



Volume 12 | Issue 11

# James R. Walkinshaw

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## Braddock District Supervisor

# The Braddock Beacon

November 2020 Edition

Dear Neighbor,

I want to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of election workers who operated our locations for 35 days of early voting, facilitated voting at 26 precincts in the Braddock District, and who continue working to tally the final absentee ballots. Amid the unprecedented early turnout and challenges posed by the pandemic, these dedicated community members conducted the process with precision, dedication, and integrity. Thank you!

I also want to thank all of you for voting. In the Braddock District, 77.2% of registered voters exercised that sacred duty. You can view the full Fairfax County election results [here](#). While there are still ballots to be counted across the country, it appears that former Vice President Joe Biden will win the Presidential election. Despite false claims to the contrary, once again our democratic process worked, and a free and fair election was conducted. Senator Mark Warner and Congressman Gerry Connolly were both re-elected to represent the Braddock District in Congress. I look forward to continuing to work with them on your behalf.

Although most of the focus was at the top of the ballot, there were also several bond referendums that are very important to us here. I want to thank the voters who approved referendums to support our parks, including renovations to the Audrey Moore RECenter, our libraries, our health centers, and public transportation.

On a different note, I was recently elected to Chair the County's Council to End Domestic Violence. I succeed former Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, who will remain as a member of the Council helping us do the important work of ending domestic violence in Fairfax County. The Council's work will focus on several key areas, including the Step Up 4 Kids campaign to address the impacts of domestic violence on children, improving access to comprehensive services for abusive partners/offenders, and addressing the equity issues surrounding domestic violence.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you who have reached out to congratulate Yvette and me on the birth of our son, Mateo. We've had an amazing (albeit relatively sleepless) first month, and he's doing great!

Yours in service,

Supervisor James Walkinshaw

# Walkinshaw in the Community



Supervisor Walkinshaw celebrating National Night Out, an annual community-building event that promotes police-community relationships with Supervisor Herrity and the Fairfax County Police Department on October 6.



Supervisor Walkinshaw talking with a community member who was voting early at the main Government Center on September 25.



Supervisor Walkinshaw greeting voters at the polls on Election Day, November 3.

In October, Supervisor Walkinshaw also:

- Met with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America on October 28.
- Joined Fairfax County's Domestic Violence Community's Annual Meeting on October 16.

# Citizen of the Month

Ms. Jakelin Edy Soriano Lake is an amazing person! Earlier this month, Jakelin was recognized by Multiplying Good in their **One in A Million campaign**. The Multiplying Good organization, formerly the Jefferson Awards Foundation, was founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and Sam Beard. They are the largest multiplier of public service in the U.S., and they believe individuals are transformed through service to others. We would like to recognize her for this work and for her tireless efforts on behalf of those in the Braddock Elementary community and beyond.

Jakelin has worked to help build a strong school/community partnership with parents as well as community organizations to support our high-needs community. She leads the Community Outreach team at Braddock Elementary to ensure that all children will be able to fully participate in their educational experiences without worrying about food, clothing, shelter, and health issues due to living conditions.



*Jakelin Soriano with local students*

From the relationships Jakelin built, Braddock Elementary has truly benefited from the support of Faith Based Outreach Organizers and Business Partners who can provide food, clothing, medicine, transportation, before and after school clubs and tutoring, family literacy classes, and more. Jakelin has also forged a very strong relationship with the SEVA Truck Foundation. This foundation has a **Food Truck (SEVA Truck)** that has provided hot, free vegetarian meals to people in the Annandale Community. SEVA Truck visits Braddock Elementary School three times a week providing free burritos or quesadillas to anyone who comes to the truck. SEVA Truck also goes to Annandale High School and the Heritage Drive Mission Center in Annandale.

Since March 16, 2020, the Braddock Elementary Community has received free groceries each week provided by McLean Bible Church, Annandale Bible Church, CityLight Church of Falls Church, and the SEVA Truck Foundation. These three Community Outreach organizations and Food Service Foundation have fed, clothed, provided medicine, and transportation to clinics and hospitals because of the work Jakelin has done to ensure families receive support. Every Saturday morning, Jakelin makes it her mission to organize more than twenty to thirty volunteers who meet at Braddock Elementary School to pass out groceries, clothing, and information about Health Services. Close to five hundred families line up each week to receive dry goods, milk, and fresh vegetables. The families feel supported, and the children can participate in online learning because they know they have the materials necessary to learn.

In August, Jakelin Lake was contacted by a parent (in the middle of the night) whose child had been electrocuted by down power lines while playing soccer. The child was rushed to the hospital, and his parents had no money to support his care for burns over ninety percent of his body. His mom was also suffering with kidney failure. Jakelin Lake called her Faith Based contacts. By mid-morning of the next day, arrangements had been made to pay for hospital fees, Uber services for Mom to continue her kidney dialysis, and to allow her to still tend to her son. Food was provided for family members, and furniture, was donated for the young man so he can begin recuperating from his injuries when he gets home.

# Community News

## **Braddock District Council Virtual Roundtable with Community Leaders and Supervisor Walkinshaw**

For the past several years, the Braddock District Council and the Braddock District Supervisor's Office have joined together to host a meeting with community leaders to share concerns and goals, and to ask questions. Supervisor Walkinshaw has expressed his interest in continuing this yearly event despite COVID-19, and thankfully it can be done in a virtual format using Zoom.

The Braddock District Council has set up the meeting, and the information is as follows:

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Topic: Braddock District Council November 2020 Meeting  
Time: Wednesday, Nov 18, 2020 7:00 p.m. (Zoom connection opens at 6:30 p.m. for attendees to check audio/video settings)  
URL: [Click here to join](#)  
Meeting ID: 870 5961 0790  
Passcode: 470276  
Dial In: (301)715-8592 (audio only)

Join us for this first roundtable with Supervisor Walkinshaw!

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## **Inova Cares Clinics Providing Free Flu Shot Clinics for Uninsured Individuals**

Through Friday, November 20, Inova Cares Clinics for Families (ICCF) will offer free flu vaccines for the uninsured at their four ICCF locations in Alexandria, Annandale, Manassas, and Sterling.



- The [Annandale](#), [Alexandria](#), and [Sterling](#) locations will offer flu shot clinics on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Manassas location will offer a clinic on Mondays and Fridays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. [Learn more about the locations and times](#) by visiting the Inova website.
- Flu shots are by appointment only and can be scheduled by calling the ICCF office. An annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect against the flu. The CDC recommends that adults and children six months and older get an annual flu shot.

## **Affordable Housing in Fairfax County**

The Fairfax County Housing Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) has issued a [guide to affordable housing](#) in the county. This guide provides information on Affordable Dwelling Units: The Rental Workforce Dwelling Unit Program; Rental Affordable Dwelling Unit Program; Low-Income Housing Tax Credit properties; Independent and Assisted Living Communities; and



Publicly Owned (formerly Section 8) Housing. In addition, the guide also provides a [website for affordable housing](#) throughout Virginia.

- FCRHA is currently leasing newly renovated, affordable Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) apartments at Murraygate Village. They currently have 44 vacancies that consist of a mix of 1, 2, 3, and 4-bedroom apartments. Traditional and accessible floorplans are available for each apartment size.
- The newly renovated Murraygate Village Apartments are among the nearly 4,000 housing units owned and operated by the FCRHA. These units are considered some of the most affordable units in the Alexandria area. The community is conveniently located near public transit, shopping, medical care, schools, and Fort Belvoir.
- The LIHTC apartments at Murraygate Village are available to eligible residents whose household income falls within the established minimum and maximum income limits. Maximum income limits are based on household size and are set for 50% and 60% of the area median income. Minimum income limits are based on the size of the unit applicants are interested in leasing. Complete [details are available online](#).

### **Take a Virtual Visit to Historic Oak Hill**

If you enjoy history, then the Oak Hill Mansion might pique your interest! Built in 1790, in the late Georgian style, the privately-owned Oak Hill Mansion's history was forged during the Revolutionary War and Civil War. As the last standing Fitzhugh family-owned property, this historical landmark is privately owned, but open to the community one day a year on Oak Hill Day. Oak Hill has been preserved under a historic and conservation easement that calls on the owners to open their doors to the public periodically to share this slice of county history. However, because of COVID-19 concerns, the traditional fall open house has gone virtual this year. Hear from the current homeowners, former Fairfax County Supervisor and Board Chairman Sharon Bulova and Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw as you take your [16-minute video tour](#).



*Click the image to watch the Oak Hill Video*

## Results of 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Drug Take Back Day-Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout

In conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Fairfax County Police Department and several other Fairfax County agencies participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual National Drug Take-Back Initiative on Saturday, October 24. Officers from each of the eight county districts staffed collection sites where community members safely disposed of 1,696 pounds of unused and expired over-the-counter and prescription medications.

The Braddock District location safely disposed 487 pounds of unused or expired prescription medication.

### Results of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Drug Take Back Day

Location	Amount Disposed (Pounds)
Sully	100
Mount Vernon	184
McLean	102
Mason	173
Reston & Reston INOVA	303
Franconia	134
West Springfield at Kings Park Library	487
Fair Oaks	213
TOTAL	1,696

## Virginia Railroad Express (VRE) Welcomes Back Braddock Riders

As more Braddock District residents return to work and congestion increases on the region's roads, many are rethinking their commutes. One option is the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), which has taken [a variety of precautions](#) to protect the health and safety of its passengers. These measures include an enhanced cleaning regimen, installation of social-distancing decals and hand-sanitizer dispensers on rail cars and platforms, and a facial covering requirement.



To ensure social distancing, decals guide riders to window seats in every other row. Only 45 of 130 seats in any rail car are available to passengers. Currently, no more than 50 percent of those available seats are in use. VRE's [train utilization web page](#) helps riders find the train that best matches their social-distance comfort level. The rail system closely monitors ridership and has been adding and lengthening trains to allow for proper social distancing.

VRE cleans its trains twice a day. [Overnight cleanings](#) use acidic electrolyzed water, a potent yet nonirritating disinfectant. The acid produced by electrolyzing the water can be 100 times more powerful than the active ingredient in bleach. Produced on demand, this environmentally friendly product uses only salt, tap water, and electricity.

VRE has five stations in Fairfax County – Backlick Road, Burke Centre, and Rolling Road on its Manassas Line and Franconia-Springfield and Lorton on its Fredericksburg Line. VRE is operating on a [reduced schedule](#), with nine trains running northbound weekday mornings and southbound in the evenings. VRE's mobile app allows for the contactless purchase and validation of tickets. As residents head back to work, VRE is welcoming riders back in the safest and healthiest way possible. Learn more at [VRE's Website](#).

## **Governor Northam Invites Small Businesses and Nonprofits to Apply for Rebuild VA Grant Fund**

On October 28, Governor Northam announced that [Rebuild VA](#), a state grant program created to help small businesses and nonprofits affected by COVID-19, will widen eligibility standards and increase the amount of grant money businesses can receive.



"Rebuild VA launched in August with \$70 million from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Governor Northam is directing an additional \$30 million to support the expansion of the program. Businesses with less than \$10 million in gross revenue or fewer than 250 employees will be eligible under the new criteria, and the maximum grant award will increase from \$10,000 to \$100,000." – Office of the Governor

Rebuild VA funding may be used for the following eligible expenses:

- Payroll support, including paid sick, medical, or family leave, and costs related to the continuation of group health care benefits during those periods of leave
- Employee salaries
- Mortgage payments, rent, and utilities
- Principal and interest payments for any business loans from national or state-chartered banking, savings and loan institutions, or credit unions that were incurred before or during the emergency
- Eligible personal protective equipment, cleaning and disinfecting materials, or other working capital needed to address the COVID-19 response.

For additional [information about Rebuild VA and how to apply](#), visit Rebuild VA's website.

## **REV Initiative Provides Scholarships to COVID-19 Impacted Workers**

Virginia is allocating \$30 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars to help Virginians whose employment has been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis pursue workforce training in a high-demand field. The new Re-Employing Virginians (REV) initiative will provide scholarships to eligible individuals to enroll in a workforce or community college program in five essential industries, including health care, information technology, skilled trades, public safety, and early childhood education.

The initiative will provide one-time REV scholarships of \$3,000 to register in a qualifying full-time workforce program and \$1,500 to register part-time or in a short-term, noncredit training program. The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads Local Workforce Development Areas will administer the CARES Act funding for the REV initiative, with \$27 million allocated to VCCS for statewide programs and \$3 million for the two workforce areas.

Interested individuals should contact their local community college as soon as possible to apply before the **December 14, 2020 enrollment deadline**. Information about eligibility criteria and applying for a REV scholarship is available [here](#). Northern Virginia residents can visit the Northern Virginia Community College's website to learn more [here](#).

## Over Half of Deer Crashes Occur October through December

Fall is breeding season for deer so you can expect to see more animals on our roads. Please be aware that deer are unpredictable, and crashes with them are a safety concern.

There are hundreds of reportable accidents involving deer in the county, and more than half of our annual crashes occur during the months of October, November, and December. Deer are most active before sunrise to mid-morning, as well as at dusk to early evening, times when many of us are headed to and from work or school.



Drive carefully, and remember these safety tips:

- Always wear your seat belt and drive the posted speed limit.
- Do not text and drive. Avoid distractions!
- Watch for eyes shining along roadsides. If you see one deer, it is likely that others are nearby.
- Use high beams (as traffic allows) to spot deer further away. Be careful not to disrupt oncoming cars.
- If a deer is stopped in the roadway, slow down and flash your headlights. Deer can become mesmerized or blinded by bright steady lights.
- Slow down (or stop if necessary) to avoid hitting a deer. You should never swerve out of the lane to miss one. A crash with another car or anything along the roadside is likely to be more serious than hitting the deer.
- Take your foot off the brake at the time of the crash. This reduces the chance of a deer crashing through a windshield or windows when hit.
- If you do crash with a deer, try to move your car off the road and out of traffic.
- If your car is immobilized in the roadway, turn on your flashers and immediately call police. Try to wait at a safe spot off the road.
- Rely on your own senses. Never depend on car horns or other devices to scare deer out of your path.
- If a deer is injured or killed, immediately report the crash to the police on their non-emergency line at (703) 691-2131.



# Human Services Corner

## Fairfax County Celebrates National Adoption Awareness Month

We can all agree that every child should live in a loving, stable, and nurturing home. When reunification is no longer an option for some children in foster care, adoptive parents can provide a home where youth have the normal experiences that children need as they grow up. Adoptive parents nurture children who have experienced abuse and neglect, and they help children overcome past traumatic experiences so they can reach their full potential.

Throughout the month of November, check out the many ways the Fairfax County Department of Family Services is **celebrating families** who have opened their homes to children through adoption.

Join us in celebrating our adoptive families and all those who support them! Interested in adoption? Learn more about the **Foster Care & Adoption program**.



## Shepherd Center Fairfax-Burke Volunteer Opportunities (In Person & Remote)

The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke and South County (SCFB) 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 their service area who are unable to drive themselves.

SCFB serves senior citizens, 50+ years old, in central Fairfax, all of Burke, and South Fairfax County along the Route One Corridor, who are choosing to age in place by providing free services and programs. There is no income requirement for their services. If you are over 50 years old, unable or temporarily unable to drive yourself, live in your own home within their service area, and are able to get from your front door to a car in your driveway without the use of a wheelchair, you are eligible for their free transportation service. Each month, they typically have contact with over 150 persons through transportation, friendly phone calls, or exercise programs.

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 their website, maintaining their social media presence, or become a driver for the medical and companion shopping programs. Contact Jean Browne, Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator at (703) 715-7592, [recruiter@scfbva.org](mailto:recruiter@scfbva.org).

The information below is from the **Golden Gazette**. [Subscribe online](#) or, if you cannot access the Internet, call (703) 324-GOLD (4653) and leave a message to subscribe or unsubscribe with your contact information. The Golden Gazette is also read over the phone to subscribers who register with the Washington Ear. [Sign up online](#) or call (301) 681-6636 to register for this free service.

### **Free Caregiver Consultations**

ElderLink continues to offer Free Caregiver Consultations over the phone. Call the ElderLink intake line at (703) 324-5374. ElderLink's Telephone Caregiver Support Call is held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m. The next call is November 10. To register, go to their [website](#), or call Daphne Van Tiem, at (703) 324-5376 for more information.

### **Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.**

A person who lives in a long-term care facility maintains all the same rights as an individual living in the community. A person living in a long-term care facility also gains additional rights as a resident, one of which is the right to raise formal grievances. A resident can present their grievances at any time to facility staff or any other person without fear of discrimination or retaliation. The facility must act promptly to help resolve the grievance, and they must provide a written decision to the resident, if requested. The resident also has the right to file a complaint with their local state survey agency or the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

As a mandated program under the Older Americans Act, the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is often called on to assist residents and consumers to advocate for their rights to protect dignity, choices, and self-determination. The Ombudsman Program is a resident-directed program that is available to assist with concerns about quality of care and to educate the community about long-term care services.

For more information about residents' rights or other nursing facility and assisted living concerns, call the Ombudsman Program at (703) 324-5861, or contact the Ombudsman Program by email at [NVLTCOP@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:NVLTCOP@fairfaxcounty.gov). In addition the annual Caregiver Conference begins next week and this year, it is free and being held virtually November 9 – 13. Make sure to [register and learn more](#).

### **AARP Driver Safety Courses Online**

As a precaution against COVID-19, AARP's Smart Driver Safety classes are being held [online](#). A 25 percent discount is available through the end of the year when you use the promo code: DRIVINGSKILLS. Learn about new vehicle safety technology. AARP Driver Safety also offers AARP Smart DriverTEK, a free 90-minute online workshop. This course covers nine crash-avoidance technologies, such as blindspots, lane departure, and forward collision warnings. If you have any questions, call the AARP Driver Safety Customer Service team at (800) 569-1658 or [visit their website](#).

### **COVID-19 Scams**

Fairfax County's Silver Shield Team warns about an increase in COVID-19 scams. Why the increase? As good citizens, we are social distancing, wearing masks, and staying in our homes. This model behavior, along with living alone, is what scammers are looking for when plotting their next scheme. Here are two recent scams reported by the United States Postal Inspection Service that highlight how scammers are attempting to cash in on fears.

- **Miracle Cure Scam.** This scam is a pay-in-advance scheme for a COVID-19 cure. The scammer poses as a government or nonprofit official by telephone and/or

email. They claim to have insider knowledge of a cure that has not yet been reported by the media. They then offer to send you this cure if you pay in advance. There are also reports from people who were called about purchasing miracle COVID-19 drugs and were mailed packages with other random or placebo drugs. Although some are merely useless products and will not have a negative health effect, some could have life-threatening consequences, such as the use of non-prescribed malaria drugs. The scammer will set a price and convince a vulnerable person that this is a real drug. Some people in the country have fallen for this scam. The full extent of the loss will not be known until the pandemic is over. Please be aware that at the time of publication, no drugs have been approved that cure or prevent COVID-19.

- **Stimulus Checks.** The second scam is related to the April stimulus checks approved by the federal government. The scammers are taking advantage of this program by calling or emailing people who are older than 65. The callers claim that for a fee, residents can receive their money faster than anyone else. This scam has also been reported in Fairfax County. Please do not fall for this scam.

The Silver Shield Anti-Scam Campaign provides tips for people that deter them from becoming a victim of a scam. You do not have to answer the telephone. If you decide to answer the telephone and it is not a call you want to take part in, you can hang up the phone. Some people believe this is rude behavior, but you do have the right to do so.

### **Upcoming Virtual Medicare 101 Presentations**

Registration is required for all virtual Medicare 101 presentations. Call the provided phone number to register, or use the email or web addresses. To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP) at (703) 324-5851, TTY 711. For seminars sponsored by the libraries, you do not need to go to that library, but you must call them to register. For the VICAP presentations, you must email them to register.

- The Braddock District Council Aging in Place Committee's Medicare 101 presentation will be held over Zoom on Wednesday, November 18, from 1:00 p.m. through 2:30 p.m., Contact Bruce Wallachy at [Wallbdc@gmail.com](mailto:Wallbdc@gmail.com) to register.
- Monday, November 9, Medicare 101, 1:00 p.m. through 2:30 p.m., (703) 256-3800, George Mason Regional Library, [Register here](#).
- Thursday, November 12, Medicare 101, 1:00 p.m. through 2:30 p.m., (703) 390-6179, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Contact: Ali Clements, (703) 390-6179
- Monday, November 16, Medicare 101, 6:00 p.m. through 7:30 p.m., (703) 324-5851, Email: [dfsvicap@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dfsvicap@fairfaxcounty.gov); [Register here](#).
- Tuesday, December 1, Medicare 101, 12:00 p.m. through 1:30 p.m., (703) 324-5851, Email: [dfsvicap@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dfsvicap@fairfaxcounty.gov); [Register here](#).
- Thursday, December 3, Medicare 101, 10:30 a.m.–Noon, (703) 938-0405, ext. 4, Patrick Henry Library, Email: [dsmit1@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dsmit1@fairfaxcounty.gov); [Register here](#).

## **Virtual 50+ Employment Expo**

If you are over fifty and looking for employment, attend the Virtual 50+ Employment Expo. There are three upcoming expos to choose from, and registration is free. The first expo is Friday, December 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It is easy to attend using Zoom. Two more virtual expos are slated for February and May. Look for dates and times in upcoming issues of the Golden Gazette. You will not want to miss any of the Fairfax 50+ Virtual Employment Expos sponsored by the Jewish Council for the Aging, Fairfax County Department of Family Services, and community partners. Full-time and part-time salaried job opportunities are available at the expo. For an updated list of employers and community resources, training, education, and information organizations that will be at the expo, visit the [expo website](#).

## **Local Community Food Drives**

The Braddock Team has compiled a list of local community food drives taking place in November. Consider donating nonperishable food items to help local impoverished families enjoy a great holiday season.

- Eagle Scout candidate, Michael Sorenson, of Boy Scout Troop 1966, will be hosting a no-contact food drive on Saturday, November 21, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 4911 Ox Road, Fairfax, Virginia, to benefit the patrons of the Salvation Army Food Pantry. This food drive is part of his Boy Scout of America (BSA) Eagle Scout project. Donations of any size are welcome.
- Truro will be hosting a food and children's book drive on Saturday, November 7, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Truro Clubhouse at 4146 Elizabeth Lane. Food is being collected for the St. Matthews twice-weekly grocery giveaway, and books are being collected for the "Books are Food for Your Brain" charity, which provides new and gently used children's books for families in need. Boxes will be set up for contactless drop-off of non-perishable items including diapers, feminine hygiene products, dry cereal, crackers, canned food, pasta, rice, and more.
- Boy Scout Troop 1966 will conduct a food drive for nonperishable items through the Kings Park West and Briarwood neighborhoods on Saturday, November 14 between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Please leave your donations outside your front door before 8:00 a.m. All donations will be shared with [FACETS](#), which is a Fairfax-based nonprofit organization helping families struggling with poverty and homelessness. You can learn more about FACETS by [visiting their website](#).
- Little River United Church of Christ located at 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, Virginia, 22003 has a food donation drop off every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. at the bin in front of the building. Non-perishable food, paper products, diapers, and personal care items are being collected.
- St. Mary of Sorrows, 5222 Sideburn Road, has a food pantry available for families that have food insecurities. Donations can be dropped off on Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at door #4 in the back of the church. Special arrangements can also be made by contacting

[karen.abrahm56@gmail.com](mailto:karen.abrahm56@gmail.com) or (703) 978-1147. Most needed items are canned chicken and tuna, cooking oil, white rice, cereal, pancake mix, pancake syrup, sugar, diced tomatoes, canned fruit, and canned soups.

- Braddock Elementary is looking for dry goods, such as dry beans, rice, any canned goods, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, canned soups, tortillas, hot sauce, adult and children's diapers and other nonperishable items. Drop off is Monday – Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. Please contact Jakelin Lake (703) 508-7774.
- Annandale United Methodist Church Mission located at 7901 Heritage Drive is looking for food donations as well. They are in need of the following items: 1 lb. boxes of spaghetti, 1 lb. packages of pasta sauce, 20 oz cans of dried beans, 1 lb. bags of white rice, 1 lb. bags of chunky soup, 7 oz soups (Chef Boyardee, chili, beef stew, etc.); tuna, mac & cheese, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, 15 oz can of beans (no pork); 15 oz cans of vegetables (no green beans); 15 oz cans of corn; 15 oz cans of fruit; can of diced tomatoes, 15 oz; 15 oz can of tomato sauce; packs of ramen noodles; sturdy paper grocery bags with handles or nylon tote bags. Drop off donations in the boxes near the red double doors at the Mission Center at 7901 Heritage Drive, or contact Betsy Clevenger at [etclevenger@verizon.net](mailto:etclevenger@verizon.net).

### Energy Assistance Program

The purpose of the Assistance for Heating and Fuel Costs program is to help eligible households with low income (in Fairfax County and the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church) offset expenses associated with heating and/or cooling their homes.

Applications are being accepted until November 8. If your application is approved, you will be notified at the end of December, and payments will begin in January. [Apply online today](#) by visiting the Department of Family Services' Financial and Medical Assistance Website.

You may also request an [application](#) by calling (703) 324-4328; TTY 711, or pick up/drop off an application at any of the Department of Family Services offices:

- Fairfax - [Pennino Building 12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 232 Fairfax, VA 22035](#)
- Annandale - [Heritage Center, West Wing, 7611 Little River Turnpike, 5th Floor West, Annandale, VA 22003](#)
- Reston - [Lake Anne Office Building, 11484 Washington Plaza West, 4th Floor, Reston, VA 20190](#)
- Alexandria - [South County Center, 8350 Richmond Highway \(Route 1\), 4th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22309](#)





# Environmental News

## Why You Should Leave the Leaves--Savvy gardeners know that keeping fallen leaves on their property benefit wildlife and the environment

*Written by Laura Tangley, National Wildlife Federation*

### ➤ **It is That Time of Year Again**

The air turns crisp, the leaves turn red and gold, and homeowners turn to the annual chore known as “fall garden cleanup”—including disposal of those leaves after they fall to the ground.

Traditionally, leaf removal has entailed three steps: Rake leaves (or blast them with a blower) into piles, transfer the piles to bags, and place the bags out to be hauled off to a landfill. Yet, increasingly, conservationists say these actions not only harm the environment but rob your garden of nutrients while destroying wildlife habitat. The alternative? “Let fallen leaves stay on your property,” says National Wildlife Federation Naturalist [David Mizejewski](#).

### ➤ **Leaves in Landfills**

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, leaves and other yard debris account for more than 13 percent of the nation’s solid waste—a whopping 33 million tons a year. Without enough oxygen to decompose, this organic matter releases the greenhouse gas methane, says [Joe Lamp’l](#), author of *The Green Gardener’s Guide*. In fact, solid-waste landfills are the largest U.S. source of man-made methane—and that is aside from the carbon dioxide generated by gas-powered blowers and trucks used in leaf disposal.



For gardeners, turning leaves into solid waste is wasteful. “Fallen leaves offer a double benefit,” Mizejewski says. “Leaves form a natural mulch that helps suppress weeds and fertilizes the soil as it breaks down. Why spend money on mulch and fertilizer when you can make your own?”

Removing leaves also eliminates vital wildlife habitat. Critters ranging from turtles and toads to birds, mammals, and invertebrates rely on leaf litter for food, shelter, and nesting material. Many moth and butterfly caterpillars overwinter in fallen leaves before emerging in spring.

Need one more reason to leave the leaves? "The less time you spend raking leaves," Mizejewski says, "the more time you'll have to enjoy the gorgeous fall weather and the wildlife that visits your garden."

➤ **Leaves are not litter**

What should you do with all those fallen leaves you are not sending to the landfill? Here are some tips:

- Let leaves stay where they fall. They will not hurt your lawn if you chop them with a mulching mower.
- Rake leaves off the lawn to use as mulch in garden beds. For finer-textured mulch, shred them first.
- Let leaf piles decompose; the resulting leaf mold can be used as a soil amendment to improve structure and water retention.
- Make compost: Combine fallen leaves ("brown material") with grass clippings and other "green material", and keep them moist and well mixed. You will have nutrient-rich compost to add to your garden next spring.
- Still too many leaves? Share them with neighbors, friends, schools, and others. Some communities will pick up leaves and make compost to sell or give away.
- Build a brush shelter. Along with branches, sticks, and stems, leaves can be used to make brush piles that shelter native wildlife.

**Upcoming Americana Drive Cleanup**

Join [Friends of Accotink Creek](#), Fairfax County Restoration Project, and community neighbors for an Americana Drive Cleanup on November 11, from 10:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m.

Friends of Accotink Creek expects to encounter large quantities of trash of all kinds and would like to remind everyone to prepare to be tired and dirty! Make sure to [sign up today](#) and spread the word.



[Contact Friends of Accotink Creek](#) if you have any questions.

## How to Recycle Right in Fairfax County Webinar

This [educational webinar](#) will feature a joint proclamation by several County Board of Supervisors in honor of Fairfax Recycles Day, an expert panel on plastics recycling, an update on the Purple Can Club and regional glass recycling efforts, as well as an announcement related to a new food scrap composting drop-off program. The webinar will take place on Monday, November 16, at 12:00 p.m. [You must register](#) by 11:00 a.m. on November 16.

This year, Fairfax County's Employees for Environmental Excellence (FEEE) and the Solid Waste Management Program's (SWMP) Outreach and Education Team are partnering to provide this webinar to employees and residents interested in uncovering the mysteries of how recycling really works.

### Webinar Agenda:

- **Introductions**
  - Jessica Lavender, FEEE
- **County Board of Supervisors' Opening Remarks**
  - Pat Herrity, Springfield District
  - Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon District
- **Plastics Recycling Panel**
  - Christine McCoy, SWMP
  - Sandi Childs, The Association of Plastic Recyclers
  - Kyle Hottinger, Sr. Account Manager for Waste Management
  - Greg Janson, CEO of QRS Inc. and Re-Poly LLC and co-founder of Evertrak LLC
- **Glass Recycling Update & Food Scrap Compost Announcement**
  - Eric Forbes, SWMP



# Land Use and Development

## Upcoming Meetings & Hearings

**Braddock District Land Use & Environment Committee** Meeting – November 17

### **Board of Supervisors Hearings**

- Monument Drive Commuter Parking Garage and Transit Center – November 17
- Trinity Christian School boundary adjustment – December 1

## **Commuter Parking Garage and Transit Center Proposed at Government Center Parkway and Monument Drive**

On November 4, the Planning Commission recommended approval of a commuter parking garage and transit center proposed 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.



Fairfax County's Building Design and Construction Division has proposed constructing a public transit facility that would include a nine-story parking structure with 820 parking spaces and an area on the ground floor for rideshare pickup and dropoff. It would 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. The facility would support multi-modal commuter access to the new express lanes that will be implemented as part of the Transform I-66 Outside the Beltway project. It would also provide parking for a future extension of Metro's Orange Line. The garage would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Access to the site would 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 would feature solar panels surrounded by green roof features, 40 spaces with electric vehicle infrastructure, stormwater enhancements, and natural landscaping. The [staff report is available](#) on the county website.

A hearing on the Monument Drive Commuter Parking Garage and Transit Center is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, in the Government Center Auditorium at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. If you are interested in providing testimony, there are multiple ways you may do so. Written, phone, and video testimony are encouraged to keep everyone safe as we continue to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, although in-person testimony will also be accepted. 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 go the county website.

### **Trinity Christian School Boundary Adjustment**

The Trinity Christian School (TCS) is a 25.27-acre private school of general education located on the north side of Braddock Road between Ox Road and Shirley Gate Road. Jonathan Meisner is the owner of property directly adjacent to TCS on the northern side. Mr. Meisner has filed a Special Exception Amendment to adjust the limits of the school's approved Special Exception area to permit a lot line adjustment between his and TCS's properties. The land swap of approximately 21,000 square feet would allow both parties to use the land more efficiently and optimize space. No additional square footage or operational changes are being requested for the school. Both staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval of this application. The [staff report is available](#) on the county website. A hearing before the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, in the Government Center Auditorium at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. As previously noted, interested individuals may provide written, phone, video, or in-person testimony. For [information on how to testify](#), please go to the county website.

### **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. The county set a goal of delivering a minimum of 5,000 new affordable housing units within 15 years to help meet the housing needs of residents at all income levels. To help achieve that goal, Supervisor Walkinshaw introduced a Board Matter on October 20 to consider redeveloping excess parking in Lots G and H at the Government Center with approximately 200 to 250 multi-family units and up to 15,000 square feet of support service use for the future residents. These lots are located immediately across the Government Center Parkway from the Pennino and Herrity Buildings. 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.

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 here. This property is county-owned, and because it is already paved, it would not have negative environmental impacts associated with the clearing of trees. A hearing before the Board of Supervisors to discuss this proposal is tentatively scheduled for January 26.

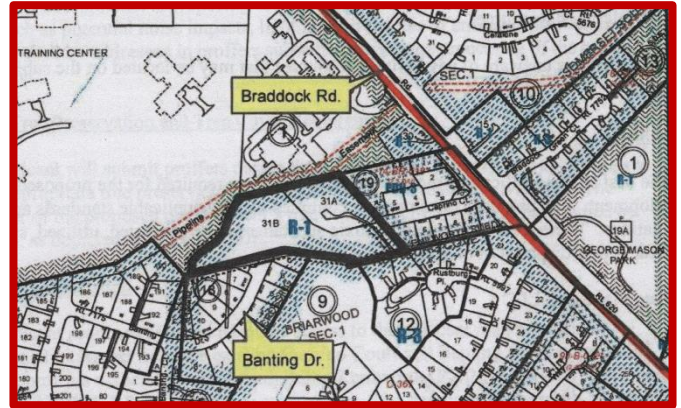




## Proposal for Second Phase of Kenilworth Development Still Pending

As previously reported, 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.

Connection of these streets has been a primary topic of discussion with the neighboring communities. Banting Drive and Caprino Court were intended to connect when the Penns Crossing and original Kenilworth developments were planned and approved. In addition, when Caprino Court was accepted into the public street system earlier this year, it was done with the understanding that it would connect to Banting Drive if this adjacent site were developed.



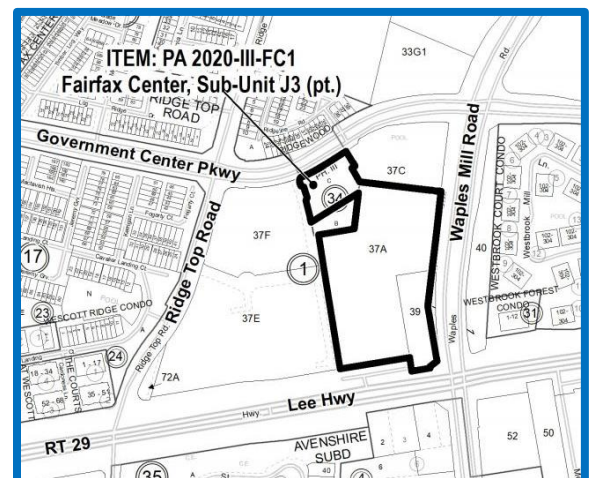
VDOT adopted a connectivity policy over a decade ago in order to provide for a network of local streets and to address concerns with cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets. Street connectivity requirements are included in the *Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan Transportation Plan* and *Public Facilities Manual* as well as in the State Code. These connections provide flow for both vehicles and pedestrians within local developments rather than requiring people to go out onto a larger collector road to access a neighboring house. Connectivity is vital in providing timely access for emergency vehicles. It is also important for street maintenance and snow plowing.

County staff review of this application remains on hold while the applicants consider design options. 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.

## Comprehensive Plan for NW Corner of Lee Highway & 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 will present an update at the November 17 Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee meeting (see below). A report 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.

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

The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee will hold an electronic meeting on Tuesday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. The agenda will include a presentation on the draft Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the northwest corner of Lee Highway and Waples Mill Road. 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.

#### **Ayesha Sheikh – 9610 Braddock Road, Fairfax SP 2020-BR-043**

The applicant requested expansion of a home childcare facility. The applicant currently cares for 7 children and asked for an increase to care for up to 12 children at any one time with one full-time assistant. This application was approved by the BZA on October 7. [Information, including a map of the site and staff report](#), may be found on the county website.

**Thu Thi Pham – 9249 Kristin Lane, Fairfax  
SP 2020-BR-056**

The applicant sought modifications to the limitations on the keeping of animals to keep 10 chickens, and a reduction in the minimum yard requirements based on error in building location to allow an addition to remain 6 feet from a side lot line. The Zoning Ordinance allows chickens to only be kept on lots that are two acres or greater without Special Permit approval. This application was approved by the BZA by a vote of 5-0 on November 4. [Information, including a map of the site and staff report](#), may be found on the county website.

**Derek and Yongxia Cosby – 4819 Ponderosa Drive, Annandale  
SP 2020-BR-063**

The applicants are seeking to add an accessory dwelling unit and are requesting 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 would be located at the rear of the structure and the application states that parking for the tenant would be on the street in front of the house. This application is scheduled to go before the BZA on November 18. [Information, including a map of the site and staff report](#), when available, 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 the site. 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 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 here.

**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. [Information, including a map of the site and staff report](#), when available, may be found here.

**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 has not yet been scheduled for a BZA hearing. [Information, including a map of the site and staff report](#), when available, may be found here.

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