



the BRADDOCK BEACON

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

BECOME AN ENGAGED CITIZEN, GET OUT INTO YOUR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER

In many ways we look at September 1 as the beginning of a new year. The school year begins, as does the year for many of our community organizations. So, I'm asking you to make a new year's resolution: commit to doing something for your community.

Inside this issue of the Beacon you will read about people from across the Braddock District who were inspired by our Community Engagement Initiative to take their community involvement to the next level. Over 100 people participated in our Leadership Institute or Neighborhood Colleges, and many are now leading, or participating in, new community efforts. Some are cleaning up trash. Others are organizing neighborhood watch groups. Still others are planning block parties and community picnics. The results of all these individual efforts will be stronger neighborhoods, and a better county.

We are in a time of great change in our nation. For the last decade or more, our culture worshipped the credit card. If we wanted it, we bought it, and we worried about paying for it later. Government did the same thing. Both political parties at all levels spent and spent, leaving the bill for future generations. And you know what? We still have problems and challenges.

The fact is, government can't solve everything. We've been through this cycle before. In both the New Deal of the 1930's and the Great Society of the 1960's, we followed the mantra that government could solve all of our problems. While many good programs came out of those efforts, each time, as now, we found that we can't pay the bill, and that problems remain.

Similarly, we can't expect someone else to create better neighborhoods for us. We can sit around bellyaching about "them" (whoever "they" are) and saying why don't "they" fix things. Until one day we wake up and realize that "they" are "we." Citizenship is both a privilege and a responsibility.

One of the basic premises of our Community Engagement Initiative is that government doesn't build neighborhoods, people do. We've adopted the slogan, "you don't need to move to live in a better community." Strong communities require our individual and collective efforts. Government has a role to play for sure, but so do each of us. Democracy is not a spectator sport. We can't wait for someone else to do it for us.

It's time to turn off the TV, step away from the iPod and BlackBerry, and take just a little time to make our community a better place. So, talk to your neighbors, join your civic or homeowners' association, pool board, or PTA. Volunteer in the schools or for a non-profit. Sponsor a picnic or block party to get to know your neighbors.

No matter who you are, I guarantee you have something to offer your neighborhood. So, make that new year's resolution, and together, we will make our neighborhoods better places to live.

REMINDER: BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETS SEPTEMBER 14, 7:30 PM. TOPIC: BRAC & ITS IMPACT



Supervisor John C. Cook

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS:

Please provide us with the latest contact information for your Association Officers so that we may keep you better informed of events/issues in Braddock District that may impact you and your neighborhood.

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 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

Be sure to check us out to stay up to date on the latest goings-on in the Braddock District. See: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Burke-VA/Office-of-Braddock-Supervisor-John-C-Cook/113003565389251?ref=sgm>

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

August brought some welcomed “R&R” for the Supervisor, but his work in Braddock District continued.

Throughout the month, Supervisor Cook attended the remaining events at Royal Lake and Lake Accotink as this year’s Braddock Nights series came to an end. This was a remarkable season, not just because of the wonderful performers, but also because not one show had to be cancelled due to weather. There were some hot nights, but we flocked to these wonderful concerts nonetheless. We would like to personally thank our emcees, Chet McLaren

and Jim Hickey at Accotink and Tom Frenzing at Royal for their continued work, as well as our volunteers, especially Bob and Carol Devery, and corporate sponsors for making these events possible.

On August 3rd, Supervisor Cook dropped in on several neighborhoods in the Braddock District for National Night Out. Accompanying him were members of The Fairfax County Police Department and also Tessie Wilson, the Braddock District School Board representative.

DATE SET FOR COMMUNITY POOL ROUND TABLE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

As you well know, pools can help strengthen our communities by offering a place for us to meet and get to know each other throughout the summer. Unfortunately, community pools are not always easy to maintain. A few years ago, a community round table was held in the Braddock District to discuss the challenges and best practices that are involved in keeping our community swim clubs alive and well.

In that tradition, Supervisor Cook will be hosting a gathering of representatives from Braddock District’s community pools at Braddock Hall on Wednesday October 13, 2010 from 7:30 – 9:00 P.M. to discuss the state of your community pool and what we might be able to do to keep our pools viable parts of our neighborhoods.

By meeting after the season is over, each group will be able to assess the organization’s membership and financial status, see what has worked and what may need improvement. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for pools to exchange information and to hear what other groups are doing.

We look forward to at least one representative from each pool joining us. If you are able to attend, or if you have any questions regarding this meeting contact Ann Sharp at 703-425-9300.

NVCC/WAKEFIELD CHAPEL ROAD COMMUNITY FORUM: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Supervisor Cook invites residents of the communities adjacent to NVCC and Wakefield Chapel Road to attend the Community Forum on October 6, 7:30 P.M. at the Nancy Sprague Center. Topics to be discussed include traffic calming measures along Wakefield Chapel Drive and parking concerns, and we would welcome additional input. Please call Ann Sharp at 703-425-9300 to discuss items for the agenda.

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

It’s hard to believe that the beginning of school is just around the corner. Where did the summer go? Fairfax County Public Schools will start classes on Tuesday, September 7th. (And for those of you new to Fairfax County or the State of Virginia – state law dictates that our schools open after Labor Day).

First, I urge EVERYONE to be aware that our students will be walking, driving and waiting for their buses on our streets. Please use extra care as you drive – and know that traffic patterns will change and it will take a few weeks for those patterns to become routine. Let’s make the safety of all of our students a primary concern.

While we have all been faced with issues created by the continuing economic downturn, I am pleased to report that student achievement continues to rise. As we strive to do more with less, Fairfax County is

one of only 12 jurisdictions in the state of Virginia that achieved the benchmarks under the No Child Left Behind Act. If you have children in the school system, I hope that you will take the time to look at your school’s SOL scores and other measures of student achievement.

For the citizens of Braddock District, there are two boundary and facilities planning studies currently taking place which might affect some of our schools. The first is the Southwest boundary study, which is addressing over-crowding at the elementary school level in the southwest part of the county. The second is an ad-hoc committee looking at the severe over-crowding at Annandale High School and the construction of a new elementary school at the Lacey site in Annandale. Two



representatives from each potentially impacted school have been meeting to discuss options for each area. There is a great deal of information about both studies on the FCPS web site, including a schedule of the meetings for each area. All meetings are open to the public. More information will be made available to the community as we move forward.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at Tessiewilson@fcps.edu or at 571-423-1088.

Coming Soon:
Fairfax County Education Summit
Saturday, October 16, 8 AM to Noon
Robinson Secondary School
More information at www.FCPS.edu

NEXT PHASE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE: BRADDOCK RESIDENTS INCREASE THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

Supervisor Cook's Community Engagement Initiative provided lessons to over 100 community volunteers in community-building techniques. Now, those volunteers are leading efforts in neighborhoods across the district. Here are some examples:

Volunteer Ratchets Up Efforts

Jon Miskell, from the the Bonnie Brae Community, is a graduate of the 2010 Annandale Neighborhood College. He has volunteered to help Hispanics Against Child Abuse and Neglect (HACAN), a 25-year old Latino nonprofit organization in Northern Virginia, with its golf tournament fundraiser to be held October 8, 2010.

He is applying his Philadelphia-based golf charity expertise to help a nonprofit facing a budget shortfall due to the economic downturn. HACAN targets Latino immigrant children and families in Annandale, Culmore, and Springfield. For example, HACAN conducts parenting classes using its own specialized curriculum. It operates a Students Training in Advocacy and Responsibility (STAR) program at JEB Stuart High School. It has operated this program at Annandale High School.

Brandywine Pool Association Potluck

The Brandywine Pool Association is hosting an international potluck to close out the summer, and the Olde Forge-Surrey Square Civic Association is piggy-backing on that event to reach out to those in the community for whom English is a second language in order to share community news with them.

Royal Lake Pooper Scoopers

A group of women from the 2010 Braddock District Neighborhood College have come up with a plan to install bag dispensers that would hold dog waste in strategic locations around Royal Lake. Known as the "Pooper Scoopers" by their class, these ladies have yet to complete their plan, but are still working on it.

Kings Park West Townhouses Ice Cream Social

Being so close to the George Mason University campus, the Kings Park West Townhouses have several households of college students living in their community. They have planned an ice cream social for late September or early October to welcome all newcomers to the neighborhood and to help neighbors get to know one another a little bit better.

Dance Program for At-Risk Youth

Melissa Klein and Kira Harmin have met with the Executive Director at BalletNOVA to discuss having their instructors design special classes targeting at-risk youth living in Culmore. Currently, Melissa and Kira are hard at work doing community outreach and raising funds for these classes from businesses with operations in Bailey's Crossroads such as BestBuy, BB&T Bank, and Target. BalletNOVA will also offer reduced rates for these dance classes. Both Melissa and Kira are graduates of the Annandale Neighborhood College.

Additional Community Building Efforts Include:

One attendee is working toward building/nurturing community leadership within Kings Park West by recruiting and encouraging neighbors to actively participate in the KPWCA Neighborhood Watch program or Citizens Advisory Council.

A resident of Kings Park is working to get more community members interested in and trained in Emergency Preparedness (CERT, FMRC).

An attendee from Ravensworth Farm is working with their new Neighborhood Watch coordinator to revitalize their community's Neighborhood Watch program.



Supervisor Cook address a group of eager community members as he kicked off his Community Engagement Initiative.

Over 125 people attended the event and learned about ways to get involved in their neighborhoods.

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT HOLDING THREE CERT CLASSES IN SEPTEMBER

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area. CERT trains County residents in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.

Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Three CERT courses are being offered beginning in mid-September, two standard CERT classes, and a CERT class geared for County employees. To receive your certificate, you must attend all the modules. There is no charge for this training and there

are no prerequisites for these courses; they are open to all citizens over 18, who either live or work in Fairfax County. For more information, please visit www.Fairfaxcert.com.

If you would like to sign up for one of the standard courses, please email Dana Powers at Dana.powers@fairfaxcounty.gov and specify which class you would like to attend. These classes will be held at the Fire and Rescue Academy located at 4600 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA. Classes begin at 7:00 P.M. and run until about 10:30 P.M.

A sample class schedule is below:

- Class 1: Introduction
- Class 2: ICS
- Class 3: Safety
- Class 4: Triage
- Class 5: Disaster Medical
- Class 6: S&R
- Class 7: Scenarios

RESOURCE OFFICERS GET 'SCHOOLED'

School Resource Officers (SROs) are receiving training before the current school year on the very latest topics that will impact their students this year.

All 52 Fairfax County Police Department SROs are attending a week-long session at the Criminal Justice Academy in Chantilly. Their studies involve a range of topics: new laws they'll need to be aware of (such as one on bullying by text), techniques on investigating sexting cases, new drugs and substance abuse trends amongst teens and a police department hands-on driver training

program aimed at teens.

An officer is assigned to each high school and middle school in Fairfax County. Their primary responsibilities are to work closely with students and personnel to recognize sensitive issues prior to becoming problematic and to facilitate safe, secure learning environments. SRO duties involve patrolling school grounds, being available to speak with students and providing valuable lessons in non-confrontational settings. They often teach specialized topics aimed at teen safety.

SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT IN FAIRFAX

Fairfax County, working with Federal immigration officials, has identified 3,734 aliens since Secure Communities was activated in Fairfax County on March 9, 2009. Of that total, ICE officers in Fairfax have arrested or booked into custody 204 criminal aliens convicted of Level 1 crimes, 353 criminal aliens convicted of Level 2 crimes and 80 criminal aliens convicted of Level 3 crimes. Of those, ICE removed more than 74 criminal aliens convicted of Level 1 crimes as well as more than 195 criminal aliens convicted of Level 2 and 3 crimes, including burglary and serious property crimes, which account for the majority of crimes committed by aliens. ICE defines a "criminal alien" as an alien convicted of a crime.

Secure Communities is U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement's (ICE) comprehensive strategy to improve and modernize the identification and removal of convicted criminal aliens from the United States. Under the program, ICE agents check available criminal and immigration records of every individual booked by Sheriff's deputies.

As part of this strategy, ICE is leveraging a federal biometric information sharing capability to quickly and accurately identify convicted criminal aliens in law enforcement custody. Once identified, ICE determines appropriate immigration enforcement action starting with those convicted of Level 1 offenses, including murder, rape, kidnapping and major drug offenses. This process applies to all individuals arrested and booked into the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

As of June 15, 2010, ICE is using this capability in all Virginia jurisdictions. For the first time, ICE will be able to accurately determine the number of criminal aliens in Virginia and to measure the impact of policy and operational initiatives statewide.

POLICE CHIEF DAVID ROHRER TO SPEAK AT NEXT MEETING OF FAITH COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

The Faith Communities in Action (FCIA) meeting will be held in Conference Rooms 2 and 3 of the Government Center located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax Virginia on Wednesday, September 8th and run from 2 to 4 P.M. Chief Rohrer will focus his presentation on 1) Fairfax County public safety issues and the Police Department's response; and 2) faith community and Police Department communications and coordination. Come ready for a question and answer session following his presentation. Please RSVP by September 3 at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dsm/cil or call 703.324.3453.

FUNDING CHANGE UPCOMING FOR SEWER EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Starting next year, existing homes looking to connect to existing sewer lines will have to bear the costs of such connections instead of current rate payers, under a policy change recommended by the County Executive.

Many neighborhoods in Braddock District are served by septic systems and are not hooked into the county's wastewater treatment network. In the past, communities have been eligible to petition Fairfax County to extend public sanitary sewer to their properties. The cost of building the infrastructure to run a new line from a nearby sewer main had been paid for by the County, using its Sewer Enterprise Fund - largely supported by fees charged to new customers.

Individual homeowners paid both a connection fee and the cost of actually constructing a lateral connection to their home. Now, due both to the downturn in housing construction, and because the county is largely "built out," revenues are not sufficient to maintain this Fund at a level that would allow the County to continue to absorb 100 percent of the cost of construction of the new sewer line.

On September 14, the Board of Supervisors will consider a change in its current Policy for how it will financially support new requests for Sewer Extension and Improvement projects. Board members learned that no other jurisdiction in the Metro area pays 100 percent of these costs, which include planning, engineering, land acquisition and construction. Instead, these costs are frequently handled by establishing Tax Districts to pay for the new infrastructure.

For the county to continue to pay 100 percent of these costs, it is estimated that existing rate payers would have to absorb a two percent increase in their monthly bills. The County Executive has recommended that the current policy be amended to require that construction costs for future projects be reimbursed by those property owners who will benefit. The Sewer Fund will continue to finance the project management, engineering and construction management costs.

Specifically, staff is recommending that each new project establish a Sanitary District which would repay the cost of construction over a 20 year period. The County would finance the construction at no interest, and payments would be made as part of semi-annual tax bills. Fifty-one percent of the homeowners would need to petition to become part of the District, but once that threshold was reached and a public hearing conducted, all property owners would have to equally bear the total cost of construction, whether or not they wished to connect. The fund would undertake to complete construction on \$2 million in projects annually and would not retain a balance higher than \$5 million. Projects would be prioritized based on the condition of the septic systems.

A complete copy of the proposed Board Agenda Item is available in the Braddock office for review and we welcome your comments and suggestions before the Board votes on this important change.

IMPORTANT BRADDOCK/ FAIRFAX/MASON FORUM SCHEDULED: SEPTEMBER 29TH

For any Braddock District residents interested in what is going on at George Mason University, or anyone who drives through the Route 123/Braddock Road intersection, the meeting on September 29, 7:30 P.M. at the Fairfax City Hall Council Chambers is a must attend event!

Representatives from both Mason and the County Department of Transportation will discuss the results of the long term transportation study completed earlier this year. While implementation may be in the future, the vision is worth hearing.

Additionally, Delegate David Bulova, Supervisor Cook and Mayor Lederer will all be in attendance to make an announcement about the formation of a George Mason University Fairfax Campus Advisory Board. Traci Claar will be there to tell us about what is new at Mason this year, and by the time of the meeting, there may be some news about the University Mall renovation plans.

We encourage as many of you as possible to come out for this Forum. If you have any interest in what is going on with Mason and the surrounding communities, this is the place to hear the news!

GET ENGAGED: COMMUNITY MEMBERS HOPE FOR BRADDOCK DOG PARK

A group of Braddock District residents have been meeting together for almost two years to try to identify a location for a public off-leash dog park in the community. This particular group, chaired by Russ Rosen of Kings Park West, worked with Park Authority Board member Winnie Shapiro to identify possible park sites that would be acceptable and large enough to provide a buffer to any nearby homes.

The Park Authority has rules that dog users must follow if they use off-leash areas: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parkrules/dogpark.htm>. In order for an off-leash area to be considered, there must be a sponsoring group.

There are many benefits to off-leash dog exercise areas. They give dog owners a fenced-in space where their dogs can run, play and socialize with other dogs freely. They give dog owners a chance to socialize with folks they might not otherwise meet, and with whom they can share information and recommendations on a wide variety of topics. Dog parks vary in size, but they usually provide a water source, plenty of waste bags, donated toys and tennis balls.

This fall, the Park Authority will host a meeting about a master plan revision for Monticello Park in Braddock District. One of the options being considered is a dog park. Monticello Park is located on 8.8 acres at 5315 Guinea Rd. Once this meeting is formally scheduled, we will have more information.

In the meantime, Supervisor Cook invites any Braddock resident interested in being part of a group that would sponsor a dog park to attend a meeting in the Braddock District community room, Braddock Hall, on September 22 at 7:30 P.M.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE UPDATE

Danbury Forest: FDPA-C-194

This will be the subject of a Public Hearing before the Planning Commission on September 16, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. This project would allow property owners who are part of this application to make modifications to their homes. In addition, it will allow future modifications to the pool house and future uses on three community owned open space sites. Uses may include: tot lots, play fields, vegetable gardens, flower gardens, site landscaping, pergolas, trellis structures, arbors, sheds, benches and retaining walls. The Danbury Homeowners Association has decided not to pursue a dog park at this time, and that use is not included this application.

The neighboring Kings Park Civic Association has recommended approval of this application. A copy of the staff report will be available in the office for review after Labor Day. This matter will not come before the Board of Supervisors. The final decision will be made by the Planning Commission. However, Supervisor Cook is monitoring the matter and working with interested parties and welcomes your comments or questions.

Woodson Bus Parking: 2232-B10-16

Fairfax County Public Schools has proposed to create a bus parking area with 51 bus spaces and 37 other vehicle spaces on a vacant 2.4 acre parcel on the corner of Pickett Road and Main Street (the Frost/Woodson Campus). Access to the site will be through two sliding gates and the site will be illuminated. A staff report will be available ten days before the Planning Commission Hearing, scheduled for October 28, 2010. This matter will not come before the Board of Supervisors. The final decision will be made by the Planning Commission. However, Supervisor Cook is monitoring the case.

To sign up to speak at either of these hearings, contact the Planning Commission at 703-324-2865 before 3:00 P.M. on the day of the hearing or register on-line at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/speaker.htm>

University Mall: RZ-2009-BR-015, PCA-C-83-2 and SEA 87-A-086-02.

After substantive discussions with holders of a covenant agreement with College Town Associates, this application is again being actively reviewed by the Department of Planning and Zoning. On October 5, 2010, Supervisor Cook will host a Community Information Meeting at 7:30 P.M. at Oak View Elementary School, 5004 Sideburn Rd. The developer will make a presentation on the current plan, and Supervisor Cook will be joined by Planning Commissioner Harsel and staff to hear concerns and answer questions. A public hearing before the Planning Commission is currently scheduled for December 9, 2010. This matter would require final approval from the Board of Supervisors.

Telecommunication Tower Applications:

Three towers are currently proposed by T-Mobile on land located in the Springfield District, but which may have a visual impact on Braddock residents. Over the summer we reported on the balloon flyings that took place so that affected neighbors had an opportunity to see how they may be impacted. The Planning Commissioners for Braddock District and Springfield District will participate in community meetings in the community room at the Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road on the following dates:

1. Washington Irving Middle School: September 13 at 7:00 P.M.
2. Accotink Unitarian Church: September 14 at 7:00 P.M.
3. Fairfax Country Club: September 20 at 7:00 P.M.

Active Site Plans:

- 7-Eleven Inc. A site plan for a new structure on Rolling Road at Trayford Lane (Plan No:024637-SP-001-3) was completed on August 23 and has been sent forward for final processing.
- Northeast Land and Investment Company has filed a preliminary site plan with Fairfax County (Plan No: 7066-PL-003-1) to place three single family homes on a 6.1 acre tract off Steamboat Landing Lane. Copies of the plan are available in my office for review.

BRYCE ESTATES REZONING

After a second community meeting on August 10, the developer has made a number of changes that strengthen this application. The number of houses has been reduced from ten to nine, and the resulting lots are now more uniform in size. The homes that faced onto Burke Lake Road will now turn inward, allowing an existing tree buffer to remain in place. In consultation with the Urban Forester, a much larger "tree save" area has also been identified.

The entrance will line up with the signal at Shiplett Blvd., and the developer proposes to extend the existing medians to facilitate pedestrian crossing of Burke Lake Road. Traffic analyses are ongoing.

Planning Commissioner Harsel continues to work closely with abutting owners, and please contact the office if you believe that there are issues that have not been addressed. The Public Hearing before the Planning Commission is scheduled for October 20 at 8:00 P.M. and the staff report will be available for review in the Braddock District office 10 days before that hearing.



AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER, HOSTED BY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring an AARP Driver Safety Program on Monday/Tuesday, September 20-21, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M., at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy, 14601 Lee Road, Chantilly. This driver improvement course provides information on safe driving strategies and a thorough review of the "rules of the road." There are no tests and all participants will receive a

course workbook. In addition, participants will be eligible to receive a discount through their auto insurance.

Preregistration is required and class size is limited. The cost is \$12 for members and \$14 for nonmembers. Checks should be made payable to AARP. To register, contact 2nd Lieutenant Charise Thompson at 703-246-3246 or e-mail charise.thompson@fairfaxcounty.gov.

2010 PESTICIDE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Summer is drawing to a close and you may find that your garage is filled with partially filled spray cans or containers of pesticide products that you no longer want to store.

Here is an opportunity to dispose of them in a manner that is safe for the environment.

The Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the Virginia Pesticide Control board invite farmers, pesticide dealers, pest control firms, homeowners and golf courses to participate in the 2010 pesticide disposal program, which collects unwanted, outdated, or banned pesticides and disposes of them in a safe manner.

The program is available at no cost to participants in the Counties of Fairfax and Arlington, or in the Cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, and Fairfax. The program is funded through pesticide product registration fees collected by VDACS - Office of Pesticide Services.

Participants must transport their unwanted pesticides to the Fair Oaks Merrifield Garden Center. If a participant cannot safely containerize the unwanted pesticides for transport, the disposal contractor will make arrangements to do so for them. Only unwanted pesticides will be accepted. The program does NOT accept motor oil, paint, fuel, fertilizer or other chemicals. Participants should complete a pesticide disposal registration form ahead of time and return the completed form to VDACS, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. The form is available at: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/disposal.shtml>

Disposal Location: Merrifield Garden Center - Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-968-9600

When: Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 9AM - 1PM

For more information, contact Fairfax Cooperative Extension Agent Adria Bordas at 703-324-5369.

FREE SEMINARS FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

The Fairfax Caregiver Seminar Consortium will present a series of seminars this fall for caregivers. Two that are being held in locations convenient to Braddock residents are highlighted below. For a full list of seminars go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/DFS/OlderAdultServices and select the events link.

Making Life Easier: Gadgets, Gizmos and Home Modifications

Learn about home modifications and inexpensive devices that can help your loved ones maintain independence. Wednesday,

September 15 7-9 pm. Braddock Glen Adult Day Health Center, 4027B Olley Lane, Fairfax. For Directions: 703-978-0502

Navigating the Medicaid Maze: Waivers, Eligibility and Documentation

Learn about Medicaid's eligibility criteria, screening process, required documentation and how to access Medicaid to help fund home-based and nursing home care. Tuesday September 28, 7-9 pm. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. For directions: 703-256-3800

NEW BRADDOCK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS: NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

On this month's edition of BNN, Supervisor Cook invited Jean Zettler from the Fairfax County Citizens Corps Council, Lewis Saylor from the Northern Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster, and Beth Goss from Faith Communities in Action to discuss National Preparedness Month in September and how neighbors can volunteer to help neighbors prepare for emergencies.

Volunteers and volunteer organizations play a critical role during emergencies. Government services often perform exemplary and courageous work to assist those in need, but difficulties in transportation and communication can make it difficult to meet the sheer volume of demand faced in an emergency. As individuals, families, and neighborhoods, we all have an important role to play.

On the program, our guests share with

viewers how they became involved as volunteers, how volunteer organizations are helping to prepare our community for emergencies, and how you can help to protect your family and neighborhood by joining these efforts.

If you are interested in learning more, please tune in to BNN on Fridays and Sundays at 5 p.m. or Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on Channel 16. You can also watch online at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/supervisor_cook.asx.

To volunteer, you can contact the Fairfax County Citizens Corps Council at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/council.htm> or contact Lewis Saylor from the Northern Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster at 703-955-6310.