



# the BRADDOCK BEACON

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## PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET INCLUDES AN INCREASED COUNTY TRANSFER REQUEST

On Thursday, January 6, Fairfax County Public School Superintendent Jack Dale presented his proposed budget to the School Board. In it, he requests that the Fairfax County transfer be increased by \$48.8 million, or three percent more than Fiscal Year 2011.

This transfer request is largely a result of a proposed increase in compensation for all employees. Both a market scale adjustment (\$35.8 million) and step increments for those eligible (\$40.2 million) are included in the proposed budget, though a number of fixed costs such as retirement and health insurance are increasing as well. The proposed budget also includes an additional 258.4 positions to support changes in student demographics and projected membership growth of 2,120 students.

As discussed in a previous edition of the Beacon, unlike the last several years, residential property values are projected to increase for FY 2012. If the tax rate is held

at the FY 2011 level of \$1.09, the average homeowner, with a home valued assessed at \$432,439, will pay \$156.96 more than last year. Such action would still require \$50 million in spending reductions to balance the County budget. Each penny on the real estate rate equates to \$19.1 million, so for the County to meet the Superintendent's request without cutting spending further, the tax rate would need to be raised by 2.5 cents, resulting in an additional tax burden of roughly \$110 on top of the \$156.96.

Supervisor Cook continues to believe that property tax payments should not increase. He has called on the School Board to review administrative, transportation and special program expenses to achieve savings.

The School Board will hold public hearings on the FY 2012 budget on January 24 and 25 at Jackson Middle School. To sign up to speak please go to this website: <http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd/requestspeak.htm>.



Supervisor John C. Cook

## OVERNIGHT CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED ON I-495 HOT LANES

### •I-495 north from Little River Turnpike to Gallows Road:

Tuesday, January 18 through Saturday, January 22, 9:30 p.m. to 5 a.m., crews will close three lanes of I-495 north from Little River Turnpike to Gallows Road. After midnight, all lanes on I-495 north from Little River Turnpike to Gallows Road will be closed for up to 30 minutes at a time for bridge work.

### •I-495 south at Little River Turnpike:

Starting at 9:30 p.m. on both Sunday, January 16 and Monday, January 17, one lane will be closed on I-495 south at Little River Turnpike, progressing to a full I-495 south closure after 11 p.m. Motorists will be directed to use the parallel running exit ramp lane to continue onto I-495 south. All lanes will reopen by 5 a.m. This closure allows crews to install steel bridge beams.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN BRADDOCK

- George Mason University Community Forum: Kings Park Library, January 26, 7:30 p.m.
- Burke Centre Parkway Community Meeting: Terra Centre ES, February 7, 7:30 p.m.
- Leadership Institute: Kings Park Library, February 26, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Braddock District Council Budget Meeting: Kings Park Library, March 9, 7:30 p.m.
- Budget Town Hall: March 14, Robinson SS Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Joint Budget Town Hall with Springfield Supervisor's Office: West Springfield HS Cafeteria, March 23, 7:30 p.m.
- Community Environmental Leadership Institute, May 7, time and location to be determined (details in next month's Beacon).

## HOT LANES CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS IN THE BRADDOCK DISTRICT

Construction on the HOT Lanes project continued to disrupt travel for many Braddock residents in 2010, but significant progress has been made. At a recent briefing for Braddock District, Fluor Lane highlighted major activities from 2010 and emphasized that it remains on schedule to complete the project by late 2012.

### Interchange Bridge Construction Advances

As part of this project, every interchange or overpass bridge crossing the Beltway had to be rebuilt. This included demolition of the old bridges, constructing substructure, and erecting steel. One new bridge span was completed at every major Beltway interchange during 2010, and construction on the second spans began immediately thereafter.

By late 2011, all major interchanges will see the completion of a second span. An accelerated bridge construction schedule for Little River Turnpike and Gallows Road



Work on Beltway widening near Braddock Road interchange. The first segment of new Beltway lanes will open up later this year.

is definitely impacting traffic. However, this will allow crews to complete bridge work between six months and a year ahead of the original schedule. It will also significantly reduce the “construction zone” atmosphere on this section of the Beltway.

Both the Braddock and Little River Turnpike bridges will be open by Fall, 2011. The second (eastbound) span on Braddock Road will see a new concrete deck placed this month. A new traffic signal will be installed for westbound Braddock Road motorists heading onto I-495 southbound in early 2011. The existing exit ramp will be permanently closed to make way for the new HOT Lanes connection. Once the new traffic signal is installed westbound Braddock Road motorists heading to I-495 south will need to make a left hand turn to access I-495 south.

### Beltway Widening and New Sound Walls

Significant progress was made in 2010 on the mainline Beltway as crews began building the new outer lanes. These lanes could not be constructed until the old bridge piers were removed.

A widened Beltway mainline between

Braddock Road and Gallows Road is expected to be open in late spring of 2011 – over a



year ahead of schedule. At that point, crews will begin work on the actual HOT Lanes.

Crews have also now completed 75 percent of the sound wall installation. Work this year included construction of a new sound wall at North Springfield Elementary School. Large portions of the wall along Americana Drive are completed and work will continue into early 2011. The retaining wall that will support the future sound wall at Wakefield Park is currently under construction and sound panels will be installed late spring/summer 2011.

Finally, relocation of the current sound wall along Leesville Boulevard is underway and the work will occur early in 2011. Please contact the office with any ongoing questions or concerns that you may have about the HOT Lanes Project.

## GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY FORUM SCHEDULED: UNIVERSITY MALL, MASON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ON AGENDA

Interested residents of the Braddock District, the city of Fairfax and surrounding areas are most welcome to attend the next George Mason University Community Forum, **scheduled for January 26, 2011, at 7:30 PM** in the large meeting room of the Kings Park Library, 9002 Burke Lake Road.

The Braddock District, city of Fairfax and George Mason University last year decided to combine their community outreach meetings, as issues of interest to one group

are generally of interest to all residents who live in the areas surrounding the university.

The Forum now meets three times per year, and the last two meetings have been held at the Fairfax City Hall. However, in the future, meetings will alternate between city and county locations.

The agenda for the January meeting will include information on the renovation plans for the University Mall shopping center, as well as George Mason University’s long range transportation planning. Other topics

will be covered, as well.

Supervisor Cook hopes that you will be able to make the time to attend this meeting. If you have other concerns and questions regarding George Mason University, please let us know, as this is an ideal time to bring them to the attention of the community as a whole. We look forward to seeing you on January 26.

## FULFILL YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION, GET INVOLVED AND VOLUNTEER

**AARP Tax-Aide** is a free, national, volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service for low to moderate income and elderly citizens. The program is currently in need of volunteers to electronically complete and file federal and state income tax forms for the 2011 tax season.

The group welcomes volunteers of all ages and backgrounds and offers a free five-day training using IRS computers and software. Volunteers become IRS Certified Tax Counselors after completing the training and passing the IRS examination. Training sessions will be held in Annandale, Centreville and Alexandria in January 2011. For more information: [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

The **Fairfax AAA Volunteer Solutions** needs volunteers to drive older adults and adults with disabilities to medical appointments. There also is a need for a Bosnian-English speaker in the South County area to be a friendly

visitor. Call the Volunteer Intake Line at 703-324-5406, or e-mail [DFSAAAvolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:DFSAAAvolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov), or go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm).

**The Meals on Wheels program** needs drivers, especially in the McLean and Tysons areas. Drivers are also needed in Annandale, Falls Church, Lorton and Mt. Vernon. Meals are delivered Monday-Friday, generally between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Volunteers may choose to drive weekly, biweekly, monthly, or be a substitute.

For more information, call the Volunteer Intake Line at 703-324-5406; TTY 711, e-mail [DFSAAAvolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:DFSAAAvolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov), or go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm).

## CEI CONTINUES IN FEBRUARY WITH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Braddock District Community Engagement Initiative ("CEI") continues with a half-day "Leadership Institute," scheduled for Saturday, February 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Kings Park Library in Burke. The "Leadership Institute" is back by popular demand after last year's first-of-its-kind event in Fairfax County. The program drew more than 60 community leaders to learn the "ins and outs" of HOA management, fiduciary responsibility and organizational building.

This year's Leadership Institute will draw on that programming and add some new sessions. Developed by the Braddock Office and county staff, the Institute is targeted for those who are, or wish to be, officers and directors of civic and homeowners' associations, PTA's, scout troops, community pools, and community-based volunteer and non-profit organizations.

Current and future community leaders who attend the workshop will learn about emergency planning, public safety, environmental stewardship, fiduciary roles and responsibilities and how to identify and leverage the assets in your community. A complete agenda will appear in February's Beacon. Spots are limited, so we encourage those who aspire to effective community and organizational leadership to contact Ann Sharp at 703-425-9300 to sign up today.

## PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON UNIVERSITY MALL SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 19 AT 8:00 PM, STAFF REPORT PUBLISHED



The official staff report for the University Mall rezoning was published on January 5 and copies will be available in the Braddock office starting January 10. However, an on-line copy of the Staff Report can be read by going to the following site: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet> and clicking the link for zoning case search. Enter RZ-2009-BR-015, click the case and then click the link for "staff reports" on the left.

Staff is recommending approval of the application, subject to proffers dated November 20, 2010. To testify at the public hearing call 703-324-2865 or sign up on line at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/speaker.htm>. Individuals may speak for 5 minutes and representatives of Associations may speak for 10 minutes. At the quarterly meeting of the University Community Forum on January 26 at 7:30 pm, a final presentation will be made before this item comes to the Board of Supervisors for a public hearing. Anyone with outstanding concerns or questions is encouraged to attend this briefing. It will be held in Braddock Hall at 9002 Burke Lake Road.

## SUPPORT GROUP FORMING FOR PARENTS WITH DEPLOYED CHILDREN

In the Braddock District and throughout Fairfax County, many residents currently are or have served in the military. While this may lead us to believe that a cohesive support infrastructure exists for all those with family in the military, there are many whose only connection may be a child who has chosen to serve. Parents of sons and daughters who are overseas often do not have the necessary support network to deal with the emotional and psychological stress associated with their loved one being in harm's way. Many of these parents may also need support in understanding and navigating the military system.

In response to this need, the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services has partnered with the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program and Easter Seals Greater Washington-Baltimore Area to create a support group for parents who have children who are currently deployed or who have been deployed.

The support group will be led by Gail Ledford from the department of Administration for Human Services, Tilly Blanding from the department of Neighborhood and Community Services and Ann Sharp, a senior staff assistant for Supervisor Cook. Gail has a son who served during the Gulf War and Somalia. Tilly has a son who is currently deployed to Afghanistan, and Ann has a son who has recently served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Parents of service members currently deployed are invited, but also it is important that parents of military members that have returned from deployment know that they are most welcome also. It is you who understand and have experienced what these other parents are going through now.

The first meeting will take place on Thursday, January 27, 2010 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Brion's Grille. Dessert and Coffee will be served. For more information about the program please contact Tilly Blanding at (703) 324-5252.

## PICKETT ROAD PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE REOPENS

The pedestrian bridge over the Long Branch stream valley at Pickett Road and Twinbrook Road reopened to pedestrian traffic on January 4, 2011. The original 320 foot bridge was 45 years old and constructed with steel H-beams that predates modern corrosion-resistant steel and suffered in the wet environment of the stream. In fact, the foundation had corroded to a point that the county welders could no longer make repairs.

The bridge had received a major rehabilitation in 1991 that reinforced the decking and joists, allowing the walking



surface to feel stable, but it had come to a point that the County needed to either replace the whole bridge or shut it down.

Staff from the County's Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division spent several years amassing sufficient funds to replace the bridge at a time when

maintenance funding has been impossibly stretched.

The bridge serves as a major pedestrian connection for communities on opposite sides of the stream including Olde Creek and Surrey Square, and provides walking access to Little Run and Olde Creek Elementary Schools, Frost Middle School and Woodson High School. Although the project was plagued by a number of unforeseen delays, and a need to relocate previously undocumented utility lines, it has now passed a final critical structures inspection, and is again available for community use.

The County also used the project as an opportunity to undertake channel restoration, using innovative natural stream practices to repair the failing outfall channel. Because this is a

stream valley park, indigenous plants have been used to replant the stream bank. The natural stream design will have waterfalls and pools to slow down the water and rock walls to protect the bridge piers and outfall channel at the nearby bend in the stream.

## SUPERVISOR COOK TO HOST MEETING ON SAFETY ALONG BURKE CENTRE PARKWAY

Members from the Burke Centre Conservancy community in Burke have come to Supervisor Cook twice over the past 18 months to bring to his attention concerns they have with safety for pedestrians and motorists living, walking and riding along the Burke Centre Parkway (BCP).

In response, Supervisor Cook is sponsoring a Community Meeting on Monday February 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Terra Centre Elementary School to discuss ideas related to improving safety along the BCP.

Representatives from the Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, Fairfax County Department of Transportation and the Fairfax County Police Department will be in attendance.

All members of the community are invited to attend.

## IS THERE A HOARDER IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Recent articles on the discovery of an Annandale residence where over 100 cats were removed by Animal Control officers, have prompted questions about what, exactly, constitutes hoarding.

Hoarding is the excessive collection and retention of newspapers, trash, unopened sale items, clothing, paper, rotting food and, as the Annandale case demonstrates, even cats. Conditions in the home of a hoarder can become so extreme that all available space from floor to ceiling may be occupied and the day-to-day activities of the home's occupants are impeded.

Hoarders become emotionally attached to everything. They are unable to distinguish trash from treasures. Hoarding "feels right" to the hoarder, in spite of health and safety consequences. While more prevalent among older adults, hoarding is not limited to any age, race, gender or nationality. Hoarders can be of any educational or socio-economic level and are unaware that their living circumstances pose a danger to themselves and to others. They are also unable to change these unsafe conditions on their own. Based on national statistics, it has been estimated that Fairfax County could have as many as 3,500 cases of hoarding.

### Animal Hoarding

While less prevalent, animal hoarding poses a serious health threat to the resident,

the community and the animals being kept. Animal overpopulation in a home leads to unhealthy waste accumulation, starvation, disease and animal death. Decomposing remains also adds to the unhealthy environment. Typically, an animal hoarder is unaware of the filth and odor actually present in and around the home, and insists the animals are being cared for appropriately.

### Signs of Hoarding

- Extreme collection and storage of items in the home and in the yard.
- Accumulation of combustible materials (newspapers, magazines and rubbish).
- Blocked exits (doors/windows).
- Narrow pathways in the home.
- Rat and/or insect infestations.
- Rotting food and/or used food containers.
- Human and/or animal waste.
- Long-term neglect of home maintenance.
- Non-working utilities, such as heat, running water, sewer and refrigeration.

If you believe that a resident of your community may be hoarding, please report your concern to the Department of Code Compliance: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/hoarding> or call 703-324-1300.

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Are you currently or will you be enrolled in a Virginia college or university? Are you pursuing a degree in the field of criminal justice? If you answered "yes" to both of these questions, then you are eligible to apply for a college scholarship from the Virginia Sheriff's Institute (VSI) Scholarship Program. Scholarships are available to both full and part-time students.

As part of the application process, Fairfax County Sheriff Stan Barry must submit a letter of recommendation on behalf of the applicant. To obtain a letter of recommendation, please contact Lieutenant Sonny Cachuela at [shf-pio@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:shf-pio@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-246-3251.

For more information on the VSI Scholarship Program or to download the application, go to <http://vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/>

Founded in 1981, the Virginia Sheriff's Institute is a non-profit organization. In May 2010, the VSI Scholarship Committee awarded 59 full-time scholarships at \$500 each and two part-time scholarships at \$250 each, for a total of \$30,000. The number and amount of scholarships each year vary depending on the number of eligible students and the amount of money that is raised.

Sheriff Barry is a member of the VSI and participates in the scholarship fundraising efforts.

## LAKE BARTON DREDGING TO BEGIN BY END OF MONTH

Construction is scheduled to start the week of January 31, 2011. The lake will be mechanically dredged using a barge and excavating equipment. The lake water level will be maintained and will not need to be drawn down for dredging operations. A general description of this type of dredging and equipment is available on the website of the contractor, Lake Services at <http://www.lakeservices.com>.

Once sediment removal begins, up to 45 to 85 trucks a day will enter and leave the site to haul the material to a local landfill where it will be reused as landscaping topsoil that is needed to close a landfill in Lorton.

The contractor will have approximately 190 days to complete the work.

## FAIRFAX WATER TO REPLACE MAIN IN GREENFIELD FARM COMMUNITY

In early January, an existing water main in the Greenfield Farm community will be replaced by Fairfax Water as part of its ongoing infrastructure maintenance program.

The existing pipe, on Duxford Place and Barnstable Court, which was installed decades ago, will be replaced with newer materials that are not as susceptible to water main breaks.

Traffic access to the neighborhood, including to the driveways of individual residents will be maintained during this month long project which has been slightly delayed by recent weather. The actual excavation should last only about 1 ½ weeks.

Although immediately impacted neighbors have been advised by mail, any member of the community with questions or concerns on this project can contact Jerry Scott at 703-289-6351.

## CONSTRUCTION BEGINNING IN THE SIMPSON SUBDIVISION

Recently there has been some significant clearing of trees at the southwest intersection of Burke Road and Burke Lake Road adjacent to the Southern Railroad tracks.

This work is a product of a “by-right” subdivision approved in 2005 that never began construction. The parcel is 3.9 acres and will have 5 homes. The current zoning for this area is R-2 (2 homes per acre) and the average lot size is about 21,000 square feet. Approximately 60,000 square feet of land has been dedicated to the Fairfax County Park Authority. The homes will all have access to sewer.

A major reason for additional clearing on this parcel was that VDOT’s requirements for maintaining an adequate line of sight for egress from the subdivision have changed since this plan was first approved. There is a horizontal curve in Burke Road as it approaches Burke Lake Road. Cars exiting the subdivision must be able to see traffic approaching in both directions set back from a distance of 14.5 feet into the parcel. The “design speed” for Burke Road is 40 miles per hour, and there must be 10 feet of sight distance for each ‘mile per hour’ that cars travel. Plans are now available in the Braddock office for anyone who would like to examine them. The homes will be served by a private road.

## BNN: LONG-TERM FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY

On this month’s edition of Braddock Neighborhood News, Supervisor Cook invited Deputy County Executive Ed Long to discuss aspects of the County’s budget process and share his knowledge on the long-term challenges and opportunities facing the county.

Over the past several years, falling real estate assessments and a recessionary economy have produced financial challenges for both county residents and county government.

But, while times are difficult, the county can manage the impact of these challenges on taxpayers by considering the longer-term impact of its budgetary decisions – and preparing more effectively to meet the challenges yet to come. Looking to the future, our County government needs to consider additional means of savings and long-term planning – and use the lessons of the current recession to help soften the impact of the next recession on county taxpayers as well as on those most in need of the county’s services.

To learn more, you can tune in to BNN at 5 p.m. on Fridays and Sundays or 7 p.m. on Wednesdays this month on Channel 16. You can also watch this month’s edition online at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/supervisor\\_cook.asx](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/supervisor_cook.asx).

## MASTER PLAN PROCESS STARTS FOR MONTICELLO PARK

The Fairfax County Park Authority has begun developing a park master plan for Monticello Park. The decisions made as a result of this public process will shape the future development of the park. **A public information meeting will be held on Thursday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of Bonnie Brae Elementary School.**

The meeting will feature a presentation describing the site’s existing conditions, potential future uses and the park master planning process. The plan serves as a long-range vision (10-20 year timeframe), is conceptual in nature, and not intended to address detailed issues related to site design or park operations. One potential future use, already proposed, is a dog park.

A public discussion will follow the staff presentation in an effort to identify community concerns, answer questions and receive suggestions for future park uses. This dialogue will serve as the basis for the draft master plan. If you are interested in learning more, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/monticello.htm>.

If you are unable to attend, comments can be sent to [Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov) or [Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## PROJECT LIFESAVER FROM THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE AN EVEN GREATER RESOURCE DURING COLD WINTER MONTHS

With winter and its sub-freezing temperatures, the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office would like to remind residents of their Project Lifesaver program.

This program can search for and rescue loved ones who wander due to Alzheimer’s, Down syndrome, autism and related diseases and disabilities. With winter here, every second counts when someone goes missing.

“This is an invaluable program that we provide,” said Sheriff Stan Barry. “Being in the cold weather for an extended period

of time can cause hypothermia. I want to encourage any resident with loved ones affected by these disorders, which could cause unexpected wandering, to enroll in our Project Lifesaver program.”

Project Lifesaver clients wear a wristband that emits a silent tracking signal. When caregivers notify the Sheriff’s Office that a loved one is missing, a highly trained team responds to the area with state-of-the-art equipment. These efforts have drastically reduced search times to an average of 30 minutes or less. The program has a 100

percent track record of locating wandering adults and children and bringing them home safe and sound.

Project Lifesaver currently has 41 clients. Clients must be residents of Fairfax County, Fairfax City and the Towns of Herndon or Vienna.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/lifesaver.htm> or contact Lieutenant Jason Travis at 703-246-2805 or email [shf-projectlifesaver@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:shf-projectlifesaver@fairfaxcounty.gov)