



The BRADDOCK BEACON

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 JUNE 4, 2009

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK

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HELP ME CLEAN UP FORECLOSURES

You are familiar with the problem. A bank or financial institution takes over a property through foreclosure, or maybe the occupant abandons the property. In any event, the bank is now the owner. But, it doesn't want to spend its money maintaining the property.

So, the grass grows tall, the bushes aren't trimmed, and maybe a broken window goes without repair. Soon the property is a breeding ground for insects and rodents, and could become a crime magnet.

Once a bank takes a property, it becomes the owner, and ought to be held to the same community standards

that apply to all other owners in the neighborhood. That means keeping the property in good condition. Please help me clean up these properties.

How?

If there is an empty house in your neighborhood that is not being cared for, and there is no "For Sale" sign out front (if there is, please call the realtor directly), please do two things.

First, please report the property to the County for violation of the grass ordinance (County Ordinance requires that grass be cut under 12"). You may file a report [here](#).

Second, please report the

property to my office at 703-425-9300. We will identify the financial institution-owner by consulting county tax records. I will then send a letter directly to the institution informing its management of the violation and asking that the property be maintained properly.

The idea is to expect these institutions to act as responsible neighbors, just as is expected of the rest of us.

Let's create a partnership where we work together to keep our neighborhoods in good and proper condition.



APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, AUTHORITIES & COMMISSIONS

I have had the privilege of making five appointments to various county advisory groups:

Amy Owen - Human Rights Commission

Steve Lam - Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee

Juan Ancalle - Community Action Advisory Board

David Ray - Library Board

Michael Webb - Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Advisory Group

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.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT OFFICE OPEN HOUSE - SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH

On Sunday June 14th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., I will host my first Open House at the Braddock District office.

The Braddock District Office is co-located with the Kings Park Library at 9002 Burke Lake Road in Burke,

Virginia.

The Open House is an invitation to Braddock District citizens to meet with me and see their office up close and personal. Light refreshments will be served and staff will be available to address needs or take ques-

tions about government resources.

I believe that as much as possible government should be transparent, readily available, and welcoming to the citizens it serves and this Open House is part of that effort.

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

COUNTRY CLUB VIEW CIVIC ASSOC.-

On April 28th, Supervisor Cook met with the residents of the Country Club View Civic Association.

FACETS -

Supervisor Cook attended the FACETS Connections of the Heart Benefits Breakfast on May 5. FACETS strives to build safe communities by addressing the needs of impoverished men, women and children.

WAKEFIELD SENIOR CENTER -

Supervisor Cook met with those at the Wakefield Senior Center, who expressed their appreciation for his support of the Center during the budget process.

NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION-

The residents of the North Springfield area had the opportunity to quiz the Supervisor about their concerns.

MINORITY PARENTS FOR EXCELLENCE -

Supervisor Cook was an invited guest at this annual banquet on May 7 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

ANNANDALE TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -

Supervisor Cook toured the elementary school with School Board member Tessie Wilson, on May 11.

FAIR HOUSING LUNCHEON -

Supervisor Cook addressed the County's Fair Housing Committee at its annual lunch on April 30.

WOODHURST HOA -

Supervisor Cook was the guest speaker at the May 13 meeting of the Woodhurst Homeowner's Association.

LITTLE RUN COMMUNITY ASSOC. -

On May 15, Supervisor Cook was part of a lively question & answer session with Delegate Watts & Senator Peterson, dealing with illegal boarding houses and transportation.

KING'S PARK SENIORS LUNCHEON -

There were lots of friendly faces as the Supervisor attended his home community's annual senior lunch on May 19.

CHAPEL SQUARE CIVIC ASSOCIATION -

On May 20, the residents of Chapel Square gave Supervisor Cook a warm welcome. The Supervisor answered a variety of questions during their annual meeting.

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS -

Supervisor Cook honored our fallen service members during his addresses to the Fairfax and Burke Center VFWs

KING'S PARK LIBRARY ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON -

Supervisor Cook congratulated all the hard work of the library volunteers at this annual event on May 13.

NOVA GROUNDBREAKING

Supervisor Cook addressed the crowd at the Northern Virginia Community College groundbreaking on April 24.

UP-COMING EVENTS IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

ALL MONTH LONG

[Braddock Nights](#): Every Friday night at 7:30 PM at Royal Lake and Lake Accotink and Sunday night at 6:00 PM at Ossian Hall

JUNE 5TH

[Celebrate Fairfax](#): From Friday, June 5th through Sunday, June 7th at the Fairfax County Government Cen-

JUNE 9TH

Braddock District Council: From 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM at Braddock Hall

JUNE 11TH

Listening Forum: Park Authority Director John Dargle will hold his third listening forum 7 PM at Audrey Moore RECenter

JUNE 14TH

From 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM Supervisor Cook will be holding his first Open House at the Braddock District Office

HELP STRENGTHEN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Summer is upon us. For civic and homeowners' associations, this often means "down" time as many organizations do not meet during the summer and instead use the time to plan for the upcoming year.

If your organization is one of those (or even if it isn't), I'd like to propose some ideas for your "summer planning."

Recently, I've been writing about enforcing our zoning, property maintenance, and grass ordinances. I encourage each Braddock neighborhood to make code enforcement a priority in the coming year.

Learn the code requirements about multi-family homes (illegal boarding houses), multiple-family dwellings (illegal second kitchens), parking regulations, outdoor storage (a euphemism for junk in the yard), and grass cutting (grass must be kept under 12"). Encourage members of your communities

to comply voluntarily with these laws without becoming overbearing or becoming the neighborhood "busy body." Voluntary code compliance is the key to reducing the rising level of violations, and keeping our neighborhoods safe, vital, and attractive.

I also urge you to plan additional "community building" exercises in your neighborhood. "Community building" is just a fancy way to say that people in a neighborhood need to get to know each other and need to create more opportunities where they work and play together. Encourage people to hold block parties in your neighborhood; plan additional community social events.

Taking these actions will bring people together, which is the first step toward addressing neighborhood concerns. In bringing people together, remember to include all people. We are an increasingly diverse community. Reach out to those who have different ethnic or ra-

cial backgrounds from your own.

Reach out to those who are older or younger, or who have different professions. Strong communities build relationships among all neighbors. If we want our communities to be strong, we must build those bonds between all of our residents.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming year. I would welcome the opportunity to attend your meetings to introduce myself, talk to you about my ideas for strengthening our neighborhoods, listen to your ideas, and answer your questions.

Please contact my office if you'd like to schedule a meeting. And if there is anything I can do to help you meet your neighborhood's needs, please don't hesitate to [ask](#). My staff and I are here to serve you.

Have a great summer, and keep up that community involvement!

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS AT THE GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY PATRIOT CENTER

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

Friday, June 12	9:30 am - Oakton
7:00 pm - Garfield	2:00 pm - West Potomac
	7:30 pm - Herndon
Saturday, June 13	Thursday, June 18
10:30 am - Hylton	2:00 pm - South County
2:30 pm - Forest Park	7:30 pm - Westfield
7:30 pm - Thomas Jefferson	
Monday, June 15	Friday, June 19
9:30 am - West Springfield	7:30 pm - Potomac Falls
2:00 pm - Lee	
7:30 pm - Chantilly	Saturday, June 20
	10:00 am - Broad Run
Tuesday, June 16	2:00 pm - Freedom
9:30 am - Centreville	7:30 pm - Briar Woods
2:00 pm - Lake Braddock	
7:30 pm - Robinson	Sunday, June 21
	10:00 am - Stone Bridge
Wednesday, June 17	2:00 pm - Park View



2009 LORD AND LADY FAIRFAX HONOREES PAMELA K. BARRETT AND THOMAS FRENZINGER

The Lord and Lady Fairfax Awards Program recognizes two leaders from each Magisterial District for their outstanding volunteer service. Pictured with the Braddock District recipients are Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Cook

COOK PROPOSES HELPING POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS, EMS AND TEACHERS BUY HOMES IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

I wanted to make you aware of an initiative I proposed to the Board of Supervisors that seeks to help our police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel and teachers buy homes in Fairfax County.

Police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel and teachers who have been employees of the county or public school system for five consecutive years, while receiving at least satisfactory approval ratings during that time, would be eligible to receive a no-interest, but capped, loan from the

county for use as a down payment on a principal residence in Fairfax County. Over the course of the next ten years the county would forgive one-tenth of the loan each year, until it is completely forgiven.

The only requirement is that the employee remains working for Fairfax County or Fairfax County Public Schools and continues to receive at least satisfactory performance appraisals.

My board matter, which passed unani-

mously, does not establish a program but provides the first step toward its study.

This proposal has been referred to the County Executive for further staff review and refinement and will be discussed by the full Board of Supervisors at its upcoming retreat. I believe that this is an excellent, common sense way to attract and retain hard working employees and will go a long way in maintaining strong neighborhoods throughout the county.

MOVING THROUGH THE BRADDOCK DISTRICT

HOT LANES:

The HOT Lanes Project continues to impact traffic exiting and entering the Beltway at both Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike. I receive regular updates from the project team and will be posting them on my website. During June, there will be significant activity on the Beltway north bound on both sides of Braddock Road, further increasing congestion for commuters who use this interchange.

Braddock Road and Rt. 123 Interchange:

An analysis of alternatives for a future interchange expansion at Braddock Road and Route 123 has now been

completed. On June 4, Supervisor Herrity and I will host a meeting of representatives from affected communities who agreed to participate in a

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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OR SEND "SUBSCRIBE" TO:
NEWSLETTER@VAMEGAPROJECTS.COM

task force to recommend a preferred alignment. One alternative that has been removed from consideration is a flyover. In the same location, a county-funded project to extend the right turn lane on eastbound Braddock Road. at

Rt.123 is nearing completion.

Additional Transportation Projects:

This summer, Fairfax County will begin construction of a sidewalk on Falmead Road at Guinea Road and will also install a missing trail segment on Guinea. In addition, VDOT will begin its annual cycle of milling and paving roads throughout the county. In or near Braddock, those projects include Guinea from Braddock to Twinbrook Roads, Steamboat Landing Way, Briary Way, parts of Braddock Road inside the Beltway and parts of Rolling Road.

For updates on these and other transportation projects, visit my website.

ILLEGAL BOARDING HOUSES ON BRADDOCK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Braddock Neighborhood News is a TV program on the county government's Channel 16 which I will be using to provide you with information on issues facing our community, programs and services provided by the county, great things being done by our neighbors and what I am doing to respond to your

concerns.

This month's program, with Deputy Zoning Administrator Michael Congleton and County Strike Team Operations Chief Jeff Blackford, provides timely and important information about illegal boarding houses: what they are, what the county is doing

about the problem and how you can help.

The program will air on Channel 16 on Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Fridays at 5 p.m., and Sundays at 5 p.m. through the month of June.

I hope you can take the time to tune in.

FIRST CONSTITUENT DAY A ROUSING SUCCESS

Last Wednesday I had the opportunity to host the first of what I hope are many "Constituent Days" throughout Braddock District. Our first Constituent Day took place at Oak View Elementary and it was great to see so many citizens come out and share their thoughts.

Many folks stopped by just to introduce themselves and many took the opportunity to talk about the District and share their thoughts and ideas. We discussed a wide range of issues; everything from

the budget to property taxes to ensuring that our children continue to receive the best education possible. I appreciated the discussion that took place and hope that we can continue talking about these ideas in the future.

In Braddock District and across Fairfax County, we live in a transient and constantly evolving community. While we must embrace our continued growth as a community, we must also protect our unique status as being "neighborhood friendly." As your Supervisor, my job is

to listen to you and help improve the great community we have in Braddock District. Constituent Days will be an excellent way for us to have an open and relaxed forum to discuss issues that are impacting you and your community.

While we have not set a date for our next Constituent Day, my plan is to host a series of these throughout the District, so we can focus on individual communities and issues that affect them.

BRADDOCK NIGHTS TURNS 15

June 5th marks the start of the fifteenth season of music in the parks. Running through August 30th, [Braddock Nights](#) takes place every Friday night at 7:30 p.m. at both Royal Lake and Lake Accotink, and at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays at Ossian Hall Park, where you will be able to enjoy FREE live music.

Braddock Nights is an outstanding tradition that allows our community to come together and celebrate an evening of entertainment and fellowship. It is a fantastic series of events that truly help strengthen our neighborhood spirit.

With free music and entertainment for the whole family, this is a great year for folks to make their first trip or their fifteenth. I urge you to bring friends, food and children and be ready for a fun, relaxing evening in your own backyard.

This summer Braddock Nights are the place to be and I hope that you will be able to join us!

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to our generous sponsors who have helped make this year's Braddock Nights possible.

AAA Recycling and Trash Removal Services

CCI Screenprinting, Inc

Cox Communications, Inc.

Dominion Resources Services Inc.

ExxonMobil

Fairfax Memorial Park

Interstate Worldwide Relocation

The Peterson Companies

The Washington Post

TRC Mid Atlantic Residential LP (Trammel Crow Residential)

Verizon

MANAGING COUNTY GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVELY

Work is already beginning on next year's County budget.

The Board will discuss the budget process at a Board retreat in late June. Next year's budget may be more challenging than this year's. Real estate assessments are predicted to drop further, meaning less county revenue. Homeowners need tax relief, not tax increases.

The "easy" spending reductions have already been made. We need to step back and take a broader view of our County Government and look for new ways to make our government more

efficient and effective.

To help me do this, I am forming a Citizen's Budget Review Committee. This committee will be modeled after similar committees established by other supervisors, but molded to be more Braddock-specific. This Committee will take a hard look at our government and offer me specific proposals for next year's budget process.

If you are interested in serving on this Committee, please contact my committee chair Christopher T. Craig by [email](#) or (703) 848-4700.

CREATING A BRADDOCK DISTRICT BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

As a small business owner myself, I want to ensure that we foster a productive, business-friendly environment here in the Braddock District. To help put this vision into action I am creating an informal "Business Advisory Council" that will meet to network, discuss issues of concern to businesses and hear a speaker on a topic of interest. These meetings will have no formal agenda or set list of items to discuss. My role will be only to listen and learn, to seek guidance and ideas. If you wish to be placed on our invitation list, please contact my staff assistant, Kiel Stone, at kiel.stone@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call my office at (703) 425-9300.

LAND USE ROUND-UP: ONGOING AND FORTHCOMING CASES

There are a number of land use cases in the Braddock District which have either recently been filed or are now scheduled for public hearings before the Board of Supervisors. I want to be sure you are aware of these cases and expect to hold community involvement meetings on several of them.

Area Plan Review Task Force

Fairfax County is about to begin the 2009-2010 South County Area Plan Review (APR) cycle. This is the community's opportunity to participate in the land use planning process by submitting proposals on any parcel of land in the Braddock District. The nomination submission period runs from August 3 through September 16, 2009. I am currently looking for Braddock residents to serve on a Task Force for an abbreviated two month period to suggest Plan amendments beginning in early July. I will also be establishing a broader Task Force to review all nominations that have been submitted and accepted by the County. This group would be formed in the fall. Please contact me at Brad-dock@fairfaxcounty.gov if you are interested in serving on either group. No land use experience is necessary.

Medical Facilities of America (Burke Health and Rehab Center)

The owner has proposed to construct 4,000 square feet of recreation and

rehabilitation space to serve its existing patients. The campus also includes the Heatherwood Nursing Home with joint access from Burke Center Parkway. Issues regarding shared use of parking spaces have now been resolved. The public hearing before the Planning Commission was held on December 11, 2008 and the public hearing before the BOS is expected this summer.

7-Eleven

Endorsed by the West Springfield Civic Association, this application proposes to convert the existing mini-mart which has operated on the site since 1979 to a quick service food store. A second canopied structure will continue to operate as a four pump service station. The application includes planting and tree save, creating an increase in overall open space. Significantly, the dangerous left turn from Rolling Road into the existing access road will be closed at Trayford Lane; instead, a new ingress at the rear of the property will be created.

Bourj, Inc. (Westwood College)

This Special Exception will allow the college to make interior modifications at 7611 Little River Turnpike, a building immediately adjacent to its present location. There will be 12 faculty and an average of 90 students per day at this location, with sufficient structured

parking available to accommodate both.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

A 2232 application has been filed by T-Mobile to construct a telecommunications tower within the steeple of this church on Twinbrook Road, resulting in a 15 foot increase in steeple height. Three screened equipment cabinets to service the tower would be placed on the roof of the church.

Commonwealth Swim Club

In response to community concerns expressed last year, T-Mobile has submitted a revised application to construct a 120 foot telecommunications tower at the swim club location: 9800 Commonwealth Blvd. The structure would be disguised as a "tree pole." I expect to host a community meeting to review the application over the summer. In preparation, a balloon will be flown at the new height and location.

University Mall

The applicant has filed a Special Exception to make modifications and to expand at its existing location on Braddock Road. An initial community meeting was held on June 3 at 7pm in Braddock Hall at the Kings Park Library as part of the regular Braddock-GMU Forum. I plan to hold additional meetings once the application is accepted for processing by the County.



**FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
WEST SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT STATION
703-644-7377**

A Fairfax County, Va., publication



**You have been "Die-ing" to go to the Prom!
"Live" to enjoy your graduation.
Consuming alcohol under the age of 21 is
"AGAINST THE LAW!"**



You Choose?



For further information, please contact the West Springfield Crime Prevention Office, 703-644-5026