

Burke Centre VRE



# The BRADDOCK BEACON

703-425-9300 [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/) [Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## THE ANNUAL TASTE OF BRADDOCK WAS A GREAT SUCCESS WITH OVER 300 COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTENDING

On December 5, Supervisor Cook hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Braddock event in Braddock Hall, welcoming over 300 members of the community. Taste of Braddock kicks off the holiday season and brings together the community to sample food donated by local area restaurants.

This year over 20 restaurants donated a variety of cuisines for attendees to sample. The restaurants that participated were: Aladdin's Eatery

Bangkok Golden Thai, BBQ World, Brion's Grille, Café Rio, California Pizza Kitchen, Chili's Bar and Grill, Coyote Grill, Cupcakes Actually, Edible Arrangements, Hunan West, Kilroy's, Magill's Famous Pizza, Milano's, Quiznos, Samurai, San Vito's, Saxby's, Smith & Clarkson's Deli, Spartan's Family Restaurant, Swiss Bakery and Wegmans.

In addition to the food provided by local restaurants, 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 brought with them hundreds of baked goods that they had prepared that were enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who contributed to another successful year and thank you to our friends and neighbors for joining us for the evening.



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](mailto: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](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov) and write "Beacon Subscribe" in the subject line.

### BRADDOCK DISTRICT NOW ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

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> and on Twitter at @SupervisorCook



## **SUPERVISOR COOK PROPOSES FAIRFAX CONNECTOR, VRE TRANSFER OPTION. URGES STATE TO MAINTAIN ITS VRE COMMITMENT**

In January, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will launch the first of what will eventually be three new Fairfax Connector bus lines that seek to take advantage of the 495 Express Lanes. The initial line will provide commuters in the Burke community with quick, reliable access from the Burke Centre VRE to Tysons Corner. The two other lines will serve communities in the Lorton and Springfield areas.

These new bus routes will offer Fairfax residents new options to reach Tysons, but they have broader potential than that. Currently, residents of Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park have only one option for reaching Tysons - driving. With the Express Bus service, however, these individuals, for example, will have the option of taking the VRE to Burke Centre, disembarking, and continuing to Tysons via the new bus line. This opportunity is not only a benefit to those residents of other jurisdictions, but Fairfax residents will benefit every time one of those drivers, currently adding to our road congestions, opts to take the train and bus instead.

In an effort to encourage individuals to take advantage of this option, Supervisor Cook submitted a Board matter at the Board of Supervisors' November 20 meeting that directed staff to initiate discussion with the VRE on whether a system of transfer tickets can be established, and asked that a joint marketing campaign begin to encourage current drivers in outer jurisdictions who commute to Tysons to consider the option of using both the VRE and Fairfax Connector. In many transit systems riders are given financial incentives on train to bus routes, where a transfer ticket from the train to the bus saves funds off the full price of each.

The Board matter, cosponsored by Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Hyland, passed unanimously.

At the same Board meeting, Supervisor Cook alerted his fellow Board members to the fact that VRE faces the potential of a tremendous budget shortfall due to recent changes in Federal transportation funding streams. Federal funds for track access fees, which in 2012 amounted to \$9.6 million dollars, had been sent directly to VRE, but due to a rules change that money now sits in Virginia's general transportation fund, where it could be diverted. As the state has not given a clear indication as to how that money will be used, there is real concern that much or all of that money would be spent on other projects.

Said Supervisor Cook, who serves as Treasurer on the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board, "This is not a small budget matter, it would be so significant that we're not sure we could keep the VRE going." Recent indications are that the State will restore most or all of the funding.

## **PROVIDING RELIEF FROM THE COLD TO THOSE MOST VULNERABLE**

With the cold weather upon us, thousands of people in Fairfax County who are homeless find themselves at the mercy of the elements. In order to provide support for the homeless and ensure their safety, Fairfax County, together with the faith based community and non-profit organizations, continue the Hypothermia Prevention Program this year.

The Hypothermia Prevention Program is an integral part of Fairfax County's effort to prevent and end homelessness that takes advantage of the collaborative work of area faith communities, civic organizations, businesses and individual volunteers. The program is an excellent example of a public-private partnership meeting the critical needs of chronically homeless persons when they are most vulnerable to cold and frigid weather.

In the Winter Season of 2011-2012, the work of the Winter Seasonal Programs, which includes the Hypothermia Prevention Program, was able to serve 1,049 unduplicated guests across all of its sites, and also move many clients directly into permanent housing. There were no hypothermia related deaths reported during the Winter Season of 2011-2012 in Fairfax County.

FACETS' hypothermia prevention season began on November 25 and continues through March 16, 2013. FACETS served 210 clients last season and they are actively recruiting volunteers as well as faith communities to serve as locations while preparing for this winter season. This year, FACETS will be conducting volunteer trainings at each host faith site to provide consistency and ensure a smooth operation of each site.

In addition to providing shelter for the chronically homeless, FACETS also supports clients by offering a choice between accessing intensive one-on-one case management, life skills classes or a combination of both based on clients' individual needs. The 2012-2013 season will be FACETS' fourth season completing the Fairfax County Self-Sufficiency Matrix at entry and exit for guests engaged in case management services.

FACETS rotates week-to-week between faith community hosting sites and, beginning in January 2013, they will operate from two faith community sites each week. For further information, please contact Jerri- anne Anthony at [JAnthony@facetscares.org](mailto:JAnthony@facetscares.org) or 703-352-5090 or you may visit their website at <http://facetscares.org>.

## **BRADDOCK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

Supervisor Cook hosts a monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16 which is available on most cable networks. Each month, Supervisor Cook invites topical guests on to share pertinent and informative items with the viewers.

This month's show features Julia Stephens, the Executive Director of CrisisLink, an organization that is in place for those who feel hopeless and with nowhere to turn and who often are contemplating suicide and or other harmful acts. CrisisLink is set up to help these people through troubled times and is very successful at doing so.

The shows air throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 5:00 p.m., or online on the Fairfax County website under the link for Channel 16.

## SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook participated in the Kings Park West Halloween Parade and Fall Festival. The event had been postponed from the previous week due to Hurricane Sandy and, as always, was great fun for all participants.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook went to North Springfield Elementary School to speak to the North Springfield Civic Association. He then stopped by Wakefield Forest Elementary School for the Wakefield Chapel Woods Annual Meeting. Attending meetings like these is a high priority for Supervisor Cook as he believes that neighborhood organizations are the backbone of a truly engaged community.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the Leadership Fairfax Northern Virginia Leadership Awards Ceremony and Luncheon at Westwood Country Club. This year, the local leaders honored were Terrence "Terre" Jones, President and CEO of Wolf Trap Foundation, John Mason, President & CEO of The Workhouse Arts Center and Sean Duffy, teacher at Waples Mill Elementary who received the Educational Leadership Award.

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook participated in the opening ceremony for the new Express Lanes on the Beltway. The event took place at the Sheraton Premier in Tysons and participants included Governor McDonnell, Congressman Connolly and many other Elected Officials and community leaders.



On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook started the day at the American Legion Post 177 for CrisisLink's Fall Forum. The event was focused on addressing the issue of military service men and women who are contemplating suicide. Later that evening, he attended the opening and ribbon cutting for the George Mason University Mason Enterprise Center. Afterwards, he went to the Braddock District Council Meeting here at the Kings Park Library.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the annual Care Awards Breakfast at the Waterford at Fair Oaks. The Care Awards are given each year to honor companies who embrace family-friendly workplaces. Later, he took part in the Leadership Fairfax

"Government Day" at McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center. The day-long event was for the incoming 2013 Leadership Fairfax members and the highlight was a round-table discussion with members of the Board of Supervisors. To round out the day, Supervisor Cook attended the Kings Park Community Volunteer Night at Kings Glen Elementary School.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook and his wife were guests at the 50th Anniversary Celebration for Dulles Airport which took place in the main terminal.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook stopped by St. Stephen's United Methodist Church for its Thanksgiving Grace Ministries session which aids those less fortunate in our area. Afterwards, he went over to Little River Glen to attend the annual Community Day.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook helped kick off the Annual Drumstix Dash 5k which took place at Burke Lake Park. The event is sponsored by Housing and Community Services and is an avenue for people to raise funds for our homeless population.

Later that day, he went over to Fairfax Corner to participate in Small Business Saturday. There he met with some small business owners as well as representatives from the Peterson



Company. Small Business Saturday was established to highlight the important role small businesses play in communities across the country.



On November 26<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook was a guest speaker at a State and Local Politics class at Northern Virginia Community College. It was a spirited interaction and the students enjoyed the chance to hear from a local elected official.

**THE GIVING SEASON: DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS THAT COULD USE YOUR HELP**

As we prepare for the holiday season it is important to remember there are those in Fairfax County who could use our support. The Office of Public, Private Partnership has begun its 12 ways of giving campaign by offering suggestions of organizations that you may donate to. Below are a few suggestions as well as additional organizations.

**BEFRIEND-A-CHILD**

To make a difference in the life of a child, consider BeFriend-A Child, a volunteer mentoring program.

Through mentoring, BeFriend-A-Child hopes to reduce some of the child abuse and neglect “risk factors”, like social isolation, lack of support, and family stress; and to enhance various “protective factors” like positive self-esteem, good social skills, hobbies, interests, and good peer relationships. BeFriend-A-Child can also help encourage youth (with strong parental involvement) to make healthy life decisions and to achieve their potential.

Children from ages 5 to 12 are matched one-on-one with volunteers who are trained to serve as mentors and friends. In addition to spending one-on-one time together, the mentors and children participate in monthly educational and social group activities, such as the holiday party, performing arts workshop, hayride, tour of the Washington Post, and community services project. Mentors agree to spend a minimum of eight hours a month and at least twice a month for one year with their mentees.

Children from ages 5 to 12 are matched one-on-one with volunteers who are trained to serve as mentors and friends. In addition to spending one-on-one time together, the mentors and children participate in monthly educational and social group activities, such as the holiday party, performing arts workshop, hayride, tour of the Washington Post, and community services project. Mentors agree to spend a minimum of eight hours a month and at least twice a month for one year with their mentees.

To get more information or to request an application, please contact Andrea Stephenson from the Department of Family Services at 703-324-7072 or check out this website: <http://www.fairfax-county.gov/dfs/childreneyouth/befriendachild.htm>

**HOLIDAY DRIVE WITH FACETS**

Interested in volunteering to help with the Holiday Drives? FACETS needs people to help receive, sort, transport, and assist in distributing donations; help children pick out gifts for their siblings; assist with activities at holiday events; and wrap gifts. If you would like to volunteer your time please download the Holiday Drives flyer or contact Stacy Boden at 703-352-3268 or [sboden@FacetsCares.org](mailto:sboden@FacetsCares.org).

**HOLIDAY CHEER TO ILL CHILDREN**

For the 26th year in a row, the Fairfax County Police Department Motorcycle Squad is working collaboratively with the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office, Virginia State Police, Fairfax City Police, Falls Church Sheriff’s Office, and the Town of Vienna Police to collect and distribute toys for sick children, as well as local charities such as the Ronald McDonald House.



Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy, game or book at any Fairfax County Police station before Monday, December 10. These items bring joy and smiles to the many children who are critically ill and unable to be home for the holidays. Donations are also being accepted at the Fairfax County Police Headquarters at 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax.

The motorcycle officers’ “Santa’s Ride” collection will take place on December 11; distribution of gifts will take place at Inova Fairfax Hospital on December 12 and Georgetown Hospital on December 13.

**HOLIDAY GIFTS**

Share the holiday spirit with children and adults by donating gifts for the holidays to FACETS.

Please drop off your holiday gift donations by December 14, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Donations will be accepted at FACETS’ main office, 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. Please do not wrap gifts. To sign up to donate, please complete and return the form on the flyer or complete the online Holiday Drives form. Gifts for teens are especially needed.

Please also consider donating gifts cards (of \$10 or \$15) to stores such as Target, Walmart, Kmart, Old Navy, Payless Shoe Source, Kohl’s, The Children’s Place, Macy’s, and Best Buy. Please contact Melissa Edwards at 703-865-4251 or [medwards@FacetsCares.org](mailto:medwards@FacetsCares.org) to sign up to volunteer or for more information.

<b>Suggested items for children (\$10 in value)</b>	<b>Suggested items for adults (\$15 in value)</b>
games	movie tickets
puzzles	perfume/cologne
toys (preferably not requiring batteries; please include batteries if needed)	body lotion/spa items
sports equipment/balls	scarves
movie tickets	gloves
CDs	hats
perfume/cologne	belts
books	wallets
Christmas stockings (empty)	books
DVDs	
jewelry	

## BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE UPDATES

**TARIQ KHAN REZONING:** An application to rezone a property at 4335 Shirley Gate Road from the R-1 District to a PDH-2 Residential District was the subject of a Public Hearing before the Planning Commission on December 5. The proposed rezoning (RZ/FDP-2012-BR-003) asked approval to place three single family lots on this 1.9 acre property located on the east side of Shirley Gate Road adjacent to the Cloisters. Staff recommended denial of the three lot subdivision and preferred a configuration in which all houses directly faced Shirley Gate Road. A link to the staff report can be found at: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdwf/4402644.PDF>. Eight members of the community turned out to testify; some supporting the project and others preferring that the site be used for one single family home. The Braddock District Land Use and Environmental Management Committee recommended two homes on the lot if the significant environmental proffers were retained. The public hearing and the public record will be kept open through January 24 when the applicant will make a revised presentation. In the interim, any written comments can be sent directly to Planning Commissioner Nell Hurley at [braddockplanning@gmail.com](mailto:braddockplanning@gmail.com)

**ELEVEN OAKS SCHOOL SITE:** A public hearing before the Board of Supervisors is currently scheduled for January 8, 2013. This project has been recommended by the Planning Commission and approved by the City of Fairfax. The Braddock District Land Use and Environmental Management Committee also recommended approval. A link to the staff report can be found at: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdwf/4401220.PDF>. To testify before the Board of Supervisors on this application, call the Clerk to the Board at 703-321-3151 or email [clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov). To provide a letter for the record, email: [braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**OX ROAD ESTATES:** A proposal to rezone 5.15 acres of land on Ox Road was formally accepted by Fairfax County for public review and comment on November 30. RZ/FDP 2012-BR-020, filed by Eastwood Properties, proposes to put 14 homes on 5.15 acres of land at a density of 2.7 homes per acre. The parcel is adjacent to the Middleridge and Fairfax Club Estates subdivisions, with access from Adare Drive. A tentative public hearing before the Planning Commission is scheduled for April 4, 2013 and the staff coordinator for this project is Brent Krasner. Any resident desiring an electronic copy of the formal filing can contact Braddock staffer Rosemary Ryan: [rosemary.ryan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:rosemary.ryan@fairfaxcounty.gov). The Braddock District Land Use and Environmental Management Committee has also established a subcommittee to work closely with the affected communities and staff.

**THE BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE COMMITTEE** will have its regular monthly meeting on December 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Braddock Hall. Meetings are open to all interested residents. The Committee will hear from the Department of Zoning Evaluation on the key criteria examined by staff in reviewing applications.

### CHILD CARE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved amendments to the Fairfax County Home Child Care Facilities Ordinance after a public hearing on November 20. These revisions become effective February 1, 2013.

Families and Community:

Chapter 30, Articles 1 and 3 of the County Code regulates Home Child Care Facilities in which a person cares for five or fewer children. The ordinance is intended to protect the health and safety of children who receive care in family child care homes.

In response to the approved amendments, Fairfax County has scheduled information sessions to help family child care providers understand the changes in the ordinance. Join us at one of these community information sessions.

Information Session Dates and Locations are included in the table below:

Thursday, January 10, 2013, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tysons Pimmit Regional Library in the Large Meeting Room, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043	Tuesday, January 22, 2013, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Mount Vernon, Governmental Center Room 1, 2, 3, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library in the Large Meeting Room 4000 Stringfellow Rd, Chantilly, VA 20151	If any of these sessions are cancelled due to inclement weather, an additional session will be offered at this location: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library in the Large Meeting Room, 4000 Stringfellow Rd, Chantilly, VA 20151

Registration is not required to attend the information sessions. Seating is first come, first serve. Providers will receive training credit for attending.

Please note: They will be unable to accommodate children at these sessions.

If you would like additional details regarding the approved amendments please visit Fairfax County's website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc/child-care-ordinance-changes.htm>. If you have additional questions, please contact the Office for Children, Community Education and Provider Services Division at 703-324-8000 or 8100, TTY 711.

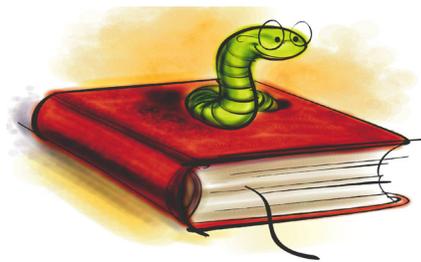
## MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

### WINTER OUTERWEAR DRIVE TO BENEFIT ECHO

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce will run its winter outerwear campaign to benefit ECHO until Wednesday, December 14. The Braddock District Office, located at 9002 Burke Lake Road in Burke is a drop-off location. Please bring new winter hats, scarves and gloves for all ages and new children's coats, as well as gently used blankets.

### DONATE LIBRARY BOOKS

If you would like to donate to the Fairfax County Public Library they are now accepting donations through Amazon. You may go to <http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/registry.html/002-9627810-1915264?id=2P3AKWX1F9FO> and purchase a book that will enter circulation at one of the Fairfax County Libraries.



### GIVE THE GIFT OF TREES

Looking for something special for a loved one, friend or client this holiday season? How about giving a gift that will show the recipient your appreciation while doing something positive for Fairfax County's environment? ReForest Fairfax allows you to do that by giving the gift of trees. For each gift you buy, Fairfax ReLeaf (a local organization dedicated to restoring Fairfax County's tree canopy) will plant five seedlings in your recipient's honor. A personalized card and certificate will be sent to your recipient informing them of the gift, and they can even check the online map to see where in the county their trees are planted. All proceeds from your purchase go towards Fairfax ReLeaf's tree planting efforts. To place an order or learn more about the program, please visit <http://www.fcrpp3.org/reforestfairfax/>

### OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM RECRUITS VOLUNTEERS FOR SPRING TRAINING

Would you like to help residents of nursing and assisted living facilities advocate for their rights, resolve conflicts and improve their quality of life? The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to commit four hours a week for one year. Volunteers set their own schedules and receive training and support. Visits usually occur between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays. Apply now for the spring 2013 training. Application forms can be found on the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program website [www.FairfaxCounty.Gov/LTCOmbudsman](http://www.FairfaxCounty.Gov/LTCOmbudsman). You can also call 703-324-5861 or 703-324-5422; TTY 703-449-1186 or e-mail: [lisa.callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:lisa.callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov).



### DONATE TO THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED

This holiday season, Life Circle Alliances is partnering with Fairfax County's Division of Adult and Aging Services/Fairfax Area Agency on Aging to purchase holiday gift cards for older adults and adults with disabilities who are clients of the County.

To donate to the holiday gift card fund, please go to <http://www.lifecirclealliances.org/donate.htm> and follow the instructions on the website for donating.

### ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

A Way Forward will be helping the Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (OFWDSVS) adopt families for the holidays. A Way Forward helps survivors of domestic and sexual violence transition to safe and independent living by providing assistance for emergency services such as temporary housing, transportation, food and other basic life needs. They are accepting monetary donations which will then be used to purchase gifts and goods that one family will need during the winter months and beyond. In order to get an idea for how large a family or what type of family you can support, please contact Vanessa Cullers at [vanessa.cullers@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:vanessa.cullers@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-2842. You may also make a monetary donation through their website at <http://www.awayforward.org/>

### TOYS FOR TOTS

Support the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots program. The program has been collecting toys since 1991 and has distributed over 64.5 million toys since then to children in need.

Local Toys for Tots Drop-Off Location:

Glory Days Grill: Jim Rafferty

11/07 - 12/18

11:30 AM thru Midnight

9526 Old Keene Mill Rd., Burke, Virginia, 22015

### HELP A BURKE FAMILY DISPLACED BY A FIRE

Neighbors and friends of a family who lost many of their possessions in a Burke fire have set up a fund to help their neighbors.

Checks can be sent to Burke & Herbert Bank, 9516 Old Keene Mill Rd., Burke, VA 22015. The bank asks that donors put "Help Manet Road" and account number 211008906 on checks. Donors can call the bank at 703-684-1655 and ask for the branch manager if they have questions. Questions can also be sent to the neighbors responsible for setting up the fund at [helpmanetroad@gmail.com](mailto:helpmanetroad@gmail.com).

## BRADDOCK DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES

### DRAFTING OF NEW FAIRFAX STORMWATER ORDINANCE PROGRESSES

Fairfax County is preparing a Stormwater Management Ordinance in response to state regulations requiring localities to adopt ordinances and take over reviews and inspections for Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) general permits relating to stormwater runoff from construction sites effective July 1, 2014.

Many processes, systems, ordinance changes and training of staff and industry, in addition to a written stormwater management ordinance, will need to occur in order for us to be ready for the effective date. A series of meetings with stakeholders is being held to gather information that will be used in developing the new county ordinance and design and construction standards for stormwater control practices.

To learn more about stakeholder meetings and provide input as the county moves through the process of writing and adopting a county Stormwater Management Ordinance, go to the following website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwaterordinance.htm>

### ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR THE WINTER WEATHER AHEAD

With cold weather beginning to settle into the region, and rumors of a cold winter ahead, here are some suggestions you can take to minimize energy consumption in your home.

#### Lighting

- Install dimmers on indoor lights to give you more control over the brightness of your rooms and save electricity when lights are turned lower. Before installing, check that the light bulbs are compatible with the dimmers.
- Consider installing sensors on outdoor lights to save electricity when no one is present.

#### Air Leaks

- Install a door sweep to block air from coming under the door.
- Install foam gaskets behind electrical outlets and switch plates on walls.
- Close-fitting, insulated drapes can keep drafts at bay and in the summer block the hot sun.
- If you aren't able to upgrade your drafty, single-pane windows, attaching heavy-duty clear plastic sheeting during the winter can keep cold air out and warm air in.

#### Heating and Cooling

- Control the temperature of your home with a programmable thermostat, which can automatically adjust the temperature based on different time schedules. For example, during the winter months set it to lower the temperature during weekdays when your family is out and raise it on weekends when you're home.
- Clean any radiators, baseboard heaters or warm-air registers to help them deliver temperature-controlled air more efficiently. Be sure that they are not blocked by furniture, carpeting or drapes.
- Dirty filters make heating and cooling systems less efficient, using more energy for the same results. Clean or replace filters regularly (check your owner's manual for guidelines), especially during the hottest and coldest months.
- Have your heating and cooling system professionally checked annually. Your system will perform better and last longer with proper maintenance.

#### Appliances

- To make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight, close the door over one-half of a piece of paper and then try to pull the paper out. If it comes out easily, you may need to adjust the latch or replace the seal to ensure air doesn't escape.
- Arrange to dispose of old secondary refrigerators, which might be using twice as much electricity as newer models.

For more ideas, go to Energy Action Fairfax: <http://www.fairfax-county.gov/energyactionfairfax/>



## VDOT HAS NEW TOOLS TO RESPOND TO WINTER WEATHER

The Virginia Department of Transportation has begun preparing for the 2012-2013 winter season with 4,000 trucks and plows ready to clear 16,000 streets in Northern Virginia.

This year VDOT will also be implementing new tools to assist residents. A mobile weather station for roads, a new 22,000-ton salt dome, a fleet of trucks to help clear the I-495 Express Lanes, and a pilot program where the public can track snow removal in their neighborhoods are among the innovations the Virginia Department of Transportation will use this winter in Northern Virginia.

**Here is a complete list of what is new for winter 2012-13:**

A web tool shows the status of plowing in Northern Virginia neighborhoods. Once it snows more than two inches, residents in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties can enter their address and see a color-coded snow map that shows whether plowing is underway, completed or not yet started in their neighborhood.

A truck-mounted weather station provides mobile measurements on road conditions (dry, moist, wet, snow, ice), as well as surface, dew point and air temperature, humidity and thickness of ice. This helps ensure that crews do not over- or under-apply chemicals.

A super-sized salt dome located at the Beltway and Van Dorn Street was added to

help ensure that crews don't run low on materials during severe storms. The dome will hold 22,000 tons of salt – about three times the capacity of a typical salt dome.

Four super-sized front loaders that can push snow with 20-foot wide blades or scoop snow with massive buckets. This new equipment will help clear interstates during severe storms.

Seven high-pressure flush trucks are dedicated to clearing snow and ice that accumulates around the bollards that separate the new 495 Express Lanes from the regular lanes.

A portable snow melter will be used in park-n-ride lots where massive piles of snow take away needed parking spaces.

**More equipment:** Nearly 4,000 trucks and plows, mostly contracted, are available for snow and ice removal in northern Virginia. That's 1,200 more trucks than during the severe winter of 2010.

Expanded pre-treating: Crews will pre-treat 850 lane miles (up from 600) of trouble spots including:

- 350 lane miles (up from 300) on interstates 66, 95, 395, and 495 - including bridges and ramps prone to freezing such as the Springfield interchange and the Capital Beltway interchange at Route 1, with liquid magnesium chloride.

- Another 500 lane miles (up from 300) on major roads, such as the Fairfax County Parkway, routes 1, 7, 28, 29, 50 and 123,

will be pre-treated with salt brine.

More brine, less salt: As the pre-treatment program is expanded, the need for salt to melt ice is reduced. Brine, which is 77 percent water and 23 percent salt, is kinder to the environment and less costly.

Last winter's budget for Northern Virginia was \$55 million and \$35 million was spent. This year's budget is \$55 million.

VDOT is responsible for 17,737 lane miles in Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Arlington counties (Arlington County maintains its own secondary roads). About half of those miles are highways, and half are neighborhood streets.

**VDOT's winter resources:**

- For snow removal information: Visit <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/snow.asp>

- To see the status of plowing in your neighborhood: <http://novasnowplowing.virginia.gov>

- For real-time traffic updates and road conditions: Visit [www.511virginia.org](http://www.511virginia.org), download the 511 smartphone app, or follow @511northernva on Twitter

- To report unplowed roads or hazardous conditions: Email [novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov) or call 1-800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623)

- For general VDOT info: Follow VDOT on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/VirginiaDOT](http://www.facebook.com/VirginiaDOT), on Twitter @VDOT, and visit [www.VirginiaDOT.org](http://www.VirginiaDOT.org)

## FCPD DWI EFFORTS AIM FOR A SAFE DECEMBER

In an effort to keep December 2012 a safe and festive month for all, Fairfax County Police are stepping up alcohol enforcement and education efforts with extra DWI patrols, sobriety checkpoints and social media messaging.

Last December (2011), officers arrested 372 drunk drivers as part of their Safe December efforts. Of those, 85 were female and 287 were male. That figure shows a 17 percent increase over 2010's December DWI arrests. In all, over 3,200 people were arrested for drunk driving in Fairfax County in 2011.

Police urge residents to make their travel plans in advance of holiday parties by designating a sober driver as drunk driving continues to be a serious roadway danger. So far in 2012, 607 drivers have been involved in a reported crash after consuming alcohol; 60 of these drivers were underage at the time of the crash. The majority of the drivers were men; 481. Last December, there were 72 drivers involved in a reported crash after consuming alcohol.

Drivers aren't the only ones at risk when alcohol is involved; pedestrians need to take precautions as well. Last year, 22 pedestrians were reported struck while walking after consuming alcohol; two of them were underage at the time they were struck.

In addition to additional DWI targeted patrols, motorists should expect to encounter checkpoints across Fairfax County this month as they are an additional deterrent and educational tool. The Public Information Office will post information on their social media sites throughout the month in an effort to remind residents of the dangers and consequences of impaired driving. You may check for updates by going to <https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountypolice?ref=ts&fref=ts>.