

Dear Neighbor,

Volume 16 | Issue 2 2.02.2024

February is Black History Month and provides an opportunity for all of us to learn more



about Fairfax County's rich Black history. There are many resources available, including the <u>Fairfax</u> <u>County African American History Inventory</u>, <u>Fairfax County Public Library's (FCPL) resources</u>, and the <u>Braddock Heritage website</u>.

The County's **Black History Month Celebration** will be held on Friday, February 23, at the Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax) beginning at 5:30 p.m. This year's theme is "The Value of Telling Our Stories" and will include performances, activities, discussion, and light refreshments. Find more information on this event and more <u>on the</u> <u>County's website.</u>

Throughout the month, FCPL will host several events including movie screenings, lectures, musical performances, and more both in-person and online. You can view a list of events on <u>FCPL's website.</u>

I also want to highlight the work of Braddock District's representative to the Fairfax County History Commission, Tom Shoop. Tom recently completed a new book, *A Place Called IIda*, that tells the story of Ilda, a racially integrated community near the intersection of Little River Turnpike and Guinea Road that existed before the imposition of Jim Crow.

Read A Place Called Ilda, or find more about Ilda's history:

- <u>Ilda Historical Marker</u>
- <u>2005 Oral History Interview</u> with Dennis Howard, great-greatgrandson of Horace Gibson
- <u>2021 RouteFifty Article</u> about Oak Hill and Ilda

2006 Guinea Road Cemetery



GMU Town Hall on Temporary Stadium

On January 29, George Mason University hosted a <u>virtual town hall</u> on their plans to expand facilities in the West Campus area of the University's property. The update



included details on a partnership with the Washington Freedom Major League Cricket team that would add a multi-use temporary stadium to house the Washington Freedom, serve the broader cricket community, and provide needed improved facilities for the University's baseball program . You can view a <u>recording of the meeting</u> (beginning at the 4:30 mark), the <u>presentation</u>, and contact information for the project on <u>GMU</u>

<u>Construction's website</u>. All future updates will be included on this website.

Because GMU is a state entity, this project is not subject to approval by Fairfax County or the City of Fairfax.

2024 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board of Supervisors' **2024 meeting schedule** was approved at our January 23 meeting. The schedule includes full Board meetings, Board committee meetings, budget

public hearings, joint meetings with the School Board, and other official full Board activities. The full Board meets 19 times this year, with at least one meeting a month – except in August.

Hyperlinks on the schedule show the full Board agenda packages. These are updated frequently leading up to each meeting.

The Board meeting schedule follows the County's operating status. The County's operating status is **available on the County website.**

 2024 Board of Supervisors Meetings and Committee Meetings

 All Board of Supervisors meetings and all committee meetings in the Board Auditorium and Conference Room II are available to view live on Channel IB and stream online.

 Following the meeting, you may view Board of Supervisors meetings and view Board Committee meetings on demand.

 • View the Public Meetings Calendar for a listing of all upcoming public meetings.

 • View the Board of Supervisors and Committee Meetings Archive for a listing of prior meetings.

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 • Use the Board of Supervisors Meeting Lines marked with "TBD" are yet to be determined.

 January 2024
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 Feb. 2
 • 4:00 p.m. - Legislative Committee

 Feb. 6
 • 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of Supervisors Meeting

 Feb. 9
 • 4:00 p.m. - Legislative Committee

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 **<u>braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov</u>**.

	February 6	West Springfie	eld District's Commu	nity Engagement Meeting
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Full Board Meeting (View the 2024 Board Meeting Schedule)

- February 8 West Springfield District's "Personal Safety for Women" Training
- **February 9** Chairman McKay's New Year Reception
- February 10West Springfield District Station's Car Seat Saturday
- **February 14** Dementia Friends Virtual Information Session
- February 19Presidents' Day (County/FCPS Closed)
- **February 20**Braddock District Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting
- **February 23** Fairfax County's Black History Month Celebration
- **February 27** Design & Environmental Achievement Awards
- March 1First Day of Women's History Month

Walkinshaw in the Community



(Left) Supervisor Walkinshaw with Kings Park West Road Raiders for their MLK Jr. Day clean-up at Rabbit Branch Park on January 15

(Below) Supervisor Walkinshaw joined Virginia Hospital Center for the opening of their new office in West Springfield on January 31





(Left, L-R) Chairman Jeff McKay, Congressman Gerry Connolly, and Supervisor Walkinshaw at Volunteer Fairfax's "Give Together" service event for families on January 15

(Right) Supervisor Walkinshaw joined volunteers at Prince of Peace Church in Springfield on January 4 to thank them for opening their doors for the County's Hypothermia Shelter Program



(Right) Cub Scout Pack 1965 hosted Supervisor Walkinshaw on January 2

(Below) Supervisor Walkinshaw joined staff from IKEA in Fairfax Corner to cut the ribbon at their new Plan store's grand opening on January 10





In January, Supervisor Walkinshaw also:

- Visited the Long Branch Pool for a site visit on January 4
- Attended the Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation's Pre-Session Hearing on January 6
- Joined ArtsFairfax for their Arts & Economic Prosperity Breakfast on January 8
- Attended a Board of Directors Meeting for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on January 10
- Met with County employees to discuss the upcoming budget on January 11
- Joined Chairman McKay, Supervisor Lusk, Supervisor Storck, and other Board members on January 16 to present a proclamation to representatives from Neighborhood & Community Services and NOVA Community College recognizing January 16 as a National Day of Racial Healing in Fairfax County
- Attended the Board of Supervisors and School Board's Joint Retreat on January 16-17
- Met with Girl Scout Troop 55018 on January 17
- Attended the Board's first meeting of the 2024-2027 term on January 23
- Joined the Council to End Domestic Violence's first meeting of 2024 on January 25
- Was interviewed by Sam, a local Boy Scout, for his merit badge on January 30

February Citizen of the Month

Bonnie Hopler

Braddock District's February Citizen of the Month is Bonnie Hopler!

Bonnie is a senior citizen with boundless energy focused on the desire to help others. For the past 20 years, she has been an active member of NOVA's Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI) – coordinating classes, greeting members, and providing hospitality for all who are involved in the organization. She participates in LLI's Book Club in addition to three other book clubs.

She is also an active member of Parkwood Baptist Church, serving as a deacon for several years. Bonnie has recruited other members of the church in working with FACETS and the Lamb Center, providing services and hot meals to homeless residents.

Bonnie also serves as coordinator of Parkwood's "Prime Time" senior group that collects backpacks to fill with school supplies for local children and organizes annual Thanksgiving baskets. Recently, she planned and coordinated a "Legacy Weekend" for Parkwood Baptist Church that brought back



members of the church far and near for an exciting weekend of fellowship and remembrances.

She has advocated for affordable housing and has involved members of Parkwood in supporting the Fairfax County Hypothermia Program.

While involved in so many aspects of her church and other organizations, Bonnie still finds time to participate in a women's bowling league, travel with her husband, and juggle her various book clubs.

Bonnie's volunteer activity and fondness for connecting with the Braddock community make Supervisor Walkinshaw proud to recognize her as February's Braddock District Citizen of the Month.

Congratulations to Bonnie, and thank you for your service!

Do you know a Braddock District resident who should be recognized as a Citizen of the Month? **Nominate them here.**

Seasonal Items

Keeping Animals Safe During Winter

If it is too cold outside for you, it is probably also too cold for your pet. Taking a few extra precautions can help keep your companion pets safe and warm during the colder

months with these tips from the **Fairfax County Animal Shelter**:

- Ensure the well-being of outdoor pets: Bring outdoor pets inside during extremely cold weather. Ensure that outdoor shelters are insulated and protected from the wind.
- **Keep pets hydrated:** Provide a constant supply of fresh, unfrozen water.
- Adjust your pet's diet for the cold: In colder temperatures, pets may need extra calories to generate body heat and maintain a healthy metabolism.



- Monitor for cold-related issues: Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. If suspected, wrap your pet in warm blankets and bring them indoors or seek veterinary assistance immediately. Avoid warming affected areas too quickly as it may cause shock.
- Use pet-safe ice melts when possible.
- Refrain from trimming your dog's hair. Longer coats offer better insulation against the cold. For breeds with longer hair, a light trim can be done to reduce snow and ice from sticking to their fur. For short-haired dogs, consider investing in a coat or sweater.
- Protect your pet during cold conditions: After walks, wash and towel dry their paws, legs and abdomen to prevent irritation from ice, snow and salt. Apply a paw balm or petroleum jelly before going outside to safeguard and moisturize their paws, or use pet booties.
- Be aware of antifreeze poisoning. Antifreeze, used to regulate your car's temperature, is toxic to pets. Clean spills promptly, keep containers closed and supervise pets around cars. <u>Recognize signs of poisoning</u> and seek immediate veterinary attention if an exposure occurs.

To report pets left outside in extreme temperatures, call the Fairfax County Police nonemergency dispatch number at (703) 691-2131.

Community cats, or unsocialized cats who live outdoors with no specific guardian, greatly appreciate a place to stay dry and out of the elements during extreme temperatures. Constructing a shelter is easy to do and requires just a few simple supplies:

 Using a container such as a plastic tote or insulated cooler, cut a hole closer to the top of the container



that is big enough such that the cat can comfortably enter/exit, but not too large to prevent excess snow and ice from entering.

To maximize heat retention, the size of the container you choose should be based on the number of cats using the structure but should not be too large.

- Line the inside of the container with insulation material and use duct tape to secure it.
- Fill the interior with a generous amount of straw (not hay) which will help repel moisture and trap heat.

For more information on pets, and animal safety, or to adopt a pet, **visit the Fairfax County Animal Shelter's website** and consider subscribing to their newsletters.

County Holiday and Weather Closures

The County will be closed on Monday, February 19 to observe Presidents' Day. The Fairfax Connector will operate on their **Holiday Weekday Service**.

In the event of inclement weather:

- View the County Government's **operating status**
- View the Fairfax County Public Schools <u>standard</u> <u>calendar</u>



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

 Shovel early and often, before snow becomes icy.

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 Treat according to the forecast and temperature. When the pavement is below 15° F, salt won't work.

 Image: A little salt goes a long way. Just a 12 oz. coffee mug covers 20 ft. of driveway.

 Image: Sweep up excess salt and store it in a sealed container for next time.

Be Effective and Efficient with Salt at Home

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.**

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.

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 sizes. They are also seeking adult diapers of all sizes (they will take partially opened packages).

Want to help? You can drop off your donations at the Annandale UMC Mission Center (7901 Heritage Drive, Annandale) Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. If the Mission Center is closed or no one is available, a large donation box is located outside the two red doors where items can be left.

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 <u>irma.mejia-lewis@fairfaxcounty.gov</u> or call (703) 425-9300.

ECHO's February Needs

ECHO is seeking clothing, houseware, and food donations including:

- Sneakers for girls and boys
- New underwear for children
- Men's sweatpants in all sizes
- Men's jeans in 30" or 32" waists
- Men's small and medium winter coats
- Blankets and comforters (queen and twin sizes)
- Bathmats
- Shower curtains

- Towels
- Mustard
- Ketchup
- Paper products (toilet paper and tissues)
- Instant coffee
- Teas
- Jam
- Honey



For a list of most needed food, clothing, and household items, visit **<u>ECHO's website</u>**, which is updated regularly.

ECHO accepts donations at their office (7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield) Monday -Friday from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, and 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday. 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.

Community News

Upcoming FCPS Drama Productions Matilda Jr. the Musical (Robinson Secondary School)

Rebellion is nigh in Matilda Jr., a gleefully witty ode to the anarchy of childhood and the

power of imagination! This story of a girl who dreams of a better life and the children she inspires will have audiences rooting for the "revolting children" who are out to teach the grown-ups a lesson. Packed with high-energy dance numbers and



catchy songs, Matilda Jr. is a joyous girl power romp. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.

The show runs February 9-17 at Robinson Secondary School (5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax). More information, including tickets and showtimes, is available on the **Rambunctious Theater's website.**

Something Rotten! (Lake Braddock Secondary School)

Welcome to the Renaissance and the outrageous, crowd-pleasing musical farce,



Something Rotten. Set in the 1590s Elizabethan England, William Shakespeare is approaching superstar status while some of his contemporaries (brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom) are struggling playwrights desperate to write a hit. When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's very first musical. But amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom Brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own

self...and all that jazz.

The show runs February 15-17 at Lake Braddock Secondary School (9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke). More information, including tickets and showtimes, is available on the **Lake Braddock Theatre's website.**

Creatives Wanted! One Water Art Contest

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is joining with the

Community Engagement Campaign's regional water utilities to hold its third annual <u>Source Water</u> **Protection Art Contest.**

Local student artists, grades 9 – 12, can submit their art or short video that captures the importance of protecting our local water sources for a chance to win a prize.

Create art that portrays positive messages focused on our local sources of water. Stormwater (water that flows off the land), and wastewater effluent (processed and cleaned water from what gets flushed down toilets and poured down drains) enters local streams which flow into the Potomac River (a.k.a. our region's source water). Source water gets purified and treated to be used as drinking water by downstream communities.



Regional water utilities would like to feature artwork in their outreach materials and messaging campaigns. These may include social media, posters, brochures, notecards, and annual reports.

The application deadline is February 12, view details or submit here.

Paint It, Fairfax!

The County is looking for artists who can contribute their creative flair to the community



through community-focused public art.

and you are invited to join the debut mural program, "<u>Paint It, Fairfax!</u>"

This initiative is geared towards building a pool of talented artists eager to participate in transforming <u>Commercial Revitalization</u> <u>Districts and Areas</u> (CRDs/CRAs), such as Annandale, Lake Anne, and Springfield,

THRIVE Applications Open Now!

Last year, Fairfax County introduced **THRIVE** – a technical assistance program dedicated to small business growth. Through this program, approximately 600 businesses will receive consulting services valued up to \$10,000 to help them reach their business goals and continue their post-pandemic recovery.



By offering coaching and consulting services, THRIVE aims to mitigate the negative COVID-19 economic impacts on local small businesses. Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors authorized \$7,000,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to establish the THRIVE program. The Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) will serve as the program grant administrator.

THRIVE is accepting applications for businesses now. Learn more about eligibility and applying on the **THRIVE website.**

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 to judge high school and regional science fairs. More information available from FCPS.

GMU Aspiring Scientists Summer Internship Program

Budding scientists can apply now for George Mason University's Aspiring Scientists Summer Internship Program (ASSIP). The highly competitive program is an eight-week immersive internship offering hands-on lab experience, STEM career exploration, and opportunities to strengthen scientific writing and creative thinking. ASSIP is open to high school and undergraduate students.



Applications are due by Sunday, February 11, at 11:59 p.m. Learn more on **GMU Science's website.**

Black Male Caregiver Research Project

Calling all Black men caring for those with Alzheimer's, dementia, or memory issues.

If you are at least 28 years old and live in D.C., Maryland, or Virginia, get paid to be part of a research project with George Washington University.

For more information, call (202) 994-1728, email **rwturnerlab@gwu.edu**, or **visit GWU's website.**



Environment & Parks News

Design & Environmental Achievement Awards



DESIGN & ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Chairman Jeff McKay, Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw, and the Design & Environmental Achievement Awards Planning Committee invite you to join them to honor the 2023 recipients of the Friends of Trees, Environmental Excellence, and James M. Scott Exceptional Design Awards.

The awards ceremony will take place on Tuesday, February 27, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax). A reception will follow in the Government Center's Forum. **Register today to attend.**

FLAP February Events

Join the Friends of Lake Accotink (FLAP) for their Monthly Park Clean-Up on Sunday, February 11, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Lake Accotink Marina (7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield).



Sign up today!

Going Solar in 2024?

Are you considering going solar at your home or small business? If so, Solar Switch



can help. This program from Solar United Neighbors (SUN) makes it more affordable for homeowners to install solar panels and battery storage systems.

By signing up for the program, you can access a group discount that will help you save on a turnkey solar and battery installation. Registration is free,

and there is no obligation to buy solar panels.

Fairfax County residents can take advantage of this opportunity by **registering before** Tuesday, February 13.

Have questions but are not ready to act? SUN also offers a **Solar Help Desk**, a free resource that supports people who are considering rooftop solar.

Energy Efficiency/Weatherization

Would you like to lower your utility bills? Is your home uncomfortable or difficult to heat

and cool? Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) is proud to work with the non-profit <u>Community</u> <u>Housing Partners (CHP) Energy</u> <u>Solutions</u> to help improve homes and apartments across our community. CHP Energy Solutions provides nocost, government and utility-funded



improvements to increase the energy efficiency, health, and safety of your home. This can include installation of insulation, LED light bulbs, heating and cooling repairs and upgrades, and more!

Homeowners AND renters can see if they qualify by calling (888) 229-3714 or by visiting the CHP website.

CHP Energy Solutions is the VA Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) designated weatherization provider. All improvements are provided at no cost and are based on a site assessment and program guidelines.

Transportation Updates

Reporting Potholes to VDOT

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintains most primary and



secondary roads in the County and fixes potholes. You can look up who maintains every road in the County <u>on VDOT's website.</u>

VDOT's online reporting tool makes it easier to pinpoint exactly where you see a pothole. You can also report potholes directly from your mobile device and include images (but NOT while driving!).

Report potholes to VDOT online or by calling 1-800-367-7623.

Note: In the event of work on an underground utility line such as gas or water, the utility company is responsible for repairing the roadway or sidewalk. Contact <u>Washington Gas</u> or <u>Fairfax Water</u> for more information.

VDOT does not maintain all major roads in the area, however. If you see potholes on these roads:

- Dulles Toll Road, contact the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority.
- George Washington Parkway, contact the **National Park Service.**
- Many private roads are maintained by businesses, apartment/condo complexes, homeowner/civic associations, or residents. If there's a pothole on a road that you know is privately maintained, contact the HOA (<u>map of HOA/CA contacts</u> in Braddock District) or the business that's responsible.

Public Safety

Community Advisory Committee Community Engagement Meeting

The West Springfield District Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will host a

Community Engagement Meeting on Tuesday, February 6, at 7:00 p.m. These meetings offer the community a chance to dialogue and communicate more effectively with officers of the Fairfax County Police Department.

February's guest speaker will be Captain Scott Colwell with the FCPD Traffic Division. He will be discussing his division's role in keeping Fairfax County safe. The meeting will be held in person at the West Springfield

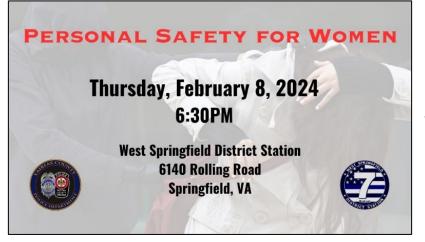


District Station (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield).

Sign up for the West Springfield CAC newsletter by emailing <u>wscacmailbox@gmail.com</u>. CAC meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., and all ages are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, contact MPO Tony Capizzi at (703) 277-2363.

Personal Safety for Women

Officers from the West Springfield District Station will present "Personal Safety for



Women" on Thursday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the community room of the West Springfield Governmental Center (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield).

This lecture-based course is designed to provide information on situational awareness, how to recognize and react in various locations, and how to defend yourself in a dangerous situation.

The presentation will take approximately one hour, with time for questions during and after the class. If you have any questions, contact MPO Tony Capizzi at (703) 277-2363 or **anthony.capizzi@fairfaxcounty.gov**.

Car Seat Saturday

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

p.m. at the West Springfield District Station (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield). No appointment is needed. Car seats will be inspected on a first-come, first-served 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. Call the station at (703) 644-7377, and press zero to make an appointment for those days.

Scout Night

Officers from the West Springfield District Station will host a Scout Night on Tuesday, February 20, from 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.

Fireplace Safety

Fireplaces are charming, but also require care and caution to operate safely. Follow these **tips from the Fire & Rescue Department** for maximum fireplace safety.

- Use the right fireplace materials
- Have your chimney professionally inspected annually
- Perform proper fireplace maintenance
- Practice safe fireplace habits
- Monitor the fire closely
- Properly dispose of ashes

View more details and watch a PSA from Fairfax Fire & Rescue on the County's Emergency Blog.



Operation Press Check

The Fairfax County Police Department recently announced the launch of **Operation Press Check** – an initiative aiming to enhance the ability to investigate convicted felons found in possession of firearms. Operation Press Check aims to:

- Reduce gun violence
- Identify sources of firearms for convicted felons
- Deter felons from possessing firearms
- Improve prosecutorial outcomes



The success of Operation Press Check also hinges on collaboration with the community. The active involvement of the community is crucial in creating a safer Fairfax County. Stay informed, remain vigilant, and report any information that could aid in the successful detection or prosecution of Felon in Possession cases.

You can read more about Operation Press Check on FCPD's blog.

If you have information about someone in illegal possession of a firearm, you can submit a tip anonymously to Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-8477. Download the 'P3 Tips' App "Fairfax Co Crime Solvers." Anonymous tipsters are eligible for a cash reward. Leave contact information if you want a detective to follow up with you.

Human Services Corner

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



DECEMBER 1, 2023 - MARCH 31, 2024

About the Program

Since 2005, the Hypothermia Prevention Program has prevented death and serious injuries among Fairfax County's most vulnerable residents 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 quests to a variety of basic needs such as clothing, employment, housing, and more.

Note: Adults with children (ages 0-17) should contact Coordinated Services Planning at 703-222-0880 (TTY 711), Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., for referrals to family-oriented support and services. If you need assistance after hours, please contact or visit one of the county's family shelters



locations and contact information are available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/emergency-shelters

> For more information: https://bit.ly/Fairfax-Hypothermia-Program

> > A Fairfax County, Va., publication. October 2023



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For information, call and activities. Reasonable ac 703-245-5000 or TTY 711.

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 quests 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 around the County until March 31.

Overflow shelter capacity in the yearround adult shelters is available each night but is limited. Sign up for Fairfax Alerts, specifically "Homelessness Cooling and Heating Resources," for information on overflow activation.

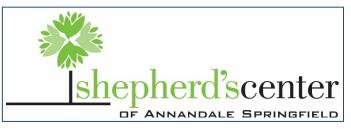
If you have questions about the program, contact Dee Johnson at danien.johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit the County's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness website.

February Lunch N' Life

Join the Shepherd's Center of Annandale-Springfield for their **February Lunch N' Life** on Thursday, February 22, from 11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Annandale (7610 Newcastle Drive, Annandale) to hear from Vera Kochanowski, author of

"*Hitler, Lenin, and Me,"a* posthumously published memoir about her father, a Russian man reliving the turbulence of revolution and war in the 20th century.

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



Monday, February 19, by calling the office at (703) 941-1419 or sending an email to **shepherdscas@vacoxmail.com**.

2024 Fairfax County Housing Symposium

Fairfax County and the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA), in partnership with the George Mason University Costello College of Business, will be



hosting the 2024 Fairfax County Housing Symposium on Wednesday, March 6, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public, and registration is open now. The event will be held on the Fairfax Campus of George Mason University at the Harris Theatre (4471 Aquia Creek Lane, Fairfax).

This year we will feature a panel discussion on the critical work and impact of the FCRHA and hear from individuals who will share their stories on the value of affordable housing in our community. The event will also provide a brief tour of One

University, allowing participants to take a sneak peek at this new development that will serve families, students, and older adults for years to come. In addition, there will be a discussion on preventing and ending homelessness in Fairfax County and a conversation on the complexities and decisions that play into the development, preservation, and adaptive reuse of affordable housing.

Information about the 2024 Symposium is **available online**. The website will be updated throughout the coming weeks as the event nears.

Volunteers Needed for Body Safety Program

The Department of Family Services' **<u>Body Safety Program</u>** needs bilingual volunteer classroom instructors (English/Spanish) to help empower students in elementary school with tools to prevent or interrupt child abuse and exploitation. This free, school-based

program gives children a comfortable, non-alarming way to talk about the sensitive and complex problem of child abuse.

The Childhelp® Speak Up Be Safe curriculum used by the Department of Family Services is designed to teach children the skills they need to stay safe. Children will learn:

- They own their body
- Differences between appropriate and inappropriate touching
- Adults are supposed to keep them safe
- It is never too late to ask for help
- To identify their safe adults
- They have choices in unsafe situations
- It is never too late to ask for help



It is never their fault if someone abuses them

If you have a heart for kids and you are available to facilitate pre-K through sixth-grade classes in Fairfax County Public Schools during the school day, this is a great opportunity for you! Visit the **program website** to learn more, or **complete a volunteer application** online. Email **dfsbodysafety@fairfaxcounty.gov** or call (703) 324-7459 for more information. iNosotros necesitamos su ayuda!

Resources for Older Adults & Caregivers

Dementia Friends Information Session

Dementia Friendly Fairfax envisions our community as a place where people living with dementia and their care partners can engage in a variety of activities, be supported in the highest quality of life, and can live independently for as long as possible.

A <u>virtual information session</u> with Dementia Friendly Champions Diane Watson of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging, and Allegra Joffe of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, will take place on Wednesday, February 14, from 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

After participating in the session, participants will be able to describe dementia and know the most common type of dementia, state the five key messages about dementia, explain one approach to effectively communicate with a person with dementia, and commit to an action as a Dementia Friend in their community. <u>Register online today.</u>



The Golden Gazette: Who Will Care for Your Pet When

You're Gone? By Gwen Jones, Department of Family Services For many of us, our pets are family, providing companionship, affection, and a sense of



purpose. As much as we dote on our animal companions, many of us have not given serious thought to what will happen to them if we became incapacitated or die suddenly, and fewer have made arrangements to ensure that they will be cared for after we're gone.

According to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 746 pets were surrendered during the last six months of 2023. Of these, 29 surrenders were due to the death of an

owner. While this number is relatively small compared to the total, these surrenders may have been avoided with proper planning.

What is a Pet Trust?

A pet trust is a legal agreement that provides for the care of one or more pets when their owner dies or is no longer able to care for them. The trust names a caretaker and sets aside money to care for the pet. A named trustee is responsible for holding the money "in trust" and making regular payments to the caregiver to care for the pet. A pet trust can be created as a standalone document if you don't have a will or as part of your personal will or trust.

The benefits to setting up a pet trust include:

- Trusts can take effect at the death of the owner or if they become incapacitated and can no longer care for their pet.
- Trusts are legally enforceable arrangements, so you can be confident that your directions regarding the care of your pet will be carried out.
- Trusts formalize the details of the arrangement, including how much money will be provided and your pet's special care needs, including preferred food brand and existing medical issues.

Creating a Pet Trust

Before meeting with your attorney to discuss creating a pet trust, here are a few things you can do to prepare:

- Choose a Trustee The trustee you select should be someone who you believe will act in the best interest of your pet. This person can be a friend, family member, a professional, such as an attorney, or a trust company. Make sure the person you select is willing to serve as the trustee. Selecting a backup trustee is recommended.
- Choose a Caregiver Who do you trust to care for your pet after you're gone? Once you select a caregiver, ask them if they are able and willing to care for your pet. Selecting a backup caregiver is also recommended in case circumstances change for the primary caregiver.
- Calculate the Cost Determine an annual budget by adding up your pet's basic monthly costs, such as food, treats, medication, and care (e.g. grooming or dog walking). To this total, add non-monthly expenses, like vet checkups, shots, licensing fees and any boarding costs.
- Determine the Size of the Trust Use the annual budget and life expectancy of your pet to determine how much money you should put into the trust.

The trust may also include instructions regarding your wishes regarding cremation or burial of your pet when they die. In Virginia, the trust terminates at the death of the pet, so you should specify how any remaining funds are distributed.

The Friends of the Fairfax Animal Shelter has created a free guide with information about creating a pet trust. The guide includes a list of questions to consider, either alone or with your financial advisor. The guide can be found on the <u>Friends of Fairfax</u> <u>County Animal Shelter's website.</u>

Free 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.

February 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 10:00 Morning Mindfulness 10:00 Cupid Crew 1:00 Bingo-cize	2 10:00 Rhythm and Nature 1:30 Time Slips
5 12:00 Movie Club: Groundhog Day	6 10:30 'Brown Bag' Medication and Workshop 1:00 Bingo-cize	7 10:00 Cupid Crew	8 10:00 Morning Mindfulness 1:00 Bingo-cize	9 10:00 Rhythm and Nature 1:30 Time Slips
12 12:00 Movie Club: Breakfast at Tiffany's	13 1:00 Bingo-cize	14	15 10:00 Morning Mindfulness 1:00 Bingo-cize	16 10:00 Rhythm and Nature 1:30 Time Slips
19 Center Closed in observance of President's Day	20 1:00 Bingo-cize	21 10:30 Creativity Leads to Wellness	22 10:00 Morning Mindfulness 1:00 Bingo-cize	23 10:00 Rhythm and Nature 12:30 Monthly Birthday Celebration 1:30 Time Slips
26 10:00-2:00 Memory Screenings	27 *10:15 VCAA: NAMI – Mental Health 101 1:00 Bingo-cize	28 10:30 Creativity Leads to Wellness	29 10:00 Morning Mindfulness 1:00 Bingo-cize	March 1 10:00 Rhythm and Nature 1:30 Time Slips

Program Descriptions (listed alphabetically)

Bingo-cize

This 10-week class meets twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays (through March 28) and is facilitated by <u>Elderlink</u>. 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 February babies! Join staff on the last Friday of the month at 12:30 p.m. to celebrate with 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</u> <u>Project for the Arts.</u> This class will focus on

Inis class will focus on individuals discovering their creativity working in the mediums of drawings, paintings, and mixed-media collages. All materials are provided, *no classes on February 7 and 14.*

Cupid Crew

Join the effort to offset loneliness seniors may feel on the National Day of Love. 'Cupid Crew' volunteers spread love by making Valentine cards for adults in longterm care facilities. The volunteers, organized by Wish of a Lifetime from AARP, and day program individuals will make 500 cards and wrapped roses.

Morning Mindfulness

Join George Mason Fellows and start your day learning and practicing mindfulness. In this group, you will practice activities that promote calm in the mind and body and increase your ability to remain in the present moment.

Movie Club

Join in a Monday movie club experience. This activity is centered around watching quality films and having a discussion following the movie.

Memory Screenings Insight Memory Care

<u>Center</u> 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 that involves your choice of drumming and/or garden-based activities for enjoyment, socialization, and selfexpression? Join George Mason University faculty and students for this academic-led activity on Friday mornings. The drumming and naturebased activities will last up to 2 hours.

Time Slips

George Mason University facilitates creative engagement and storytelling to stimulate creativity and imagination.

VCAA – Virtual Center for Active Adults

Join live, interactive programs, and engage with other adults. *These online activities are streamed with in-person adaptations. For more information on the VCAA, visit <u>bit.ly/NCSvcaa</u>

Insight Memory Care Events

Insight Memory Care offers an entire calendar of events including support groups, information sessions, memory cafes, meet-ups, and more. You can view their monthly calendars <u>on Insight's website</u>.

Land Use & Development

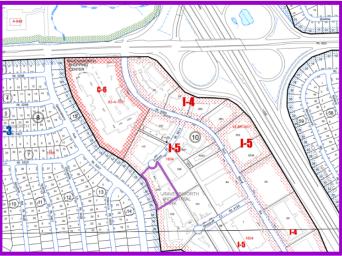
UPCOMING MEETINGS & HEARINGS

Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee Meeting
February 21 at 7:00 p.m. – Virtual

Planning Commission Hearing on Application for Adult Day Care Facility Deferred Until April 24

As previously reported, 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 located 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. The applicant will submit

a revised application reflecting these changes. To allow time for the plans to be resubmitted, for staff to review the new materials, and for a Staff Report to be drafted, the Planning Commission hearing on the Special Exception application has been deferred until April 24. A Board of Supervisors hearing has not yet been scheduled.

Information on the application is available on the **PLUS website**. 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, February 21, 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 <u>online</u> or by phone: (571) 429-5982, Phone Conference ID: 730 922 969#.

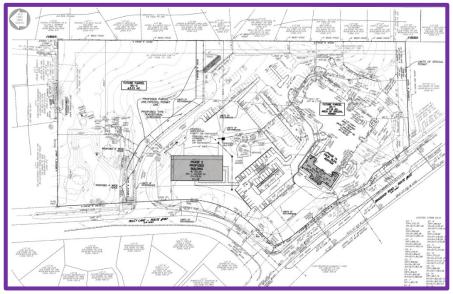
Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing on Application by Church of the Good Shepherd Scheduled for February 14

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). Similar to 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 as a result of this application.

The Special Permit process is open and transparent and public input is encouraged. Residents may submit comments to <u>bzaclerkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov</u>. The Statement of Justification from the applicant and the Special Permit plat are available on the <u>PLUS</u> <u>website</u>. 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. That information is now included on the PLUS website. 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 is Open

On January 22, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles opened a new Customer Service Center at 9855 Braddock Road, located adjacent to Erickson Senior Living's Woodleigh Chase facility. This site replaces the Customer Service Center at Fair Oaks Mall, which is permanently closed.



The Braddock Road Customer Service Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Service, on-road skills testing, and closed-course testing are available. Customers may make an appointment, reserve a spot for same-day service, or walk in during operating hours. To make an appointment or see if your transaction can be done online, visit <u>www.dmv.virginia.gov</u>.

Update on Ilda's Overlook Senior Residences on Braddock Road

Construction at the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing's 80-unit affordable senior housing project on Braddock Road is nearing completion. Final inspections are expected to take place during the next week. Once completed, the project will get final Residential Use Permits and new residents can begin moving in. One wing of the project is 65 percent leased and the other is 20 percent leased.

Photos below: First row - main community room, mailroom; Second row - wellness room, fourth floor elevator lobby; and Third floor – building exterior.





Update on Construction at Erickson Living's Woodleigh Chase Project

The first phase of Erickson Living's Woodleigh Chase campus on Braddock Road is nearing completion. The developer is currently working with the Fire Marshal's office and the County's Land Development Services to go through final inspections. They look forward to welcoming the first residents in March.

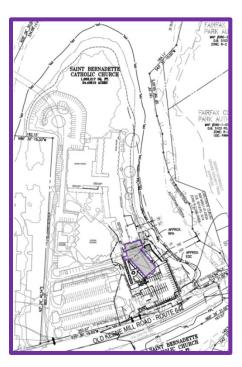
Cases Filed with the Board of Zoning Appeals

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

Access to information on BZA cases is available through the Planning and Land Use System, or PLUS. 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 requested 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. The



BZA approved this application on January 24. Additional information, including a map of the site and staff report, 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, which should be available on February 7, 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>.

Tyler W. & Jill G. Wolverton – 4717 Trotting Lane, Annandale SP-2023-BR-00201

The applicants are requesting a reduction in setback requirements to allow a second story addition over an existing garage that would be 7.1 feet from the south side lot line. This application has been scheduled for a BZA hearing on May 1. 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 **<u>braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov</u>** or call the Braddock District office at (703) 425-9300.