

July 7, 2017



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# The BRADDOCK BEACON

A Monthly Newsletter from Braddock  
District Supervisor John C. Cook

Volume 9 | Issue 7

## Best of Braddock Awards Picnic Scheduled for July 12

Supervisor John Cook and the Braddock District Council are pleased to invite you to the annual Braddock District Council Picnic and Best of Braddock Awards ceremony on Wednesday, July 12. The event will take place at the Braddock District office, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA, and begins at 6:00 p.m. Awards will be presented at 7:00 p.m. The BoB Awards is a joint Braddock District Council of Community Associations and Braddock District Supervisor program to recognize citizens, organizations and businesses of the Braddock District whose excellent performance or contributions to the welfare, beauty, or strength of Braddock District deserve special recognition. Below are this year's award winners:

### Citizens of the Year

Meghan Walker, President, Friends of Lake Accotink Park

### Club or Organization

Friends of Lake Accotink Park

### Enhancement or Beautification in the Braddock District

Norene Gerstner and Gardening Friends of Kings Park Library

### Most "Can-Do" Public Employee Working on Issues in the Braddock District

Suzanne Metz, North Springfield ES

### Young Person of the Year

Kiley Foster, North Springfield

Katie Pope, North Springfield



Supervisor Cook has served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and lives in Kings Park with his wife and six children.

### Special Recognition

Jeremiah La'mon Bethea, Briarwood Court Condo Association

Irene Merrill, Briarwood Court Condo Association

### Posthumous

Morton A. Berger, Olde Forge/Surrey Square and Volunteer in Police Service

## Braddock District “Battle of the Bands” to Take Place Sunday, July 16

Supervisor Cook will host the Braddock District “Battle of the Bands” Festival this Sunday, July 16 at 3 p.m. This event will take place at Lakeside Park by Royal Lake (5216 Pommeroy Dr. Fairfax, VA 22032). Bands from across the District and the County will face each other in a showcase of incredible talent. Come out and enjoy music, food carts, neighbors and fun! A flyer for this event can be found at the [end of this issue](#) of the Braddock Beacon, or [online](#).

## TransAction Information and Public Meetings Scheduled

[TransAction](#) is the multimodal transportation master plan for Northern Virginia. It is a long range plan addressing regional transportation needs through 2040. Public input has been critical to the development of the Draft TransAction Plan, from the technical process to the Plan’s goal to improve regional transportation. Now is the perfect time to share your opinion about the Draft Plan and be a part of the plan that will enhance Northern Virginia’s transportation system. Public information meetings will be held in the coming weeks, and a full list of these events can be found [online](#).

## Braddock Road Park and Ride Lot Survey Pending

Supervisor Cook is asking for community members to respond to an [online survey](#) regarding the potential construction of a 260-space commuter park and ride lot behind the Kings Park Shopping Center (along Braddock Road) as part of the [Braddock Road Improvement Project](#). The park and ride lot, if desired by the community, would be constructed with a number of goals in mind.

The park and ride lot would provide additional parking at the shopping center- which some residents have described as inadequate. It would provide parking for commuters, who may be parking on side streets in nearby neighborhoods. The park and ride would encourage alternative commuting options throughout the corridor by providing the potential for slugging and easing access to bus routes, which would improve traffic flow on Braddock Road.

This is, and will continue to be, a deliberative process, and Supervisor Cook encourages you to share your thoughts about the possible impacts this may have on the surrounding area. In addition to the survey, residents may provide their comments [online](#).

*The Braddock Beacon*

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# Cook in the Community

On June 5, Supervisor Cook joined his colleagues on the Board and other county officials to cut the ribbon on The Residences at the Government Center, a new housing development aimed at providing affordable housing.

On June 6, Supervisor Cook honored the 2017 Braddock Lord and Lady Fairfax, Kevin Morse and Mary Cortina, at the Lord and Lady Fairfax reception at the Government Center.

On June 7, Supervisor Cook attended the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance's 30th Anniversary ceremony.

On June 14, Supervisor Cook attended the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Award Chairs Lunch at the Hilton Tysons.

On June 15, Supervisor Cook attended the Robinson Secondary School Graduation Ceremony and congratulated the students.

On June 16, Supervisor Cook took part in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Virginia Railway Express at the Fredericksburg VRE Station.



On June 17, Supervisor Cook joined other county officials and residents in celebrating the 275th anniversary of the County.



On July 4, Supervisor Cook took part in both the Fairfax City Fourth of July Parade and the Kings Park Parade and enjoyed seeing how patriotic all of his neighbors and constituents are.

On June 17, Supervisor Cook joined other county officials and residents in celebrating the 275th anniversary of the County.

On June 19, Supervisor Cook attended the Lake Braddock Secondary School Graduation Ceremony, and helped honor graduating students for their hard work and accomplishments.

On June 26, Supervisor Cook hosted a Braddock Road community meeting, detailing the possibility of a park and ride lot at the Kings Park Shopping Center. More information on this proposal can be found [online](#), along with a [survey](#) to provide your comments.

On June 28, Supervisor Cook attended the Inova Health Care Services Board of Trustees Meeting, where he took part in discussions on how to further improve Inova.

On July 4, Supervisor Cook took part in both the Fairfax City Fourth of July Parade and the Kings Park Parade, and enjoyed seeing all of his patriotic neighbors and constituents.

# Braddock Neighborhood News

Supervisor Cook hosts a monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16, which is available on most cable networks. Supervisor Cook invites topical guests to share pertinent and informative items with the viewers.

Unfortunately, many of our residents often fall prey to scam artists and devious tricks used to obtain money or sensitive information. Keeping our population, especially seniors, armed against scammers is important to our residents' well-being.

To discuss the issue of senior scams, Supervisor Cook invited Fairfax Police Detective Ryan Young, AARP Community Ambassador Sheila Hanz, and Vee Johnson, a Consumer Specialist from the County's Department of Cable and Consumer Services, to come on BNN and

tell us about senior scams, and how they can be prevented. The shows air throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 5 p.m.



**Police Detective Ryan Young, AARP Community Ambassador Sheila Hanz, and Vee Johnson, a Consumer Specialist from the County's Department of Cable and Consumer Services, to come on BNN.**

## Community Information

### August 1 is National Night Out

Supervisor Cook and officers from the Fairfax County Police Department will once again join in the National Night Out festivities, which will be celebrated on August 1, bringing along their public safety messages to these local gatherings. The goal of National Night Out is to strengthen community connections within neighborhoods and heighten awareness of crime prevention issues. Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and Target Corporation, crime prevention officers in Fairfax County have worked to help coordinate local events all year long, and many communities in the Braddock District are already making plans for neighborhood events. Last year, 36 million people from neighborhoods across the country participated in National Night Out events!

If your community is planning an event this year, please let your local police district station know. If you'd like Supervisor Cook to stop by, call his office at 703-425-9300 or email staff member Ann Sharp at [ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov).

# Braddock Neighbor of the Month

The Braddock Neighbor of the month for July is Meena Bhinge! Meena has made many contributions to the Braddock District and her community at-large over the years, and exemplifies the spirit of community service. Meena represents the Braddock District as a Commissioner on the Fairfax County Board of Human Rights, a cause she is passionate about. She has also raised money for the Fairfax County Park Foundation by helping orchestrate “fun runs.” She encourages her children to be just as involved in their community, and they help organize the fun runs by inviting their friends and contacting local businesses to donate food and prizes for the event. For the past five years, her family has operated a food drive campaign during Halloween called, “Hunger is Scary” and donate the collected goods to Britepaths in Fairfax.



Meena is a college professor with a background in corporate Human Resources and founder of Speakers Academy ([www.bhinge.com](http://www.bhinge.com)), which conducts public speaking and career enhancement training. Overall, Meena has contributed immensely to her community and is always working to make the Braddock District, and the County, better places to live. Good job Meena, and thank you for your service to the community!

If you would like to nominate one of your neighbors for their service to the community, contact Supervisor Cook’s Office at 703-425-9300 or [emailbraddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:emailbraddock@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## Human Services Corner

### Diversion First Program to Receive Award from the National Association of Counties (NACO) Annual Conference in July

Fairfax County’s Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board; Fire and Rescue; Office of the Sheriff; the Police Department; Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court; and the Office of Public Affairs will receive an award for Diversion First from the National Association of Counties Annual Conference July 21 through 24, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio.

Diversion First is a program which offers alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities who come into contact with the criminal justice system for low level offenses. Diversion First changes the way behavioral health and criminal justice systems interact, resulting in better outcomes for individuals and the community. The program is designed to prevent repeat encounters with the criminal justice system, improve public safety and promote a healthier community. As the Chair of the County’s Public Safety Committee, Supervisor Cook offers congratulations to all for their hard work.

### Braddock District Council Aging in Place Committee Events

1. Wednesday, July 19 at 1 pm: Safe Computing: How to increase the safe and secure use of computers and mobile devices on the Internet by Joseph Walker, Professor, NOVA, Marymont  
Location: Braddock District Supervisor’s Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road

2. Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm: Keys to Safe Driving as We Age: Myths about unsafe older drivers; Tips for staying safe behind the wheel; and new crash prevention technologies” By Mike Perel, U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Admin retiree, Braddock Rep, Commission on Aging  
Location: Braddock District Supervisor’s Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road

## Cooling Assistance and Fan Care Programs

Fairfax County residents who need help to keep their homes cool this summer and to prevent a health emergency resulting from extreme heat may be able to get assistance from two programs locally administered by the county’s Department of Family Services. The [Cooling Assistance program](#), a federally funded program, helps eligible low-income households with at least one person considered especially vulnerable to heat: a child under age six, a disabled individual, or an adult age 60 or older. Cooling assistance can be used to help with:

- Payment of electric bills to operate cooling equipment.
- Payment of security deposits for electricity to operate cooling equipment.
- Repair of a central air conditioning system or heat pump.
- Purchase of a whole-house fan, including ceiling or attic fans.
- Purchase and installation of one window unit air conditioner for households where there is no unit or where the unit must be replaced.

Applications for the Cooling Assistance Program will be accepted from June 15 through August 15.

## Environmental Update

### Royal Lake Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Saturday, July 15

Thunderstorms forced postponement of the ribbon cutting ceremony at Royal Lake, but it has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 15, 1:00 p.m., at Lakeside Park. This event will celebrate the completion of the Royal Lake dredging project. Supervisor Cook will be joined by Chairman Sharon Bulova and representatives from the Park Authority, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, and Friends of Royal Lake. Please mark your calendars to join in celebrating the completion of this important environmental project in our community.

### Native Plant Rescue Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in helping rescue native plants? Plans are currently underway to conduct a native plant rescue operation at the site of the Pohick Creek Tributary at Queen Victoria Stream Restoration Project in the Southport/Signal Hill neighborhoods near Lake Braddock High School. Along with the guidance of knowledgeable experts, community volunteers can rescue native plants and transplant them to designated “safe” areas along the streambed where they will be preserved. Representatives from the Southport HOA and members of Supervisor Cook’s office walked this area last month with Fairfax County landscape architect Suzanne Foster. Some of the native plants identified include Jack-in-the-pulpit, Mayapple, Christmas and lady ferns, pawpaw, lion’s paw, viburnum, false soloman’s seal, wild rye, and sedge. If you are interested and want specific information about this project, please contact Suzanne Foster by email ([suzanne.foster@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:suzanne.foster@fairfaxcounty.gov)) or phone at 703-324-5625.

## Fairfax Master Naturalists Fall Training—Applications Now Open!

Are you curious about nature, enjoy the outdoors, and want to be part of natural resource management and conservation in Virginia? If so, you are a perfect candidate to become a Virginia Master Naturalist. Fairfax Master Naturalists is now accepting applications for their Fall 2017 Basic Training Course. The training course will run September 7th through November 30th, and classes will be held Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center. There will also be four Saturday field trips to parks and natural areas in Fairfax County during the course (dates and locations TBA). Download the application [online](#). For more information, contact [vmnfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:vmnfairfax@gmail.com). *Please note that applications must be postmarked by July 28, 2017.*

## Accotink Creek Sediment and Chloride TMDL Study

The final public meeting was held on June 28 for the Accotink Creek Sediment and Chloride TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Study to develop TMDL standards for the Accotink Watershed. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has studied the Accotink Creek watershed and identified streams impacted by excessive sediment and seasonally elevated levels of chloride. While these impacts happen naturally, larger amounts are ending up in streams due to human activity, such as an increase in impervious hard surfaces like pavement, rooftops, and sidewalks, and the use of salts to melt snow and ice. To stabilize these waterways, DEQ has developed watershed restoration plans to reduce these factors. You can learn more about the project in our area by visiting <http://accotink.org/TMDL.htm>. Public comments can be submitted through July 21, 2017. Once the report is finalized, it will be submitted to the State Water Control Board and then the EPA for approval. The recommendations will then be incorporated into future permits, as appropriate. If you have any further questions, please contact the office of Supervisor Cook at 703-425-9300.

## Land Use Update

### Second Community Meeting on Stormwater/Wastewater Consolidated Facility at Freds Oak Road Planned for July 31

On May 23, Supervisor Cook held a community meeting to discuss a proposed consolidation of the county's Stormwater Planning Division, Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division, and Wastewater Collection Division operations on two parcels of land located at Freds Oak Road and the Fairfax County Parkway. Representatives from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) presented the community with an overview of the proposal and showed three possible layouts. The PowerPoint presentation from the meeting is available [online](#).

Residents raised a number of questions about traffic, lighting, and noise that could result from the proposed facility and DPWES and its consultants have been working to gather more information. **A second community meeting has been scheduled to respond to those questions and further discuss the proposal. It will be held on Monday, July 31, at the Burke Centre Conservancy's Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke, 7:30 p.m.** All interested community members are encouraged to attend.

Again, because this is a proposed county government facility, the proposal will be considered under the 2232 Review Process. Under this process, a public hearing will be held before the Planning Commission. Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission will determine if the proposal is in substantial accord with the county's Comprehensive Plan and approve, deny, or defer decision. The proposal will not go before the Board of Supervisors for consideration. However, Supervisor Cook is hosting these informational meetings because of the potential impacts on the community.

# What is the Zoning Ordinance and How Does It Affect Me?

The Zoning Ordinance of Fairfax County contains the regulations that prescribe the way land can be divided and used in order to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the public and to implement the adopted Comprehensive Plan for the orderly and controlled development of Fairfax County. The Zoning Ordinance specifies acceptable uses (residential, commercial, or industrial), density of uses, building heights, placement of buildings (setbacks from lot lines), and parking. In essence, it defines what a person can do with his or her land.

There are two significant projects underway that affect the Zoning Ordinance. The first is the annual Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program, which was initiated in 1983 and outlines requested changes to the Zoning Ordinance from the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, citizens, industry representatives, and county staff. A second parallel effort is the Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project, known as “zMod,” which was described in last month’s Beacon. The county will be seeking input from citizens as various proposals are considered.

Two proposals of particular interest because of their direct impact on residents are listed below, short-term rentals and rear yard coverage. Other proposals currently under consideration include minor modifications provisions, combining use categories related to restaurants and fast food, and the sign ordinance. More information on these other provisions, including schedules for consideration, can be found on the Braddock District [website](#).

## Zoning—Feedback Wanted on Short-Term Rentals

Fairfax County is considering new Zoning Ordinance regulations for short-term rentals. A short-term rental refers to any home, condo, apartment, or portion of a home rented for less than 30 days, typically on websites such as Airbnb, HomeAway, VRBO, FlipKey, and Roomarama. Earlier this year, the General Assembly passed legislation clarifying that local governments like Fairfax County have the authority to require registration of short-term rentals.

Currently, the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance prohibits property owners from renting their homes as short-term rentals unless the Board of Supervisors approves a Special Exception for a bed and breakfast use. A Special Exception use can only be considered in the R-P through R-2 or PDH or PRC planned development districts.

As a result of the General Assembly action, a working group has been created to craft a draft proposal which seeks to balance residents’ interests to protect the character of their neighborhood with the interests of those who want to operate short-term rentals within their residences. The regulations may address:

- Where short-term rentals would be allowed in the county
- How often spaces could be rented out
- What types of properties could be rented out
- How many people would be allowed to stay at a property at any one time

**The county wants your input to help develop a proposal. Please take a short survey by August 31, 2017, by going to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/short-term-rentals>. You may also email your comments or concerns to [ordadmin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ordadmin@fairfaxcounty.gov).**

This survey is just the first step in the effort to draft possible rules. The Department of Planning and Zoning will be seeking more public feedback this summer. Any proposed regulations must ultimately be approved by the Board of Supervisors, and hearings are not expected until late this year. For more information on short-term rentals, including a link to the DCC website that explains the complaint/enforcement process on existing short-term rentals, the status of the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment to regulate short-term rentals, and schedule of community meetings and public hearings once confirmed, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/short-term-rentals.htm> or call the Zoning Administration Division at 703-324-1314, TTY 711.



# Braddock Nights Summer 2017 Schedule

## Lake Accotink Park

(7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield, VA 22152)

### July

- 7 Shenandoah Run (Folk)
- 14 The NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra (Summer Pops)
- 21 City of Fairfax "Concert Band" (Concert Band)
- 28 Linwood Taylor (Texas Swing Blues)

### August

- 4 Kings Park Band (Concert Band)
- 11 The Nitehawks Swing (Big Band)
- 18 City of Fairfax Band "Alte Kameraden German Band" (German)

## Rutherford Park

(4710 Guinea Road, Fairfax, VA 22032)

### July

- 7 Orquesta Tropikiimba (Latin)
- 14 David Bach Consort (Jazz)
- 21 Cool McFinn (Irish/Folk)
- 28 Little Red & The Renegades (Zydeco)

### August

- 4 Gina DeSimone and the Moaners (Blues/Swing)
- 11 Barefoot Movement (Bluegrass)
- 18 King Teddy (Swing)

**Supervisor John C. Cook**



*invites you to the*

**Braddock District**

# **Battle of the Bands**

**Sunday, July 16  
3 to 8 p.m.**

**Bands from across the District and the County  
showcase their incredible talent!**

**Music, food carts, neighbors and fun!**

**Lakeside Park  
Royal Lake  
5216 Pommeroy Dr.  
Fairfax, VA 22032**



**Is your band ready to rock?  
Call 703-425-9300 or email  
[braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov).**

To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call Supervisor Cook's Office, 703-425-9300 or TTY 711.