Volume 12 | Issue 12

James R. Walkinshaw

Braddock District Supervisor

The Braddock Beacon

December 2020 Edition

Dear Neighbor,

This will be the final edition of the Braddock Beacon for 2020, and what a long, hard year it has been. The COVID-19 pandemic has upended all of our plans and we will never forget the pain and suffering that so many in our community and nation have endured. But, as is often the case, there are silver linings to be found. Here in Braddock, we've come together to support each other in so many ways, from looking out for our older neighbors to organizing food drives for those struggling to make ends meet. While the pandemic has kept us apart physically, it has drawn us closer together in other ways that I hope will be long-lasting.

While there are **brighter days on the horizon**, our health officials tell us to expect a difficult winter. We have avoided the dramatic spikes seen in states and communities whose leaders have recklessly disregarded the health guidance, but our **cases are rising** as the temperatures drop. This holiday season will look a bit different, but there are **still safe ways to celebrate** with loved ones.

While COVID-19 has affected all demographic groups, older adults have been hit hardest. That's why I'm excited to announce that earlier this week the Board of Supervisors approved a motion from Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity and me to adopt a new **COVID-19 Older Adults Response Plan**.

Through a series of focus groups we identified three main challenges facing older adults: wellness, lack of technology access, and isolation. The plan identifies action items and new initiatives Fairfax County will undertake to address these challenges. It also highlights some of the work that has already been done and the importance of sustained investment in our county programs to support older adults. For example, I was amazed that our Area Agency on Aging's Meals on Wheels program has delivered more than 300,000 meals this year!

On a sad note, I want to acknowledge the passing of one of Braddock District's great community leaders, Dick Sargent. Dick recently passed away at the age of 94. He was a WWII Navy veteran, serving in the Pacific and involved in the Battle of Okinawa. He and his wife Martha settled here in Ravensworth Farm in 1975 and proceeded to make enormous contributions to our community, through the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association, the Fairfax County Park Authority, and other local organizations.

Dick was instrumental in bringing the carousel to Lake Accotink Park, and the McLaren-Sargent Pavilion was named for him and another local leader, Chet McLaren in recognition of their efforts. Braddock Supervisor Sharon Bulova declared May 26, 2006 Dick and Martha Sargent

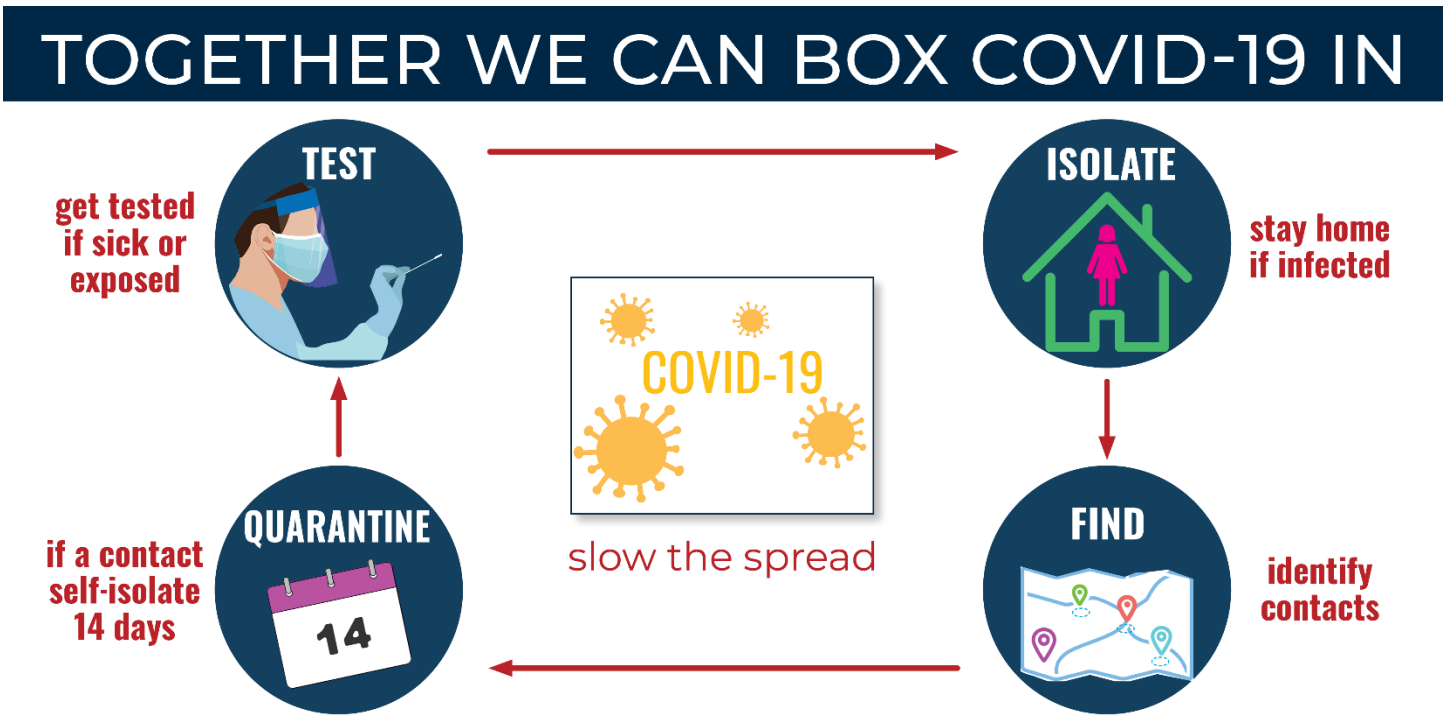
Day to acknowledge their many contributions. Dick's family will be in my thoughts this holiday season.

Read the full Braddock Beacon for more information on:

- Braddock District Citizen of the Month
- Braddock Office Retirements
- GMU Master Plan Engagement Session
- Fire Department Toys for Tots Program Underway
- Lake Accotink Dredging Community Meeting on Dec. 10
- Zoning Modernization Draft Available
- And 18 Pages of Community News and Updates!

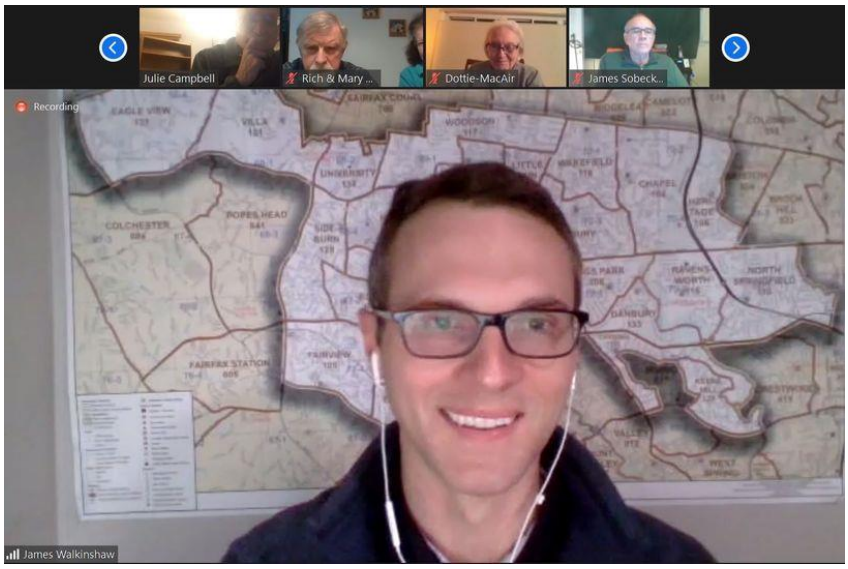
Yours in service,

Supervisor James Walkinshaw



Walkinshaw in the Community

Supervisor Walkinshaw celebrating the dedication of the Margaret Kinder Educational Pollinator Garden with local icon Margaret Kinder on November 21.



Supervisor Walkinshaw joins the Braddock District Council (BDC) and more than 40 community members during their annual BDC Community Roundtable event on November 18.

Citizen of the Month

December's Braddock District Citizen of the Month is Margaret Kinder. Recently community members came together to dedicate a new educational pollinator garden in honor of Margaret at Lake Accotink park. Margaret is known for her incredible commitment to our local parks and her passion for instilling the love of nature in others, especially children. During the unveiling ceremony, **Friends of Lake Accotink Park** (FLAP) Board Member Jim Hickey shared stories of adults recognizing Margaret years later and sharing the profound impact she had on them as children.

Margaret is also a founder and life member of FLAP, a nonprofit community organization that strives to inspire and sustain a passion for Lake Accotink Park. FLAP's leadership and community volunteers have partnered to raise environmental awareness to hundreds of people. During the ceremony, Margaret selflessly said, "I can't thank FLAP enough…Mary Keeser and her board are a pretty amazing group. When they get behind something, just smile and hold on."

Supervisor Walkinshaw pointed out that 80 percent of flowering plants rely on pollinators and noted that, just as pollinators spend their lives spreading nourishment, Margaret Kinder has spent her life spreading the nourishment of kindness and service.

Her work and efforts have influenced generations of community members, and we look forward to her continuing to spread the joy of conservation with others. On behalf of the Braddock District, thank you to FLAP, the Fairfax County Park Authority, and the many volunteers who helped make this pollinator garden in Margaret's honor possible. Congratulations Margaret, we appreciate you!

© Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)

Margaret Kinder (right) with FLAP President Mary Keeser (Left) during the Pollinator Garden Unveiling.

Community News

Retirement Celebration for Ann Sharp and Linda Bufano
With a mixture of sadness and immense gratitude, I want to announce that two valued members of the Braddock District Team -- Ann Sharp and Linda Bufano -- will be retiring from Fairfax County at the end of this year. Both have had long and illustrious careers in service to the Braddock District and to Fairfax County.

Ann and Linda, along with Marcia Pape, were part of Supervisor Cook's team. When I asked them each if they'd be willing to stay on and help me get off on the right foot, both made it clear that retirement was in their near-term plans. The only thing I asked is that they "run through the tape" and give the Braddock District all they had in the time they had left. Over the course of this year, under the most trying of circumstances, they did just that. Our successful first year is in large part due to their work.

As a long-time resident and active member of our Braddock community, Ann Sharp's knowledge of our neighborhoods and ability to solve problems on their behalf has made a tremendous difference. No issue was too great or too small, whether it be the location of a speed hump or navigating community relations with George Mason University. She treated each matter with her characteristic patience and courtesy and the fruits of her labor are sprinkled throughout the district.

Also a long-time Braddock resident, Linda Bufano has been a strong advocate for the human services needs of our residents, especially victims of domestic violence and those in need of housing and other basic needs. As the COVID-19 pandemic hit our region, Linda rose to the occasion by ensuring that our constituents had access to Health Department information, food distribution, testing, and assistance paying for rent or utilities. Her tenacity and willingness to push until a constituent gets the help they need has been incredibly valuable as we've faced the fallout of the pandemic.

To thank Ann and Linda for their service, we'll be holding a virtual event at 4:00 p.m. on December 16! Former Supervisor John Cook will join us to wish Ann and Linda well. If you'd like to participate, send an email to **braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov** to RSVP and we will send you a link.

Sincerely,

Supervisor James Walkinshaw

Join Supervisor James Walkinshaw
and friends for a

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

honoring

Ann Sharp

and

Linda Bufano

Wednesday, December 16, 2020
4:00 - 5:00pm

via Microsoft Teams

For a link to participate, email
braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov

Supervisor Walkinshaw seeks a Braddock District representative for the Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee (ITPAC).
The ITPAC provides the Board of Supervisors with objective advice regarding information technology issues. The term of service is three years, and the ITPAC meets roughly seven times per year. For more information, visit the **county website**.

If you are interested in serving on the ITPAC, send your resume and a letter of intent to **braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov**.

COVID-19 Winter Holiday Recommendations

Recommendations shared for Thanksgiving apply to December holidays as well. The safest way to celebrate the holidays this year is with people in your immediate household. We recommend making the holidays more leisurely this year. Stay home, stay cozy, and keep it small and simple. In the words of Fairfax County Health Director Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, "We must find a way to recognize our traditions without putting ourselves and others at risk."

Here are some tips for a healthy, safe, and enjoyable holiday:

High Risk
- Large family gatherings
- Travel
  - Flights with layovers
  - Traveling on a cruise ship or river boat

Medium Risk
- Small family gatherings:
  - Outdoors
  - Everyone wears a mask
  - Everyone social distances
  - Everyone washes hands frequently
  - No one shares plates, utensils, cups, or other items
- Travel
  - Car trips with people outside your immediate household
  - Long distance train or bus trips
  - Flights

Lower Risk
- Virtual family gatherings
- Travel
  - Stay home
  - Short trips by car with members of your household with no stops along the way

Visit the Health Department website to find **additional holiday health tips**.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Recruiting for 2021

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is a group of people from throughout the Washington metropolitan region who represent diverse viewpoints on long-term transportation policy.

The mission of the CAC is to:

- Promote public involvement in transportation planning for the region
- Advance equitable representation in regional transportation planning
- Provide independent region-oriented community advice to the TPB on transportation plans and issues

Community leaders and interested residents from across the metropolitan Washington region are invited to **apply for membership** on the 2021-2022 CAC to the National Capital Region TPB. Applications are being accepted until December 10.

For more information, to submit your application via email, or to request a paper application, please contact:

Bryan Hayes
(202) 962-3273
bhayes@mwcog.org

Upcoming George Mason University Master Plan Engagement Session

George Mason University (GMU) invites the community to attend their fourth virtual **Master Plan Engagement Session** on Tuesday, December 8, from 1:00 p.m. through 2:30 p.m.

During this session, consultants will discuss several potential scenarios for the development of Mason's three primary campuses in Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William counties. GMU hopes to have an active discussion, to hear your thoughts, and to answer any questions.

Mason's master planning process is a critical part of efforts to plan for the University's growth and development. The master plan will serve as a framework for decision making for how GMU will use campuses and physical space to advance their mission. More information about the master plan and the work to date can be found at GMU's **master plan site**.

Master Plan Engagement Session
Tuesday, December 8
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Event Link: **https://gmu.zoom.us/j/91576601175**

Bank of America Gives Northern Virginia Community College $1 Million for Jobs Initiative

Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and Bank of America recently announced a new $1 million jobs initiative partnership to help students of color successfully complete the education and training necessary to enter the workforce and embark on a path to success in Northern Virginia and throughout the Commonwealth.

With the support from Bank of America, NVCC will develop new programs and enhance existing ones to meet specific skills gaps, creating higher paying, family-sustaining jobs that are in demand. Bank of America will work alongside employers in Northern Virginia and around the Commonwealth to ensure these programs target specific hiring needs and create a clearly defined career pathway to future employment.

Read NVCC's press release to **learn more about this jobs initiative**.

Virginia Railway Express (VRE) 3-D Train

VRE now has an interactive 3-D video tour available for the community. Step from their platforms into one of their rail cars and see the measures they have taken to protect your health and safety. You will see plenty of hand sanitizer and socially distanced decals on platforms and rail cars. **Take the tour** by visiting VRE's website.

Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) Food for Fine$ Drive

Fairfax County community members can help their neighbors and reduce their FCPL fines by up to $15 this December. **Donations of nonperishable food items** can be made at all currently operating branches except Access Services. Each food item donated will reduce library fines by $1, up to a maximum of $15 per account. This donation drive is the third time FCPL has partnered with **Food for Others**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides food to local families in need. Donations will be accepted until December 31. **Most needed items include:** 4 oz. – 1 lb. cans of Chili; Canned tomato products (crushed, peeled, diced, etc.); 2 oz. – 15 oz. canned meat (chicken, beef, turkey, or seafood); 16 oz. packages of rice; 14 oz. – 1 lb. of Spaghetti sauce; 11 oz. – 20 oz canned fruit (packed in fruit juice instead of syrup); Dried or canned beans; Pasta; 32 oz. – 64 oz. of Fruit juice (100% juice).

Golden Gazette Newsletter

The Golden Gazette is a free monthly community newsletter that covers a variety of topics and community news concerning older adults and caregivers in Fairfax County. If you are interested in receiving, reading, or advertising with the Golden Gazette, read below:

- **Subscribe** – Do not miss out on future newsletters! Subscribe to get the **electronic** or **printed** version mailed to you. (To unsubscribe, update the **electronic** or **printed** version.)
- **Suggest** – Have a topic idea? Share it in an **email** or call 703-324-GOLD (4653).
- **Advertise** – Interested in advertising in the printed version? Contact Mary Jane Dye at 703-324-5479, TTY 711 to learn about the process, pricing, deadlines and more.

Read December's edition of the Golden Gazette online.

Completed Improvement Projects in the Braddock District

1) **The Braddock Road and Roberts Road Intersection and Sidewalk Improvement Project**
   This project was completed within on November 12, 2020. The project will connect walkways along the east and west side of Roberts Road from Braddock Road to Tapestry Drive.

   The project included an additional right turning lane, a segment of 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk, and curb and gutter approximately 340 feet in length, storm sewer installations, and storm drainage facility. The project includes an intersection upgrade with new signal pole including curb cut ramps, signage, pavements markings and four pedestrian signals. Visit the **presentation slideshow** for additional information.

2) **The Wakefield Chapel Road Bike Lanes**
   This project extended on-road bicycle lanes from Pulley Court to NVCC Campus. The project required ROW purchase and construction of approximately 200 linear feet of new roadway, including curb, gutter, and sidewalk.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Toys for Tots Campaign is Underway

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's #ToysforTots campaign is now underway! Each morning Fairfax County Government firefighters and paramedics have collection boxes placed outside the front door of each fire and rescue station. Residents can drop off new unwrapped toy donations until 8:00 p.m. each evening. Donations accepted until Sunday, December 13.

Children who are served by this campaign include toddlers and youth through age 17. Toys considered to be weapons (i.e., toy guns or knives of any kind) will not be accepted. **Learn more about Toys for Tots** on Fairfax Fire and Rescue's blog.

Photo by Technician Eric Russell

Pohick Regional Library Update

Back on June 2, Al Santarelli of Burke called the Braddock District office to discuss the "new" entrance ramp to the Pohick Regional Library. When the library was renovated and reopened in 2017, meeting rooms were put in place where the entrance doors had been. The Braddock District Team looked and realized there had to be a solution. Many people stopped coming to the library because of this and there were many complaints. After meeting with several people in July, it was agreed that a video buzzer would be installed. The video buzzer was finally installed on December 3, 2020. It is very unfortunate that the woman who brought this to our attention, Dolores Santarelli, passed away on October 3 and will not be able to walk through those doors when the County returns to normal. The Braddock District Team told Mr. Santarelli that every person who walks through those doors will have his wife to thank.

Update on How to Report Child Abuse and Neglect

The Fairfax County Department of Family Services, and other local departments of social services (LDSS), are responsible for processing and investigating reports of child abuse and neglect. To support this work, the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Division of Family Services has announced the release of a new **Mandated Reporter Portal**, which provides a secure, fast, and convenient way for Mandated Reporters in Virginia to submit reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. Watch a brief **YouTube video** overview of the new portal.

Are you wondering if this applies to you? Simply put, a **mandated reporter** is an individual who in their professional or official capacity (such as social worker, physician, teacher, counselor, athletic coach or religious practitioner) is legally required to report to Child Protective Services (CPS) any cases of child abuse or neglect that he or she has reasonable cause to suspect.

The general public and mandated reporters can still report child abuse and neglect through the Fairfax County DFS 24/7 CPS Hotline at (703) 324-7400; or if you live outside of Fairfax, contact the VDSS statewide 24/7 CPS hotline at 800-552-7096.

Benefits of using the Mandated Reporter Portal include:

- Reduced wait time for Mandated Reporters making a report; online offers a quicker, user-friendly option to file a report.
- Mandated Reporters create a secure account, which will minimize the amount of time needed in making subsequent reports.
- Information entered directly by the Mandated Reporter may be more accurate.
- Data from the mandated reporter portal "transmits" the information to VDSS Hotline staff.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or feedback via **virginiaonlinereporting@dss.virginia.gov**.

Human Services Corner

Out of Work Due to COVID-19? Make Sure to Apply for Job Training by December 8

If you are currently unemployed or experiencing a reduction of hours and pay due to COVID-19, Fairfax County can help. Through Governor Ralph Northam's Re-Employing Virginians (REV) campaign, the Fairfax County Department of Family Services can help reskill and upskill job seekers recovering from the impacts of the global pandemic. Focusing on high-demand skills, eligible Virginians can access free training in five essential industries:

- Health care
- Information technology
- Skilled trades
- Public safety
- Early childhood education

The Family Services REV team is ready to help Virginians who meet one of the following two criteria:

- Lost job due to COVID-19 and received unemployment benefits on or after Aug. 1, 2020
- Laid off from a full-time job due to COVID-19 and now work part-time, earning less than $15/hour

Time is limited! Those interested must apply by December 8, and training must be completed by December 29. Training costs must not exceed $1,000, but participants may choose to cover the remaining cost should it exceed the limit. **Learn more about this program** on the Department of Family Services website.

Fairfax County's Commission for Women Resource Drive

Fairfax County's Commission for Women is collecting unopened feminine hygiene products and unopened under garments for nonprofit **BRAWS** (Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters), a nonprofit dedicated to bringing dignity and empowerment to women and girls living in shelters, until Friday, December 11.

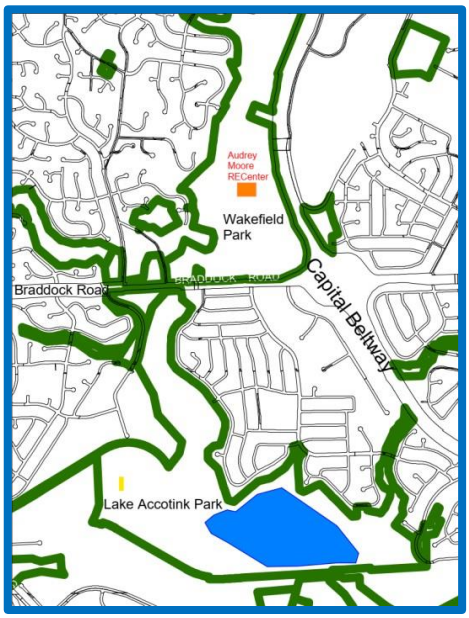
Donations may be dropped off at: (1) George Mason University's (GMU) first floor of the Johnson Center, (2) GMU's Peterson Hall. There is 30-minute parking available in Finley Lot, right next to Peterson Hall. **Visit BRAWS' website** to learn more about their mission.

Dementia Friendly Training

On Thursday, December 10 from 6:00 p.m. through 7:15 p.m., the Millennial 50+ Ambassadors of Northern VA, with the help of **ServiceSource**, are hosting a **Dementia Friendly Training session** that will help you understand dementia and the small things you can do to make a difference. Join the **meeting here**. You can also join by telephone by calling +1 (301)-715-8592, entering meeting ID: 984 2699 3626, and using passcode: 8787. Contact the Millennial 50+ Ambassadors of Northern VA by calling (703) 828-4997 or emailing **Millennialambassadors@gmail.com**.

Environmental News

Public Meeting on Lake Accotink Dredging Project Scheduled for December 10



Last year, working together with the community, former Braddock Supervisor John Cook led an effort to save Lake Accotink by funding a dredge of the lake to an average 8-foot depth and providing a mechanism for regular dredging in the future. The plan is to take sediment collected in the dredging through a pipeline to an unused area of Wakefield Park under the power lines for dewatering. Once it is dried, the materials will be trucked offsite for disposal.

A virtual public meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m.** to update the community on the project schedule and work plan. Preliminary field work began a few weeks ago. County staff and their contractors are currently doing a survey of the lake, collecting sediment samples, and will be performing an aerial topographic survey later this month. Additional information and a link to the meeting are available on the **project webpage**. Community members are strongly encouraged to participate in this meeting. We want to ensure that there is broad community input as the options for implementing the project are considered. Comments may also be submitted directly on the project webpage.

Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) Seeking Candidates

Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP), an official partner of the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), needs help recruiting candidates for the Friends of Lake Accotink Park Board. FLAP's mission is to protect, restore, preserve, and educate the community concerning the natural, historical, and cultural resources of Lake Accotink Park. FLAP's President and Vice President Positions are currently open, and applications are presently being accepted. FLAP has accomplished many milestones over the past two years, but they need your help to ensure a seamless transition. If you or anyone you know is interested, please forward your information to **president@flapaccotink.org**. **Learn more about FLAP** and their mission on their website.

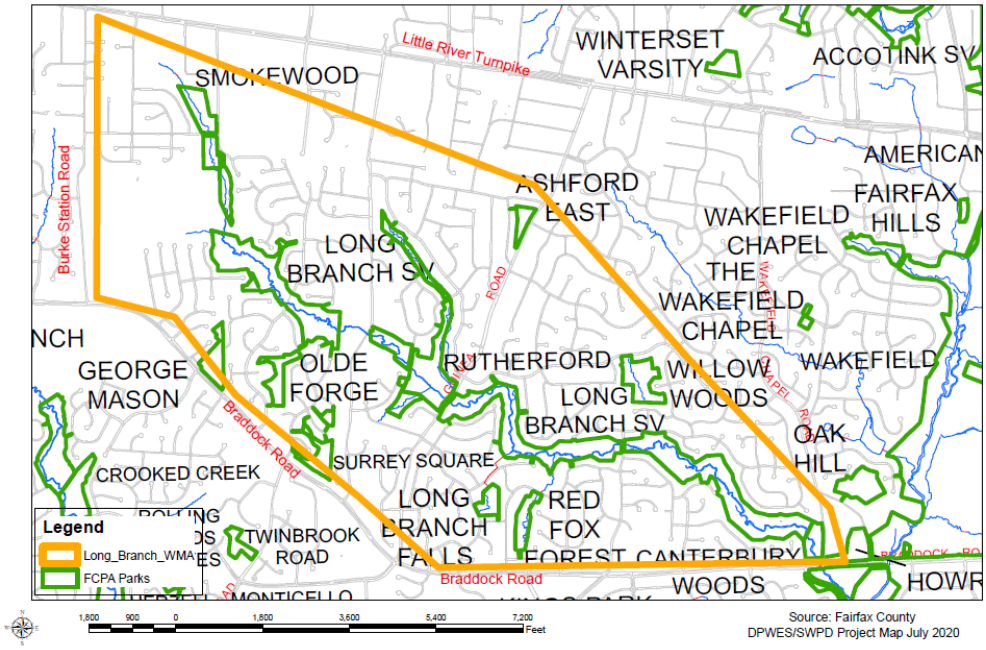
Long Branch Central Watershed Management Area Project Update

The Long Branch Central Watershed Management Area project is a collaborative effort of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. The project was developed because Long Branch Central was declared an impaired water area by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The primary goals of the project are to:

- Meet the Long Branch Central waste load reduction requirements
- Improve water quality within the Long Branch Central watershed
- Improve habitat and environmental health

Long Branch Central Watershed Management Area



A watershed study and community outreach are underway. A project implementation plan is being developed as a result of the study and community input is expected to be completed by April 2021. You can visit the Long Branch Watershed Study Public Input Map, which is a tool designed to gather local information and knowledge from watershed residents and users of the Long Branch Stream Valley Trail. Make sure to **submit and share your opinion and thoughts**.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to Charles Smith, Fairfax County Watershed Projects Implementation Branch - Central Chief at **Charles.Smith@fairfaxcounty.gov**.

Land Use and Development

Upcoming Meetings and Hearings

- **Lake Accotink Dredging Project Public Meeting** – December 10 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Braddock District Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting** – December 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Board of Supervisors Hearings**
  - Transfer of Government Center Parking Lots G and H to FCRHA for affordable housing – January 26 at 4:00 p.m.
  - Modernized Zoning Ordinance – March 9 at 4:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Hearings**
  - Modernized Zoning Ordinance – January 28 at 7:30 p.m.
  - Comprehensive Plan for NW Corner of Lee Highway & Waples Mill Road – February 10 at 7:30 p.m.
  - Kenilworth II – February 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Providing Affordable Housing at the Government Center Complex

Addressing the critical shortage of affordable housing in Fairfax County is a priority for both Supervisor Walkinshaw and the Board of Supervisors. To help meet that need, Supervisor Walkinshaw has proposed redeveloping excess parking in Lots G and H at the Government Center with a new affordable housing complex. On December 1, the Board of Supervisors authorized a public hearing to consider the transfer of this Board-owned property to the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) to pursue that use.

By using public/private partnerships through the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (PPEA), appropriate publicly-owned land can be developed by private developers to efficiently produce affordable housing units in a cost-effective manner through use of low-income housing tax credits. In 2017, the PPEA was used to deliver the Residences at Government Center, an award-winning, extremely successful housing development that provided 270 workforce housing units. A similar opportunity exists to develop this underutilized space with approximately 200 to 250 multi-family units and up to 15,000 square feet of support services. This site would provide access to employment opportunities, bus transit, is in walking distance of an elementary school, is near recreation and commercial amenities, and would be in walking distance of a future Metro extension of the Orange Line from Vienna. Because it is already

paved, use of this land would not have the negative environmental impacts associated with many other sites.

A hearing before the Board of Supervisors to discuss this proposal is scheduled for January 26, 2021. If you are interested in providing testimony, you may do so in writing, by phone, or by submitting video testimony. It is recommended that you sign up in advance to make sure you are on the speakers' list. For information on how to testify, please visit the **county website**.

Hearings Scheduled on Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project

It has been nearly three years since work began on zMOD, the Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project. The Zoning Ordinance regulates land use and development in Fairfax County. This project had several goals, one of which was to make the 40-year-old Zoning Ordinance easier to read and understand through the use of tables and illustrations and plain language. It is designed to be more flexible to accommodate existing and emerging trends. The revised Zoning Ordinance will also be more accessible online, including on mobile devices. Since the project began, there have been 89 in-person and virtual community meetings on zMOD, including a presentation to the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee in September and to the Braddock District Council in October. Eleven draft installments have been released for review and comment.

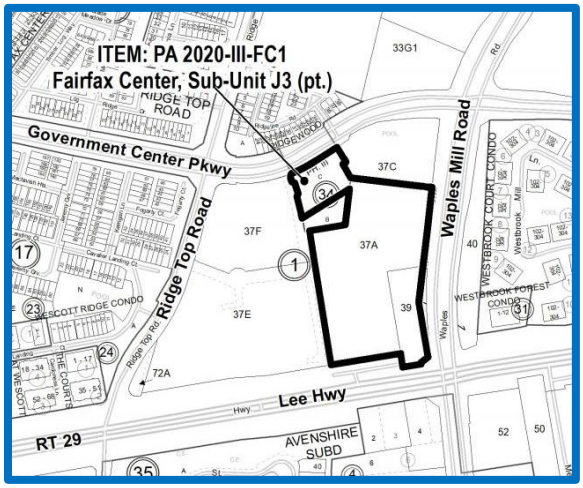
The complete **zMOD draft is available online**. While it is more consolidated than in the past, the document is still lengthy. Fortunately, the draft includes an Executive Summary which provides project background and an overview of the new structure and each of the new articles. On page 30 of the draft, there is a very helpful summary of proposed substantive changes. Two topics that have received a fair amount of attention are Accessory Living Units and Home-Based Businesses. There is a detailed discussion of these issues on pages 40 and 47, respectively.

The Board of Supervisors voted on December 1 to advertise public hearings on the new Ordinance. Hearings will be held before the Planning Commission on January 28, 2021, and before the full Board at its March 9, 2021 meeting. Supervisor Walkinshaw will be holding a virtual Braddock District community meeting to discuss zMOD before the Board hearing, and everyone is encouraged to participate. Look for details in the January Beacon, on the Braddock District website, and on social media.

Comprehensive Plan for NW Corner of Lee Highway and Waples Mill Road

The northwest corner of the intersection of Lee Highway and Waples Mill Road contains an older house and an outbuilding that was formerly used as a contractor's office and workshop. An existing Public Storage facility surrounds the property on the north and west. The corner lot is for sale and Public Storage has expressed interest in expanding its self-storage use onto that property. This area is planned for office use with an option for office/mixed use should it be redeveloped. The intersection is also planned for a potential interchange after Shirley Gate Road is extended to the Fairfax County Parkway.

At Supervisor Walkinshaw's request, county planning staff began considering a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for both the corner lot and the surrounding Public Storage property to ensure that the plan for this corner remains in line with the vision for Fairfax Center. During this review, consideration is being given to what options might be appropriate for the site, whether self-storage or alternative uses. Particular attention is being paid to architecture and design, landscaping, pedestrian improvements, and park/recreational space.



County planning staff and representatives of Public Storage presented an update at the November 17 Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee meeting. Based on that feedback, along with staff comments, Public Storage is considering modifications to their proposal. A staff report is also being developed and is expected this winter. The Comprehensive Plan Amendment is scheduled for a hearing in front of the Planning Commission on February 10.

A concurrent rezoning application has been filed by Public Storage Southeast One, Inc. to consolidate the corner parcel with their existing self-storage property. Public Storage is proposing to demolish one row of its existing single-story self-storage bays and construct a climate-controlled five-story self-storage facility of approximately 150,000 square feet on the southeast corner of the property. Access to the site would be provided through a modified and improved entrance along Lee Highway designed per VDOT standards and the existing service drive that is being used for parking of commercial vehicles, including food trucks, would be removed. Consideration of this rezoning application has been deferred until the Comprehensive Plan review has been completed.

Commuter Parking Garage and Transit Center Approved at Government Center Parkway and Monument Drive

On November 17, the Board of Supervisors approved a commuter parking garage and transit center at the intersection of Government Center Parkway and Monument Drive. This property, which is adjacent to I-66, the Fairfax County Government Center Complex, and Fairfax Corner, is owned by the county and currently contains approximately 300 surface parking spaces on the side next to Fairfax Corner and a vacant undeveloped parcel on the west.

The new facility will include a nine-story parking structure with 820 parking spaces and an area on the ground floor for rideshare pickup and dropoff. It will provide a canopy-covered bus pavilion with eight bus bays, a kiss-and-ride area, separate bicycle parking, a Capital Bikeshare station, and a Fairfax Connector Store. Access to the site will be from Random Hills Road for commuter buses and from an existing entrance on Government Center Parkway for commuter, kiss-and-ride, and rideshare vehicles. The building is designed to achieve Parksmart certification and will include solar panels for net zero energy as well as a green roof on the top deck of the garage. The project will provide immediate commuter access via buses and for carpooling commuters to the newly constructed express

lanes. It will play a critical role in managing traffic congestion as a new transportation hub along I-66.

The Monument Drive parking garage project is currently in the design phase. The site plan and building plans have been submitted for review. Construction is expected to begin in late 2021 and be completed in late 2023.

Trinity Christian School Boundary Adjustment Approved

On December 1, the Board of Supervisors approved a Special Exception Amendment to allow a lot line adjustment between Trinity Christian School and an adjacent residential property. This land swap will allow the residential property owner to construct a garage in an area that would not currently meet the setback requirement. Trinity Christian School is not proposing any new construction or physical changes to its site. The School has also agreed to extend an existing conservation easement into the area being added to its property.

Proposal for Second Phase of Kenilworth Development on Hold

In early 2020, Christopher Land, LLC filed a rezoning application for approximately 4.43 acres of land located just south of the Kenilworth community at Caprino Court and Braddock Road. This property is currently developed with one single-family home built in 1955 that will continue to be occupied by the current owner and would be included in a subsequent phase of the project. The applicant is requesting to rezone this land from the R-1 District to the PDH-3 District to build 12 single-family detached dwelling units at a density of 2.71 dwelling units per acre. Nine houses would be constructed in phase one, and an additional three houses would be part of phase two, when the existing house is removed. Access would be provided by connecting Banting Drive and Caprino Court.

County staff review of this application remains on hold while the applicants consider changes to the design. Supervisor Walkinshaw plans to hold a virtual community meeting after an updated plan has been submitted to the county. A hearing before the Planning Commission has been rescheduled for February 10.

Update on Erickson Living's WoodLeigh Chase Retirement Community

Erickson Living is beginning demolition activities on the former Northern Virginia Training Center site located on Braddock Road. Demolition of the former Commonwealth facility is expected to be complete in early 2021. The first phase of the continuing care retirement community planned for the property is currently going through permit review. Construction of the temporary marketing center and first phase of the development is anticipated to begin in late spring 2021. For specific questions about the new facility or the reservation list for apartments, please contact the Greenspring Village sales office at (703) 923-3187.

Erickson has also finalized an agreement with the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) for development of the age-restricted affordable housing component of the project. APAH is a nonprofit affordable housing developer with over 30 years' experience in developing and managing quality affordable housing for Northern Virginia residents. This portion of the development will be constructed on the western portion of the property, where the group homes were located.

Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee

The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee will hold an electronic meeting on Tuesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. A draft agenda and details on how to connect to the meeting will be posted on the Braddock District website three days in advance. Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee meetings are open to the public, and interested residents are encouraged to participate.

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 on the **county website**. These matters will not come before the Board of Supervisors but will be decided by the BZA. Staff reports are normally available online two weeks before the scheduled hearing.

- **Derek and Yongxia Cosby – 4819 Ponderosa Drive, Annandale**
  SP 2020-BR-063
  The applicants sought to add an accessory dwelling unit and requested a reduction to minimum yard requirements based on error in building location to allow an accessory storage structure to remain 2.6 feet from the rear lot line. The entrance for the accessory dwelling unit will be located at the rear of the structure, and parking for the tenant will be on the street in front of the house. This application was approved by the BZA on November 18. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, may be found on the **county website**.

- **George E. Karch and Laquetta A. Karch – 4817 Marymead Drive, Fairfax**
  SP 2020-BR-071
  The applicants are seeking modifications to the limitations on the keeping of animals to keep up to 21 chickens on a 0.68-acre property. The chickens would be kept in a coop with a fenced run. The Zoning Ordinance only allows chickens to only be kept on lots that are two acres or greater without Special Permit approval. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on January 13, 2021. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the **county website**.

- **Deborah P. Buchanan – 10110 Round Top Court, Fairfax**
  SP 2020-BR-075
  The applicant is seeking modifications to the limitations on the keeping of animals to keep 4 dogs on the site. The Zoning Ordinance allows 1 or 2 dogs to be kept on a lot of this size, 10,537 square feet, without Special Permit approval. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on January 13, 2021. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the **county website**.

- **Shin Hyo Jin Kim – 4927 Gadsen Drive, Fairfax**

SP 2020-BR-089

The applicant is seeking a reduction to minimum yard requirements based on an error in building location to permit an accessory storage structure to remain 2.9 feet from a rear lot line. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on February 10, 2021. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the **county website**.

- **Gerald N. Miranda, Jr. – 8920 Rhyme Court, Annandale**

SP 2020-BR-093

The applicant is seeking a modification to the limitations on the keeping of animals to raise and keep up to 12 chickens and 4 ducks for meat and eggs on a 0.65-acre lot. The Zoning Ordinance allows chickens and ducks to only be kept on lots that are two acres or greater without Special Permit approval. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on February 10, 2021. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the **county website**.

New County Webpage for More Information on Land Cases

In response to citizen requests, the county's Department of Planning and Development has set up a new webpage to make more land use information available to residents. This site contains links to the zoning applications received and accepted in the previous week, all zoning cases pending before the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission, all active cases pending before the Board of Zoning Appeals, packages of applications scheduled to be heard by the Board of Supervisors by meeting date, plus links to previous zoning cases. There is also a useful interactive map where you can search by address. **Visit the county website** to learn more. Look for more information on how to use this site in future Braddock Beacons.

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