



the BRADDOCK BEACON

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE CONTINUES WITH JANUARY 23RD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Braddock District Community Engagement Initiative (“CEI”) continues with an all-day “Leadership Institute” scheduled for Saturday, January 23rd at the Woods Community Center in Burke Centre. The “Leadership Institute” is a first-of-its-kind event in Fairfax County. Developed with a team that included myself, county officials, representatives from Volunteer Fairfax and the Braddock District Council, 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 techniques for developing and sustaining a vision for their communities and organizations and ways to reach out to diverse membership populations. Breakout sessions will cover the legal and fiscal responsibilities of organizational leaders, techniques for enhancing safety in neighborhoods and ideas for environmental stewardship initiatives. A complete agenda appears on page 3. Spots are still available and we encourage those who aspire to effective community and organizational leadership to sign up today.

The Leadership Institute will be followed this Spring by two “Neighborhood College” programs. A “Neighborhood College” runs one night a week for about seven weeks and is designed for those involved in, or who wish to become more involved

THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
Saturday January 23rd
8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Woods Community Center in the Burke Centre Conservancy, located at 10100 Wards Grove Circle in Burke.
To sign up contact the office at 703-425-9300 or at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov.

in, their communities; community leaders and “worker bees.” The colleges teach participants about Fairfax County government and the tools available to the community, and conclude with hands-on “practicum” assignments where participants take on actual projects in their communities. More information on the Neighborhood Colleges will appear in the February issue of the *Braddock Beacon*.

The real work happens after training, though, as the participants of these programs return to their community organizations and help craft their own community enhancement initiatives. The CEI leadership team is developing metrics for use in evaluating the program as a whole and for individual communities and organizations to use in evaluating the programs they launch under this Initiative.



Supervisor John C. Cook

THE COOK FAMILY WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS

On December 30, my wife gave birth to Andrew John and Stephen Michael Cook. My wife and the babies are doing well, and our daughters are very happy about the arrival of their brothers.

As you might imagine, under the circumstances, I am scaling back my public schedule somewhat for the next few weeks, but you can be assured I continue to work on County and District issues and communicate with my staff on a regular basis

NEXT CONSTITUENT DAY SCHEDULED

Thursday February 18, from 5:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke.

No agenda. Just you, me and your questions, comments and concerns. Hope to see you there!

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

SANTA'S RIDE



The Police Motorcycle Squad, in cooperation with public safety agencies from local jurisdictions, gathered games, toys and books as part of the 21st annual Santa's Ride holiday campaign. Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity (center) joined Santa and the elves from the motor squad during their visit to the Government Center. The event was coordinated by Officer David Pierce. *Photo courtesy of the Fairfax County Police Department*

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Braddock District Council will take place on January 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Braddock Hall. This month's meeting will include a discussion on the BDC mowing initiative, as VDOT funds are expected to be even tighter for the next few years. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

WAKEFIELD CHAPEL ROAD/DANBURY FOREST DRIVE FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

On January 27, Supervisor Cook will be hosting a meeting for those concerned with the traffic issues in the area of Wakefield

Chapel Road and Danbury Forest Drive at Braddock Road. This intersection has some of the worst backups in the District, and appears to have worsened during the construction of the HOT Lanes. Supervisor Cook has earmarked funds to undertake a feasibility analysis for future improvement and congestion reduction. Those in the Kings Park, Danbury Forest, Stone Haven, Park Glen and Canterbury Woods neighborhoods, as well as anyone else who uses these roads on a regular basis, are encouraged to attend.

The meeting will take place at Kings Glen Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. Its purpose is to identify alternatives, hear suggestions from the community and essentially begin the process of analyzing the traffic problems and potential solutions at this important section of Braddock Road. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office at 703-425-9300 and ask for Rosemary Ryan or Ann Sharp.

BRADDOCK - GEORGE MASON FORUM

The first Braddock - George Mason Forum of 2010 will be held on Wednesday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. in conjunction with the Fairfax City residents that regularly meet with George Mason University. The City of Fairfax has graciously offered to host the meeting at the Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong Street. The agenda is not finalized at this point. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Ann Sharp at 703-425-9300.

BRADDOCK NVCC FORUM

Please mark your calendar for the next meeting of the Wakefield Chapel NVCC Forum, which will be held Wednesday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Sprague Center. If you have any issues that you want to see on the agenda, please contact Ann Sharp.

LOOKING BACK AT FAIRFAX: LITTLE RIVER TURNPIKE

As a new feature for a new year, each month we will take a look back at a significant event in Fairfax County history.

Fairfax County, like all communities, is linked by transportation. The month of January represents a major milestone for a major Fairfax artery: Little River Turnpike, a historic road that has played a significant role in moving our county from the early years to today. George Washington, Fairfax County's most famous resident, commented on the subject of the importance of good roads when he opined that it was not an "utopian dream" that roads might someday connect the county and the country.

That day got closer on January 28, 1802, when the Little River Turnpike Company was established with a president, four directors and a charter to sell twenty shares of stock for \$100 each. Ten years later, on January 11, 1812, the 34-mile Little River Turnpike, running from the George Washington Masonic Temple in Alexandria to the Little River in Aldie, Virginia, was completed at the cost of \$6,292 per mile. Altogether, seven tollbooths lined the turnpike.

Users who took evasive actions to avoid paying tolls were referred to as "shunpikers," but by 1896, tolls were no longer collected. In 1815, there were fifty-five turnpike

companies in Virginia, but the Little River's success dwarfed all others. In 1818, the Turnpike made enough money to pay a 6.7 percent dividend.

In one sense, it might be said the turnpike even connected Fairfax to Europe, for the last principal road engineer (from 1822-1843) was Claudius Crozet - an artillery officer from Napoleon's Army.

This feature is brought to you by: Paul N. Herbert, President of the Historical Society of Fairfax County and the author of "God Knows All Your Names."

BRADDOCK DISTRICT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE - AGENDA

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Welcome

- o Supervisor Cook – Vision for the Braddock District
- o Deputy County Executive – Patricia Harrison
- o Bill Barfield, Braddock District Council Chair

General Session I

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Fairfax County as a Community Partner

Understand the county's Vision Elements and how your neighborhood's commitment to a thriving community helps to sustain that vision.

9:45 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. Leadership: Sustaining the Commitment to Your Community's Vision

Discover the art of engaging a broad group of stakeholders to achieve sustaining results for your community. Discuss how to increase buy-in and shared ownership of community projects and initiatives. Share strategies on how to nurture new leaders, increase volunteerism and plan for succession.

10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break

11:05 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. Workshops (Choose I)

A. Creating and Maintaining Safe Neighborhoods

Not solely the responsibility of the local law enforcement agency, but also the responsibility of residents, businesses, schools and many other stakeholders. Discover the importance of engaging various stakeholders together to maintain/create a safe community for all. Repeated at 1:35 p.m.

B. The Nuts & Bolts of Managing and Sustaining Community Organizations

Learn about the state statutes that govern homeowners, condominium and civic/community associations. Discover best practices on how to manage your organization's legal and fiscal responsibilities. Hear ideas on how to successfully plan for succession and long term sustainability of your organization.

Repeated at 1:35 p.m.

C. Environmental Stewardship

The concept of Environmental Stewardship has been one that government and the private sector has taken the lead on in the past. Today, more and more communities recognize the need and importance of engaging individuals and their communities in preserving and strengthening the environment. Find out from residents who serve on the County's Environmental Coordinating Council and how each of us can make a difference.

General Session II

12:10 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Human Capital and Engaging Diverse Populations

In this session topics include understanding the various demographic groups in your community. Share successful ideas for engaging the skills and passions of everyone in your community.

1:35 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Break

1:50 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. Workshops (Choose I)

D. Creating and Maintaining Safe Neighborhoods

E. The Nuts & Bolts of Managing and Sustaining Community Organizations

F. Emergency Preparedness

Learn about Fairfax County's emergency response plan, what you should do in the event of a disaster and steps you can take today to be ready for an emergency.

General Session III

2:55 p.m. – 3:55 p.m. Bringing It All Together – Neighborhood Planning

When it comes to getting things done in your neighborhood, hard work is important but you can't underestimate the importance of effective planning. This session will give an overview of the key elements of effective Neighborhood Planning

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Closing Session

THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Saturday January 23rd

8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Woods Community Center in the Burke

Centre Conservancy, located at 10100 Wards
Grove Circle in Burke.

**To sign up contact the office at 703-425-9300 or at
braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH: HELP PACK 100 CARE BOXES FOR OUR TROOPS THIS SATURDAY

Join Little River Glen Senior Center (4001 Barker Court) on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 1 p.m. as they try to meet their goal of packing and shipping 100 boxes. In conjunction with the America's Adopt a Soldier program, Packing Day is a way to support our troops as we gather and pack donated items as care packages that are then sent to Service members overseas.

Little River Glen is looking for all members of the community to come together in one of three ways:

1) Collecting or donating items to pack in the boxes. Individuals or groups can collect items to be placed in the boxes. All items can be dropped off at Little River Glen

Senior Center.

2) Donating funds to ship one or more boxes. The cost to mail one box is approximately \$13.00. You can make your check or money order payable to USPS (United States Postal Service). Checks or money orders can be mailed or delivered to the Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax, VA 22032. Every little bit counts.

3) Providing a couple of hours of your time on Saturday, January 9 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Little River Glen Senior Center.

Those interested in volunteering on Saturday, January 9 should call 703-503-8703 to add your name to the list of people



supporting America's Adopt a Soldier program. A partial list of suggested

items can be found below, while a full list is at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec/news/hspttdo.htm>.

- Small bags or individually wrapped snacks or cans of Pringles, pretzels, cookies, crackers, nuts, trail mix
- Disposable Cameras
- AT&T Global Prepaid Phone Cards
- DVDs, CDs Video Games
- Gel Insoles
- Soap, Body Wash, Hand Sanitizer

WHAT'S GOING ON IN FAIRFAX COUNTY? LISTEN TO A PODCAST



Are you tired of reading another piece of paper? Try the county's podcast site and listen to information on meetings of the Board of Supervisors, new county ordinances, how to obtain a new dog license, alternative heating sources, door to door scams or library "BookCasts" with authors.

Many county agencies post information on this site and you can actually subscribe to specific areas of interest to you.

Go to the following link: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/podcasts and listen to a program on your computer, or subscribe to new programs that are automatically downloaded to your computer or a portable music device such as your iPod. Listen or subscribe directly on iTunes by searching for "Fairfax County."

INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Get engaged! You can make a real difference by helping hard-working people in our community file their taxes and, in many cases, obtain tax credits and refunds. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, locally known as the Northern Virginia CASH Campaign – (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) provides free tax preparation services to working families and individuals who earned less than \$49,000 in 2009.

A local coalition of public agencies, businesses, libraries, faith and community-based groups will operate the program at 17 sites throughout Northern Virginia starting January 23, 2010.

Volunteers can help prepare tax returns or serve as greeters, screeners, site coordinators and interpreters. This is a short-term, focused volunteer effort

requiring only a few hours a week during tax season, with an immediate positive impact.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provides 11 hours of free tax certification training to volunteers. In 2009, 488 volunteers helped 3,280 low-income working families in Northern Virginia file their taxes for free, resulting in tax refunds of over \$4.4 million. Many families qualified for the Earned Income Tax Credit and other tax refunds, which provided much-needed additional income for food and basic necessities.

To register as a volunteer, or for more information about the Northern Virginia CASH Campaign, please contact James Do with the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, at 571-749-7838 or go to www.nvacash.org to register online.

RENEW YOUR DOG LICENSES BY JAN. 31

The staff at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter reminds residents that all dog licenses must be renewed no later than January 31, 2010, to be compliant. Certificate of current rabies vaccination and \$10 per license renewal (cost is the same for altered and unaltered dogs) is required. Cash, checks or credit cards are accepted for payment if licenses are renewed in person at the Animal Shelter. For more information, call 703-830-1100, or visit the Fairfax County Animal Services Division Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal.

BRADDOCK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS: SIT DOWN WITH THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND FAIRFAX FISH

Last month, Braddock Neighborhood News aired an interview with George Braunstein, Executive Director of the Community Services Board, to discuss the challenges facing our neighbors living with intellectual disabilities, mental illnesses and substance abuse as well as the challenges faced by those who may be living without a home in our community.

On this month's edition, Supervisor Cook interviews Ingrid Parris-Hicklin from the Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships and Joe Christiansen

from Fairfax FISH to discuss Fairfax Cares. Formed by a broad coalition of public and private partners in the Fairfax County community, including Volunteer Fairfax, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and a variety of private charitable organizations, Fairfax Cares is an initiative to utilize the resources and support of the private sector to assist those in our community who are struggling to meet their most basic needs.

With the demand for the most basic of needs at its greatest in recent history in our community, there is no better time

for each of us to become involved. You can learn more by tuning in to this edition of Braddock Neighborhood News and by visiting the Fairfax Cares website at www.fairfaxcares.org.

Braddock Neighborhood News airs on Fridays and Sundays at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on Channel 16. You can also watch a streaming video of the show by visiting http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/supervisor_cook.asx.

COUNTY'S ELECTRIC SUNDAY RECYCLING PROGRAM WILL CARRY ON INTO 2010

The widely successful Electric Sunday e-waste recycling program will continue in 2010. Fairfax County residents may use each Electric Sunday recycling event to recycle televisions, computers, monitors and peripheral electronic devices such as printers, scanners, speakers, keyboards, mice and external drives.

Residents may also recycle their fluorescent lights at these events. This is a free service for Fairfax County residents thanks to our partnership with Covanta Energy, Inc.

For additional information, please contact us at 703-324-5230.

Complete Listing of 2010 Dates:

Jan. 24 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax

Feb. 28 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax

March 28 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-95 Landfill Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton

April 25 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax

May 23 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax

June 27 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at

the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax

July 25 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-95 Landfill Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton

August 22 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax

Sept. 26 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax

Oct. 24 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-95 Landfill Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton

Nov. 21 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax



COMMERCIAL VEHICLES PARKING BAN

As reported in last month's Beacon, the Board of Supervisors voted in December to amend the County Code restricting the parking of commercial vehicles in residential communities. The code change is effective on February 1, 2010 and there will be a 30 day period during which the police will issue "warnings" to vehicles that exceed the dimensions allowed.

The county has established a webpage which provides specific information and pictures of vehicles that would meet the ordinance and those that do not, as well as a link to the actual ordinance language: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/parkingcodechanges.htm>

In general, however, vehicles that are more than 21 feet long, more than 8 feet high including appurtenances, have a width of 102 inches or more, or a gross vehicle weight of 12,000 or more pounds may not be parked in residential neighborhoods. The ordinance does not regulate the parking of boats or trailers.

Beginning February 1, residents may call the police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131 when they wish to report an illegally parked vehicle. They should provide a specific location of the vehicle and a description for use by the responding officer.

SEEKING YOUR INPUT: COUNTY BUDGET QUESTIONS

This Spring, the Board of Supervisors must make tough choices regarding next year's budget (the budget year starts July 1). The drop in home values, sales tax revenue and car and home sale recordation fees has reduced county revenue. Additionally, there are some required increases (health insurance premiums, utility costs, etc.) and the county has experienced an increased demand for some services.

To help Supervisor Cook assess available options, please answer the following questions. You may email your answers to braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov and write "budget survey" in the subject line, or mail the responses to the office.

1. Which approach most closely resembles your overall view on the upcoming budget:

a. The County should increase tax payments by \$1000 per household or more in order to increase

spending on county programs and services.

b. The County should increase tax payments by several hundred dollars in order to hold spending at current levels and avoid cuts.

c. The County should cut spending by around \$100 million in order to keep tax payments equal to this year's.

d. The County should cut spending significantly and reduce tax payments.

2. What approaches should the County take regarding revenues (check as many as apply):

a. The County should institute a restaurant meals tax to raise \$80 million.

b. The County should reinstitute a car registration fee of \$33 per vehicle per year.

c. The County should increase property tax payments.

d. The County should increase

fees for use of county facilities and services.

e. The County should hold total revenue payments even and make necessary spending cuts.

f. The County should reduce the overall tax burden, even if that requires substantial reductions in spending.

3. In setting spending priorities, which of these services would you LEAST like to see cuts made to:

a. Public Safety, i.e. Fire and Police

b. Education

c. Human Services, services for those most in need

d. Parks and Environmental Protection

4. Do you believe the Board of Supervisors has openly debated budget options to a sufficient degree?

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATION TO MEET THIS SATURDAY

The 2010 Session of the General Assembly begins on January 13. There are a number of ways to contact your representatives if you happen to have an interest in legislation, whether it will affect you directly or regarding Fairfax County programs.

The Virginia General Assembly website: <http://legis.virginia.gov> contains most basic information and has links that will help you determine who represents you and allows you to contact them by e-mail.

The site also provides information on how

to contact delegation members by mail. A previously available phone service has been discontinued. The Virginia House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia now use Twitter accounts which will be tagged under #Virginia#Legislature.

The Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly will hold a hearing for public comment on the upcoming 2010 session on Saturday, Jan. 9, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center

Parkway, Fairfax.

The public is invited to attend and comment. Individuals who want to sign up may do so at the hearing.

Residents who are interested in Fairfax County's Legislative Agenda and the stances that the Board has taken on issues and legislation that may be introduced, should go to the following site <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/legislation/2010>