Opening

Ceremony: On August 15th, Supervisor Cook attended the Opening Ceremony for VietFest, which was held at the Plaza at Tysons Corner.

George Mason

University Move-In Day: On August 27th, Supervisor Cook helped to greet new students at George Mason University's Student Move-In Day.



Shadow Lawn

Homeowners Association

Block Party: On August 29th, Supervisor Cook stopped by the Shadow Lawn Homeowners Association Block Party.

Relax in Fairfax Event:

On August 29th, Supervisor Cook attended the Relax in Fairfax Event at Brion's Grille held jointly with the City of Fairfax and George Mason University.

Repaving Work on Cross Country Trail Scheduled for September 21st

Starting on September 21st, the repaving work on the Cross Country Trail near Lake Accotink will begin. The trail south of Braddock Road will be repaved as well as the existing trail connection to the Danbury Forest community. An existing wooden bridge 150 feet south of Braddock Road will also be replaced. The project is scheduled to occur for 180 days, but may vary depending on the weather. The trail may be closed at times for bridge and culvert replacements and when vehicles are operating on the trail. Updates regarding the project can be found [here](#).

Temporary Change in Library Hours Starting in September

Renovations of Pohick Library began in September and the hours at Burke Centre and Kings Park libraries have been extended to serve additional customers. In addition to their regular hours, they will be open on Wednesday evenings, Thursday mornings, and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The staff from Pohick will be moved to the surrounding libraries to cover the additional hours. Pohick should reopen in the winter of 2017 and, at that time, Burke Centre and Kings Park will go back to their normal operating hours.

Fairfax County Celebrating Try Transit Week & Car Free Day

In honor of Try Transit Week (September 21st until the 25th) and Car Free Day (September 22nd), Fairfax County is encouraging residents to go car free for a day and to try an alternative to drive-alone commuting. To help residents find a better way to commute, Fairfax County is holding its first ever Transportation Expo to answer questions and share commuter resources. More than 20 exhibitors are expected to participate. **The event will take place on Tuesday, September 22nd at the Fairfax County Government Center from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** For more information visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/news/trytransit. Residents can find more resources on how to go car free by visiting the Fairfax County Department of Transportation website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot.

Election Officers Needed for November 3rd

The Office of Elections is currently recruiting voters to serve as Election Officers a few days a year, including the upcoming General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Election Officers are needed at each of the 241 precincts in Fairfax County to run the polls and assist the voters. In order to be an Election Officer, you must: be fluent in English, be a registered voter in the Commonwealth of Virginia, be able to fulfill the Federal I-9 employment eligibility requirements, attend a 3-hour training class, arrive at the polling place at 5:00 a.m. and remain until all work has been completed after the polls close at 7:00 p.m., and have basic computer skills.

The Election Officer's main priority is to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the election process. A typical Election Day consists of: arriving one hour before polls open to set up voting equipment, hanging up pertinent signage, preparing the polling room for voting, processing voters throughout the day, assisting with operating voting equipment, securing voting equipment, and closing down the polling place at the end of the day.

Election Officers are offered a stipend of \$175 for serving a full day. Bilingual citizens are encouraged to serve because language assistance will be needed in many precincts. Residency in Fairfax County is not required. It is a wonderful opportunity for those interested in the election process or public service, and civic-minded individuals are needed to help make Election Day a success! To apply, call 703-324-4735. You can also email or visit the Office of Elections website for more information. Click here to view the "Being an Election Officer" video.

Springfield Knights of Columbus 14th Annual 5K Run & Fun Walk

The Springfield Knights of Columbus is hosting its 14th Annual 5K Run & Fun Walk on October 3rd at Burke Lake Park. Check-in is at 8:30 a.m. and the race starts at 9:00 a.m. There will be a cookout and door prizes after the run and proceeds will benefit KOVAR and St. Bernadette School. To register, click here. Please email any questions to john.tigani@gmail.com.

What You Need to Know Regarding Car Taxes Due October 5th

More than 800,000 personal property car tax bills have been mailed to county residents. **Tax payments are due Monday, October 5th.** The 2015 Personal Property Tax bill includes a \$33 registration fee (\$38 for vehicles more than 4,000 pounds, or \$18 for motorcycles) regularly garaged, stored, or parked in Fairfax County. If you are a senior at least 65 years old, are permanently disabled, a disabled veteran, or a spouse of a veteran killed in action, **you may qualify for tax relief.** If you have any questions about your tax bill contact the Department of Tax Administration. They are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. You can reach the office by calling 703-222-8232 (TTY 703-222-7594) or by sending an email to dtappd@fairfaxcounty.gov. Click here for more information regarding the different ways to pay.

Land Use Update

Chick-fil-A in Burke Centre. (PCA 83-S-02902; PRC-C-546-03; DPA-C-546-24) The Planning Commission unanimously recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve this proposal after a public hearing on July 15th. Staff has recommended approval and a link to the staff report can be found here. The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee has also recommended approval. A public hearing before the Board is now scheduled for September 22nd at 3:30 p.m. To speak before the Board, register here.

5210 Dunleigh Drive. (SE-2015-BR-011) PG Associates, Inc. and Jaye S. Bawa filed an application to rezone a 74,000 square foot lot in the Dunleigh subdivision. The proposal is to add two additional homes in front of an existing

residence that was built in the early 1960s. The Staff Report has been released, and staff is recommending approval. A public hearing before the Planning Commission will be held on September 24th at 8:15 p.m. and will be followed by a hearing before the Board of Supervisors on October 6th at 3:30 p.m. To testify before the Planning Commission register here or call 703-324-2865 before 3:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing. To speak before the Board of Supervisors call 703-324-3151 or sign up here.

Townes at Burke Lake Crossing. Christopher Land, LLC is proposing to rezone 1.88 acres on the east side of Burke Lake Road, at 9537 Burke Lake Road in the Springfield District. The applicant is currently proposing to construct twelve townhomes with an effective density of

6.4 dwelling units per acre. The staff coordinator for the Department of Planning and Zoning is Nick Rogers. The public hearing before the Planning Commission that was scheduled for September 23rd has now been **deferred until November 4th**. The Staff Report has been released, and staff is recommending approval.

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. The facility would serve as a residence for up to eight high school foreign exchange students who have come to Fairfax County for an American education. A presentation before the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee was held on

September 14th and the committee raised several questions. A public hearing before the Planning Commission has now been deferred until November 19, 2015. An updated Statement of Justification was submitted by the applicant on September 10th and an electronic copy can be obtained from Supervisor Cook’s office.

Fairfax Center “Core” Study. The Fairfax Center Area Study (PA 2013-III-FC1 (B)) of the Suburban Center is now being reviewed by a citizen based working group, which met on July 7th and July 29th. The handouts and meeting minutes can be found here. A link to the current nominations can be found by clicking here. For more information contact Kim Rybold.

Successful Woodglen Lake Project Draws to a Close

The Fairfax County Utilities Design and Construction Division and its contractor, ASI Constructors, are in the last 60 days of a six month contract to remove 34,500 cubic yards of sediment from Woodglen Lake. The lake is a storm water management facility originally constructed by Fairfax County in the 1970s to minimize the sediment run-off in the Pohick watershed, and is managed by the Fairfax County Park Authority. The project also includes an access road, stream stabilization, lake restoration and upgrades to the lake’s existing outfall riser structure. The contractor has been removing final “spoil” material from the staging area over the last two weeks. The average number of trucks on site has already dropped dramatically.

Hauling sediment out of the lake	The last day is 9-16-15
Riser work	Starts the first of October
Landscaping including the stream and the inlet sills	Starts the week of September 28. Two week duration
Close the sluice gate	Second or third week of October
Planting (Bruton)	Third week of October
Hauling out the gravel from the staging area and the access road	In parallel with the landscape work and the planting work

Restoration of the lake will include 170 feet of stream stabilization. This activity will require the contractor to haul in 250 tons of rock and 50 tons of aggregate. Restoration around the perimeter of the lake to minimize bank erosion will generate 5-10 loads of topsoil and compost. The contractor will be placing 27 fish habitats inside the lake, and undertake reforestation adjacent to the lake, to include 46 trees and 270 shrubs. This restoration work is now underway. The county expects to begin refilling the lake in mid to late October and it is anticipated to take 2-3 months to completely refill since this phase is entirely weather dependent. Finally, the Park Authority has requested that the contractor build mower access paths across the eastern side of the lake, almost to the dam, which will be designed with stone, and will require the contractor to haul in an additional 75 tons of rock. Also included in the completion phase of this project is the construction of a “forebay”, which will collect sediment in the upper quarter of the lake, and eliminate

the need to drain the entire lake in the future. Fairfax County will simply lower the water below the new berm and remove new sediment collected in the forebay. During this completion phase, residents in the area should expect ten to fifteen truckloads of material to be delivered or removed each week. Trucks will no longer need to queue up in the morning. Weather permitting, all work will be completed by November 1st at an anticipated final cost of \$3.15 million.

Human Services Corner

In the United States, someone commits suicide every 13 minutes. It is the tenth leading cause of death and over 40,000 people are lost to suicide each year. This amounts to more than 1.5 million years of life lost annually. The statistics are overwhelming, but by increasing suicide prevention efforts, we can save lives. Fairfax County is taking steps to educate the public on suicide prevention and to reach out to those who are struggling.

Education and outreach are key pieces of prevention. As the third leading cause of death among those between the ages of 15 and 24, and the second leading cause of death for 24 to 35-year olds, it is vital that we take proactive steps as a community to help those who are struggling. That is why Fairfax County also offers Youth Suicide Prevention Training. This program includes three online simulations that prepare adults to recognize when someone is exhibiting signs of psychological distress, and also trains them to be able to talk and connect with young people having problems in order to offer support. The training is free and open to anyone in the community and provides extremely useful tools in providing support to those at risk. For more information [click here](#).

In addition, as a part of a growing initiative to prevent suicide throughout our region, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board in partnership with CrisisLink, launched a 24/7 suicide prevention textline. Fairfax County's suicide prevention hotline provides a safe place for callers to express how they are feeling, discuss their options with a trained individual, and find the hope they need. Those who use the service receive a response from a crisis worker within minutes. CrisisLink is available to people of all ages and is a great resource for those who are experiencing emotional pain, having a difficult problem, or for someone who knows of another having suicidal thoughts. To contact CrisisLink, send a text to 703-940-0888 and for more information [click here](#).

If you are looking for more information about how to be prepared to help loved ones struggling, please utilize these very helpful resources provided by the County.

September is National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. All residents should learn what to do in case of an emergency, including how to take the necessary precautions to protect yourself, your family, and your property. Disaster can strike quickly and without warning, requiring you to evacuate your neighborhood, or, in some cases, confine you to your home. Preparing in advance is an important part of emergency preparedness. Visit the county's County Office of Emergency Management web page for more information. And if you haven't already, don't forget to register for Fairfax Alerts to get all the latest updates during emergency situations.

Community Events throughout September

Workshop for Individuals & Families on Integrated Housing, Sept. 17:

The Arc of Northern Virginia, in collaboration with the Virginia Housing and Supportive Services (HSS) Northern Virginia Community Team, invites you to attend a workshop on innovative ways to access affordable, independent and integrated housing on Thursday, September 17th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Download the workshop flyer and Register online for this session.



Day on September 26th. Stop by a Fairfax County Police district station from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to drop off unused or expired medications (pills or liquids only, no pressurized canisters or needles). Disposal is free, convenient and safe. See the list of drop-off locations around the county, visit the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County's website, or get tips on how to properly monitor, store and dispose of your medications year-round.

Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Sept. 26: In the 2014 Fairfax County Youth Survey, 1 in 13 Fairfax County students reported using a painkiller or other prescription medication without a doctor's order. Help prevent this problem by disposing of unused and expired medicines during the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's National Prescription Drug Take Back

Medicare 101, Sept. 28: This seminar will take place from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, September 28th at the Centreville Baptist Church (15100 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120). To register online, send an email to Caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711. For additional seminar dates and locations click here.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In recognition of this very important issue, **Supervisor Cook is hosting the third annual Stop the Violence Awareness Event on October 15th from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Chuy's Mexican Restaurant (11219 Lee hwy, Fairfax).** This year, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid and Mayor Scott Silverthorne will be joining Supervisor Cook as cohosts. The event will feature information tables and support opportunities for nonprofit organizations involved in domestic violence prevention, treatment, and awareness. **Fairfax County is also hosting events throughout September and October to raise awareness. For a complete calendar of events please click here.**

New 2015 "Quick Guide" of Human Services in Northern Virginia

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission's Quick Guide Online provides information on the names, websites, and phone numbers of over 1,000 agencies that provide frequently-requested human services in Northern Virginia. The online guide is searchable by topic area or a keyword search. The Quick Guide is also now available in hard copy and up to 45 copies can be ordered from NVRC free of charge. Instructions for ordering are available on their website.

Environmental Update

Braddock District will participate in a districtwide watershed clean-up event on Saturday, September 19th. Dedicated volunteers from over thirty different communities will spend the day making Braddock District a better and more attractive place to live by cleaning up our parks and stream valleys.

Working with Clean Fairfax, the Park Authority staff will direct volunteers at Lake Accotink Park, and friends groups will focus on other parks in the district. Clean up areas and the points of contact for each friends group are listed below. Please come out on September 19th and join your neighbors in this districtwide event and help make Braddock District a better place to live!

The Friends of Audrey Moore RECenter (FAMRC) will clean up areas in and around Wakefield Park and will meet at the dumpsters at 9:00 AM. Points of Contact: Albert Malats (a_malats71@hotmail.com) & Bruce Fisher (bfish1712@verizon.net).

The Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley (FLBSV) will clean up areas in and around the Long Branch Stream Valley from Olley Lane to Wakefield Chapel Road, and in and about Surrey Square Park #2. Points of Contact: Chris Bauernschub (chrisbauernschub@gmail.com) & Scott Thaxton (scott.thaxton@fairfaxcounty.gov).

The Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) will focus exclusively on the Flag Run Stream Valley from Lake Accotink Park up to Port Royal Road. Volunteers will meet at the marina at 8:30 a.m. Points of Contact: Meghan Walker (flap.president@gmail.com) & Jim Hickey (jimhickey12@gmail.com).

The Friends of Royal Lake Park (FORL) will clean up areas in and around Royal Lake, including points south of the dam. Meet at the Braddock Nights performance area at Royal Lake Park at 8:30 a.m. Point of Contact: Paul Gross (paul.grossjr@verizon.net).

The Friends of Rabbit Branch Stream Valley will clean up the Rabbit Branch Stream Valley, including both the east and west forks that lead from the headwaters at George Mason University to Royal Lake. East Fork volunteers meet at the intersection of Red Spruce Road and Braddock Road at 8:30 a.m. West fork volunteers meet at the Park West Swim Club on Roberts Road at 8:30 a.m. Point of Contact: Sarah Lennon (sarahjlennon@gmail.com).

The Friends of Woodglen Lake (FOWL): the DPWES lake dredging project is still ongoing at Woodglen Lake. The Friends of Woodglen Lake will be conducting their clean-up sometime in November. Contact the coordinators for additional information. Points of Contact: Sarah Mayhew (sarah.mayhew@yahoo.com) & Pamela Lepold (pamelalepold@verizon.net).

Virginia Waterways Cleanup

The statewide Virginia Waterways Cleanup, a part of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, runs from September 1st through October 31st. Volunteers adopt sites to clean along streams, rivers and the coastline throughout the state. Fairfax and its neighboring counties are home to many cleanup sites that are looking for volunteers, so get on out there and do your part! For a list of sites and volunteer registration information, please visit the Clean Virginia Waterways website.

Gypsy Moth Volunteer Monitoring Program

Fairfax County's Urban Forest Management Division is seeking volunteers to help search for and report gypsy moth egg masses on public and private lands. Volunteers will supplement the County's own monitoring and help protect our shared tree canopy by preventing and containing gypsy moth outbreaks. For more information on how to get involved, please visit Urban Forest Management's website.

Remove Invasive Plants from Fairfax County's Natural Areas

Invasive invaders such as kudzu, wisteria, honeysuckle and stilt grass are pushing out important native flora and diminishing the health of our parklands. Help turn the tide against these exotic invaders by joining the Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteers and pulling these weeds out by their roots. The IMA volunteer calendar and scheduled workdays can be found online.

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 20th, 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 emailing Kepley.david@gmail.com or campbell@hotmail.com.