

August 11, 2017



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# The BRADDOCK BEACON

A Monthly Newsletter from Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook

Volume 9 | Issue 8

## Fairfax Water Transmission Main Project to Impact Braddock Road

Fairfax Water will begin a year-long water main construction project on Braddock Road starting at the end of this month.

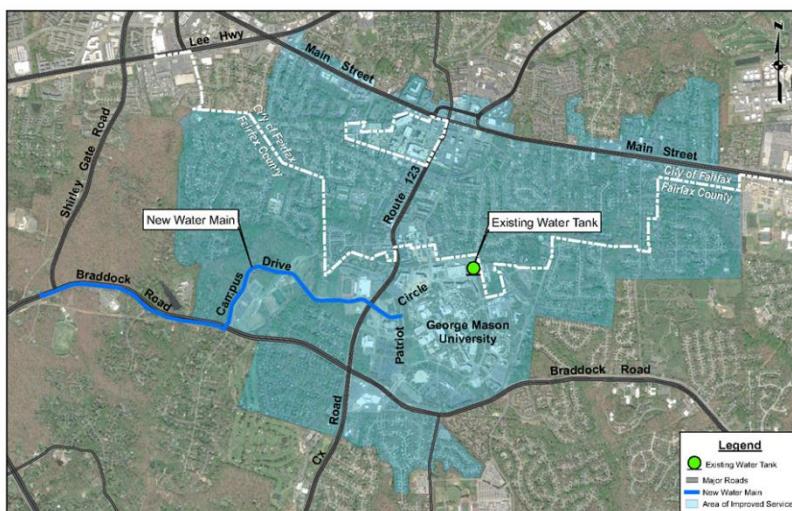
The project will primarily affect the area between Shirley Gate Road and Campus Drive. The road work will occur from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, and 9:30 pm to 2 pm on Fridays. Fairfax Water says traffic will be maintained in both directions of Braddock Road throughout the project, yet occasional lane closures will occur.

The project is part of Fairfax Water's Integrated System Master plan. This component will consist of building a new 24-inch diameter water main approximately 12,000 feet long on GMU and VDOT property. It will become the primary source of water for a larger tank being constructed on the GMU campus. According to Fairfax Water "these projects will improve water service by increasing delivery pressure to areas of higher ground elevation in the southern portion of the City of Fairfax and portions of Fairfax County in the vicinity of GMU."

If you have any questions or concerns please call our office at 703-425-9300.



Supervisor Cook has served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and lives in Kings Park with his wife and six children.



## Back to School

Reminder: All Fairfax County Public Schools will begin again starting August 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Diversion First Initiative Chosen for National Behavioral Health Institute

Fairfax County's Diversion First program was accepted to participate in the Data Driven Justice and Behavioral Health Design Institute, a highly selective meeting hosted in Rockville, Maryland from Sept. 6-8.

Diversion First is a unique County program that focuses on providing treatment rather than incarceration for low level offenders who are mentally ill or developmentally disabled. Fairfax County Supervisor John Cook, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, is currently on the Diversion First leadership team and helped found the program in early 2015 with other County leaders and government entities.

The program has shown remarkable success since its inception. From January through June 2017, law enforcement officers successfully diverted 211 people from incarceration to receive mental health treatment instead. In 2016, 375 people were also diverted through the program. Read more: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2017/diversion-first-initiative-chosen-national-institute.htm>

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# Cook in the Community



**Best of Braddock Awards and Picnic:** Supervisor Cook hosted Braddock District Council's annual Best of Braddock awards ceremony on July 12 to honor residents and public servants for their dedication to serving the Braddock community.



**Royal Lake Ribbon Cutting:** Supervisor Cook attended the official ribbon cutting ceremony to reopen the recently dredged Royal Lake on July 15.

**Duffy House Day of Pampering:** The event on July 15 was kicked off with a supportive speech from Supervisor Cook to thank the Duffy House volunteers for the work they do to support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.



## Braddock

**Battle of the Bands:** Ten local bands competed at Royal Lake Park on July 16 for the chance to win a spot in next year's Braddock Nights line up. The event was a great success thanks to all the performers, volunteers, vendors, public safety personnel, and audience members. Congratulations to the winners, St. Stephen's Youth Band!

**Pollinator Meadow Pick-a-Thon:** Fairfax residents from across the county gathered at the Government Center to pick native wildflowers in Pollinator Meadow on July 20.



## National Night Out

Neighborhoods all over the Braddock district held barbeques and block parties to show their support for local law enforcement on August 1.



# Braddock Neighborhood News

Supervisor Cook hosts a monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16, which is available on most cable networks. Supervisor Cook invites subject matter experts and other guests to speak about highly important issues effecting the Braddock neighborhood.

Every year, an average of 87 Fairfax County residents commit suicide. It is a national epidemic that devastates hundreds of families every day. On this episode of BNN Supervisor Cook interviewed suicide prevention experts and advocates to help viewers better understand the issue and discover ways that they can help.

The special guests included:

- Lyn Tomlinson, Assistant Deputy Director of the Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board
- Ellen Shannon, the National Capital Area Director of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Karrie Leigh Boswell, Volunteer Walk Chair of Fairfax's own Out of Darkness Walk



The show airs throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 5 p.m.

## Braddock Neighbor of the Month



The Braddock Neighbor of the month for July is Thomas Sords, who showed exemplary service as a volunteer at the Braddock Battle of the Bands. He had the particularly taxing assignment of directing food trucks, ambulances, police cars, and band members' vehicles to their respective parking spots on the concert grounds. This was made even more difficult when the crowds came in. He navigated the task with ease and a calm head, which helped everyone make it to their spot without incident.

Sords is a Braddock native through and through. He is a graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School and resides with his family in Kings Park West.

If you would like to nominate one of your neighbors for their service to the community, contact Supervisor Cook's Office at 703-425-9300 or email [braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov).

# Human Services Corner

## Backpack Collection for Children in Need

Our office will be collecting backpacks from August 1 until September 1 as part of a county wide program hosted by Collect for Kids.

Collect for Kids is a public private partnership that provides local children from economically challenged families with the school supplies they need to begin the school year on equal footing with their peers.



Their needs are as simple as A-B-C! Cash (used to purchase school supplies in bulk); Backpacks and Calculators (used in “loan pools” at our high schools). More than two dozen local organizations from across Fairfax County raise funds, purchase supplies and collect backpacks. This collective effort results in reaching more than 60% of children who are eligible for free and reduced price meals.

## Locally Produced Musical Highlights Strength in the Face of Dementia

On August 12 @ 7:00 pm, Tangles: A Musical Play About Family and Dementia will be at the George Mason University’s Harris Theatre. This play depicts the loving bond between an older woman and her granddaughter and reflects the social reality of non-traditional family structures and how strength and resiliency can emerge despite the devastating disease. Tangles will be followed by a discussion focused on finding solutions and new paths of empowerment for patients, providers, and families. The production fuses traditional theatrical storytelling with medical research. Tickets are \$10.

## Keys to Safe Driving As We Age

Braddock District Council Aging in Place Committee sponsors Keys to Safe Driving As We Age on Wednesday, August 16th from 1 – 3 pm @Braddock District Supervisor’s Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road. Speaker: Mike Perel, US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration retiree, Braddock Representative on the Fairfax County Commission on Aging.

## Park Updates

## Grant Awarded for Development of Dog Park at Monticello Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board approved a \$10,000 Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program request at its meeting on June 28, 2017. The Braddock Dogs group requested the grant to develop a dog park in Monticello Park at 5315 Guinea Rd., Fairfax, Virginia.

Braddock Dogs formed several years ago with the goals of partnering with the Park Authority to find a suitable location within the Braddock District to develop a dog park and to raise funds for the park once a site was located. The Mastenbrook grant funds will be combined with a \$10,000 contribution from Braddock Dogs and \$52,360

from the 2012 Park Bond to complete the project. A dog park was included in the Monticello Park Master Plan that was approved in June 2012.

The Monticello dog park will be developed consistent with current standards, be approximately one acre in size, have small and large dog areas, and have a water spigot. It's scheduled for completion during the summer of 2018.

Mastenbrook bond-funded grants provide limited matching funds for projects in Fairfax County parks. In 1998, John Mastenbrook, a 21-year veteran of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, suggested a grant program be established to encourage public and private ventures that would improve Fairfax County parks and park facilities. The program fills a gap between limited bond funding and the community's desire for new neighborhood park facilities.

Since 1999, there have been more than 150 Mastenbrook Grant projects with awards of approximately \$1.3 million. The grants have gone toward projects in Fairfax County valued at more than \$7.9 million.

For more information, or to apply for a matching grant, visit online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/mastenbrookgrant.htm> or call 703-324-8591.

Web: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir098-17.htm>

## Intern Spotlight

Our office hosted a number of bright and talented interns from several Braddock District high schools. Our last summer intern this year was Ms. Cristin Choi of Lake Braddock Secondary School. She is an active member of DECA, the Asian American Student Association, and the Latin Honors Society. She provided a special essay on her experience interning in the Supervisor's office. Thank you Cristin for your excellent work and we wish you the best in all your future endeavors.

### What I Learned Interning for Supervisor Cook

By Cristin Choi



Although it is often overlooked, the local government is the level of government that most directly impacts citizens. The Fairfax County Youth Leadership Program recognizes this fact, and aims to educate young citizens about their local government and encourage service within the community. In a year-long program, high school juniors attend monthly meetings, complete work assignments and meet with County leaders. The program culminates with a summer internship that allows participants to learn about the inner workings of a specific County department or agency.

For the past three weeks, I have had the opportunity to intern at Braddock District Supervisor John Cook's office. Located right down the street from my high school, it is here that I was exposed to American government in its simplest and purest form. Although the Supervisor's office was staffed by only six people, the breadth of the matters they handled and their efficiency in doing so was impressive. They worked tirelessly to respond to constituents' issues, concerns and suggestions. It is not the president who fixes potholes, or congressmen who respond to neighborhood noise complaints; rather, it is the people at this office. The issues that affect us most directly are those handled by our friends, our neighbors: the local government employee.

A highlight of my internship was attending a Board of Supervisors meeting. It was intriguing to see the County's decision-makers at work and to hear constituents voice their concerns.

I also had the chance to attend fun community events like the first-ever Braddock District Battle of the Bands. An event like this requires a great deal of behind-the-scenes preparation by employees and volunteers. These are the people who make Fairfax County a wonderful place to live.

Government at the local level is necessary to maintain the strength of services crucial to our community: public transportation, parks, human services and more. Local government is not as glamorous as Capitol Hill, and its activities do not grace the headlines of national newspapers, but I would argue that the local government is even more essential than state or federal government. It is the level of government closest to the people; it is the cornerstone of our republic.

Through my internship, I have been able to witness the organization, hard work and dedication required to make this community excellent. It has been my privilege to work with the people who keep Braddock District running, and I am proud to participate in our democracy.

## Land Use Updates

### Proposed Stormwater/Wastewater Consolidated Facility

We will reschedule for the Fall a meeting to discuss a proposed consolidation of the county's Stormwater Planning Division, Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division, and Wastewater Collection Division operations on land located at Freds Oak Road and the Fairfax County Parkway.

Specifically, county staff are working to refine peak hours of operation and projected numbers of staff and vehicles. County staff are also working with their counterparts from the Virginia Department of Transportation to do analyses of various scenarios looking at possible traffic impacts on the surrounding streets, including alternatives at the intersection of Freds Oak Road and the Fairfax County Parkway and potential modifications of the intersection of Clara Barton Drive and Ox Road.

We plan to reschedule the meeting early this fall. We also hope to do a walk with staff and members of the community that will focus on questions concerning lighting and screening of the proposed facility.

### Application for Expanded Home Child Care Facility

Hasnaa Ali has requested a Special Exception to permit home child care for 12 children with one full-time assistant at 10586 John Ayres Drive in Fairfax. She currently cares for seven children. Hours of operation would be from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., with staggered drop-off and pick-up times. Child care would continue to be provided on the first floor and basement levels, with the fully-fenced backyard used for outdoor play. Because this site is located in a PDH-3 District (Planned Development Housing), the application must be approved by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

## **Proposed Stormwater/Wastewater Consolidated Facility**

The second community meeting to discuss a proposed consolidation of the county's Stormwater Planning Division, Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division, and Wastewater Collection Division operations on land located at Freds Oak Road and the Fairfax County Parkway was recently postponed. This delay will allow county staff more time to examine the concerns raised at the community meeting on May 23 and get complete answers to the questions that were asked.

Specifically, county staff are working to refine peak hours of operation and projected numbers of staff and vehicles. County staff are also working with their counterparts from the Virginia Department of Transportation to do analyses of various scenarios looking at possible traffic impacts on the surrounding streets, including alternatives at the intersection of Freds Oak Road and the Fairfax County Parkway and potential modifications of the intersection of Clara Barton Drive and Ox Road.

We plan to reschedule the meeting early this fall. We also hope to do a walk with staff and members of the community that will focus on questions concerning lighting and screening of the proposed facility.

## **Update Proposed for Kings Park Shopping Center Sign – SE 2017-BR-007**

Kings Park Shopping Center has filed a Special Exception Application to update the existing sign near the intersection of Braddock and Burke Lake Roads. This would allow the current pylon sign to be re-clad with materials that are consistent both in design and color to those used in the recent renovation of the shopping center. The current sign is internally lit and would remain so. The new sign would be approximately the same height and size.

The Planning Commission will hold a hearing on this application on September 13 in the Board Auditorium of the Government Center at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, beginning at 8:15 p.m. Individuals who wish to speak at the hearing are encouraged to register in advance at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/speaker.htm>.

## **Application for Expanded Home Child Care Facility – SE 2017-BR-013**

Hasnaa Ali has requested a Special Exception to permit home child care for 12 children with one full-time assistant at 10586 John Ayres Drive in Fairfax. She currently cares for seven children. Hours of operation would be from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., with staggered drop-off and pick-up times. Child care would continue to be provided on the first floor and basement levels, with the fully-fenced backyard used for outdoor play. Because this site is located in a PDH-3 District (Planned Development Housing), the application must be approved by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

A hearing in this case has been tentatively scheduled before the Planning Commission on October 12 in the Board Auditorium of the Government Center at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, beginning at 8:15 p.m. Individuals who wish to speak at the hearing are encouraged to register online at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/speaker.htm>.

## **Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee**

The Committee does not meet in August. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m. in Braddock Hall.