



the BRADDOCK BEACON

703-425-9300 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/ Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov

STATE BUDGET PROVIDES LARGE NET INCREASE FOR FAIRFAX PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Two actions of the General Assembly produced some significant changes in state funding for Fairfax County Public Schools.

First, legislators decided to act against former Governor Kaine's recommendation to freeze the Local Composite Index (LCI). The LCI, adjusted every two years, is a formula based on a locality's ability to pay and determines how state money for education is disbursed. Since legislators allowed the LCI to adjust to changing economic times, FCPS will receive an additional \$61.8 million. However, the General Assembly also cut state funding for K-12 education, which resulted in a \$60.7 million loss for FCPS. The net effect is that FCPS will receive roughly \$1.1 million in additional state funding over last year.

Second, the General Assembly reduced the amount Virginia's school systems must contribute to the Virginia Retirement System. This move will save FCPS \$109 million. Beginning in two years, that money must begin to be paid back over ten years to make up for the reduced rate.

The Superintendent and School Board's proposed budgets were based on the assumption state funding would be cut by \$30 million. With these state changes, FCPS will have \$140 million more available than expected. The School Board has withdrawn its request for additional county funding. FCPS is now requesting the same

level of county funding as this year. The County Executive has proposed reducing that funding by \$16.3 million.

The Superintendent's tentative plan is to fully fund the School Board's proposed budget which increases spending by more than \$80 million next year, and to hold the remaining \$60 million in reserve for future years.

With this increased state funding, the popular programs put on the chopping block by the Superintendent earlier this year will not occur. FCPS will maintain class size at current levels, retain the foreign language in the elementary schools (FLES) program and keep full day kindergarten and elementary school band and strings. It will also fund assistant principals, instructional assistants, instructional coaches, and retain freshman sports and indoor track.

Increasing funds above the County Executive's proposed transfer of \$1.77 billion to FCPS at the county level, however, would require either increasing the tax burden on county residents or making deeper cuts into other county services. In light of the current recession, we do not have the funds to accomplish all of our goals and choices will need to be made.



Supervisor John C. Cook

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS:

For the next phase of our Community Engagement Initiative, we are looking for communities interested in taking the next step by taking on a new project or goal.

Supervisor Cook would be happy to meet with your organization to discuss how to launch such an effort. Please contact the Supervisor's scheduler, Lindsey Smith at 703-425-9300 to set a time for Supervisor Cook to meet with your organization.

Please provide us with the latest contact information for your Association Officers so that we may keep you better informed of events in Braddock District that may impact you and your neighborhood. Call (703) 425-9300 or email Ann Sharp at ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov with your latest information.

MORE BUDGET INFORMATION IS ONLINE

Those looking for more details on the FCPS budget can find it on the web at:
<http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm>

Those looking for more details on the County budget can find the complete FY 2011 Advertised Budget at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>.

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

Throughout the month of March, Supervisor Cook sought, and received a great deal of input on the County Executive's proposed budget. He held

four budget town hall meetings in the Braddock District: one at Braddock Hall as part of the Braddock District Council's monthly programming, one at Robinson



Secondary School with School Board member Tessie Wilson, and then one at Ravensworth and Little Run Elementary Schools. He also participated in two additional PTSA meetings, one at Annandale High School and another at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

On March 8th, Supervisor Cook attended a meeting at Bonnie Brae Elementary School and discussed issues of concern for citizens on Zion Drive.

On March 11th, Supervisor Cook attended a graduation ceremony for the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy. It was held at the Center for the Arts on the campus of George Mason University.

On March 17th, John celebrated his one year anniversary as

Supervisor of the Braddock District.

On March 18th, the Supervisor had the rare treat to attend a rehearsal by the Lake Braddock SS Band. This group of talented musicians was preparing for its historic trip to China, outlined elsewhere in the Beacon. Supervisor Cook was especially surprised when director Roy Holder asked him to get up on the podium and conduct a march. It went very well and no one was hurt!

March 20th was a busy day for the Supervisor. He went over to the Government Center to join members of his District for lunch at the Women's Voices Forum. In the evening, John went to the Kings Park Pot Luck dinner which was held at Lake Braddock Secondary School and then went off to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ravensworth Farm.

On March 23rd, Supervisor Cook visited the Commons Community Center in Burke to attend a VRE expansion hearing. The VRE Board is one of the many other Boards and Commissions to which he has been appointed.

On March 24th, Supervisor Cook helped kick-off the second Neighborhood College, this time held at Braddock Hall.

On March 27th, in Braddock Hall, Supervisor Cook addressed the participants of the Fairfax Restoration Project. This series is highlighting how we can be better stewards of the land here in Fairfax County.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

As a small business owner himself, Supervisor Cook wants to ensure that we foster a productive, business-friendly environment here in the Braddock District. To help implement that vision he has established an informal "Business Advisory Council" that has and continues to meet on issues of concern and to hear a speaker on a topic of interest. If you wish to become involved, please contact Kiel Stone at kiel.stone@fairfaxcounty.gov or call the office at 703-425-9300.

LOOKING BACK AT FAIRFAX: ABOLITIONIST ESCAPES FROM JAIL

Dodging the hangman in April 1834, a man escaped from the Fairfax jail and slipped into history. No one remembers Windover now, but had he not escaped, his name would be widely known today. There would be books about him. He might have been to Fairfax County what abolitionist John Brown became to Harper's Ferry.

In September 1833, a white man named John Windover was arrested at Fairfax Courthouse for handing money and guns to slaves and telling them to rebel or escape. He advised them that he had others in neighboring counties ready to assist.

What is known about him comes to us from 1830s newspaper accounts - first he was seen near the courthouse urging slaves to get free. Two weeks later he came back into town- with a box believed to contain weapons and money- to incite the insurrection. He tried to set the jail on fire, and then escaped in April 1834.

All this came on the heels of the Nullification Crisis, an explosive period in American history when South Carolina threatened to secede from the Union.

History, as most of us appreciate, has a way of repeating itself and of surprising us. "The

only thing new in the world," President Harry Truman once said, "is the history you don't know." History becomes especially enjoyable when you discover these new things and stop to realize that the past was not destined or pre-ordained to happen the way it did. A vote here, an election there, a death in one town or some other single event might have caused things to turn out much different.

Paul N. Herbert is the President of the Historical Society of Fairfax County and the author of God Knows All Your Names.

LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY SCHOOL SERVES AS MUSICAL AMBASSADOR: TRAVELS TO CHINA FOR FIVE PERFORMANCES

Here in Fairfax County we are privileged to have some of the finest schools and most talented students anywhere in the country, be it the star athletes who go on to win numerous State Tournaments or the academic excellence of our students that carries them into the nation's finest Universities. We also are the home to some of the finest musical ensembles and teachers.

One such group is the Lake Braddock Secondary School Band program. This collection of fine musicians, under the tutelage of Band Director Roy Holder, achieved something only one other High School Band has. They have been invited by the country of China to tour their land and give goodwill performances in the name of the United States of America. The group representing us is made up of members of the Symphonic Band, Concert Band I and Concert Band II.

Their historic journey began on March 23rd and ended on April 1st. While there, they gave five concerts which highlighted the music of America and American composers.

This achievement garnished national press and the group will be recognized by the Board of Supervisors at an upcoming Board Meeting.

The man who leads this group of fine young musicians, Roy Holder, who long ago established himself as one of the most accomplished, dedicated and talented conductors in the US. He was recently made a member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association, becoming one of only a handful of high school directors nominated.

It is no surprise that most of the other high school directors in ABA also came from Fairfax County. Roy has been the leader of the Lake Braddock band program for 22 years and has led the group to numerous levels of achievement, including many invitations to play at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra

Convention which is held each year in Chicago.



Supervisor Cook tries his hand at conducting during a rehearsal before the Lake Braddock Band left for China

Kudos and congratulations go out to this talented group from Lake Braddock SS, which also has been named a Virginia Honor Band for the 29th straight year, another amazing feat. We look forward to many fantastic performances and achievements over the years to come.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WELCOMES HOME VIETNAM VETERANS

On March 23, the Board of Supervisors recognized the more than 38,000 Vietnam Veterans who live in Fairfax County. In a morning ceremony, the Board took an opportunity to express its appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices that these men and women made in defense of our country.

Board members noted that this recognition is well deserved, and recalls a painful moment in U.S. history, when thousands of young men came back from a terrible conflict to a country that often did not differentiate between a war it opposed and the warriors who fought it. For this reason, March 30 has been proclaimed by the United States Congress to be Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans' Day in perpetuity.

Delegate David Bulova has made a similar motion that was unanimously accepted by the General Assembly. The ceremony was designed to promote awareness of the

contributions these veterans have continued to make in business, the arts, civic affairs and government service and their efforts to mentor a new generation of veterans.

In speaking to the Board, the Fairfax Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans described how the organization is currently trying to assist the young men and women now returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to

make the adjustment to civilian life. They spoke of the 21 percent unemployment that this cohort is experiencing, the need for transitional housing for homeless veterans and the importance of the community keeping a commitment to these vets who embody the best of the American spirit and should be considered heroes.



CONGRATULATIONS TO JEFF ROOT, BRADDOCK DISTRICT COMMUNITY CHAMPION FOR 2010

Supervisor Cook selected Jeff Root of Kings Park West as the Braddock District Community Champion for 2010. He will be recognized at the 18th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards, sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax and held on Friday, April 23, 2010 at the Fairview Park Marriott. Jeff has been the moving force behind solving significant problems caused by George Mason University students parking in Kings Park West neighborhoods. Jeff's efforts led to a new County ordinance and the creation of two new Residential Permit Parking Districts (RPPD). Jeff's contributions have not only directly impacted Kings Park West, a community of 1876 homes, but three neighboring townhome communities with another 469 homes as well. Additionally, his efforts indirectly impacted hundreds of motorists who use Roberts Road on a daily basis – this includes parents who transport their children to Robinson Secondary School, and individuals who use Roberts Road seeking access to George Mason University.



Jeff Root has been a block captain for the KPWCA for about seven years. During this time, he took a leadership position within the Tapestry

neighborhood of KPW and organized neighbors in filing RPPDs to address the issue of Robinson Secondary School students parking on residential streets.

The knowledge he gained from pursuing these efforts prompted the KPWCA president to ask that he assume the responsibilities of the KPWCA Streets & Sidewalk Committee Chairperson. Jeff agreed to do so and was immediately thrust into two dynamic situations. One involved residents on Gainsborough Drive asking for traffic calming measures, and the other had residents looking for increased parking on both Roberts Road and Tapestry Road as a result of on-going construction on the campus of George Mason University.

After RPPDs were approved for neighborhoods around high schools, it became clear that neighborhoods around colleges were also being impacted by student parking, but there was no language in the County Code that allowed for permit parking in those areas. He and several others testified for the need to extend the ability to request permit parking to neighborhoods around colleges, and that was added to the Code. His work will have lasting significance for not only the Kings Park West community, but all of the neighborhoods surrounding George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College.

Jeff is a retired USAF officer who has been at Woodson HS for 12 years, where he teaches Biology and Geostystems to students with learning disabilities. He is a sponsor for the crew team at Woodson, as well as an advisor for the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). He is currently serving as President of the Fairfax Lions Club.

For his drive and energy in making his neighborhood a better place to live, his emphasis on safety, collaboration with other neighboring communities and organizational acumen in moving the community towards a common solution, Jeff Root is truly a Community Champion.

FAIRFAX HEALTH DEPARTMENT LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

April 18-24, 2010 is National Volunteer Week - a time to honor volunteers who are dedicated to taking action and solving problems in their communities and to inspire others to make service and volunteering a part of their lives. The Fairfax County Health Department invites you to learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). You do not need a medical background to become a MRC volunteer. The Fairfax MRC is an all volunteer program designed to augment the ability of our public health system to help our community during natural disasters and other types of emergencies.

Fairfax MRC volunteers recently played vital roles in Fairfax County's H1N1 vaccination campaign. Over 1,000 Fairfax MRC volunteers donated more than 18,000 hours to support this unprecedented effort during the 2009-2010 flu season.

It takes just ten hours of training to make a difference in your community. For more information about the Fairfax MRC, call 703-246-8641 or log on to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mrc.



Fairfax MRC volunteers prepare to vaccinate more than 8,000 people during a mass vaccination H1N1 clinic at the Government Center on Nov 21, 2009.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT STAYING ENGAGED WITH CLEANUP DAYS, INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

KINGS PARK WEST HOSTING ROYAL LAKE CLEANUP DAYS SATURDAY, APRIL 10 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Recognizing everyone's busy schedules, two weekends - April 10th and April 17th - have been identified this year to focus effort on the upkeep of the parks surrounding Royal Lake. Pick the weekend most convenient for you.

There will be a refreshment station at Royal Lake and Lakeside Parks for clean-up volunteers. A picnic lunch consisting of hot dogs and chips will be at Royal Lake Park - by the basketball courts provided there are sufficient volunteers.

It's important to get an accurate count for the refreshments and picnic lunch, so please RSVP. If you don't know who to contact, please call our office at 703-425-9300 and we will connect you with Tony Vellucci.

This is a great opportunity to get involved

in the community and to help keep these parks the pleasant places we all enjoy.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE FORUM

The Braddock District Council will host our State Representatives on Tuesday, April 13 at 7:30 P.M. They will discuss this year's session of the General Assembly. Please come out and hear your elected officials talk about what they were able to accomplish, what they hoped to accomplish and what they look forward to working on in the year to come.

SOUTH RUN COMMUNITY DAY: BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

On Saturday, May 1, the Fairfax County Park Authority, with the support of Fairfax County Human Services, will be holding

the South Run Community Day 2010 at the South Run Recreation Center.

The purpose of this event is to bring the community together in the Burke/Springfield area of Fairfax County for a day of celebrating who we are and all that we have in common.

From 10 A.M. until 2 P.M. there will be dancing, music and games, as well as resource/information tables highlighting county and community programs. The REC Center will also be open for tours, allowing you to see the extraordinary facilities available to county residents.

The Community Day is made possible thanks to donations from local businesses and time given by volunteers from the local area. Admission is FREE, so come out and meet new people, learn new things and have a good time. Everyone is welcome!

GET READY FOR THE ANNUAL SPRING CARNIVAL FROM THE ANNANDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Annandale Chamber of Commerce will host their Annual Spring Carnival in the parking lot of K-Mart from May 13-23. Bring the family and enjoy food, fun, midway games and rides. Monday-Thursday 5-11 P.M., Friday 4 P.M. to Midnight, Saturday NOON to Midnight and Sunday 4 P.M. to Midnight.

The Annual Hospital Bed Race will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010 on John Marr Drive in front of K-Mart at 10:00 AM. The Bed Race is a fundraiser for Virginia Special Olympics and the Annandale Chamber of Commerce, organized in cooperation with the Fairfax County Police Department.

Beds are provided, and teams of five decorate and "race" their bed through a course on John Marr Drive in a timed competition. Prizes are awarded in several categories - with the overall bed race winner receiving a trophy.

For further information, please contact: Carol Zach Reuss, Annandale Chamber of Commerce: 703-447-7128/carolzach@verizon.net or Michelle Gates, Special Olympics Virginia 703-359-4301/mgates@specialolympicsva.org



BNN: BRADDOCK SENIOR CENTERS

On this month's edition of Braddock Neighborhood News, Supervisor Cook interviews Mary Stevens from the Department of Housing and Community Development and Evan Braff, the Division Supervisor for Senior Services, to discuss the programs and services the County has available for our senior citizens. Mary and Evan share information with viewers about facilities and services at Little River Glen as well as information about Olley Glen, the new center under construction.

In the coming decades, seniors will be an increasing share of our population. Our local government has been innovative in adapting to this transition.

To learn more, please tune in to Braddock Neighborhood News on Fridays and Sundays at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on Channel 16. You can also watch a streaming video of the show by visiting http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/supervisor_cook.asx.

INCREASING SEWER RATE WILL ALLOW COUNTY TO MEET FUTURE NEEDS

A Special to the Braddock Beacon from County Staff at the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

The County Executive has proposed increasing sewer rates from \$4.50 to \$5.27 per thousand gallons. The Board of Supervisors will act on this proposal concurrent with their action on the FY 2011 Advertised Budget.

If approved, the new rates would become effective on July 1, 2010. County Staff recommends this increase to ensure continued compliance with environmental regulations, to reinvest in aging infrastructure, and to provide a high level of performance within a competitive rate.

Environmental Compliance:

New environmental rules to protect the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay are the main reason for the increase. Under these rules, all sewage treatment plants must reduce their discharge of nutrients, such as nitrogen, to the limit of technology.

To comply with these rules, the County will need to install new nutrient reducing processes and equipment at its treatment plant by 2013, and pay its share to install new equipment at regional plants that treat sewage from County residents.

Infrastructure Reinvestment:

The County's sewer system that collects and pumps wastewater (sewage) to treatment plants and its treatment plant facilities and equipment are aging. Many components have reached the end of their useful lives.

Much of the County's growth occurred post-WW II, into the 1950's and 1960's,

and therefore much of the sewer system is 50-60 years old. If pipes and pump stations utilized to collect and transport the sewage are not replaced or rehabilitated, old sewer lines will eventually break, releasing raw sewage into rivers, streams, and backing it up into homes.

Back up of raw sewage into a home can be one of the worst nightmares a homeowner experiences. Such incidents can also result in the violation of federal regulations and adversely impact water quality. It will also have an adverse impact on public health, quality of life and safety. The rate increase is necessary to adequately cover the cost of replacing or rehabilitating this aging infrastructure.

Competitive Rates:

Because all sewer systems are experiencing the same challenges and rate increases, Fairfax County will still have one of the lowest rates in the D.C. region. The additional dollars will help continue to make the County's wastewater treatment plant one of the best in the nation.

The plant removes up to 99 to 99.5 percent of pollutants, and it meets 100 percent of federal pollution control standards. Most importantly, because we have continually maintained and reinvested in our system, we have one of the lowest sewer backup rates in the country at one of the lowest rates in this region.

DECISIONS FROM RICHMOND: ACTIONS FROM THE 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

County staff has spent much of the last two weeks poring over the General Assembly's 2010-2012 Biennium Budget to determine its potential impact on Fairfax County.

The Virginia House and Senate agreed to a conference committee report on March 14. The state budget is not finalized, however, until after the annual "reconvened legislative session." This is planned for Wednesday, April 21, and legislators will act on the Governor's recommendations, including vetoes and amendments.

There is general consensus that "it could have been far worse." There have been significant cuts and without a fast economic recovery, Virginia may face a structural imbalance in future budgets.

To address these issues, the Governor may call the Assembly back into session this fall to examine the future role of state government and its partnership with localities.

The current estimated FY2011 net impact on the County's General Fund is a loss of \$16.4 million. Additional reductions could occur if state revenues fall below current projections.

In addition, the state has assumed passage of federal Medicaid legislation that may impact its Human Services budget and would provide an additional \$370 million for Virginia. Much of the federal support is in the form of one time stimulus funding and will not be available in FY2012.

A thorough analysis of the Biennium Budget has been produced by the Virginia Association of Counties: <http://www.vaco.org/Budget/BudgetSummary1012.pdf>

ANNUAL BILL COMPARISON TO NEIGHBORING UTILITIES

Additional information on the proposed sewer rates can be found online at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/navbar/faqs/sewerrate.htm>

LESSONS LEARNED FROM SNOW SUMMIT TO BE APPLIED TO FUTURE EVENTS

On March 16, the Board of Supervisors, along with VDOT, the Public Schools and Fairfax representatives to the General Assembly, hosted a Snow Summit at the Government Center to assess what worked well and what did not during this winter's historic snowfall. The general consensus was that the exchange of information would be valuable, not only for the next snow storm, but for any emergency. Detailed presentations can be reviewed at the following site: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/snowsummit>

More than 45 inches of snow fell in Northern Virginia between January 29 and February 11, 2010. Over 2,200 pieces of equipment were mobilized by VDOT to clear 17,000 lane miles; (including 8,000 lane miles in Fairfax) equal to 6 trips across the continental U.S. Ninety percent of these plows were contracted, and included crews from New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Twenty million tons of snow were removed from area roads and had to be hauled away from many interstates. Crews worked 12-hour shifts, and most slept in hotels or in their trucks. Widespread power outages and hundreds of downed trees also complicated snow removal efforts.

Most participants agreed that the Command Center at the Fairfax County Public Safety Technical Operations Center enhanced the ability of all first responders to interact with each other and respond to trouble spots. Over 34,000 calls were logged from residents, which stands in stark contrast to the 300 calls received during an average 6 inch storm.

Positives included the sharing of precipitation and mobilization information; VDOT's targeted response to specific concerns raised by public officials and its active coordination with public safety agencies and utility companies. Community volunteers who assisted with snow removal from neighborhood sidewalks and bus stops also made a significant difference in reopening schools.

Participants agreed that more training, oversight and accountability of contractors was crucial. Improving communication with those drivers through the use of Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) devices and exploring contracts for additional heavy equipment to respond to larger storms was emphasized.

A major concern was what appeared to be inconsistency in clearing subdivisions despite assurances that roads were checked by monitors after plowing. VDOT agreed to explore assistance from other agencies and to consider using equipment, drivers/monitors from local governments.

However, the overarching comment was the need to communicate better with residents so that they know what to expect and when to expect it. The many cleared sidewalks which were subsequently covered by the plows was mentioned by multiple attendees.

All suggestions received from Braddock residents were made a part of the record and Supervisor Cook thanks everyone in the community for their patience, cooperation and sense of volunteer spirit during those difficult weeks.

VDOT STILL FOCUSED ON POTHOLES

This winter's repeated historic blasts of snow, ice and rain coupled with colder-than-average temperatures have resulted in a proliferation of potholes on Virginia's roads. Governor McDonnell has implemented a statewide 'pothole blitz' throughout the state.

Using nine "Pothole Killers" as well as traditional methods, crews have filled over 7,000 potholes in Fairfax County alone since March 1. **Braddock residents are encouraged to report potholes on line (novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov) or by calling 703-383-8368.**

TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES MAY BE COMING TO WAKEFIELD CHAPEL ROAD

All interested community members are invited to attend a meeting - hosted by Supervisor Cook - that will examine possible traffic slowing measures along Wakefield Chapel Road. The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 20, 2010, 7:30 PM at Wakefield Forest Elementary School.

Representatives from VDOT and FCDOT will be joined by Supervisor Cook and Delegate Watts to discuss how traffic flow along Wakefield Chapel Road has changed since the HOT Lanes construction. They will discuss what options might be feasible to deal with increasing traffic and speeding along what has become an important north-south route in the Braddock District.

This is an important opportunity for you as residents to take a look at the options and to share any concerns you may have. Please mark your calendars!

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING - MAY 5 AT BRADDOCK/FAIRFAX/MASON FORUM

On May 5, at 7:30 P.M., the Braddock/Fairfax/Mason Forum will be meeting at the City of Fairfax City Hall Council Chambers. Information will be presented on the Long Range Transportation and Traffic Management Planning Group's study. This group is a combination of Supervisor Cook's prior Braddock/GMU Forum and a similar group formed by Fairfax City and GMU.

The presentation will inform community members of future plans and goals regarding transportation in and around the George Mason University campus. All who are interested in the ideas being discussed for future traffic and transportation management in this busy area of the Braddock District are most welcome to attend.

HOT LANES PROJECT TO ACCELERATE CONSTRUCTION, WILL SHAVE MONTHS OFF BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION TIME

Staff from VDOT Megaprojects and Fluor Lane met with citizens at Annandale High School on March 30, to announce acceleration in the construction schedule for the Little River Turnpike bridge over the Beltway.

Phase 1 of the bridge construction is almost complete, and traffic will shift for both east and westbound traffic to the new bridge as early as next week, weather permitting. However, demolition of the current westbound bridge will now be compressed, taking place at night between April and August, 2010.

Construction of the new westbound bridge will immediately follow demolition and will be completed in October, 2011. A full seven months sooner than planned. This traffic shift will necessitate the creation

of a new Yield for traffic heading from I-495 northbound onto westbound Little River Turnpike and may result in sporadic backups. There will be two westbound lanes and three eastbound lanes on the newly opened span.

Bridge work on Braddock Road is also progressing, and the new deck is currently being laid. Plans are to open the new bridge in early May, after which night time demolition of the current bridge will also begin. This work will require saw cutting of the bridge sections, although VDOT regulations require that the concrete be "pounded off" the metal infrastructure. Part of this demolition will include the removal of the existing bridge piers abutments, and will result in the permanent re-opening of 4 travel lanes between Braddock Road

and Gallows Road for through traffic on the Beltway in December, 2010. This is an improvement over the current schedule of 14 months.

Sound wall construction and required utility relocation is also moving quickly now that the weather has improved. The contractor hopes to complete the North Springfield segment parallel to Jervis Street within three months. A link to the full presentation on these modifications can be found at: <http://www.vamegaprojects.com/faqsdocuments/i495-hot-lanes-documents/#Presentations>

A Project Fact Sheet is available at: <http://www.vamegaprojects.com/about-megaprojects/i495-hot-lanes/i495-fact-sheet-page/>

SUPPORT FAIRFAX PUBLIC LIBRARIES: DONATE BOOKS THROUGH AMAZON'S WISH LIST PROGRAM

Thousands of people are on the library's waiting lists to check out popular books and bestsellers. The Fairfax County Public Library is not always able to buy enough copies to satisfy demand. Now you can help shorten the waiting lists for yourself and others through the First Loan program.

Library specialists have created a list of high-demand books that you can purchase through a special Amazon.com's Wish List. By donating one of these books to the Library, you can be sure that you're meeting an immediate and specific need.

When you buy books on the library's Amazon.com Wish List, they will be mailed directly to the library's book processing center. The Library will place a sticker on each book letting future readers know it was a gift to the Library. In addition, you will be notified by the Library Foundation that your generous donation was received. Your donation will be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

If you would like to be the first to read your donated book, check out our **First**

Loan Program:

1. Go to the Library Foundation's Amazon.com's Wish List page.
2. Select the books you want to add to the Library's collection then proceed to the checkout.
3. At the bottom of the "Shipping Details" page, click the "Change" button next to "Gift Options."
4. Enter the words, "First Loan" and the library branch where you wish to pick up the book and your email address in the text box on the right side of the page.
5. Complete your purchase. Once the book arrives at the branch, you will receive notice that the 'first loan' book is on hold for you!

For more information on donating a book through the Amazon.com Wish List program, please call 703-324-8300, or e-mail us. We hope you will consider this quick and easy method of supporting readers of all ages.

HELP MANAGE WILDLIFE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

The Fairfax County wildlife management program is seeking interested volunteers to join an effort to help control the growing population of Canada geese across the region.

Volunteers will learn to use a safe and humane technique called "adddling." Adddling is a simple process that was developed by the United States Humane Society that involves applying oil to goose eggs to prevent embryo development.

Learn more about the ecology of geese and their behavior, how to locate and identify goose nesting areas and how to addle eggs.

Attend one of the hands-on training sessions at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2/3 on:

1. **Monday, April 5, 1:30-3 p.m.**
2. **Sunday, April 11, 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.**

For more information, and to register to attend a training session, contact the Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist at 703-324-0240 or email Victoria.Monroe@FairfaxCounty.gov.

CENSUS DAY WAS APRIL 1ST, WERE YOU COUNTED?

Article 1, Section 2 of the United States Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population. The census determines the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Census data also helps determine how the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to local communities every year.

This means that when you fill out the Census you're helping to fund services that matter to you and your community. Locally, Fairfax County got more than \$359 million in federal funds in fiscal year 2008 based on census data. This equals \$943 per household in federal dollars.

April 1, 2010 was Census Day and households should have completed and mailed back their census form by then. It's only 10 questions that should take about 10 minutes to answer. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement form in early April. Census takers will visit households that do not return

questionnaires to take a count in person. When you fill out the census form, your personal information will only be used to produce statistics.

Federal law protects your information from being shared with anyone—including government agencies. It is against the law to share or publish any information from your census form, including: Name, Address and Telephone number. In fact, it's a serious crime if your answers are disclosed. All U.S. Census Bureau employees take an oath for life to keep your information confidential. They can face a fine of up to \$250,000 or five years in prison—or both—for disclosing your answers.

If you don't get a form, call the U.S. Census Bureau at 1-866-872-6868. For the hearing-impaired, call the TDD at 1-866-783-2010. These phone numbers will be answered from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week from February 25, 2010 through July 30, 2010.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAYS THIS SPRING

Clean Fairfax Council and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District encourage Fairfax County residents and homeowner associations to coordinate a community "Cleanup for Spring!" Organized clean up days are a great way get engaged, to meet your neighbors and improve your neighborhood at the same time.

Neighborhood trash washes into community storm drains and ultimately into area streams, the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Studies also suggest that cleaning up a community helps it stay cleaner by discouraging future littering. Clean neighborhoods usually show higher property values and in some cases, less crime.

Free clean up supplies - such as trash and recycling bags and gloves - as well as tips on how to have a successful neighborhood clean up are available through Clean Fairfax Council (www.cleanfairfax.org). Supplies can be picked up at the Council's office or sent to your supervisor's office.

Finally, the Alice Ferguson Foundation is hosting the 22nd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup beginning in late March and continuing through late April. Since 1989, more than 50,000 residents from around the entire region have removed over 3 million tons of trash from our waterways, public lands and communities at this annual clean-up event. For more details and a complete list of event locations in Fairfax County and beyond, go to www.potomaccleanup.org

As one additional item of note, now that the snow has finally melted, the damage is evidenced everywhere. Because this situation is so widespread, VDOT has asked for our help with cleaning up on 8,000 miles of roads in Fairfax County. In many cases, the sod plowed up in the VDOT right-of-way is still alive, and can be transplanted back on the sides of the roads. Sand can be swept from curbs and gutters.

Child Safety Symposium

ARM YOURSELF WITH KNOWLEDGE!

Spring and Summer are here! Protect your children and community as parents and as a neighborhood. The Fair Oaks District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department is hosting the Child Safety Symposium on April 9, 2010, from 7 to 9 P.M., at Fair Oaks Church - 4601 West Ox Road.



Presenters:

- Crime Prevention Officer, MPO Sophia Grinnan
- Child Abuse Detective, PFC Nicole Christian
- Child Exploitation Detective, MPO J.J. Sorrentino

Topics of Discussion Will Include:

- Internet Safety
- Sexting
- Stranger Danger
- What is Suspicious?
- Proactive Safety Efforts
- Reactive Safety Efforts