



the BRADDOCK BEACON

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

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S INDEPENDENT LIVING PROJECT: HELPING YOU LIVE IN THE HOME YOU LOVE

Working together with Fairfax County's Independent Living Project, Supervisor Cook will be hosting a free six week program of education, yoga and home safety information for older adults. Beginning September 15, these classes will be held on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Braddock Hall, (9002 Burke Lake Rd. Burke, VA).

Programs begin with one hour of education, followed by 50 minutes of yoga instruction for strength and balance (class schedule to the right).

All activities are free and open to adults over 60 years of age and all adults with physical disabilities. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Call Jennifer Edge at (703)324-7210 or email: jennifer.edge@fairfaxcounty.gov. If public transportation is needed, visit www.fairfaxconnector.com or call (703)339-7200; TTY(703)339-1608 or www.wmata.com (202)637-7000; TTY(202)638-3780.

This program is being offered in partnership with Supervisor Cook's office and the King's Park Civic Association.

Remember, Fairfax County wants to help

you keep your independence!

INDEPENDENT LIVING CLASS SCHEDULE:

**September 15: Hearing Resources,
Northern Virginia Resource Center
for Deaf/Hard of Hearing**

**September 22: Services for Older
Adults, ElderLink**

**September 29: Food Safety:
Preventing Foodborne Illnesses,
Fairfax Health Department**

**October 6: Preventing Falls and Fires,
Fairfax Fire and Rescue**

**October 13: Nutrition and Cooking
for One or Two, Fairfax Area Agency
on Aging**

**October 20: Transportation
Options, Fairfax Co. Department of
Transportation/ Wrap Up**



Supervisor John C. Cook

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS:

Please continue to let us know about your successful Community Engagement efforts. Keep up the good work!

Please call (703) 425-9300 or email Ann Sharp at ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov with your latest information.

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BRADDOCK BEACON

If you would like the Braddock Beacon and the Cook Advisory electronically, instead of through mail, please contact us at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov and write "Beacon Subscribe" in the subject line.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT NOW ON FACEBOOK

Be sure to stay up to date on the Braddock District. See: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Burke-VA/Office-of-Braddock-Supervisor-John-C-Cook/113003565389251?ref=sgm>

SUPERVISOR COOK, AARP TO TEAM UP FOR SEPTEMBER 9 FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT ANNANDALE FOOD SITE

Did you know that nearly six percent of seniors in Virginia are at risk of hunger and that 16 percent of residents reported not having enough money to buy food in the last year?

That is why Supervisor Cook, along with AmeriCorps Virginia, the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, Ruritan and Virginia Engage are all teaming up with the AARP's Drive to End Hunger on Friday, September 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the

Annandale Food Site.

Please bring non-perishable food items to the Braddock District Office, located at 9002 Burke Lake Road, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 9.

The AARP's Drive to End Hunger is a multi-year commitment by the AARP Foundation to solve the problem of hunger in older Americans. If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Kelly at 703.425.9300.

SENIOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Bowling League Forming in Annandale

Adults 55 and over are welcome to join this league which meets at 10 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from Labor Day through early May. New and experienced bowlers are welcome. Call Jim Allision at 703-323-8132, TTY 711 for more information.

Play Senior Fall Ball!

The Northern Virginia Senior Softball league seeks men 50+ and women 40+ to play Fall Ball, two 7-inning slowpitch softball games on Fairfax County fields. Games are played on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, September 6 to October 28. Call 703-524-5576 or go to nvss.org.

Free Senior Swim Week in August

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is sponsoring a free senior swim week at all five of its swimming pool complexes in August, during regular pool hours. Call the individual pool offices to confirm dates and hours of operation. You must be age 55 or older (proof of age is required).

- Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville: 703-631-0552
- Downpour at Algonkian Regional Park, 47001 Fairway Drive, Sterling: 703-430-7683
- Great Waves Water Park at Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria: 703-960-0767
- Pohick Bay Regional Park, 6501 Pohick Bay Drive, Lorton: 703-339-6104
- Upton Hill Regional Park, 6060 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington: 703-534-3437

Tennis, Anyone?

The Fairfax County Golden Racquets Club invites men and women age 50 and above to play indoor and outdoor doubles year-round on weekdays. Annual membership is \$20 plus a share of daytime court fees when playing indoors. For information, call Joan Linthicum at 703-327-1576.

SENIORS: GET ENGAGED, GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY!

ElderLink is a partnership program between the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, InovaHealth System and the Alzheimer's Association. Elderlink provides care management services, as well as health and wellness programs for older adults in Fairfax County. They are seeking a volunteer who has experience in researching grant funding opportunities. Contact Cathy Cole at 703-324-5377, TTY 711, or catherine.cole@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Meals on Wheels program needs drivers on most of the routes, but especially in McLean and Reston/Herndon. Reston/Herndon will be adding a new route and needs a large number of drivers. The Korean and Vietnamese meals routes also need drivers, especially in Fairfax/Centreville and Annandale/Falls Church. Meals are delivered Monday-Friday, between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Volunteers may choose to drive weekly, biweekly, monthly, or be a substitute. For more information, call the Volunteer Intake Line at 703-324-5406; TTY 711, e-mail dfsaaavolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov

Other Volunteer Opportunities include: Grocery Shopping – shop for an older adult or accompany them to the grocery store. Commitment: two hours every other week.

Household Services – unpack boxes, change light bulbs, paint small areas, straighten cupboards or closets, organize paperwork, write letters. Commitment: varies.

Meals on Wheels – transport meals to older adults or adults with disabilities Monday through Friday close to where you live or work. Meals delivered between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Program also needs treasurers, driver coordinators and group coordinators. Commitment: from two hours one time a month and more.

Nutritional Supplement Delivery – pick up and deliver nutritional supplements to an older adult's home. Deliveries are made early in the month. Commitment: a six-month commitment is requested. Two to three hours per month.

Social Visits – visit older adults who need company. Commitment: once or twice a week visits for one to two hours at a time. A one-year commitment is requested.

Transportation – drive older adults to and from medical appointments, pharmacy, bank, library, etc. For more information:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm>

JOIN A SENIOR CENTER AND LET THE FUN BEGIN!

Fairfax County residents age 55 and over may join any of the 13 senior centers sponsored by the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. There is an annual membership fee (for information, visit the website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs; call 703-324-4600, TTY 711; or e-mail ncs@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Senior centers offer classes, health and wellness programs, computer/Internet access, trips and tours and opportunities to socialize with others and stay connected with your community. Lunch is available with a suggested donation between \$2 and \$6 based on age and income. Lunch reservations must be made at least 1 day in advance. Transportation may be available by Fastran bus at a nominal charge. Call your nearest senior center for information. Two facilities with services for Seniors in the Braddock District that you may wish to consider include:

David R. Pinn Community Center, 10225 Zion Drive 703-250-9181

Wakefield Audrey Moore Rec Center, 8100 Braddock Road, 703-321-3000

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On July 4, Supervisor Cook celebrated Independence Day in grand fashion. First, he participated in the Fairfax 4th of July parade which is always a lively event. Following that, he went over to Kings Park for the annual parade and concert in the park. He then stopped by the Long Branch Civic Association celebration before heading over to Little Run for their parade and festivities. The day was rounded out when the entire Cook family attended the City of Fairfax Band concert and fireworks at Fairfax High School.

On July 10, Supervisor Cook was present for the dedication of a historic marker on the site of the historic Gooding's Tavern in Annandale. The Tavern served as a stopping and resting point for stagecoaches and travelers as they passed through the area.

On July 13, Supervisor Cook chaired the regular meeting of the Mason West Campus Connector Advisory Board and then helped host the 2011 Best of Braddock Awards at the Kings Park Library and Braddock Hall.



On July 21st, Supervisor Cook attended another wonderful Lunch N' Life program which is hosted monthly by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. This month's lunch was held at Burke Presbyterian Church. The after lunch topic was Little Known Civil War Fights in Fairfax County. Later that evening, Supervisor Cook and his staff hosted a town hall meeting at Eagle View Elementary School for residents in the two newest Braddock Precincts, Eagle View and Monument. We were pleased to have present, members from the Fair Oaks police station as well as representatives from the Braddock District Council.

On July 25th, Supervisor Cook hosted a town hall meeting at the Commons Community Centre in Burke which focused on the future of transit in Burke Centre. A link to the Burke Patch article can be found here: <http://burke.patch.com/articles/burke-centre-vre-at-hub-of-transportation-plans>

NEW PUBLIC SAFETY HEADQUARTERS TO BE BUILT

After spending years in a building with leaking pipes, broken air condition and asbestos, the County's police officers and firefighters will get a new headquarters. The new HQ, which will replace the 44-year old Massey Building, will rise up next to the Herrity Building where the baseball field is today. The problems with Massey are numerous. It is sheathed in asbestos, which was a standard fireproofing material used in the 1960s. The asbestos also makes it difficult, if not impossible, to make repairs. The building's electrical system is overloaded, and the heating and cooling system is so old that replacement parts often can't be found.

A new headquarters is badly needed since Massey continues to deteriorate, and the new eight-story building will give the police and fire departments the space they need in the future. It will be built to meet the fire and police departments' needs in 2030. This means the building will accommodate up to 700 employees compared to the approximately 463 in the Massey Building. The new HQ also includes 850 secured parking spaces. Besides additional space, the building will help strengthen the close working relationship between the two departments.

"The Police and Fire and Rescue Departments enjoy a unique partnership, one that enhances the public safety of Fairfax County," said Police Chief Dave Rohrer. "One of the most exciting prospects about this planned new facility is the County's commitment to design and build a truly joint police and fire headquarters with the adequate space and facilities to improve and expand our opportunities to work collaboratively on public safety issues."

The building will serve more than just public safety, however. The Department of Information Technology will move the county's primary data center into the new HQ. The center will be a separate facility but connected to the headquarters.

The decision to construct a new headquarters was made carefully, especially as the county continues to face constrained budgets. As an alternative, top county leaders considered renovating the Massey Building. However, this option didn't make financial sense.

Preliminary estimates for rehabbing Massey amounted to at least \$87 million. This compares to \$149 million for the new HQ. And, a renovated Massey Building still wouldn't give police and fire the space they needed for future growth.

"The Massey Building has served the county well for almost 44 years, however, with ongoing failures of the core building mechanical systems and overall infrastructure, along with the ever presence of asbestos, it is no longer a safe and dependable work environment for our dedicated employees," said Fire Chief Ronald Mastin. "It has outlived its useful purpose."

For the next four years, however, Massey will continue to be home to police and fire staff. The new building won't be ready until 2015, and after staff move in, the Massey Building will be torn down.

UPDATES ON BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE CASES

Commonwealth Swim Club (SEA-BR-2010-020)

A public hearing before the Planning Commission was held on July 20, 2010 on the proposal by T-Mobile and Commonwealth Swim Club to locate a 120 foot cell tower on the rear parking lot of its 5.4 acre site adjacent to the tennis courts. County staff recommended approval of this application and testimony was heard from six residents both for and against the application. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended to the Board of Supervisors that it positively consider this application. However, the applicant was requested to substantially enhance the plantings that will serve as screening for residents on Commonwealth Blvd. and on Walport Lane who abut the site. The applicant has also agreed to look at existing vegetation and remove anything that is dead or diseased and replace them with new plantings and to remain active in maintenance. On August 3, 2011 this application was considered at a hearing by the Board of Zoning Appeals which recommended that the existing Special Permit be amended to allow the pole. No date has yet been set for the hearing before the Board of Supervisors.

Trinity Christian School. (SEA 96-B-010-02)

A public hearing before the Planning Commission was held on July 28 to consider an expansion of operational hours and uses at this school at 11204 Braddock Road. Planning Commissioner Harsel, after hearing testimony on a number of unresolved issues, deferred

a decision on this application until September 15, 2011. These include allowing Emergency Management staff to weigh in on the car stacking that occurs both on Braddock Road and on the school driveway during discharge and pick up times; a clearer delineation of the hours for outside activities on the fields, especially by non-school users; clarification on the Sunday hours of operation by prospective church users and requirements for supplementing and maintaining vegetative buffers with adjacent neighbors. No date for a hearing before the Board of Supervisors is yet scheduled.

Ridgeview (RZ-2011-BR-014 and FDP 2011-BR-014)

Midland Road LLC and the Ridgewood Commercial Owners Association propose to revise the approved uses of two parcels located at the intersection of Government Center Parkway and Ridge Top Road. The modifications were endorsed by the Springfield 2009 APR Task Force, and would place 39 townhouses on a site formerly proposed for office use and to construct up to 35,000 square feet of community oriented office uses in place of a multi-family building. The county accepted the application for processing on June 1 and Suzianne Zottle has been assigned to develop staff recommendations. A community information meeting on this application will be scheduled in September. If you would like to attend this meeting or receive more information, please call the Braddock office at 703-425-9300.

PLANNING FOR WEST CAMPUS CONNECTOR CONTINUES WITH OPEN HOUSE MEETING, ADDITIONAL MEETINGS PLANNED

The Braddock District will soon receive a significant transportation improvement. Funding has been identified for George Mason University's proposed "West Campus Connector." The exact design of the road has yet to be determined, but the intent of the bypass is to keep eastbound traffic headed toward campus and westbound traffic leaving campus from entering the intersection of Braddock and Route 123. As a result of the bypass, a 10 to 30 percent reduction in congestion is expected at Braddock and Route 123.

On August 3, an open house meeting was held on this proposed transportation project. After opening remarks from Supervisor Cook and Fairfax City Mayor Rob Lederer, a presentation was given by VHB, Mason's consultant on this project. The presentation touched on such topics as the university's transportation master plan, constraints on this particular project, which include the surrounding watersheds, resource protection areas

and wetlands, as well as the slopes and elevation changes the proposed roadway would encounter. The presentation was followed with a Q&A period and then smaller breakout groups where thoughts and concerns from community members were recorded. Ensuring that an adequate buffer was provided between the roadway and the residents living on Kelley Drive and maintaining a residential feel for the entrance from Braddock Road, were two of the more commonly heard concerns.

While a strong supporter of the connector, Supervisor Cook is committed to keeping the community involved as the project is designed and constructed. To meet that goal, in addition to open meetings, a small task force of community members, the West Campus Connector Advisory Group (WCCAG), has been formed and will be closely involved in the project design. The



generic example of potential bridge span

group includes representatives from:

- Braddock District: Frank Ruth (of University Square), Daniel Chen and Betty Anger (of Kelley Drive);
- Springfield District: Robert Webb, Patricia Reese and Robert Hayman;
- Fairfax City: Gail Wade, Mike Choffel and Randy Green; and
- George Mason University: Cathy Wolfe, Josh Cantor, Tom Calhoun, Jim Miller, and Robert Endebrook.

Additional Information: Materials discussed at the meetings, as well as meeting minutes are available at the Mason Community Relations Website: <http://communityrelations.gmu.edu/fairfax.html>

NEXT MEETING ON MONTICELLO PARK MASTER PLAN SCHEDULED

The public input process for the Monticello Park master plan is still ongoing and your ideas and suggestions are very welcome. The next meeting - all are invited - has been scheduled for **August 10, at 7 p.m. in Braddock Hall** (Braddock Hall is connected to the Supervisor's office which is located at 9002 Burke Lake Road).

During the last meeting, FCPA representatives reviewed three conceptual drawings and attendees provided their input. Attendees discussed development options ranging from leaving the park undeveloped, to planning for off leash dog areas, a playground/tot-lot, community garden plots, unsheltered picnic areas, micro-fields, open play areas, a skate spot and parking area. Discussions also included such issues as storm water run-off, funding for specific projects and care and maintenance of the park. A revised set of drawings based on these discussions is available on the Supervisor's website at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/issues/monticellopark.htm>. When you have had a chance to review the drawings, please forward any comments to Andy Galusha of the FCPA at Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. Or, contact your Braddock District Representative to the FCPA, Anthony Vellucci at ajvellucci@gmail.com.

Also at the last meeting, some attendees suggested clearing a significant swath of forest across Guinea Road at Herzell Woods Park or Greenfield Park to make way for the Off Leash Dog Area (OLDA) and parking lot area so that Monticello Park could remain undeveloped. To clear the area needed at Herzell Woods would cost approximately \$85,000, at Greenfield the cost would be much higher, more than \$600,000 as a road entrance would also need to be built.

Although park planning should be completed in 2011, no determination has been made as to when improvements will be implemented. Current park bond and work programs do not include funding for design or construction within Monticello Park. Site design, construction timing and funding are determined by the Park Authority Board through adoption of the Capital Improvement Program.

**SAVE THE DATE:
BRADDOCK DISTRICT ATHLETIC
COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE WILL
BE HOSTING TWO CONCUSSION
TRAINING SEMINARS FOR BRYC
COACHES AND PARENTS ON
AUGUST 25 AND 30. TIMES AND
LOCATIONS TO BE DETERMINED**

START OF GUINEA ROAD BRIDGE REPAIR SLIPS AGAIN

During the site inspection with contractors who were preparing to bid on this emergency VDOT Bridge Repair project, a 12 inch water main was discovered that must be relocated. Existing plans were scrapped and VDOT has now expanded the scope to provide new interconnections that will resolve the conflict and revisions to the structural design for an abutting retaining wall. The cost of this change is in excess of \$150,000 and has delayed the project again.

As of this week, VDOT has notified the county that it expects Fairfax Water to sign off on the new plans by August 12. Bid advertisement has slipped to August 19 and bids will be let on September 7 followed by a contract execution towards the end of September.

TO PAY FOR AGING INFRASTRUCTURE, WASTEWATER FEES INCREASED

Many of you have recently received your first water bill for the fiscal year. That bill includes an increase in the cost of wastewater (sewer) treatment that was voted on by the Board of Supervisors as part of the FY2012 budget. The fee increase will pay for \$158.4 million in necessary infrastructure costs that Fairfax County must meet as a result of new state and federal requirements of the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the effluent standards of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the federal Sludge Standards. Technology is constantly changing, and requires the county to install expensive, new equipment at its Norman Cole Wastewater Treatment Plant, and pay its share at other regional plants such as Blue Plains. These plant upgrades will significantly reduce the nitrogen and phosphorus pollutants that are discharged into the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

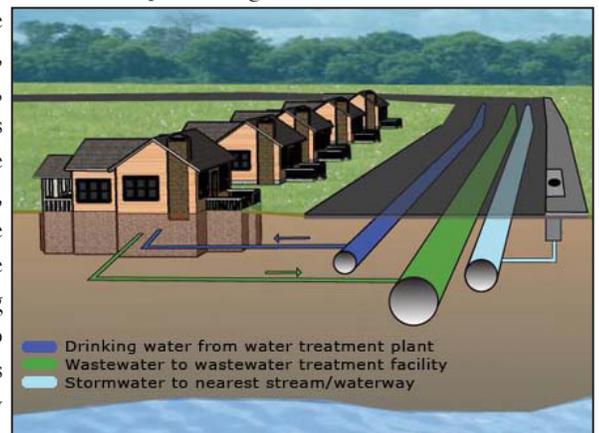
Though Fairfax County has 3,380 miles of pipe, 65 pump stations and 59 flow metering stations for which it is responsible, we have has the second lowest treatment cost in the metropolitan region. While 650 miles have been

added just in the last twenty years, overall, however, our treatment plants and equipment are aging. In past years, the county was able to pay many of these costs by charging connection fees to new homeowners and businesses. Now that the county is

largely "built out," those fees are no longer sufficient to operate the system.

This year, based on an average quarterly residential water usage of 19,000 gallons, the "average" homeowner will pay approximately \$14.06 more per quarter, or a total of \$56.24 more per year.

During budget deliberations last spring, Supervisor Cook noted the significant increase in sewer fees as one reason for his opposition to the Board's property tax increase.



UPDATE ON VDOT MEGAPROJECTS

I-495 CAPITAL BELTWAY HOT LANES

• In May 2011, the first I-495 northbound lane shifts were made, putting motorists on newly paved lanes from the W&OD Trail Overpass to Route 7 and from Braddock Road to Little River Turnpike making way for crews to begin building the HOT Lanes in the center of the Capital Beltway. Lane shifts will continue for the rest of the year.

• Over the last year, local traffic crossing over the Beltway was shifted to at least one new overpass at all of the interchanges between Braddock Road and Route 123. Crews have been working to complete the second spans of all the overpasses, and over the next few months, traffic will be shifted to the new spans at Braddock Road, Little River Turnpike, Gallows Road, and Route 7. Bridge Work will continue at Route 50 and Route 123 as well.

• HOT Lanes benefits include rebuilding more than 58 bridges and overpasses on I-495 from the Springfield Interchange to just north of the Dulles Toll Road. The longest overpass of the project is a 3,215-foot bridge from I-95 North to I-495.

IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR MARK CENTER

Road construction crews from the Federal Highway Administration and the City of Alexandria are making short-term transportation improvements around the Mark Center to prepare for 6,400 Defense Department employees scheduled to arrive by the end of 2011.

There are six short-term improvements that will relieve some of the immediate congestion on the local roads in 2013.

These improvements include:

- Ramp widening on northbound I-395 exit at Seminary Road and turn-lane reconfiguration at the Seminary Road/I-395 rotary
- Median removal on Seminary Road west of I-395
- Intersection/turn lane modifications at

Beauregard Street and Seminary Road

- Turn-lane expansion at Mark Center Drive and Seminary Road
- A pedestrian bridge from Southern Towers over Seminary Road to Mark Center
- On-ramp expansion from Seminary Road to I-395 south.

PROPOSED I-95 HOV/HOT LANES

• The proposed I-95 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)/HOT Lanes project would add capacity, extend HOV lanes and relieve bottlenecks. An environmental assessment is underway.

• The project would construct a nine-mile extension of the existing HOV lanes from Dumfries to Garrisonville Road in Stafford County to alleviate the worst traffic bottleneck in the region.

• It would expand existing I-95 HOV lanes from two to three lanes across 14 miles between the Prince William Parkway to approximately two miles north of the Springfield Interchange in the vicinity of Edsall Road.

• It would improve the existing two HOV lanes for six miles from Route 234 to the Prince William Parkway, add new or improved access to and from the HOV/HOT network at key interchanges and create a seamless connection to the HOV/HOT Lanes on the Capital Beltway into Tysons Corner.

DULLES CORRIDOR METRORAIL EXTENSION

• Phase I will branch off from Metro's existing Orange Line at I-66 and the Dulles Connector Road between the East Falls Church station and West Falls Church stations, through Tysons Corner (4 stops) to Wiehle Avenue (1 stop) in Reston. Phase I of the rail extension began in March 2009 and will be completed in 2013.

• Dulles Metrorail is a key part of an integrated transportation solution that maximizes investments in Metrorail, buses, carpools, I-495 HOT Lanes, VRE, road improvements and teleworking.

NEGOTIATING STANCE ON DULLES PHASE II ADOPTED

At the July 26 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Board endorsed an outline that would allow for talks to continue between the various local, state and federal governments involved in this project.

In the outline, the Board agreed to pay the estimated \$83 million cost of the planned Route 28 Metro station, as well as the cost of two garages which are anticipated to cost roughly \$50 million each. The resolution was contingent, however, on the county receiving sufficient financing from the federal government or private sources to cover the costs. It is also dependent upon the outcome of future negotiations.

Though Supervisor Cook voted in favor of endorsing this plan so that talks between all parties could continue, he is concerned about the ultimate cost of the project to the County. He believes the transportation and economic development benefits the county will receive are significant, but as he said from the dais during debate, "there comes a point when a project, no matter how good it is, becomes too expensive to do."

COFFEE CONNECTIONS SCHEDULED

As part of his ongoing Community Engagement Initiative, Supervisor Cook is hosting "Coffee Connections," a social opportunity for residents with special needs to learn about events that they can be a part of within the larger community. The third "Coffee Connections" will take place on August 19 at 7 p.m. in the Kings Park Library. Supervisor Cook would especially like to thank Braddock District residents Donna Goldbranson and Mark O'Meara for their generous support. For more information please contact Evan Braff at 703.324.5650 or Lindsey Smith at 703-425-9300.

SPECIAL TO THE BEACON: ACCOTINK CREEK NEEDS NEW FRIENDS!

Did you know Accotink Creek is losing several longtime key friends? Are you an existing or budding community leader or just want to help this dynamic, all-volunteer group, Friends of Accotink Creek (www.Accotink.org) in their work of restoring the Accotink Creek watershed to a more vital, vibrant and ecologically stable community resource? Healthier watersheds provide healthier communities. If a healthier community is important to you, get engaged!

In Wakefield Park five years ago, during a stream cleanup event, a late-summer thunderstorm swept through the area. Duane Murphy, a board member of Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited (www.NVATU.org), was shocked to see the water suddenly rise and become full of trash and debris flushed from the streets of the City of Fairfax, the Town of Vienna and nearby Fairfax residential communities and businesses. It also became clear that debris from I-66 and the Beltway HOT Lanes construction were contributing to this problem.

Three months after witnessing that trash-filled storm, Duane Murphy and Philip Latasa formed Friends of Accotink Creek in December 2005. The Friends of Accotink

Creek work with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District conducting watershed education events including storm drain marking; with the Spring Alice Ferguson Foundation Potomac River Cleanup, and Fall International Coastal Cleanup events. They also help the Fairfax County Park Authority manage Invasive Plant Management areas in the watershed.

Public awareness is one of the chief aims of the group. In the impaired Accotink watershed, storm water runs off impervious surfaces like roofs, parking lots, sidewalks and roads, impairing the stream ecosystem and damaging existing infrastructure. With little tree cover or grassy soil to slow it, rain water runs directly to Accotink Creek. As in other watersheds, many homeowners unknowingly add to the problem, but can help reduce the problem by installing rain barrels, French drains, cisterns, rain gardens and by planting native trees, bushes and plants that help the rainwater soak into the ground. Slowing water down lets it gradually enter the stream that can support more aquatic life, improve fishing in local streams and protect drinking water.

Now, however, these two founders of Friends of Accotink Creek find that they

must reduce their efforts; Duane, due to family health issues, and Philip, due to moving out of the watershed. As with all organizations, life changes and events require “new blood” to take over activities that accomplish this vision of Accotink Creek being a place for all to enjoy.

The Friends of Accotink Creek come from all walks of life. For example, several events and watershed projects are led by Boy Scouts who earned Eagle Scout badges and Girl Scouts who earned Gold Awards.

Are you a leader who would help organize a fall and/or spring stream cleanup along a stretch of Accotink Creek or near one of the bridges in the watershed? Would you prefer to take over an Invasive Plant Management Area? Do you know someone who needs a project to earn an Eagle Scout or Gold Award, wants to earn community service hours, or just help make Accotink Creek a cleaner place to visit? If so, contact Duane Murphy via email, coordinator@accotink.org. Even if you cannot assume a leadership role, become a volunteer with Friends of Accotink Creek group; <http://www.accotink.org/MembershipForm.htm> (donations welcomed) and stay tuned for an organizational meeting in late August or early September.

WHEN CAMPING, DON'T TRANSPORT FIREWOOD OUT OF NOVA

The warm days of summer are an excellent time for pitching a tent at Fairfax County Park Authority campsites in Lake Fairfax and Burke Lake Parks. While you're there, remember the request that's being made by park agencies throughout the region. Please don't transport firewood out of Northern Virginia and, when camping outside this region, please use firewood from local sources rather than carrying it with you from Northern Virginia.

Seven local counties, including Fairfax County, are part of state and federal quarantines that ban the moving of firewood out of the area because of an insect called the emerald ash borer. The insect drills into ash trees and kills them, and an estimated 25 million ash trees in the United States have been felled by the borer over the past decade and a-half.

Some 500 purple glue traps hang in Fairfax County trees as part of a state program to monitor the insect. The triangular traps are non-toxic and don't contain pesticides or chemicals.

The Fairfax County Forest Pest Branch has more information about the trapping program at 703-324-5541, TTY 711. For more information about the emerald ash borer, visit online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2011/updates/emerald-ash-borer-traps.htm.

More information about camping in Fairfax County parks can be obtained by calling Burke Lake at 703-323-6600, Lake Fairfax at 703-471-5415, or online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTS CHANGES TO POLLING STATIONS

In response to changes in state legislative boundaries approved by the General Assembly, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on July 26 and adopted changes to precincts and polling stations to reduce the number of “split precincts” and accommodate population shifts.

In Braddock, changes were made to precincts that previously voted at Canterbury Woods Elementary School, Kings Park Elementary School, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Little Run Elementary School, Olde Creek Elementary School and W.T. Woodson High School.

In Kings Park, the precinct was split due to the new boundary created by the General Assembly along Eastborne Drive between the 35th and 37th state senate districts. Residents of Kings Park living north of Eastborne and west of Danbury Forest have been moved into the 37th state senate district, but will continue voting at Kings Park Elementary School while residents of Kings Park and Danbury Forest living south and east of the new boundary will remain in the 35th state senate district and vote at Kings Glen Elementary School as part of the new “Danbury” precinct.

The Woodson precinct, which votes at W.T. Woodson High School, has expanded eastward to absorb neighborhoods south of Little River Turnpike and north of Ashmeade from Olley precinct, and

southward from W.T. Woodson High School to absorb residents living on Laurel, Worcester, Limoges and Mintown. While residents of this new Woodson precinct have been moved from the 37th to the 41st House of Delegates district by the General Assembly, residents of the old Woodson precinct west of Roberts Road will remain in the 37th House of Delegates district and become the new “University” precinct voting at University Hall on the George Mason University campus.

The remaining portions of the Olde Creek precinct, which previously voted at Olde Creek Elementary School, have been merged with the remaining portions of Olley precinct (south of Ashmeade) to form the new “Little Run” precinct voting at Little Run Elementary School. While this represents no change in polling station for residents of the old Olley precinct living south of Ashmeade, residents in the old Olde Creek precinct should be aware that their polling station has changed from Olde Creek Elementary School to Little Run Elementary School.

In Canterbury Woods, the General Assembly moved both the Long Branch and Oak Hill precincts from the 35th State Senate District to the 34th State Senate District and the Board of Supervisors merged these precincts into the new “Canterbury” precinct, but residents will

experience no change in polling station.

Residents of the portion of the Lake Braddock precinct (voting at Lake Braddock Secondary School) that live north of Braddock Road have been moved out of that precinct to reflect the new lines between the 41st and 39th House of Delegate Districts approved by the General Assembly. While residents north of the creek near Hobart Ct will remain in the 41st House of Delegate District, they will now vote at Little Run Elementary School as part of the new “Little Run” precinct. Meanwhile, residents south of this creek will join the 39th House of Delegates District and vote at Canterbury Woods Elementary School as part of the new “Canterbury” precinct.

While Fairfax County only changed polling stations for the precincts above, most residents in the Braddock District who will vote at the same polling stations have still been moved into new state legislative districts by the General Assembly. If you are interested in seeing the new boundaries approved by the General Assembly visit:

House of Delegates: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/maps/images/maps/handouts/pdf07/DelegateDistricts.pdf>

State Senate:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/maps/images/maps/handouts/pdf07/SenateDistricts.pdf>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE BRADDOCK SHREDDING DAY

On August 27 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Braddock Governmental Center, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will be sponsoring a secure document shredding event.

This service is intended for shredding documents of a personal or sensitive nature such as tax documents, medical or financial records. Junk mail, newspapers, magazines and other forms of paper can be recycled through your normal recycling collection service. Residents are limited to shredding a maximum of five medium-sized packing boxes of paper per household.

Please remove all paper from binders and remove all paper clips, binder clips and rubber bands. This event is for paper document shredding only, we will not be able to accept information stored on film or computer discs for destruction.

COUNTY GREEN BUILDING POLICIES TO BE EXAMINED

When the Board adopted its first Green Building Policy in 2007, it requested that the Planning Commission monitor the effects for two years to assess the efficacy and determine if any revisions were necessary, given that the green building field is rapidly evolving.

Planning staff has been doing just that, and now, to promote community discussion, staff has prepared a “strawman” document for review and comment. It is available at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/070711strawman_green_building_policy.pdf.

A public workshop is scheduled for September 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway. In the meantime, questions or comments can be directed to Maya Dhavale, an Environmental Planner for the county at maya.dhavale@fairfaxcounty.gov