

The Braddock Beacon

James R. Walkinshaw

**Braddock District
Supervisor**



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Dear Neighbor,

This month we celebrate Asian-American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawai'ian heritage. Here in the Braddock District and across Fairfax County, we are fortunate to have an active and vibrant Asian-American community. We also celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week this week, which is a great time to do what we should be doing all year long -- thanking our teachers for the life-changing work they do!

Today, the Health Department **announced** that, due to an increase in COVID-19 cases and outbreaks, Fairfax County and other Northern Virginia jurisdictions have moved from "low" to "medium" community level, according to CDC guidelines. As always, I urge all eligible individuals to get their COVID-19 vaccine and first booster. As we wait for the full emergency authorization of the second vaccine booster shot, individuals over the age of 50 and some immunocompromised groups are already eligible for a second booster. For those not yet eligible, please be aware that the Virginia Department of Health is calling vaccinated Virginians who have not received their first booster shot to urge them to **get one as soon as possible**. If you have lost your vaccination card or need another record of your COVID-19 vaccination to present for any reason, you can find your record **here**.

If you are a veteran or military spouse looking to advance or change your career, Northern Virginia businesses want to hire you! The **Veteran & Military Spouse Career Fair** on May 12 will include interview opportunities with 50 Northern Virginia businesses. Veterans and military spouses in the government, IT, finance, defense, renewable energy and healthcare sectors will have the opportunity to network with mission-driven companies actively hiring and supporting military communities.

Finally, last Saturday's Drug Takeback was a great success! The West Springfield Police Station, which acted as both the Braddock and Springfield Districts' collection point, received a total of

306 pounds of unused and unwanted drugs for safe disposal. Thank you to Captain Morgan and First Lieutenant LaBarca of the FCPD for your help in leading this important effort.

Please read further for more information on:

- Citizen of the Month
- Walkinshaw in the Community
- Community News
- Environmental & Parks News
- Compliance Corner
- Transportation News
- Older Adults News
- Public Safety News
- Human Services News
- Children's Corner
- Land Use News

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James W.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Supervisor James Walkinshaw

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Citizens of the Month

Thomas and Barbara Craft of Brook Hills Community



In May 2020, Braddock Elementary School received a call from Barbara and Thomas Craft inquiring how the Brook Hills Community could support families in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. A few months later, Barbara and Thomas started collecting and donating grocery items or grocery gift cards to Braddock Elementary on a weekly basis. Since then, Barbara and Thomas have continued to reach out to Brook Hills residents for donations over the growing need of support from the Braddock Elementary School Community Outreach Team and Parent Liaison. Thomas delivers to Braddock Elementary on an almost weekly basis.

In January 2022, the Braddock Elementary Outreach team noticed that Barbara was making the deliveries. When Barbara was asked where Thomas was, she shared that Thomas had undergone an emergency heart transplant. Thomas asked Barbara to continue the weekly deliveries in his absence. On behalf of the Braddock Elementary School students, staff, parents, and community, we are so very grateful to the

commitment Thomas and Barbara, and the residents of Brook Hills have shown to this endeavor. Their empathy and actions have shown us the true meaning of compassion and commitment. We are also excited to share that Thomas Craft's surgery was successful and on Wednesday, April 23rd, two cars of groceries pulled up in the parking lot rather than one. Thomas jumped out of his car to announce that his doctor had given him permission to drive the same day!

Walkinshaw in the Community



Supervisor Walkinshaw joined the Read family, Congressman Connolly, and the Braddock Community to rededicate the Mary Read Memorial on the 15th Anniversary of the Virginia Tech shooting on April 16.



Supervisor Walkinshaw joined residents at the first Burke Centre Farmers Market on April 16.



Supervisor Walkinshaw joined leadership from the Gesher Jewish Day School to discuss the school's learning programs and history in Fairfax County on April 28.



Supervisor Walkinshaw joined multiple Earth Day weekend events and met Ribbit the Frog at the Friends of Green Spring Gardens on April 23.

In April, Supervisor Walkinshaw also:

- Hosted a community meeting on the Long Branch watershed project on April 11.
- Attended Annandale-North Springfield Little League's opening day and field dedication on April 16.
- Had dinner with fire fighters at the West Annandale Fire Station on April 18.
- Attended Volunteer Fairfax's 30th Annual Volunteer Service Awards on April 20.
- Joined WJLA-ABC7's Jay Korff to discuss the Lake Accotink Dredging Project and conservation efforts at Lake Accotink Park on April 21.
- Joined North Springfield Civic Association's "Spruce Up" day on April 23.
- Thanked organizers and health workers at Little Run ES PTA's Vaccine Clinic on April 23.
- Joined the Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington virtually for their 48th Annual Dinner Celebration on April 24.
- Attended FCPD's Meritorious Awards ceremony on April 28.
- Met with members of Fairfax's Urban Search & Rescue team during their reclassification exercise on April 28.
- Attended Fairfax Little League's Opening Day ceremony on April 30.
- Joined Marian Homes for their shredding event on April 30.
- Joined a cleanup event at the Long Branch Stream on April 30.

Community News

Toolkit for Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Nearly 1 in 5 people experience a mental health concern each year, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Mental illness, including depression, substance use disorders, anxiety, or psychosis can happen to anyone. Take this opportunity this month to learn more about increasing awareness of mental health, healthy habits, and how to protect and maintain emotional health and well-being. Help shine a light on mental health and awareness and work to eliminate stigma surrounding mental illness.

Children's Mental Health Awareness and Acceptance week is May 1 through May 7. Please see the [communications toolkit](#) that contains resources, links to blogs, social media posts and graphics to highlight positive mental health practices.

COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks

For several weeks, cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 have increased in Fairfax County and across Northern Virginia. **Several jurisdictions in the region have transitioned from low to medium COVID-19 Community Level, as [defined by CDC](#), including Fairfax County and Falls Church City.** Fairfax City remains at a low level.

Outbreaks in schools, primarily the elementary grades, have increased rapidly. **Last week, there were 74 classrooms that reported outbreaks of COVID-19 cases and this week there were 139.** These figures include outbreaks that occurred in both public and private schools, as well as at childcare facilities. An outbreak is defined as a cluster of three or more cases of COVID-19 illness in a group within a 14-day period.

Disease increases are likely related to the emergence of new Omicron sub-variants (BA.2, BA.2.12.1) and fewer people using mitigation measures such as masking or distancing from others. COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths in Fairfax County remain low though the rate of hospitalizations has more than doubled in the past month.

Supervisor Walkinshaw is excited to be hosting the annual Braddock Nights Concert Series and Children's Arts in the Parks Series! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Braddock District office at (703) 425-9300 or Irma.Mejia-Lewis@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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Braddock Bark 2022

In June, in partnership with Celebrate Fairfax, Supervisor Walkinshaw will host the first Braddock Bark at Lake Accotink Park. For more information, visit the [facebook event page](#) or contact our office at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov.



BRADDOCK 2022
BARK 2022

Hosted by: Braddock District
Supervisor James Walkinshaw
In partnership with: Celebrate Fairfax, Inc.

CONTESTS
PERFORMANCES
ACTIVITIES
FOOD & MORE!

SUNDAY, JUNE 12
1-4PM

FIND INFORMATION ON ADOPTING A FURRY FRIEND!

DON'T MISS THE PAW-TAY!

GRAB YOUR LEASH AND BRING YOUR FURRY FRIEND!
*All dogs must be leashed

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK
5650 Heming Ave, Springfield, VA 22151

For more information:
www.celebratefairfax.com or info@celebratefairfax.com

Inclusion and ADA Support 703-324-8563. TTY: Va Relay 711.

Flushed! The Journey of Wastewater (2-part Series)

Presenter: Melissa Atwood, experienced chemist, Fairfax County Wastewater Management

Host: Pohick Regional Library Staff **Free virtual event via Zoom** **Teens and adults**

Part I: 4pm-5pm, Thursday, 5/12/2022

Present: the journey of wastewater, the impact on our lives, how to avoid expensive sewer backup repairs, and local river protection.



To register for Part I, scan the QR code on the left or go to <https://bit.ly/3MLzZ36>

Part II: 4pm-5pm Wednesday, 5/25/2022

Future: future planning and sustainability initiatives of wastewater management in Fairfax County, and the potential impact on our lives.



To register for Part II, scan the QR code on the right or go to <https://bit.ly/3P04ynV>



Registration is required

Register separately for each person and for each session

A unique Zoom link will be emailed after each registration and close to the program date.

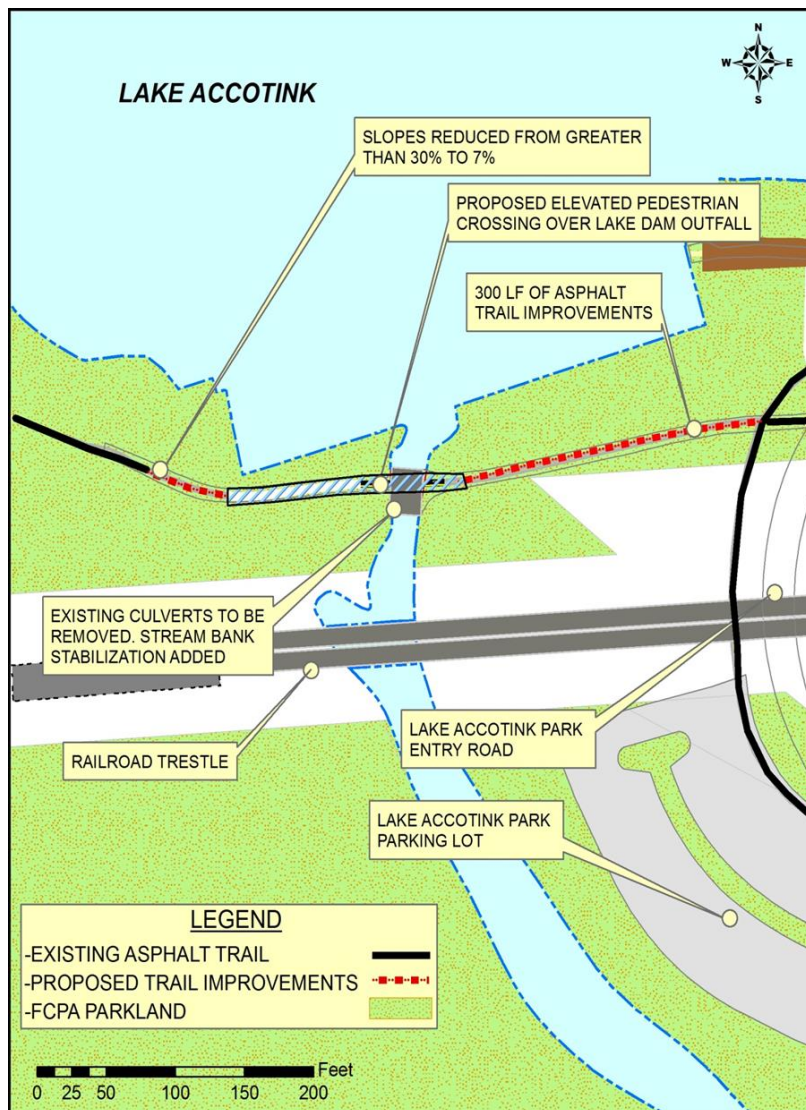
Environmental & Parks News

Lake Accotink Dam Stream Crossing Project

The Fairfax County Park Authority will soon begin construction on the Lake Accotink Dam Stream Crossing Project at Lake Accotink Park located at 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield, Virginia. The contractor, Franco's Liberty Bridge Inc, will be mobilizing on site with active construction activities beginning this summer. The project involves creating approximately 300 linear feet of asphalt trail improvements and 325 linear feet on an elevated concrete pedestrian crossing over the dam outfall in Lake Accotink Park. Total project costs, inclusive of design, permitting, testing, utilities, construction and administration, is just over \$3 million.

The Lake Accotink Loop Trail system is currently one of the most heavily used trails in the Park Authority, serving communities around Lake Accotink and park visitors throughout the region. The existing pedestrian and vehicular crossing at the outfall of the Lake Accotink dam floods suddenly and frequently, often stranding trail users and tempting them to wade through swiftly running water. Excessive damage due to major storm events has required a total reconstruction of the trail twice in the last five years. This project will resolve these issues, enhancing safety and accessibility for park users.

Project completion is anticipated in early 2023. Residents should expect occasional construction traffic entering and exiting the Accotink Park Road entrance. Portions of the surrounding Lake Accotink Trail will be closed and signs posted during construction. For more information, please contact Project Manager Heather Lynch at heather.lynch@fairfaxcounty.gov, or contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662 or via Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Shanes Creek Stream Restoration Project Underway

The Shanes Creek Stream Restoration Project in the Kings Park West area is officially under construction. As a reminder, that means residents should not walk, run, or otherwise be inside the welded wire fencing. The Trail Closed/Area Closed signs were backordered, but should now be in place. There have been reports of what appear to be cuts in the fencing and of people walking through the construction zone. This creates a dangerous situation, particularly as work gears up and more equipment is in use. Please respect the boundaries during the entire construction period.



Work will begin starting in the upper, or western, portion of the project. The required perimeter fencing should be installed by mid-May. Stream work is expected to begin by the end of May. Regular work hours through the summer are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays and from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays. This schedule may change based on weather and project requirements, and Friday or weekend work is possible. The project is expected to take 18 months to complete.

Upcoming Parks Events

Spring Garden Tour & Tea

Take a walking tour of the glorious spring demonstration gardens on May 12 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Green Spring Gardens with a master gardener docent. Afterwards, relax over a sumptuous afternoon tea in the 1784 Historic House.

4603 Green Spring Rd.
Alexandria, VA, 22312

Cost: \$38.00

Contact: For more information, call 703-941-7987.

Alien Invaders

Fairfax residents 6 and up are welcome to learn about invasive species May 14 at 10:00 a.m., their effects on the environment, how to identify them and how to remove them. Please dress accordingly as this program takes place outdoors.

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive
Reston, VA, 20190

Cost: \$8.00

Registration: [Register Online](#)



Tennis & Pickleball Court Repairs Slated at Wakefield Park

The Wakefield Park tennis and pickleball courts were resurfaced in fall 2021. At the time, weather conditions were not favorable to complete the work on courts #9, #10, #12 and #13. The vendor, ATC, will return to complete the work this spring, as the temperatures warm up consistently.

ATC will be onsite June 3 through June 17, to accomplish several tasks related to their project punch list and to perform the necessary repair work to the tennis courts. They will need to keep the courts closed for the duration of that two-week period to ensure a successful repair process.

They anticipate the tennis and pickleball courts will be available Saturday, June 18, 2022, providing the weather remains dry during the scheduled repair dates.

Wakefield Park is located at 8100 Braddock Road in Annandale, Virginia. For more information, contact Construction Maintenance Project Manager Karen Devor, of FCPA Park Operations Division, at Karen.Devor@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Compliance Corner

On-ground Pools

Seasonal on-ground pools gained popularity in the past few years. Even though these pools are not typically in place year-round, they are regulated by the Zoning Ordinance and Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). Some of the key requirements are listed below.

- Pools must comply with accessory structure location requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. The following flyer provides information on those regulations: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/sites/code/files/assets/documents/pdf/freestanding_accessory_structures.pdf.
- A [swimming pool building permit](#) is required for any pool with a surface area greater than 150 square feet, a capacity over 5,000 gallons or more, or a depth of 24 inches or more; and barriers are required. If the ladder is removed in between swims, the sides walls of the pool can act as the barrier; otherwise, a fence or other barrier is required.
- Electrical permits are required if seeking to establish service, such as for lighting, outlets, and filtration systems.

More information is available on the Land Development Services (LDS) webpage at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/landdevelopment/pools-spas-and-hot-tubs>

How do the Department of Code Compliance enforce?

- If DCC receives a complaint, DCC Investigators inspect the property to determine if there is a violation and try to contact the property owner to discuss the nature of the complaint or violation.
- If there is a violation, a Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued directing the property owners to abate the violation within a specified timeline.
- DCC Investigators reinspect the property after the timeline to comply per the NOV has expired, to determine whether the violation has been abated.
- Failure to comply with a NOV can result in the County taking legal action, such as seeking civil penalties or a court order to abate the violation.

DCC accepts complaints and concerns about potential violations on the [DCC website](#) or by telephone during regular business hours, at (703) 324-1300.

Transportation Updates

I-66 Commuter Choice Public Comment Now Open

Last Friday, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission opened public comment on the [complete list of nine proposed projects](#) under consideration for I-66 Commuter Choice FY 2023-2024 funding, as listed below. The funding request was provided to NVTC from the five applicants with projects under consideration for funding. You can watch Chair Canek Aguirre's video messages (in English y en Español) on their [Facebook](#) page or [Twitter](#) feed, which I-66 corridor commuters are now seeing via geotargeted advertising. NVTC has already received about 20 responses to our easy-to-use survey form, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Applicant	Application Title	Project Type	Funding Request
Arlington County	Ballston-MU Metrorail West Entrance	Rail Capital	\$4,500,000
Fairfax County	Trail Access to Vienna Metrorail Station	Access to Transit	\$2,200,000
Fairfax County	Renewal of Bus Service from Vienna Metrorail Station to Pentagon	Enhanced Bus Service	\$1,232,850
Fairfax County	Enhanced Bus Service from Stringfellow Park-and-Ride to Pentagon	Enhanced Bus Service	\$2,876,812
Fairfax County	Trail Access to Monument Drive Commuter Garage	Access to Transit	\$4,361,458
City of Manassas Park	Manassas Park VRE Station Parking Garage	Rail Capital	\$2,500,000
OmniRide	Renewal of Bus Service from Haymarket to Rosslyn	Enhanced Bus Service	\$947,554
OmniRide	Renewal of Bus Service from Gainesville to Pentagon and Navy Yard	Enhanced Bus Service	\$2,560,449
Prince William County	TDM Strategy - Fare Buy-Down on I-66 Commuter Bus Service	TDM	\$650,000

Rolling Road Repaving

NOTICE: Between now and the end of October, VDOT will be repaving Rolling Road from Burke Road to Burke Lake Road. To minimize traffic impacts, some of this work will take place after hours (9:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m. Sun-Thurs; 9:00 p.m.-9:00 a.m. Fri-Sat). To check on the status and find project contact information, [check the VDOT Paving Status Map](#).

Older Adults

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

AARP Virginia and the [Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons](#) (NVRC) are teaming up to raise awareness about hearing loss, and to encourage people to think about their own hearing and get their hearing checked.

This program is the first in a special three-part series with **Bonnie B. O'Leary and Debbie Jones**. Bonnie is NVRC's Certified Peer Mentor and Outreach Manager, and Debbie is NVRC's Resource and Technology Manager. This series won a Distinguished Partner Award from Fairfax County's Neighborhood and Community Services.

You won't want to miss these presentations about hearing loss, hearing evaluations and the different types of hearing aids! **Join AARP Virginia and attendees from across the U.S. for free virtual events on Wednesday, May 11, 18, and 25 at 3:00 p.m.**

May 11th- Hearing Aids: Beware and Be Wise

<https://aarp.cventevents.com/event/73b7c3c1-deb8-499e-9142-28f7556146db/summary>

May 18th- Hearing Assistive Technology Options for People with Hearing Loss

<https://aarp.cventevents.com/event/3feaa721-a523-4bf1-86c2-beaab55866b0/summary>

May 25th- Stop Mumbling: I Can't Hear You.

<https://aarp.cventevents.com/event/b77dc877-e494-4d25-b1f9-9a3bb64e76cd/summary>



Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI/NOVA) June Forum

Join LLI/NOVA via Zoom on June 1 at 10:00 a.m. as we welcome the Fairfax Search and Rescue Team. They will discuss its role worldwide in aiding victims of man-made disasters. All are welcome but must [register by May 30 at noon.](#)

Public Safety

Opioid Safety: Recognize Fake Prescription Drugs

The opioid epidemic continues to impact the Northern Virginia region and the nation. Just this week, two youth fatally overdosed in Prince William County after taking what preliminarily appear to be fentanyl-laced percocets (official causes of death are pending toxicology results).

Fentanyl is extremely fatal, even in the smallest doses. **Similar to national and statewide trends, most fatal overdoses in Fairfax County in recent years have involved fentanyl**, which is a common substitute or cutting agent in illicit narcotics such as cocaine, heroin, MDMA (also known as ecstasy or molly), as well as counterfeit pills. Nationally, the U.S. [Drug Enforcement Administration reports](#) a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing at least two milligrams of fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose. Counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl can look the same as authentic pills, making it almost impossible to know whether a pill has a deadly dose of fentanyl or not.

This is a communitywide problem and requires a comprehensive approach to prevent future overdoses and connect individuals experiencing opioid and substance misuse to treatment and support services. Take action today.

- **Talk with your youth and other loved ones** who are impacted by substance misuse about the dangers associated with drug use. Get more information on substance use among youth, tips on how to recognize and prevent substance use and available support services from [this recent webinar](#) hosted by Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools (slides available online in multiple languages; recording will be posted in the coming days).
- **Sign up for a Virtual REVIVE! training class** on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose and administer naloxone nasal spray to reverse an opioid overdose. After completing the training, individuals 18 and older will receive a REVIVE! kit including Narcan, fentanyl test strips and treatment information.
- [Safely store](#) and [dispose of unwanted medications](#) to prevent opioid misuse from ever starting.



Authentic Percocet



Counterfeit Percocet



Authentic Xanax



Counterfeit Xanax

Human Services Corner

2022 Fairfax County Farmers Markets

Fairfax County Farmers Markets run from Spring to Fall. There are no markets on Monday and Tuesdays.

Wakefield

May 4 - October 26

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road

[Details/Directions](#)

Burke

April 16 - December 17

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

[VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway](#)

[Details/Directions](#)



Early Voting Begins May 6 for the Democratic Primary in the 8th Congressional District

The June 21 election is a Democratic Party primary **only** for the [8th Congressional District of Virginia](#). Following the 2020 Census, there were some changes to the congressional districts in Fairfax County. In the Braddock District, the North Springfield and Heritage precincts were drawn into the 8th District.

There is no Republican primary in Fairfax County. The Republican Party is nominating its congressional candidates by convention. In Virginia, political parties decide how they nominate their candidates, including using caucuses, mass meetings, primary elections and other methods.

If you are unsure of what congressional district you vote in, you can find it [on this interactive map](#). The County will be sending a mailer with your precinct, polling place and district for U.S. Congress, Virginia State Senate and Virginia House of Delegates over the next week.

May is Foster Care Month

During Foster Care Month, in Fairfax we recognize the role of foster families in providing children with opportunities to be part of safe, caring families, and helping them connect to permanent homes through reunification, permanent placement with relatives, or preparation for adoption. Thank you to all Fairfax County foster parents for your commitment to providing homes for the approximately 200 children in foster care while helping their biological families enhance their relationship with their children in support of family stability. Please visit the Department of Family Services on information on how to become a [Foster Parent](#).

May is Foster
Care Month



Braddock Elementary PTA Fundraiser

Thanks to their B-Thrifty B-Green School Partner and "if Hope Is an Option", LLC Director, Jakelin Soriano Lake, the Braddock Elementary PTA Board is hosting a "Stuff A Truck" Fundraiser to support the Fifth Grade Promotional Ceremony, After School Programs and Summer Programs. A B-Thrifty Truck will be parked, each Wednesday (11, 18 & 25) during the month of May, on Commons Drive of the Vistas Apartment complex (near the main parking lot of Braddock ES) from 3:30 - 7:00pm. Please contact Joyce Matthews for questions

jamatthews@fcps.edu.

STUFF A TRUCK!

IT'S A GREAT TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING!



When: Every Wednesday in May – 4, 11, 18 & 25

Time: 3:30 PM – 7:00 PM

**Where: 4525 Commons Drive, Annandale
Behind Braddock Elementary School**

Acceptable donation items include the following:

- Clothing, Shoes, Handbags, Clothing Accessories
- Houseware, Bed & Bath
- Toys, Media, Christmas Decoration
- Kitchenware, Small Electronics, Sporting Goods
- Small Furniture (4'x4'), Books, Halloween Decoration

Non-acceptable items:

- Big Furniture, Big Appliances
- Mattresses, Car seats
- Cribs, Weapons, Hazard Materials

Braddock Elementary PTA in conjunction with Project B-Green is sponsoring a STUFF the TRUCK campaign to support Afterschool Clubs, 5th Grade Promotion and Summer Programs at Braddock Elementary School.



Sponsored by Braddock Elementary PTA and a partnership with B-Thrifty – Project B-Green.
Questions Contact: Joyce Matthews jamatthews@fcps.edu.



These materials are neither sponsored or endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or this school.

Therapeutic Recreation is hiring for SUMMER CAMP!

JOIN THE NCS TEAM!

Are you interested in working to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities? If so, then Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) is the place for you! They are frequently in search of individuals who share their passion for providing meaningful, even life changing, support and experiences to individuals with varying intellectual and physical disabilities. These are particularly ideal opportunities for individuals interested in pursuing a career in human services, special education, social work, recreation management and therapeutic recreation.



NCS is seeking Therapeutic Recreation staff to take the lead in providing outstanding programs for individuals with varying intellectual and physical disabilities. [See their flyer for summer 2022 hiring!](#)

Rec-PAC Host Open Hire Events to Fill 200+ Summer Jobs

Come make a difference and have fun while doing it! The Park Authority is looking for dedicated individuals who enjoy working with kids to "lead the PAC" this summer! Rec-PAC, affiliated with the Fairfax County Park Authority, is hosting virtual interviews and in-person open hires to fill more than 200 summer jobs.

Rec-PAC is hiring Camp Counselors, Camp Directors and Area Supervisors. Pay is competitive, and included on their website are the pay rates for new and experienced Rec-PAC staff. Full position descriptions, list of job duties, and qualifications can be found [at the Rec-PAC website.](#)

Kid's Corner

Family Campout

May 7, 2022 2:00 p.m. to May 8, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

Residents ages 5 and up are invited to Burke Lake Park for a family campout, and the Park Authority are making it even better. Join the Park Authority for planned events such as a campground orientation, guided nature programs and hike, DIY campfire and s'more supplies, and fishing. All the programs above and one campsite with one bundle of wood is included with each registration. Program starts at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and ends at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.



Cost: \$102.00

Registration: [Register Online](#)

Campfire Fridays and Saturdays

Residents ages 3 and up are welcome to join the Park Authority for an evening campfire the whole family can enjoy. During the program residents will explore the wonders of our natural world. These programs may include nature walks, interactive activities, animal presentations, or other opportunities to learn about nature and our place in it. Includes S'mores. Topics vary by date. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Campfires are on Friday from 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10.00

Campfire Fridays at Hidden Pond Nature Center
8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield, VA 22152

Registration: [Register Online](#)

Campfire Saturdays at Burke Lake Park
7315 Ox Rd., Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Registration: [Register Online](#)

Land Use & Development

UPCOMING MEETINGS & HEARINGS

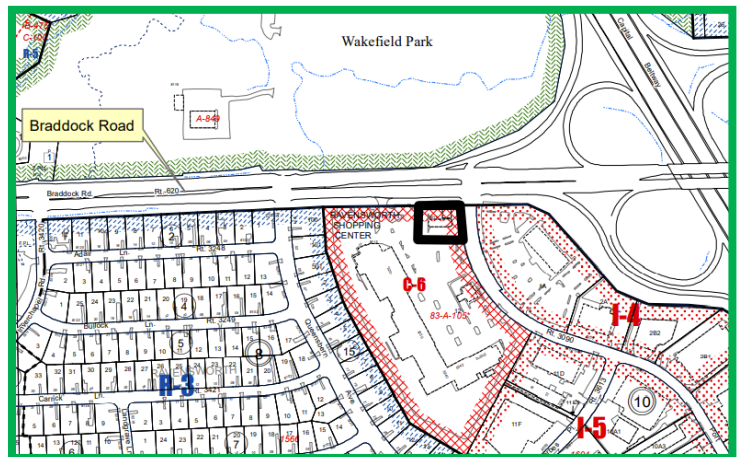
Braddock District Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting

- May 17 at 7:00 p.m. – virtual

Application to Convert Ravensworth Shell Repair Shop into Convenience Store

Capital Services, Inc. has filed an application to modify Ravensworth Shell's existing vehicle fueling station by replacing the light vehicle repair and maintenance component with a convenience store. The gas station is located in Ravensworth Shopping Center on Braddock Road, just west of the I-495 interchange.

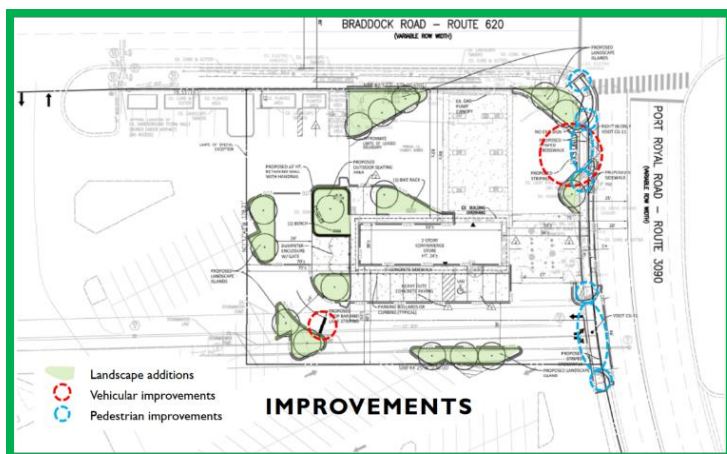
This site contains a 2,600 square foot building housing four vehicle service bays, associated office and storage space, an exterior vehicle lift, and six fuel pumps with 12 fueling positions under a canopy. The current building was constructed in 1967 and renovated in 1984. The service bays and exterior vehicle lift are located along the south side of the building. To the east of the building is a large paved area where fuel trucks access the underground fuel tanks. The building entrance is located on the north side, adjacent to the fuel pumps.



The applicant intends to retain the existing fuel pumps and canopy, replace the four-bay vehicle service area with a convenience store, and add a small second floor office. There would be two entrances to the convenience store, one on the north and the other on the south side of the building. Both the fuel pumps and convenience store would operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A number of site and architectural improvements would be included as part of the project. The building architecture would be upgraded and be in harmony with the shopping center. This would include brick veneer, glass windows and doors, and a gabled metal roof with a small tower.

Vehicular access is currently provided from both Braddock Road and Port Royal Road. The access from Braddock Road, with right-in and right-out movements, is proposed to remain the same. Port Royal Road includes two curb cuts serving the station along with a traffic signal further south providing full access for the shopping center. The northernmost curb cut on Port Royal Road (closest to Braddock Road) is proposed to remain and become right-in only to allow fuel trucks to access the station's underground tanks without backing up. The second curb cut

further south is proposed to continue to permit full movements. Overall daily trips are expected to increase from the current 3,128 trips to 4,033 trips and would be spread out throughout the day and evening hours. Landscaped islands and outdoor seating would be added, the sidewalk along Port Royal Road would be widened to five feet, speed bumps would be removed and a stop bar would be added along the southern side of the building. The existing signage would remain.



In response to an question about the reason for the change, the applicant stated that customers expect that a gas station will have an associated convenience store, and that there is less need for auto service. There are other facilities on Port Royal Road and in the broader area that provide service and inspections. In addition, service has become more complicated as vehicles have become increasingly computerized.

At its April 19 meeting, Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee members

asked a series of questions regarding traffic patterns and how the current vehicular conflicts in the area around the gas station would be handled. Many of the inquiries related to a proposed restriping of the second entrance to try to provide visual clues to improve traffic flow while still allowing delivery trucks to navigate the movements. Committee members also asked about the lack of designated loading and air compressor use spaces and the proposed location of the dumpster. Capital Services will provide additional information on this proposal at the May 17 meeting of the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee.

A Planning Commission hearing on this application is scheduled for May 25 at 7:30 p.m. Information on how to testify may be found on the [Planning Commission website](#). The application number is SEA 83-A-026.

Braddock District Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting

The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee will hold a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 17**, at 7:00 p.m. The agenda will include a discussion of the application from Capital Services, and updates and discussion on other pending Braddock District land use cases. Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee meetings are open to the public and interested residents are encouraged to participate. Join [online](#) or by phone: (571) 429-5982, Phone Conference ID: 730 922 969#.

Update on DMV's Customer Service Center at Braddock Road

While it may be quiet at the moment at the site of the future Braddock Road Customer Service Center, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has reported that there is a lot going on behind the scenes. The DMV Center will be located on Braddock Road between the State Police office and the new Erickson Living community. The building drawings have been finalized and approved by the State's Art and Architectural Review Board and the Department of General Services, Division of Engineering and Building. Bids for construction of the building are currently in the review process. Once a contractor has been selected, DMV will provide a more detailed schedule for construction. However, tentatively, DMV hopes to break ground in June and open the building in the spring of 2023. Please keep in mind that because this is a state facility being built on state land, it follows the procedures required by the state, not those of Fairfax County.

Update on Construction at Erickson Living's Woodleigh Chase Project

Utility work continues for the first phase of Erickson Living's Woodleigh Chase Project on Braddock Road, but the project is slowly starting to come out of the ground and buildings are beginning to take shape. The second level of the new community building has been poured. The foundation walls of the first residential building are being waterproofed, and once the first floor is poured, they will be backfilling the walls. The building foundations are going in for the second residential building and they are gearing up to pour the slab. On the western portion of the property, site work is nearly complete. Once ready, Erickson will be turning that property over to the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing for construction of a new affordable senior housing building. At the marketing center, final landscaping is being installed. Erickson will open the marketing center once their license is approved, which will probably be this fall. If you have specific questions about Woodleigh Chase in the meantime, please contact the Greenspring Village sales office at (703) 923-3187.



Do you need help navigating the county's new Planning and Land Use System? Whether you're a homeowner building a deck or a developer building a new subdivision, PLUS is here to help! Join Fairfax County staff for Webinar Wednesdays on May 18 and/or June 1 for a 30-minute lesson on how the new PLUS system works.

The one-stop-shop online portal unites multiple agency online applications into one customer service platform. Using PLUS, residents and businesses can conduct online transactions with the Health Department, Land Development Services, Fire and Rescue, Code Compliance and Planning and Development. PLUS allows customers to create and submit applications online, pay fees, track application status, and receive electronic notifications. Register [online](#) to take advantage of these helpful webinars.

PLUS Basics – 101

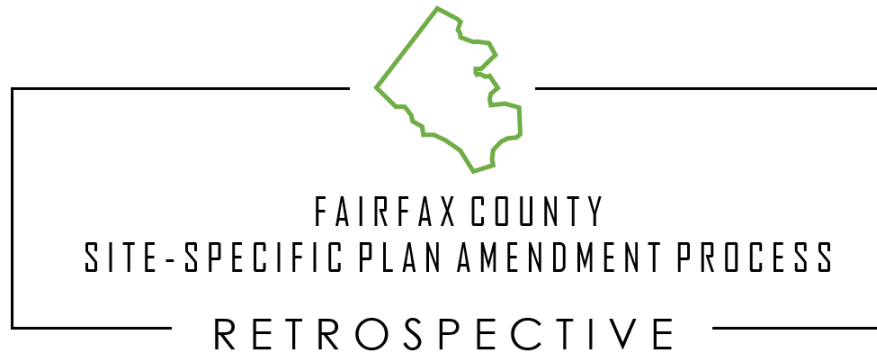
Wednesday, May 18, 11:30 a.m. to noon

See a demonstration of PLUS. Bring your questions and learn how this centralized platform helps streamline the customer experience.

PLUS Basics – Searching

Wednesday, June 1, 11:30 a.m. to noon

Learn how to use PLUS to perform basic searches.



Changes are being considered to the county's Site-Specific Plan Amendment (SSPA) process! Join an upcoming virtual Open House to learn all about the **[recommendations and enhancements to the SSPA process](#)**, which were formed using public feedback.

The four Open Houses are scheduled for:

- Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 11 from noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 11 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 12 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

The SSPA process allows anyone to submit and review proposed land use changes to the Comprehensive Plan for individual sites, and currently operates on a four-year cycle divided every two years between the North and South County Supervisor Districts. (The Braddock District is included in South County.) The proposed changes include creating a Countywide, two-year cycle, shortening the submission and screening period timelines, adapting community engagement to suit the needs of the study areas, and enhancing the criteria for submissions. Learn more about the recommended changes to the SSPA process and **[get details to join one of the virtual Open House meetings](#)**.

Questions and comments on the recommendations and the SSPA Retrospective can be directed to Graham Owen, 703-324-2771 or **graham.owen@fairfaxcounty.gov**.

Cases Filed with the Board of Zoning Appeals

The Fairfax County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) hears and makes decisions on requests for variances (relief from specific zoning regulations such as lot width, building height, or minimum yard requirements) and Special Use Permits. It meets on Wednesdays beginning at 9:00 a.m. BZA meetings are aired live on the county government's cable TV [Channel 16](#). Residents who have concerns about an application are encouraged to submit a letter for the record or testify at the hearing on the case in person, by telephone, or by pre-submitted video. For information on how to submit comments or testify, please visit the [Board of Zoning Appeals website](#). These matters will not come before the Board of Supervisors but will be decided by the BZA. Staff reports are normally available online a week before the scheduled hearing.

Access to information on BZA cases is available through the Planning and Land Use System, or PLUS, which came online for zoning applications on July 1, 2021. This system allows users to create and submit applications online, pay fees, track the status of applications, and receive electronic notifications. It also offers more information to the public than the previous system and does so in real time. Visit the [PLUS Information and Support website](#) for more information on this new land use platform.

➤ **Daniel Forlai – 12219 Rowan Tree Drive, Fairfax
SP 2021-BR-00132**

The applicant requested a reduction in setback requirements to permit an addition 20.1 feet from the front lot line adjacent to Pheasant Ridge Road and 37.7 feet from the front lot line adjacent to Rowan Tree Drive. This application was approved by the BZA on May 4, subject to Development Conditions which include requirements that any tree removed from the front yard along Pheasant Ridge Road and/or Rowan Tree Drive to construct the addition must be replaced on a one-for-one basis with a similar native canopy shade tree, as space allows. In addition, 4-6 native evergreen trees or shrubs must be planted in the front yard adjacent to Pheasant Ridge Road to soften the ground-level view of the addition from the west. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, may be found on the [PLUS website](#).

➤ **Daniel Forlai – 12219 Rowan Tree Drive, Fairfax
VC 2021-BR-008**

The applicant requested a Variance to allow a freestanding accessory structure (shed) to remain in a front yard on a lot less than 36,000 square feet in area. This application was denied by the BZA on May 4. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, may be found on the [PLUS website](#).

➤ **Bhardwaj Tushar – 4700 Ox Road, Fairfax
VC-2021-BR-00010**

The applicant is seeking a Variance to reduce the setback requirements to allow construction of a 6,000-square foot single-family house 18.4 feet from the western front lot line (40-foot setback required), 18.9 feet from the rear lot line (20-foot setback required), and 17.2 feet from the western lot line (20-foot setback required). The BZA hearing on this application has been deferred until June 15. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the [PLUS website](#).

➤ **SZII-VA, LLC – 5325 Port Royal Road, Springfield
SPA 2017-BR-102**

The applicant is seeking to amend the Special Permit previously approved for an indoor commercial recreation use (trampoline facility) to allow for a change in permittee. No

other changes are proposed. This application has been scheduled for a BZA hearing on July 27. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the [**PLUS website**](#).

If you have questions regarding these land use cases or any other issues of concern to you, please email [**braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov**](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call the Braddock District office at 703-425-9300.