



# The BRADDOCK BEACON

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

## TOWN HALL JUNE 1: COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The digital and information revolutions have changed nearly every aspect of our lives. With the increasing popularity of smartphones, tablet computers, and laptops, many Americans are connected to the Internet almost constantly. This rapidly increasing ubiquity of the Internet has helped people connect across geographic and cultural barriers.

Community communication is changing. While some still think of the 'community meeting,' scheduled two or three weeks in advance, on a weekday night, advertised by signs and newspaper articles, community members are communicating differently. They jump on Facebook or onto myneighborhood.com for everything from referrals for a pediatrician to details of the car accident that occurred ten minutes ago. Fifty community members may communicate in one afternoon on a topic that arose that day, while only twenty may come to a traditional community meeting in two weeks.

As the world adapts to accommodate the new digital reality, local government must do the

same. However, many citizens are not aware of the existing opportunities to connect with their government quickly and easily through the Web.

To help, Supervisor Cook is hosting a technology focused town-hall meeting on June 1. There will be Community Leaders there to explain how they use the Internet to keep their communities more civically engaged, and speakers from the County to let people know about all the services available online. We'll also have breakout sessions on how to use the Internet and social media during emergency situations. The town-hall will be a great opportunity to learn how to connect with your government and community in all areas. Finally, renowned futurist Rick Smyre will help us peer into the future to see where rapidly advancing technology will take us. Attendees are encouraged to bring a laptop, tablet or smartphone if they have one. **We hope you'll join us June 1 at 8:30 a.m. in Finance Park at Frost Middle School, 4101 Pickett Road, Fairfax. Please RSVP by emailing [braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov). See the town hall agenda on page 2.**

## JOIN SUPERVISOR COOK, GMU PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY FORUM ON MAY 15

Please join Supervisor Cook, Mayor Scott Silverthorne and Dr. Angel Cabrera, president of George Mason University, for our next University Community Forum at 7:30 p.m. on May 15. The Forum will take place at City Hall, Council Chambers, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax.

At the May meeting, we are particularly happy that Dr. Cabrera will be giving a presentation of Mason's vision that he spoke of at his inauguration on April 26. The agenda will also include an update on the University Mall renovation, as well as updates for the construction activity on the George Mason campus. The schedule of graduations taking place at the Patriot Center will be

discussed, as well as other upcoming community events. The graduation schedule, reports from past meetings, and information about other university resources can be found at <http://communityrelations.gmu.edu/>.

The University Community Forum takes place quarterly and provides an opportunity for Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax and George Mason University to share information and discuss issues of interest to the communities in an open forum where all are welcome to attend. Topics usually are those of more interest to the communities closest to Mason, though sometimes touch upon items of more widespread interest.



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](mailto: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](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov) and write "BEACON" 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/supervisorcook> and on <http://www.twitter.com/braddockoffice>

## AFTERMATH OF BOSTON BOMBING REMINDS US TO STAY INFORMED, BE VIGILANT AND PREPARE

In the aftermath of last month's explosions at the Boston Marathon, you may be wondering what you can do to ensure the safety of you and your loved ones. Officials in the National Capital Region encourage residents to take three simple steps:

1. Stay Informed
2. Be Vigilant
3. Prepare

### Stay Informed

- Visit the Fairfax County website to register for emergency alerts from CEAN — the Community Emergency Alert Network. You'll be able to get alerts delivered to your email account(s) and as text messages to your cellphone.

- Check the Fairfax County website and sign up for email news alerts or RSS feeds.

- Follow Fairfax County social media sites (Twitter and Facebook).

- Bookmark [www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov](http://www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov) for regional news and information.

### Be Vigilant

Always be aware of your surroundings. Remember, "If you see something, say something."

Write down or save the hotline phone number to report suspicious activities. If you cannot easily locate someone in uniform, call one of the following numbers:

- Washington, D.C.: 202-962-2121
- Maryland: 1-800-492-TIPS (8477)
- Virginia: 1-877-4VA-TIPS (482-8477)

For imminent threats, call 9-1-1.

### Prepare

Mobile devices are an important way to stay informed and connected before, during and after an emergency.

- Communicate with friends and family via text, email, Twitter, Facebook and other social media. Texting is often the best way to get through to each other in an emergency.

- Make sure your mobile phone has an electric or solar charger.

- Prepare a family contact sheet. This should include at least one out-of-town contact that may be better able to reach family members in an emergency.

## BRADDOCK DISTRICT TOWN HALL AGENDA

**8:30 - 9:00**

Registration, light refreshments, and information stations

**9:00 - 9:20**

Welcoming remarks by Supervisor Cook

**9:20 - 10:00**

Discussion on how you can use social networking for your neighborhood, led by members of the community.

**10:00 - 10:45**

Session on how to navigate the County websites, presented by Jeremy Lasich, from the Office of Public Affairs.

**10:45 - 11:00**

Break

**11:00 - 11:40**

Breakout Session 1

- *Learning About My Neighborhood*, presented by Joey Taguding from the Department of Information Technology

- *Emergency Management Technology*, presented by Marcelo Ferreira of the Office of Emergency Management

- *Using Technology to Assist Resident's Needs*, presented by Grace Lynch of Family Services

- *How to Use Tablets, Smartphones and Apps*, presented by Charlie Szold and Lindsey Smith, from Supervisor Cook's office.

**11:40 - 12:20**

Breakout session 2

Switch rooms and attend a different session

**12:20 - 12:50**

What does the future of technology hold for communities? Listen as renowned futurist Rick Smyre, from the Center for Communities of the Future presents his predictions.

**12:50 - 1:00**

Wrap-up comments, moderated by Supervisor Cook

## COMMENT ON FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN

In Summer 2011, Park Authority leadership began identifying focus areas for the agency's 2014-2018 strategic plan. A number of areas were identified, through reflection back upon the 2006-2010 strategic plan and consideration of the opportunities and challenges the Park Authority faces now through 2018.

This plan outlines the areas where focused efforts of the organization will be required, recognizing that these efforts may

continue to evolve or expand to meet the changing circumstance, needs, and expectations of those who lives, work, and play in Fairfax County.

You can review the strategic plan at the link below and comment by emailing [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov). You must submit your comment by June 2.

Proposed strategic plan: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/strategicplan/>

## SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

**On April 2nd,** Supervisor Cook held his second town hall meeting for the community about the FY2014 Fairfax County Budget. This meeting was at Robinson Secondary School and Fairfax County Executive Ed Long was present to answer questions.

**On April 3rd,** Supervisor Cook participated in a roundtable discussion at the Fairfax County Council of PTAs General Membership Meeting, which was held at the Gatehouse Administration Complex in Falls Church. The focus for the discussion was Parent Advocacy Training.



**On April 5th,** Supervisor Cook was at Lake Braddock Secondary School to deliver opening remarks before the annual volleyball game between the faculties of Kings Park and Kings Glen Elementary Schools.

**On April 6th,** Supervisor Cook helped to celebrate the Opening Day for the Fairfax Little League by participating in a morning parade and then throwing out the ceremonial first pitch.

**On April 7th,** Supervisor Cook attended a ceremony for the 2013 Northern Virginia Holocaust Observance which was held at the Jewish Community Center on Little River Turnpike.

**On April 13th,** Supervisor Cook was honored to take part in a ceremony to unveil a new plaque at Woodson High School to symbolize their 50th Anniversary.

**On April 16th,** Supervisor Cook attended the Burke Centre Station Commons meeting which was held at the Commons Community Center. The main focus was to update the citizens on the new sidewalk to be built just outside of their community on Burke Centre Commons Road.

**On April 18th,** Supervisor Cook attended the annual Volunteer Service Awards which are sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax. Amy Gould was recognized as this year's Braddock Com-



munity Champion for her foundation of and work with the Fairfax County Restoration Project.

**On April 22nd,** Supervisor Cook attended a meeting at Lake Braddock Secondary School that centered around the project to install artificial turf on the athletic fields.

**On April 24th,** Supervisor Cook attended and spoke to citizens around the George Mason University West Campus Connector project about concerns over stormwater management issues on Kelly Drive.

**On April 25th,** Supervisor Cook helped FACETS celebrate its 25th Anniversary at the annual FACETS Cares Breakfast, which was held at the Fair Oaks Waterford.

**On April 26th,** Supervisor Cook was honored to attend the Inauguration for the new President of George Mason University, Dr. Angel Cabrera.

**On April 28th,** Supervisor Cook attended a fundraising event for Fairfax County Police Officer, Long Dinh. Officer Dinh was seriously injured in the line of duty on February 28th when his police cruiser was struck head on by a fleeing suspect travelling the wrong way on Little River Turnpike. Hard Times Café in Fairfax hosted the event.

## STAY OFF TRACKS AT BURKE CENTRE STATION



Some Fairfax residents and Virginia Railway Express riders have started taking a shortcut across train tracks near the Burke Centre Station. While it might seem like a time saver, it could end up costing you more than that.

As WTOP's Hank Silverberg reports, everyday more than 25 freight or commuter trains roll through Burke Centre, creating an extremely dangerous situation for pedestrians trying to cross. What's worse, several of the freight trains don't stop at the station and are traveling through a huge curve with poor site lines.

"The visibility for a train engineer who's going 80 miles an hour, he doesn't see you until he's

literally on you," VRE spokesman Mark Roeber told WTOP.

Crossing the tracks, no matter how safe it might seem at the time, is just too risky. It can and will lead to an accident if people aren't more careful in the future.

Less important than your health, but worth noting: Cross the train track is trespassing and could lead to arrest.

There are no plans to build a pedestrian walkway across the tracks at this time.

It's imperative that residents stay safe and stay off the train tracks.

## CHANGES MADE TO FLOW OF TRAFFIC AT BURKE VRE

In an effort to improve the safety and flow of traffic at the Burke Virginia Railway Express Garage, several changes were recently implemented by the Fairfax County Department of Facilities Management. This project has restricted the flow of traffic on the west side of the garage (closest to Roberts Parkway) for use as an exit only. All vehicles must enter the garage through the entrance on the east side. Traffic delineators have been installed in the center of the roadway to direct motorists to this entrance. All vehicles exiting the parking garage must turn right onto the Station Access Road. All traffic is subject to enforcement by the Fairfax County Police Department.

## CHAMBER HONORS 1ST RESPONDERS WHO GO ABOVE & BEYOND

Many of Fairfax County's first responders do more than protect our community. Many of them better our community by quietly volunteering their personal time, energy, and funds to fill a need.

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce will honor first responders who go above and beyond at its inaugural "Above & Beyond: First Responders Benefit Luncheon" from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., June 3, at the Springfield Golf & Country Club.

Tickets to the event can be purchased online at [www.springfieldchamber.org](http://www.springfieldchamber.org) or you can mail your payment to Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, 6434 Brandon Avenue, Suite 208, Springfield, VA 22150. General admission is \$50.

## SUPERVISOR COOK HONORS HEROIC BOY SCOUT CHRIS MAYHEW

Supervisor Cook honored Boy Scout Chris Mayhew at the April 30th meeting of the Board. Chris won the Medal of Merit from the Boy Scout's National Court of Honor, which is awarded for an "outstanding act of service or exceptional character." Here is the text of Supervisor Cook's Board Matter recognizing Chris:

"It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Chris Mayhew from Boy Scout Troop 1131 for being awarded the Medal of Merit from the Boy Scout's National Court of Honor.

Mayhew, whose troop is located in Braddock District, was returning with his family from a trip to Virginia Beach. While driving on I-64, a car in front of his family's car swerved off the road and flipped over as it went down an embankment. Chris immediately told his mother to stop the car so he could go help. He then directed his mom to call 9-1-1 while he ran down the embankment to the car. Thankfully, the car had landed right side up and the driver was able to exit under his own power. However, the driver had some serious cuts that required first aid attention. Chris ran back to his car, grabbed a bottle of water and napkins to help clean the driver's cuts and stanch bleeding from one particularly deep cut. When first responders arrived about 10 minutes later, Chris gathered the driver's personal belongings and put them into the ambulance with the driver.

Chris, a sophomore at Robinson Secondary School, was awarded the Medal of Merit for an "outstanding act of service or a rare or exceptional character that reflects an uncommon degree of concern for the well-being of others."

Without objection, I ask that the Board of Supervisors congratulate Chris for his achievement and invite him to come before the Board to be formally recognized."

## EXPERIENCE JOYS OF PET OWNERSHIP WITHOUT LIFETIME COMMITMENT

Do you love animals? Do you want to help save lives of homeless pets in Fairfax County? Experience the joys of being a pet parent without the lifetime commitment of pet ownership. Teach your children about volunteering, humane treatment of animals and animal husbandry. Consider becoming a foster parent to a shelter animal.

Taking in four to five thousand homeless animals each year, The Fairfax County Animal Shelter accepts any companion animal that comes through its doors, regardless of age, health or temperament.

Some of these animals are not quite ready for adoption when they enter the Shelter. They may require the loving care of a foster family to prepare them for their forever home. As spring, the shelter's busiest season, continues, foster parents are needed to help nurse animals back to health and provide socialization for timid

or scared animals.

The Shelter is recruiting potential foster parents for adult dogs with special medical needs, puppies, and orphaned kittens as well as fosters for dogs and cats that need extra attention and socialization prior to being placed for adoption.

"The Shelter provides all of the medical care, food and supplies for foster animals," says Kristen Auerbach, Community Outreach Program

Manager. "As a foster parent, you provide a safe and nurturing place for an animal that needs extra TLC. Our foster parents save lives by the selfless act of opening their hearts and homes."

A special foster information session will be held on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Shelter at 4500 West Ox Road.

Please RSVP to [Kathleen.cornell@fair-](mailto:Kathleen.cornell@fairfaxcounty.gov)

[faxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/foster.htm) if you are interested in attending this session. If you are unable to attend this session, but are still interested in fostering, please fill out a foster application by visiting the foster care page of at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/foster.htm>.



GENIE IS A THREE-YEAR-OLD DOMESTIC SHORT-HAIR, AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION THROUGH THE FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER.

### BNN FEATURES GMU, NVCC REPRESENTATIVES

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 Traci Claar, the director of Community and Local Government Relations for George Mason University and Bob Hull, community outreach specialist for the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Their main job is to communicate plans, goals, and objectives to the community. As both of these Institutions are in Braddock, we are grateful for their outreach and for being concerned and engaged neighbors.

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.

## AVOID HEFTY FINES WHEN ACCIDENTALLY TAKING 495 EXPRESS LANES

Drivers who accidentally take the Express Lanes without an E-ZPass must still pay the toll, either through the 495 Express Lanes website or through the mail. Those who don't pay will face escalating and costly penalties.

First, if you enter the Express Lanes without an E-ZPass, a camera will capture an image of your license plate and log the trip. If you know that you went on the Express Lanes without an E-ZPass, you have five days to look up your trip on [495ExpressLanes.com](http://495ExpressLanes.com) to pay for your trip. You can do this by clicking the "Missed a Toll" button on the website. Then search for your license plate number.

If you pay your toll within five days, you will also pay an administrative fee of \$1.50.

However, if it has been more than five days, an invoice will be mailed to you with instructions on how to pay. The administrative fee is then pushed to \$12.50.

You can contact the Express Lanes if you wish to dispute an invoice or if you have any questions. You can reach them via email (<https://www.495expresslanes.com/contact-us>) or at 877-495-9777.

The easiest way to avoid the hassle is to purchase an E-ZPass. You can get an E-ZPass and learn more about the system by visiting this website: <https://www.495expresslanes.com/using-ezpass>. You can also call 877-762-7824. The standard E-ZPass costs 50 cents per month and must be loaded with \$35 in prepaid tolls.

## EXPERIENCE THE PICK OF THE CROP WITH FARMERS MARKETS



There's nothing like the taste of a fresh tomato or a juicy peach to bring out the flavor of summer. From May to November, Fairfax County's eleven farmers markets come to life with a feast for the senses. The vibrant colors of freshly picked fruits and vegetables contrast with the fragrant perfume of cut flowers. The aroma of freshly baked bread and pastries floats across the market while patrons savor samples of creamy artisan cheese. You will also find fresh eggs, meats and other edible delights

along with gardening plants of all sizes.

The Braddock District is fortunate to have two markets in our district:

- Wednesdays beginning May 1 until October 30 from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. at Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road

- Saturdays in Burke beginning May 4 until November 23; 8 a.m.- noon at the VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway.

All products sold are produced by vendors within 125 miles of Fairfax County, and brokers or resellers are strictly prohibited. So you can be assured that the produce you purchase at Park Authority Farmers Markets is fresh, locally-grown and consistently good. One of the many vendors selected for 2013 is Potomac Vegetable Farms Inc. of Vienna. While they participate at the Reston, Falls Church, Arlington and Leesburg markets on Saturdays, their website (<http://www.potomacvegetablefarms.com/recipes/>) is full of interesting recipes for foods you may have never known how to prepare or serve. Most vendors are more than willing to share ideas on how to prepare the fruits of their labors!

Fairfax County Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners offer Plant Clinics at most markets. Citizens can bring plant or insect samples for pest identification or disease diagnosis. Master Gardeners also help citizens by having informational displays on topics such as Container Gardening or EcoSavvy Gardening. To see a list of other market locations in Fairfax County go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-farm-mkt.htm>.

The Farmers Markets are supervised by the Fairfax County Park Authority through the Community Horticulture office based at Green Spring Gardens. The daily operations of the markets are managed by volunteer Market Masters.

Stop by and shop at your local Farmers Market this year!

### SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR 'BEST OF BRADDOCK' AWARDS

Nominations are now being accepted for the annual Best of Braddock Awards. The BoB's are given annually by the Braddock District Council and Supervisor Cook in recognition of those who contribute to the betterment of life and services in the Braddock District. Awards are given in the following categories:

- 1.Braddock District Citizen of the Year
- 2.Braddock District Young Person of the Year
- 3.Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification in the Braddock District/Individual Homeowner or Community Association
- 4.Commercial Beautification or Improvement in the Braddock District--Landscaping, Building Appearance, Clean-Up, Other
- 5.Most "Can-Do" Public Employee Working on Issues in the Braddock District - Federal State or Local
6. Most Outstanding Business Person in the Braddock District
7. Club or Organization Making a Difference in the Braddock District

Please download the nomination form here: <http://bit.ly/100jnLz> and submit your nominations by May 31 Awards will be presented at the Braddock District Picnic July 10.

### CELEBRATE NATIONAL 'BIKE TO SCHOOL' DAY ON MAY 8

Multiple organizations in the Greater Washington area join together with schools from around the country to celebrate National Bike to School Day on May 8, 2013.

Thousands of students throughout the area will be riding or walking to school along with parents, teachers, and community leaders. Leaders from the Washington Area Bicycle Association, BikeArlington, Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling, Trails-forYouth, Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition and the Greater Washington DC Regions Safe Routes to School Network, all encourage parents to leave their cars in the driveway and join their children in riding to school on May 8.

To date over 70 schools in the Washington, D.C.-region have signed up to participate in National Bike to School Day. More are expected as the day gets closer and are encouraged to register their school at [www.walkbiketoschool.org](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org).

Bike to School Day encourages a nationwide bike-focused celebration for students in the month of May and builds on the popularity and success of International Walk to School Day, which is celebrated across the world each October.

For additional information, please contact Christine Green at [christine@saferoutespartnership.org](mailto:christine@saferoutespartnership.org).

## BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE UPDATES

### **Penn Property Plans Presented to Community**

Plans to construct ten single family homes adjacent to Briarwood were presented by the Evergreene Companies at a Community Information Meeting hosted by Supervisor Cook on May 1. Newly revised plans show lots averaging 11,500 square feet with 18 foot driveways and sidewalks on both sides of an extension to Banting Drive. Homes would be approximately 2,700 to 3,800 square feet. After discussions with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the current plans show this public street ending in a hammerhead rather than a standard cul de sac. Utilities would all be underground and the project has achieved a level of 28 percent tree preservation. Extensive discussion about the proposed use of both an infiltration trench and a rain garden to control stormwater took place, and the developer indicated that there would be a 20-year maintenance escrow provided on these facilities. The current access to Braddock Road from the property would be eliminated. Residents

expressed concerns about possible impacts on community roads caused by heavy truck traffic. Evergreene promised to undertake a baseline condition survey as part of securing its VDOT Permit, and stated that any damage would be repaired. The current site design was described as a "work in progress" which would be modified to reflect concerns raised by County staff and the community. The developer stated that it had 28 active projects in the area and invited residents to take a virtual tour of those communities at <http://myevergreenehome.com>. A public hearing before the Planning Commission is currently scheduled for July 17. The Braddock District Land Use and Environmental Management Committee will formally review the plans at its June meeting. Individuals desiring a copy of these plans should email [Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### **Community Meeting on Lake Braddock Secondary School Monopole**

Milestone Communications and AT&T Mobility will host a community information meeting on their proposal to construct a 130-foot telecommunications pole on the grounds of Lake Braddock Secondary School in the Kings Park Library Community Room on May 8. The pole would have 12 panel antennas. An equipment shelter measuring 20 feet by 11 feet is also proposed. The pole will be designed to host up to five additional carriers. A virtual simulation of how the pole would look from nearby neighborhoods can be found at <http://www.lakebraddockwirelesspole.com>. A balloon test that will show the height of the pole from the currently proposed location is scheduled for June 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The location currently proposed on the site has been developed in concert with Fairfax County Public Schools staff. The Braddock District Land Use and Environmental Management Committee will hear a presentation on this proposal at its meeting of June 18.

## ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES

### **Monday, May 13th**

Stream Monitoring Workshop: Springfield/Burke

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location: South Run Stream Valley Park, Springfield

Help monitor the health of this beautiful rocky stream in a leafy section of western Springfield. To RSVP and get directions, please contact Dan Schwartz: at [dan.schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dan.schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### **Thursday, May 16th**

Compost Happens! Workshop and Movie Screening

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Green Acres Community Center, 4401 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax

At this workshop, experienced composters will be on hand to discuss their methods and show how you can compost even with space and time limitations. A free screening of "Dirt! The Movie" will

wrap up the event. Sponsored by the Mason Sustainability Institute. Please register: <http://msi.gmu.edu/registration>.

### **Saturday, May 18th**

Green Spring Garden Native Plant Sale

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria

Many plant vendors will be hawking their wares at this large native plant sale. Pick up something pretty and native for your yard, and check out the great grounds and exhibits of Green Spring while you are there!

### **Saturday, May 30th**

Gardening for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Green Acres Community Center, 4401 Sideburn Rd.

Plants provide the structure of the gar-

den, but insects make it truly come alive. Learn techniques for creating a garden that will promote better growth, more blooms and better harvests. Sponsored by the Mason Sustainability Institute. Please register in advance: <http://msi.gmu.edu/registration>.

## RECYCLE YOUR DEFUNCT ELECTRONICS

Fairfax County residents can recycle televisions, unbroken fluorescent light bulbs, computers and peripheral devices — including keyboards, speakers, printers, external drives and other such materials — on Electric Sundays. There is no charge for Fairfax County residents to participate in Electric Sunday. However, you might be required to

show proof of residency. The next Electric Sunday event is May 19 at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax. In 2012, more than 12,000 residents recycled over 1.3 million tons of electronics equipment. For a full list of Electric Sunday events go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm>.

## FAIRFAX WATER STARTS ANNUAL CYCLE OF UPGRADING WATER CONVEYANCE PIPES

Fairfax Water has started its annual cycle of upgrading water conveyance pipes in the Braddock District. Many of these upgrades are the result of increasing maintenance requirements, warranting full replacement. Streets that will see replacement of water mains in the immediate future include:

- Nightingale Court (Wakefield Chapel)
  - Alberta Court (Keene Mill)
  - Mineola Court (Cardinal Forest)
- Access to homeowner driveways will be maintained, and the road will be restored upon completion.

## SMARTPHONE APP HELPS WITH RAIN GARDEN

Thinking about installing a rain garden? The University of Connecticut's Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) has developed a rain garden smart phone app that is now available for download from iTunes. The app is called "Rain Garden" and leads the user through siting, sizing, constructing, planting and maintaining a rain garden. It includes nifty tools to help the user figure out the proper size of the garden, find out about local soil conditions, get a

handle on the price of construction, and customize a plant list that will delight the eye while soaking up stormwater. In addition, there are six short video segments explaining various aspects of rain garden care and feeding. The app is only for iPhones at the moment, but there will be an Android version out soon. The imagery and plants are specific to Connecticut, but they are starting work on a national version that will have extensive databases for each area of the country.

## OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET CLEANOUT HELPS CURB DRUG ABUSE

Help our community prevent prescription medicine abuse and accidental poisoning by monitoring and properly disposing of your unused or expired medications during Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout.

When: May 27 -June 1

Bring your unused or expired medications (just pills or liquids, no pressurized canisters or needles, please) to one of six local Fairfax county district police stations, including:

- Franconia District station, 6121 Franconia road, Alexandria

- Mason District Station, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

- Mount Vernon District Station, 2511 Parkers Lane

- Reston District Station, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston

- Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly

- West Springfield District Station, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield

For more information contact Amy Reif, UPC Health sector coordinator at [areif@upcfairfax.org](mailto:areif@upcfairfax.org).

## HUMAN SERVICES

May is Foster Care and Foster Family Recognition Month as well as Older Americans Month. Please be sure to celebrate those giving to our children and our older friends and family.

### Robust Walking

Wednesday, May 8

10:00 a.m. – noon

Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax

This program shows you how to:

- Weave low-intensity exercises into a walk
- Use environmental objects as exercise props
- Gain balance, strength, agility, flexibility, and endurance
- Become a leader of a neighborhood robust walking group

To RSVP, contact Paul Woods at 703-324-5347, TTY 711, or email [paul.woods@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:paul.woods@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Burke Center Library – Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

May 13 - June 27

Mondays 10:00 a.m. to noon

### Aging In Place - Home Modifications and Gadgets

May 15, 7:30 p.m.

Kings Park Library

### Kinship Respite Day

May 18

Fairfax County is offering a day off for grandparents and relatives raising children for another family member. Learn more here: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/news/kinship-respite-day-2013.htm>.

### 5K Walk Benefits Children in Foster Care

May 18

Join the annual 5K Walk from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to honor the foster families and children of Fairfax County. Sponsored by Fairfax Families4Kids and the BeFriend-A-Child mentoring programs, the walk will be held at the rear entrance of Lake Accotink Park, located at 5660 Heming Avenue in Springfield.

A \$30 registration fee per participant includes T-shirt, refreshments for the walk and a picnic afterward. Go to [www.fairfaxyouth.org/events.xml](http://www.fairfaxyouth.org/events.xml) to register to walk, form a team or support the event.