



The *BRADDOCK BEACON*

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FAIRFAX'S LOOMING TRANSPORTATION CRISIS

Fairfax County has long faced difficult transportation problems, but today it faces a transportation crisis which, if not met, could choke off our economic recovery and put a host of our long-term goals out of reach. Strong, creative leadership is needed at the county level to meet this crisis head on.

In Virginia, the State is responsible for building and maintaining almost all of our roads, from the interstates to the smallest cul-de-sac. Currently, the State is failing to meet those obligations. This Spring, VDOT eliminated construction funding for secondary roads, which includes Braddock and Guinea Roads, as well as smaller ones, with no current plans ever to revive that funding.

That means, absent a change in state policy, there will be no construction of state roads necessary to get people in and out of a newly revitalized Tysons Corner. It also means no new intersection improvements, longer turn lanes, added lanes or even traffic signals. Nothing. Ever.

Maintenance funds are in trouble as well. I've written before about decreased mowing by state crews, and now we are told that additional state budget cuts mean not all the potholes, storm drains and curbs will be repaired. Next year, the state will not repave any secondary roads in Fairfax County.

Why did this happen? Well, the economic downturn has created a large budget shortfall for the state that the General Assembly and Governor decided to meet, in part, by significantly reducing transportation funding. First, all construction funds were eliminated. Second, maintenance funds were re-

duced significantly. A state funding formula for transportation maintenance that distributes funds based solely on lane miles only makes matters worse. A one-mile stretch of Braddock Road with three lanes is three lane miles, while a three mile stretch of a one-lane country road in Page County is also three lane miles. Density and vehicle trips per day are left out of the formula, so each of these hypothetical projects receives the same maintenance funding. This inequality greatly restricts Fairfax County's ability to sustain its infrastructure.

Without new construction funds we can't build any new roads or even improve existing ones. Fairfax County is expected to gain 250,000 new residents in the next thirty years and despite our mass transit improvements, many will still drive cars. Without new roads, our congestion will harm our economy.

Without new roads into Tysons, how can we build 80,000 residential units there? If we don't improve Tysons, we won't have the economic growth to fund the services we want. We need to fund both improvements to and maintenance of our transportation system or our roadways will deteriorate and won't be able to support existing traffic, much less new traffic.

It is because of this dire situation that County Executive Tony Griffin suggested to the Board of Supervisors that the County look into taking over its transportation system from the state. While the newspapers focused on the option of converting from a County to a City, that is but one option

CRISIS CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



COMMUNITY INITIATIVE COMING THIS FALL

This fall Supervisor Cook plans to launch a Community Engagement Initiative that will encourage people to become more connected with each other and their communities. These connections may include participation in civic associations, home owner associations, community organizations, scouts, pools and recreational sports.

Citizen participation in our communities makes them stronger and can be the difference between those neighborhoods that thrive and those that fall behind. The initiative will focus on volunteering, outreach, leadership training and community building.

Supervisor Cook has put together a working group, including our Braddock District Council leadership, and we are developing the particulars of the initiative. More will be coming on this project in the coming months.

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On Friday and Sunday nights throughout the month of July you could find the Supervisor at Braddock Night Concerts enjoying the entertainment and raffling off priceless t-shirts.

On July 4 Supervisor Cook participated in both the **Fairfax City Independence Day Parade** and his own **Kings Park neighborhood picnic**.

Supervisor Cook sponsored a meeting with the **Commonwealth Swim Club** community and their neighbors on July 7 to discuss the possibility of a cell tower being placed on their property.

The Supervisor spoke at the annual meeting of the **Burke Cove Condominiums** on July 9 where he encour-

aged members to embrace the spirit of volunteerism in their community.

At the **Best of Braddock Awards** on July 14 Supervisor Cook presented awards to the outstanding individuals and organizations that have, by their activities and lifestyles, made the Braddock District a better place to live.

Along with other elected officials and dignitaries from around the County, Supervisor Cook attended **FestAbilities – the Virginia Ability Alliance Summer Festival** at the Dulles Expo Center on July 19 where he celebrated the achievements of people with disabilities.

On July 22 the Supervisor toured the

David R. Pinn Center off of Zion Road to learn about the activities provided and constituents served by this local community center.

The Supervisor went on a tour of the **Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College** on July 30, guided by Provost Barbara Sapperstone and accompanied by David Courter, Director of College enterprises, and Dana Kauffman, Director of Government Affairs and Community Relations.

On the final day of the month of July, Supervisor Cook participated in the **Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Graduation** ceremony.

IMAGES FROM BRADDOCK NIGHTS: FRIDAY NIGHT AT ROYAL LAKE AND LAKE ACCOTINK, SUNDAY NIGHT AT OSSIAN HALL PARK



Left: Supervisor Cook and Ossian Hall MC Lasine Doumbia with performers from Taiwanese Cultural Heritage Night.

Below: Lake Accotink MC Chet McLaren hands out a priceless Braddock Nights t-shirt to a lucky raffle winner.



Left: Dancers perform at Hawaiian Cultural Heritage night at Ossian Hall Park.

Below: Hot Society Orchestra of Washington performs at Lake Accotink.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2009 BEST OF BRADDOCK AWARD WINNERS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK

Braddock District Citizen of the Year: Bruce Wallachy

Bruce has served as Braddock District Council Chairman for the past three years, and before that he served as the Kings Park West Civic Association president. Wherever he has gone he has brought renewed enthusiasm and an increase in the level of community involvement.



Mark O'Meara received the award for **Most Outstanding Business Person** in recognition of his generosity and community involvement over the years.

For restoring the Oak Hill Mansion in time for Look Back at Braddock History Day, Janyce Hedetniemi accepted the award for **Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification** on behalf of the Oak Hill Citizen Association.



In honor of his 15 years as mail carrier in the Braddock District Brian Lewis received the award for **Most "Can Do" Public Employee Working on Issues in Braddock District**. Always with a smile and willing to talk to neighbors, Brian exemplifies community spirit.



The Burke 55ers received the award for **Club or Organization Making a Difference**. The group meets twice a month and provides social interaction and educational opportunities and raises money for charities.



With a 4.104 GPA, a member of the National Honor Society and a volunteer for the Habitat for Humanity and Homes, Inc. John Lewis was a very deserving recipient of the **Young Person of the Year** award.



For their work on constructing a covered pavilion for Ilda Pool, the Little Run Community and Jim Albertson received the award for **Commercial Beautification or Improvement in the Braddock District**. At a time when many pools are closing due to financial difficulties this sends a positive signal throughout the community.

Emily Smith, who has battled juvenile rheumatoid arthritis since she was two, received the **Special Award for Personal Achievement**. She has been a tireless advocate in search of a cure.



Accepting the **Special Community Service Award** for her late husband, Sherril, is Teryl Pomeroy. Sherril, who served as VP of Maintenance for the Canterbury Woods Pool, received the award in honor of his exceptional commitment to the community for 16 years.

TRANSPORTATION CRISIS THREATENS FUTURE SUCCESS

CRISIS CONTINUED FROM FRONT

the table.

Fairfax could remain a county, but negotiate with the state to transfer to us the money, people and equipment otherwise designated for Fairfax and we would build and maintain the roads here on our own. Arlington handles its transportation needs in this way. Achieving this option would require successful negotiations with the state, which may be difficult.

A second option is to seek to become a city. Under the state formula cities get more transportation funding than counties. Such a move would require a referendum

to pass in the County, and approval by the General Assembly. Neither is a given. Cities have more taxing power than counties, and some are concerned that a new city would raise taxes.

A third option would be to keep the current system, but to supplement state efforts with county efforts. The county could raise funds or establish public-private partnerships to build projects on top of the state system. The problem with that is that the property tax is our principal means of revenue, and those taxes are high enough. County spending needs to be cut \$100 million next year just to hold tax payments

steady, and more cuts will be needed the following year. Where would we get the money for roads?

Our transportation crisis is grave and the stakes are high. But I am optimistic. Fairfax County has the brightest, most innovative, most hard-working people in the world. If anyone can figure out how to get out of this mess, it's the people of Fairfax County. It's our future. Let's stop talking and start working. Over the next several months, I will offer thoughts on how we should address our transportation needs. Please call, write or email me with your suggestions.

CONSTITUENT DAY AT LITTLE RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Supervisor Cook recently had the opportunity to host his second "Constituent Day" event, which he plans to host in neighborhoods across Braddock District in an ongoing effort to make himself available to hear about your concerns. On July 29, at Little Run Elementary School, he met with over three dozen residents who came out to share their thoughts on county issues.

A wide range of topics were discussed, including commercial signs along roads, T-Mobile's proposed leasing agreement with the Rutherford Pool, construction by George Mason University, illegal boarding houses, the lack of transportation funds from Richmond, construction at Little River Glen, a traffic count conducted by the county on Little River Turnpike, business development in the county, reducing the county's fuel expenses and making the education of neighbors on the details of zoning ordinances a community value.

Supervisor Cook was pleased to meet with those who came out, as these Constituent Days help him learn about issues facing the neighborhoods in Braddock District as well as provide a chance to meet his constituents. He looks forward to meeting more of you when he hosts additional constituent days in the months to come.

PLAZA, PLAYGROUNDS TO COME WITH OSSIAN HALL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Upgrades to Ossian Hall Park will start becoming visible in the spring of 2010 as Phase 2 of the park's improvement plan reaches construction. Ossian Hall Park is located within the boundary roads of Little River Turnpike, Heritage Drive and Four Year Run in Annandale and is currently home to the Sunday edition of Braddock Nights.

In Phase 1 from November 2006 to May 2007 the Fairfax County Park Authority made trail improvements, installed new signs and implemented a forest treatment plan that increased visibility within the park.

At the end of Phase 2, Ossian Hall will have two lighted multi-use courts, two playgrounds, an open play area and a community plaza area that will provide an excellent location for concerts and a variety of community functions. The diamond fields will remain in place, but the existing multi-use courts will be relocated toward the entrance of the park along Four Year Run.

The community plaza, where an outdoor performance area will become the centerpiece for the park, will be placed behind the current playground. Additional parking, landscaping, site lighting and improved storm water management facilities along with enhanced forest treatments will be provided as part of the Phase 2 construc-

tion. Ossian Hall Park renovations are provided through the County's Park Bond program.

Construction should be complete by the end of 2010. You can come take a look at what the future Ossian Hall Park will look like by stopping by the Braddock District Office, co-located with the Kings Park Library, or by attending one the Sunday Braddock Nights which begin at 6 p.m. at the park and run through the end of August.



LAKE BARTON DAM STRUCTURE TO BE IMPROVED BEGINNING NEXT YEAR

Residents of the Braddock District have reason to be proud of the lakes that are located throughout our community. Most of us usually view them as aesthetic and recreational additions to our neighborhoods.

However, many citizens do not realize that the dams serving each of our lakes protect us from the effects of devastating storms; holding back millions of gallons of water that would otherwise contribute to local flooding. They are designed to store water and gradually release it into the stream through a spillway pipe.

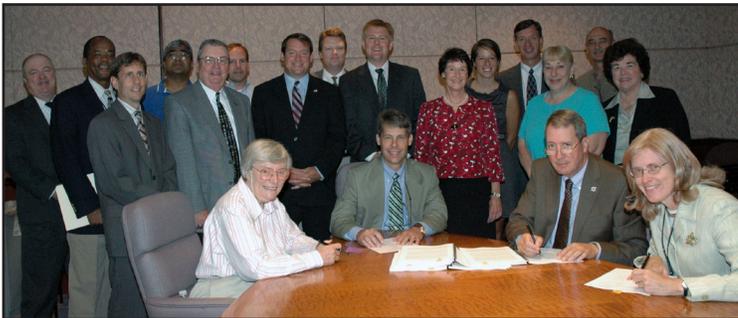
Lake Barton alone can store the runoff from any storm that dumps as much as nine inches of rain falling over a 24 hour period. These lakes also hold back significant amounts of phosphorous and other metals that would otherwise contribute to the pollution of the Chesapeake Bay. This is a significant water quality benefit to the region.

Lake Barton, otherwise known as the Pohick Creek Dam Site Number 2, was constructed in 1978, and on Monday, August 3rd, Supervisor Cook was privileged to participate in a ceremony where Fairfax County signed an agree-

ment with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to fund the rehabilitation of Lake Barton's aging dam structure. Work will begin next year and is a major commitment by Fairfax County to protect the infrastructure that protects you.

The Lake Barton dam rehabilitation project will assure continued recreation and safety benefits to the 1,585 people who live and work downstream. It will protect 192 homes, 38 businesses and three public buildings. It will also protect roadways used by over 73,000 vehicles per day and protect the railroad lines used by 9,000 passengers per day.

Supervisor Cook would like to thank all of the citizens who participated in the hours of meeting that led to this ceremony. Their efforts have immeasurably strengthened the final plan.



Supervisor Cook, Braddock residents Terry Kurtz and Diane Hoffman along with a host of dignitaries witness Jean Packard, Jack Bricker and Tony Griffin sign the rehabilitation plan for Lake Barton

TRAPPING THE EMERALD ASH BORER

A number of citizens have asked about the prism shaped purple bags hanging from trees along many roadsides.

To put speculation to rest, it can be reported that the large purple traps are set to attract emerald ash borers, a beetle native to Asia which made its way into Michigan during 2002. A year later the invasive insects were inadvertently brought to Fairfax County on nursery stock used in the Vienna area.

The insect is so named because of its color during the hard-shell adult life stage. In its larval stage the borer lives under the bark and disrupts the nutrient flow of the ash tree, killing it.

Officials ask the public to report traps that have fallen to the ground, and they advise not to touch them since they are covered with extremely sticky glue. Because many ash trees are on private property, officials are looking for homeowners who will allow traps to be hung in their trees. Call the Fairfax County Forest Pest Branch at 703-324-5304, to report fallen traps or to permit traps to be put on private property.



PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WILL HELP REFOREST I-495

The clearing of trees and vegetation to make way for the HOT Lanes on I-495 has resulted in the loss of almost 200 acres of vegetation, wildlife habitat and the removal of many native plants along the right-of-way.

Over the last six months, a public private partnership, the Fairfax County Restoration Project, has been formed to proactively work with VDOT and Fluor to restore much of that land. Preliminary plans include planting of trees, preserving resource protection areas, soil and habitat restora-

tion and community gardening.

The Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP³) is bringing together an array of partners to assist in this effort. They include the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Lands and Waters, Friends of Accotink Creek, the Environmental Quality Advisory Council, the Virginia Department of Forestry, representatives from several members of the General Assembly and Fairfax Supervisors with citizens who border the project. The chair of this group is Amy Gould, a local realtor.

The goal of the group is to foster relationships between the state, county, business and non profit community for the purpose of finding ways to work together to improve the County's environment and quality of life.

Supervisor Cook and his staff will be working with citizen and homeowner groups on this endeavor. For more information about FCRP and how you can get involved, contact Karen Fuentes at OP³ at 703-324-5176 or Supervisor Cook's office at 703-425-9300.

BRADDOCK CITIZEN BUDGET COMMITTEE IS IN FULL SWING

Work is already beginning on next year's County budget and some of the best work is being done by Braddock District citizens. On Wednesday, July 22 the Braddock Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee met for the second time and had a very lively and productive meeting thanks to the roughly three dozen citizens who took the time to participate.

Susan Data, Director, Department of Management and Budget gave a very informative presentation on the Fairfax County Budget which outlined the process, explained how the county budget developed from 2001 to 2008 and also provided the county forecast for fiscal year 2011. Additionally, she responded to several very im-

portant base-line questions and provided an arm-load of reports and references that would be very useful for any interested citizen. You can find these documents at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>.

The committee is currently busy creating subcommittees to help maintain focus on specific issues and is beginning the process of creating recommendations to bring to Supervisor Cook.



Community Dialogues on the FY 2011 Budget

Sponsored by Fairfax County government and the Fairfax County Public School System, these dialogues provide an opportunity to share your input on the Fairfax County budget.

Saturday, September 19: 10:00 am to Noon
Kings Park Library
Sherwood Regional Library
George Mason Regional Library

Wednesday, September 30: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
West Springfield High School Cafeteria

Wednesday, October 14: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Marshall High School Cafeteria
South County High School Cafeteria

Saturday, October 24: 10:00 am to Noon
John Marshall Library
Centreville Regional Library
Reston Regional Library

Thursday, October 29: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
South Lakes High School Cafeteria
Woodson High School Cafeteria

ANNANDALE FALL FESTIVAL: IT'S BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER

On Saturday, October 24th, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Annandale will sponsor a spectacular Fall Festival in the Safeway parking lot on Little River Turnpike.

From 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM dozens of merchants with hand made fashion jewelry, art work, quality giftware from major manufacturers, exquisite crafts and so much more will unveil their treasures.

Costumed international dancers, local bands, a D.J. and "The Taste of Annandale" with food from many culinary cuisines will be featured at this festival. The Kid's Zone will delight and chal-

lenge with a Mechanical Bull, 24' Dual Slides, Bungee Basketball, a Bungee Run, a Sticky Wall, an Obstacle Course, Moon Bounce, Face Painters, a Nature Exhibit, a Reading Tent with costumed characters, and interactive games for toddlers to teens. From 10:00 am to NOON the Annual Parade will also take place along Columbia Pike.

Applications for Commercial Vendors, Food Vendors, Musical Performers and Parade Entry Forms can be found at www.annandalechamber.com

TAKING CARE OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS WITH THE HELP OF YOUR NEIGHBORS

We recently received an email from a constituent who is concerned about trees and shrubs located on private properties that are growing over or overhanging sidewalks, making safe passage difficult. This resident stated that while the county would probably come out to trim them back if called upon, this would use precious county dollars that could be better spent elsewhere. Residents should take on this responsibility themselves.

We agree with this concern for the safety of others as well as the need for good stewardship of County funds. What we really see

is the opportunity for residents and communities in the Braddock District to step forward and take care of one another. When there are problems or annoyances in your community that can be handled without County interference, try that route first.

Talk to each other, encourage one another, look out for the safety of others. Working together to solve a small problem can be the first step in making each of our communities a better place to live.

BURKE CENTRE LIBRARY RECEIVES LEED SILVER CERTIFICATION

At the June 22 Board of Supervisors meeting, Burke Centre Library was recognized for becoming the first library in Virginia to achieve LEED Silver certification. The 17,000 square foot library, which incorporates energy efficient heating, cooling and lighting, opened to the public in June of 2008. The building will reduce energy consumption by approximately 30 percent which translates into an energy savings of roughly \$10,000 per year.

The library design also incorporates water conservation measures and includes low flow toilets and other efficient plumbing fixtures. It is anticipated that this will lead to about 40 percent or 93,200 fewer gallons of water being used as compared to a similar, traditionally designed building.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council, is a rating system that promotes sustainability by recognizing performance in water and energy efficiency, among other areas.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BRINGS COMMUNITIES TOGETHER



Supervisor Cook and School Board Representative Tessie Wilson met McGruff the crime dog, during National Night Out on August 4th. Supervisor Cook and Representative Wilson accompanied Lt. Randy Joyce, Assistant Commander, West Springfield District Station as they attended NNO events held by Middle Ridge, Bonnie Brae, Olde Forge and Rutherford Civic Associations, Heritage Court and Stone Haven Homeowner's Associations as well as Target.

THIS MONTH ON BNN: ARC OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Last month, viewers of Braddock Neighborhood News learned about the persistent threat of gang violence, including how to recognize signs of gang membership and activity as well as what parents and neighbors can do to deter youth from joining gangs.

This month, Supervisor Cook introduces us to our neighbors who live with cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities with Nancy Mercer, Co-Executive Director of the Arc of Northern Virginia.

Viewers who tune in to Channel 16 on Fridays and Sundays at 5 p.m. or Wednesdays at 7 p.m. can learn about the specific challenges facing people with disabilities here in Northern Virginia as well as programs that help them to become more independent and socially involved in the community. The program includes information about Arc's services, advocacy, education and outreach as well as how we can assist their mission by becoming volunteers through Arc.

Building stronger communities means learning about each other and providing a helping hand where we can. The Arc provides a wonderful way to do just that.

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE ROUND UP

Braddock Road/Route 123 Improvements

Fairfax transportation staff has now finalized the scope of a potential widening project at the intersection of Route 123 and Braddock Roads. This recommendation will have the fewest impacts on stormwater controls and utilities, and will allow the University Mall to present its proposed redevelopment project with clarity about what new right-of-way will be required.

University Mall Renovation

University Mall has filed an application to renovate. We are looking forward to this project. Supervisor Cook expects to hold a community meeting on this project later this fall.

Braddock District Spot Improvements

With the restricted availability of transportation funding, targeted improvements and pedestrian projects that could improve movement at intersections throughout Braddock District are a high priority. For example, a 2007 Bond Project to provide a sidewalk on the west side of Roberts Road to Shenandoah Road is scheduled to go to construction in September. When complete, it will provide pedestrian access all the way to the City of Fairfax. George Mason University also hopes to have pedestrian access along Rt. 123 reestablished by mid-September. A number of intersections where lengthening turn lanes could improve thru traffic movements are also being examined.

Islamic Saudi Academy Land Use Application

Transportation was also a major focus of Supervisor Cook's deci-

sion to join Chairman Bulova and Supervisors Herrity and Smyth in a vote against the proposal to enlarge the Islamic Saudi Academy on Pope's Head Road. After driving the stretch of road himself on three separate occasions, reviewing accident history and the current vehicle trips per day, Supervisor Cook came to the conclusion that this was not a good location for additional students. Popes Head Road is a narrow country road which he believes cannot safely accommodate the additional traffic that will be generated by the expansion.

1-495 HOT Lanes Project Updates

A major concern that residents who live along the HOT Lanes expansion continue to voice are the noise impacts. Construction of soundwalls along the inner loop is now underway. In addition, the project staff recently made a determination on the placement of sound walls around the Beltway inner loop exit curve onto east-bound Braddock Road. The new wall will connect with the existing wall at Heming Avenue and will run from North Springfield Elementary School, past Axton Street, continue up to Ravensworth Road and will terminate near the intersection of Ravensworth and Braddock Roads. Construction of the soundwall north of Heming Avenue is scheduled to begin during the mid-to-late fall of 2009 and be completed mid-winter 2010. Construction of the wall segment south of Heming will begin July 2011. Construction of the Little River Turnpike bridge which began on July 27 is well advanced and should be completed within the next two weeks.

VOLUNTEERFEST®, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Join Volunteer Fairfax at VolunteerFest®, on Saturday, October 24 for its 15th annual Fairfax area day of service. VolunteerFest® is a region-wide day of community service held in conjunction with National Make a Difference Day. VolunteerFest® mobilizes hundreds of volunteers to help nonprofits accomplish tasks that they would not have the time, resources or ability to do on their own. The deadline for project proposals is August 14, 2009.

GUIDELINES:

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christine Coffey at ccoffey@volunteerfairfax.org or (703) 246-3703.

Who can participate: All participating agencies must be a member of our organization. (Yes! You can join for free if you would like to participate.)

Project Location: All project locations must be in Fairfax County.

Time Period: Projects should be 2 to 4 hours long.

Number of Volunteers: Projects must have a minimum of 15 volunteers. There is no maximum number of volunteers set by Volunteer Fairfax.

Age Range: Each nonprofit may determine their own minimum age. You may also determine whether or not the project is appropriate for families.

Multiple project submissions: If submitting multiple projects, please submit a separate project proposal form for each project and each location.

The project coordinator must attend one of the Accepted Agencies Meetings (meetings will be held at the Volunteer Fairfax office which is located within the Fairfax County Court Complex)

September 10 @ 8am

September 16 @ 8pm

September 17 @ 5:30pm

For Project Proposals and Instructions please visit www.volunteerfairfax.org