



the BRADDOCK BEACON

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

SUPERVISOR COOK ANNOUNCES TOWN HALL TO SOLICIT INPUT ON HIRING COUNTY EXECUTIVE

With the impending retirement of County Executive Tony Griffin, the Board is in the early stages of finding his successor. It is a challenging position and will test the ability of whomever is hired.

Supervisor Cook believes that the first step in this hiring process is to step back and consider the type of person who should be sought – what background, personality and experiences need to be brought to the table. In thinking through this ‘job description,’ Supervisor Cook is seeking the benefit of the thoughts and comments of Fairfax County residents. He is pleased to announce a Town Hall to solicit input on the hiring of a new County Executive which he will host on **Monday, January 9, 2012 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Kings Park Library Meeting Room.**

The Town Hall will be broken into

two halves; the first will include a panel discussion, while the second will be opened for comments and questions. Moderated by former Board member Stu Mendelsohn, the panel will include John Peterson of the Peterson Companies, Karen Conchar of the Fairfax County General Employees Union, Ann Zuvekas, the current Braddock appointee to the Health Care Advisory Board and an additional member from the business community.

While the Town Hall is itself an important part of the process, it is crucial that the ideas generated and the lessons learned are collected and presented in an actionable manner. To that end Supervisor Cook intends to come back to the Board after the Town Hall and formally present a summation of the information gathered so that it can be used as we move forward in this hiring decision.

BOARD TO DISCUSS ONGOING MAINTENANCE NEEDS AT FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

At its December 6 meeting, the Board unanimously adopted a motion drafted by Supervisor Cook, jointly with Supervisor Linda Smyth (Providence), that asks the County Executive to provide a detailed report on the current maintenance needs of the County. The request comes as the Board considers new infrastructure initiatives, while struggling to adequately maintain what it currently owns.

For example, anecdotally, it has been estimated that County currently provides enough funding to maintain the pedestrian infrastructure only once every 1,200 years. The November report of the Office of Financial and Program Audit identifies the lack of funding for trails and sidewalks to be a significant area of concern. While Capital

Funding is continually used to add new infrastructure every year, Supervisors Cook and Smyth both expressed concern that the County may not be fully prepared to address maintenance needs of what is already owned.

One County agency or another is responsible for over 900 miles of trails and sidewalks, park and ride lots, a stormwater conveyance system worth over a billion dollars, and 9 million square feet of office space spread over a number of buildings and facilities. That represents a significant investment into and provides tremendous value to the community. Before we add new infrastructure Supervisor Cook believes we need to take a long term look at our current maintenance needs and make sure we have a plan to address them.



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>

HOLIDAY WISHES TO YOU AND YOURS FROM SUPERVISOR COOK

Whatever your traditions, December is a time of celebration, goodwill and optimism. We have made a big push in the Braddock District on encouraging community involvement and people are responding. They are becoming active, connecting with their neighbors and devoting their time, energy and talents to making their neighborhoods better places to live.

In this season of good will, let's remember that our communities are for everyone. Each person in our community can contribute to a stronger neighborhood. Let's make an extra effort to reach out to those neighbors with backgrounds different from our own. We will grow as individuals as we broaden our perspectives, and our communities will become stronger as more people feel they belong and are appreciated.

In this joyous season let us focus on the many gifts we have. Peace on Earth, good will to all. Happy holidays.



HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTESTS IN BRADDOCK

During the weekend of December 17-18, many communities are having their annual Lighting and Decoration Contests. The communities listed below are some of the ones in the Braddock District that will be especially decked out for the holiday season. If you're in the area, you might want to take a drive through some of these neighborhoods to see the lights!

- Kings Park Holiday Decorating Contest December 18
- Kings Park West Holiday Lighting Contest December 17 and 18
- Middleridge Decorations Contest December 17; Luminary Display December 24.
- North Springfield Holiday Lights Judging December 18
- Red Fox Forest Luminary Display December 24.

ANNUAL TASTE OF BRADDOCK OPEN HOUSE ONCE AGAIN A HUGE SUCCESS

On December 1, here at the Braddock District Office and the Kings Park Library, Supervisor Cook hosted his 3rd annual Taste of Braddock event. We opened our doors

to over 350 friends and family for a wonderful evening of food, fun and fellowship. This year we had 25 local restaurants pitch in and donate dishes of varying types and styles. As in the past, folks lined the hallways

and filled the meeting rooms to sample the delicacies and meet and greet each other.

Just like every year, Chef G, Christine Gloninger, from the Culinary Institute at Annandale High School, brought some of her students to help in the setup, serving and clean up. They also outdid themselves by baking dozens of wonderful goodies that were enjoyed by all.

This year, the restaurants that participated were:

Aladdin's Eatery, Austin Grill, BBQWorld, Best Deli, Big Bite, Brion's Grille, California



Pizza Kitchen, Chesapeake Bagel Bakery, Chili's Bar and Grill, Chipotle, Coyote Grill, Edible Arrangements, Hunan West, Kilroy's, Magill's Famous Pizza, Milano's, Outback Steakhouse, Panera, Potbelly, San Vito's, Saxby's, Smith & Clarkson's Deli, Spartan's Family Restaurant, Uncle Julio's and Wegmans. We hope you consider visiting these establishments to show your support. Without their generosity, Taste of Braddock would not have been the huge success it was.

Please join us next year on December 6th for our 2012 Taste of Braddock.



At the end of the night, we still had a great deal of leftover food, so our staff delivered several dishes to Police and Fire Stations around the Braddock District.

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On November 1st, Supervisor Cook hosted a community meeting at the Government Center for the citizens of the Eleven Oaks area to discuss land use issues.

On November 4th, Supervisor Cook was proud to take part in the ceremonial coin toss at the beginning of the Woodson/South County football game at Woodson High School.

On November 10th, Supervisor Cook held a meeting at Fairfax City Hall of the West Campus Connector Advisory Group. Their focus was to look at and agree on which of the proposed alternatives would best serve the community as they go forward in suggesting a design for the Connector road that will alleviate traffic at the Braddock Road/Route 123 intersection.

On November 17th, Supervisor Cook attended Lunch N' Life at the Church of the Good Shepherd. This is a monthly luncheon that is hosted by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. Later that day, he attended the Leadership Fairfax "Government Day" which was held at the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC) in Fairfax.

On November 18th, Supervisor Cook was present for the VRE Operations Board Meeting in Woodbridge. The VRE Board is one of the many Boards that Supervisor Cook serves on as a representative

of Fairfax County. The others are the Fairfax Inter-jurisdictional Committee (Chair), the 50+ Committee (Vice Chair), Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee and the Clean Air Partners.

On November 19th, Supervisor Cook visited a tree planting project at Bonnie Brae Elementary School which was in partnership with Partnership with Fairfax Releaf, Bonnie Brae PTA and Fairfax County Tree Stewards. This project is done yearly with the generous assistance of Winchester Homes.



On November 29th, Supervisor Cook was a guest lecturer at George Mason University for an undergraduate class on State and Local Government.

BOARD APPROVES FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR DULLES RAIL PHASE TWO

On December 6, the Board approved changes to the funding agreement for the second phase of the Dulles Rail project, saving as much as an estimated \$757 million in fees for Dulles Toll Road users.

The Board's authorization was the final step needed. Other partners, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Loudoun County, Commonwealth of Virginia and U.S. Department of Transportation, agreed last month.

Toll road commuters, who are paying for 75 percent of the project's second phase, will see savings because the deal shaves the total cost by a third - from an estimated \$3.8 to \$2.8 billion. The most significant source for these savings results from the decision to build an above-ground station at Dulles Airport.

As part of the deal, Fairfax County agreed to help offset costs to toll road drivers by trying to raise third-party funds. This money will be used to pay all or part of the cost to build the Route 28 Metro station and two parking garages. These funds could include parking fees from the Route 28 and Herndon-Monroe garages or contributions from developers. Even if new revenue sources can't be found, Fairfax will pay no more than 16.1 percent of the cost for these facilities, as was previously agreed.

To help pay for its overall share for the project, the county also plans to apply for a federal loan of up to \$315 million under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act. With its potentially low interest rate and option to defer repayment, this loan will save taxpayers money.

As another provision of the deal, the county agreed to make a portion of its federal loan available to help reduce costs to toll road drivers if outside money doesn't cover the cost for building the station and two garages. To further defray costs for toll road users, the state also agreed to seek \$150 million in funding from the Virginia General Assembly.

The county's share for the entire Dulles Rail project is estimated to be \$893 to \$923 million. Of this amount, \$730 million—or approximately 80 percent—will be paid for by voluntary, special tax districts created by landowners. The second phase of the project is estimated to be completed in 2017. The first phase of the project is currently under construction, and is expected to be completed in late 2013.

WATER RATES FOR FAIRFAX RESIDENTS NOW SUBJECT TO COUNTY REVIEW

As reported in the November Beacon, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on December 6 to establish an 'Exclusive Service Area' and maximum allowable rates, fees and charges for Water Service provided to Fairfax County residents currently served by other Water Authorities. The Board also established Fairfax Water as the exclusive water service provider for all new development, unless Fairfax Water determines that it is unable to provide service to a given location.

Supervisor Cook ultimately voted for this ordinance, although he remains troubled by what he perceives as the County's heavy hand in its dealings with neighboring jurisdictions. Over the last 30 days he met with the Mayors of both Vienna and Fairfax City, both of whom stressed that any Fairfax County resident connected to their systems originally and became a customer because Fairfax Water could not provide that service. Their rates are higher largely because they do not have the same economy of scale that benefits Fairfax Water. Neither

has used water revenues to fund other local services, unlike the City of Falls Church. Before the final vote on the ordinance, Supervisor Cook supported an amendment offered by his colleague, Supervisor Herrity, to exempt those two entities from the ordinance. That proposal was defeated.

For those of you who are Braddock residents and currently receive water from Fairfax City, here is what will happen. Beginning in July, 2012 Fairfax City must submit a written report to the Director of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) justifying any rate that exceeds that of Fairfax Water. In his review, the Director of DPWES must then determine if this rate is "fair and reasonable." It does not have to match that of Fairfax Water to meet this threshold. In fact, when questioned at the public hearing, James Patteson, the current Director stated that he "fully anticipates" the cost for County customers served by other Authorities to be higher, due to Fairfax Water's economies of scale, but that any

higher charge must meet the test of being fair and reasonable. If the proposed rate does not meet that test, the locality has 10 days to appeal to the Board of Supervisors. Whether it is deemed reasonable or not, the Board must review and hold a public hearing annually on each locality's water rate to authorize that "rate, fee or charge" whether or not it changes. Consequently, Supervisor Cook does not anticipate that this ordinance will necessarily provide for an immediate decrease in water rates charged by Fairfax City Water.

Several potential impacted localities are currently looking at litigation over this ordinance. In addition, Delegate Chap Peterson has made known his intention to introduce legislation in the General Assembly barring Fairfax County from implementing it. The entire public hearing can be viewed on the Fairfax County website at the following link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel116/vod.htm> and fast forwarding to the afternoon session at 28:30 to hear the discussion.

PRELIMINARY FORECAST FOR FY 2013 COUNTY BUDGETS PRESENTED, PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT

During a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and School Board on November 29, Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superintendent Jack Dale presented their preliminary forecasts for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. Both the county and FCPS are currently working on developing budget proposals for FY 13, which begins on July 1, 2012.

The County budget process begins in earnest after Griffin presents his FY 2013 Advertised Budget at the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 28. FCPS starts a little earlier, as Dale is scheduled to release his proposed budget on January 12.

In recent years, the County has reduced spending through a number of measures, including: Across-the-Board reductions, Program elimination, Service hour modification and Specific agency budget cuts. Additional cuts for FY 13 are anticipated as the County faces a current projects shortfall of nearly \$115 million dollars. Mr. Griffin's initial baseline

provides that the real tax rate is held at FY 12 levels, meaning homeowners would pay a \$40 tax increase because assessments are up slightly. Additionally, increased spending is projected for county employee compensation increases and to FCPS to address increasing enrollment. More information about the County budget forecast is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2013/joint-meeting-bos-fcps-nov-2011-cex-presentation.pdf>

Residents are encouraged to provide input for the FY 13 Budget directly to the County Budget Office and can do so online at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2013/budget-input.htm>. Comments will be accepted through mid-December and provided to the County Executive. Comments for this phase of the process will be posted in mid-December. You can also contact the Braddock District office directly at 703.425.9300. More information about the FCPS budget process is available at www.fcps.edu.

COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY COMPLETED

The Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools, will be presenting the results of the Fairfax County Youth Survey to community members and organizations over the coming months. You can find a schedule of meetings online at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demogrph/youthpdf.htm>. The presentations will include an overview of the survey and general findings related to youth behaviors and risk and protective factors.

NCS has also recently released the Prevention Toolkit, an online collection of suggestions, tools and resources to assist organizations and individuals in promoting youth well-being. The Toolkit helps communities identify strategies and resources to address five key areas: mental health (depression and suicide); bullying and cyber-bullying; physical activity and nutrition; teen dating abuse; and alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/prevention/toolkit.htm>.

FINAL MESSAGE FROM OUT-GOING BRADDOCK SCHOOL BOARD REP, TESSIE WILSON

After twelve years of serving on the Fairfax County School Board, I am retiring at the end of this year.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your representative. Much has changed in both education and Fairfax County Public Schools during my tenure. We have had two different Superintendents, and will soon be choosing another. No Child Left Behind has changed the focus of education, with many of our decisions now being data driven. The face of teaching has changed. And in Fairfax County, the demographics and size of our student population has changed dramatically. With the next year, we can expect to be educating almost 180,000 students – and those students are increasingly living in poverty and come to us as speakers of languages other than English.

I think everyone who runs for public office believes they are destined to make changes – to do a “better job” than the person they replaced. In reality, most elected officials don’t have the opportunity to end wars, change the financial future of the country or make other “course altering” changes.

In the end, if an elected official has been able to improve the lives of those they serve, even in small, almost unnoticed ways – then I think they have been successful. Many of the accomplishments often affect only individual students and families. They are not things that the general public would notice, but for those individual families – the outcomes can and have been “course altering.”

I hope that has been my legacy.

During my tenure, here are some of the more public accomplishment (because many of these accomplishments have been community efforts):

- Began the first initiatives in Fairfax County to deal with gangs
- Seen the revitalization of Ossian Hall Park
- Placed AED (automatic electronic defibrillators in all FCPS schools
- Helped in the set-up of a new foundation to support Fairfax County Public Schools

And probably most importantly, student achievement has increased to the highest measured levels.

I wish only the best for all the students and residents of Braddock District. And while I will no longer be on the Board of the Fairfax County Public Schools, I will continue to be an active member of our community.

Tessie Wilson, Retiring Member
Fairfax County School Board

UP-TO-DATE LOOK AT ONGOING BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE CASES

TD Bank at Cardinal Forest Shopping Center

A category 5 Special Exception to build a free standing drive-thru TD Bank in a vacant portion of the parking lot at the Cardinal Forest Shopping Center has been submitted by Edens and Avant. This application was accepted for processing by the County on November 17 and has been assigned the following



case numbers: SE 2011 BR-016/PRC-A-787-02.

The parcel is in the northeast quadrant of the shopping center near the intersection of Old Keene Mill Road and Rolling Road and would serve between 400 to 600 customers per day. The site would be approximately 3,000 square feet and the structure would be one story. Miriam Bader from the Department of Planning and Zoning will be the staff coordinator and can be reached at 703-324-1290.

A Community Information Meeting on this application will be held in late January and a public hearing before the Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled for March 29, 2012. Although we anticipate working closely with the West Springfield Civic Association, those wishing to kept informed on this application can call the office or e-mail: Rosemary.Ryan@fairfaxcounty.gov

New Public Safety Headquarters

Fairfax County is currently poised to construct a new Public Safety Headquarters on the campus of the Fairfax County Government Center which is now part of Braddock District. This building will replace the Massey Building on Chain Bridge Road which cannot be effectively rehabilitated due to its aging infrastructure, obsolete fire alarm systems and the presence of asbestos throughout the building. Capital funding for the design and permitting was provided through bond funds previously authorized by the voters, and it is anticipated that construction funding will be provided through Economic Development Authority revenue bonds.

Over the past year, County staff has been working on plans for the site and building design. At the Board of Supervisors meeting of December 6, Supervisor Cook requested that his colleagues allow staff to file the necessary zoning applications in the near future, with a goal of constructing a new facility sometime in the spring/summer of 2013. More information will follow.

ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

REFOREST FAIRFAX WITH A HOLIDAY GIFT OF TREES

When you want to say thank-you, consider a gift that will last a lifetime: the gift of trees. Through the Fairfax County Restoration Project's Reforest Fairfax initiative, a single gift means that five native tree seedlings will be planted in Fairfax County in honor of a family member, a friend, a staff member or a client. The recipient will be notified of your gift in a beautiful card displaying your personal message, and will be able to track the locations of the planted trees through a map.

Reforest Fairfax is a gifting program designed to help restore the tree canopy in Fairfax County. A gift of trees will help beautify and improve our environment. You are not just saying thank-you; you're helping to plant Fairfax County's future. For more information and to purchase tree seedlings visit <http://www.fcrpp3.org/reforestfairfax/>.

MONITOR STREAMS, HUNT FOR FOSSILS

It's not every day you get asked to be part of a team searching for 500 million year old fossils, but that is just what we want stream monitors to do! A member of the Fairfax Master Naturalists is starting up a team to

hunt for Skolithos, Cambrian era fossils of ancient tube worms, throughout stream valleys in Fairfax County. The fossils formed in sandstone deposits in the mountains, but washed east with surface water and were deposited as rounded quartzite cobbles along our streams. Fossil hunter training and a history of Skolithos in Virginia will be provided to all volunteers. If interested, please contact Jerry Peters at jerryph@cox.net.

CALLING ALL FLYING SQUIRRELS

Flying squirrels rival the population of gray squirrels, but being nocturnal, we rarely see them. Find out how to encourage these charming creatures to visit your backyard. Roosting and nesting box plans available. Typically, 3-5 flying squirrels are seen inside their boxes and on the trees. Park Naturalist will lead a program highlighting the unusual adaptations that enable this small creature to evade predators.

The event will take place on **Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Please register in advance online at: http://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/rev1_coursedetail.asp?category2=STEW&subject=&facility2=&age=9999&day=9999&Submit2=Search&LOC=M308&TRM=11FA&CDE=3084868901

COUNTY PROCLAMATION KICKS OFF ANNUAL HOLIDAY ANIMAL ADOPTION EVENT

'Operation Empty Cage' launched on November 8 at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter as part of the organization's special two-month long Home 4 the Holidays adoption. One of the campaign's goals is to empty the shelter's cages by finding a home for each animal available for adoption throughout the holiday season. As part of this special adoption event, the shelter will offer free spay/neuter for the first 100 dogs and cats adopted from the shelter through December 31, 2011.

"Each year, homeless animals in Fairfax County spend the holidays in an animal shelter cage versus in a loving home," says

Dr. Karen P. Diviney, Fairfax County Animal Shelter director. "Operation Empty Cage aims to change that by giving these animals the gift of a new family and by enriching families through the unconditional love that a pet can provide." To view animals available for adoption at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, visit the shelter during its business hours Tuesdays through Fridays 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Animal adoptions occur up to one half hour prior to the shelter's close each day.

For more information, call the Fairfax County Animal Shelter at 703-830-1100.

FREE DISCOUNT CARD FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Fairfax County residents may be able to save money on prescription drugs by using this free, prescription drug discount card. To make it available, the county is partnering with ProAct, a pharmacy benefit management company. This card can cut drug prices by 10 to 70 percent, depending on the kind of medicine and amount you buy.

Although this card mainly will help people without health insurance, it may provide savings to those with insurance anytime they must pay full price for a prescription or if their plan doesn't cover a specific drug. It also can save you money on some kinds of medicines for your pets when the prescription is filled at a retail pharmacy.

It's free to use the card because the pharmacies partnering with Pro Act are providing these discounts. There are no income or eligibility requirements to use it, and you don't need to register or enroll. Just print out a card to start saving. You can use it at almost most of the 148 pharmacies in the county, plus 62,000 others across the nation. To find a participating pharmacy, visit ProAct's Web site, or call 1-877-776-2285, TTY 711.

No enrollment or registration is needed and one card can be used for the entire family. For more information on the program, please visit the website. It includes the link to download the card, helpful tips for using the card, and a page of frequently asked questions about the program.

VDOT'S SNOW BRIEFING HELPS PREP AREA FOR WINTER WEATHER

On December 1 VDOT held its annual Snow Briefing, sharing valuable information about how they hope to respond to this winter's snow events, as well as how all of us can help them.

It is important to note what the minimum VDOT goals are, especially during and right after a snow event: The road must have a 10 foot wide cleared area that is passable by a rear wheel drive vehicle. It does NOT require that the street be cleared down to the black top surface. It typically takes 24-48 hours to meet that criteria when there is a 2-6" snowfall.

When there is a prediction for icy roads, salt brine pre-treatment will be put down on the roads. This has been found to be effective when used before there is any precipitation on the roadways.

There have been updates to the snow maps from last year, and once again they aim to have early mobilization and staging in subdivisions when there is a prediction of 2 inches or more of snow. Please bear that in mind when you see a plowing vehicle "just sitting" before a snow event. They activate when 2 inches have accumulated, as it is not effective to plow before that. Main thoroughfare streets will be repeatedly plowed, and after the snow stops lower volume streets will be plowed. Their goal is to keep the same contractors assigned to an area for the entire season.

VDOT officials also asked us to pass along some reminders.

1.If more than 2 inches of snow is predicted, try to park as many of your cars

as possible in your driveway.

2.If you cannot park in your driveway, try to park on the **ODD** numbered side of the street. While that may mean you are parking in front of someone else's house, it will better allow drivers to plow a 10 foot wide (or wider) lane. A plow needs 8 feet of width to make a pass, so if it cannot safely get down a street because of cars on both sides, the driver may skip that street until it becomes safe enough to pass through.

3.When shoveling a driveway, try shoveling to the right facing the road, and don't shovel the last 5 feet until the plow comes through.

4.Remember that VDOT does not clear sidewalks and trails. While there is nothing in Fairfax County code that says you will be fined for not shoveling sidewalks, we encourage residents to do so as a community service.

5.If you see a truck idling on a corner or in a parking lot prior to a storm, it is because they are pre-positioned to be ready to begin when needed. If you see one idling during a storm, it may be that they are taking a quick break before starting a new section and are looking at maps. If you see a plow driving past your neighborhood when you have not seen any on your streets, it may be that the truck you see is assigned to another area. And finally, not every plow on the road is contracted to VDOT.

The Northern Virginia Region of VDOT has about 3,400 pieces of equipment at their disposal for snow and Ice removal, 600 more than last year, and the bulk of

those are pick-up trucks that go into our residential areas. About 1200 vehicles have Automatic Vehicle Locators, which helps VDOT determine not only current equipment location, but also where they have been and when. VDOT hopes to have AVL online monitoring available after the first of the year with real time cameras that will be updated every 6 minutes.

VDOT has several resources available for the public:

1-800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623)

Report Virginia road hazards or ask road related questions.

novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov

Inquiries are routed to the proper Virginia field offices for action.

www.vdot.virginia.org

A wealth of information on VDOT's news, projects and programs.

www.511virginia.org

Provides real time updates on traffic incidents and road conditions.

Twitter

Follow VaDOT for news and information from around the state. Follow 511northernva for real time updates in our region.

Facebook

Like www.facebook.com/virginiadot to learn about VDOT news and programs.

YouTube

Visit VDOT's YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/vdotweb) for videos on snow removal and other topics.

ONE-STOP CONVENIENCE AT GOVERNMENT CENTER ON DECEMBER 13: COUNTY SERVICES AND DMV

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' DMV 2 Go mobile customer service van will be at the Fairfax County Government Center on Tuesday, December 13, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Government Center is located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. DMV 2 Go will be parked near the front of the building. This is a convenient opportunity for residents who may need to come in person to take care of their Personal Property taxes or outstanding parking tickets, as well as take care of related DMV transactions. Just park your car and take care of everything in one visit.

DMV 2 Go offers all DMV services, including: Obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals, transcripts; Apply for or renew your ID card - available for adults and children; Apply for or renew your driver's license - take road and knowledge tests; get your picture taken; Reinstate driving privileges; Get a copy of your driving record; Obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals, transcripts; Order disabled parking placards or plates; Update DMV records, as well as your voter registration record, with address change, etc.; Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to set up a myDMV account.