



# the BRADDOCK BEACON

703-425-9300 [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/) [Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## SEEKING YOUR INPUT: SHOULD THE SCHOOL SYSTEM HELP IN MEETING THE BUDGET CHALLENGE?

In our July newsletter we laid out the County's upcoming budget challenge in clear terms. From 2000 to 2007 real estate tax payments doubled. Spending increased an average of six percent per year on the county side and the county transfer to the schools increased seven percent. Then the economy collapsed. Now next year, even if we start no new programs, hold all existing programs to their current dollar level, and not give any pay raises, we are still faced with a potential \$315 million shortfall due to declining real estate tax revenue.

If we decide to raise the real estate tax rate so that the average tax payment remains constant, we still will face a \$100 million gap. To put that into perspective, we budgeted \$92 million dollars in cuts in the recently enacted FY 2010 budget. Currently the school system accounts for 54 percent of the county budget and as the school year begins, I am seeking your input on whether the school system should share in the effort of closing that gap.

In the current year, every county department except the schools incurred a decrease in county funding, including the police and fire departments. County funding of the schools stayed constant, although state funding decreased. (Our schools are funded about 74 percent from the county and the rest from the state. In other parts of Virginia the reverse is true and the state pays up to 75 percent of school costs. This is due to a funding formula that taps Northern Virginia's wealth for the benefit of poorer portions of the state.) Almost \$43 million

in one-time federal stimulus funding made up for much of the state decrease.

Overall, total school spending dropped about 2.8 percent from last year's estimated expenditures, around the same percentage as the county's overall spending reduction. Student enrollment, which was constant since 2002, increased by 3500 students in 2009 and is projected by the schools to increase another 5000 this year (although indications are that the actual increase may not be as large.) Those enrollment increases represent two to three percent growth each year, so some would interpret holding funding constant to be an additional two to three percent cut. Some would say if you factor in additional federal and state mandates, more students in need of extra English assistance and inflation, the effective decrease is higher.

Our public schools are the pride of the county and most everyone wants to keep it that way. I am the only member of the Board of Supervisors with children who currently attend the public schools, so I certainly want a strong school system for years to come. But, as we look to cut the county budget by \$100 to \$300 million this year, should the schools join the police, fire, parks, libraries, human services and other county programs that will see real spending reductions? Can the county continue to make up for reductions in state education spending?

The answer may depend on whether the school budget can be reduced without

**SCHOOLS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**



Supervisor John C. Cook

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE COMING THIS FALL

This Fall, Supervisor Cook will launch a Community Engagement Initiative. This multi-phase initiative will provide leadership training to community leaders, encourage people to become more involved and engaged in their communities, help build stronger community organizations and encourage volunteerism.

Supervisor Cook is currently working with County officials, the Braddock District Council board and Volunteer Fairfax to flesh out the specifics of the program.

A "town hall" style kick-off will be held later this Fall. Look for additional information in the October edition of the Braddock Beacon.

## SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On August 5th, Supervisor Cook toured **Central Fairfax Services**, which provides vocational and developmental services to over 200 residents of Northern Virginia aged 22 and above with developmental disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy and physical disabilities.

On August 16th, Supervisor Cook, along with Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Herrity, attended the **Pakistan Independence Day Festival** at George Mason University, celebrating the 62nd year of Pakistan's Independence.

On August 19th, Supervisor Cook attended the **Glen Cove HOA Board** meeting to discuss pending and future issues with its members.

On August 25th, Supervisor Cook, along

with Braddock District School Board representative Tessie Wilson, Woodson H.S. principal Jeff Yost, Woodson PTSA president Nell Hurley and other school and administrative staff, toured the grounds of **Woodson H.S.** to inspect the site in preparation of the grand re-dedication ceremony which will take place on Saturday, November 7.

On September 1st, Supervisor Cook toured the **McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC)** facility which houses

The Office of Emergency Management, The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department as well as the Fairfax County Police Department's Forensics facility.



Supervisor Cook with, L to R, Mrs. Lubna Ahmed, Supervisor Herrity, Chairman Bulova and Zahid Hameedi, Chief Organizer of the Pakistan Festival USA.

Back, L to R, Mr. Fahim Siddiqui, Mr. Zafar Iqbal Ahmed and Pakistan's Ambassador H.E. Hussain Haqqani.

## Community Dialogues on the FY 2011 Budget

Sponsored by Fairfax County government and the Fairfax County Public School System the dialogues provide an opportunity to share your thoughts and offer your input on the Fairfax County budget.

Wednesday, September 30, 2009 7:00 PM to 9:00  
West Springfield High School

Saturday, November 14, 2009 10:00 AM to Noon  
Kings Park Library

## What to Expect this Flu Season: Townhall Meetings Scheduled

In order to better prepare residents for the 2009-2010 flu season, the Fairfax County Health Department will host a series of town hall meetings throughout the month of September. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, M.D., M.P.H., Fairfax County Director of Health will give a brief presentation at each meeting before taking questions. Topics covered will include:

- **2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic**
- **Individual and community influenza prevention strategies**
- **Seasonal and H1N1 influenza vaccine distribution and availability**
- **Planning and preparing for flu season**

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 7:00 PM  
Kings Park Library  
9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA

## LOOKING FOR YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE SCHOOL BUDGET

SCHOOLS CONTINUED FROM  
FRONT PAGE

harming instruction. Some on the school board - the School Board has total control over how funds are spent, the Board of Supervisors only determines the amount of the county transfer - say that spending cuts mean larger class sizes, but does this have to be the case?

Last year's citizen input process identified several possible areas of school funding outside of core instruction that could be reduced to achieve actual savings: bus transportation to GT programs; free PSAT and

AP tests; consolidating some bus routes; eliminating foreign language classes in the elementary schools; reducing administrative expenses, etc. Of course, if we want to give our teachers a well-deserved raise (again, decided by the School Board, not the County Board), we need to find extra savings somewhere to do this.

Next year's budget cuts will be more painful than this year's. If the schools do not participate in the reductions, then every other county department must take twice the cuts because the schools are over half the budget. As we begin to deliberate the

budget, I would appreciate your input on the question of whether we should seek reductions in the school budget. If we do not, are we prepared for large reductions in the rest of the budget, or should our tax payments increase?

Please send me an email at [braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov) and write "school budget question" in the subject line. Or call us at 703-425-9300, or write a letter the old fashioned way. I would appreciate hearing from you.

## Braddock District Back to School Nights

### Annandale H.S.

9-12th Grade: 9/23/2009 7:00-9:20 PM

### Annandale Terrace E.S.

K-2nd Grade: 8/12/2009 6:30-7:30 PM

3-6th Grade: 8/13/2009 6:30-7:30 PM

### Bonnie Brae E.S.

Kindergarten: 9/17/2009 6:00 PM

6th Grade: 9/17/2009 7:00 PM

1st Grade: 9/22/2009 5:30 PM

3rd Grade: 9/22/2009 6:00 PM

5th Grade: 9/22/2009 7:00 PM

2nd Grade: 9/24/2009 6:00 PM

4th Grade: 9/24/2009 7:00 PM

### Braddock E.S.

K-5th Grade: 9/24/2009 6:45-8:30 PM

### Canterbury Woods E.S.

Pre-K-3rd Grade: 9/17/2009 6:15 PM

4-6th Grade: 9/17/2009 7:30 PM

### Cardinal Forest E.S.

K-3 9/14/2009 Mon 6:30 PM

4-6 9/16/2009 Wed 6:30 PM

### Fairfax Villa E.S.

K-6th Grade: 9/24/2009 7:00 PM

### Fairview E.S.

K-6th Grade: 9/14/2009 6:30 PM

### Frost M.S.

7th Grade: 9/9/2009 6:45 PM

8th Grade: 9/10/2009 6:45 PM

### Kings Glen E.S.

4-6th Grade: 9/15/2009 6:30 PM

### Kings Park E.S.

K-1st Grade: 9/16/2009 6:30 PM

2-3rd Grade: 9/17/2009 6:30 PM

### Lake Braddock S.S.

7-8th Grade: 9/22/2009 7:00 PM

9-12th Grade: 9/23/2009 7:00 PM

### Laurel Ridge E.S.

K-2nd Grade: 9/15/2009 7:00 PM

3-6th Grade: 9/17/2009 7:00 PM

### Little Run E.S.

K-6th Grade 9/24/2009 7:00 PM

### North Springfield E.S.

Pre-K-5th Grade: 9/24/2009 7:00 PM

### Oak View E.S.

Kindergarten: 9/14/2009 6:30 PM

4th Grade: 9/15/2009 7:30 PM

5th Grade: 9/15/2009 6:30 PM

6th Grade: 9/15/2009 7:00 PM

3rd Grade: 9/17/2009 6:30 PM

1st Grade: 9/17/2009 7:00 PM

2nd Grade: 9/17/2009 7:30 PM

### Ravensworth E.S.

Resource Teachers 9/16/2009 6:30 PM

K-6th Grade: 9/16/2009 7:00 PM

### Robinson S.S.

7-8 9/16/2009 Wed 7:00 PM

9-12 9/23/2009 Wed 7:00 PM

### Terra Centre E.S.

K-3, Multiage: 9/22/2009 7:00 PM

4-6th Grade: 9/24/2009 Thur 7:00 PM

### Wakefield Forest E.S.

K-6th Grade: 9/24/2009 7:00 PM

### Woodson H.S.

9-12th Grade: 10/1/2009 6:00 PM

## BACK TO SCHOOL WELCOME FROM BRADDOCK DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE TESSIE WILSON

Labor Day is just around the corner and for most students, the opening of school is not far behind. (Although for those students at Annandale Terrace Elementary School, you're already a month ahead of the rest of



Braddock District!)

I hope everyone had a relaxing and fun summer.

Parents and other adults – as you drive throughout Fairfax County the next few weeks, please take extra care – as our students are back in school – both walking and riding the bus. We all know that it will take a week or two for traffic patterns to iron out, so please be patient and observant.

This year our school system will face several challenges. Most of you will see changes at your schools, as class size has increased and we have cut several positions at the schools – including some assistant principals, office staff, custodians and other personnel. The economic situation continues to be difficult, but we will continue to

deliver an excellent education for all of our students.

We also face the possibility of complications from the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, this fall and winter. If you have not already signed up for KIT (Keep in Touch) at your child's school, please do so at back to school night. KIT will be an important tool in providing you with updated information on this subject and other issues. And even community members without students in FCPS can sign up. The link to sign up is located on the FPCS web site at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu).

If you have any questions or concerns on this subject or anything else, please feel free to contact me at [Tessie.Wilson@fcps.edu](mailto:Tessie.Wilson@fcps.edu) or at 571-423-1088.

## Braddock District Schools Contact Information

Annandale Terrace Elementary - 703-658-5600

7604 Herald St - Annandale, VA 22003

Principal: Christina Dickens, [Christina.Dickens@fcps.edu](mailto:Christina.Dickens@fcps.edu)

PTA Pres: Nurina Hermann

Annandale High School - 703-642-4100

4700 Medford Dr - Annandale, VA 22003

Principal: John Ponton, [John.Ponton@fcps.edu](mailto:John.Ponton@fcps.edu)

PTA Pres: Jennifer McGarey

Bonnie Brae Elementary - 703-321-3900

5420 Sideburn Rd - Fairfax, VA 22032

Principal: Kathy Bruce, [Kathy.Bruce@fcps.edu](mailto:Kathy.Bruce@fcps.edu)

PTO Pres: Kelly Hood

Braddock Elementary - 703-914-7300

7825 Heritage Dr - Annandale, VA 22003

Principal: Cindy Botzin, [Cynthia.Botzin@fcps.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Botzin@fcps.edu)

Canterbury Woods Elementary - 703-764-5600

4910 Willet Dr - Annandale, VA 22003

Principal: Barbara Messinger, [Barbara.Messinger@fcps.edu](mailto:Barbara.Messinger@fcps.edu)

Fairview Elementary - 703-503-3700

5815 Ox Rd - Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Principal: Easter Lancaster, [Easter.Lancaster@fcps.edu](mailto:Easter.Lancaster@fcps.edu)

PTA Pres: Michael Swearingner

Fairfax Villa Elementary - 703-267-2800

10900 Santa Clara Dr - Fairfax, VA 22030

Principal: Dale Mann, [Dale.Mann@fcps.edu](mailto:Dale.Mann@fcps.edu)

PTA Pres: Kim Joshi

Frost Middle School - 703-426-5700

4101 Pickett Rd - Fairfax, VA 22032

Principal: Marti Jackson, [Marti.Jackson@fcps.edu](mailto:Marti.Jackson@fcps.edu)

PTA Pres: Susan Morningstar

Kings Glen Elementary - 703-239-4000

5401 Danbury Forest Dr - Springfield, VA 22151

Principal: Samuel L. Elson, [Sam.Elson@fcps.edu](mailto:Sam.Elson@fcps.edu)

PTA Pres: Jackie Kurisky

Kings Park Elementary - 703-426-7000

5400 Harrow Way - Springfield, VA 22151

Principal: Sarah Skerker, [Sarah.Skerker@fcps.edu](mailto:Sarah.Skerker@fcps.edu)

PTA Pres: Jackie Kurisky

# Braddock District Schools Continued

Lake Braddock Secondary School - 703-426-1000  
9200 Burke Lake Road - Burke, VA 22015  
Principal: David Thomas, David.Thomas@fcps.edu  
PTA Pres: Robert Shaw

Laurel Ridge Elementary - 703-426-3700  
10110 Commonwealth Blvd - Fairfax, VA 22032  
Principal: Larry Burke, Larry.Burke@fcps.edu  
PTA Co-Pres: Melody Rudy, Dawn Cassidy

Little Run Elementary - 703-503-3500  
4511 Olley Ln - Fairfax, VA 22032  
Principal: Sharon Baumgarten, Sharon.Baumgarten@fcps.edu

North Springfield Elementary - 703-658-5500  
7602 Heming Ct - Springfield, VA 22151  
Principal: Alice Alexander, Alice.Alexander@fcps.edu  
PTA Pres: Robert Buckreis

Oak View Elementary - 703-764-7100  
5004 Sideburn Rd - Fairfax, VA 22032  
Principal: Bonnie Glazewski, Bonnie.Glazewski@fcps.edu  
PTA Pres: Clare Maaseide

Olde Creek Elementary - 703-426-3100  
9524 Old Creek Dr - Fairfax, VA 22032  
Principal: Melissa Kupferschmid, Melissa.Kupferschmid@fcps.edu  
PTA Pres: Kristina Summers

Ravensworth Elementary - 703-426-3600  
5411 Nutting Dr - Springfield, VA 22151  
Principal: Pam O'Connor, pam.oconnor@fcps.edu  
PTA Pres: George Brodie

Robinson Secondary School - 703-426-2100  
5035 Sideburn Rd - Fairfax, VA 22032  
Principal: Dan Meier, Dan.Meier@fcps.edu  
PTA Pres: Terry Bell

Terra Centre Elementary - 703-249-1400  
6000 Burke Centre Pkwy - Burke, VA 22015  
Principal: Michele Sims, Michele.Sims@fcps.edu  
PTA Pres: Terri Melone

Woodson High School - 703-503-4600  
9525 Main St - Fairfax, VA 22031  
Principal: Jeff Yost, Jeff.Yost@fcps.edu  
PTA Pres: Nell Hurley

Wakefield Forest Elementary - 703-503-2300  
4011 Iva Ln - Fairfax, VA 22032  
Principal: Sheri D'Amato, Sheri.DAmato@fcps.edu  
PTA Pres: Regina Printz

## AS SCHOOL STARTS, TRAFFIC SAFETY BECOMES PARAMOUNT

One of the more frequent topics that Braddock residents call our office about is traffic. They are concerned about the Beltway, the timing on stoplights, and traffic safety through the neighborhoods. So far in 2009, pedestrians have been involved in 162 accidents and ten pedestrians have been struck and killed in Fairfax County so as the school year begins again, and the amount of traffic on our roads increases after a leisurely August, we all need to pay special attention traffic signs.

After Labor Day, we'll see children walking to school and riding buses to school. Many high school students will be driving themselves to school. It's a time when we all need to be more aware of what is going on around us as we drive.

None of us want to be involved in an au-

tomobile accident, and the very last thing any of us want to do is hit someone who is walking by not paying attention as we're driving. But if we're exceeding the speed limit in residential areas and schools zones, or failing to stop at posted intersections, we are increasing the chances of this happening.

We need to pay attention to where there are crosswalks, what the speed limit is, and where there are stop signs. And we need to stop when it says stop! There is no excuse for running a stop sign. They are there for the safety of the entire community.

As an added reminder to pedestrians and drivers, to stay safe, use the following safety tips:

### **Pedestrians:**

- Cross the street at marked crosswalks and

intersections ONLY.

- Before crossing, look left, right, then left again.
- Use pedestrian pushbuttons.
- Begin crossing the street on "Walk" signal.
- Stay visible after dark, using light clothing or reflectors.

### **Drivers:**

- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Slow down, obey posted speed limits and don't engage in texting.
- Look before opening your vehicle door.
- Use caution when passing stopped vehicles.

The West Springfield Station of the Fairfax County Police Department will continue to proactively address all traffic concerns during this important time of the year.

## 20,000 SQUARE FOOT FINANCE PARK SET TO BE BUILT AT THE FROST-WOODSON CAMPUS

Good habits are best set at a young age, and at Junior Achievement of the National Capital Area they seek to instill good financial habits in young people that will serve them throughout their lives. Currently, in concert with the Fairfax County Public Schools and with the support of the local business community, Junior Achievement (JA) is working on a Finance Park which will be built at the Frost-Woodson Campus.

The 20,000 square foot facility is intended to accommodate up to 150 students a day. It will showcase state-of-the-art technology and tools, and educate students on how to use the most up-to-date business tools efficiently and effectively. In addition to the Finance Park, a mobile learning lab, intended to fit another 50 students, will be built in order to serve students without them having to leave their schools.

The structure of both the park and the mobile facility will be a mixture of a school and a shopping mall in which students will both learn and experience financial situations from setting up a bank account or buying a car. The economic lessons taught through the JA Finance Park will provide every area middle school student with a chance to prepare themselves for futures beyond middle and high school. This program allows students to demonstrate the aptitude, attitude and skills to lead responsible and fulfilling lives through working in partnership with school and family. Students will also develop practical life skills including, but not limited to, financial competency.

Fairfax County Schools is getting underway to start the project and find business partners for helping to build the program within the county. For more information, visit [www.myJA.org/financepark](http://www.myJA.org/financepark).

## CULINARY ARTS AT ANNANDALE H.S.

The Culinary Arts program at Annandale High School provides a tremendous opportunity for AHS students. Classes are conducted in the the Bistro at Annandale, a white table-cloth full-service dining room and professional kitchen. Classical culinary techniques are taught in this unique practical setting.

Run by Chef Christine Gloninger, known in the school as Chef G., students are instructed in all aspects of the culinary profession, from culinary math, inventory and

costing to food preparation, presentation and sanitation.

Chef G. and her team of students offer weekly lunches at the Bistro to both AHS faculty and the general public. As part of this self-supporting program, the Bistro also offers catering services to various businesses, individuals, associations, and civic groups. Support of the AHS culinary program has successfully resulted in many scholarship and employment opportunities for graduates of the AHS culinary program.



## BRADDOCK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS: FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As we covered in last month's Beacon, the August edition of the Braddock Neighborhood News included an interview with Nancy Mercer, Co-Executive Director of the Arc of Northern Virginia, and focused on what we can do for our neighbors who live with cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities.

Viewers learned about the specific challenges facing people with disabilities here in Northern Virginia as well as programs that help them to become more independent and socially involved in our community.

This month, as our kids head back to school, Supervisor Cook interviews Braddock District School Board Member Tessie Wilson about the challenges facing our public schools.

As residents of Fairfax County, we benefit from one of the best public school systems

in the nation and we have come to expect excellence from our schools. With our county school system facing new challenges and new opportunities, viewers of the program this month can learn about FCPS's vision for addressing increasing enrollment, growing diversity, the H1N1 flu virus and the yearly goal of academic excellence along with FCPS programs for students with disabilities, students in advanced academic studies, and programs for the broader community.

Braddock Neighborhood News, hosted by Supervisor Cook on Channel 16, airs on Fridays and Sundays at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. It is also accessible online at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/supervisor\\_cook.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/supervisor_cook.htm).

We hope you can find the time to tune in.

## BURKE CENTRE TO HOLD 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN SEPTEMBER

The Burke Centre community cordially welcomes members, neighbors and the general public to participate in Burke Centre's 32nd Annual Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13, 2009, on the Conservancy's Festival Grounds (6060 Burke Centre Parkway). A 10:00 AM flag-raising on Saturday will kick-off the festivities for this weekend of fun.



show, antiques and food vendors, an evening wine garden, the Dixie Twister mechanical ride, pony rides, a 28' rock climbing wall, prize drawings, face painting, rides and games and much more!

A special note of thanks to the major festival sponsors

this year including: Travel Cruise & Tour, Heatherwood Retirement Community, CAS Property Services, Burke Community Church, Burke Racquet & Swim Club and

Five Star Hair Day Spa-Nails.

**The Festival hours are:**

**Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Wine Garden (Sat): 5:00-9:00 p.m. (last wine serving at 8:00 p.m.)**

**Sunday: 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

Free shuttle bus service to and from the Festival grounds will be available during both days at no charge. Various shuttle bus stops will be located along Burke Centre Parkway, including all Metro bus stops. Parking is available along Burke Centre Parkway and at Knollwood Community Church on Saturday.

Please visit [www.burkecentreweb.com](http://www.burkecentreweb.com) and select Fall Festival for more information about this year's exciting event.

## IMAGES FROM BRADDOCK NIGHTS: THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS AT ROYAL LAKE, LAKE ACCOTINK AND OSSIAN HALL PARK



*The image to the left is from African Cultural Heritage Night at Ossian Hall Park, which featured traditional music and dance from Ghana*

*To the right, Supervisor Cook presents Lasine Dombia with an award recognizing his efforts as Ossian Hall MC*



## UPDATING ASSOCIATION POINTS OF CONTACT IN BRADDOCK

As many of you know, our office is in the process of updating our contact information for the various organizations and associations throughout the Braddock District. However, in attempting to update our contact lists for our Homeowners Associations and Civic Associations, we have several organizations without any contact information.

Here's how you can help:

If you know the current contact information for the following organizations please contact Brian Comer at [brian.comer2@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:brian.comer2@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call the office at 703-425-9300. Thank you for your assistance.

**Oakwood Civic Association**

**Chelsea Court Condo Association**

**Rockland Village HOA**

**The Elms HOA**

**Signal Hill Estates HOA**

**Fairfax Heritage I Condo Association**

**Greenfield Farm HOA**

**Tall Trees South HOA**

**Hidden Creek HOA**

**Tivoli at Cardinal Forest**

**Ivymount Condominium Association**

**Tall Tree HOA**

**Townes at Wakefield HOA**

**Lake Braddock HOA**

**Lindsay Park Civic Association**

**Balmoral Greens HOA**

**Maywood Terrace HOA**

**Braddock Mews HOA**

**New Chapel HOA**

**Burke Shire Commons**

## DAM REPAIRS TO CAUSE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PARK TRAIL

As construction begins on Lake Accotink Park's dam, a portion of the 3.8-mile loop trail will be temporarily closed at the fair-weather crossing at trail marker three (right in front of the dam) to thru traffic for several days up to three times between late-August and December.

To lessen the impact on visitors to the park, the trail will remain open on Fridays and weekends. The exact dates of the trail closures will be posted on signs along the trail.

The dam, built in 1943, features a con-

crete spillway measuring approximately 360 feet long and 22 feet tall. Forty percent of the dam spillway face will be repaired where cracks have formed in the concrete surface. The wooden flashboards along the top of the dam, added to increase the depth of the lake, will also be replaced. Existing riprap (large stones used to prevent erosion) will be replaced and a gravel drainage feature will be installed to help move percolating water away from the earthen embankment's base.

Dam repairs require that the water level

be lowered for an extended period of time which will cause exposure to the deep silt of the lake's bottom. Patrons are advised to stay out of the silt/mud beds, just as they are advised to stay out of the water. A new water monitoring system will track the amount of water flowing through the dam. Finally, about 200 feet of new concrete trail will be built.

The project is expected to be completed by March 2010.

## Braddock District Appointments to County Boards, Authorities & Commissions

**If you live in the Braddock District and are interested in serving on a Board, Authority or Commission, Supervisor Cook encourages you to submit your resume to [braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov) and write "Boards, Authorities & Commissions" in the subject line. If you have questions or are looking for additional information please feel free to contact the office at 703-425-9300.**

## IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

Many citizens are unaware of the Real Estate Tax Relief Program for Seniors and Disabled members of the community. The program is authorized by state law and in FY 2009, the county had 7,717 participants who receive over \$25 million in tax relief. Approximately 89 percent of these are seniors and most qualify for 100 percent relief.

To qualify, individuals and the spouses with whom they reside may have no more than \$340,000 in assets excluding their home and up to one acre of land on which it is situated, and an income limit of:

- Up to \$52,000 (100 percent relief)
- Over \$52,000-62,000 (50 percent relief)
- Over \$62,000-72,000 (25 percent relief)

For more information go to [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/pdf\\_files/2009taxrelief.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/pdf_files/2009taxrelief.pdf) or come into my office for a form. The annual deadline to reapply is April 1 of each year. However, the date may be extended to December 31 if an applicant is applying for relief for the first time or if hardship conditions exist which may have precluded applying by April 1.

## FAMILY CAREGIVER SEMINARS STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

This fall, Fairfax County will offer 10 seminars, each on a unique topic, that will help family caregivers of older adults and adults with disabilities. Speakers include experts in law, care management, finances and community resources.

The two events listed below are in the Braddock District. For information on the others, to register, or to request reasonable accommodations, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa), e-mail [caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324-5205, TTY 703-449-1186.

For more information on services for older adults, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa). or [www.seniornavigator.org](http://www.seniornavigator.org).

**Making Life Easier: Gadgets, Gizmos and Home Modifications**  
Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 PM  
Braddock Glen Adult Day Health Care  
4027B Olley Lane - Fairfax, VA 22032

**Long Distance Caregiving**  
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 PM  
Little River Glen Senior Center  
4001 Barker Court - Fairfax, VA 22032  
Flu shots will be available from 5:00-7:00 PM at this location.