

Burke
Centre
VREthe BRADDOCK
BEACON

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

**COUNTY TO FACE SIGNIFICANT
TRANSPORTATION DECISIONS THIS FALL**

Receiving a proper level of transportation funding from the Commonwealth has long been a challenge for Northern Virginia; a situation our current economic difficulties have only compounded. In Virginia, almost all roads are owned and maintained by the state, not the county, and state funding has plummeted. Now, state officials openly talk about handing responsibility for local roads over to local governments and there is no state plan that comes close to meeting our transportation needs in Fairfax. This fall, after exploring the financial, legal and legislative issues associated with transportation funding and with the delivery of roadway service, County staff will provide the Board with a recommended course of action on whether or not we should seek control of secondary roads - and to what extent.

Additionally, in June, County staff outlined for the Board, Fairfax County's long-term transportation requirements. This potential, ten-year, \$10 billion County plan would require enhancing the funding levels currently provided by the local, state and federal governments. Of the total, \$4.7 billion is presently identified. Staff suggests the remaining \$5.3 billion may need to come from the County.

The plan includes funding for VRE, Metro, the Connector bus system and the Columbia Pike Streetcar; Dulles Rail Phase I and II; BRAC-related projects to help ease congestion around Fort Belvoir; a number of Specific Area Improvements such as Bailey's, Annandale, Springfield; Tysons Corner improvements such as widening Route 7, extending Boone Boulevard and Greensboro Drive and adding exit

ramps from the Dulles Toll Road; and ten road widenings and five interchange improvements across the County - even park and rides and roadway maintenance are included.

There are no good options for how the County would provide the \$5.3 billion in funding needed to implement this list of projects. County staff suggested a menu of painful tax and fee increases for consideration that would still fall roughly \$1 billion short of the additional funding needed to implement the plan.

These funding proposals included 1) a Countywide Meals Tax - at an assumed rate of four percent it would generate roughly \$800 million over the next ten years. A meals tax requires a voter referendum. 2) a Property Tax Increase - raising the rate by four cents would bring in more than one billion dollars over the next ten years. 3) General Obligation Bonds totaling \$220 million, or \$22 million per year, could be passed. 4) Enacting \$1.5 billion in various fees which were originally part of the 2007 state transportation plan. (Those fees were struck down by the Virginia Supreme Court because they were to be enacted by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority instead of the General Assembly or local governments.) These fees could include a congestion relief fee, increased annual vehicle registration fee, two percent rental car fee, and a five percent sales and use tax on motor vehicle repairs. All would require General Assembly approval to be implemented.

Please See Transportation on Page 3



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.

Please keep us informed as you move forward with your projects so we can track progress across the district. We are here to help as well.

For all organizations, as you conduct your annual elections, please provide us with the latest contact information for your Association Officers so that we may keep you better informed of events/issues in Braddock District that may impact you and your neighborhood.

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

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On July 3rd, Supervisor Cook was proud to participate in the Fairfax celebration of America's Independence. The day began with him riding through the streets of Fairfax in the annual parade. Later that evening, the Supervisor, along with his family, enjoyed a concert by the City of Fairfax Band and fireworks at Fairfax High School.

On July 4th, Supervisor Cook took part in the Kings Park Independence Day Celebration. This event included a parade through the streets of Kings Park as well as a concert by the Kings Park Band. In between these two events, the Supervisor was pleased to help dedicate the wonderful new playground equipment in the park.

On July 7th and 21st, Supervisor Cook took part in two separate "Meet the Management" events at the Burke Centre and Rolling Road VRE stations. These gave riders a chance to talk with the VRE leaders about how their commute was and to ask questions about how it might be made even better. Supervisor Cook is a member of the VRE Operations Board.

On July 22nd, Supervisor Cook was a guest at the "Lunch n' Life" series at Burke Presbyterian Church. The guest speakers were the

VA Task Force team that went to Haiti and assisted with the after effects of the earthquake that occurred earlier this year.



As pictured above, Supervisor Cook joins Senator Dick Saslaw, School Board Representative Tessie Wilson, Park Authority Board Member Winnie Shapiro, KPCA President Kayleen Fitzgerald at the dedication ceremony of the King's Park Park playground.

GET A GLIMPSE BEHIND THE BADGE

Here's your chance to take a "glimpse behind the badge" and see how the county's police department protects and serves. The nationally recognized Fairfax County Police Department will sponsor Citizen's Police Academy, a 10-week program to learn about SWAT and special operations, gangs, 911 communications center, patrol, crime prevention, crime scene, and identity theft. Classes combine lectures and interactive activities. The free program meets Thursdays, 6:30 to 10:00 p.m., beginning September 9. Class locations will rotate to various police facilities. Download an application at Citizen's Police Academy (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/citizens-police-academy.htm>). Contact CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-280-0713 for more information.

BRADDOCK NIGHTS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES ROLLING STRONG

This series of free musical performances held throughout the summer presents a wide array of artists, from classical to bluegrass and everything in between. The events take place every Friday evening from June 4 to August 27 at Royal Lake and Lake Accotink Park, beginning at 7:30 p.m. A full list of performances and more information on the 2010 Braddock Nights Summer Concerts can be found on Supervisor Cook's website (http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/pdfs/bn_flyer.pdf).



If the weather looks threatening and you think it may result in a cancelled performance, you can call the office at 703-425-9300 until 5:00 p.m. on the day of the concert or the county hotline at 703-324-SHOW (4796). We are always looking for volunteers to help staff the events, so if you are interested please contact Lindsey Smith at 703-425-9300.

Braddock Nights is an outstanding tradition that allows our community to come together and celebrate with each other an evening of entertainment and fellowship. It is a fantastic series that truly helps strengthen our neighborhood spirit. The atmosphere is informal and with free entertainment for the whole family, this is a great year for folks to make their first trip or their sixteenth. This summer Braddock Nights are the place to be and we look forward to seeing you there!

STAFF STUDY ON TRANSPORTATION TO BE RELEASED THIS FALL

Transportation Continued from Page 1

Another option is Congestion Tolling (imposing rush hour-only tolls on major roads). This would also require state approval, but conceivably could raise \$1 billion or more over ten years.

Regarding whether the County should seek to assume responsibility for secondary roads (neighborhood streets and non-interstate roads with route numbers over 600, such as Braddock Road), the staff recommendations will likely include the County taking additional responsibility in four areas: **Planning** – system planning, modeling, forecasting; **Operations** – traffic signals, sign structures, pavement markings; **Construction** – design, land acquisition, building; and **Maintenance** – snow removal, dead animal removal,

pothole repair. From maintaining the status quo to fully taking over each of these four areas, there are countless combinations from which the County could choose. Obviously, each iteration will come with its own price tag, making identifying the costs of each function a crucially important part of the study. The state would contribute funds toward such an effort, but additional county funds would likely be required to raise service to acceptable levels.

None of these options are particularly appealing. However, without funding we can not build any new roads or even improve existing ones. The State has eliminated construction funding for secondary roads and significantly reduced maintenance funding. 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 improving our transportation infrastructure, congestion will begin to harm our economy, not to mention the time it takes out of our lives.

This is not a situation I take lightly, as its effects will reverberate many years into the future. We are in a deep recession and after years of increases in county spending, we need to be decreasing spending, not increasing taxes. I am closely examining this issue and look forward to reading County Staff's completed study. I also welcome your input in the months ahead. You may email any comments to me at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov. I will continue to provide more information on these issues in the con



TWO CONSOLIDATED DEPARTMENTS GET THEIR START AS A RESULT OF FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET RESTRUCTURINGS

DEPARTMENT OF CODE COMPLIANCE

Do you have concerns about neighbors parking in the grass, junk in the yard, overcrowding or unpermitted construction? Starting Thursday, July 1, the new Department of Code Compliance (DCC) will investigate these and other quality of life complaints across the county. DCC will look into and enforce violations of multiple codes and ordinances, including: Zoning, Property Maintenance, Building (non-permitted construction), Grass, Blight, Hoarding, and some segments of Health and Fire.

This multi-code enforcement agency consolidates the Department of Planning and Zoning's Zoning Enforcement Branch and the Code Enforcement Strike Teams. The Health Department and Fire and Rescue Department will continue to enforce specific codes and also provide staff to work closely with the new department.

Why did the county decide to combine two agencies into one consolidated code enforcement agency? "Some cases only require one code to investigate a complaint," says Jeff Blackford, director. He went on to

add that, "Other complaints clearly require multiple disciplines — a good example would be a boarding house. Having multi-code teams also gives us flexibility to use the various disciplines to address current or future problems."

Does this change the way we report things to the county? Not a bit. At the Braddock District level we will have a set team to work with, allowing us to have better communication and develop an even better relationship with the county staff assigned to our area. That team will cover many different complaints, so citizens no longer need to guess what agency they should call.

The Department of Code Compliance can be reached at 703-324-1300. If you have any further questions, you can call our office at 703-425-9300.

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Board of Supervisors appointed Christopher A. Leonard as the director of the new Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS). This agency is the result of the consolidation of the

Department of Community and Recreation Services (CRS) and the Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS).

The new department will implement a regional service delivery model for teen, senior and community center services.

The mission of NCS is to engage, connect and collaborate with individuals, organizations, neighborhoods and communities to strategically plan, provide responsive services and build capacity to support community and neighborhood solutions. This consolidation will save in administrative costs while providing better service, as programming will be located in one place instead of two.

The county is currently in the process of consolidating the work of CRS and DSMHS into NCS. In the meantime, please visit both the CRS website and the DSMHS websites for information about their programs and services. Both agencies look forward to continuing to serve their existing participants and welcome new participants to join them at any time.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to call us at 703-425-9300.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX BILLS INCLUDE NEW VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE

2010 Fairfax County Personal Property Tax bills are currently being mailed by the Department of Tax Administration (DTA) and are due on Oct. 5. This bill includes a new \$33 registration fee for cars (\$38 for vehicles in excess of 4,000 pounds) normally located in the county as of July 1, 2010. There is no county windshield decal to purchase or display.

This fee was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in April, 2010 and is expected to result in approximately \$27 million in additional revenues. Supervisor Cook voted against this additional levy.

Fairfax County residents must register vehicles with DTA that are normally garaged or parked in Fairfax County, even if the vehicle is registered in another state. Failure to locally register vehicles on time will result in additional penalties. Register online or call 703-222-8234 (TTY 703-222-7594). In addition, make sure your address is correct with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

CUTS IN STATE FUNDING TO VDOT WILL IMPACT RESIDENTIAL TRAFFIC CALMING

Until recently, we could work with neighborhood groups to see if they qualified for traffic calming measures, which usually involved installing stop signs, speed humps/tables, median islands or chokers to narrow the roadway on streets with a 25 mph speed limit and a high volume of traffic exceeding the speed limit.

However, traffic calming measures may be the latest victims of Virginia's depleted transportation revenues. Officials with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation said last week that the county has essentially exhausted available state funding for its neighborhood traffic-calming program, and the Virginia Department of Transportation has said that it won't fund the program anymore. Communities can still apply for traffic calming, and county staff will use county funds to assess those applications. Right now, however, there is no plan to fund their

Vehicle Registration Fees:

- \$18 for motorcycles.
- \$23 for any taxi or other vehicle that is kept for rent or hire operated by a chauffeur for the transportation of passengers. An additional fee of \$5 is charged if the weight of the vehicle is more than 4,000 pounds.
- \$23 for a bus used exclusively for transportation to and from church school, for the purpose of religious instruction, or church, for the purpose of divine worship. If the empty weight of the vehicle exceeds 4,000 pounds, the fee is \$28.
- \$33 for all other vehicles with a weight of 4,000 pounds or less.
- \$38 for all other vehicles with a weight of more than 4,000 pounds.

More detailed Vehicle Registration Fee Information can be accessed at this link: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/cartax_veh_reg_fee.htm

implementation.

So, what can be done if there is no money for these types of measures?

Well, there are other strategies that can be applied to try to control speeding. There are several roads that do not qualify for traffic calming because they have posted speed limits greater than 25 mph. In those areas, signs reading "\$200 Additional Fine for Speeding" could be placed along qualifying roadways.

Signs indicating that children are at play can also be requested. And in some areas with excessive truck traffic, through traffic measures could be implemented. All of these options are explained in an easy to read format at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/rtap.htm#traffic_calm.

If you have questions about anything in this article, please feel free to call Ann Sharp in our office at 703-425-9300

IDEAS TO BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY

Let's keep the Braddock District Community Engagement Initiative going strong! Consider implementing one or more of these ideas to help build better connections between neighbors in your community.

- Conduct a membership drive for your Homeowners Association or Civic Association to engage those who have not traditionally participated
- Organize an annual social gathering to welcome new neighbors
- Organize a community blood drive to benefit your local hospital
- Coordinate a volunteer drive to benefit a local mentoring organization
- Organize a food drive to benefit a local food bank
- Form a neighborhood watch group
- Volunteer and/or donate at a local homeless shelter
- Create a 'check on your neighbors' campaign. Organize a group of people who will periodically check on those who may be vulnerable and need assistance
- Organize a group to volunteer to deliver Meals-on-Wheels in your neighborhood
- Volunteer at your local neighborhood school
- Volunteer/Adopt a local fire station or police station
- Conduct a fundraiser or book drive for your local library
- Volunteer or have the community adopt a Senior Center or a Senior Assisted Living Center

SAVE THE DATE: BRADDOCK PACKING DAY, OCTOBER 23RD

Today, our Military personnel are deployed throughout the world providing critical support and security to our Nation. They need to know they have the support of their Families and Community at home. As a small token of our appreciation, Supervisor Cook is asking that folks from all over Fairfax County consider joining him in an ongoing project called Challenge America 2010, supported by America's Adopt A Soldier.

In conjunction with VolunteerFest, we are asking members of the community to come together on **Saturday, October 23rd** at Lake Braddock Secondary School to help us achieve our goal of packing and shipping 1000 boxes to service members abroad.

We can make this happen if we all dedicate ourselves to raising awareness for this event and encouraging each other to get involved. Individually, you can help by:

1. Giving a few hours of your time on Saturday, October 23rd at Lake Braddock Secondary School to address and pack "Care Packages" for our service members. If you would like to volunteer your time and help us out at this event please contact Lindsey Smith of our office at 703-425-9300.

2. Donating items. A list of suggested items includes: Socks, DVDs, CDs/CD players, Liquid body soap, Toiletries (tooth brushes, toothpaste), Snacks (Hard candy, crackers), Handheld Games, Coffee, Gatorade, Sun Block, Paper, pens, pencils, envelopes, batteries, foot powder and many others. These items can be dropped off at a number of locations as of yet to be determined, but to begin, my office will serve as the first drop-off location and is ready to accept donated items.

3. Donating funds. The cost to mail a box is \$10.70 and the cost of the contents of one box is approximately \$20.00. You can make your check payable to America's Adopt A Soldier and they can be mailed to America's Adopt A Soldier at P.O. Box 1049, Springfield VA 22151.

SAVE THE DATE: OAK HILL OPEN HOUSE, SATURDAY OCTOBER 16

This year's program runs from Noon until 5 P.M., with the opening ceremony scheduled for 12:30 P.M. Featured speakers will include Maddy McCoy, John Browne and Dennis Howard.

Together, McCoy and Browne will present what is known of a now-lost African American community that developed in the late 1800s on former Oak Hill land on Braddock Road. Springfield resident and author, Dennis Howard recounts his family's passage from slavery in Culpeper, Virginia, to becoming land owners and proprietors of a blacksmith shop on Little River Turnpike, to their contributions in developing our community.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENTS



Supervisor Cook was out visiting many of the communities in the Braddock District that were celebrating neighborhood safety and community spirit on the evening of August 3 during National Night Out. National Night Out is an annual neighborhood-based crime and drug prevention event that gives neighborhoods the opportunity to show their commitment to fighting crime.

In the Braddock District, over a dozen communities were visited by Supervisor Cook. This picture was taken when the group stopped at the Stone Haven celebration.

BRADDOCK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS: IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CARE FOR LOVED ONES WITH LONG-TERM NEEDS

On this month's edition of BNN, Supervisor Cook invited Donna Goldbranson from Specially Adapted Resource Clubs (SPARC) and Karen Brown from Brain Injury Services, Inc. to discuss how each of us can assist in improving the standards and availability of care for loved ones and neighbors with long-term needs.

On the program, Donna Goldbranson shares with viewers how SPARC provides independent living skills training and community involvement and vocational opportunities for people with life-long disabilities. Karen Brown shares with

viewers how Brain Injury Services provides case management, independent living skills training, care and social skills training to those living with the challenges of brain injury.

While our government provides some forms of support, many of those in need of long-term care are served by local non-profit organizations and neighbors willing to offer a helping hand. Each local resident willing to assist local non-profits such as Brain Injury Services and SPARC can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need and they are always in need of more.

If you are interested in learning about the work that these non-profits do in our community, please tune in to BNN on Fridays and Sundays at 5 p.m. or Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on Channel 16. You can also watch online at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/supervisor_cook.asx.

To help our neighbors in need, you can contact SPARC at 703-338-6185 or at www.sparcontheweb.org or Brain Injury Services at 703-451-8881 or at www.braininjurysvcs.org.

THE FUTURE MAY BE UNPREDICTABLE, BUT IT CAN BE PLANNED

This article is a special to the Braddock Beacon, from Dan McKinnon, Chair, Annandale Central Business District Planning Committee

Last month the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a Comprehensive Plan amendment for downtown Annandale, or what is called the Annandale "Community Business Center" or CBC.

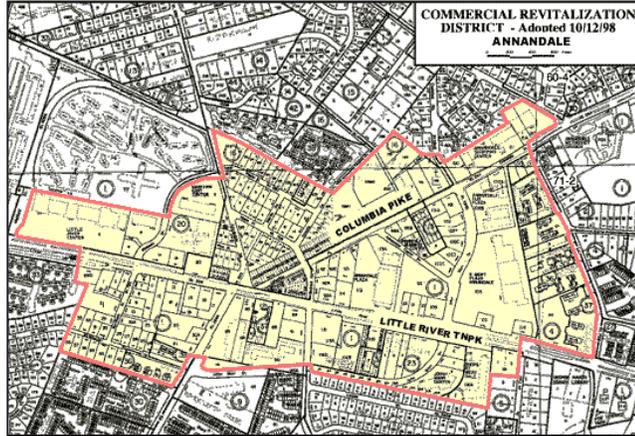
As a result of concerns about the lack of downtown renewal, voiced by the Annandale Central Business District Planning Committee, the BOS directed county planning and transportation staffs to perform a study of the area. First, seeking plan language that might encourage redevelopment, and secondly language that would address the traffic issues of Little River Turnpike. Study results were briefed to community focus groups and endorsed by the Planning Commission. The product is unique and a first for Fairfax County.

Nine transportation options for getting traffic through Annandale were subject to computer simulation. Two were identified as best options. One would have been to make part of Little River Turnpike one-way going west, and parts of McWhorter and John Marr as one-way going east.

The option approved was to make Little River Turnpike six lanes and eliminate the service drives, turning the whole thoroughfare into a tree lined "boulevard" using the old rights of way for amenities such as sidewalks, landscaping, bike lanes and other features. Adoption eliminated the old plan, which would have created a six lane highway plus service drives and an overpass at Annandale Road; an option many in the community felt would have created an eight lane asphalt scar dividing Annandale's downtown. The new plan also facilitates future light rail.

In land-use planning, Annandale is the first commercial center of Fairfax County to apply the concept of a "Form-based Plan." A form-based approach allows property owners and developers flexibility in proposing projects with specific land uses and intensities. The new plan language sets out a range of building types, heights and uses, encourages mixed-

use development and a wide range of retail options, encourages parcel consolidation and utilities underground and includes urban design guidelines with amenities



such as urban parks, pedestrian walkways, landscaping, etc. The entire new plan can

be read on the county revitalization web site: <http://fcrevite.com/annandale/comprehensive.htm>

The Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan is only a plan. It takes people and the right economic environment to make it work and see change take effect. The Annandale downtown plan is sound. The future may be unpredictable, but it can be planned. Perhaps some day families in the wonderful surrounding neighborhoods of the greater Annandale area will be able to walk, bike, or take a short drive into what could become an "urban village", to shop or just hang out. A place to go to, not through. The vision is in place.

ANNANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD SITE LOOKING FOR FOOD, VOLUNTEERS

Located at Immanuel United Methodist Church, the Annandale Neighborhood Food site is a Food for Others community food distribution site and is well within walking distance of the Heritage Mall.

All walk-in clients are welcome and no referrals are taken. Most of the clients are families and many have young children. The site is strictly run for everyone's safety and numbers are drawn for participation at

6:00 P.M. sharp so that everyone has an equal chance to go first.

Always in need of supplemental non-perishable food to go with the perishables they receive from Food for Others, the site is also looking for volunteers on Thursday nights, from 5:00 P.M. to about 7:00 P.M.

If you would like more information, or are interested in volunteering, please contact Ann Woodle at annwoodle@gmail.com.

ANNANDALE FALL FESTIVAL & PARADE, BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER

On Saturday, October 23, 2010, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a spectacular Fall Festival in the Safeway parking lot on Little River Turnpike. From 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM scores of merchants with hand made and fashion jewelry, ceramics, imported silks, pet accessories, art work, quality giftware from major manufacturers, exquisite crafts and so much more will fill the community market.

Multiple rock bands and jazz groups will set your toes tapping while "The Taste of Annandale" with food from many culinary cuisines will satisfy every taste craving. The

Kid's Zone will challenge with a Climbing Wall, 24' Dual Slides, Bungee Run, a Sticky Wall, an Obstacle Course, Moon Bounce, a Reading Tent with costumed characters, a Musical Petting Zoo, a Treasure Hunt, and interactive games for toddlers to teens. The Annual Parade, held since 1950, will finish at the Festival Grounds.

For further information go to www.annandalechamber.com or write festival@annandalechamber.com. Plan to participate, volunteer, and have fun! Great advertising opportunities are also available for sponsors of this event.

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM, BUT WATCH FOR COYOTES IN BRADDOCK

County Wildlife Biologist, Victoria Monroe, has confirmed that, yes, we have had a County-wide population of coyotes since 2000. Coyotes are the only natural mid-sized predator in Fairfax County, and healthy adults will actively hunt fawns, yearling deer and small or injured adult deer. They can account for up to 60 percent of all fawn mortalities in a local deer population. It is possible that a family group of coyotes lives in the general area of Lake Accotink, among other locations. In fact, several have been seen in Kings Park.

The county population of coyotes is considered to be healthy. Coyotes rarely contract rabies and are not a rabies target species (unlike raccoons, bats or red foxes). Due to an overabundance of natural prey sources, coyotes do not generally pose a threat to humans or their pets. Red foxes are more likely to “stalk” cats or small dogs on private property than are coyotes.

Eastern coyotes do not generally exceed 60 pounds. Their appearance can make them seem larger due to thick undercoats, long legs and a deep chest. Coyotes are highly social, and considered to be intelligent wild canids. They form bonded pairs and the previous year’s young stay to help raise new litters. Coyotes have the most diverse array of vocalizations of any native mammal in North America.

The Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist provides the following advice:

- As with all wildlife, coyotes should not be approached, touched, baited or fed. It is important to keep local wildlife “wild”.
- Do not feed your pets outdoors. If you do, bring the food bowl in at night to reduce the likelihood of wildlife (primarily foxes and raccoons) being attracted to the food at night.
- Keep your dogs on a leash when you go for walks off private property. This is County

ordinance.

•Coyotes belong to the canid family. It is important to “assert” your presence if you see one. Do not run. Make yourself appear larger than you are (puff up), wave your arms, and make noise.

Both Animal Control and the Wildlife Biologist provided additional links for anyone interested in more information. See:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife>.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/archives/coyotes.htm>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/11/AR2006041101256.html>

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/coyotes/tips/solving_problems_coyotes.html

Additional questions can be directed to Victoria.Monroe@fairfaxcounty.gov

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AT LONG BRANCH UNDER CONSTRUCTION, EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY EARLY OCTOBER

Fairfax County is about to replace a 330 foot pedestrian bridge across the Long Branch stream valley at Pickett Road. The new bridge will be of fiberglass construction, costing a fraction of a similar bridge made of steel. It is only the second of its kind to be used in the county.

The bridge will be shipped in sections, and is manufactured by E.T. Techtonics. It is made of fiber reinforced polymer components that will provide the new bridge with a strength-to-weight ratio

greater than steel.

Demolition of the current 40-year old bridge is now underway. The contractor, Environmental Quality Resources, mobilized last week to establish erosion and sediment controls, including construction entrances and temporary ramps to the work area which will be restored after the project is completed.

The actual scope of this long-awaited project includes replacement of the bridge, five support piers and restoration of the channel outfall in the streambed. This channel restoration makes use of innovative natural stream practices to repair the degraded channel, and will include waterfalls and pools to slow down the current velocities, rock walls to protect the bridge piers and the channel, and the use

of indigenous plantings along the banks. The pictures included in this article show the obvious deterioration of the existing bridge.

This project has been under design for several years and required significant utility relocations, permits from VDOT and the protection of a gas line that did not appear on initial surveys. It will take approximately 90 days and will be completed in early October, weather permitting.

The bridge provides a significant pedestrian connection to Little Run and Olde Creek Elementary Schools, Frost Middle School and Woodson High School. It also facilitates direct access to Olde Forge Park.



UPDATE ON POHICK WATERSHED PLAN

As mentioned in the July Beacon, Fairfax County is currently soliciting comments on its Draft Pohick Creek Watershed Management Plan. At a forum held at Sangster Elementary School on July 27, residents heard about restoring this Watershed, and reviewed projects broken into two priority phases.

The first phase would take place within 10 years at a cost of \$46 million, and identifies 46 projects in Braddock District. A description of each project is available with the online version of this article. The second phase includes all other viable structural and non-structural projects, and would be addressed in a 10-25 year timeframe at an additional cost of \$48 million. A major goal of these projects is to reduce sediment, nitrogen and phosphorous in the Pohick Watershed to improve water quality.

Costs associated with projects in Pohick Creek would be paid for with County funds. Beginning in 2006, the Board of Supervisors dedicated \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value from the county's real estate tax revenue (\$17.6 million) towards the overall stormwater management program.

The full plan is available here: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/pohickcreek_docs.htm and affords the opportunity to provide comments on-line. If you have any questions, you may also contact Shannon Curtis, at 703-324-5811.

ACCEPTING VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS FOR FACILITIES PLANNING COUNCIL

The Fairfax County School Board is undertaking a new community engagement process to evaluate our facility needs. The establishment of a Facilities Planning Advisory Council will serve to further the intent of School Board Policy 8120.1, Facilities Planning, School Planning, which directs the preparation of a Capital Improvement Plan, program based school capacities, size and location of schools, periodic boundary adjustments and most importantly, community involvement.

The new process hopes to accomplish the following objectives:

1. increased public awareness when a school boundary study is needed;
2. increased public validation that facilities issues exist which could require a boundary study;
3. a more regional, long range approach to facilities planning that is not provided in the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) development process.

Additional information can be found at the following link: <http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/fpac/index.htm>

I am now seeking applicants for the Braddock District position on the Committee. Applicants do not need to be parents of current students. The Board is looking for a broad range of qualifications and talents. The criteria we have established are as follows:

- Be self-motivated to increase familiarity with school facilities and capital

improvement program planning

- Possess experience with and/or expertise in a broad range of interests, e.g., Fairfax

County/City planning and development; demographics and economics; elementary, middle and high school programs and needs; public



outreach and communication; municipal design and construction

- Demonstrated organizational leadership qualities and/or experience

•Interact and communicate with School Board and community in public venues such as work sessions, community and focus group meetings

- Current FCPS employees may be appointed.

If you are interested, I hope that you will complete an application. If you would like to speak to me about FPAC, please call my executive assistant, Kathy Partlow, at 571-423-1064. I will get back to you as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is August 15th.

Hope you are having a safe and enjoyable summer!

Tessie Wilson, Braddock District School Board

FOLLOWING THESE TIPS WILL HELP YOU BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT

- Drink plenty of fluids: Drink two to four glasses of cool fluids each hour.

- Do not drink caffeinated or alcoholic beverages because they dehydrate the body.

- Keep cool indoors: If you can, stay in an air-conditioned area. Resting for just two hours in air conditioning can significantly reduce heat-related illnesses.

- Plan outdoor activities around the heat: If you must go outside, go before noon or at night when it's cooler.

- Give your body a break: Heat is stressful on your body. Limit physical activity until your body adjusts to the heat.

- Eat light meals, avoiding high-protein foods because they increase metabolic heat.

- Wear sunscreen to prevent sunburn. Sunburn makes it more difficult for your body to cool off.

- Never leave children or pets unattended in a car—not even for a few minutes. Even with the windows slightly open, the temperature in a car on a 93-degree day can soar to 125 degrees in just 20 minutes and approximately 140 degrees in 40 minutes.