



The BRADDOCK BEACON

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SUPERVISOR COOK READY TO LAUNCH CITIZEN GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE WITH MAY 5 CONFERENCE

Supervisor Cook will launch his Citizen Governance Initiative at an all-day Braddock District Visioning Conference on Saturday, May 5. Mark your calendars now, and expect more details in next month's Beacon.

The Citizen Governance Initiative is an effort to get Braddock residents involved in County policy making. The Initiative is the logical follow-on to the highly successful community engagement initiative, which encouraged people to get involved in their neighborhoods. Over 100 residents have since participated in new, community-building activities over the last two years, including cleaning up parks and streambeds, planting trees, holding block parties, and strengthening neighborhood watch.

Now, Supervisor Cook is seeking to establish one or more committees through which citizens

can formally advise him in policy areas such as Land Use and Environmental Management, Budget and Transportation, and hopes that this conference will serve as the launching point for that effort.

The Visioning Conference will include a review of the current comprehensive land use and transportation plans for Braddock, as well as presentations from citizen committees in other districts, so that participants have the background needed to help design Braddock's new citizen-governance structure.

Our county government belongs to you, the citizens. Take ownership. Don't be a spectator. Please plan to attend the Braddock Visioning Conference May 5, and become a citizen policy-maker.



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.

BOARD ENGAGES IN PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS DURING ITS STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

On February 6 and 7, the Board of Supervisors met at the Lorton Arts Workhouse Center for a two-day retreat. The time provided an opportunity for Board members to engage each other in a manner that led to thorough discussions on a number of topics, with perhaps the most important conversations revolving around the County's near-term financial picture and its massive transportation needs.

From now to Fiscal Year 2017, current financial projections place the County's revenue growth at roughly 3 percent per year. This is countered, however, with the sobering reality that over the same time period, at the current rate of spending, County expenses are anticipated to outpace that by roughly 2 percent a year. That gap - which equates to approximately \$100 million dollars - is present even though no new spending is built into the projections. It is a result of increases such as health benefits, market rate compensation increases, inflation

and other requirements.

That challenge is only compounded by the substantial transportation needs facing the County over the next ten years. As part of the same far-reaching discussion on the budget, the Board also learned that nearly \$8 billion in transportation needs have been identified, but only \$5 billion in revenues is anticipated, leaving a \$3 billion shortfall, or \$300 million a year, over the next ten years.

These combined shortfalls of \$400 million do not take into account any costs stemming from state devolution of the secondary road system, nor do they begin to address the significant infrastructure enhancements needed as part of EPA mandates. They also limited new money for schools.

The Board's work on these items has only begun, and will likely be a point of emphasis during the forthcoming FY2013 budget process.

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 & 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](https://twitter.com/SupervisorCook)

TRAINING CENTER CLOSURE PRESENTS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

On January 27, Governor McDonnell announced Virginia had reached a settlement agreement with the United States Department of Justice that will result in the closure of the Northern Virginia Training Center by June 2015. The Training Center is home to approximately 200 significantly intellectually and developmentally disabled residents, who require care for many life functions, including eating, bathing, and sometimes even basic physical movements. The settlement implements the 1999 U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead decision, which declared that institutionalization of the intellectually and developmentally disabled violated those residents' civil rights by keeping them permanently segregated from non-disabled neighbors.

The closure of the Training Center presents a challenge both to the state, which runs the Center, and to the residents and their families. The settlement agreement requires current residents be placed in community-based group homes, and though significant

federal and state money, through Medicaid waiver slots, will pay for this care, this funding will be implemented over a ten-year period, while the Center will close in three.

I have already begun discussions with Chairman Bulova and George Braunstein, the Chair of the Community Services Board, which serves the intellectually and developmentally disabled community, on ways to serve this population. I am absolutely committed to ensuring all Training Center residents receive proper care upon their discharge from the Center.

The closure presents exciting opportunities as well. I am leading a group of public and private sector officials who are beginning to discuss potential uses for the 88-acre, state-owned, Training Center site once it closes. I oppose the sale of this site to private developers. Instead, we are discussing innovative public-private partnerships which could use this site to provide services to the disabled, including

vocational education, medical services, physical therapy and counseling. The site could also house additional community-based services, as it already has a gym, food service facilities, meeting rooms and office space.

In the coming months we will begin to focus our planning efforts and then come to the community with concrete options. Negotiations with the state will be critical, as it owns the site, and I am already in contact with members of our General Assembly delegation on this matter – Delegates Eileen Filler-Corn and Vivian Watts have been especially helpful. Community input, and significant cooperation between the State and County and the public and private sectors, will be essential to make these ideas come to fruition. I look forward to discussing these options with you in more detail over the coming months.



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS OFFER EDUCATION WORKSHOP TO ASSIST AFTER RECENT SENIOR SCAMS

An 86-year-old Springfield area woman was told last week she had won the lottery. But there was a catch; she needed to wire money to the "caller" in order to collect her winnings. She did as she was asked.

A 91-year-old Fair Oaks area man was upset and concerned when he got a call from his "grandson" who said he'd been arrested and jailed in Peru a few weeks ago. Doing what any loving grandparent would, the man wired over \$13,000 in an attempt to help.

An 80-year-old woman wired \$4,800 to Bolivia to her "granddaughter" who was there for a wedding and had gotten into a serious accident; then sent \$5,000 more for

medical expenses.

All three of these victims were recently duped by scammers who are aggressively preying on seniors. Sadly, these are just a few of the hundreds of cases detectives in the Financial Crimes Unit see each year. Worse yet, once money has been wired, victims have very little recourse and these cases are rarely prosecutable.

According to Financial Crimes Detective Tom Polhemus, "Education

is key. We need to get the word out that people should not wire money to people they speak with on the phone. The amount of fraud in this area is of great concern to us." In an effort to help educate seniors,

their children and the community at large, detectives from the FCPD Financial Crimes Unit are available for group presentations. As the scams change from year to year, police are aware of particular details and want to help raise public awareness as well.

To learn more about financial crimes and scams or to report a crime, visit the Financial Crime Online Reporting site of the FCPD website at <http://www.fairfax-county.gov/police/financialcrimes/>. To request a group presentation, contact Lucy Caldwell, Public Information Office at 703-246-3271.



SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On January 10th, Supervisor Cook attended the first Board of Supervisors meeting of 2012 which was also the first meeting since he began his second term in office.

On January 11th, Supervisor Cook spoke at a luncheon that was hosted by the Fairfax County Government Employees Union. Supervisor Cook outlined how he looks forward to working with our County employees over the next four years to update our personnel policies and meet challenges over compensation and retirement. Later that evening, Supervisor Cook attended the New Years reception at the Government Center that was hosted by Chairman Bulova.

On January 16th, Supervisor Cook was at George Mason University to take part in the annual "Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day," which is sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax. During the event, Supervisor Cook saw how families were spending their Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday together.



On January 17th, Supervisor Cook sponsored a community meeting for West Springfield and Cardinal Forest. The topic of discussion was the proposed addition of a new bank in the Cardinal Forest Shopping Plaza. More about this project can be found in the January Beacon.

On January 18th, Supervisor Cook presided over a meeting of the Fairfax Campus Advisory Board which centers on issues pertaining to George Mason University and the surrounding neighborhoods. Later that evening, he spoke to the Croftwood HOA where he shared a little bit, of his vision for the future and also addressed members questions and comments.

On January 19th, Supervisor Cook attended a mixer hosted by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce as he continues to reach out to the local business arena and forge a working relationship in order to keep the business community of Fairfax County strong.

On January 21st, Supervisor Cook was the guest of Mr. Tom Hennessey at an afternoon George Mason University basketball game. Mr. Hennessey is the Chief of Staff to the campus president. The Patriots were victorious, defeating Towson by a score of 72-60.



On January 25th, Supervisor Cook spoke to members of Boy Scout Troop 1131 who meet at St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Burke. The boys are completing their Citizenship Badges and asked Supervisor Cook some great questions about local politics and what it's like to serve as a representative on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

To round out the month, on January 31st, Supervisor Cook spoke to the members of the Dunleigh Community Association and addressed any questions and concerns that they had.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT PARK UPDATES

We have a lot going on right now with our parks here in the Braddock District. The following are a few of the upcoming public meetings which might be of interest:

**Monticello Park Public Meeting:
February 27 at Kings Park Library 7
pm. (Snow date is February 29, same
place and time)**

This meeting will focus on the Monticello Park Master Plan which is slated to go before the Park Authority Board later this spring. Of special note is the proposal to include an Off Leash Dog Area (OLDA) at the park. At the present time, there is no such park in the Braddock District. These parks have no cost impact to the taxpayers as the maintenance is provided by sponsor groups, in this case, Braddock Dogs. Please come out to share your opinions, be it for or against, as Supervisor Cook as well as our Park Authority representative, Tony Vellucci will be in attendance. The Master Plan can be viewed at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/monticello.htm>

**Park Authority 101: March 5 at
Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake
Road, Burke 22015 7:30 pm.**

Our Park Authority representative, Tony Vellucci, has graciously agreed to conduct a primer course on the Fairfax County Park Authority. During this 1 ½ hour session,

Tony will discuss the role of the Park Authority and its relationship with the Board of Supervisors. There also will be a discussion on Park issues in Braddock. This class is open to anyone. Please RSVP to Lindsey. Smith2@fairfaxcounty.gov.

**Kings West Swim Club Demolition/
Transformation Public Meeting:
March 21 at Laurel Ridge Element-
ary School, 10110 Commonwealth
Blvd, Fairfax 22032 7:30 pm.**

This will be a combined meeting with the Park Authority and the Fairfax County Department of Public Works & Environmental Services. As many of you know, the dilapidated Kings West Swim Club is finally going to be torn down to make way for what will be the new Rabbit Run Park. This is the second swim club in the Braddock District that has been transferred to the Park Authority. There are several considerations that go along with the development of a new park, and we encourage all of you to attend to ask questions and see how this process will unfold.

If you have any questions or concerns about your Fairfax County Parks, please contact Tony Vellucci at ajvellucci@gmail.com or Lindsey Smith of the Braddock staff at 703-425-9300 or Lindsey.Smith2@fairfaxcounty.gov.

LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE AFTER 50

This workshop series is designed to support individuals who are thinking about retirement, those transitioning into retirement, and those who have already retired.

People in the process of transitioning from their work careers are sometimes called Third Agers, because they have one-third of their life left to live after they retire. Each weekly meeting will focus on a different, stimulating topic such as Finding Your Passion & Purpose, Choosing an Encore Career, Your Transition Life Plan, Maintaining Social Connections, and Your Boarding Pass for a First Class Retirement, just to name a few. The specific course syllabus will be provided prior to the first class. Professionals from around the region who are affiliated with the Positive Aging Coalition will lead the weekly sessions. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com to register. (Five 2-hour sessions, Saturdays, March 17 – April 21, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

The Positive Aging Coalition supports people in the second half of their lives who are transitioning into their “Next Chapter”. The group facilitate connections that lead to community service, lifelong learning, meaningful work, self-discovery and well-being. To learn more and learn “what’s next” for you, go to their website: <http://positiveagingcoalition.wordpress.com/>

RAVENSWORTH HOME DEMOLISHED AFTER COMMUNITY AND COUNTY STAFF WORK TOGETHER

On January 24th the Ravensworth-Bristow community celebrated the long awaited demolition of the abandoned property on Royston Street at the intersection with Bristow. The property has been sitting vacant since being declared a total loss after a serious fire many years ago. The Ravensworth-Bristow Civic Association has since been working with Fairfax County Officials and the Braddock District Supervisor’s Office to find a solution to the safety hazard and eye sore that this home created. The process was unfortunately prolonged due to various problems that arose.

Originally, there was a delay due to an investigation on the cause of the fire and then a search for the owner of the home who was never found. RBCA worked with Supervisor Cook’s Office to expedite the permitting process with Fairfax County and arranged for the demolition through competitive bidding. This is an excellent example of an actively engaged community working together with County staff and

officials to accomplish their goals. If you would like further details regarding the demolition you can visit the RBCA website at <http://www.rbcainfo.org/> or if you would like additional pictures please check our Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Office-of-Braddock-Supervisor-John-C-Cook/113003565389251>



COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

GET ENGAGED! GIVE YOUR TIME TO LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS

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, 2012 training (March 26, March 28 and April 5). For more information, call 703-324-5861 or e-mail lisa.callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Details on the program can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/>; clicking the link for long term care ombudsman.

WILL YOU SPEAK FOR A CHILD? VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A new case of child abuse or neglect enters the Fairfax County Domestic & Juvenile Relations Court system once every 38 hours. These children need caring advocates to help ensure that they grow up in safe and permanent homes. Fairfax Court Appoint-

ed Special Advocates (CASA) trains volunteers to advocate for a child's best interests in Court.

If you seek a volunteer role with real purpose that can create real change, please attend Fairfax CASA's upcoming information session at the Burke Centre Library on Saturday, March 17, from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

For reservations or information, contact Elisa Kosarin, Associate Director – Recruitment and Training, at (703) 273-3526, ext. 22, ekosarin@casafairfax.org, or visit www.fairfaxcasa.org.

FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2012 POSTER CONTEST

Design an "artsy" poster, win \$500 and see your work all over the region! Fall for the Book is hosting a poster contest to celebrate its 2012 festival.

The Festival, now in its fourteenth year, is one of the oldest, largest, and best of its type in the country. Festival planners seek a full-color poster that celebrates the interaction between readers and writers, and calls people's attention to the festival's September dates.

The poster will be printed in the summer and distributed throughout the capital region. George Mason University and Fairfax County Public Libraries are among the

sponsors of this event. **Deadline: Post-marked March 15, 2012. For more information: <http://fallforthebook.org/>**

SUPERVISOR COOK ASSISTS IN CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

Supervisor Cook will be collecting books for the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce's Children's Book Drive. Please bring books for children through sixth grade to Supervisor Cook's Office starting Monday, February 13. The book drive will conclude Friday, April 6 and the books will be distributed to children in local elementary schools.



STUFF THE BUS! HELP LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES RESTOCKING THEIR SHELVES

Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services and the Office of Public Private Partnerships are once again partnering with MVTransportation, Inc. and local grocery stores (Giant and Shoppers) to collect donations of food to assist the most vulnerable in our community. All donations will go directly to local nonprofit organizations that help feed needy families and individuals in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community. For more information about Stuff the Bus call 703-222-9764.

Two nearby opportunities to participate will be on the following dates at these locations:

February 11

Fair City Mall Shoppers
9622 Main Street
Fairfax, VA 22031
Benefiting Food for Others

February 18

Fair City Mall Shoppers
9622 Main Street
Fairfax, VA 22031
Benefiting Our Daily Bread



TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION FOR BRADDOCK DISTRICT IN FEBRUARY

AN UPDATE ON THE MASON WEST CAMPUS CONNECTOR, MASON BOV ACTS

In previous editions of the Braddock Beacon, we've been keeping you updated on the progress of this important transportation project. A link to the reports on the project can be found at <http://community-relations.gmu.edu/fairfax.html>.

In his six year transportation plan, released last year, Governor Bob McDonnell agreed to provide \$15 million in funding for George Mason University's proposed "Western Bypass." The intent of the bypass is to keep eastbound traffic headed toward campus and westbound traffic leaving campus from entering the intersection of Braddock and Route 123 and as a result, a 10 to 30 percent reduction in congestion is expected.

As stated earlier, the recommendation is to go with Alternative 3 which will feature an underpass. While the exact layout of the road is not yet final, the recommended route begins at Braddock Road and Prestwick Drive (west of the intersection of Braddock and Route 123), travels north around the current athletic fields on Mason's undeveloped "western campus," turns east, crosses under Route 123 in the vicinity of Mason Pond Drive (near the Mason

Inn) and connects with Patriot Circle inside campus.

Much of the discussion prior to making the recommendation centered on how large of a buffer would be provided to the homes along Kelley Drive, which will back to the Connector. With regard to restricting construction between the buffer and the road, the Campus Master Plan governs all facility development. The current master plan contemplates no construction in this area; therefore, no development of this area will occur under this plan. The Board of Visitors, at a recent meeting, reviewed the university's plan to develop an updated campus master plan over the next 18 months. Under that process, they will analyze development alternatives and constraints for all of the campuses. For the particular area north of Kelley Drive, staff has been directed to consider the recommendation to restrict development in this area as they move through the master plan process.

We plan on keeping you informed on this complicated but vitally important project throughout its lifecycle. If you have any questions, please call our office at 703-425-9300.

REPORT ON OUR ROADS TO KEEP THEM SAFE

If you see hazardous conditions on our roads or have a problem to report please contact VDOT Customer Services at 1-800-367-7623 around the clock. You may also access all of the latest road conditions by calling 511 from any phone in Virginia.

VDOT provides services such as:

- Filing potholes
- Drainage cleaning
- Water drainage
- Guard rail replacement
- Bridge work
- Signs
- Traffic lights
- Animal, tee and debris removal

from the roadway

You may also submit non-emergency work requests to state maintained roads online by visiting the following website: <http://virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp>

VDOT RELEASES NEW ONLINE TOOL THAT WILL SHOW SNOW PLOWING STATUS IN NEIGHBORHOODS

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has a new web tool that shows the status of plowing in northern Virginia neighborhoods.

After snow accumulates to two inches the webpage activates and residents can find out the status of plowing in Fairfax, Loudon and Prince William County neighborhoods at <http://novasnowplowing.virginia.gov>

VDOT has organized northern Virginia streets into 600 "snow maps" which are assigned to plow drivers. These are the maps users will view and be able to find out whether crews are plowing, have plowed or have not started a particular snow map. Street-by-street progress is not shown.

Users will be able to enter an address in northern Virginia to see a color-coded snow map that indicates the plowing status in that area:

- Green indicates a neighborhood has been plowed,
- Yellow means plows are in progress in the neighborhood,
- Blue indicates plows have not yet started the neighborhood; and
- Gray means the area is not maintained by VDPT. Cities, towns and some developments maintain their own roads.

Residents can view a video of how to use the webpage at <http://youtu.be/HMRaltZLgyo>.



LAND USE UPDATES FOR FEBRUARY

Eleven Oaks Out of Turn Plan Amendment.

This application to amend the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan was approved unanimously by the Planning Commission on January 26 and sent to the Board of Supervisors for **Public Hearing on February 28 at 4:00 pm.** The Planning Commission recommended that single family homes at a density not to exceed seven homes per acre be allowed on this parcel. The area is currently planned for public or institutional use. Before any homes can be built on the site, there will also have to be a rezoning. The site currently houses 51 school busses which must be relocated to another permanent location before any homes can be constructed. To testify, call 703-324-3151 or email clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov giving your name and address and whether you represent an organization.

Terra Centre Elementary School.

A Community Information Meeting has been scheduled for February 29, 2012 at 7:30 pm on a request from Fairfax County Public Schools (PRC-C-546-2) to enlarge Terra Centre Elementary School, 6000 Burke Centre Parkway by approximately 20,000 square feet. The proposal would add a library, kindergarten, a lobby and classrooms to the school. The renovation would also include an expanded kiss and ride drop off area, a new ADA access to the upper play fields and an expanded hard surface play area. The project is tentatively scheduled for a public hearing before the Planning Commission on April 18, 2012. This project is also subject to a review by the Burke Conservancy Architectural Review Board.

Ridgewood.

The Planning Commission was scheduled to hold a public hearing on February 9, 2012 on the proposal from Midland Road LLC to construct 39 townhouses, a 35,000 square foot office building and a ½ acre park at the intersection of Ridgetop Road and Government Center Parkway. If recommended by the Planning Commission, a public hearing before the BOS will also be held on February 28 at 3:30 p.m. Staff is recommending approval, and a link to the Staff Report can be found at this address: <http://ldsnnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnnet> and going to Zoning Case Search. Enter RZ-2011-BR-014 and then follow the link. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please write or email Supervisor Cook and your comments will be reviewed and entered into the public record.

WASHINGTON GAS IMPROVEMENTS FOR BRADDOCK RESIDENTS

As part of their efforts to make sure that the gas lines in Fairfax County are kept safe and up-to-date, Washington Gas is in the process of replacing the mains and lines that serve over a thousand residents in Kings Park, and will be doing the same for several hundred more Braddock District residents in the months to come.

Pipe construction that began in late August 2011 in Kings Park is currently anticipated to be completed in mid-June 2012, with subsequent limited paving operations to be completed 30 days following. While it has taken a long time, Washington Gas is replacing over 38,000 feet of mains and approximately 1000 services to homes in the area.

Work in the Chapel Square area of Duncan Drive is already in progress and should be completed in April 2012. Fairfax Villa will see work begin in February 2012 with a target completion of May 2012. Mill Creek Park and Wakefield Chapel Estates are scheduled to have work begin in June and go until September of 2012. Ravensworth is on the schedule to begin replacement in October 2012, with April 2013 being the target completion date there.

Residents of the homes where lines are being replaced in these neighborhoods should be receiving letters from Washington Gas with information about the process. While it can be noisy and inconvenient while work is being done, knowing your gas lines are ready for another fifty years of service is probably worth it in the long run. If you have any other questions, please feel free to call Ann Sharp in our office at 703-425-9300.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION ON HIGHWAY 29 WIDENING PROJECT

Supervisor Cook will be hosting a community information meeting on **Thursday, March 8 at the Eagle View ES cafeteria. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.** Members of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation and the consultant for this project will have a display of the plans for the widening of Highway 29 from Shirley Gate Road to Legato Road, and after a short presentation, will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding the project. If you have questions prior to the meeting, please feel free to call Ann Sharp at our office (703) 425-9300

