

Volume 13 | Issue 3

# James R. Walkinshaw

# Braddock District Supervisor **The Braddock Beacon**

#### Dear Neighbor,

Last week, County Executive Bryan Hill presented his **Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposal**. The presentation kicks off our budget process and, like last year, I will be listening to your thoughts, concerns, and reactions before adoption of the final budget on May 4. To that end, on Tuesday, March 30, at 7:00 p.m., I will be hosting a virtual Braddock District Budget Town Hall and the Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings April 13-15. Homeowners should have received their annual real estate tax assessment and this **helpful video** explains the assessment process. Additional information on both the town hall and public hearings will be included in next week's Walkinshaw Advisory email.

After public hearings and approval by the Board, Fairfax County has joined our neighboring jurisdictions in banning the use of plastic bags for yard waste. While this change went into effect on March 1, 2021, there is a grace period until April 19, 2021. I encourage everyone to review this **yard waste article** for helpful tips and reminders on how to manage your yard waste in an environmentally friendly way.

Shifting gears to the COVID-19 vaccine, the Fairfax County Health Department has finished sending first-dose invitations for people who registered on January 18, and they are now sending invitations to registrants from January 19. The latest county dashboard reflects this update. Some of our older residents have struggled to find transportation options to get to their vaccination appointments. Fortunately, Fairfax County and compassionate community providers have numerous options to get residents to their appointments. Please continue reading below to find this information on page 15.

Also, on March 2, the Health Department **provided an update** to the Board of Supervisors on the County vaccination efforts. During the meeting we received a presentation on the County **Vaccine Equity Strategy** and an update on the **vaccine distribution** efforts. While we are making strides in the right direction, it is imperative that we remain vigilant in protecting ourselves and our community from COVID-19. Please continue practicing CDC COVID-19 Health Guidelines.

On a final note, I'd like to invite you to listen to my newest episode of Braddock Voices, a recently launched community podcast where I speak to local community leaders, decision makers, and Braddock District residents on interesting local topics. This episode features Jen Cole, the Executive Director of Clean Fairfax. We talk about Clean Fairfax's mission, their recent accomplishments, and littering reduction strategies!

You can watch this episode on my **YouTube Channel** and **Channel 16's on demand section**. If you prefer to listen to the podcast on the go, you can visit my **Soundcloud account**. You can enjoy these three options for free, and you do not need to have an account. Make sure to reach out to me if you have recommendations on guests we should include next!

Yours in service,

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Supervisor James Walkinshaw



Supervisor Walkinshaw recording an episode of Braddock Voices with Clean Fairfax Director Jen Cole

# Walkinshaw in the Community



Supervisor Walkinshaw hosting a virtual COVID-19 Town Hall with Fairfax County Health Director Dr. Gloria Addo- Ayensu on February 22.



Supervisor Walkinshaw helping constituents donate to the Stuff the Bus Food Drive on February 6.



Supervisor Walkinshaw and residents learning about the core sediment sampling process at Lake Accotink on February 22.

Supervisor Walkinshaw also:

- > Met with Cub Scout Pack 1968 on February 4.
- Joined the Kings Park West Citizen's Association and Friends of Royal Lake for their Crooked Creek Park Clean-up on February 15.
- > Participated in the Fairfax County's NAACP General Membership Meeting on February 25.

# **Citizens of the Month**

This month's Braddock District Citizens of the Month are Olivia Preston, and Jessica and Jennifer Hosken. These outstanding scouts recently became part of the prestigious inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts – a group of fewer than 1,000 nationwide. They became founding members of Scout Troop 1965, which was established February 1, 2019, the day after the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program opened to females. Since then, they have become members of the Order of the Arrow, – a scouting national honor society – braved a 50-mile white water kayaking trek, and spent more than 30 nights camping while also hiking more than 100 miles each.

In addition to their outdoor adventures, our local Eagle Scouts have also carried out significant volunteer projects. Scouts are expected to volunteer on a regular basis, but Eagle Scout candidates must create, plan, and execute a large volunteer project that leaves a lasting impact. Olivia, who is a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, built canoe and kayak racks for her troop's sponsoring organization, Lake Braddock Community Association. This project took 3 months to design, obtain supplies, build teams, and place the racks in service. Jessica, who is also a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, designed and painted 7 murals around Lake Braddock Secondary School. Jenny Hoskin, a sophomore at Lake Braddock Secondary School, built an 11' x 14' pavilion for her troop's sponsoring organization.

On behalf of the Braddock District, I'd like to congratulate these three tremendous Eagle Scouts!



Jessica Hosken



Jenny Hosken



**Olivia Preston** 

# New Staff Aide Rebecca Thompson

Supervisor Walkinshaw is excited to welcome new staff aide, Rebecca Thompson. Rebecca is covering human services issues including the Health Department COVID-19 response and the Council to End Domestic Violence.

Rebecca is originally from Iowa and graduated with a Bachelors in Social Work from the University of Iowa. She moved to the DC area shortly after graduation for a summer internship and decided to make the move permanent. Rebecca Thompson has spent the last several years working in different nonprofits throughout Northern Virginia. Most recently, she has worked as a Community Care Manager with Cornerstones and as a Residential Counselor at Second Story. She has a master's degree in social work from Virginia Commonwealth University where she focused on maternal health policy and women's issues. While there she served as the student representative on the Masters of Social Work committee and on the Academic Programs committee. She was also chosen to give the commencement speech for her graduating class.

When she is not working, Rebecca enjoys walking the trails in Reston with her family and trying new restaurants via carry out. She is excited about the opportunity to serve the residents of Braddock District.



# **Environmental News**

### **County Leaders Approve Elimination of Plastic Bags for Yard Waste**

Joining several neighboring communities in the D.C. Metro Area that have banned the use of plastic bags for yard waste, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, February 23, amended the county's Solid Waste Management ordinance, which now prohibits the use of plastic bags for set out and collection of yard waste.

The change took effect on Monday, March 1,



and requires County residents who have curbside collection of yard waste to use reusable containers or paper yard waste bags to set out grass, leaves, and brush. \* Although the new rule took effect March 1, the Solid Waste Management Program will be exercising enforcement discretion for a six-week period to allow time for customer notification and education on the new rule. Enforcement will begin Monday, April 19, 2021. Learn more about the <u>elimination of</u> **plastic bags** on the County webpage. \* Check with your private hauler if you do not use the County hauling service.

### **CECAP Climate Surveys Now Available**

Not one, not two, but three brief surveys are now online to capture your feedback on climate planning in Fairfax County. The county is developing its first-ever Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan, or CECAP, and is seeking public input to inform the goals, strategies, and actions the plan will include. Now through March 14, you can complete very short surveys on energy issues, transportation, development, and waste issues, and on climate planning in general.

Can you spare five minutes to share your opinion? Help build a plan that works for you and the rest of our community for years to come. **Find the surveys here**.



Play Climate Video Above

# **COVID-19 Vaccine Updates**

### **All COVID-19 Vaccines Are Free**

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the United States. No one will have to pay for the vaccine. However:

#### > Vaccinators Can Charge an "Administrative Fee" to Insurance Providers

Providing COVID-19 vaccines in a clinic setting is not without cost to the provider. So, the federal government allows vaccine providers to be reimbursed for vaccine administration fees by a person's public or private insurance company. The fee helps to defray costs associated with this increased service.

This is why some vaccine providers might ask for insurance information – it is so they can collect the administrative fee. No one will be charged any out-of-pocket expenses by a vaccinator or by an insurance company.

#### Not All Vaccinators Ask for Health Insurance Information – But Don't Let It Stop You if They Do

Multiple vaccine partners in the Fairfax Health District are helping in the monumental task of getting all eligible individuals vaccinated, including pharmacies and medical providers. Each might have its own registration process, which may or may not include asking for insurance information.

Regardless of the provider's registration process, it is important that you complete it and take the steps to be vaccinated. If you have questions or concerns about the registration, you can always call the vaccine provider.

#### > Uninsured People Follow the Same Path to Vaccination as the Insured

People who do not have health insurance follow the exact same process to get vaccinated as those who have insurance. If your vaccine provider requests insurance information but you do not have it, just say so. Being uninsured has zero impact on your ability to be vaccinated.

Currently in the Fairfax Health District, phase 1a and some groups in phase 1b are eligible for vaccination. If you are eligible, **please register on Fairfax County's COVID-19 Website**.

#### > Note on Who is Providing Vaccines

As we've noted before, the Fairfax Health Department is partnering with providers and pharmacies such as Inova, Trusted Doctors, My Dr, and Giant. Those vaccinators are serving individuals registered with the Fairfax Health Department. Other providers such as CVS and Safeway are independently scheduling vaccinations using the supply from the federal partnership, and they are not working off of the Fairfax Health Department's list.

### What You Need to Know About the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

The Virginia Department of Health **has announced** that it will begin offering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Fairfax County is currently evaluating how many Johnson & Johnson doses it will receive, how those doses will be given at local clinics, and how much vaccine will be distributed to health partners.

#### More About the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine:

- On February 27, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to be used as the latest tool to help fight COVID-19. The vaccine was also recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Vaccines now are available from three different drug manufacturers: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. This is good news because it means more supply and more options to help protect our community. Residents are encouraged to get whatever vaccine is available to them first.
- All three vaccines are extremely effective at preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. Although there are differences between the vaccines, the most important difference is that Johnson & Johnson only requires one dose, and the other vaccines each require two doses several weeks apart. In addition, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is easier to store.
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine uses a different technology, but one that has been developed over many years for several vaccines. It is not an mRNA vaccine like Pfizer and Moderna. Instead, it is a viral vector vaccine, that uses a harmless adenovirus, one of a family of viruses which causes the common cold, as a vector to deliver instructions, in the form of genetic material (a gene), to make a piece of the coronavirus that stimulates our immune response.

# **Community News**



# YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!

on the County's Plans for Spending Federal Housing Funds

Every year, Fairfax County receives federal funds to support activities to meet critical community housing, human services, and community development needs. The County's **5-Year Consolidated Plan** identifies the needs and describes the goals and strategies for the use of federal funds in meeting those needs during a 5-year time period. Each year's **1-Year Action Plan** outlines specific activities for which the annual federal funding will be applied to meet the established strategies and goals. We're looking for your comments on our overall goals and our proposed actions for FY 2022.

### **STEP 1: Review Our Proposed Plans**



Copies of the 5-Year Consolidated Plan and the FY 2022 Action Plan can be found:

Online: (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/housing/data/consolidated-plan)

**Physical Copies**\* will also be provided for review at:

- The Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax)
- The Gerry Hyland Government Center (8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria)

\*Please note that these locations may have alternate hours or levels of access due to COVID-19. We highly encourage referencing the online version.

## STEP 2: Submit Your Comments by March 23, 2021



Online: http://bit.ly/FairfaxConsolidatedPlan

Email: Beverly.Moses@fairfaxcounty.gov

#### U.S. Mail or Hand-Deliver\* to:

Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development Attn: Beverly Moses 3700 Pender Drive Fairfax, Virginia 22030

**Public Hearing:** The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will host a public hearing on March 23, 2021. For information regarding how to sign up to speak at the public hearing, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form.

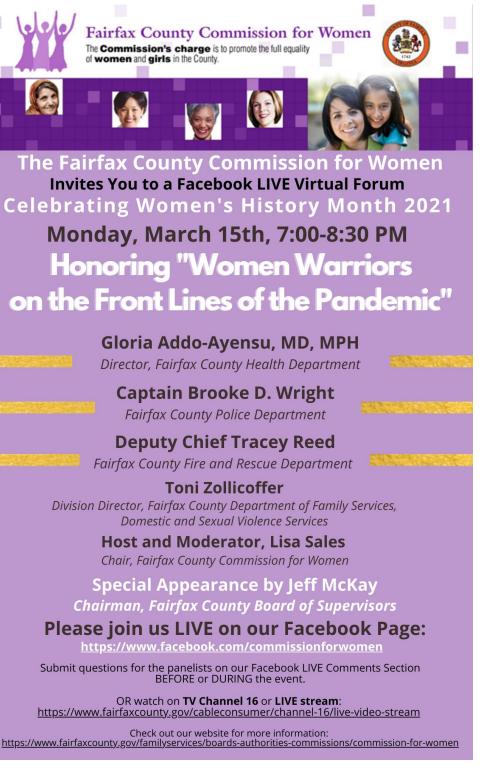
\* If you intend on hand-delivering your comments, please deposit them in the grey drop box to the right of the building entrance.



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all County programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. Please call 703-246-5101 or TTY 711.

### **Commission for Women's Upcoming Facebook Live Event**

Please join the Fairfax County Commission for Women as they celebrate Women's History Month 2021. This year they are holding a Facebook LIVE Forum, with their theme honoring "Women Warriors on the Front Lines of the Pandemic" for their leadership, courage, and commitment in serving those in need across Fairfax County during this unprecedented and extraordinarily dangerous time of the Coronavirus pandemic. Guests are encouraged to submit questions to the panelists on their **Facebook Live** comments section before or during the event, using the link on our evite on their work and experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Check our website for **more information**.



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### **Community Meeting on Pickleball Courts at Wakefield Park**

Supervisor Walkinshaw and the Fairfax County Park Authority will be holding a virtual community meeting on April 8, at 7:00 p.m., to discuss pickleball courts at Wakefield Park. The pickleball community has expressed a desire for more courts dedicated to pickleball. A survey was conducted by the Park Authority the beginning of this year to seek public input. They received over 1,800 responses and are currently analyzing the data. They hope to share those results later this spring.

In the meantime, the Park Authority has identified Courts 12 and 13 at Wakefield Park for possible repurposing as pickleball courts. These two courts were originally built for platform tennis, but have not been used for that purpose in many years. The courts are in poor condition. The Park Authority said that the court dimensions would work for pickleball. In addition to placing the courts at surface level, they would make them ADA accessible and could add some seating between the courts. The community meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss this potential project which would provide dedicated pickleball courts at Wakefield Park. We will provide the meeting link as soon as it is available from the Park Authority.

### All Fairfax County Public Library Locations Will Re-Open for Interior Express Services

All Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) locations will re-open for interior Express Services on Monday, March 22. A few minor updates:

- Customers will be able to visit FCPL branches for up to 30 minutes, on Monday and Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Curbside pickup of materials on hold will remain available to customers Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Capacity limits will be in place: up to 30 members of the public at a time may be in community branches and up to 60 may be in regional branches.
- Library programming will remain virtual and meeting rooms will remain closed at this time.

### Marion Homes Document Shredding Events

<u>Marion Homes Inc</u>., a local nonprofit dedicated to serving the intellectually disabled, is hosting two upcoming document shredding events. The events will take place on:

- > April 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the St. Mary of Sorrows (Fairfax)
- > April 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Holy Spirit (Annandale)

### George Mason University (GMU) Master Plan Information

George Mason University's master planning process is a critical part of their efforts to plan for the University's growth and development. The master plan will serve as a decision-making framework for how they will use their campuses and their physical space to advance Mason's mission. More information about the master plan and the work to date can be found on their **master plan site**. There you can submit feedback on identity and guiding principles by the end of April, watch the recent **March 2 Town Hall**, and submit comments on specific physical campus planning topics through June. Your interest and participation continue to enrich this process and are essential to developing a plan that captures the best thinking, aspirations and needs of our community.

### Fairfax County Affordable Housing Symposium

Supervisor Walkinshaw will join the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority and The George Mason University School of Business's 2021 Fairfax County Housing Symposium on Wednesday, March 10, from 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. The Housing Symposium will bring together local leaders, members of the business community, educators, healthcare professionals, housing industry and policy experts, advocates, and neighbors as we discuss affordable housing in Fairfax County. Visit the event website to <u>register and learn more</u>.



### 2021 Fair Housing Art & Literary Contest

The Fairfax County Student Human Rights Commission (SHRC) holds this annual art and literary contest to create awareness among high school students of fair housing issues and laws and to promote the importance of providing equal housing opportunities for all. This yearly contest is open to all FCPS high school students within Fairfax County. The entries are judged by category, and the winner for each category receives a \$300 prize. Students may participate by submitting artwork or a written work based on the year's theme. This year's theme is **"Home Knows No Distance." Contest entries must be postmarked by March 19, 2021**. The prize is co-sponsored by the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors®. Winners will be recognized at the Office of Human Rights & Equity Programs' Annual Fair Housing Month event in April 2021. Visit the contest website to <u>learn more</u>.

# Joint Webinar on Employment Rights and Obligations During COVID-19

The Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs (OHREP), in partnership with the Alexandria Office of Human Rights, the Arlington County Office of Human Rights, the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights, and the Prince William County Office of Human Rights, will hold a joint webinar "Employment Rights and Obligations During COVID-19" on **Tuesday**, **March 9, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** During the webinar, representatives from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will provide updated pandemic guidance for employers and employees and discuss how vaccination status will affect the workplace. The webinar is free, and there is no charge to attend.

# EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS DURING COVID-19

## TUESDAY, MARCH 9 3 P.M. – 4 P.M. ET

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The presentation will cover updated pandemic guidance from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and how vaccination status will affect the workplace.

> Microsoft Teams Link: http://bit.ly/March9JointWebinar



To request reasonable ADA accommodations, contact Ajashu Thomas at 703-324-2953, TTY 711 or ajashu.thomas@fairfaxcounty.gov on or before February 22, 2021. A Fairfax County, Virginia publication. 02/21

### Fairfax County Park Authority Summer Camp Registration Underway

Registration for summer camps is now underway. The Fairfax County Park Authority offers more than 1,000 summer day camp options for children ages 3 to 17 at locations including RECenters, nature centers, historic sites, lakefront parks, golf courses, and schools.

With fewer camps and fewer spaces available this summer, getting organized and registered early is even more important. Want to make sure you get the popular camp your child wants? Here's how it works:

- **Browse** through the <u>Camp Guide</u> with your kids and find the camps that interest you.
- Download the <u>Camp Spreadsheet</u> listing all Park Authority camps. (*Tip: Read* "How to Use This Spreadsheet" by clicking on a tab at the bottom.)
- **Sort** by neighborhood, camp type, age, and camp week.
- **Choose** Once you pick a camp, write down the code on your <u>My Summer Camp</u> <u>Planner Sheet</u>. Plan the whole summer for each of your children. (*Tip: Right-click on the* code to copy and paste it into your planner sheet. Then you can copy it easily when registering online.)
- Register <u>Go to Parktakes Online to register</u>. Just type in the Catalog ID code and register. Summer planned!

# PPP Loans, Economic Injury Disaster Loan grants, and Fairfax Rise grants are NOT to be included in "gross receipts" for purposes of computing BPOL Taxes

Extraordinary COVID-19 loans/grants such as economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, and Fairfax Rise grants can be excluded from taxable gross receipts when filing your Business, Professional, and Occupational License (BPOL) tax returns. PPP loans that are not yet forgiven are expressly excluded from gross receipts for purposes of computing County BPOL taxes by Virginia Code and the County's BPOL ordinance Tax Commissioner. More information on BPOL can be found on the **Fairfax County website**.

## <u>Fairfax Water</u>

Need help paying your Farifax Water bill?

Apply for assistance at: bit.ly/FWoptions

**Apply Today!** Funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.



### Need Help Paying Your Fairfax Water Bill?

Need help paying your Fairfax Water bill? Eligible residents can apply for assistance through the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program.

An **application is available** on Fairfax Water's website. To qualify, you must meet certain eligibility requirements, attest that you are experiencing

financial hardship due to the coronavirus public health emergency, and **submit an application** to Fairfax Water. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so please apply soon.

For additional assistance, call Fairfax Water's customer service department to discuss payment options. The call center is available weekdays, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at (703) 698-5800 (TTY 711).

# **Human Services Corner**

### **Need Help Getting to Your COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment?**

If you or someone you know does not have a trusted family member or friend who can provide transportation to a COVID-19 vaccination appointment, Fairfax County and community providers have numerous options to get residents to their appointments.

For older adults, people on limited incomes, or individuals with disabilities, our Department of Neighborhood and Community Services offers a subsidized taxi voucher program. Visit the **Human Services Transportation website** to apply for vouchers.

The following community organizations are providing volunteer transportation to older adults:

- Herndon Village Network For those 55 and older in Herndon. Must be a member (annual fee is \$20). Call (703) 375-9439.
- Shepherd's Center of Annandale-Springfield For those 50 and older in Annandale and Springfield. Call (703) 941-1419.
- Shepherd's Center of Great Falls For those 55 and older in Great Falls. Call (703) 586-9696.
- Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke For those 50 and older in the Fairfax and Burke areas. Call (703) 323-4788.
- Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church For those 50 and older in McLean, Arlington, and Falls Church. Call (703) 506-2199.
- Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon For those 55 and older in Oakton, Vienna, Reston, and Herndon. Call (703) 281-0538.
- Shepherd's Center of Western Fairfax For those 50 and older in the Western Fairfax area. Call (703) 246-5920.
- Shepherd's Center of South County For those 50 and older in the South County area. Call (703) 799-0505.
- MetroAccess For customers who are eligible, this is a shared-ride, door-to-door, paratransit service for people whose disability prevents them from using bus or rail. See MetroAccess Eligibility Requirements for more information.

Additionally, the County is providing free rides via taxi companies to anyone with a vaccine appointment who does not have access to their own transportation. To schedule your vaccine transportation, call the Health Department Vaccine Call Center at (703) 324-7404, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You will need to provide your name, phone number, date and time of vaccine appointment, and appointment address as well as your home address. Once the call center confirms eligibility, they will contact the Human Services Transportation team to arrange transportation.

### Tax Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Real estate and vehicle tax relief is provided by Fairfax County to citizens who are 65 or older, or permanently disabled, and meet certain income and asset eligibility requirements. For an application, please call the Tax Department (DTA) at (703) 222-8234, TTY 711 or <u>download the</u> <u>form</u> from their website.

Returning applicants must file their taxes between January 1 and May 3. DTA is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., and on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment. To learn more about tax relief and exemptions or to make an appointment, please visit the **Tax Administration's webpage** or call (703) 222-8234.

Supervisor Walkinshaw's office is available to assist you with technical services and to connect you with the Tax Administration if you are applying for tax relief. Contact us at (703) 425-9300.

### Volunteer Opportunities Both In-Person and Remote Positions Available

The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke and South County (SCFB/SC) has provided uninterrupted free transportation to medical appointments and to grocery stores throughout this pandemic to older adults living independently in their own homes in our service area who are unable to drive themselves. New volunteers are always **welcome to apply**.

If you'd like to join the team, new volunteers are always welcome. Remote opportunities are available! Work from the comfort of your own home by providing office support, making friendly phone calls, managing our website, maintaining our social media presence, or become a driver for the medical and companion shopping programs. Contact Jean Browne, Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator today, (703) 715-7592, <u>recruiter@scfbva.org</u>. Volunteer applications are available <u>here</u>

### 2021 Fairfax County Virtual Teen Job Fair

Whether you have already had your first job experience, you are looking for one, or you just want to gain some job-seeking tips, the Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs are designed to help high school students connect with employers and develop experience in the workforce.

#### Register for either event:

- > Saturday March 13, 2:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m.
- > Saturday, March 20, 11:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m.

In addition to chatting with employers, you'll be able to join online sessions on how to create and build your resume. No matter how much or how little experience you have, this is great opportunity for all high school students.

### Lifetime Learning Institute Northern Virginia's April Forum

Puerto Rico is undergoing a massive energy transformation. By 2050, 100 percent of the island's power is expected to come from renewable sources. But what about 2021?

Currently, most electrical power flows from fossil fuel plants in the south to consumers in the north, where 70 percent of the island's power is used. When anything happens to the southern plants, power outages and blackouts rapidly spread across the island.

David K. Owens, recognized as one of the foremost authorities on electric utility issues, will address these problems at LLI/NOVA's Forum on April 7. He is Vice Chair of the Board of the utility that owns the Puerto Rico grid. Owens envisions that micro grids will be built throughout the island to reduce power outages from major storms and earthquakes.

Make sure to **learn more and register** for this forum before Saturday, April 3, 2021.

# Transportation

### **Braddock District Proposed Paving and Restriping Public Meeting**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will hold a **public meeting on proposed paving and restriping changes in the Braddock District** on Tuesday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m. (Participants can **join the meeting using this meeting link.)** Community members can learn about VDOT's repaving and program, proposed striping changes and also give feedback.

For those unable to attend the meeting, a recording of the session will be available after the event. The comment period for Braddock District paving and restriping projects closes March 25.

### Metro Seeks Public Input on Proposed FY 22 Budget

The public comment period for Metro's Fiscal Year 2022 budget is officially open, and Metro's Board of Directors wants your feedback. Metro is encouraging anyone impacted by changes in this budget to make their voice heard before the comment period ends on Tuesday, March 16, at 5:00 p.m.

Share your thoughts on Metro's budget.

Without more funding, service cuts remain a possibility in 2022 and Metro must plan accordingly.

Learn more at wmata.com/budget.

How to provide feedback:

- Online: <u>Take the survey and submit written comments</u> (en Español)
- **By phone**: Call toll-free 844-468-5748. Language support is provided in Arabic, Amharic, Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese), Farsi, Korean, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- Virtual public hearings: Four virtual public hearings to be held in March will be streamed on <u>WMATA's website</u> and on <u>Metro's YouTube</u> page. Get more <u>information on how to participate</u> in the hearings.

Public feedback will be provided to Metro's Board of Directors in April 2021 as part of the final decision-making process. Any Board-approved changes will begin after Board approval in April 2021.

# Your Voice Matters! Help Shape the Future of Active Transportation in Fairfax County

**Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT),** in collaboration with regional, county, and community partners, is continuing to address the transportation of all users with the launch of the **ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan** development and community engagement effort. Active transportation means self-propelled, human-powered travel including walking, biking, rolling (scooter/wheelchair/stroller), hiking, running, and riding. The ActiveFairfax Transportation and a roadmap for implementation of safe, convenient, and enjoyable streets, sidewalks, bike facilities, and trails in Fairfax County.

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"Community input is critical to the success of this planning effort," said Chris Wells, the Active Transportation Program Manager at FCDOT. "We want to hear all perspectives from families biking and walking within the community to individuals who use scooters and bike share as part of their commute. This is the only way to create a comprehensive and functional plan that truly supports the needs of the community."

There are three ways for you to get involved. Community input will be accepted through Saturday, May 1, 2021.

Take a Survey: Help us understand how you currently use active transportation – to travel to a destination, for recreation or for exercise, or just for fun – and share your ideas on the future of active transportation in Fairfax County. If you would like to request a paper copy of this survey, email <u>activefairfax@fairfaxcounty.gov</u>, or call (703) 877-5600, TTY 711.

Provide feedback through the <u>online survey</u>. The online survey is available in the following languages:

<u>Amharic</u> (አማርኛ)	<u>Korean</u> ( <sup>한국이</sup> )
<u>Arabic</u> ( أنْعَمر بِينِيسَ <sup>لَّ</sup> )	<u>Spanish</u> ( <sup>español</sup> )
<u>Chinese</u> ( <sup>非文</sup> )	<sup>أر قر</sup> المع ( <sup>أر قر</sup> )
<u>قار</u> سی ( <sup>قارس</sup> )	<u>Vietnamese</u> ( <sup>Tiéng Việt</sup> )

- Map Your Ideas: Add information into <u>two interactive maps</u> on destinations, barriers to active travel, and missing links in the active transportation network.
- Share Your Thoughts: Let us hear from you! Send the Active Transportation Team an email <u>activefairfax@fairfaxcounty.gov</u>, or call (703) 877-5600, TTY 711, to share your ideas.

### Little River Turnpike/Guinea Road Intersection Improvements Coming this Spring

Improvements are coming to the intersection of Little River Turnpike (Route 236) and Guinea Road (Route 651) in Fairfax County, and the Virginia Department of Transportation invites residents to **submit public comments** through March 11. You can also **watch the recent meeting** held on March 1.

The improvements aim to improve traffic flow and safety at the intersection and include:

- Adding new free-flow right-turn lane from northbound Guinea Road to eastbound Little River Turnpike to help improve traffic flow and relieve backups.
- > Adding a pedestrian island at the southern end of the intersection
- Restriping to create a new through/right-turn lane on eastbound Little River Turnpike between Guinea Road and Old Hickory Road

Work is expected to start in April by a combination of VDOT maintenance crews and existing oncall contracts. Contracts will be complete this summer, at a cost of about \$366,000.

# Land Use & Development

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & HEARINGS**

Braddock District Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting – March 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Community Meeting on DMV Customer Service Center - TBD

#### **Planning Commission Hearing**

• Kenilworth II Rezoning Proposal – April 21 at 7:30 p.m.

#### **Board of Supervisors Hearing**

• Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project – March 9 at 4:00 p.m.

### **Board of Supervisors Hearing on Zoning Ordinance Modernization Draft Scheduled for March 9**



On March 3, following hearings and consideration of the

many comments submitted by county residents, the Planning Commission presented its recommendations on the Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project, or zMOD. As we previously reported, in 2017 the county began working to update its 42-year-old Zoning Ordinance, which regulates land use and development in Fairfax County. The proposed new Ordinance is intended to be easier to read and understand, more flexible to accommodate existing and emerging trends, and more accessible online, including on mobile devices. Most uses, permissions, and standards are being carried forward without change. However, in some instances, emerging uses are identified (such as data centers and solar power facilities), similar uses are consolidated (such as indoor recreational uses), and outdated standards are being updated to reflect current practices. The complete **zMOD draft is available** on the zMOD website.

The outreach process has included nearly 100 in-person and virtual community meetings, including presentations to the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee and the Braddock District Council and the January 25 community meeting hosted by Supervisor Walkinshaw. Much of the input has focused on Accessory Living Units (ALUs), home-based businesses, and changes to allowed flags and flagpoles. Thanks to many of you who submitted your thoughts and comments throughout consideration of the draft proposal.

The Planning Commission listened to the community's input and recommended that the Board of Supervisors repeal and replace the current Zoning Ordinance, consistent with the draft staff recommendations, except as follows:

- For Accessory Living Units:
  - Retain the Special Permit process for all accessory living units, which would require that applications for ALUs go before the Board of Zoning Appeals for approval
  - Remove the age or disability requirement

- Allow the ALU to occupy the entire basement or cellar, but only up to the size of the basement or cellar existing as of the effective date of the new Zoning Ordinance
- For home-based businesses:
  - Allow zero customers at a time and zero customers per day with an administrative permit, except for instructional activities, which would allow four students at a time and eight in a day (as currently allowed)
  - Allow customers with SPECIAL PERMIT approval
  - Require approval of the Health Department prior to approval of an administrative permit or special permit if the property is served by a well or septic system
- For flags and flagpoles, make no changes and retain the current limitation of three flags per lot

The Board of Supervisors will hold a hearing on zMOD on March 9. It is scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. For **information on how to testify**, please go to the County website.

### **Community Meeting Held on Kenilworth II Development Proposal**

On March 2, Supervisor Walkinshaw held a community meeting to discuss the revised zoning application submitted by Christopher Land, LLC 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. The revised design would configure the connection as a "T" intersection. An underground stormwater management system would handle stormwater runoff.



During the community meeting, residents expressed their continuing concern about connecting Banting Drive and Caprino Court. Representatives from the Virginia Department of Transportation stated that VDOT adopted a connectivity policy over a decade ago in order to provide for a network of publicly maintained streets and to address concerns with cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets. The State Code requires that when new streets are dedicated, they must be connected to road and pedestrian networks with the existing and future transportation network. Connections provide flow for both vehicles and pedestrians within local developments rather than requiring people to go onto a larger collector road to access neighboring houses. Connectivity is vital in providing timely access for emergency vehicles. It is also important for school buses, trash collection, street maintenance, and snow plowing. Questions were also raised about tree save, future traffic calming measures, and a potential deceleration lane on eastbound Braddock Road prior to Caprino Court.

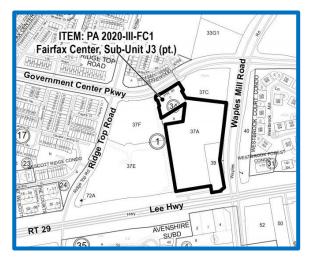
The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee will be briefed by the developers at their March 16 meeting. I expect that they will raise similar questions, as well as more site-specific inquiries about the amount of tree save, stormwater detention, and parking. A hearing before the Planning Commission has been scheduled for April 21.

# 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.

Early last year, 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 have been meeting for several months to try to come to agreement on general concepts. In February, the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee provided additional comments at its November 2020 meeting. Based on that feedback, along with staff comments, Public Storage has proposed modifications to their proposal. The Land Use and Environment Committee acknowledged the significant improvements that have been made. We expect that draft Comprehensive Plan language consistent with these discussions will soon be developed.



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 the rezoning application has been deferred during discussion of the

revised Comprehensive Plan, but we expect a revised rezoning application to be filed within the next few months.

### **Rezoning Filed for Annandale United Methodist Church**

The Trustees of Annandale United Methodist Church have filed a rezoning application for their 1.77-acre property located on the west side of Heritage Drive and adjacent to Heritage Mall. The existing building was constructed and originally used solely as a place of worship. However, more recently, the Church has increasingly used the site to provide social services to address significant unmet needs in the surrounding community. Residents in the area walk to the Church property to access a food pantry and clothes closet operated by Church volunteers. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Church collaborated with Chef Jose Andres of the World Central Kitchen to coordinate and distribute over 18,000 meals in the Annandale community. Many of these meals were targeted to families who were unable to access free and reduced meals from Fairfax County Public Schools.

The Church now proposes to formalize this operation and, in addition to the place of worship, create a community resource center that will provide a range of supportive educational and healthcare services, including a robust food distribution program, health and wellness screenings, and a mobile dental clinic, among other initiatives. They intend to expand existing collaborations with the Fairfax County Health Department, Department of Family Services, and Neighborhood and Community Services; Food for Others, George Mason University, Northern Virginia Community College; Medical Care for Children Partnership Foundation; and other public and charitable organizations.

Under the county's Zoning Ordinance, this operation would be considered a Public Benefit Association. However, the site is currently split zoned to the C-5 and R-20 Districts. Given this unique split zoning, such a use is not permitted on the residential, or R-20, portion of the property, which encompasses nearly half of the building. For that reason, the Church has filed an application to rezone the property to entirely C-5, which would allow the public benefit use to legally operate and expand the valuable work and services it provides to the community. No construction or physical changes to the existing site or buildings is planned. The Church will restripe the existing travel aisle and parking spaces in accordance with recommendations from the Fairfax County Fire Marshal.

Supervisor Walkinshaw made a motion, cosponsored by Supervisor Penny Gross of the Mason District and approved by the Board of Supervisors, to expedite the processing of this application. A hearing of the Planning Commission is scheduled for June 16, and the application is scheduled for a Board hearing on July 21.

### **DMV Customer Service Center on Braddock Road**

Our office has recently become aware that the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles is moving forward with design of a customer service center for their property on Braddock Road. This site is just east of Burke Station Road, across from the entrance to Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, and is currently being used for motorcycle training. DMV purchased this property in August 2015 with the intent to build a new facility to replace the Fair Oaks Mall Customer Service Center. Because this is a state facility being built on state property, it follows the procedures required by the state, not county procedures which require notice and provide for community input. The DMV has developed plans and specifications and presented them to the Virginia Department of General Services for review. The next step will be to present their proposed final plans to the State Art and Architectural Review Board on April 2.

The new customer service center will be 15,435 square feet, with 20 teller windows, one overflow/testing window, and three information windows. All windows will be outfitted with clear plastic partitions, and lobby seating will be arranged to allow for adequate social distancing. The DMV will continue to use the appointment system that has been in place since May 2020, allowing control over customer flow. When it opens, the office will staff 9 windows to accommodate 350-400 appointments per day on weekdays and half that on Saturdays. When it is appropriate to increase the number of open windows, the DMV anticipates operating at 75 percent capacity, which would result in 600 appointments per day on weekdays and 300 on Saturdays. The parking lot will accommodate not only customers and employees, but also road skills testing. That will avoid sending cars onto Braddock Road for that purpose.

At the request of Supervisor Walkinshaw and Speaker Filler-Corn, the DMV has agreed to participate in a virtual town Hall meeting to present their plans and answer questions from community members. Supervisor Walkinshaw is disappointed that, until now, the DMV has done nothing to inform the community about their plans, or to engage the community and receive input that could improve their plans. Please look for an Advisory with more information.



Somv

DMV FAIRFAX BRADDOCK CSC BUILDING FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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### **Demolition of Former NVTC Buildings Underway**

Demolition of the old Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC) buildings on Braddock Road is underway in preparation for Erickson Living's construction of Woodleigh Chase, a new continuing care community. Please remember that this is an active demolition/construction site and it is unsafe for community members to be on the premises. Erickson will be stepping up security efforts in an effort to keep everyone safe. The building demolition for the entire property is expected to continue through August 2021. Site plans and building permits are currently under review. Construction of the temporary marketing center and first phase of the development is anticipated to begin in late spring/early summer 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.

### Update on Braddock Senior Housing Site

Erickson Living has finalized an agreement with the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) for development of the agerestricted affordable housing component of the project at the former NVTC site. 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 4.3 acres on the western portion of the property, where the group homes were located. It will provide 80 units of affordable age-restricted housing, 72 of which will be one bedroom and 8 two-bedroom. The units will all have universal design and 8 will be fully accessible. The development will include a community room, multipurpose room, fitness room, wellness suite, and leasing and resident services office. APAH has committed to EarthCraft Gold green building certification. APAH will be applying for their Low-Income Housing Tax Credits this month. They hope to apply for building permits in Fall 2021 and break ground in spring/summer 2022, with a goal of finishing construction in summer/fall 2023.

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

The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee will be holding an electronic meeting on Tuesday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. The agenda will include an update on the application for the Kenilworth II project. 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.

Microsoft Teams meeting See below for information on connecting to the meeting Click <u>here</u> to join meeting Or call in (audio only) +1 571-429-5982,,730922969# United States, Arlington Phone Conference ID: 730 922 969# <u>Find a local number</u> | <u>Reset PIN</u>

### **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. Meetings are currently being held electronically with distance participation due to the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 by phone or video at the hearing on the case. For information on **how to submit comments or testify**, please visit 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 a week before the scheduled hearing.

#### Shin Hyo Jin Kim – 4927 Gadsen Drive, Fairfax SP 2020-BR-089

The applicant requested 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 was denied by the BZA on February 10. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, may be found on the **County website**.

#### Gerald N. Miranda, Jr. – 8920 Rhyme Court, Annandale SP 2020-BR-093

The applicant requested a modification to the limitations on the keeping of animals to raise and keep up to 12 chickens and 4 ducks on a 0.65-acre lot. The Zoning Ordinance allows chickens and ducks to only be kept on lots that are two acres in size or greater without Special Permit approval. On February 10, the BZA approved the application with modifications that no more than 10 chickens be kept on the property. 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 requested a modification 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 allows chickens to only be kept on lots that are two acres in size or greater without Special Permit approval. On February 24, the BZA approved the application with modifications that no more than 15 chickens be kept on the property and included a development condition requiring all activities related to the management of chickens to be kept outside of the Resource Protection Area, including location of the coop, chicken run, and composting area. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, may be found on the <u>County website</u>.

#### Leena Qazi Tukhi and Belleairs Little Learners – 6236 Belleair Road, Burke SP 2020-BR-102

The applicant is seeking expansion of a home childcare facility. The applicant currently cares for 7 children ages 3 months to 12 years old and has asked for an increase to care for 12 children at any one time. The applicant has one full-time employee and would add another part-time employee. Hours of operation would be from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on March 17. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the **County website**.

#### Craig J. Herberg – 4614 Tapestry Drive, Fairfax SP 2021-BR-007

The applicant is seeking a reduction in certain yard requirements to permit an addition 19.5 feet from the rear lot line and a reduction to minimum yard requirements based on error in building location to allow a deck with steps to remain 2.6 feet from a rear lot line. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on April 7. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the **County website**.

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