



The BRADDOCK BEACON

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COUNTY EXEC'S PROPOSED BUDGET INCLUDES TWO-CENT INCREASE IN REAL ESTATE TAX RATE

County Executive Edward Long released his proposed budget at last Tuesday's Board of Supervisors' Meeting, detailing his recommendations for tax increases and some spending reductions for Fiscal Year 2014. The proposed budget is not final, and is subject to debate and public hearings before the Board takes a final vote on April 30, 2013.

Despite a strengthening national economy, there are still significant economic challenges for all localities, including Fairfax. There is also uncertainty about the impact of federal government budget cuts known as sequestration. As County Executive Long noted in his presentation, the impact from the cuts is potentially significant but still largely unknown. The uncertainty in the business community over the scope and definition of cuts in federal contracting, especially defense, is causing government contractors to hold back from increasing business, leading to a flat commercial real estate market and reduced County tax revenue.

Notable budget recommendations:

- General Fund Fairfax County government spending would increase \$51.2 million, about 1.45 percent, to a total of \$3.59 billion.
- County Executive Long proposed a 2-cent increase in the Real Estate Tax Rate. The increased rate, along with assessment increases averaging three percent, would result in the average taxpayer facing a \$262.00 increase in his or her real estate tax bill.
- The Stormwater Service Fee would remain at \$0.02 per \$100 of assessed real estate value.
- Spending on public safety would be increased by \$3.99 million, including \$1.37 million for nine new police officers.
- There would be no increase in salary for general county employees and most public

safety personnel.

Fairfax County Public Schools:

The County Executive has recommended transferring \$1.72 billion for general school operations, 33.7 million more than FY 2013 (a two percent increase), but \$61.7 million less than the School Board has requested. Total school spending, including an additional \$172.4 million for school debt service, would comprise 52.6 percent of the County's total budget.

Moving Forward:

"It's not a pretty picture," commented Supervisor Cook after the budget presentation. "Citizens are asked to pay a five percent increase in taxes for the same level of services, and county employees are asked to work harder for no increase in pay."

Cook noted that the County Executive proposed only about \$20 million in cuts in the \$3.59 billion budget. In that vein, Supervisor Cook asked the County Executive to provide the Board with a comprehensive list of potential savings which agencies had identified in the budget process but were not included in the proposed budget. Supervisor Cook asked that County officials be prepared to discuss their reasons for not implementing these potential cuts at an upcoming budget committee meeting.

The Board of Supervisors voted on March 5 to advertise the County Executive's proposed tax rate. This means the Board cannot approve a final budget with a higher tax rate, but can lower the rate in the final budget.

The County Executive's advertised budget marks the beginning of a two-month process of debate, discussion and public outreach.

See **BUDGET** on **PAGE 2**



Supervisor John C. Cook

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS:

Please continue to let us know about your successful Community Engagement efforts. Keep up the good work!

Please call (703) 425-9300 or email Ann Sharp at ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov with your latest information.

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BRADDOCK BEACON

If you would like the Braddock Beacon and the Cook Advisory electronically, instead of through mail, please contact us at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov and write "" in the subject line.

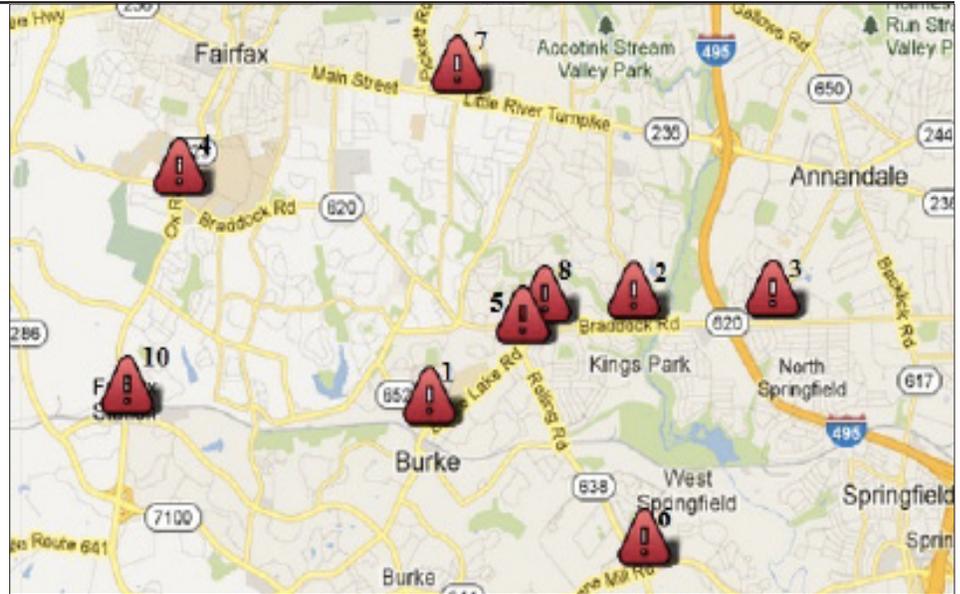
BRADDOCK DISTRICT NOW ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

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)

WHY I VOTED AGAINST REMOVING SIGNS IN PUBLIC AREAS

I voted at last Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting against a resolution passed by the Board that enables Fairfax County to enter into an agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) under which the County may remove illegal signs placed in public right-of-ways. Implicit in the agreement is the County's launch of a new, \$155,000 per year County program to use County funds to remove signs from some, not all, County roadways. While I agree that illegal signs, such as "mattress sale" commercial signs and political campaign signs, are unsightly, I believe the County program is too broad and will negatively affect community organizations that have few other options for advertising events in the County. For example, a representative of the Braddock Road Youth Club (BRYC) testified that up to 20 percent of BRYC players learn about the league from road signs. Representatives from craft guilds, participants in yard sales and civic associations, the Friends of Accotink Creek who clean litter from County streams, and members of high school theatre clubs all testified that their organizations use road signs to publicize events. The County Attorney advised the Board that it could not legally create exceptions for these groups. Due to First Amendment rights that prohibit government for restricting communications based on their content, the County Attorney advised that either all signs must be permitted or none- no exceptions. The "collateral damage" from this program outweighs its benefits in my view.

Supervisor Michael Frey also voted against the program, noting that scarce County funds would be used to clean up land owned by the state, and which the state refused to clean. He also questioned whether the program, and therefore the cost, would expand in future years.

These intersections saw the most crashes in the West Springfield Police District. There were more than 200 crashes in the whole district in 2012.

THE 10 MOST DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS IN THE BRADDOCK AREA

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Burke Road at Burke Lake Road, Burke | Springfield |
| 2. Braddock Road at Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale | 7 Little River Turnpike at Olley Lane, Fairfax |
| 3. Braddock Road at Ravensworth Road, Annandale | 8. Braddock Road at Burke Lake Road, West Springfield |
| 4. Braddock Road at Ox Road, Fairfax | 9. Fairfax County Parkway at Huntsman Blvd., Burke |
| 5. Burke Lake Road at Rolling Road, Burke | 10. Burke Center Parkway at Ox Road, Burke |
| 6. Old Keene Mill Road at Rolling Road, Springfield | |
- Source: Burke Patch**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE PRESENTS BUDGET

From BUDGET on PAGE 1

The Board will meet several times and Supervisor Cook will host two budget town halls to solicit your feedback.

The schedule is as follows:

February 26 - County Executive Long presented FY 2014 Advertised Budget plan

March 5 - Advertisement of FY 2014 tax rates (This tax rate is still not final. Taxes might be adjusted lower after they are advertised to the public, but they may NOT be adjusted higher).

March 18 - Supervisor Cook will host a town hall with the County's Chief Financial Officer at 7:30 p.m. at Little Run Elementary School.

April 2 - Supervisor Cook will

host a town hall with the County Executive at 7:30 p.m. at Robinson Secondary School.

April 9-11 - Public Hearings on FY 2014 Budget

April 23 - Budget Mark-Up

April 30 - Budget Adoption

How do I get involved?

You can sign up to speak at one of the public hearings by calling the Clerk to the Board's Office at 703-324-3151 or 703-324-2391.

You can always email us at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov or call us at 703-425-9300 with your thoughts and concerns.

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On February 5th, Supervisor Cook hosted a community meeting at Fairfax City Hall for the residents around Kelly Drive near George Mason University. The topic of the meeting was the new West Campus Connector and how the project might impact stormwater runoff, including efforts to improve existing drainage.

On February 9th, Supervisor Cook stopped by the Fair City Mall to help participate in Fairfax County's "Stuff the Bus" campaign. This collaborative program, in its third year, is a partnership among Fairfax County Government, local grocery stores and non-profits to restock the shelves. Last year alone, more than 25,000 pounds of food were collected.

On February 10th, Supervisor Cook made his annual visit to the Friends of Sadie Blood Drive which was held at the Woods Community Center in Burke. Here is a link to the heartwarming story about how a brave little girl, her parents and friends have made a difference for hundreds of people. <http://burke.patch.com/articles/photo-braddock-district-supervisor-john-cook-attends-friends-of-sadie-blood-drive>.

On February 13th, Supervisor Cook attended the Braddock District Council meeting at Kings Park Library. This month's meeting featured a discussion between five local District Councils of Community Associations.



On February 14th, Supervisor Cook attended a program at the Pinn Center sponsored by the Burke West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls that featured a fascinating presentation in honor of Black History Month.

On February 19th, Supervisor Cook was honored to take part in a graduation ceremony at Woodson High School for graduates of the Adult High School Completion Program.

On February 20th, Supervisor Cook hosted a meeting at Bonnie Brae Elementary School about a proposed rezoning of a five acre lot near Ox Road Estates.

On February 25th, Supervisor Cook hosted a regular meeting of the Wakefield/NVCC Forum. The group discussed issues pertinent to the residents near NVCC's Annandale Campus, particularly those having to do with parking, traffic and speeding. A link to the story can be found here: <http://annandale.patch.com/articles/wakefield-chapel-residents-nova-faculty-talk-parking-speeding-woes>

On February 26th, Supervisor Cook attended a reception celebrating Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Inclusion Month. That evening, he hosted a meeting at Bonnie Brae Elementary School which focused on the upcoming dredging project for Woodglan Lake.

On February 28th, Supervisor Cook helped celebrate Read Across America by stopping by his daughter's 2nd grade class at Kings Park Elementary School and acting as a guest reader.



SUPERVISOR COOK APPOINTED TO CAPITAL FACILITIES AND DEBT WORKING GROUP

Chairman Sharon Bulova has asked Supervisor John C. Cook to serve on a new Capital Facilities and Debt Management Working Group to help chart a fiscally responsible path forward for the County.

The new group will consist of three members of the Board of Supervisors, three members of the School Board, and perhaps representatives from the private sector.

"I'm proud to have been asked to serve on this bipartisan working group by Chairman Bulova, and I look forward to working with Supervisor McKay and Supervisor Foust and representatives from the School Board on this important issue," Supervisor Cook said.

Chairman Bulova proposed the working

group in response to a request from the School Board for \$25 million in additional capital spending authority for school renovations. The County and the School Board share debt capacity and capital needs, both in new facilities and renovations. The working group will examine how the County and school system can meet their capital needs without negatively impacting the County's AAA bond rating or residents' tax bills.

"I'm confident that together we can chart a fiscally responsible path forward," Supervisor Cook said. "We can address this critical issue and ensure that County and school buildings are properly maintained and chart a sustainable course for our capital program."

LEARN HOW RAIN BARRELS CAN SAVE YOU MONEY AND HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

Rain barrels can be placed under your downspouts to capture water runoff from the roof of your home. By installing a rain barrel at your home, you will:

- Provide your plants with water they will love! Unlike treated water, which is "softened" with dissolved minerals, rain water is naturally soft. The water stored in your rain barrel is better than municipal water for washing your car and watering indoor or outdoor plants.

- Save money and water! Instead of water from the tap or faucet, you can use the water you've saved to keep your home landscape happy and growing. You'll also reduce your municipal water bill!

- Protect the Chesapeake Bay! Water stored in your rain barrel won't rush off into our streams. Instead, as you use the stored rain water around the home and garden, it will absorb slowly into the ground replenishing groundwater supplies. By decreasing the volume of storm runoff, rain barrels also help mitigate stream erosion and the resulting pollution that is impairing the Chesapeake Bay.

At this workshop you will build your own rain barrel and learn how to install and maintain it.



When: Saturday, March 23rd, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Green Acres Community Center of the City of Fairfax 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Price: \$55.00 – includes workshop and one rain barrel (additional rain barrels are available for \$55 each, but note that only two rain barrels will fit in most vehicles)

Registration is required and closes 3 to 4 days prior to the event. To register go to: www.arlingtonenvironment.org/be-green/live-green/barrel/

GET ENGAGED! VOLUNTEER IN BRADDOCK

Russian, Farsi and Spanish speakers needed

Fairfax County needs volunteers who speak Russian to help older adults in Reston. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov, or visit Volunteer Solutions at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on volunteers.

Fairfax County needs Farsi-speaking and Spanish-speaking volunteers to visit and run errands for older adults in Falls Church. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov, or visit Volunteer Solutions at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on volunteers.

Give caregivers a well-deserved break

Fairfax County needs Respite Care volunteers throughout the County to give family caregivers of older adults a well-deserved break. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods in Fairfax County. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov. Find more information on this and other services at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/.

Upper Pohick Creek Clean Up

Clean up trash from local streams, including Sideburn Branch, nearby parks and around Woodglan Lake.

When: Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to noon

Where: Meet at Country Club View Park for supplies and area assignments.

Wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty. Bring something to drink. We have gloves to lend, but they are all adult size large. If you are bringing children, we recommend bringing gloves that fit them. We supply garbage bags, you supply the enthusiasm. For more information contact: Sarah Mayhew. Email sarah.mayhew@yahoo.com. RSVP required for large groups, but not for individual volunteers.

CELEBRATE CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK

Fairfax County Consumer Affairs is celebrating National Consumer Protection Week along with government agencies, advocacy organizations and private sector groups nationwide. Consumer Affairs will be hosting events and workshops with industry experts, setting up information booths, and partnering with state and federal agencies to showcase consumer information. A link to the full list of seminars can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/ncpw-2013.htm>. Several of interest include:

- What You Need To Know Before You Hire A Contractor. Wednesday, March 6.

If you are planning springtime home improvement repairs or want to get started on a major remodeling project, you need to know how to hire a contractor. Join the Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Branch, to get the information you need so you can avoid disappointment and home repair scams by knowing why and how to

hire a licensed contractor. This workshop is sponsored jointly with the Annandale Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. The workshop starts at 11 a.m. in the community room at the Mason District Governmental Center at 6507 Columbia Pike, in Annandale, Virginia. Registration is not required.

- Couponing Workshop with Laura Harders of BeltwayBargainMom.com. Thursday, March 7: Laura Harders, author of BeltwayBargainMom.com and a Savings.com DealPro, will teach a Grocery Coupon Workshop with Consumer Affairs. Gain a better understanding of how to shop with coupons using strategic couponing and menu planning techniques to achieve savings on grocery bills. Come prepared to learn, discuss, and connect with others who are excited about saving money too! 1:30-2:30 p.m. in conference room 9/10 at the Fairfax County Government.

TAX INFO NOW ON THE COUNTY WEBSITE

Information about federal, state and local taxes can now be found on the County website! The Department of Tax Administration (DTA) has recently published a web page to help you find forms, information and customer service phone numbers for tax questions. This comprehensive site also has information on tax relief for older adults, people with disabilities and veterans, and the dates and events for free tax assistance at libraries throughout the County. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2013/tax-resources-2013.htm>

This is also a reminder that DTA staff will be in Supervisor Cook's office on two dates in March to assist residents with filling out the application form for local real estate tax relief.

Braddock District

March 12 and 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Kings Park Library

9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke

703-425-9300

HELP CREATE A TRASH-FREE POTOMAC RIVER WATERSHED ON APRIL 6



In 1989, inspired by students, the Alice Ferguson Foundation held the first annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup where 150 volunteers removed three tons of trash from two sites on the Piscataway shoreline. During last year's cleanup 14,616 volunteers at 660 sites removed 262 tons of litter. This annual event has engaged a watershed-wide network of volunteers and become a catalyst event for raising awareness about litter problems in our region.

The 25th annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup hopes to continue the trend by engaging more volunteers at more sites through-

out the region, making the silver anniversary cleanup the largest one yet.

Join the thousands of volunteers at hundreds of sites throughout the Watershed on April 6th who will not only spend the day picking up litter, but will also recommit themselves to creating a trash free Potomac Watershed. Host a site, Volunteer, or be a Sponsor; there are many ways to get involved. Find out more at potomaccleanup.org.



BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE UPDATES

Tariq Khan Rezoning (FDP-2012-BR-003). On February 7, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve this application to rezone property at 4335 Shirley Gate Road from the R-1 District to a PDH-2 Residential District. The applicant revised its application to reflect two homes instead of three. The final development plan now shows a full 20 foot vegetated side yard buffer along the south side of the property. This matches the buffer that would normally be required if one home was constructed. In addition, the second story “bonus rooms” over the garages have been eliminated

This application comes to the Board of Supervisors for a second public hearing on March 19 at 3:30 p.m. To testify, call the Clerk to the Board at 703-321-3151 or email clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov. If you would like to submit a letter for the record, please email Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov. Both County staff and the Braddock

District Land Use and Environmental Management Committee recommend approval.

Ox Road Estates. (RZ/FDP 2012-BR-020). A Community Information Meeting on this proposed rezoning of 5.15 acres to the PDH-3 district was hosted by Supervisor Cook on February 20. The applicant presented two possible layouts for 13-14 homes at a density of between 2.5 and 2.7 homes per acre. The applicant expressed intent to develop a third layout after hearing concerns from the community.

There was extensive discussion about stormwater, tree preservation, maintenance of open space and access to the property via an existing service drive. The applicant stated that the natural spring on the property would be capped and displayed engineering renderings of the existing drainage divides and where water would be diverted. Questions about sewer access and the ultimate outfall of all the water into Woodglen Lake

were also raised.

Penn Property. (RZ-20130-BR-003) The Evergreene Companies, LLC. Staff has not yet begun its analysis of this project which was accepted on February 5 for public review and comment. The parcel totals 4.26 acres and is currently developed with three single family homes that would be removed. A private drive currently serves the property and provides access directly to Braddock Road. The proposal would close this access and provide egress through an extension of Banting Drive which is stubbed at the property.

The Comprehensive Plan recommends development at 2-3 homes per acre, and this proposal currently includes 10 homes, three common parcels at a density of 2.35 homes per acre and 27 percent open space. Individuals wishing a copy of the application can email Rosemary.Ryan@fairfaxcounty.gov

SUPERVISOR COOK CONGRATULATES ROBINSON WRESTLING FOR FIRST PLACE FINISH

Supervisor Cook recognized the Robinson Secondary School’s wrestling team at Tuesday’s Board Meeting and invited them to attend a future meeting for formal recognition.

Here is Supervisor Cook’s full statement to the Board:

“It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Robinson Secondary School’s wrestling team for winning its second AAA state title in three years. The Robinson team won the state title in convincing fashion, beating second-place Westfield 142.5 to 101.

The team was led by junior Jake Pinkston, who took first place in the 285-pound weight class. But while a wrestler may go out on the mat all by himself, it takes a team effort to win. Pinkston’s first place finish was supplemented by two second-place finishes, and six other teammates finishing top-7 in the state. I’d like to congratulate Jack Bass, Cole DePasquale, Austin Riggs, Dallas Smith, Zak DePasquale, Greyson Olimpo, Daniel Mika and Dane Robbins for their hard work and determination.

I’d also like to congratulate Coach Bryan Hazard, a 1991 graduate from Robinson. Wrestling is a grueling sport that requires incredible talent and stamina. A wrestling team needs a firm, fair and talented coach to reach such successful levels of performance.

Without objection, I ask that the Board of Supervisors congratulate the team for its achievement and invite them to come before the Board to be formally recognized.”

Supervisor Cook is extremely proud of the wrestling team, and looks forward to their future success.

YOUTH BICYCLE RODEO ON APRIL 6

West Springfield District Stations Neighborhood Patrol Unit will host a bicycle rodeo for grade school aged children (6-12) at the station on Saturday, April 6.

Children will learn about bicycle safety, and then participate in a challenging obstacle course that is designed to reinforce safe riding. Additionally, the police department will have several police vehicles and equipment on display.

Families are welcome to stop by at any time between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Groups larger than six should register ahead of time.

Call 703-644-7377 or email FCPD-WSPNPUI@FairfaxCounty.gov for more information.

BDC AGING IN PLACE

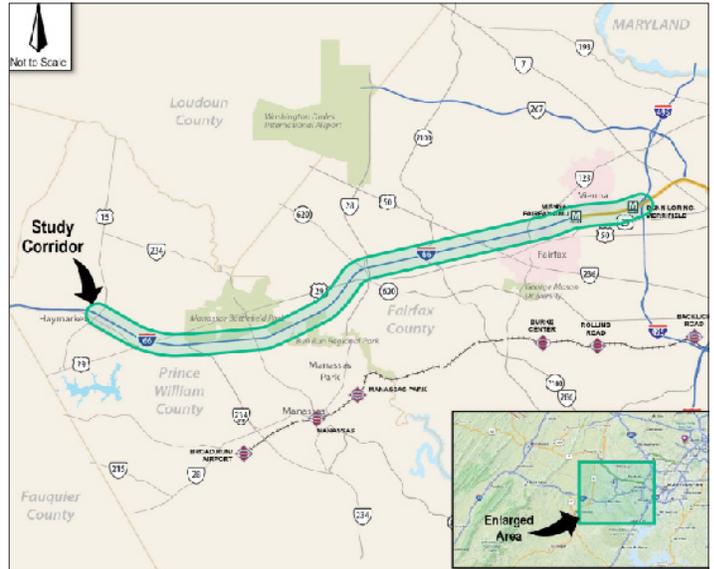
There will be a Public Presentation at 7:30 p.m. March 20 in Braddock Hall featuring Transportation Programs operated by the Shepherd’s Center of Fairfax.

KINGS WEST SWIM CLUB DEMOLITION IN PROGRESS



The Kings West Swim Club pool house is now completely demolished. Topsoil should also be in place in the near future.

PUBLIC HEARING ON POSSIBLE I-66 IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE HELD MARCH 13



A Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared by the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, for potential multimodal improvements that address existing and future transportation needs in the Interstate 66 corridor from U.S. Route 15 in Prince William County to Interstate 495 in Fairfax County.

A Public Hearing will be held to seek public input on the findings of the Tier 1 Draft EIS:

- Wednesday March 13th 2013, 6-9 p.m. at the Four Points by Sheraton, 10800 Vandor La., Manassas, VA 20109
 - Thursday March 14th 2013, 6-9 p.m. at the Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, VA 22042
- For additional information on the study and the Draft EIS, please visit the study's website: http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/i66_eis.asp.

March 18, 7:30 p.m.
 Town hall with Supervisor Cook and the
 County Chief Financial Officer
 on FY 2014 budget
Little Run Elementary School

April 2, 7:30 p.m.
 Town hall with Supervisor Cook and
 County Executive Ed Long
 on FY 2014 budget
Robinson Secondary School

WEST POINT SOCIETY OF D.C. PRESENTS 6TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT GMU

The West Point Society of Washington DC, supported by several alumni classes, sponsors and individuals, is presenting their 6th annual leadership and ethics conference for DC Metro area eighth graders and high schools juniors. Event dates are March 7th and 8th on the campus of George Mason University. This effort recognizes the challenges faced by today's youth in understanding the choices they make and the consequences of their actions. What better way to learn about ethical leadership than from members of America's current "greatest generation" – cadets from the United States Military

Academy at West Point! Student groups are matched with a West Point cadet from this local area who will take them through scenario-based exercises where students must then apply their own good judgment for an ethical solution. For more information on participating schools, student scholarships, and how to get involved, please send inquiries to Carl.Cecil@cox.net