



the BRADDOCK BEACON

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

NEIGHBORHOOD ROADS MAY NEED LOCAL FIX

From unfilled potholes to uncut grass, state government is not adequately addressing even our most basic transportation needs. And as the state's ability to fund transportation continues to decline, the outlook for Fairfax will remain bleak unless we adapt to the current reality.

Fixing potholes is a quintessential local government function, except in Virginia, where the state, not the county, owns, constructs and maintains secondary (non-interstate) roads. The potholes the state did fill, received a temporary fix. The only permanent solution for potholes is repaving, and VDOT has announced it will do no repaving on secondary roads this year, and probably none next year as well. And now the grass is growing. Just like with potholes, while some is cut, much is not and VDOT has announced it is reducing service here as well. Braddock Road will receive the same three mowings this year as last - though until recently it was mowed six times a year. Guinea, Ravensworth, Olley and other less traveled roads will receive only two. This is unacceptable.

Unfortunately, there is more. At its May 25th meeting, our Board "approved" (we didn't want to) VDOT's six-year secondary construction plan for fiscal years 2011 through 2016. This is the standard planning document we approve every year. In it, you will find that the state is effectively zeroing out funding for secondary (non-interstate) road construction. Just \$1,989 will be available for the next six years. This is a \$1,441,772 decrease, or a decrease of 99 percent from last year's plan, itself a dramatic deviation from historical norms. Up until two years ago, Fairfax averaged \$20 to \$25 million a year for secondary

road construction.

"Construction" funding doesn't just mean new roads. It also includes items like traffic signals, left or right turn lanes, additional travel lanes, etc. By zeroing out funding, the state is saying Fairfax will not see any more traffic lights unless part of a federally-funded project, an interstate project such as the HOT lanes or paid for by the county. Also gone are funds to implement traffic calming measures in our neighborhoods.

State transportation funding is a complicated formula-driven and political issue, where the "Northern Virginia - rest of Virginia" divide really hurts us. Our state delegation has tried hard to address it. Even if we can get some funding headed this way, it's going to go to the large transportation projects in major corridors.

That's why I believe we need to have a robust discussion as to whether Fairfax County should play a larger role in transportation - maybe even negotiate with the state to take over responsibility for secondary roads in exchange for a state payment. It is a complex idea, one with positives and negatives, but one that needs to be fleshed out. Any plan would likely mean more local funding, but it would also mean cut grass, plowed snow, filled potholes and more road improvements.

I'd like to hear from you on this matter. What do you think of the county taking a more active role in transportation? If we did, where should our efforts be concentrated? Please email me at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov with your opinions, I look forward to reading them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Cook".



Supervisor John C. Cook

**See Page 2 For A Schedule
of High School Graduations
Taking Place At George
Mason University's Patriot
Center in June.**

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS:

For the next phase of our Community Engagement Initiative, we are looking for communities interested in taking the "next step" by taking on a new project or goal.

Please let us know what your project is so we can track progress across the district. We are here to help as well.

For all organizations, as you conduct your annual elections, 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.

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On May 1st, Supervisor Cook was present at Royal Lake Park to help dedicate "Katie's Playground" in honor of Katherine Ross Thelin. Later that afternoon, Supervisor Cook stopped by the St. George's Methodist Church Pulled Pig Barbeque.

On May 2nd, Supervisor Cook was honored to attend the Fairfax County Federation Banquet where Braddock resident Clark Tyler was recognized as "Citizen of the Year." Governor McDonnell addressed the gathering.

On May 5th, the Supervisor attended a solemn ceremony at the Public Safety Building Rose garden honoring Fairfax County's Fallen Officers who gave their lives while protecting our safety. Later that evening, Supervisor Cook hosted a Town Hall Meeting that centered on the issues concerning the area around Braddock Road, Route 123 and George Mason University.

On May 6th, Supervisor Cook attended the Minority Parents for Excellence in Education annual dinner, held at Lake Braddock SS.

On May 7th, Supervisor Cook attended the Senior Recognition Ceremony and Luncheon where a number of Braddock residents were honored for their selfless volunteer work in the County.

On May 11th, Supervisor Cook answered questions at the Burke Village HOA meeting and also attended the the Braddock District Council meeting.

On May 15th, the Supervisor was the Master of Ceremonies at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Woodglen Lake Dam Rehabilitation Project. Later that evening he attended the Little Run Civic Association's annual Potluck which was held at Canterbury Woods Elementary School.

On May 17th, Supervisor Cook hosted a Constituent Day at Keene Mill Elementary School. These events give constituents a chance to meet and talk with their Supervisor about any issues that concern them.

On May 19th, Supervisor Cook addressed the annual meeting of the Chapel Square Civic Association at the Sprague Center. Questions were answered about things pertinent to the residents, such as parking and sound barriers for the new Beltway construction.

On May 20th, Supervisor Cook attended the Kings Park Civic Association Annual Meeting at Kings Park Elementary School.

On May 22nd, Supervisor Cook stopped by the North Springfield Pool for the North Springfield Civic Association's annual social and then later went to the Ravensworth/Bristow Block Party which was held on the grounds of the Ravensworth Baptist Church.

On May 31st, Supervisor Cook was honored to speak at a number of Memorial Day Ceremonies. First, he was at the Old Fairfax Courthouse Lawn for a Ceremony hosted by the VFW Post 8469 and the American Legion Post 177. From there he went over to the grounds of the Burke Conservancy for the annual Ceremony hosted by the VFW Post 5412. After that, he stopped by the American Legion Post 1976 in Annandale for a reception which followed their Ceremony. To round things out, the Supervisor stopped by the Cardinal Plaza Shell Station where they were hosting an Oil-Change-A-Thon to aid in raising money for The Fisher House which assists families of Service Members. There were also members of Boy Scout Troop 1849 who were holding a car wash to raise money for this cause.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION SCHEDULE 2010, HELD AT PATRIOT CENTER

Due to expected congestion on Braddock Road and Route 123 near George Mason, we recommend taking alternative routes at these times

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday, June 6 | 2:00 P.M. - Broad Run |
| 2:30 P.M. - Pope Paul VI | 7:30 P.M. - Thomas Jefferson |
| Friday, June 11 | Sunday, June 20 |
| 7:00 P.M. - Garfield | 2:00 P.M. - West Potomac |
| Saturday, June 12 | 7:00 P.M. - Westfield |
| 9:30 A.M. - Hylton High | Monday, June 21 |
| 2:30 P.M. - Forrest Park | 9:30 A.M. - Falls Church |
| Thursday, June 17 | 2:00 P.M. - Briar Woods |
| 9:30 A.M. - Oakton | 7:30 P.M. - Lake Braddock |
| 2:00 P.M. - West Springfield | Tuesday, June 22 |
| 7:30 P.M. - Robinson | 9:30 A.M. - Herndon |
| Friday, June 18 | 2:00 P.M. - Freedom (LCPS) |
| 9:30 A.M. - Centreville | 7:30 P.M. - Chantilly |
| 2:00 P.M. - South County | Wednesday, June 23 |
| Saturday, June 19 | 7:30 P.M. - Lee |
| 10:00 A.M. - Stone Bridge | |

ITS PARTY TIME! GET OUT AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS BY THROWING A BLOCK PARTY

Summer is upon us. It's the season of barbecues, trips to the beach, ball games, and fun. So let's have some fun right here in the neighborhood. I encourage you to get to know your neighbors a little better by having a block party. It doesn't need to be anything fancy. Draw up a flyer, pick a date, ask everyone to bring a dish to pass, and hand them out up and down your block. That's it.

You may be surprised how many people

show up. Grill some burgers and hot dogs, bring out the sweet tea and lemonade, and enjoy getting to know your neighbors.

Block parties are more than plain summer fun. The police tell us that the neighborhoods with the most block parties have the least crime. It's true! And the same holds true for zoning enforcement.

Neighborhoods where people know each other, look out for each other, and take pride in their community stand out,

and criminals and those seeking to violate zoning rules learn to go elsewhere.

So fire up that grill! Not only will your block party be a great time, but you will bring your neighborhood together, and make it a safer, more attractive and more vibrant place to live.



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS WHO WISH TO SERVE ON A FACILITIES PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

As the school year winds down, I would like to congratulate all of our graduating seniors. You have worked hard and will now move forward to the next phase of your lives. May you enjoy much success – no matter what the future holds for you.

BUT – please, please act responsibly over the next few weeks. All too often, with prom, all night grad parties and graduation, students have included alcohol with their year-end activities. No one wants to wake up to the news that another young person has been injured or killed in a car accident that involved drinking and driving. And parents – you have a very important role here to ensure that your children have a safe celebration.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Fairfax County School Board is undertaking a new community engagement process to evaluate our facility needs. This includes capacity and enrollment at our schools. The establishment of a Facilities Planning Advisory Council will serve to further the intent of School Board Policy 8120.1, Facilities Planning, School Planning, which directs the preparation of a Capital Improvement Plan, program based school capacities, size and location of schools, periodic boundary adjustments and most importantly, community involvement.

The new process hopes to accomplish the following objectives:

1. increased public awareness when a school boundary study is needed;

2. increased public validation that facilities issues exist which could require a boundary study;

3. a more regional, long range approach to facilities planning that is not provided in the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) development process.

The Facilities Planning Advisory Council, which will be a standing committee of the Board, will have 13 members, one from each magisterial district and one from the City of Fairfax (Fairfax County Public Schools administers the City Schools via a contractual agreement). While the initial term for the members may vary, the terms will be for three years.

Additional information can be found at the following link: [http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/d62d9cb847ef1cbd87257328006795e4/99bdf2d2498add2487257722005e0cbe/\\$FILE/FPAC%20DRAFT%20May%206.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/d62d9cb847ef1cbd87257328006795e4/99bdf2d2498add2487257722005e0cbe/$FILE/FPAC%20DRAFT%20May%206.pdf)

I am now seeking applicants for the Braddock District position on the Committee. Applicants do not need to be parents of current students. The Board is looking for a broad range of qualifications and talents. The criteria we have established are as follows:

•Be self-motivated to increase familiarity with school facilities and capital improvement program planning

•Possess experience with and/or expertise in a broad range of interests, e.g., Fairfax County/City planning and development; demographics and economics; elementary, middle and high school programs and needs; public outreach and communication; municipal design and construction

•Demonstrated organizational leadership qualities and/or experience

•Interact and communicate with School Board and community in public venues such as work sessions, community and focus group meetings

•current FCPS employees may be appointed

An application is included in the link above. If you are interested, I hope that you will complete an application. If you would like to speak to me about FPAC, please call my executive assistant,

Kathy Partlow, at 571-423-1064. I will get back to you as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is July 15th. FCPS will have a web site up shortly with more details.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Tessie Wilson

Braddock District School Board Member



NEIGHBOR'S TALL GRASS GOT YOU DOWN? HERE'S WHAT TO DO

In Virginia, each season brings its own pleasures and problems. Snow is beautiful; too much snow causes problems. Too much rain in the spring causes problems, not enough rain causes different problems. We have reached the time of the year when too much grass causes problems.

Grass, when left to grow too tall, can harbor living creatures that we would rather not have to deal with. It can cause visibility issues along roadways, and in our neighborhoods, it can just be unsightly.

Section 119-3 of the county code establishes the guidelines for regulations and procedures for grass and lawn care in residential areas. It is unlawful for any owner of any occupied residential lot or parcel which is less than one-half acre (21,780 square feet) to permit the growth of any grass or lawn area to reach more than twelve (12) inches in height/length.

If a residence in your community is out of compliance, we encourage you to discuss the situation with your neighbor. They may have an issue that prevents them from mowing, but are unwilling or afraid to ask for help. If, on the other hand, the property is vacant or the resident doesn't seem to care, you can report the property to the county.

The county has a website that you can access yourself to make the report at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/grass_height.htm If you do not have computer access, please call our office at 703-425-9300, and we will report it for you.

Please Note: The grass ordinance does not apply to residential lots over 1/2 acre (21,780 square feet). It also takes up to 30 days or more before the grass can be cut by the County on properties in violation of the ordinance. This is because property owners must be given legal notice before the county can take action.

Well kept yards give our neighborhoods a look that says we care about our homes and our neighbors. It keeps down the number of unwanted bugs and critters. It helps us to maintain property values when those values have dropped. And it just looks nice.

Submit complaints about grass along roads or in medians to the Virginia Department of Transportation. They are responsible for cutting the grass along roads. They, too, have a website where you can submit a complaint directly, or you can call our office. That website is: <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp>.

VDOT LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD LAWNMOWERS



Due to budget reductions, nearly half of VDOT's annual mowing budget was eliminated. Consequently, the commonwealth's transportation department will cut grass along most secondary roads no more than twice.

To supplement the reduced state service, VDOT is looking for volunteers by expanding its Adopt-A-Highway effort to include a grass-cutting program.

Those looking to get involved must first get a permit through VDOT, which can be found here: http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/volunteer_mowing.asp.

GET READY FOR THE 16TH SUMMER OF BRADDOCK NIGHTS

This series of free musical performances held throughout the summer presents a wide array of artists, from classical to bluegrass and everything in between. The events take place every Friday evening from June 4 to August 27 at Royal Lake and Lake Accotink Park, beginning at 7:30 p.m. A full list of performances and more information on the 2010 Braddock Nights Summer Concerts can be found on



Supervisor Cook's website (http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/pdfs/bn_flyer.pdf).

If the weather looks threatening and you think it may result in a canceled performance, you can call the office at 703-425-9300 until 5:00 p.m. on the day of the concert or the county hotline at 703-324-SHOW (4796). We are always looking for volunteers to help staff the events, so if you are interested please contact Lindsey Smith at 703-425-9300.

Braddock Nights is an outstanding tradition that allows our community to come together and celebrate with each other an evening of entertainment and fellowship. It is a fantastic series of events that truly help strengthen our neighborhood spirit. The atmosphere is informal and with free entertainment for the whole family, this is a great year for folks to make their first trip or their sixteenth. This summer Braddock Nights are the place to be and we look forward to seeing you there!

SUPERVISORS COOK AND HERRITY TO HOLD TOWN HALL MEETING ON INTERNET SAFETY ON THURSDAY JUNE 10TH

On Thursday June 10, Supervisors Cook and Herrity will hold a town hall focused on educating, equipping and empowering parents, grandparents, educators and other caring adults with the knowledge and resources needed to protect the children under their care from online dangers.

The town hall will feature presentations from renowned Internet safety expert and Enough Is Enough (EIE) President Donna Rice Hughes and a Fairfax County Police Officer from the Child Exploitation Unit.

The evening's program will cover the essential technical and non-technical safety basics parents and other adults in the community need to know to protect children from the online threats of pornography, sexual predators, and cyberbullies, as well as how to keep kids safe on social networking sites, gaming and mobile devices. The event will include footage from Enough Is Enough's award-

winning multi-media Internet safety program, Internet Safety 101 including poignant true stories from kids, parents, victims and even a convicted sex offender, as well as expert advice from clinicians, child safety advocates, law enforcement and technology insiders.

This event is open to parents, educators and other concerned adults in the community. Some of the material is not appropriate for young children.

What: Internet Safety Town Hall Hosted By Fairfax County Supervisors Pat Herrity and John Cook (Open to parents, educators and other concerned adults in the community. Some of the material is not appropriate for young children)

Who: Remarks from Supervisors Herrity and Cook and Presentations from renowned Internet safety expert and Enough Is Enough (EIE) President Donna Rice Hughes and a Fairfax County Police

Officer from the Child Exploitation Unit.
When: Thursday June 10th, 7:30 P.M.
Where: W.T. Woodson High School Cafeteria (9525 Main St Fairfax, VA 22031-4099)
More information: If you would like more information about this event, please contact Lindsey Smith in our office at 703-425-9300.

About Enough Is Enough

Enough Is Enough (EIE), a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to make the Internet safer for children and families, emerged in 1994 as the national leader on the front lines of efforts to protect children from online dangers.

Since then, EIE has pioneered efforts to confront online pornography, child pornography, child stalking, sexual predation, cyberbullying, and other forms of online victimization.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2010 LORD AND LADY FAIRFAX SAM AND SHIRLEY DIBARTOLO

The Lord and Lady Fairfax Awards Program recognizes two leaders from each Magisterial District for their outstanding volunteer service. Sam and Shirley DiBartolo have lived in Burke Centre for over 25 years and have served the Braddock District in a number of ways.

Sam has served as a member of the Burke Centre Board of Trustees, as part of the Braddock Annual Plan Review in 2005-2006, and as the Burke Centre representative to the Braddock District Council. Most significantly, Sam served on the Burke VRE Station Task Force, and designed the clock tower that is the architectural signature for the Burke VRE Station.

Shirley and Sam were members of the Burke Centre Library Time Capsule Steering Committee and have served as election volunteers. They are active in the Shepherd Center of Burke, the Burke Centre Carnival, and are currently on the committee to launch the Senior Center Without Walls in the Burke – Springfield area. Shirley has served as past president the Burke Centre 55ers, a group formed to provide social and educational enhancement for seniors.

MARKING THE START OF WOODGLEN LAKE'S DAM REHABILITATION



On May 15, Supervisor Cook joined Chairman Bulova and Federal and State officials to mark the start of the long awaited rehabilitation of the Woodglen Lake dam.

When completed, the project will ensure the protection of over 400 homes, 20 public commercial and industrial facilities and the VRE railroad.

The project is expected to take approximately 120 days. Parents are encouraged to remind their children that this is a construction site and they should avoid entering the site limits, identified by orange fencing, at any time. During the project, pedestrian trails will be detoured and there will be construction traffic in and around the project site.

COUNTY LAUNCHES WELLNESS PROGRAM FOR THOSE INJURED IN IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN

The Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services has launched a new program "Project WOW!" which stands for Wellness Opportunities for Warriors. Project WOW! is currently seeking injured service members from the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who are interested in participating in physical and wellness activities in a community setting.

This free program provides a voucher to service members that can be used to enroll in a Fairfax County Park Authority class that focuses on physical fitness, or applied towards the registration fee to participate in an adult athletic team sports program in the county. Not sure which activities interest you? To help you make that decision, Project WOW! has scheduled eight-week physical activity exploration classes throughout the county, beginning in mid-June. Participants in the activity exploration class will meet once a week for eight weeks as a group to sample a variety of physical activities available throughout Fairfax County. The exploration class is free. Veterans will assist in running this program.

For more information, please contact Bruce Patrick at 703-324-5528, TTY 711 or via email to Bruce.Patrick@fairfaxcounty.gov.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER PROPOSED AT WASHINGTON IRVING MIDDLE SCHOOL, BALLOON FLYING SCHEDULED

T-Mobile Northeast and Milestone Communications have submitted an application to Fairfax County to construct a 115 foot "monopine" (a monopole disguised as an evergreen tree) at the rear of Washington Irving Middle School in the vicinity of the existing baseball diamonds.

A copy of this application has been provided to the office. Although the school is located in the Springfield Magisterial District, any impact would be largely on Braddock District neighborhoods. Any resident affected by this proposal who would like an electronic copy of the application, or would like to comment on this application can e-mail Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov

The applicant will fly a balloon on the

school grounds at this location at the proposed height on Saturday, June 12 between 8 a.m. and noon, with a rain date of June 19. Residents can use the balloon to envision the height and location of the pole. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on this proposal on September 23.

Planning Commissioner Suzanne Harsel and Supervisor Cook look forward to hearing from you. David Marshall from the Department of Planning and Zoning is the staff coordinator for this project, and is available to respond to your questions at 703-324-1261 or by e-mail at David.Marshall@fairfaxcounty.gov.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING FOR PROPOSED BRYCE ESTATES REZONING

Christopher Land, LLC has submitted an application (RZ-2010-BR-003) to Fairfax County to develop a 3.4 acre parcel on the west side of Burke Lake Road about 1,800 feet north of Burke Center Parkway. The property is currently developed with one home, and the applicant proposes to put 10 single family detached residences on the site which is currently planned for 2-3 homes per acre. Access to the parcel will be through a signalized entrance that would line up with the existing signal at Shiplett Boulevard.

Supervisor Cook invites interested residents

of the area to a community meeting, which will be held on June 15, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in Braddock Hall at 9002 Burke Lake Road. Prior to that time, this application can be reviewed in the Braddock office. The purpose of this meeting is to give neighbors an opportunity to meet with the applicant, ask questions, make comments and raise any concerns that they may have.

A Planning Commission Public Hearing on this application has been scheduled for October 6, 2010. A Board of Supervisor's hearing will be set following the Commission's recommendation.

BRADDOCK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS: HOW TO MANAGE STORMWATER RUNOFF ON YOUR PROPERTY

On this month's edition of BNN, Supervisor Cook invited Jim McGlone from the Virginia Department of Forestry, Diane Hoffman, Administrator of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, and Amy Gould from the Fairfax County Restoration Project to share with homeowners how we can improve the management of stormwater runoff on our properties.

Stormwater management has taken on

increasing importance to many residents in Fairfax County as we have become more aware of the terrible impact that erosion can have on not only our properties and our local streams, but also on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Thankfully, our rising awareness has also made us aware of how each of us, as citizens and property owners, can protect our properties and contribute to improving the health of our environment.

This month's program focuses on ways

that each of us can improve stormwater management on our properties as well as ways that we can get involved in improving the health of local lakes and streams in our community through volunteering.

To learn more, please tune in to BNN on Fridays and Sundays at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on Channel 16. You can also watch streaming video by visiting http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/supervisor_cook.asx.

AREA FARMERS MARKETS NOW OPEN

From May to November, twelve sites throughout Fairfax County spring to life with the activity of an open-air market. These bustling marketplaces draw thousands of Fairfax County residents every week. Within easy driving distance for Braddock District Residents are listed below. A full listing of market sites can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-farm-mkt.htm>



week. The Markets offer a wide variety of freshly picked fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers. There are also fresh eggs, baked goods, honey and cider to purchase. Milk and cheese products, along with a wide array of meat products, round out the edible delights. If gardening is an interest, many vendors have small plants at the beginning of the season, while other vendors have larger landscape plants for more ambitious projects.

The Farmers Markets are supervised by the Fairfax County Park Authority. The daily operations of the markets are managed by volunteer Market Masters. The markets

Wakefield Farmers Market -
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays
8100 Braddock Road
Annandale, VA 22003
703-321-7081

Annandale Farmers Market -
8:00 a.m. to Noon on Thursdays
6621 Columbia Pike
Annandale, VA 22003

Burke Farmers Market -
8:00 a.m. to Noon on Saturdays
5671 Roberts Parkway
Burke, VA

NEW LIBRARY HOURS WILL BEGIN ON JULY 1ST

The Fairfax County Public Library will change its hours effective July 1, 2010.

Regional and community library branches, with the exception of Access Services which is located at the Fairfax County Government Center, will alternate morning and evening hours four days a week, allowing customers to access a library somewhere in the county from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Although the change represents a reduction in the overall number of hours the library is open each week, the new schedule allows branches to extend their evening hours from 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Here are the new hours:

Regional Branches

Monday, 1 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Wednesday, 1 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday hours remain 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday hours remain 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Regional branches include Centreville, Chantilly, City of Fairfax, George Mason, Pohick, Reston, Sherwood and Tysons-Pimmit.

Community Branches

Monday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tuesday, 1 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday, 1 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday hours remain 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
No Sunday hours
Community branches include Burke Centre, Dolley Madison, Great Falls, Herndon Fortnightly, John Marshall, Kings Park, Kingstowne, Lorton, Oakton, Patrick Henry and Woodrow Wilson.

Despite reduced hours, many library transactions such as browsing the online catalog, downloading electronic resources, conducting research, reserving a book or DVD, registering for events, booking meeting rooms and more, can be done online via the library's Web site, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

IMPROVING TOUGH CONVERSATIONS FOR FAMILIES WITH AGING RELATIVES A FREE SEMINAR OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

STRUGGLING WITH A FAMILY CONVERSATION ABOUT ELDER ISSUES?

- Need your siblings to help out with the care of a parent?
- Wondering if your spouse will object to your parent's moving in?
- Want to speak with your children about advance directives or estate planning?

LEARN HOW TO:

- Start conversations with greater confidence.
- Use practical tips and strategies for effective communication within and between generations.
- Make real progress toward resolution while preserving relationships.

Please RSVP for this free seminar by contacting Sally Moreland at (703)-865-7261 or training@nvms.us.

Date: June 8th, 2010 ~ Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location Details: Hollin Hall Senior Center 1500 Shenandoah Road
Alexandria, VA

HELP IDENTIFY THE BRADDOCK DISTRICT'S SIGNIFICANT TREES

You've climbed them, relaxed in their shade, plucked their fruit and planted them in honor of loved ones. Join with the Fairfax County Tree Commission to celebrate the county's trees.

Nominate trees that mean the most to you in one or more of these categories:

Big Tree — Tree that's one of the largest of its species.

Historic Tree — Tree associated with a significant event, person, landmark or institution.

Commemorative Tree — Tree or group of trees planted as a memorial of an event or person.

Favorite Tree — Any favorite tree (only one nomination per person accepted).



Eligible trees will receive an honorary designation as a Celebrated Tree of Fairfax County. They also will be included in a database on the county's website. Historic, commemorative and favorite trees will be included in a database of the county's most special trees. Big trees will go into the county's Big Tree Database, as well as be submitted for consideration in the Virginia Big Tree Program.

For more information on how to measure and nominate a tree go to: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trees/celebratedtrees.htm>

KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE OUT FOR COPPERHEADS

An unusually high number of copperhead snakes have recently been reported in Fairfax County. Copperheads are venomous snakes that are found here and throughout Virginia.

Copperhead snake bites have been reported across Fairfax County in the Dranesville (Riverbend Park), Hunter Mill (Reston) and Springfield (Clifton) Districts. Typically, reports of snake bites (and sightings) do not peak until between August and October when baby copperheads are hatching.

It's important to remember that while death from a snake bite in Virginia is extremely rare, they can be painful and cause a number of symptoms such as; swelling and bruising, sweating, weakness, nausea, vomiting, muscle twitching and a metallic taste in the mouth. It is important to seek medical attention if you or your pets are bitten.

If you are bitten by a snake:

- Stay calm
- Do not apply a tourniquet
- Keep body part immobilized and area level with heart and
- Seek immediate medical attention (nearest hospital)

For more information on copperheads or other local wildlife, please visit the Fairfax County Government website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife.

OSSIAN HALL PARK RECONSTRUCTION MOVES FORWARD

As anyone who has driven past Ossian Hall Park recently can see, the work on the Phase II improvements, which began in February, are well underway. This second phase of work includes the construction of a community plaza with an architectural feature, two lighted basketball courts, an enlarged parking lot with an underground storm water management system, a multi-use athletic field, two new playgrounds, associated trails, site lighting and landscaping, as well as parking lot lighting.

Funding for this \$2.8 million project is provided through the 2008 Park Bond. Phase I of this project began in 2006 and included site clearing, partial implementation of a forest treatment plan, construction and rehabilitation of a pedestrian trail system, construction of two new entrance areas and improved park signage. That half-million dollar project opened up the park to the surrounding community and improved safety for all park patrons.

In recent weeks the contractor completed the stormwater work, put down a base for the parking lot and put down the pad for the bleachers and a future playground. In addition, during the last two weeks, the Park Authority Board was able to authorize an upgrade to the rectangular field to allow it to become a synthetic turf field; allowing far more extensive use by the community.

Additional landscaping at the park has also been authorized. A change order for this work has just been issued, and while the project was originally expected to be complete in mid-October, these changes may extend the timeframe slightly. Our office will provide updates as more information becomes available.

One negative effect of this construction is that it has been necessary to suspend the use of Ossian Hall as a venue for Braddock Nights during the 2009 summer season. However, the new community park plaza with its amphitheatre seating and stage will

provide enhanced community gathering opportunities in the future. This area will be an easy walk from the enlarged parking lot, and will mean that visitors will not have to bring their own seating.

