



The Braddock Beacon

Board to Consider Adjustments to County Pensions

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on proposals to adjust the County employees' pension plan for new employees only. The hearing will be held on November 20 at 4:30 p.m. at the Government Center. I've been calling for pension reform for many years in order to attack the County's large unfunded pension liability. From the start, I indicated I was willing to support the continuation of a pension system IF it was made stable financially. The measures before the Board will go part way toward that goal, but not as far as needed. Teachers' pensions will not change because they are part of a separate retirement system.

In 2017 Chairman Bulova formed a Retirement Work Group chaired by Supervisor Penny Gross to study this issue. I served on the group along with employees and retirees from various County offices, including police, fire, and rescue. After many meetings and discussions with stakeholders, the Work Group failed to endorse any changes to our pension system, even though there is a combined \$2.29 billion unfunded liability. However, County staff developed a 7-part proposal that would reduce the County's pension costs by 24.68% in the Employees' system, 20.41% in the Uniformed system and 18.63% in the Police Officers system. This would bring necessary stability to the pension system. I support those recommendations.

The proposed amendments to the pension plans advertised by the Board for the November 20 hearing would raise the minimum retirement age from 55 to 60; increase salary averaging (age plus years of service) for normal retirement eligibility from 85 to 90; remove the pre-Social Security Tax Supplement; increase the period used to calculate average final compensation from 3 to 5 years; and repeal the provision that increases the calculated retirement annuity by 3%. The fire and police pension systems would apply most of these, except they would keep their retirement age and the retirement eligibility in its current state. The police would also not have to remove the pre-Social Security Tax Supplement provision because police are not covered by social security. If all are adopted, the County will recognize a \$10.46 million savings that savings could have been \$16.38 million if the Board agreed to advertise two other recommendations from County Staff. The first would have increased the employee contribution from 5.33% to 6%, 7.08% to 8% for uniformed employees, 8.65% to 10% for police officers. The second would have raised the public safety retirement age to 50.

The current pension system needs reform in order to guarantee sustainable retirement options for County employees in the future and to central costs. The measures to be considered will help. Adopting all seven parts of the staff recommendation would have helped a lot more. If you would like to submit a testimony at the public hearing, you can sign up on the County website [here](#). I would also like to hear your thoughts on this matter. You can contact my office with any questions, comments, and concerns on this issue by calling 703-425-9300 or emailing braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Braddock District Champions of Character Honored

The Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards were first presented in 2001 to honor those who go above and beyond in demonstrating good sportsmanship and character in youth sports. Athletes, coaches, and parents are recognized for their efforts in modeling good sportsmanship, service, teamwork, and leadership.

Supervisor Cook was honored to recognize these Champions of Character from the Braddock District at this year’s awards ceremony held on October 15.

Faith Lowery, Female Athlete, Robinson Volleyball

Faith Lowery’s dedication in the classroom is equal to her dedication to athletics. Faith has a full International Baccalaureate schedule this school year and carried a 4.771 GPA last spring. As an athlete, Faith demonstrates leadership and a sincere desire to help others enjoy the sport they have chosen. Faith had a knee injury prior to her freshman year. Upon her return, she was limited, but worked tremendously hard to get back into the starting lineup. Her hard work has paid off, as she continues to play a large role in the volleyball program this year. Faith is a special individual and a Champion of Character.

Ethan Rothstein, Male Athlete, Robinson Baseball/Basketball

Ethan Robinson is a well-rounded student-athlete with a strong work ethic. His work ethic is not limited to the playing field, but has carried over to the classroom and community. It truly defines who he is. As an athlete, Ethan demonstrates leadership and a sincere desire to learn and help. Competing in three sports—football, basketball, and baseball—at the high school level for three years is difficult at best. Ethan managed to play all of them and remain an honors student. Ethan embodies a Champion of Character.

Bryan Hazard, Coach, Robinson Wrestling

As the wrestling coach at Robinson Secondary School, Bryan Hazard has been instrumental in facilitating Robinson’s transition from the Northern Region to Region 6C. In his role as a teacher and department chair, Bryan is on the cutting edge of new technology and innovative changes within the middle school PE department and the students benefit daily from his preparation. His commitment and work ethic in completing tasks for the school’s student-athletes have played a big part in helping to maintain Robinson’s reputation as the “Home of Champions.” Bryan’s selflessness, sacrifice, and a “do what is right” mentality make him a Champion of Character.

Rob Jones, Parent, Robinson Booster Club

Rob Jones is an athletic booster who is second to none. He has done a tremendous job of advocating for sports programs within the community. As the Booster Chairman, Rob has been instrumental in overseeing committees that help raise funds for student-athletes. It takes a special person to direct a board while monitoring unpaid helpers to raise funds for Robinson’s athletic endeavors. Rob’s commitment to the students, parents, and supporters of the Robinson community make him a shining example of a Champion of Character.

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Cook in the Community



Braddock District Appointee Reception: Supervisor Cook hosted a special morning reception for the Braddock District Appointees on October 11 in Braddock Hall. The appointees are chosen to represent the Braddock District in various county boards, authorities, commissions, or committees to advise them on what would best serve Braddock residents.

CommUNITY Gathering: Supervisor Cook attended the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia's CommUNITY Gathering on October 14. The event was held as a peaceful, unifying response to the recent vandalism of the JCC. Additionally, Supervisor Cook called for the Public Safety Committee to address hate crimes at the committee's November 27 meeting.

Champions of Character Awards: Supervisor Cook presented awards to Braddock Residents who showed exemplary sportsmanship and character in youth sports. The winners included Faith Lowery, Ethan Rothstein, Bryan Hazard, and Rob Jones. See page 2 for a full description of their achievements.

One University Community Meeting: Supervisor Cook hosted a community meeting on the One University proposal at Robinson Secondary School on October 17.

Kings Park West Halloween Parade: Supervisor Cook partook in the Kings Park West Halloween Parade on October 21. There were dozens of impressive costumes including Thor, Spiderman, and Belle from Beauty and the Beast.



Little Run Elementary School Watershed Education and Outreach Program: Supervisor Cook attended a Watershed Education and Outreach program held by the Fairfax Department of Public Works and Friends of Lake Accotink Park at Little Run Elementary School on October 24. Fourth and fifth grade students planted native vegetation that would benefit the local watershed and attract pollinators. Public Works staff members taught the children about the plants and the importance of preserving the local watershed.

Braddock Neighborhood News

Supervisor Cook hosts a monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16, which is available on most cable networks. Supervisor Cook invites special guests to cover important topics on important matters that affect the Braddock District. This month's episode will discuss Restorative Justice Techniques used in Fairfax County. The special guests are Bob Bermingham, Court Service Unit Director, Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, and Derwin Overton, Executive Director for (OAR) Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources of Fairfax County, Inc. Episodes air on Sundays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 5 p.m. You may also watch the episodes online.

Community News

Community Meeting to Discuss Pedestrian Overpasses

As part of the Braddock Road Multi-Modal Project, Supervisor Cook will host a meeting on November 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lake Braddock Secondary School Cafeteria to discuss the proposed Pedestrian Overpasses on Braddock Road. A workshop was held in June with FCDOT and the slide presentation from that meeting can be found at <https://www.slideshare.net/fairfaxcounty/braddock-road-pedestrian-bridge-workshop-june-20-2018>. Members of the community suggested the County research pedestrian overpasses as part of the Braddock Road Multimodal Study. The overpasses would provide an "elevated crossing alternative" that would not affect traffic flow at major intersections on Braddock Road. After receiving feedback from the community and the Braddock Road Task Force, the County has proposed an overpass across Braddock Road between Red Fox Drive (East) and the Burke Lake Road/Woodland Way intersection.

In addition, the County also offered the option of placing an overpass across Braddock Road between the Kings Park Drive intersection and the Stone Haven Drive intersection or across Braddock Road between the Southampton Drive intersection and the Wakefield Chapel Road intersection (closer to Wakefield Chapel Road). Ultimately, the location of additional overpasses would depend on community interest. The County is open to any viable location with community support.

Please feel free to contact Ann Sharp at ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-425-9300 for more information.

Help Prevent Crime and Terrorist Attacks in Fairfax County

The Fairfax County Police Department joined local authorities to create a new app called "iWatchNova" to collect information on suspicious activity or behavior that could be associated with terrorist or criminal activity. From the FCPD website: iWatchNOVA facilitates reporting of suspicious activities like possible surveillance or casing operations, people photographing or videotaping critical infrastructure or security checkpoints. The Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center (NVRIC), which covers 18 jurisdictions, then collects, evaluates, analyzes and disseminates this information. Reports through iWatchNOVA are examined to determine if there is a viable threat to the community.

The iWatchNOVA app is free and easy to use on your IOS or Android, with the ability to remain anonymous. The portal is also accessible through their website (<https://iwatchnova.org>). It gives you the option to upload photos and provide specific details. The state-of-the-art technology from Trapwire then provides robust analytical capabilities that allow NVRIC to detect patterns indicative of terrorist and criminal preparations. This allows law enforcement to use the eyes and ears of the community to prevent terrorism, fight crime and keep Northern Virginia safe for all.

Police Civilian Review Panel 2018 Public Forum

Join the Police Civilian Review Panel at its 2018 Public Forum! The Panel welcomes the opportunity for you to attend their 2018 Public Forum on December 10, 2018 at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. At the Public Forum, you will learn how to initiate the complaint process, who will investigate complaints, what to expect once a complaint is filed, and receive a 2018 update on Panel activity. The Independent Police Auditor will also be present to explain the Auditor's role in oversight. You will have the opportunity to engage the Panel with your questions about the process. For more information, visit the Panel's webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel/.

Make Your Personal Contribution to Clean Water

Compared to a lawn area, rain gardens absorb 30 percent more water, preventing runoff, erosion and flooding which is becoming a problem for many municipalities and their storm water infrastructure. As forests and farms are replaced by cities and suburbs, runoff from impervious surfaces has increased dramatically and damaged the environment in significant ways.

Rain gardens reduce storm water runoff and help prevent some of this damage. Every homeowner and business that installs a rain garden will be doing their part to protect: communities from flooding; streams and lakes from pollution, sedimentation and erosion; the water table and underground aquifers; and the beauty of local communities.

Rain gardens are comprised of plants that are good at trapping and slowing water and sediment runoff after rainfall. They also provide valuable habitat for pollinators, birds and butterflies. In order to be effective, rain gardens must be constructed in a specific way. A rain garden is not a pond and is intended to be dry between rainfalls. Water in rain gardens should quickly soak into the ground.

Some planning is required before a rain garden can be installed. For assistance and more information on rain gardens and their construction, visit the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation or call 703-324-1460, TTY 711.

Braddock District Council November Meeting

The next Braddock District Council meeting will take place on November 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA. The meeting will include the election of officers and a discussion of the future of the BDC.

Woodglen Lake and Middle Ridge Parks and Stream Clean Up

Saturday, November 10, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to noon (adults/teens can stay to 1:00 p.m. if they need more service hours). Meet at the cul-de-sac on Fireside Court (Bonnie Brae Neighborhood). From the intersection of Rt. 123 (Ox Road) and Braddock Road, go south on Rt. 123 for 0.8 miles and turn left onto Zion Drive. Go 0.9 miles and turn right onto Sideburn Road. Turn left onto Acacia Lane after 0.3 miles, left onto Southport Lane. Continue on Southport for 0.3 miles until it dead ends at Fireside Court. Park along the adjacent streets. The entrance to Woodglen Lake Park is on the right side of the Fireside Court cul-de-sac. GPS Coordinates: 38.803779,-77.311352.

Supplies needed: Your enthusiasm and shoes/boots you don't mind getting muddy. Garbage bags and work gloves will be provided (adult size only).

Contact: Sarah Mayhew, Project Leader, at sarah.mayhew@yahoo.com or 703-582-7374.
Pamela Lepold, Project Leader at pamelalepold@verizon.net or 703-624-2159

Additional details: Woodglen Lake Park is where the clean up will start. Areas around Middleridge Park that need to be cleaned, too, so parents will need to remain to transport some participants to the other park after we distribute supplies. All ages can participate, as the difficulty of the terrain varies from moderate to easy.

Wear clothes and shoes/boots that can get dirty. Bring something to drink. There will be gloves to lend, but they are all adult size large. If you are bringing children, we recommend bringing gloves that fit them.

Equal Right Amendment Bus Tour

are you interested in learning about the effort to have the Va. General Assembly ratified the Equal Rights Amendment next year? If so, there will be a special event at George Mason University called the 10 Days of ERA Bus Tour on Sunday, November 11 at George Mason University, starts at IKE'S Eatery Dining Hall, 10445 President's Park Drive, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The VAratifyERA State Campaign will launch "10 Days of ERA," with a statewide bus tour helmed by Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy (D) and Senator Glen Sturtevant (R). The tour's goal is to educate Virginians about the absence of gender equality in the U.S. Constitution. In addition to lawmakers and community leaders, VIPs will join along the route for programs both scheduled and spontaneous.

Following stops at GMU, we will drop by:

2 PM: Liberty BBQ 370 W. Broad Street, Falls Church

3:30 PM: Uncle Julio's 4251 Fairfax Corner Avenue, Fairfax

Citizen of the Month



Rachna Sizemore Heizer advocates for reframing disAbility as diversity in a call for equity and justice for people with disabilities. Rachna has presented at numerous conferences, including Netroots Nation, the National Special Education Association, and the FCPS Special Education Conference and spoken on podcasts, radio, and television shows about ability-focused full inclusion of people with disabilities in education, workforce, society, and politics as part of the norm of human experience. She trains educational organizations on "Strengths-Based Education for Students with Disabilities," workplace organizations on "Neurodiversity: Cultural Competency and Workplace Accommodations for People with Behavioral Disabilities," and political organizations on

"Disability Inclusion across Political Movements." She is currently working on criminal justice reform for people with disabilities and revising diploma options for students with disabilities. Rachna is also the Coordinator of Human Resource Development Curriculum and Instruction and teaches employment law, diversity and cultural competency, and leadership at Texas Tech University. Rachna is the Braddock District appointee to the board of Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, an appointed member of the Fairfax County Public School Board's Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities, a board member of the Fairfax County Special Education PTA, and a member of the Fairfax County Public School's Inclusion Workgroup. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy and her Juris Doctor from

the University of California at Berkeley. In her spare time, she is a fitness instructor and loves to cook. Her most important role is Mom, roadie, and groupie for her son, Jake Sizemore, Musician with Autism.

Constituent Services

Our office notarized documents for approximately 40 people last month.

Our office provided 80 tickets to 22 constituents for the opening GMU vs Penn basketball game on November 6.

A constituent was concerned as to why they received a tax bill for a car they sold 6 months earlier in the year. We put them in touch with the Department of Tax Administration and the issue was cleared up.

Our Office helped the Stone Haven community get the trees that had fallen on their entry way sign removed by working with VDOT on their behalf.

Supervisor Cook and a staff member went out to the Starlit Ponds community to assist in selecting homes for their Annual Best Kept Properties recognition.

Human Services Corner

Taste of Braddock

Wednesday, December 12, 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Please save the date! Come sample food from many Braddock District restaurants and mingle with your fellow neighbors and friends!

Braddock District Council Aging in Place

“Don’t Blame the House, how to work with changes in sight, balance and physical abilities and how you can make your house work for you” Wednesday, November 21 at 1 p.m., Kings Park Library Meeting Room, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA.

Saturday, November 10

Let’s Talk Turkey. 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. At Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd., Burke. Free. Chef Cal Kraft will share holiday recipes, including turkey, salad, stuffing, sides, desserts and more! He will also bring lots of hints and tips to add more fun to your holiday dinner. Visit

<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4540497>.

Food for Fines.

November 1-30. Fairfax County Public Library will be hosting a food drive called “Food for Fines.” Canned goods and other nonperishable items collected during the drive will be donated to Food for Others, a not-for-profit food pantry and food rescue operation that serves Fairfax County. Each item donated will erase \$1 from a patron’s overdue fines up to a maximum of \$15. Customers may donate even if there are no fines accrued. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/food-fines for more.

SCAM ALERT: Spoofed Social Security Administration

If you get a call that looks like it’s from the Social Security Administration (SSA), think twice. Scammers are spoofing SSA’s 1-800 customer service number to try to get your personal information. Spoofing means that scammers can call from anywhere, but they make your caller ID show a different number – often one that looks legit. Here are few things you should know about these so-called SSA calls.

These scam calls are happening across the nation, according to SSA: Your phone rings. Your caller ID shows that it's the SSA calling from 1-800-772-1213. The caller says he works for the Social Security Administration and needs your personal information – like your Social Security number – to increase your benefits payments. (Or he threatens to cut off your benefits if you don't give the information.) However, it's not really the Social Security Administration calling. Yes, it is the SSA's real phone number, but the scammers on the phone are spoofing the number to make the call look real.

What can you do if you get one of these calls? Hang up. Remember:

- **SSA will not threaten you.**

Real SSA employees will never threaten you to get personal information. They also won't promise to increase your benefits in exchange for information. If they do, it's a scam.

- **If you have any doubt, hang up and call SSA directly.**

Call 1-800-772-1213 – that really is the phone number for the Social Security Administration. If you dial that number, you know who you're getting. Remember that you can't trust caller ID. If a call comes in from that number, you cannot be sure if it is really SSA calling.

- **If you get a spoofed call, report it.**

If someone calls, claiming to be from SSA and asking for information like your Social Security number, report it to SSA's Office of Inspector General at 1-800-269-0271 or <https://oig.ssa.gov/report>. You can also report these calls to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.

For more tips, check out the FTC's How to Stop Unwanted Calls and Government Imposter Scams. If you think someone has misused your personal information, go to IdentityTheft.gov to report identity theft and find out what steps to take.

Free Credit Freezes

Free credit freezes and year-long fraud alerts are here, thanks to a new federal law. Here's what you should know:

Security freezes, also known as credit freezes, restrict access to your credit file, making it harder for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. Since, September 21, 2018, you can freeze and unfreeze your credit file for free. You also can get a free freeze for your children who are under 16. And if you are someone's guardian, conservator or have a valid power of attorney, you can get a free freeze for that person, too.

How will these freezes work? Contact the nationwide credit reporting agencies—Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion, which are listed at the end of this article. If you request a freeze online or by phone, the agency must place the freeze within one business day. If you request a lift of the freeze, the agency must lift it within one hour. If you make your request by mail, the agency must place or lift the freeze within three business days after it gets your request. You also can lift the freeze temporarily without a fee.

Don't confuse freezes with locks. They work in a similar way, but locks may have monthly fees. If you want a free freeze guaranteed by federal law, then opt for a freeze, not a lock.

Year-long fraud alerts: A fraud alert tells businesses that check your credit that they should check with you before opening a new account. Starting September 21, 2018, when you place a fraud alert, it will last one year,

instead of 90 days. Fraud alerts will still be free and identity theft victims can still get an extended fraud alert for seven years.

Credit freezes and the military: If you're in the military, you'll still have access to active duty alerts, which let you place a fraud alert for one year, renewable for the time you're deployed. The active duty alert also gives you an added benefit: the credit reporting agencies will take your name off their marketing lists for prescreened credit card offers for two years (unless you ask them to add you back on).

You can place a fraud alert or active duty alert by visiting any one of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies listed at right. The one that you contact must notify the other two. You can find links to their websites at [IdentityTheft.gov/CreditBureauContacts](https://www.IdentityTheft.gov/CreditBureauContacts).

Issues with a credit freeze If you think a credit reporting agency is not placing a credit freeze or fraud alert properly, you can submit a complaint online or by calling 855-411-2372. If you think someone stole your identity, visit the FTC's website, IdentityTheft.gov, to get a personalized recovery plan that walks you through the steps to take. **Credit Bureau Contacts** Contact the national credit bureaus to request fraud alerts, credit freezes and opt outs from pre-screened credit offers. Go to [identitytheft.gov/](https://www.identitytheft.gov/) for more information from the Federal Trade Commission.

- Equifax [Equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services](https://www.Equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services) 800-685-1111
- Experian [Experian.com/help](https://www.Experian.com/help) 888-EXPERIAN (888-397-3742) [Equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services](https://www.Equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services)
- Transunion [TransUnion.com/credit-help](https://www.TransUnion.com/credit-help) 888-909-8872

PRS CrisisLink's CareRing Program

PRS CrisisLink is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to talk on the phone with older adults in Fairfax County who may be living alone and feeling socially isolated. Commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Training is provided. Learn more and apply, [PRSing.org/CareRing-volunteering/](https://www.PRSinc.org/CareRing-volunteering/). (Golden Gazette)

CarFit for Personal Safety and Mobility

There is a CarFit event this month in the Braddock District on November 13 at the Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CarFit is a free, interactive and educational program that teaches participants how to make their personal vehicle "fit" them to increase safety and mobility when driving. Each checkup takes about 20 minutes. To schedule a free 20-minute appointment, call 703-324-5600.

Blanket & Coat Drive for Syrian Refugees 2018, November 9 – December 8

The NOVA Relief Center is accepting donations to distribute to three camps in Jordan: Mafraq, Jerash and Irbid. The Braddock District Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road, is one of the locations you can drop off gently used blankets and/or coats from November 12 – December 8. Paxton Van Lines and Maersk will ship all items to the refugees in Jordan this winter, free of charge.

The United States of Thanksgiving Feast

November 10 & 17 (two sessions), 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. This class teaches Thanksgiving recipes from across the United States, including cranberry jalapeño sauce from Arizona and Russian fish pie from Alaska. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. To register, call 703-658-1201.

Defining Community Priorities for the Consolidated Community Funding Pool (FY 21-22)

The Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) is an allocation of funds earmarked by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to be administered to local nonprofits and community-based organizations as an investment in programs and services that fill identified needs within communities across the county. Funding is

warded on a two-year cycle. Right now, staff is conducting a community feedback survey to gather community insight and comments regarding the current CCFP areas. The priority areas are:

- Housing
- Literacy/Educational Development/Attainment
- Financial Stability
- Health
- Support/Community/Social Networks
- Positive Behaviors and Healthy Relationships

Staff is distributing the attached flyer throughout the county to encourage residents to participate in this effort. Residents in the district are encouraged to participate. The survey is hosted through Survey Monkey and can be accessed at the following link: www.bit.ly/fundingpoolpriorities. Additionally, paper copies for those with limited or no Internet access will be provided at the County's Community Centers and 8 Regional Libraries.

This information is also available online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/news/funding-pool-community-engagement>.

Land Use

UPCOMING BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE MEETINGS

Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee Meeting

Focus on Sign Ordinance Amendment (see following article)

Tuesday, November 13 at 8:00 p.m. – Braddock Hall

Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m. – Braddock Hall

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors Hearing on Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Former Northern Virginia Training Center Site

Tuesday, November 20 at 4:00 p.m. – Government Center Auditorium

Board of Supervisors Hearing on Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Northeast Corner of Braddock and Roberts Roads

Tuesday, November 20 at 4:00 p.m. – Government Center Auditorium

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Training Center Site Comprehensive Plan Amendment Goes to Board of Supervisors on November 20

The Planning Commission on October 25 voted unanimously to recommend approval of a slightly amended staff recommendation for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the former Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC) and adjacent State Police sites.

The former NVTC site is currently planned for public facilities, governmental and institutional use, with a small portion of the western edge of the property planned for public parks. Erickson Living announced its plan to purchase the former NVTC property from the Commonwealth of Virginia a year ago. The Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Cook's motion to begin consideration of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for this site in October of 2017.

Public input was gathered through three community meetings, a planning workshop, and an online survey. A task force appointed by Supervisor Cook extensively studied the site and examined the community's needs. County staff also provided their observations and recommendations. Based on consideration of a broad range of potential land uses, the Plan Amendment recommended by staff would provide for residential uses up to 2-3 dwelling units per acre, public park uses, and an option for a Continuing Care Facility on the former NVTC property. Several conditions must be met if the property is to be developed with a Continuing Care Facility:

- The facility should be compatible with the character of the surrounding communities;
- No non-emergency vehicular access to/from communities to the south should be provided;
- Building heights should be limited to 65 feet with some flexibility for a maximum height of 75 feet toward the center of the site;
- Appropriate landscaped screening and buffering should be preserved or augmented to provide a transition to residential areas;
- The existing mature tree canopy around the perimeter of the property should be preserved in consultation with the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division;
- Stormwater management measures should be provided to promote water quantity and quality controls for the site;
- Affordable accommodations should be provided consistent with adopted policy plan guidance relating to Continuing Care Facilities; and
- A publicly accessible park space should be provided that includes active and all-abilities recreational uses as well as intergenerational gathering space.

The State Police Site would remain planned for public facilities, governmental, and institutional use. If the property is sold by the state at some future date, the Plan would provide that residential use up to 2-3 dwelling units per acre or a public park may be appropriate.

For the approximately 4-acre parcel owned by the State Department of Motor Vehicles, if no longer in state ownership, then the plan states that area may be appropriate for residential use up to 2-3 dwelling units per acre or public park use. As an alternative, the area may be added to the former NVTC property if that site is used for a Continuing Care Facility.

The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee voted to support the Planning staff's recommendation. The Committee asked that the language in the staff report be revised to reflect that tree preservation should be done in consultation with the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division. They also noted concern over failure in the staff report to include the recommendation of the Training Center Site Task Force that access should be consolidated to two access points, the signalized access at Burke Station Road and the intersection across from the entrance to Fairfax Memorial Cemetery, and that access should not be allowed at the existing western entrance to the property located across from Red Spruce Road.

A public hearing before the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for November 20. This hearing will consider only the Comprehensive Plan Amendment, which sets the guidelines for future development. A rezoning application, which will outline what the property owner is specifically planning for the site, is expected to be

submitted this winter. Any rezoning application would go through a similar public process, with community meetings, consideration by the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee, and public hearings.

For more information on the Comprehensive Plan Amendment for this property, please visit these sites. The full text of the Staff Report is available at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/sites/planning-zoning/files/assets/documents/complanamend/trainingcentersite/nvtc-staff-report.pdf>, Information about the Comprehensive Plan process may be found at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/plan-amendments/training-center-site>. Training Center Site Task Force meeting agendas, handouts, PowerPoints, and minutes are available at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/plan-amendments/training-center-site/meetings>.

Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Northeast Corner of Braddock Road and Roberts Road Will Go Before the Board of Supervisors on November 20

Following a public hearing, on November 1, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for approximately 10 acres of land at the northeast corner of Braddock Road and Roberts Road. (Staff discovered that one acre had been exempted from the tax rolls because that property was owned by a disabled veteran, so the acreage has now been updated.)

This area is currently planned for 1 to 2 dwelling units per acre and is zoned R-1. The property owner has proposed approximately 45 single-family detached homes and related amenities. Access to the property would be from a single entrance on Roberts Road, midway between Braddock Road and Shenandoah Lane.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan for this property as approved by the Planning Commission would recommend single-family detached residential use at 1 to 2 dwelling units per acre, but includes a redevelopment option at a density of 3 to 5 dwelling units per acre if certain conditions are met. County Staff had recommended a density of 3-4 dwelling units per acre. These include full consolidation of the 5 parcels south of the church property, environmentally sensitive design, and improved pedestrian conditions. Access is recommended to be limited to a single entrance/exit as far north as possible. Improvements should include a sidewalk or trail on the east side of Roberts Road to serve the new development. Staff further recommends that any redevelopment be sensitive to environmental features, particularly major tree stands.

The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee discussed the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment at its meeting on October 16. It voted to recommend support of the language in the Staff Report with two modifications. The Committee added that tree preservation should be done in consultation with the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division. The Land Use and Environment Committee further recommended deletion of the provision requiring pedestrian access to University Park, as that is undeveloped parkland.

A public hearing before the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for November 20. Please remember that the proposal under consideration would only amend the Comprehensive Plan for this site, which provides general guidance on how a property should be developed. Any specific redevelopment proposal would be considered under the Rezoning process, which would include additional public meetings and hearings to get input from the community.

For more information on this proposal, please visit these sites. The full text of the Staff Report is available at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/sites/planning-zoning/files/assets/documents/complanamend/robertsroad/2018-ii-f1.pdf>. Information about this Comprehensive Plan Amendment may be found here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/plan-amendments/roberts-road>. The PowerPoint presentations with the owner's proposal may be found at:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/roberts-road-proposed-residential-development> and <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/roberts-road-developers-presentation-community-meeting-2>.

Community Meeting Held to Discuss Comprehensive Plan Amendment for One University

Supervisor Cook held a community meeting on October 17 to discuss a proposed redevelopment of the One University site, located at the northwest corner of the intersection of University Drive and Ox Road, across from the George Mason University fieldhouse. The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) received an unsolicited proposal in July for the redevelopment of this approximately 10.7-acre site. It is owned by the FCRHA and contains the office of its Board, its operational and maintenance facilities, and a 46-unit affordable townhouse community known as Robinson Square. Due to its location, the property has been seen as a potential site for housing for GMU students as well as a location for additional units of affordable housing, both of which are needed. However, this proposal would also have significant community impacts.

The proposed development calls for construction of approximately 100 affordable units for persons aged 62 and older and 140 affordable multi-family units in two four-story buildings with surface and deck parking. Approximately 360 units of student housing with approximately 820 beds would be provided in a separate six-to seven-story building with deck parking. A small retail building would also be included on the site. The PowerPoint presented by the developers at the meeting is available at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/one-university-1017-presentation>. This would be a private development, not affiliated with GMU.

Community members who attended had a number of questions regarding the project. The majority of questions focused on increased traffic, both vehicular traffic as well as pedestrian traffic crossing Ox Road. Numerous residents cited existing traffic problems on University Drive. A concern was voiced over environmental issues, particularly stormwater that drains into an existing creekbed on the property. The proposed building height, lighting, and noise were mentioned as potential issues. Concern was also expressed about a potential increase in students who would attend Fairfax Villa Elementary School.

The traffic consultant for the developers is finishing up their Traffic Impact Analysis, which will then go to VDOT for review. Supervisor Cook has committed to holding a second community meeting focusing only on transportation issues as soon as the traffic study is complete and we have received comments from VDOT. That meeting is tentatively planned for January 2019.

This proposal is very early in that process. We welcome your thoughts on this proposal.

TESTIFYING BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION OR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS?

Are you interested in offering testimony before the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors? You should sign up in advance to make sure you are on the speakers list. There are helpful videos that provide background information on the process and explain details on how to submit comments or testify before each body.

To testify before the Planning Commission, sign up at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planningcommission/speaker>. See the video on how to testify at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/how-testify-planning-commission-meeting>.

To testify before the Board of Supervisors, you can sign up and see a video on how to testify at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form>.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Because Thanksgiving is early this year, the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee will meet one week earlier than normal, on **Tuesday, November 13, beginning at 8 p.m.** The primary subject of this meeting will be to review the proposed amendment to the Sign Ordinance, as well as to review recent action taken by the Planning Commission on Braddock District cases.

The title “Sign Ordinance” no doubt sounds trivial and boring, but consider this. It affects every resident, whether someone wants to put up a sign advertising their local swimming pool, supporting a political candidate, or recognizing their high school graduate. It also affects what each of us sees every day as we drive to work or the store. Signs are everywhere. They help us find the grocery store or school, or they may distract us from focusing on the road.

The proposed Sign Ordinance amendment focuses on rewriting existing provisions in a content neutral manner, as mandated by a Supreme Court ruling that sign regulations may not be made based on their content or message. Since this effort requires a full review and significant rewrite of the entire ordinance, staff has also taken this opportunity to streamline the text, make it more user-friendly, and propose other changes. Significant changes to temporary signs, which are referred to as “minor signs” in the revised language, have been proposed. The biggest change concerns limitations on the total amount of signage and size of individual signs which would be allowed. More uniform regulation of signs in all zoning districts is proposed, with provisions divided into signs in a Residential District and signs in Commercial and Industrial Districts. New standards would be established for digital or electronic display signs, which have previously been regulated largely through Zoning Administrator interpretation. A hearing on the Sign Ordinance Amendment will be held by the Planning Commission on December 5 at 7:30 p.m., and a hearing is scheduled before the Board of Supervisors on February 5, 2019.

Community members are invited to attend and learn more about what is being proposed. Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee meetings are held in Braddock Hall and are open to the public.

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee is seeking additional members. If you have an interest in helping plan our community, this is a great place to get involved. The Committee reviews all proposals for modifying existing land use in the Braddock District. It also reviews stormwater and other environmental regulations that could impact our communities. The Committee is an independent, nonpartisan, volunteer group made up of interested Braddock District citizens. Its purpose is to advise the Braddock District Supervisor and Planning Commission on preserving stable neighborhoods in the district while allowing for change that improves our community. The Committee normally meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Braddock Hall. To learn more about how the group operates, come to the next meeting. Additional information and an application for membership can be found on the Braddock District website at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/braddock-district-land-use-and-environment-committee>.

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. in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. BZA meetings are also 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. You may register to testify at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/bza/bzaspeaker.htm>. These matters will not come before the Board of Supervisors, but will be decided by the BZA. Staff reports are normally available two weeks before the scheduled hearing.

**Pilgrim Community Church/Pilgrim Christian Daycare Center – 4925 Twinbrook Road, Burke
SPA 81-A-002-07**

The applicant is proposing to amend a previously approved Special Permit to add a daycare center. The proposed hours of operation would be from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The center would care for up to 99 children, with up to 6 full-time teachers and 4 part-time teachers. This application was scheduled to go before the BZA on October 31, but has been deferred until December 12. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found here: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=SPA&seq=4247798>.

**Patrick J. & Sunyoung C. Sullivan – 7317 Leesville Boulevard, Springfield
SP 2018-BR-075**

The applicants have requested waiver of the minimum side yard to 3.8 feet instead of the required 12 feet to enclose an existing carport. This application was approved by the BZA on October 31. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, may be found here: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=SP&seq=4241223>.

**Nattaya Cleary/Nattaya Daycare – 4010 Elizabeth Lane, Fairfax
SP 2018-BR-077**

The applicant currently operates a home child care facility with a maximum capacity of 7 children ages 2 months to 5 years. She is seeking to increase in the number of children permitted to a maximum of 12. The number of employees would increase from the current 4 part-time employees to 6 part-time employees. Hours of operation would continue to be 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Staff is recommending approval. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on November 7. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, may be found here: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=SP&seq=4246763>.

**James P. Chao – 4936 Americana Drive, Annandale
VC 2018-BR-014**

The applicant is seeking a variation to permit construction of a dwelling with stoop and steps 18 feet from a front lot line. Staff is recommending approval. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on November 7. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, may be found here: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=VC&seq=4240430>.

**Beverly & Terry Boschert – 8816 Victoria Road, Springfield
SP 2018-BR-085**

The applicants have requested a reduction in yard requirements to permit construction of a garage 9.5 feet from a side lot line. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on November 28. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found here: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=SP&seq=4250908>.

**Nicholas Hutchins – 10812 Braddock Road, Fairfax
SP 2018-BR-088**

The applicant is seeking a variation to permit a fence greater than 4.0 feet in height in a front yard. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on December 5. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found here:

<http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=SP&seq=4251349>.

**Laura M. Newbold – 7507 Inzer Street, Springfield
SP 2018-BR-106**

The applicant is seeking a reduction in minimum yard requirements to permit construction of an addition 10.1 feet from a side lot line and a reduction in minimum yard requirements based on an error in building location to permit an accessory storage structure to remain 1.5 feet from a side lot line and 1.9 feet from the rear lot line. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on January 30, 2019. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found here:

<http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=SP&seq=4249563>.

**Amir Gozalzadeh/Forest Hill Day Care, Inc. – 10604 Leehigh Drive, Fairfax
SP 2018-BR-108**

The applicants currently operate a home child care facility with a maximum capacity of 7 children. They are seeking to increase the number of children permitted to a maximum of 12. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on February 6, 2019. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found here: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=SP&seq=4254138>.

If you have any further questions regarding any of these land use cases or any other issues of concern to you, please email my office at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov or call us at 703-425-9300.