



The *BRADDOCK BEACON*

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

JULY 7, 2009

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK

703-425-9300

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/

Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov

BOARD RETREAT COVERS SIGNIFICANT GROUND

The first Board of Supervisors' retreat in five years covered significant ground on the County budget, affordable housing policy and transportation, among other issues. I was pleased to participate in these important discussions.

County Budget

We received a first peek at the Fiscal Year 2011 budget (which begins one year from now). The outlook is grim. Residential real estate values are expected to continue to fall, and commercial real estate values are plummeting. County tax revenues will therefore decline as well. The recession is projected to continue to cause reduced consumer spending, resulting in reduced sales tax and recordation fee revenues. As revenues decrease, however, our human service needs are increasing. Right now, if the residential real property tax rate remains at \$1.04, school spending is kept even, no county employees receive pay raises for the second straight year and no county program is increased, next year we will still face a shortfall of over \$315 million. Even if we raise the tax rate to \$1.15, as some have discussed, which would keep the average tax payment the same as the current year, we would still need to cut about \$100 million in spending. For comparison sake, in the current budget, which we passed in April, we ended up cutting about \$92 million in spending. Grim indeed.

If we hold the rate to something less than \$1.15 as I, at a minimum, hope to do, then we will need to cut over \$100 million in spending. In the current budget, which we

passed in April, we ended up cutting about \$92 million in spending. Grim indeed.

The bad news doesn't end there. In the FY 2012 budget (which begins in two years) revenues are expected to decline yet again. That will make three straight years of declining revenue and will require even more cuts. I do not believe we can meet this series of continued budget gaps with clips and shaves. We need major surgery. We should not decimate core programs. Instead, we should prioritize. The County Executive advises that many programs will need to be eliminated. Some government departments may need to be eliminated or consolidated. I have asked my budget advisory committee to dive into the difficult work of determining where the cuts should fall. I would welcome your input as well. You can email me at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov. Please write "budget guidance" in the subject line. Or, you can write a letter or call the office with your thoughts.

Affordable Housing

The Board asked county staff to prepare recommendations for changing the county affordable housing program in ways I support. We will stop, temporarily, the policy of using tax dollars to buy buildings and turn them into public housing. Instead, the county will develop programs to help the homeless and disabled find housing and to assist non-profit agencies in helping those most in need.

RETREAT CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SECOND CONSTITUENT DAY SCHEDULED:

Wednesday, July 29 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Little Run Elementary school on Olley Lane

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, AUTHORITIES & COMMISSIONS

Marcia M. Pape Daniels - Athletic Council

Kenneth B. Malmberg - Commission on Aging

Thomas Kennedy - Trails and Sidewalks Committee

Jessica Burmester - Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board

If you live in the Braddock District and are interested in serving, I encourage you to submit your resume addressed to me. If you have questions or are looking for additional information about a particular group please feel free to contact my office or visit the Boards, Authorities and Commissions page on my website.

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On June 1, Supervisor Cook attended the appreciation dinner for our Lords and Ladies Fairfax, part of the "Celebrate Fairfax" Festivities.

On June 3, Supervisor Cook met with members of the communities surrounding the George Mason University area at the **Mason - Braddock District Forum**.

Supervisor Cook hosted a meeting of the **Braddock/123 Task Force** to discuss the future of that interchange on June 4.

Supervisor Cook was one of several local officials attending the **Shelter Housing Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** on June 9.

Along with members of the local com-

munity, the School Board and other Supervisors, Supervisor Cook witnessed the **Groundbreaking for the new Junior Achievement Center** at Frost Middle School on June 11.

That same day he addressed the **Burke Centre Conservancy's monthly Board of Trustees meeting**.

He also attended the annual meeting of the Braddock Road Youth Club.

On June 12, Supervisor Cook addressed a celebration of employee diversity at the Northern Virginia Training Center.

On June 13, he was one of many celebrating the **first anniversary of the Burke Centre Library**.

June 14 found Supervisor Cook hosting his first **Open House at the Braddock District Office**. Over fifty people dropped in to discuss issues or just to say 'hi.'

On June 16, the Supervisor had the honor of attending both the **Lake Braddock Secondary School and Robinson Secondary School graduations**.

Supervisor Cook attended the **Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Luncheon** honoring Senator John Warner and Congressman Tom Davis on June 17.

The **first Citizens Budget Review Committee meeting** was held June 23 with about 25 constituents and a very lively discussion.

Community Dialogues on the FY 2011 Budget

Sponsored by Fairfax County government and the Fairfax County Public School System this provides an opportunity to share your input on the Fairfax County budget.

Saturday, September 19, 2009 9:30 am to 12:00

Kings Park Library
Sherwood Regional Library
George Mason Regional Library

Saturday, October 24, 2009 9:30 am to 12:00

John Marshall Library
Centreville Regional Library
Reston Regional Library

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING A KEY CONCERN AT RETREAT

RETREAT CONTINUED FROM
FRONT PAGE

Given our poor economy, this new focus on those most in need, especially those who cannot care for themselves, is an appropriate shift in county policy.

Transportation

Perhaps the biggest news came in transportation. We learned that the state government, which is responsible for all of our roads in the county, has completely eliminated secondary road construction funds for the future. Not just next year, but forever. The HOT lanes and rail to Dulles will continue, as will a couple projects this year

using federal stimulus funds. After that, however, there will be nothing unless the Governor and the General Assembly come up with a plan. That means not only no new roads, but no intersection improvements or new traffic signals. Maintenance funds will drop as well. We have been told that many potholes and other road hazards will not be fixed, and we all know that the mowing program is insufficient.

The state government's failure to provide for transportation is unacceptable. Therefore, the Board will explore taking over transportation from the state. This can be done, although funding and transition would need to be negotiated, and it could mean that more county funds would need

to be spent. Another option is for Fairfax County to become a city, which under state law would entitle it to a greater percentage of state road funds, as well as giving it extra taxing authority. More information will be coming later in the year as these proposals are developed more fully.

Summary

Although we are facing some incredible challenges, all in all, it was a good retreat. I got to know my fellow Board members better on a personal level. I enjoyed the robust discussion of the issues. I believe I made a positive contribution to the dialogue. Most importantly, our county moved forward in constructive ways.

CONGRATULATIONS GOES OUT TO THE 2009 BEST OF BRADDOCK AWARD WINNERS

We in the Braddock District are fortunate to have so many individuals and groups that do so much to make our neighborhoods better places to live. The Best of Braddock Awards were designed to recognize the efforts of those people who, by special projects or just by the way they live their lives, have made an impact in our communities. They are nominated by you, the residents of our district, who see what good is being done in our communities.

This year the Braddock District Council honors nine different people and groups with it's Best of Braddock Awards.

I congratulate all of the award winners, and realize what an impact they make here in the Braddock District. Please let them know that you do too.

Citizen of the Year - Bruce Wallachy from Kings Park West

Young Person of the Year – James Lewis from Kings Park West

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification Award –The Oak Hill Citizens Association

Commercial Beautification or Improvement – Jim Albertson and the team of Volunteers from Ilda Pool in the Little Run Community

Most “Can-Do” Public Employee – Jim Lewis of the U.S. Postal Service who for over 15 years served the resi-

dents of the George Mason Forest area

Outstanding Business Person - Mark O’Meara, owner of the University Mall Theatre

Club or Organization Making a Difference –The Burke Centre 55ers

Award for Personal Achievement - Emily Smith from Burke Centre

Special Community Service Award: Awarded Posthumously – Mr. Sherril Pomeroy of Canterbury Woods

IMAGES FROM BRADDOCK NIGHTS: FRIDAY NIGHT AT ROYAL LAKE AND LAKE ACCOTINK, SUNDAY NIGHT AT OSSIAN HALL PARK



Above Supervisor Cook points out the winner of the Braddock Nights t-shirt raffle at Royal Lake



The images above and to the right are from Korean Cultural Heritage Night at Ossian Hall Park, which featured traditional Korean music and dance



INPUT NEEDED ON POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL PARKING LIMITS

I would appreciate your input on a proposal that will soon come before the Board that would prohibit certain vehicles from parking on residential streets in the County. Currently, exceptionally large vehicles like tractor-trailers and dump trucks are prohibited from parking on residential streets. Recently-passed state legislation allows counties to broaden the restrictions placed on certain types of vehicles.

During the June 15th meeting of the Board's Transportation Committee, staff presented a draft ordinance that would implement all of the commercial parking restrictions permitted by the state law. Vehicles with any of the following characteristics would be prohibited from parking on residential streets:

- More than 20' long
- More than 8' high, including accessories (such as ladders)
- More than 102" wide
- Gross Vehicle Weight of 12,000 or more pounds
- Any trailer or semitrailer except camping trailer, boat trailer or single axle
- 3 or more axles
- Carrying commercial freight in plain view.

Pictures presented by staff showed that a

typical extended cab pick-up truck is 20.5' long and would be prohibited. Almost any vehicle larger than the typical family van or pick up would be prohibited. Boats and trailers would NOT be prohibited (those can be regulated through a community parking district).

This Vehicle Would Comply...



I was concerned with the breadth of the proposal and asked County staff to research two questions. First, I asked where the prohibited vehicles could be parked if we passed this ordinance and how much it would cost business owners to do so. Many of these vehicles are owned by people in the home renovation or construction industries. Second, I asked for an analysis of the lengths of typical vehicles so we could consider increasing the 20' length to something longer so that we would not ban typically-res-

idential vehicles like extended cab pick-up trucks. I expect to receive this report over the summer.

I understand there are some places in the County where the parking of commercial vehicles has become a safety hazard. I am not at all sure that Braddock District as a whole faces that problem. A less restrictive law would allow individual streets and neighborhoods to apply for specific restrictions without a one-size-fits-all county-wide approach. This broad approach would seem to impose an expensive burden on some homeowners and businesses that may be unnecessary.

Please email me your thoughts at Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov, put "Commercial Parking Limits" in the subject line.

Or, feel free to call the office at 703-425-9300.

...While This Vehicle Would Not



KEEP THESE THINGS IN MIND WHEN EYEING TALL GRASS

We continue to get calls and emails regarding properties with overgrown grass, and we appreciate your vigilance. We are happy to work with residents on this issue because we know it affects all of us. Here are a few things that you might want to know about the county's ability to respond to these complaints.

After a report is submitted, either online or by phone, it takes 3-5 days for a notice to be posted on the property letting the owner or resident know that they are in violation. It takes another 15-30 days for the county to mow if no action has been taken by the owner or resident, unless there is an obvious health hazard.

Another important thing to remember is that the county will post a notice on

all properties, but they will not mow any property over half an acre in size.

If you have any concerns about overgrown grass or empty properties, please feel free to call Ann Sharp, in my office, at 703-425-9300.

You can also file a complaint yourself at:
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/grass_height.htm

With regards to grass on the medians and along the sides of the roadways, VDOT should be contacted.

VDOT has already begun its second cutting, but it has only budgeted for three cuttings this year. This round of mowing should be completed in the first half of July, with final mowing tentatively scheduled for September. If we have a lot of rain, the grass growth will be accelerated.

If the growth of grass along the side of the road or in the medians becomes a safety issue VDOT should be called at **703-383-8368**. You can also call our office and we can make a report.

We have spoken with Sherriff Stan Barry, who has agreed to help by having prisoners mow in areas presenting safety concerns.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CHALLENGES NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME

On August 4, neighborhoods across America will celebrate National Night Out to show that they are taking a stand against crime. Between 5:30 and 10:00 PM, neighbors, families and friends in communities all over the United States are encouraged to gather outside and spend an evening together.

Events can range from the simple block party or cook-out to rallies with games and activities and visits from the police and other local officials. It can be just the people in your cul-de-sac or the whole HOA. The goal of the event is to promote efforts to prevent crime and drug use in our neighborhoods. It also is a great opportunity to show off community spirit and strengthen bonds with the local police.

The best means for you to be involved with the community is to simply come out and have a good time with neighbors and friends. If your community has established a Night Out Event, then attend and be part of the fun. If you do not know of any events being held, then volunteer to organize an event for your neighborhood. Setting up an event can

National Night Out is a unique community event, celebrated in the United States and Canada, that focuses on prevention of crime and drug activity, and is held the first Tuesday of August every year.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT is designed to:

- Heighten community awareness of crime and drug prevention
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
- Send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back
- Promote emergency preparedness awareness

be easy if you ask someone to help. You can call or email a crime prevention officer at your district police station and they would be happy to provide you with information on how to get started.

In the Braddock District, with the busy lifestyles that so many of us embrace, what better excuse do we have to knock on the door of someone we've only seen as we come and go to work and ask them to come out and get to know their neighbors?

Register Online!

To register your community for the 2009 National Night Out please visit:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/nno/

BRADDOCK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS, REVIEW OF THE JUNE EDITION: ILLEGAL BOARDING HOUSES

In the June edition of Braddock Neighborhood News, we discussed illegal boarding houses with Deputy Zoning Administrator Michael Congleton and Strike Team Operations Chief Jeff Blackford.

Viewers learned that zoning complaints have risen by more than 100 percent in the past three years, with more cars and trash on lawns, inoperable vehicles in neighborhoods and other forms of blight. When investigated, most violations were resolved by educating residents and encouraging voluntary compliance, a fact that highlights the importance of community education in focusing the county's resources on the more egregious violations.

Primary culprits in the rise of the most egregious violations are illegal boarding houses, which exploit their residents by charging them rent to live in conditions that violate the most basic of health and safety standards.

Entire families are often crammed into attics, basements, garages, closets, and other enclosed spaces, often without adequate fire escapes, plumbing, or other basic amenities.

Many illegal boarding houses also have a multitude of illegal modifications which expose residents to critical threats to their health, from modified water heaters that pollute homes to electrical outlets with exposed wiring and panels, often near sources of water or within the reach of children.

For surrounding neighborhoods, illegal boarding houses can overdraw on water, sewer and trash collection services, increase traffic, overcrowd local schools, increase noise and reduce property values.

Educating your neighbors, encouraging voluntary compliance, and reporting violations will help focus the county's re-

sources and assist our efforts as a community to shut these illegal boarding houses down. Neighborhoods are what we make of them and your neighborhood needs you.

And don't miss July's Television Program

This month we will be discussing the issue of gang prevention with Bob Bermingham, Fairfax County Gang Prevention Coordinator, and Meredith McKeen, the Intervention, Prevention & Education Manager at Northern Virginia Family Service.

The program airs on Channel 16 every Wednesday night at 7:00 and every Friday and Sunday evening at 5:00.

MOVING THROUGH THE BRADDOCK DISTRICT: A LOOK AT TRANSPORTATION ISSUES IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY

SUMMER PAVING PROJECTS ON GUINEA, OLLEY, STEAMBOAT LANDING

Every summer the Fairfax Maintenance Section of the Virginia Department of Transportation begins its annual process of repaving part of the 9,500 "lane miles" of roads throughout Fairfax County for which it is responsible. Of those roads, about 6,000 lane miles are on residential streets.

A lane mile is measured by taking the length of the road and multiplying it by the number of lanes. Thus, a segment of Braddock Road that was one mile long, but had four lanes would yield four "lane miles" of paving. Most roads require one of five categories of maintenance work: ordinary maintenance (pothole and ditch repair, mowing); resurfacing; restoration; rehabilitation; or reconstruction.

In selecting roads for resurfacing, VDOT assumes a 10 year maintenance life cycle. Budget reductions allow VDOT to repave only about 200 of the 950 miles of repaving it should undertake to keep current. As a result VDOT must prioritize which roads to resurface.

This year, VDOT will pave three roads in the Braddock District:

Guinea Road, from Braddock Road to Twinbrook Road (July 23-August 24) and Olley Lane, from Braddock Road to Little River Turnpike (September 16-October 15)

Both of these roads have received noise waivers from Fairfax County to allow night time paving only. This is to ensure that daytime traffic congestion is minimized. No use of a jackhammer is permitted. In addition, daytime paving will occur on Steamboat Landing Lane from Fred Oaks Road to Eagle Landing Road (October 15-23).

If you have roads that should be submitted for consideration for next year, please let me know.

HOT LANES PROJECT TEMPORARILY HALTED, NOW REOPENED

On June 19, my office became aware that a complaint had been lodged with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) against the Capital Beltway HOT Lanes Project. This complaint identified continuing failures of the Sediment and Erosion Controls protecting Accotink Creek between Little River Turnpike and Braddock Road. I was also advised that both DCR and VDOT had inspected the controls in other areas of the project and found three sites to be deficient. On June 19, work at three of four HOT Lane's construction sites, including the area around Accotink, were suspended by VDOT.

VDOT intends to implement new stormwater management tools to upgrade pro-

tection during rain events, including use of super silt fences, deeper sediment traps, additional check dams and drains, installation of additional riprap along the edge of impacted streams and use of temporary diversion dikes. VDOT also plans to launch a new "Field Environmental Action Team," (FEAT) to oversee compliance and protection. All three sites have now been reinspected and reopened. The letters from VDOT are posted on my website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock

I hope that any citizen who becomes aware of a stormwater problem caused by the HOT Lanes project will let me know. We have set up lines of communication with the Megaproject Team and will notify them immediately of any problem.

STATE MONEY FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE LACKING

Transportation infrastructure in Fairfax County is primarily provided by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) which owns, constructs, maintains and operates nearly all county roads. In recent months, the Board has received increasingly grim news about cuts to the Six Year Improvement Program for Primary and Interstate Roads. On June 1, the Board was also advised that funding allocations between 2010 and 2015 for secondary roads would drop from \$28 million to \$225,000 annually. We later learned that all funding would be eliminated.

Fairfax County will continue to provide local funds for some projects, which come from three major sources: 1) General obligation road bonds approved by voters in November 2004 and 2007 in the amount of \$110 million. 2) County Funds 304 and 124, which are used for land acquisition, design and construction.

For FY 2010, the Board approved \$32.1 million for road and transit projects sup-

ported by a Commercial and Industrial (C&I) real estate tax of 11 cents. These Funds also provide for Spot Improvements to relieve bottlenecks, extend turn lanes, and build sidewalks and trails; 3) a FY2010 Revenue Bond of \$50 million to be issued through the Economic Development Authority for which debt service will come through the C&I tax. Other transportation projects such as Dulles Rail are funded through Special Tax Districts, and paid for by landowners.

Like my Board colleagues, I am gravely concerned about the loss of state construction funding and the severe reductions in state money available for maintenance of existing roads and rights-of-way. In the coming months I hope to have a dialogue with you about whether the county should consider taking over local roads, and what the cost implications would be.

LAND USE ROUND-UP: ONGOING AND FORTHCOMING CASES

7-Eleven Renovation Approval

On June 1, the Board of Supervisors concurred with my recommendation and approved a Special Exception application from the 7-Eleven Corporation to tear down its store on Rolling Road and construct a replacement quick service food store. There will be a separate service station with 4 pumps and 8 fueling stations. Thirty-two percent of the property will remain open space. The project will also retain a 5,500 square foot tree save area at the rear. Two bicycle racks will be installed on the site and the applicant will also contribute \$10,000 toward the future construction of 2 additional pedestrian signals at this intersection.

Most significantly, I believe that the project will improve the confusing and unsafe left turn from southbound Rolling Road onto eastbound Traford Lane and immediately into the service drive. A new entrance to the east will be created and 7-Eleven will create a public access easement across its site, giving access to McDonald's and Embassy Autowash. A consolidated Rolling Road entrance will continue to permit only right-in and right-out access.

Area Plan Review Task Force

The South County Area Plan Review for 2009-2010 has now begun. Any citizen may nominate any parcel of land for a change. Copies of the process and the application are available in my office. Nominations are due by September 16, 2009. I invite any resident of Braddock to participate in a Task Force to review nominations. Just send an e-mail to Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov, with "APR Task Force," in the subject line.

Westwood College and Burke Health and Rehab Center

Two Braddock District applications are coming before the Board in July. The first is a proposed expansion of Westwood College to accommodate 90 students and 12 staff at 7611 Little River Turnpike. The staff report is available in my office or on-line at <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4288969.PDF>. The second application is for the Burke Health and Rehab Center on Burke Center Parkway which proposes a 4,200 square foot addition to serve existing patients. The staff report can be found at: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4287013.PDF> or in my office.

University Mall

The General Development Plan and preliminary application for the proposal by College Town Associates to expand the University Mall has been received in my office. Anyone wishing to look at these plans can stop by during business hours.

Commonwealth Swim Club

A balloon test for the proposed telecommunications tower at Commonwealth Swim Club took place on June 28. The balloon was flown at a height of 120 feet. I was present with the Braddock Planning Commissioner to hear citizen comments and to drive around the affected neighborhoods. I look forward to meeting with the community on July 7 at 7:00 pm in Braddock Hall.

Addressing the Issue of Looming

A Zoning Ordinance Amendment has been drafted to address impacts caused when taller houses are built adjacent to shorter houses in existing residential neighborhoods. This proposed amendment would require that site plans for a home must reflect the lower average ground level of either the pre-existing or finished grade when measuring the maximum height of a building. To read the staff report, come to my office or go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoningordinance/proposed> and click over the words **Single Family Detached Dwelling Grade**. This is a first and measured step to preserve the character of older neighborhoods, reduce "looming" impacts and preserve the ability of a property owner to renovate an existing home or construct a new one.

Residential Infill Task Force

This group continues to meet to look at additional methods to maintain neighborhood compatibility. Currently, the group is looking at what zoning districts may be in need of additional measures; and the costs to homeowners who wish to modify their homes. Some ideas under consideration include measuring the "angle of bulk plane," establishing setback ratios, providing screening to increase privacy for affected neighbors and taking no further action until current amendments have been in place long enough to see if they work.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AT THE MASON INN

Recently, I have been meeting with representatives from Mason, including Mason's vice president of Facilities, Thomas Calhoun, concerning development plans for the campus. Part of the new construction, anticipated to be open in July of 2010, involves a hotel and conference center called The Mason Inn.

The Mason Inn will have 149 rooms, rising over seven stories. The plans for the hotel

include a 250-person ballroom, a conference center, a restaurant, a bar and a lounge area. Parking for the hotel will include 200 total parking spaces, 80 of which will be underground. The hotel will be built between Braddock Road and University Drive on Ox Road.

With these projects, several major concerns are brought to the attention of the county, the school and to the surrounding

community.

The foremost on everyone's mind is traffic flow for the surrounding area. Calhoun has noted that he has been in contact with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) concerning how increased trips on and off of campus, created by the construction of these buildings, will impact congestion.

UPDATE REGARDING IMPROVEMENTS TO ROBERTS ROAD

Dear Neighbor:

As part of Mason's faculty and staff housing project, Masonvale, the university is providing many improvements to Roberts Road to make the area safer for pedestrians as well as vehicles.

Roberts Road will be realigned, and ex-

Workers place trim around the windows of one of the townhouses in the Masonvale project, a future community of 157 townhomes on the Mason Campus



tensive improvements will be made at the Shenandoah River Lane intersection. The improved intersection will feature a right-turn lane from Shenandoah onto Roberts Road, as well as right and left turn lanes on Roberts Road.

Further north on Roberts Road, Mason will create an entrance to Masonvale with additional turn lanes into the community to maintain traffic flow, and will build a continuation of the Fairfax County's pedestrian trail along Roberts Road.

The narrow road will require a great deal of tree pruning and removal. The tree removal will begin in late July and last approximately one month. Project managers assure the community that traffic will not be affected in any way during that time.

However, the grading and utility work beginning in early August is likely to cause occasional lane closures. This work will be

done by companies such as Verizon, Washington Gas and Virginia Power, making it difficult to predict a specific traffic schedule at this time.

As necessary, flag workers and traffic control devices will be in place throughout the project. To minimize traffic impact, the Virginia Department of Transportation allows such construction work only during the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Roberts Road improvement project is expected to be complete by early January 2010, with the completion of the Masonvale project expected in May 2010. If you have questions, please contact Mason's Transportation Office at transpo@gmu.edu.

Kindest regards,
Traci Claar
Director, Community Relations
George Mason University

Supervisor John C. Cook
9002 Burke Lake Road
Burke, Virginia 22015-1608