

The **Braddock Beacon**

James R. Walkinshaw
Braddock District Supervisor

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Dear Neighbor,

This January marks the beginning of a new year and the beginning of the four-year term for the Board of Supervisors. I'm excited to get to work alongside my nine colleagues to build an even stronger Fairfax County, and to work with you to build even stronger neighborhoods and communities in the Braddock District. As the new year and new term begins, I've been reflecting on the prodigious work done by my team in the Braddock District office.

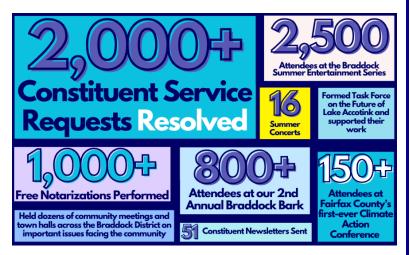
In 2023, we:

- Resolved more than 2,000 constituent service requests
- Performed more than 1,000 free notarizations
- Hosted Fairfax County's first-ever Climate Action Conference with more than 150 attendees
- Welcomed more than 800 attendees and dogs to our Braddock Bark Festival
- Hosted 16 summer concerts with nearly 2,500 attendees
- Held dozens of community meetings and town halls across the Braddock District on important issues facing the community
- Formed the Task Force on the Future of Lake Accotink and supported their work
- Sent 51 email newsletters (Braddock Beacon and Walkinshaw Advisory) to keep you informed and engaged
- And much, much more

Most importantly, I'm proud that we remain guided by our values of respect, accountability, discipline, inclusion, growth, responsiveness, and joy. As always, we are here to serve you and want to know how we can do even better. Please don't hesitate to reach out to let us know what you feel we should focus on in 2024.

HOA and Civic Association Spring Meetings

Are you a member of a homeowners association (HOA) or civic association (CA) in the Braddock District? Many neighborhoods are beginning to plan for their annual meetings,



and I'd welcome the opportunity to provide an update on important local issues, hear any concerns that your community might have, and answer your questions. Please contact us at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov if you'd like me to attend an upcoming meeting of your HOA or civic association.

Winter Weather Update

As of the time of writing, it is expected that a rain/snow/sleet mix will move in on Saturday morning and continue through the morning. By the afternoon everything



should change to rain and continue as a mix of mostly rain through Sunday. Temperatures will be near freezing Saturday morning, which may allow for slick spots on roadways, but temperatures will warm up later into the morning.

Fairfax is right on the line to experience rain or snow, and depending on the storm's path, we could experience more rain or snow. The most probable forecast has the County receiving up to 1" of snow. The worst case would be up to 2".

You can stay up to date on tracking changes with the storm on several platforms:

- Follow the <u>National Weather Service's</u> Baltimore/Washington Team on <u>Facebook</u> or <u>X</u>
- Sign up for <u>Fairfax Alerts</u>
- Follow Fairfax County Government on Facebook, X, or Instagram
- Check the <u>Fairfax County Emergency Blog</u> for updates

Though no significant accumulation is expected, conditions could be more challenging for travelers leaving the region. Before traveling, check roadway conditions by using VDOT's **free 511 mobile app**, which offers information about road conditions, traffic, incidents, construction, and congestion as well as access to traffic cameras, weather, and more. Information is also available at **511Virginia.org** or by calling 5-1-1 while in Virginia.

For questions or to report hazardous road conditions, contact VDOT's 24-hour Customer Service Center by visiting my.vdot.virginia.gov or calling 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623).

Yours in service,

Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw

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Upcoming Events

Details on these events and more can be found in this edition of the Beacon or by contacting braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov.

- January 6 ... Fairfax County's General Assembly Delegation's Pre-2024 Session
 Public Hearing
- January 10
 FCPS Community Conversation on Opioid Awareness
 Outdoor Dining Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing
- **January 11** School Board Meeting

 DMV's Fair Oaks Customer Service Center closes at 5:00 p.m. for relocation
- January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (County/FCPS Holiday)

 Last collection day for Natural Christmas trees at County Solid Waste facilities
- January 16 Braddock District Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting
- January 17 Braddock District Council Meeting
 Braddock District Council's "Sorting Fact from Fiction Online" Presentation

West Springfield District Station's Let's Talk Program

- January 22 ... DMV's Braddock Road Customer Service Center Scheduled to Open
- January 25 School Board Meeting
- January 27 West Springfield District Station's Car Seat Saturday
- January 30FCPS Gap Year Fair
- February 1 First Day of Black History Month

Walkinshaw in the Community



Supervisor Walkinshaw with members of Pack 991 after talking about local government on December 5



Supervisor Walkinshaw joined the Virginia Congressional Delegation and other Northern Virginia elected officials for an announcement about funding the Long Bridge project on December 7



(Above)

Supervisor Walkinshaw, the Braddock District Team, and other Board staff participated in a CPR and First Aid Class hosted by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department on December 11

(Right

Supervisor Walkinshaw visited FCPD's West Springfield District Station's Holiday Toy and Food Drive at the Cardinal Forest Giant on December 9



Supervisor Walkinshaw flipped pancakes for Braddock Elementary Staff on December 5



Supervisor Walkinshaw checked out a solar flower on December 14





Supervisor Walkinshaw and his family (Left) celebrating at the Fairfax Inauguration Ceremony on December 13 after he took the Oath of Office for his second term (Right)

In December, Supervisor Walkinshaw also:

- Attended a Graduation for Participants in Fairfax County's Mental Health Docket on December 1
- Joined the last meeting of the Lake Accotink Task Force on December 4
- Recognized outgoing elected officials at the last Board meeting of the 2020-2023
 Term on December 5
- Stopped by the Lifetime Learning Institute's Winter Luncheon on December 6
- Hosted the Annual Best of Braddock on December 6
- Presented a Proclamation to the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation on December 7
- Attended Fairfax County Police's Meritorious Awards Ceremony on December 7
- Kicked off Chanukah in the City of Fairfax on December 7
- Attended the Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards Ceremony on December 11
- Led a legislative work session and presentation for the Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation on December 12
- Met with Cub Scout Pack 1967 on December 13
- Attended the Fire and Rescue Department's Graduation for the 159th Recruit School on December 29
- Joined the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia's Holiday Reception on December 30

Best of Braddock

Last month, Supervisor Walkinshaw recognized winners of the annual Best of Braddock awards and honored Megan McLaughlin for her 12 years of service as the Braddock District Representative on the Fairfax County School Board.

Best of Braddock award winners were selected by the Braddock District Council and announced in a previous Walkinshaw Advisory. In lieu of a January Citizen of the Month, learn more below about the individuals and organizations who received awards. Congratulations to all on your well-deserved recognition!

Special Recognition - Megan McLaughlin | Remarks by Supervisor Walkinshaw

Megan McLaughlin is a trusted and experienced leader who delivers results for our community. As a 2nd-generation Woodson family, Megan is deeply committed to our neighborhood schools.



The Washington Post, in endorsing her last candidacy, described her as "smart and principled," and lauded her for her "datadriven approach."

During Megan's three terms on the School Board, she has served in the roles of Budget Chair, Audit Committee Chair, Governance Committee Chair, and Board Representative to the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT), the CDC's 2015 Epi-Aid Report on teen suicide, the

Sports Tourism Task Force, and the Synthetic Turf Task Force. She also participated in two Superintendent searches.

If you've ever been to a Board of Supervisors meeting, you know they can be quite long. School Board meetings are longer. Just this week the School Board held another meeting that went past midnight. Megan has cheerfully participated in those meetings throughout her tenure. She pushed right past the divisive rhetoric that we sometimes see, to work to create positive change in our public schools, accomplishing many substantive improvements: an Auditor General, increased employee compensation, and a less punitive student discipline process. Before she was elected, she successfully advocated for healthier high school start times, Full-Day Mondays for elementary schools, and a comprehensive Strategic Plan. In addition, Megan has been committed to competitive teacher compensation, reducing class sizes, closing the achievement gap, strengthening her partnership with our office and the whole Board of Supervisors, and ensuring effective allocation of budgetary resources. She has been a champion for restrooms at high school stadiums, which sounds like a small issue but is a real issue in terms of equity.

Megan is the best example of public service because she is in it for the right reasons, motivated to ensure our schools continue to provide our students with the high-quality education that they deserve, and that Fairfax County is known for. She also recognizes the changing needs of our County (with more than 30% of our students qualifying for free or reduced lunch). To meet those changing needs, she has partnered with the County to make needed services more easily

accessible to the families in our community and has advocated for staffing school nurses in all our schools.

I'll end on one note, and this was recent, Megan led a quiet effort where she was engaged and involved recently to change the name of Woodson High School – from W.T. Woodson High School to Carter G. Woodson High School. Carter G. Woodson was, as some of you may know, the father of Black history; an incredible historian and scholar, who deserved and needed to be recognized in Fairfax County. Among Megan's many gifts to the Braddock District, I think this is she handled that process with grace and minimized the division that can sometimes arise from those kinds of issues. It's a testament to her leadership and her leadership style, and I have very much enjoyed and deeply appreciated our partnership over the last four years. And I know John Cook felt the same during his tenure. Join me in thanking and recognizing Megan McLaughlin for her service.

Special Recognition of Bruce Wallachy—Braddock District Council Aging in Place Program

In 2011, Bruce Wallachy (Kings Park West Civic Association) perceived the need for a program that would enable seniors to remain in the district where they had raised their families and put down roots. His vision was to provide positive social outlets as well as useful information on the many issues facing seniors to help them remain right here in their homes. Acting on this vision, Bruce established the Braddock District "Aging in Place" program with the support of the Braddock District Council.

Bruce set up monthly gatherings, arranged speakers, served as a clearinghouse for information on topics covering medical, legal, and financial matters, and built a community. As you can imagine, this took a considerable amount of volunteer time on Bruce's part. During the pandemic, he turned to holding virtual meetings and sending out emails with links to information to keep the AIP community going strong during those tough times of social isolation.

In 2023, Bruce announced that he was stepping down for personal reasons that prevented him from devoting the amount of time needed for managing the program. After Marie Norman, the Braddock District Council's Senior Outreach Coordinator found Paul Hartwell to replace him, Bruce worked with Paul to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities. I'm happy to report that what Bruce Wallachy started over a decade ago will continue to move forward and build on his vision.

Twelve years is a long time to do a volunteer job. It is important to recognize not only the length of time that Bruce spent running the "Aging in Place" program but more importantly the value it had for the Braddock District. Our seniors are a valuable resource through their volunteer efforts and the knowledge they must share with younger members of our community. This unique district-level effort of Bruce's and the Braddock District Council reinforces the emphasis that the Board of Supervisors places on providing services to our growing population of seniors. Bruce was unable to attend the ceremony tonight and accept this plaque, but I think it is important and most fitting to give him public recognition and thanks for his contributions to Braddock District through the "Aging in Place" Program.

Marie Norman, BDC Vice-Chair, accepted the plaque on Bruce's behalf.

Braddock District Citizen of the Year - Erik DeTurk, Kings Park | *Nominated by Charlotte Hannagan*

Eric is a full-time government employee and father of two beautiful girls, has an incredible cando attitude, and is extremely active in the community. Eric is the first VP of Social Outreach for the Kings Park Civic Association - but he does so much more! He organized the first "Kings Park National Night Out" this summer, with vendors from across the community, music, food, and fun for all ages. He's also the lead for the Park Volunteer Team and helps clean up our beloved Kings Park. When a resident mentioned some plants were getting too tall and reducing road visibility, Eric went out and trimmed them. He can often be found walking the streets of Kings Park, delivering gazettes to residents. Anything that needs to be done, Eric is eager and on it! Eric is also the Kings Park Kings Glen PTA Treasurer. He stepped into this extremely hands-on role this summer - and has made a huge impact on that community as well. Eric spent countless hours this summer in training courses to get up to speed on everything PTA and has come away energetic and full of ideas on how to improve and streamline operations. Eric can often be found at both schools, helping with various PTA tasks and being a welcome helping hand. Our community is better because of people like Eric in it. Did I mention he also bakes delicious cheesecakes and often hands them out to members of the community?

Charlotte Hannagan accepted the award on Erik's behalf.

Young Person of the Year - Autumn D. | Nominated by Penny Dunlop

I am nominating Autumn for Braddock District Young Person of the Year based on her passion for community service and her dedication to training Braddock District youth in leadership

fundamentals. Her passion to give back to the community is evidenced by 700+ volunteer hours logged in the past year. Her investment of time and energy in the Braddock District impacted diverse areas of the community including providing leadership in a Principal's Cabinet Mental Health Council, aiding with



food collections for ECHO, helping with the Burke Centre Festival, placing flags along Burke Centre Parkway during holidays, and helping numerous Eagle Scout projects throughout Braddock. These community projects include weeding and planting native plants at Nature Centers, painting outdoor recess games on asphalt at elementary schools, and helping at a local pet adoption center. As dedication to community service is one of Autumn's core values, so is the practice of leadership. Autumn was the first female to achieve Eagle Scout in her troop where she served as youth leader. The leadership training gained along her scouting journey helped launch multiple leadership avenues for her. As a Sophomore, Autumn saw an opportunity to become the leader of the Principal's Cabinet Mental Health Committee where she aided in drafting and submitting a grant for \$1,000. The money would be used to develop a room that students can use to de-stress and relax during the day at her school. She knew students needed a safe place to allow them to focus on their own mental health at school. Autumn's leadership continues to rise with each opportunity. Her example as a leadership role model and great communicator got her noticed and chosen to act as the Youth Course Lead for the National

Youth Leadership Training Course in June 2023. She has a giving heart and a willingness to make things better. She is an outstanding leader and a role model for others.

Organization Making a Difference in the Braddock District - Don Pederson, North Springfield Little League | *Nominated by Kimberly Pederson*

For the past 9 years, Don Pedersen has dedicated his time, energy, and sweat equity (literally) to promote, encourage, and highlight the benefits of recreational baseball for young boys and



girls in this District through his volunteer work at the Annandale-North Springfield Little League (ANSLL).

Firmly believing in the power of youth baseball to teach life lessons that build stronger individuals and communities, Don volunteered for ANSLL as a Manager for both his son and daughter's teams. He also

served on the Board of Directors as Director of Sponsorship and Public Affairs in which he met business owners and public servants in our district to tout the benefits of Little League and encourage their community involvement. Don took great pride in organizing and publicizing Opening Day ceremonies and inviting scout troops and elected officials to participate in these annual events and bring public attention to those individuals and organizations. Later, as President of ANSLL, Don managed the beautification and physical improvements to the facility which were made possible by a core number of dedicated volunteers. Don publicized their efforts at Opening Day ceremonies but also by working collaboratively with county officials to name the Pine Ridge field baseball complex after one dedicated volunteer. Don knows the importance of volunteerism and loves to set the example himself. On numerous occasions, Don could be seen with a rake and a shovel cleaning up the fields after a rainstorm to get them ready for play.

For the past 9 years, Don's positive energy to promote ANSLL has resulted in a strong community organization that will continue to grow and thrive for many years for the benefit of our District.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification in the Braddock District - Dave Moulton, Dunleigh | *Nominated by Rachna Sizemore Heizer*

Dave has served as our neighborhood's HOA president for many years, working to replace the old and less safe playground equipment with new playground equipment so the growing number

of families and children in our neighborhood can enjoy the neighborhood playground. He regularly volunteers his time to maintain the neighborhood property at the front of the neighborhood. Our neighborhood borders Lake Braddock Secondary School, meaning many students walk from our neighborhood and the



surrounding neighborhoods to Lake Braddock. Dave can be seen out regularly clearing the paths to Lake Braddock for all these students, whether they live in our neighborhood or not. One of the paths is a nature trail used mostly by students in a different neighborhood, but he makes sure to clear that path, because he feels we owe it to all the students to ensure they have a safe path to school. He even cuts firewood and delivers it for free to any neighbor who asks for it.

Most "Can Do" Public Employee - Tony Capizzi, Fairfax County Police Department (West Springfield District) | *Nominated by Kevin Morse*

MPO Capizzi is our Crime Prevention Officer at WSPD, his most recent assignment in a 20-year career with Fairfax County Police. Some of his previous assignments have included the patrol



and helicopter divisions of FCPD. This has made MPO Capizzi one of our most well-informed Crime Prevention Officers to have served at WSPD. His title of Crime Prevention Officer does not give full credit to MPO Capizzi's liaison work with the Braddock community. He

has always made himself available to the community, not only at CAC meetings but also on site at neighborhood events or even one-on-one meetings if that is required. He also has been known to respond to inquiries while away at training or even on vacation. The measure of any police force in these difficult times, is not just how fast is the response but also the quality of the response. With MPO Capizzi, you never get a scripted answer to your question or request for help. MPO Capizzi listens and then uses his broad knowledge of the police force and community to assist you in the best way possible. MPO Capizzi is one big reason why we are fortunate enough to have one of the highest-rated police forces in the country. We are very grateful his tour of duty has brought him to West Springfield.

Most "Can Do" Public Employee - Marcia Pape, Braddock District Supervisor's Office Nominated by Linda Silver Bufano and Bob Cosgriff | Remarks by Supervisor Walkinshaw

Marcia is a tireless employee at the Braddock District office and has been for almost a decade, for both Supervisors John Cook and James Walkinshaw. She's at meetings all the time, day, and

night. Marcia puts in extra time and effort to help navigate the complex world of land use. She conducts site visits and tracks down County staff to get the answers necessary, whether it's anything from obtaining a permit to build a deck, to handling a major multi-unit construction project.

In land use issues, Marcia is always thinking of the needs of affected neighbors or community groups, making

sure they're informed of the progress and included in the conversation. Marcia's knowledge of the Braddock District improves the quality of every interaction. Marcia has taken on additional responsibilities such as serving as the staff lead for the Task Force on the Future of Lake Accotink. She took the time to study every report, analysis and proposal related to the lake. She's also knowledgeable about the Braddock Road Multimodal Improvement Project, managing the communications with VDOT and the surrounding communities and following the changes to the plan which began in 2014.

In addition to her service at the Braddock office, Marcia is an active appointee on the Fairfax County Athletic Council. She finds the time to volunteer with the ECHO food pantry and Gracing Spaces, a nonprofit providing furniture and more to individuals going through a transition in their housing.

Civic Engagement - Ben Breaux, Kings Park West | Remarks by Supervisor Walkinshaw

Ben is a 23-year-old resident of Kings Park West who has autism, epilepsy, and apraxia, which means he is non-speaking. Ben is a strong advocate for people with disabilities becoming

civically engaged and exercising their right to vote, even before he could do so himself. He utilizes a Letter Board and a Communications App, along with the support of a trained Communications Regulation Partner, to communicate and share his views. With this mode of communication, he actively participates in civic engagement. Ben proudly serves as a Board Member



and/or Advisor to multiple non-profit organizations and policy-making committees and organizations at local, state, and national levels. He speaks on conference panels, delivers keynote speeches, and extended presentations on disability rights, inclusivity, and opportunities for the neurodivergent community while championing the disability voting rights movement. Ben has also established a significant social media presence through his public Facebook page and Instagram, advocating for these topics. Ben was approached by the co-chair of REV UP Virginia (a non-partisan voter education and engagement coalition aimed at increasing the power and influence of the disability vote), Susan Lydick, for a story about the organization from the perspective of a local disability rights advocate. In his interview, he shared his and his peers' experiences of being overlooked in voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts as people with disabilities. His powerful interview contributed to raising awareness about Disability Voting Rights Week. Ben said, "Before I was able to vote, I was upset that my voice wasn't able to be a part of those conversations. Voting is a right and it's also really important to me." Ben has already made significant contributions toward promoting the political, economic, and social power of the disability vote at such a young age. His dedication to democracy and advocating for people with disabilities to vote made me proud to recognize him as Braddock's November Citizen of the Month. I understand that the nomination committee was so impressed with Ben's service, that they created the Civic Engagement category to recognize him and those serving in other great ways in their community.

Supervisor Walkinshaw congratulates all the winners for their work to make Braddock District an even better place. Do you know a Braddock District resident who should be recognized as a Citizen of the Month? **Nominate them here.**

Seasonal Items

Snow Removal Tips

If snow is predicted in the County, be sure to have your snow shovels or snowblower ready to clear the sidewalks. If ice develops during or after a storm, you may need to

use de-icing agents to make your walkways safer. While many people use salt to get rid of ice, too much of it can be harmful to our drinking water, our pets, aquatic life, vegetation, vehicles, pipes, and infrastructure. Consider using alternatives, such as:

- Sand
- Native-blend bird seed
- Wood ash
- Zeolite crystals



The environment will thank you! And don't forget, if the sun comes out after you're done shoveling, you may not need to apply any product to the sidewalks. Just let the sun do its job!

If you don't have salt alternatives available, don't overdo it. Make sure you're using just enough to get the job done. A 12-ounce mug of salt should be enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or about 10 sidewalk squares. For more tips on safe snow removal, please visit Fairfax County's website.

Christmas Tree Collection



Natural Christmas trees will be collected for recycling at County Solid Waste facilities until January 15. Check your neighborhood hauler's website for pickup times. Please be sure to remove all lights, decorations, and stands to ensure collection. After January 15, you may bring the tree to one of the County facilities or schedule a special pickup with your hauler. Visit the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services website for more information.

If you have questions, please contact the County Department of Public Works & Environmental Services at (703) 802-3322 or email DPWESSWMPTrashCS@fairfaxcounty.gov.

County Holidays this Month

The County will be closed on Monday, January 15, to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The Fairfax Connector will operate on their **Holiday Weekday Service**.

- View the County Government's operating status
- View Fairfax County Public Schools' standard calendar

Winter Donations and Drives

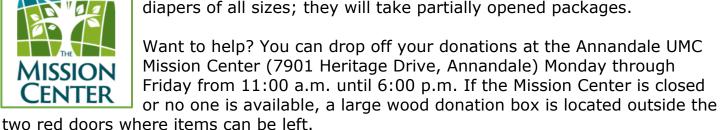
The Braddock District is home to many great charitable organizations and non-profits that are relied on to fill gaps for neighbors in need. These organizations also rely on partnerships with Fairfax County and the community to provide adequate resources for residents.

Because of the large influx of messages we receive asking to advertise item donation requests, supply drives, and more, a collective listing of those events and advertisements will be combined in this section of the Beacon, in chronological order for events, and alphabetical order for ongoing events.

Annandale United Methodist Church Seeks Donations

The Annandale United Methodist Church's Mission Center hosts a weekly food distribution, and they are requesting donations of gently used

children's coats of all ages and sizes. They are also seeking adult diapers of all sizes; they will take partially opened packages.



You may also drop off your donations at the Braddock District Office (9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke) Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, contact Irma Mejia-Lewis at irma.mejia-lewis@fairfaxcounty.gov or call (703) 425-9300.

Community News

Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation Pre-2024 Session Public Hearing

The Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly (State House and Senate members) will hold a <u>public hearing</u> regarding the upcoming 2024 legislative session on Saturday, January 6, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax).

Parking is available in front of the Government Center Building. Fairfax County is assisting with the logistics of the delegation's event. The hearing will be televised live on Fairfax County Television Channel 16 (Channel 1016 in HD on Cox; Channel 16 on Verizon or Comcast) and can also be viewed online through the Channel 16 live stream.

Braddock District Council's January Meetings

The Braddock District Council (BDC) is holding its next regular business meeting on Wednesday, January 17 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Braddock Hall (9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke).

Braddock District Council

The meeting will feature a presentation by William Mayland of the Zoning Administration Division in Fairfax County's Department of Planning and Development. Mr. Mayland will discuss the type of zoning issues that all associations commonly deal with in their communities.

Following the presentation, Council business items to be discussed include revisions to the Bylaws, possible topics for speakers at future meetings, and information on how associations can establish Senior Outreach programs, plus any new business brought up by members.

Also on tap for January 17 is a presentation "Sorting Fact from Fiction Online" presented under the auspices of the Braddock District Aging in Place program by Larry Lipman (Volunteer with AARP Virginia). The presentation starts at 2:00 p.m. at the Kings Park Library Meeting Room (9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke) adjacent to the Supervisor's office. No registration is required.

Attend the January meeting to lend your voice to the Council's activities or check out BDC's **website**.

BDC is a member-driven body that provides a forum where community association leaders can meet regularly to share best practices in association governance, collaboratively address issues common to all associations, stay abreast of Fairfax County priorities and policies, and support various quality-of-life initiatives of the Braddock District Supervisor.

2024 Gap Year Fair

FCPS School Counseling Services and **Go Overseas** will co-host the **Annual FCPS Gap Year Fair** on Tuesday, January 30, from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., at **Marshall High School** (7731 Leesburg Pike). This event is for high school students and their families who are interested in learning more about increasing opportunities for the year following high school



graduation. Students should register through **USA Gap Year Fairs**.

Animal Shelters

Animal shelters experience a high number of animals being surrendered in the first



weeks of the year, when people are having second thoughts about their gifted pets.

Through their <u>Pet Resource Center</u> services, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is increasing pet retention and deterring unnecessary pet surrender. By helping pets in need, they are keeping more family units whole.

Support the 2024 Science Fairs

Are you a scientist looking to give back and inspire future scientists? FCPS School-Based and Region Science Fairs are looking for you!

Volunteers are needed for:

- Judges at High School Fairs
- Judges at the Regional Science Fair

More information available from FCPS.



Environment & Parks News

Keep Your Trees Healthy

Adding trees to our lawns is a great way to cool your property and support our birds, but it's important to give them enough room to breathe. It's common in residential neighborhoods to see trees surrounded by grass or by small mulch beds, often heaped high like a volcano. But did you know that your trees would be healthier and grow faster if you replaced turf and mulch volcanoes with a 2-4" deep ring of mulch that extends out to the tree's drip line and does not touch the tree trunk?

Read **NOVA Natives' website** to learn how to help your trees thrive.

Compliance Corner

Building Permits – A common violation found in Department of Code Compliance (DCC) investigations is construction taking place without <u>required permits</u>. DCC issues more Notices of Violation (NOVs) for construction without a permit than any other type of violation.

The Virginia Construction Code (VCC) requires building permits for a wide range of projects. Many of these projects are very common property improvements. For example, decks on both commercial and residential buildings require a building permit. The same holds true for most wall installations and removals.

Homeowners, landlords, and building managers alike may be unaware of building permit requirements, resulting in violations of the VCC and possible safety hazards, so it's very important to learn when a building permit is required. Information about permit requirements for various construction projects and installations can be found on DCC's website.

What happens during an investigation?

- Reports come from the community or are referred to DCC from other agencies.
 Complaints can be anonymous, but leaving contact information is encouraged.
- Investigators visit the property, take pictures, and try to contact the owner or tenants to explain why DCC is there.
- If problems need to be fixed, DCC issues a "Notice of Violation," or NOV, which says what needs to be done to correct issues. The NOV also gives a deadline for bringing the property into compliance.
- Investigators communicate with the owner or whoever is responsible so everyone understands what is expected. More time may be given if there is active work being done toward compliance.
- After deadlines have passed, a reinspection is done to make sure issues have been resolved.
- If the person(s) found responsible refuses to comply with the NOV, and DCC's efforts to motivate and assist them are not successful, DCC may then take legal action, including fines and penalties.

DCC accepts complaints and concerns about potential violations on the <u>DCC website</u>, or by telephone Monday – Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or Fridays from 9:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at (703) 324-1300

Public Safety

Scout Night

Officers from the West Springfield District Station will be hosting a Scout Night on Tuesday, January 23, between 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

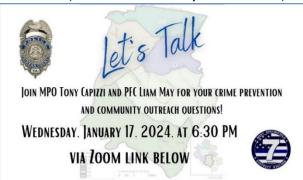
If your den or troop would like to visit the police station and speak with officers, please contact them for available times. Officers will give a presentation to the kids in the community room, a video tour of the station, and then a hands-on tour of the police car outside. Space is limited to one den/troop every half hour. Slots are 5:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.



If older scouts need specific requirements for a badge, arrangements can be made. Please contact either PFC Liam May at (703) 277-2357 or MPO Tony Capizzi at (703) 277-2363 for scheduling or further questions.

Let's Talk

Did you know the West Springfield District Station covers over 66 square miles, and has over 200,000 community members, 40 public schools, 70 houses of worship, around 110



police officers, and ten different patrol areas? If you would like to know more about the West Springfield District Station, crime prevention, or just have questions, attend the virtual community meeting on Wednesday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m. Join on Zoom.

Contact MPO Tony Capizzi at (703) 277-2363 with questions.

Car Seat Saturday

Get your child's car seat inspected on Saturday, January 27, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00

p.m. at the West Springfield District Station (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA). No appointment is needed.

Car seats will be inspected on a first-come, firstserved basis. When you arrive, go into the lobby, and you will be given further directions. All car seat inspections/installations will be conducted by a certified Child Passenger Safety technician. Be sure to install the child safety seat yourself so



the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed if necessary, and you will learn how to install the seat properly in the future. Reach out to MPO Tony Capizzi at (703) 277-2363 or email Anthony.capizzi@fairfaxcounty.gov if you have questions.

Car seat inspections are also available, by appointment, every Tuesday from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Please call the station at (703) 644-7377, and press zero to make an appointment for those days.

Human Services Corner

Conversation to Raise Awareness of Fentanyl and Other Drugs

<u>In this video</u>, Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid interviews the Fosters, a family who tragically lost their son, Cayden, to a half pill of fentanyl mistaken for Percocet. This

heart-wrenching yet essential discussion aims to save lives by raising awareness among students about the dangers of fake painkillers.

Join Dr. Reid on Wednesday, January 10, at 6:30 p.m., at <u>Edison High School</u> (5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria) for a community conversation about opioid awareness. You may <u>register to</u> <u>attend</u>. Registration is not required; it is simply for space considerations.



FCPS' website also has <u>resources to help you start the conversation</u> and additional support for families struggling with substance misuse.

Hypothermia Prevention Program

Since 2005, the Fairfax County **Hypothermia Prevention Program** has prevented



death and serious injuries among people experiencing homelessness by ensuring that no one must sleep outside during the winter months. This program - available to any adult in need of immediate shelter - provides warm shelter, food, and other supportive services to help connect guests to a variety of basic needs such as clothing, employment, housing, and more. It remains a highly effective partnership between government, nonprofits, and the faith community. The program is open every day, countywide until March 31.

Overflow shelter capacity in the year-round adult shelters is available each night but is limited. Sign up for <u>Fairfax</u>

<u>Alerts</u>, specifically "Homelessness Cooling and Heating Resources," for information on overflow activation.

If you have any questions about the program, contact Dee Johnson at danien.johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit the County's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness website.

Resources for Older Adults

Free Community Events at the Wellness Center for Older Adults

4027B Olley Lane, Fairfax, VA | Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

January 2024					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Center Closed in observance of New Years Day	2	3 10:30 Creativity Leads to Wellness	4	5 12:00 Movie Club: Three Men and a Baby	
8	10:30 'Brown Bag' Medication and Workshop	10 10:30 Creativity Leads to Wellness	1:00 Dementia 101	12	
Center Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17 10:30 Creativity Leads to Wellness	18	19 12:00 Movie Club: The Cutting Edge	
10:00-2:00 Memory Screenings	1:00 Bingo-cize	10:30 Creativity Leads to Wellness	1:00 Bingo-cize	10:00 Rhythm and Nature 1:30 Birthday Bingo Celebration	
29	1:00 Bingo-cize	31 10:30 Creativity Leads to Wellness 1:00 VCAA: Arts for the Aging*	February 1 10:00 Cupid Crew 1:00 Bingo-cize	February 2 10:00 Rhythm and Nature	

Program Descriptions (listed alphabetically)

Bingo-cize

This 10-week class meets twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays (January 23 – March 28) and is facilitated by **Elderlink**. The program combines a bingo-like game with exercise, fall reduction, and health

education. The goals of the class are to improve mobility and independence, learn and use health information, and provide social engagement.

Birthday Celebration

Happy Birthday January and February babies! Play Bingo on the last Friday of the month and reserve your slice of cake.

'Brown Bag' Medication & Workshop NOVA Scripts Central will present a workshop at 10:30 for all to join. They offer free, confidential medication reviews and educational materials. Appointments are in 30-minute increments from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Reserve your appointment!

Creativity Leads to Wellness

Join creative art sessions led by local artist, Sharon Fishel, from <u>McLean Project for</u> <u>the Arts.</u> This class will focus on individuals discovering their creativity working in the mediums of drawings, paintings, and mixed-media collages. All materials are provided.

Dementia 101

Learn the basics of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. While not everyone travels the same path, come learn about the general stages to help you anticipate future changes. This program is presented by the Insight Memory Care Team at the Wellness Center for Older Adults.

Memory Screenings

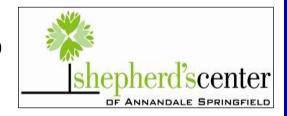
Insight Memory Care Center offers free, confidential memory screenings and educational materials to people with concerns about their memory or who want to check their memory now for future comparison. Call to reserve a 30-minute appointment at (703) 970-3601.

Rhythm and Nature

Are you interested in joining a study that offers free holistic programming – involving your choice of drumming and/or garden-based activities for enjoyment, socialization, and self-expression? Join George Mason University faculty and students for this academic led activity Friday mornings. The drumming and nature-based activities will last up to 2 hours.

January Lunch N' Life

Join the Shepherd Center of Annandale-Springfield on Thursday, January 25, from 11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at United Baptist Church (7100 Columbia Pike, Annandale) to hear about Fairfax County's Task Force 1 with their K9s. This specialized unit travels all over the world to help during disasters.



Lunch is open to the public and costs \$15/person, all are welcome.

Call the office at (703) 941-1419 by Monday, January 22, or send an email to to shepherdscas@vacoxmail.com to register.

Land Use & Development

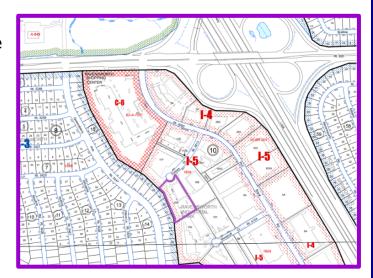
UPCOMING MEETINGS & HEARINGS

Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee Meeting
• January 16 at 7:00 p.m. – Virtual

Planning Commission Hearing on Application for Adult Day Care Facility to be Deferred Pending Resubmission

The Friends Health Care Team filed an application for a Special Exception to operate an adult day care facility on the third floor of an existing office building at 8003 Forbes Place in Springfield, near the intersection of Forbes Place and Port Royal Road and south of the Ravensworth Shopping Center. The property is zoned to the I-5 District.

The applicant previously operated an adult day care within the Calvary Church of the Nazarene in Annandale and now proposes to relocate and enlarge its operation. According to the application, they are proposing to



convert the third floor, or approximately 15,329 square feet, of the office building to adult day care use for up to 200 adults, with the first two floors of the building remaining occupied by office uses. A grassy area along the side of the building, measuring approximately 20 feet by 170 feet, would be used for outdoor recreation, consisting primarily of walking. Four standard picnic tables would be in that area. Approximately 40 employees would be on site at any one time. Operating hours would be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays. The applicant has stated that there would be minimal traffic impact, because the majority of clients would arrive by buses or minivans. The daily impact is estimated at 100 trips, primarily at 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Based on information the applicant presented to the Health Care Advisory Board (HCAB) and the Braddock District Land Use and Environment (BLUE) Committee, the applicant now plans to locate the facility on the second instead of the third floor of the building, intends to relocate the outdoor recreation area, and mentioned additional changes to address concerns expressed by staff and the BLUE Committee. It is expected that the applicant will submit a revised application reflecting these changes.

To allow time for the applicant to resubmit plans, for staff to review the new materials, and for a Staff Report to be drafted, the Planning Commission hearing on the Special

Exception application originally scheduled for January 31 will need to be deferred. A new date should be confirmed within the next couple of weeks. A Board of Supervisors hearing has not yet been scheduled.

Information on the application is available on the <u>PLUS website</u>. If the record does not show up from the link, select the "Zoning" tab and enter the application number, SE-2023-BR-00015, in the search box on the right side. Click on the "Record Information" arrow on the left and then click on "Attachments" in the drop-down menu. The most recent documents should be at the end of the list. Details on the application are typically in the "Statement of Justification," and the "Special Exception Plat" shows the drawings. The updated schedule will also be listed.

Braddock District Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting

The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee will hold a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m.** The agenda will include updates on pending Braddock District land use cases and related proposals.

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

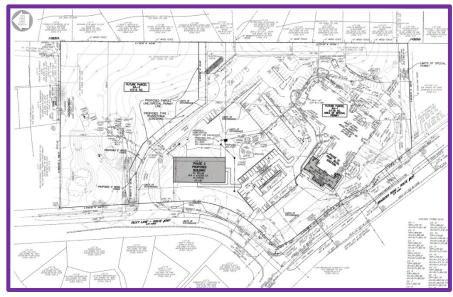
Church of the Good Shepherd Applies for Special Permit Amendment to Subdivide Its Property

The Church of the Good Shepherd has applied for a Special Permit Amendment for their 10.31-acre property at 9350 Braddock Road in Burke. In general terms, the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance allows religious assembly uses to locate within residential zoning districts under the controls, limitations, and regulations of a Special Permit approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Like a Special Exception, the purpose of this is to help ensure the proposal is compatible with the surrounding residential uses. The Church of the Good Shepherd has received several Special Permit approvals over the years, the most recent of which was approved by the BZA on May 13, 2003. That approval permitted building additions, site modifications, and an increase in land area for the Church and a nursery school. The approval included a large playfield on the northernmost portion of the site.

According to representatives from the Church, they want to sell approximately 3.12 acres of land at the northern end of their property as they no longer anticipate a need for all of the building improvements or the playfield approved in the 2003 application. The remaining 7.185 acres would continue to be used by the Church, with two possible phases of additional development on that land.

The prior approval permitted four phases of future development. Phase 1 was an addition to the existing Church building, which has been constructed. Phase 1B was an additional expansion of the existing building by approximately 9,000 square feet, and phases 2 and 3 allowed for the construction of a new worship center and an administrative building totaling 29,587 square feet of gross floor area. The plans also included a large playfield.

In conjunction with the request for the deletion of land area from the Special Permit, the Church is also seeking to reduce the ultimate size of the previously approved improvements. The building addition approved as Phase 1B would be reduced to approximately 3,963 square feet, and the approved sanctuary capacity of 900 seats would be reduced to 688. In addition, Phases 2 and 3 would



be combined into a single building referred to as Phase 2 and consisting of approximately 10,000 square feet. The Church would continue to operate a nursery school with a maximum enrollment of 99 children. The conservation easement along the eastern property line, which is approximately 34 feet wide, would be maintained and enhanced with supplemental trees and evergreens. Twenty-five feet of transitional screening would be provided between the Church and the new parcel that would be separated.

The applicant is not proposing any new uses on the parcel that is to be separated, nor are they proposing a rezoning of the property removed from the Church's parcel. This application would only remove 3.12 acres of land from the Church's Special Permit area and that land would revert to what is currently permitted by right in the R-1 Zoning District, which is residential use at a density of one house per acre with a minimum lot size of 36,000 square feet. Any development proposals beyond that would require a Comprehensive Plan amendment and rezoning approval by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

The Special Permit Amendment application was accepted on August 24. Pursuant to the Special Permit standards in the Zoning Ordinance, staff will be looking at what the removal of 3.12 acres of land from the Special Permit area means for the continued function and operation of the Church use. No decisions will be made on the future of the 3.12 acres because of this application.

The Special Permit process is open and transparent and public input is encouraged. Residents may submit comments to bzaclerkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. The Statement of Justification from the applicant and the Special Permit plat are available on the PLUS

website. If the link doesn't take you directly to the application, select the "Zoning" tab and enter the application number, SPA-81-A-025-02, in the search box on the right side. Click on the magnifying glass and you will see the application. Click on the "Record Info" arrow on the left and then click on "Attachments" in the drop-down menu. The most recent documents will be at the end of the list. The PLUS website is updated in real time, so any updates will be available when submitted.

The BZA hearing was administratively moved to February 14 to give the applicant time to develop and provide elevations of the building additions proposed in the application. As noted, the previous approval permitted two new buildings and an addition to the existing sanctuary. The current application is requesting only one new building and an addition to the sanctuary. Due to this change, staff felt it was necessary for the applicant to provide elevations to show the new dimensions, bulk, and appearance of the proposed building additions. The hearing is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and the public is welcome to attend and provide testimony. The decision in this matter will be made by the Board of Zoning Appeals, a quasi-judicial body consisting of seven at-large members and one alternate who are appointed by the Circuit Court of Fairfax County. The application does not go before the Board of Supervisors and the Board has no role in the decision-making process.

DMV's Braddock Road Customer Service Center Scheduled to Open on January 22

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles has reported that their Braddock Road Customer Service Center, located adjacent to Erickson Senior Living's Woodleigh Chase facility, is scheduled to open January 22. Final inspections by the State Fire Marshal and Virginia Department of Engineering and Building are scheduled for next week. DMV's Fair Oaks Mall Customer Service Center will close at 5:00 p.m. on January 1, at which point they will begin moving equipment and furniture to the Braddock Road location.

Beginning January 22, the Braddock Road Customer Service Center will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Both service and testing options will be available at the Braddock Road Customer Service Center. Customers may make an appointment, reserve a spot for same-day service, or stop by during operating hours. On-road skills testing and closed-course testing will be available.

This additional information may be helpful:

- DMV offers more than <u>50 types of transactions online</u>, including decal and license renewal as well as address changes. Customers are encouraged to take advantage of those convenient services to avoid a trip to a DMV.
- Some services that require in-person visits can be started through an online preapplication. This gives customers the opportunity to begin certain applications from home or on the go. The completed application is electronically submitted; DMV finalizes the pre-filled application during the customer's visit, reducing time spent at the office.

 Customers can choose to upgrade their credential to a <u>REAL ID</u> and begin the service before arriving.

As a reminder, the Braddock Road DMV Customer Service Center is a state facility built on state property, so it follows the procedures required by the state, not Fairfax County procedures. The Braddock District Office is passing this information along for the community's awareness.



Zoning Ordinance Amendment Proposed to Allow Outdoor Dining

A proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment would put into place new rules for outdoor dining like use allowed during the pandemic. The proposal would allow outdoor dining as an accessory use to restaurants, carry-out restaurants, restaurants with drive-through, craft beverage production establishments, and other similar uses that have a nonresidential use permit and food establishment permit.

The outdoor dining area would not be allowed to exceed 50 percent of the indoor dining floor area of the associated establishment. Because the outdoor dining use is considered a temporary setup and to ensure flexibility and safety, the outdoor dining area could not include any permanent structures or fixtures. If a business wishes to offer outdoor dining with permanent structures or enclosures, a site plan and/or building permit would be required. In addition, any audio or video



entertainment would have to meet the Noise Ordinance limitations and not fall under the definition of "public entertainment," which is only allowed as a Special Exception in specific zoning districts.

To avoid conflicts with parked vehicles, the amendment proposes that an outdoor dining area be clearly marked and separated, and the Staff Report recommends that ropes, bollards, planters, or other objects be used to delineate the area. The proposal states

that any extension cords may not create a trip hazard and must meet all County Code requirements. Any tent proposed in an outdoor dining area must comply with the Fire Code and be securely anchored. The recently adopted Parking Reimagined amendment removed the requirement for separate parking for outdoor seating.

A Planning Commission hearing on this proposal is scheduled for January 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Government Center Auditorium. The proposal is scheduled for a hearing before the Board of Supervisors on February 6 at 4:00 p.m. For additional information about this proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment, visit the **Outdoor Dining website**.

Board of Supervisors Adopts Amendment to Sign Regulations

On November 21, the Board of Supervisors adopted revisions to the sign regulations in the Zoning Ordinance. Referred to as the Signs Part II Zoning Ordinance Amendment, these regulations included a comprehensive review of sign policies. The adopted changes:



- Revise the nighttime brightness limitations for electronic display signs in Planned, Commercial, and Industrial Districts. The maximum nit level (or measure of brightness) was increased from 100 to 300 nits. Signs in these districts located within 150 feet of a lot developed with a single-family dwelling, with electronic displays that are visible to such lots, are limited to 100 nits. Signs in Residential Districts remain limited to a maximum brightness of 100 nits.
- Consolidate the Comprehensive Sign Plan (CSP), Special Exception (SE), and Special Permit (SP) sign applications into a unified SE application for sign modifications.
- Revise other sign regulations, including those related to illuminated or electronic window signs, subdivision signs, and signs for multifamily buildings.

The revisions will be incorporated into the online Zoning Ordinance. To learn more about the approved amendment, visit the <u>Signs Part II website</u>. Please note that enforcement of sign regulations will continue to be conducted by the <u>Department of Code Compliance</u> on a complaint-based basis.

Cases Filed with the Board of Zoning Appeals

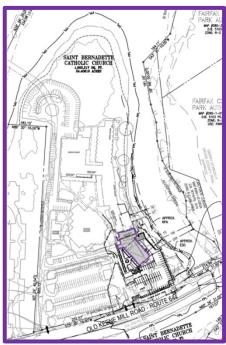
The Fairfax County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) hears and makes decisions on requests for variances (relief from specific zoning regulations such as lot width, building height, or minimum yard requirements) and Special Use Permits. It meets on Wednesdays beginning at 9:00 a.m. BZA meetings are aired 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 <u>Board of Zoning Appeals website</u>. 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. 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 <u>PLUS website</u> for more information on this land use platform.

Saint Bernadette Catholic Church and School – 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield SPA-78-S-276-03

The applicant is requesting to amend their Special Permit previously approved for a Place of Worship, Private School of General Education, and Child Care Center to allow for modifications to site and development conditions to permit construction of a fellowship hall, and to make condition modifications. A new two-story building with 13,500 square feet of gross floor area would be added on a portion of the existing parking lot and connect to an existing church building. The first floor would include meeting rooms, classrooms for church programs, and administrative facilities. The second floor would include a fellowship hall. Although the number of parking spaces would be reduced, the total would exceed the requirement under the previously granted parking reduction. At the applicant's request, the BZA hearing on this application has been deferred until January 24. Additional information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the PLUS website.



> Trustees of the Church of the Good Shepherd - 9350 Braddock Road, Burke SPA-81-A-025-02

The Church is requesting to amend its previous approval for religious assembly and a childcare center to permit site modifications and the removal of approximately 3.12 acres from its existing Special Permit. See article in the Land Development section of this newsletter for more details. The BZA hearing on this application has been scheduled for February 14. Additional information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the <u>PLUS website</u>.

Gonzalo Alberto Acha Garcia – 7517 Hamlet Street, Springfield SP-2022-BR-00132

The applicant is requesting a reduction in setback requirements to permit an addition 6.6 feet from the side lot line. This application has been scheduled for a BZA hearing on March 13. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the <u>PLUS website</u>.

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