



The BRADDOCK BEACON

703-425-9300 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/ Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov

495 EXPRESS LANES OPEN NOVEMBER 17

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and 495 Express Lanes recently announced that the 14-mile corridor of new high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes on the Virginia side of the Capital Beltway will open as early as November 17. Drivers are encouraged to prepare to use the Express Lanes now so you will be able to use them when they open. 495 Express Lanes travelers will need an E-ZPass® and an understanding of how the lanes work before they can take advantage of the lanes.

The 495 Express Lanes are two new high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes in each direction from the Springfield Interchange to just north of the Dulles Toll Road on the Virginia side of the Capital Beltway. Drivers will need an E-ZPass to use the Express Lanes – there are no toll booths or options to pay cash. Carpoolers will need the new E-ZPass® FlexSM to permit a toll-free trip on the Express Lanes. To find out where you can get an E-ZPass, visit www.495ExpressLanes.com.

Before the lanes open, drivers should:

- Get an E-ZPass: All drivers will need an E-ZPass or E-ZPassFlex to use the 495 Express Lanes. To learn more about E-ZPass options and find out how to get an E-ZPass, please visit www.495expresslanes.com/using-ezpass
- Plan their trip: The 495 Express Lanes will include three new Beltway entry and exit points, meaning a more direct route to popular locations in Tysons Corner and Merrifield. The Express Lanes are a limited access highway so



drivers should plan their new route and learn how to access and exit the Express Lanes now by mapping their trip on the 495 Express Lanes website, www.495expresslanes.com/map

- Learn how to safely use the lanes: The Express Lanes will be easy to use and get drivers where they need to go. However, there are some new aspects of the road that are worth learning about. To learn how to safely use the lanes, drivers should visit www.495expresslanes.com/staying-safe

- Get answers to questions: For more information on tolling and operations, drivers should visit the 495 Express Lanes FAQs web page – www.495expresslanes.com/faqs

The 495 Express Lanes will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Dynamic pricing based on real-time traffic conditions manages the demand for the lanes, keeping the Express Lanes moving. The 14-mile Express Lanes will be free for carpoolers with three or more people with an E-ZPass Flex, buses, motorcycles and emergency vehicles. Other drivers may pay a toll for a faster, more predictable trip. Drivers will lock in their rate when they enter the lanes and pay tolls electronically with E-ZPass.



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 "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



RECOGNIZING THE BRADDOCK CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER AWARD WINNERS

Late last month I was pleased to attend the annual Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards ceremony. The Champions of Character program, organized by the Fairfax County Athletic Council (FCAC), in partnership with the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), honors athletes, coaches and parents who have demonstrated extraordinary service in the sports community, while modeling the basic traits of good character: respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Braddock winners and acknowledge their great accomplishments, which extend beyond the field and serve as an example to us all and a reminder of why Fairfax County is such a great place to live.

Patrick Halloran, now a senior at W.T. Woodson High School, is a young man of exemplary character and class. He maintains more than a 4.0 grade point average while taking an advanced course load and is a three-year letter winner in football.

Hannah Steger, a member of the spring 2012 BRYC 16 SMACK volleyball team, was nominated for her hard work and for the joy she brought her coaches and teammates. Not content to just focus on herself, during the club season Hannah also served as co-coach of a BRYC House volleyball team.

Coach and former NVYLL Commissioner, Dave Britton, helped to build the Annandale Youth Lacrosse club. More than serve as a coach though, David instilled the importance of respect, trust in one another, leadership and sportsmanship in all his athletes.

Chris Haley, a longtime coach, mentor and inspiration to the community was nominated for consistently teaching respect for sports, good character and through his commitment to youth development, and dedication to the community we call home.



GMU STUDENT CREATES FAIRFAXPEDIA

Fairfaxpedia is a collaborative encyclopedia for the Fairfax community. It was recently launched by Frank Muraca, a George Mason University sophomore and Economics major from Charlottesville, who saw a need. "Fairfaxpedia is Wikipedia for Fairfax," Muraca said. Its mission is "to create a better understanding of community affairs for the citizens of Fairfax, to help residents make informed decisions and inspire civic engagement."

Muraca got the idea when he interned for Charlottesville Tomorrow, an online news organization which focuses on land use, community design and transportation issues. He said the group started a wiki called Cvillepedia. Another motivator for Frank was becoming an active member of the Braddock District Land Use and Environmental Management Committee. "Living in Braddock and being involved with the land use committee has been a great starting point for starting Fairfaxpedia. I've been able to learn a lot about the community, and transfer that knowledge onto Fairfaxpedia so that it is easily accessible to everyone," said Muraca.

Muraca invites users to log in, check it out, add and edit entries and turn Fairfaxpedia into a living, worthwhile reference document. Fairfaxpedia is a wiki, meaning that anyone can edit, correct, or improve the information found on the site. Become a member of Fairfaxpedia: <http://www.fairfaxpedia.com/mediawiki>.

BRADDOCK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

This month's show features Taylor Chess, the Braddock Appointee to the Economic Advisory Commission, and Michael Doherty, the Braddock Appointee to the Fairfax County Small Business Commission. Both of these gentlemen are respected businessmen in the community, and together they discuss their individual commissions as well as the future outlook for businesses in Fairfax County.

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

REMEMBER TO DO YOUR CIVIC DUTY, VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6

On Tuesday, November 6 Fairfax County voters will not only be voting for President, Senator and Congressman, they will also be asked to vote YES or NO on four separate bond questions in the general election for:

- Libraries (\$25 million)
- Parks (\$75 million)
- Public Safety (\$55 million)
- Stormwater (\$30 million)

If approved, the County plans to use the money to, among other things:

- Renovate three libraries and build a fourth

- Expand and improve county and regional parks

- Rebuild three fire stations and renovate 22 courtrooms

- Build a levee and pumping station to protect the Huntington community from floods

In addition to the four bond questions that will appear on the ballot, voters will have the opportunity to vote on two constitutional amendments. An information brochure describing both amendments can

be found at this link: <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Files/Cast%20Your%20Ballot/Candidate%20List/201211ConstitutionalAmendmentsBrochure.pdf>

If you would like additional information regarding the questions that you will see on your ballot this year please go to: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2012/updates/are-you-ready-for-nov.6-election.htm>

Don't forget that the polls will open Tuesday, November 6 at 6:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On October 1st, Supervisor Cook hosted his quarterly public meeting at the Sprague Center for residents who live near Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and Wakefield Chapel Road. These regular meetings seek to address the concerns of the residents living near NVCC.

On October 2nd, Supervisor Cook attended the Northern Virginia Aging Network Legislative Breakfast at the Marriott at Fair Oaks before heading over to the Government Center for various Board of Supervisors Committee Meetings.

On October 3rd, Supervisor Cook hosted a meeting of the University/Community Forum which focuses on the area of George Mason University and neighboring communities. Agenda topics included the Eleven Oaks Land Use case and transportation projects such as the Connector Road and improvements to Braddock Road.

On October 5th, Supervisor Cook took part in the Homecoming Parade at Woodson High School. This was the first time that Woodson had done a parade in 11 years, and was part of the school's weeklong celebration of Woodson's 50th Anniversary.

On October 10th, Supervisor Cook attended the Braddock District Council Meeting. The topic for the evening was Aging in Braddock and a presentation was given by the Braddock Aging Committee.

On October 11th, Supervisor Cook hosted a meeting at Kings Park Library with representatives from the Fairfax County Department of Transportation. The meeting laid out the transportation challenges the County faces and engaged residents by asking them to complete a survey regarding how and if transportation funds should be raised.

On October 12th, Supervisor Cook took part in the Homecoming Parade for Lake Braddock Secondary School and then stopped in for the Bite of Braddock in the school parking lot.

October 13th was a busy day for Supervisor Cook. He started out at Lake Accotink and gave remarks before the annual CROP Hunger Walk which raises money for Church World Service and supports programs around the world to fight hunger and poverty. After that, he stopped by the open house for the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department before going to Wakefield Park to give remarks at the closing ceremony for the annual Verizon Children's Health Festival. That evening, Supervisor Cook attended the Library Jubilee! at Oakton Library and finished off the evening by attending the ARC of Northern Virginia Gala at the Fairfield Park Marriott.

On October 17th, Supervisor Cook spoke at the Bonnie Brae Civic Association annual meeting which was held at Bonnie Brae Elementary School.

On October 18th, Supervisor Cook hosted a reception for all of the Braddock residents who serve on the various County Boards, Authorities and Commissions, as well as members of the newly formed Braddock Land Use Committee.



On October 20th, Supervisor Cook gave remarks at the Troop Treats Packing Event at George Mason University. Troop Treats is an organization that helps support our deployed troops by sending packages of snacks as well as hand written notes of encouragement. After that, he was present for a special tree planting ceremony for the 40th Anniversary of Kings Park Library. The day rounded out with a visit to the Kings Park Civic Association Octoberfest.

On October 21st, Supervisor Cook took part in a dedication ceremony for the Ravensworth Civil War Trail Marker. This marker honors the historic Fitzhugh Mansion near the present day Port Royal Road.

On October 23rd, Supervisor Cook attended the Champions of Character Awards Reception. This ceremony honored residents from each Magisterial District who are student athletes and adult coaches/volunteers who have excelled in their particular area and displayed excellent sportsmanship and character.

On October 25th, Supervisor Cook gave welcoming remarks at the Fairfax County Roundup. This event was sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax and included members of faith communities, local nonprofits, HOA's and the private sector who discussed their roles before, during and after disasters.

On October 26th, Supervisor Cook took part in another Homecoming Parade, this time at Annandale High School. Luckily, the weather was perfect for all three parades that he participated in this year.



PROPOSED CHILD CARE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT WORKS ITS WAY THROUGH COUNTY PROCESS, BOARD DISCUSSES AT MEETING

Staff continues to develop options for amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow up to 12 children to be cared for in a single family home if otherwise approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Right now the maximum number of children allowed in Fairfax County is ten. On October 2, County staff briefed the Board at its Development Process Subcommittee on its current findings. The Board learned, for example, that Loudoun County allows up to nine children, but includes providers' children in that count. Prince William allows up to nine children on larger lots (otherwise five children are permitted); and Montgomery County allows up to eight in most residential districts and up to 12 in some, but includes providers' children in those counts (Fairfax does not count providers' children). On October 9, the Child Care Advisory Council was also briefed. To date, staff has developed a shortened/simplified Special Permit Application Package and reviewed "contact with the zoning administrator" forms for 74 providers who are currently licensed for up to 12 children. At this time, the Board hopes to authorize a public hearing in late November or early December for a hearing before the Planning Commission January 16, 2013 followed by a Board of Supervisors' hearing in February.

A public hearing to address the proposed changes to the Fairfax County Home Child Care Facilities Ordinance was held on February 28. Additionally, this information was presented at public meetings in April and July. There are additional proposed amendments to the Home Child Care Facilities Ordinance:

Section 30-1-1: Barrier offenses

The list of offenses that bar an applicant from obtaining a County home child care permit have been updated so that they are the same as the offenses that bar an applicant from receiving a state child care license.

Section 30-3-2 a: Annual permit application, issuance or denial

The provider and all adult household members will be required to have a TB screening bi-annually. Currently the provider is the only adult in the household required to have a TB screening every two years.

Providers will be required to have a written emergency preparedness plan.

Section 30-3-4 b: Operator Qualifications

All new and renewing providers will be required to complete 16 hours of training annually. The new requirement will be phased in over a three-year period. Currently, new providers are required to complete 12 hours of training annually; renewing providers are required to complete six hours of training annually. The new requirement would bring County-permitted providers into parity with state-licensed child care providers, who must complete 16 hours

of training annually.

Section 30-3-6 c: Physical facilities, equipment and operation

Providers will be required to provide adequate space for each child to allow free movement and active play indoors and out.

Providers are currently required to provide a crib for overnight care. The proposed amendments also would require the provider to provide appropriate sleeping equipment during rest times as identified by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ADDITIONALLY, STAFF PROPOSES ADDING THE FOLLOWING NEW SECTIONS/ITEMS:

New Section 30-3-4.1: Substitute Care Providers

When a provider must be away from the home child care facility, a substitute care provider may be used. Substitute care shall not exceed 240 hours per calendar year. Any substitute care provider must be an adult. All substitutes must: pass criminal background checks, be certified in first aid, be certified annually in CPR and receive a TB screening every two years.

Section 30-3-6 q & r: Physical facilities, equipment and operation

The addition of regulations for swimming and wading activities.

New Section 30-3-6-1: Home child care facility fire safety requirements

The Fire and Rescue Department has updated all fire safety items, currently Chapter 30, according to Fairfax County Code Chapter 62: Fire Protection Code. All fire safety items have been grouped into a new section. New requirements included in the proposed amendments include the following:

- A landline telephone will be required.
- Carbon monoxide alarms will be required.
- Stored machinery must be inaccessible to the children in care.
- Any room used as a sleeping area must have two means of exit, as required by the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.
- Inspections will be required for fireplaces and wood stoves.

Some of the proposed amendments to the ordinance will result in additional costs to the provider. These include the requirement that additional adults in the household have a TB screening, CPR be renewed annually, the provider have a landline telephone, the provider have a carbon monoxide alarm in the home, and fireplace and woodstove inspections and cleaning if applicable. For additional information regarding the proposed amendments please go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc/proposed-child-care-ordinance-changes.htm>.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE UPDATES

TARIQ KHAN REZONING

This proposed rezoning (RZ/FDP-2012-BR-003) asks approval to place three single family lots on an 1.9 acre property located on the east side of Shirley Gate Road, approximately 500 feet north of its intersection with Park Drive. A Planning Commission public hearing has been deferred to December 5. Staff continues to work with the applicant on resolving outstanding concerns. The Braddock District Land Use and Environmental Management Committee has held several meetings with affected neighbors and the applicant.

UNIVERSITY MALL SIGN PLAN

As part of its proposed redevelopment, the University Mall filed an application with the County to complete a Comprehensive Sign Plan on its entire property. This plan (SEA 87-A-086-03) would cover all free standing signs, other owner related signs and new tenant signage. This project was approved by the Planning Commission on October 4 and will come to the Board of Supervisors on November 20. The proposal is available in the Braddock District office for review. A link to the staff report, which recommends approval, can be found at <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdwf/4397761.PDF>

ELEVEN OAKS SCHOOL SITE

On October 3, Supervisor Cook co-hosted, as part of his University Community Forum meeting, a community information session on a proposal from Madison Homes to construct 49 residences on a seven acre site that straddles Fairfax City and the County. The current overall density is approximately 6.5 homes to the acre. On October 23, Fairfax City had a joint meeting of its City Council and Planning Commission to review the proposal which will come before the County's Planning Commission on November 15.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW STORMWATER ORDINANCE PROGRESSES

Fairfax County is preparing a Stormwater Management Ordinance in response to state regulations requiring localities to adopt ordinances and take over reviews and inspections for permits issued under the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP). This ordinance will regulate stormwater runoff from construction sites larger than one acre effective July 1, 2014. While County regulations cannot be less restrictive than those developed by the State in 2011, they can be stricter.

Many processes, systems, ordinance changes and training of staff and industry, in addition to a written stormwater management ordinance, will need to occur in order for the County to meet this effective date. Meetings with stakeholders are ongoing to gather information that will be used in developing both the new County ordinance and new design and construction standards for stormwater control practices. This is an issue that may affect individual homeowners in the future, and it is important to be aware of, and involved in this issue. The Braddock District Land Use and Environmental Management Committee will consider this issue in the Spring and is currently represented at the stakeholder meetings by Toni Horst. To learn more about the development of this ordinance and the issues that are being discussed, go to the following site: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwaterordinance.htm>.

THE BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee will hold its regular monthly meeting on November 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Braddock Hall. Meetings are open to all interested residents. The Committee will hear a presentation on proposed changes to amending the Comprehensive Plan (Fairfax Forward) and the methods proposed to seek citizen input. In October the committee heard a presentation from Eastwood Properties on a proposal to place 14 single family homes on a five acre parcel on Ox Road. This application has not yet been formally accepted by Fairfax County for public review and comment, and Supervisor Cook will host a Community Information Meeting as soon as detailed information is available.

COMMUNITY FUN DAY AT LITTLE RIVER GLEN SENIOR CENTER

Bring your family and friends for a day of activities and fun at the Little River Glen Senior Center on Saturday, November 17 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Little River Glenn is located at right off of Olley Lane at 4001 Barker Court in Fairfax. The event is free and refreshments will be served. Activities for the day include: the Cake Walk, a tour of the center, and demonstration of activities by participants and you can even try them yourself.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY:

- Donating non-perishable foods and household supplies for needy families for the Food Bank of Our Daily Bread
- Writing notes & cards to send to our deployed service members.
- Volunteering your skills, talents and time

EVENT SAMPLER:

Music, singing and more music, come dance it out with Terry Lee Ryan.

- Blood Pressure Checks. Tap dance, line dance demos, art display & sales
 - LRG Chorus Performance.
- Community information.
- Information about County services that are available to you: health, safety, transportation options etc.

If you would like additional information please call 703-503-8703, TTY 711.

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY EVENTS IN BRADDOCK DISTRICT

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL TASTE OF BRADDOCK

Supervisor Cook invites you to join us for the annual Taste of Braddock on Wednesday, December 5 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Please join your friends and neighbors in the Braddock District at our annual Open House to mark the start of the holiday season. Enjoy food donated by Braddock area business and share in the spirit provided by our residents. Please RSVP by calling 703-425-9300 or email us at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov



DISPOSE OF DEBRIS FROM HURRICANE SANDY

You may self-haul large amounts of brush or bulk debris to the County's recycling and disposal centers at the I-66 Transfer Station or the I-95 Landfill Complex where it can be disposed of for a fee. The fee structure for brush and tree debris from Hurricane Sandy is as follows:

- Pick-up trucks (residents only): \$5
- Single axle stake body and dump trucks (residents only): \$15
- Pick-up trucks, single axle stake body and dump trucks (permitted haulers): \$15
- Tandem axle trucks including crane/knuckle boom trucks: \$32 per ton (to be weighed at scale)

These fees will remain in place until Wednesday, November 14.

WINTER OUTERWEAR DRIVE TO BENEFIT ECHO

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce will run its winter outerwear campaign to benefit ECHO from Monday, November 12 until Wednesday, December 14. The Braddock District Office, located at 9002 Burke Lake Road in Burke will serve as a drop-off location. Please bring new winter hats, scarves and gloves for all ages and new children's coats, as well as gently used blankets.

MEMBER OF A HOMEOWNER OR CIVIC ASSOCIATION? COME OUT FOR THIS VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Consumer Affairs Branch of the Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services and Washington Metropolitan Chapter Community Associations Institute invite you to attend a FREE Virginia Common Interest Community Educational Seminar – A View from Richmond. Join as industry leaders discuss how regulations, legislation and recent case law impact Virginia homeowners and condominium association communities, board members and managers.

The conversation will include valuable information regarding association rule enforcement, complaint processes, assessment collections and more. Participants will receive an update regarding recent court decisions and legislation affecting Virginia's common interest communities.

The seminar will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center's Board Auditorium.

Register online at http://www.caiddc.org/cal2/EventShow.asp?event_id=480494&event_batch=1.

SURVEY RESULTS FROM COUNTYWIDE DIALOGUE ON TRANSPORTATION NOW AVAILABLE

Over the next 10 years, funding needs for transportation is projected to be \$8.1 billion with only \$5.1 billion in anticipated revenues. This leaves a total \$3 billion gap over the next 10 years or a \$300 million annual gap. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors asked County staff to engage county residents and businesses in a dialogue about the county transportation needs, priorities and revenue options.

Those survey results are now complete and available online at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/cdot/engage/results.htm>.

PROJECT LIFESAVER

Thanks to a series of precise, accurate and well-coordinated efforts by several public safety agencies, an 8-year-old boy was recently rescued and safely returned to his parents. The boy, who is autistic, left his Clifton area home on his scooter and could not be located. Both family and Sully District Police Officers searched the home and neighborhood with no results. Fortunately, this family had registered their son with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Program. He wears an electronic bracelet at all times which helps Officers locate him in the event of an emergency. With the assistance of the FCPD helicopter, a K-9 team, Fairfax County Sheriff's Deputies and ground patrol officers, a faint transmitter signal was heard that led searchers to a heavily wooded area where officers spotted the child waist-deep in the frigid waters of Otter Run creek, looking up and watching the helicopter. Officers allowed the boy to pet the K-9, named Nero, and pulled him quickly to safety. The boy was not seriously injured.

Many county residents are unaware of Project Lifesaver which assists families and caregivers of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, Alzheimer's disease and other similar disabling conditions.

Project Lifesaver clients wear a wrist or ankle band that emits a silent tracking signal. When caregivers notify the Sheriff's Office that a loved one is missing, a search and rescue team comprised of specifically trained Sheriff's Deputies respond to the area with state-of-the-art tracking equipment. Without having to rely on site visits or paper files, deputies can electronically update client information, such as height and weight, a photograph, medical issues and favorite hiding places. The program has a 100 percent track record of locating wandering adults and children and bringing them home.

To find out more about this program: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/lifesaver.htm>

BRADDOCK DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES

MAINTAINING CURB APPEAL: NATIVE PLANTS

Saturday, November 3, from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria.

People understand that to save our nation's biodiversity we must increase our use of native plants in suburban landscapes. In this program, Doug Tallamy dispels the misconceptions that native plants are prone to insect damage, that a landscape dominated by natives is messy and wild, and that formal gardens cannot be designed with natives and suggests ways to make your property a showpiece without losing its ecological function in the local ecosystem. Book signing to follow. Register on-line at <http://www.greenspring.org> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. The cost is \$18.

GIVE THE GIFT OF TREES WITH REFOREST FAIRFAX

Looking for something special for a loved one, friend or client? How about giving a gift that will show the recipient your appreciation while doing something positive for Fairfax County's environment? ReForest Fairfax allows you to do that by giving the gift of trees. For each \$35 gift you buy, Fairfax ReLeaf (a local organization dedicated to restoring Fairfax County's tree canopy) will plant five seedlings in your recipient's honor. A personalized card and certificate will be sent to your recipient informing them of the gift, and they can even check the online map to see where in the County their trees are planted. All proceeds from your purchase go toward Fairfax ReLeaf's tree planting efforts. To place an order or learn more about the program, please visit <http://www.fcrrp3.org/reforestfairfax/>

SMITHSONIAN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

Monday, November 5, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Fortune's Cove Preserve in Lovington, Virginia

The Institute needs help putting its American Chestnut Orchard at Fortune's Cove Preserve to bed for the winter. Tasks include spreading mulch, repairing deer fence, restaking plants as needed and recording the height of each plant to measure annual growth. You will need work gloves and, if you have them, pitchforks and rakes for spreading mulch. Work will be dirty so dress accordingly and for the weather. Lunch will be provided. The rain date will be November 9. To RSVP and get directions, please contact Laura Linn at linnl@si.edu.

POTOMAC WATERSHED TRASH SUMMIT

Wednesday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building, One Veteran's Place, Silver Spring, MD

The Potomac Watershed Trash Summit is a gathering of key stakeholders to educate, plan and take action on strategies that lead to a Trash Free Potomac Watershed. This event provides a venue for citizens, youth leaders and elected officials to collaborate on strategies to eliminate trash from our waterways, communities, streets and public lands - including regional public policy, model Best Management Practices, business actions and public education. The summit's keynote speaker will be Jean-Michel Costeau, chairman of the Board and President of the Ocean Futures Society. For more information visit: <http://fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/>.

PLANNING THE EDIBLE LANDSCAPE: FOOD PRODUCTION MADE BEAUTIFUL!

Thursday, November 8 from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at The Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St. Alexandria.

The workshop will present design techniques for incorporating vegetables, fruits and herbs in gardens that are both ornamental and edible. The workshop is free and open to the public, but registration is requested. The program is hosted by the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, a program of Virginia Cooperative Extension. To register, please visit <http://mgnv.org/events/november>.

59TH GREEN BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 10, 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at Brion's Grille, 10621 Braddock Road.

Conservation Practices for All Landscapes: From Your Downspout to the Chesapeake Bay. Speaker: Lily Whitesell, Watershed Specialist, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

Whether your landscape is large or small, there are actions you can take to green up your own backyard, starting at the downspout. Learn about five things all residents should know about their land and five things we all can do to create a healthy landscape that has a positive impact on streams, rivers and the bay. Whether you've just begun to explore these ideas or you have been trying them out for years, there is something new for you. (The cost of breakfast is \$10. If anyone wants to come and just have coffee, please call the conservation district at 703-324-1460).



CONTROL TELEMARKETING CALLS TO YOUR HOME

Are you still receiving telemarketing calls even though you've submitted your phone number to the National Do Not Call Registry? Most telemarketing calls – that is, calls to sell you goods and services – should stop 31 days after registration. Companies can call, however, if you've given them written permission to do so. Federal law allows calls from companies with which you have an existing relationship. Unless you tell the company to place you on its own do-not-call list, you may receive telemarketing calls up to 18 months after you make a purchase or payment, or up to three months after you submit an inquiry or application. Federal law does allow calls from or on behalf of charities, political organizations, and telephone surveyors.

Make Sure You Are Registered

Consumers can limit other telemarketing calls by registering their personal home and cell telephone numbers at: <https://www.donotcall.gov/>. You can also call toll-free 1-888-382-1222, from the telephone number you want to register. There's no charge to register, and you can register at any time. Ignore email alerts from companies

offering to register your number for a fee or before a deadline. They are scams. Your registration is permanent and doesn't need to be renewed. Periodically verify your registration if there are changes that could trigger a deletion in the Registry, including a disconnected/reconnected phone or a name change. Cell phones receive fewer telemarketing calls because federal regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call them.

Complaints and Contact Information

Keep a pen and pad of paper near the phone to jot down information about unwanted telemarketing calls, including the date, time, names and purpose. These details will help you document your complaint. If you receive an unsolicited telemarketing call more than 31 days after your registration, you can file a complaint with the National Do Not Call Registry, at 888-382-1222 (TTY: 866-290-4236). You're not required to provide your name and address when making a complaint. The National Do Not Call Registry is a joint undertaking of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Fed-

eral Communications Commission, but is managed by the FTC. Questions or complaints can be directed to the FTC by email at dncconconsumerinquiry2@ftc.gov

Virginia Law Also Protects Your Telephone Privacy

The Virginia Telephone Privacy Protection Act (VTPPA) prohibits telemarketers subject to the VTPPA from calling a telephone number on the National Do Not Call Registry. Under the VTPPA, a telemarketer may call a residence only between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., must promptly identify himself using his full name and company and may not intentionally block caller-identification services. If a consumer asks not to be called, that request must be honored for at least ten years. The VTPPA's penalty provisions allow consumers to sue violators and recover damages of \$500 for each violation, or up to \$1,500 for willful violations.



LOOKING AHEAD AND PREPARING FOR THE WINTER SEASON

According to NOAA's annual Winter Outlook Fairfax County falls into the "equal chance" category, meaning there is an equal chance for above-, near-, or below-normal temperatures and/or precipitation this coming winter.

As we begin to look ahead to winter weather, the County's Emergency Management Office encourages you to start thinking about what you can do now to be ready when "old man winter" arrives.

•Do you regularly keep your home's emergency supply kit current? Is it restocked on a regular basis with essentials such as a flashlight with extra batteries, a battery-powered radio and extra food and water, and blankets in case you lose electricity (and heat)?

•How about your car or truck? Do you have a kit — or at least some winter weather gear — in your vehicle, like road flares, booster cables, a shovel and windshield

scraper, tire chains, a flashlight or even waterproof matches or a charger for your cell phone?

•Have you signed up for emergency weather alerts from the Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)? You may sign up for alerts at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean>

•Have you talked with childcare providers and after school programs about how to handle possible winter weather that may affect your commute home from work if case you're stuck at the office or in traffic due to snow or ice?

These are just a few of the things to think about and some of the simple steps you can take now to make this coming winter safer for you and your family. You may also want to bookmark our emergency management weather page for the latest weather forecast from the National Weather Service. You

also can hear the current forecast by calling 703-652-1210 if you're not near a computer or lose power.

Over the next couple of months the County will be providing winter preparedness tips on the Fairfax County Emergency Information blog at <http://fairfaxcounty-emergency.wordpress.com/>. Please follow along and share the link(s) with friends and family so that we're all ready for a safe winter.

