



The Braddock Beacon



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Follow me on social media!



Dear Neighbor,

I want to start with a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to our recent open house. Nearly 100 neighbors joined us, and I was truly grateful for the chance to connect, listen, and engage with so many of you. These conversations about your families, your concerns, and your hopes for our community are my favorite part of this job.



And a special shout-out to the gentleman wearing the Cal sweatshirt - my alma mater. My apologies for not greeting you with a proper "Go Bears!" in the moment. Please know the spirit was there, even if I wasn't able to get to you! And rest assured, I was just as thrilled to talk with everyone else too - Cal gear or not.

Those conversations help guide the work we do every day, and they shape how I approach my role on the Board of Supervisors. While this newsletter often focuses on sharing helpful information, resources, and updates from around our community, I also want to give you a window into what's happening at the Board level and how decisions are made, what conversations are taking place, and how that

work connects back to everyday life here in our district. I am very thankful for my hard-working staff for putting together this event.

Small Business Support

Supporting our residents AND their small businesses right here in Braddock is a key part of building a strong local economy. I was glad to host [Fairfax CORE](#) in the Community, a free County service that brings one-on-one small business support directly to our neighborhoods. With help from Frank Kuhns, local entrepreneurs from home renovation and editing services to CPR training and a public-safety technology startup received practical guidance and connections in just one afternoon. I hope this hands-on support helps Braddock businesses grow, create jobs, and strengthen our community. Keep a look out for the next Fairfax CORE in the Community at the Braddock Office.



Board Meeting Update

While our newsletters mainly focus on what's happening around our community, I would also like to provide some insight into what your Board of Supervisors has been working on.

At our February 3 Board meeting, we introduced several Board Matters, which are items that Supervisors bring to raise new ideas, pursue policy changes, or recognize important community needs.

"Snow-crete" Follow Up



Following the debilitating "snow-crete" storm that blanketed our region, I was glad to support two Board Matters aimed at improving how we respond to major winter weather events in the future. Chairman Jeff McKay introduced a Board Matter to develop a volunteer program that would connect residents who need help clearing snow with neighbors willing to lend a hand. This idea grew out of thoughtful recommendations shared with several Board offices, and I was happy to support it. We are also working towards creating a Braddock-specific snow volunteer system in advance so neighbors can help neighbors when it matters most.

Many of you also experienced inconsistencies in how snow plowing was handled across different neighborhoods. In response, Supervisor Pat Herrity requested, with full Board support, an after-action report from VDOT examining what worked, what didn't, and how their planning and execution can improve moving forward. Supervisor Jimmy Bierman

added an amendment allowing Board offices to submit questions for VDOT to address when they report back. My staff is currently compiling input from Braddock so residents' concerns are clearly reflected in that discussion.

Affordable Housing

My colleagues and I also approved the Board's [Legislative Report](#), which outlines our positions on bills currently moving through the General Assembly in Richmond. Housing remains one of the most urgent issues facing Fairfax County. It's not just a social issue, it's an economic one. If we want to keep our workforce strong and our local economy competitive, people must be able to afford to live here.



The General Assembly is considering several promising bills related to housing, including measures focused on housing preservation, protections for residents of manufactured housing communities, expanded funding options for affordable housing, and support for first-time homebuyers. As the new Chair of the Board's Housing Committee, my focus is on supporting legislation that helps us move faster, expand homeownership opportunities, strengthen partnerships—including with faith communities—and secure sustainable funding, while opposing proposals that erode local control.

Economic development and placemaking are closely tied to this work as well. Creating jobs and growing a strong local economy helps ensure Fairfax is not overly reliant on the federal government. A diverse, resilient economy means the federal presence in our region is a plus and not our main economic engine. This helps reduce pressure on residential real estate taxes that fund County services.

Placemaking



Two other priorities I want to share are economic development and placemaking. Economic development helps create jobs and grow our local economy so we're not overly reliant on the federal government. A strong, diverse local economy means the federal presence in our region is a plus and not our only economic engine. It can help revitalize our commercial sector and help reduce pressure on taxpayers who pay residential real estate taxes that fund County services. Placemaking goes hand in hand with that work. At its core, it's about creating welcoming spaces where people want to spend time and

places where neighbors connect, small businesses can succeed, and community life grows. That matters now more than ever as we continue to rebuild community after COVID, whether it's seniors aging in place and staying connected, families raising kids while building friendships, or young adults choosing to put down roots here.

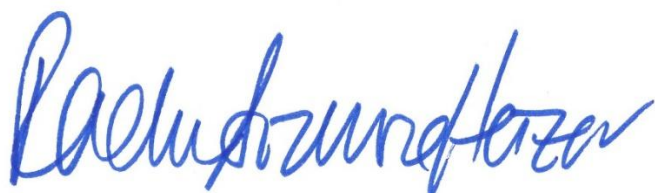
I was proud to support Supervisor Palchik's Board Matter regarding placemaking - bringing together Visit Fairfax, Volunteer Fairfax, and the Tysons Community Alliance. By working together instead of separately, these organizations can reduce duplication, find efficiencies, and save taxpayer dollars while delivering stronger results. That kind of coordination helps us build a more vibrant, connected, and economically sustainable Fairfax for the long term.

I hope sharing some of these updates help you see some of the work we do as a Board and as an office! Please see below for more information and resources.

Happy Super Bowl AND Winter Olympics opening weekend! What a fantastic weekend for those who enjoy sporting events!

As always, reach out any time if we can be of service.

Warmly,



Supervisor Rachna Sizemore Heizer

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Current & Upcoming Events

Details on these events and more can be found in this edition of the Beacon or by contacting braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Now through March 31 [Hypothermia Prevention Program](#)
February... Black History Month, School Zone Enforcement Month
February 10..... Nat'l Academy of Sciences' 50th [Climate Conversations Event](#)
February 13..... [Military to Manufacturing Virtual Career Fair](#)
February 14 – 21..... Entrepreneurship Week
February 14..... [Chinese New Year Festival](#) at Luther Jackson Middle School
February 16..... Deadline to complete Veterans and Military Families Online [Survey](#)
February 16..... Presidents Day (County Government Closed)
February 17..... From Knowledge to Action: Responding to Suicide Risk ([virtual event](#))
February 17..... Budget Proposal and Real Estate Assessments Released
February 17..... Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee Meeting
February 19..... Seedling Sale Begins
February 20..... Black History Month Celebration
February 21... Burke Centre Library Opens for Early Voting (School Board Spec. Election)
February 24..... Joint Board of Supervisors/School Board Budget Meeting
February 28..... Deadline to Submit [Survey](#) on Accessory Living Units
March 3..... Special Election for Braddock District School Board Member
March 4..... Best of Braddock Awards and Reception
March 6..... Neighborhood College Application Deadline

Rachna in the Community



Supervisor Sizemore Heizer meets with new Fairfax City Manager Dan Alexander on January 7



Supervisor Sizemore Heizer is sworn in as a new member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission on January 8



Supervisor Sizemore Heizer attends the Burke Centre Conservancy's Volunteer Recognition Reception on January 23



Supervisor Sizemore Heizer joins the Board of Supervisors to honor the achievements of multiple FCPS athletic teams on January 13



At left: Supervisor Sizemore Heizer attends the Council to End Domestic Violence meeting on January 16

Braddock Bravos

After the recent ice and snow event, we saw neighbors across Braddock step up in big ways, including helping shovel for those in need by clearing driveways, sidewalks, and paths to bus stops and schools, so folks could make it to medical appointments, access essential resources, pick up critical medications, and get to school safely. That kind of community spirit truly makes a difference.

We'd especially like to recognize three local teens who went above and beyond by shoveling 48 houses - driveways and sidewalks- throughout their neighborhood. Supervisor Sizemore Heizer is proud to extend a Braddock Bravo to these three teens for their hard work and dedication to helping their neighbors:

- Jonathon Lee
- Dean Johnson
- Brandon Johnson

Well done and thank you for showing what community care looks like in action! Bravo!

If you'd like to nominate someone for a Braddock Bravo,

Best of Braddock March 4

For over thirty years the Braddock District Supervisor has held a ceremony to honor the residents and organizations in our district who have committed their time and resources to make our community a better place to live, work, and play. Typically the event takes place in December, but the Braddock District office placed it on hold until a new Supervisor was in place.

Supervisor Sizemore Heizer is excited to host the next Best of Braddock Awards Ceremony and Reception on **Wednesday, March 4, 2026**, and you are invited! The evening will start with a reception, followed by the awards ceremony to recognize and celebrate our active and dedicated community members.

Supervisor Rachna Sizemore Heizer
invites you to the

Best of Braddock Awards Ceremony & Reception

Please join us to recognize honorees for:

Citizen of the Year
Young Person of the Year
Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification
Most "Can-Do" Public Employee
Club or Organization Making a Difference
Civic Engagement

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be provided!

Wednesday, March 4 | 6:30pm
Braddock District Supervisor's Office
9002 Burke Lake Rd. Burke

Email braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov with questions

Seasonal Items

Braddock District Neighborhood College Returns March 12

Click to view the flyers:



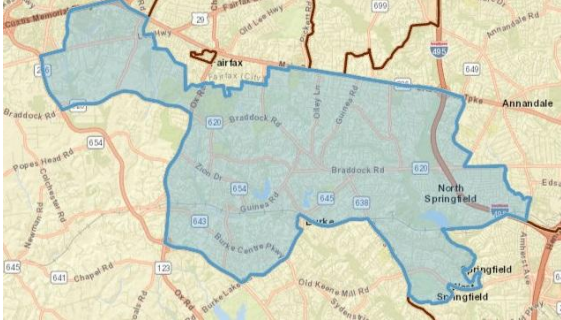
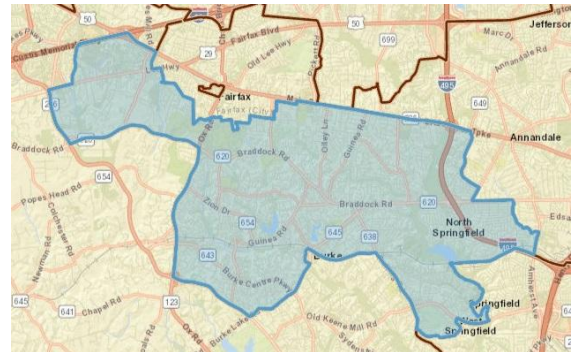
Fairfax County's Neighborhood College is a FREE six-session certificate program open to Braddock District residents. It is a great way to learn about all the resources of our local government and how to get involved! Sessions will feature guest speakers, interactive activities, breakout room discussions, networking opportunities and information about advisory boards and other volunteer opportunities.

The logo for Neighborhood College features the name in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A blue graduation cap is positioned behind the letter 'C' in 'College'. Below the text is a stylized illustration of a neighborhood. It includes a green hill with a white winding path, a purple bus, several houses in blue and purple, and silhouettes of people walking and a dog. The entire illustration is set against a light blue background.

- Space is limited. **Application must be submitted** by **Friday, March 6, 2026**. An Orientation Session is scheduled for March 12.

Special Election for Braddock District School Board

- Deadline to register to vote: February 20 (same-day registration is available on Election Day)
- Deadline to apply for an absentee by-mail ballot: February 20
- Early In-person Voting dates, times and locations:
 - **Now through February 28:** Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 323
Fairfax, VA 22035
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Closed Feb. 16 for Presidents Day)
Saturday February 7, 21, and 28: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 - **February 21 - February 28:** Burke Centre Library
5935 Freds Oak Rd
Burke, VA 22015
Monday - Friday 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday February 21 and 28: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

A map of Fairfax County, Virginia, with a blue outline indicating the county's boundaries. The map shows major roads, including I-495, I-66, and I-267, and various local roads like Braddock Rd, Old Lee Hwy, and Chayle Rd. The locations of the Government Center and Burke Centre Library are marked with red dots and labeled. The Government Center is located near the intersection of I-495 and I-66, and the Burke Centre Library is located near the intersection of I-66 and I-267. The map also shows the locations of other nearby cities and towns, including Arlington, Alexandria, and Manassas.

- **Tuesday March 3** – Election Day - Vote at your regular polling place. Polls open 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

For more information, visit the Fairfax County [Office of Elections website](#).

Ways to Celebrate Black History Month

Visit the County's Historical Markers



This [Black History Month](#), we invite community members to explore five historical markers that honor the lives and legacies of Black Americans who shaped our community. These markers, installed through the [Black/African American Historical Marker Project](#), tell powerful stories of

resilience, leadership, and advocacy. An added bonus, they're right here in our neighborhoods.

Read more at the [County News site](#).

Fairfax County Black History Month Celebration February 20

Fairfax County Presents:

Unite, Uplift & Celebrate!

A Black History Month Celebration

BLACK

HISTORY

MONTH

Friday, February 20, 2026
5 - 8 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035

Join your neighbors for an evening at the Government Center to celebrate Black History Month. Enjoy local performances, interactive activities, enlightening discussion and light refreshments.

For more information, contact Ramona.Carroll@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Reasonable accommodations made upon request; call 703-324-7483, TTY 711. A Fairfax County, Virginia publication. 1/2026

FAIRFAX

Dominion Offers Resources to Lower Energy Bills

Dominion Energy has developed several new resources that are available to customers, such as simple, effective ways to lower energy bills, and tips for making homes more energy efficient.

Dominion Energy [offers programs](#), incentives and tools to make it easier to manage energy costs, including:

- **Energy-Saving Programs:** Simple ways to reduce monthly costs.
- **Usage Tracking Tools:** Empower households to monitor and manage energy use.
- **Assistance Programs:** Flexible payment options for those experiencing hardship.
 - [EnergyShare](#) is a year-round program of last resort that helps pay energy bills for any type of cooling and heating source for those who qualify.
 - Flexible Payment Options
 - Income and Age Qualifying Energy Savings Program



Learn more at the [Dominion website](#).

Entrepreneurship Week Resources



In celebration of Entrepreneurship Week February 14-21, let's fuel the innovation that drives our local economy! Whether you're launching a startup or scaling a small business, Fairfax County offers world-class tools to help you succeed. We encourage you to explore [Fairfax CORE](#) for a comprehensive roadmap of local resources, submit your challenging business questions to [Fairfax County's Ask the Expert](#), or register for Fairfax CORE's [Entrepreneur Help Desk](#) for personalized guidance. Plus, don't miss the [Economic Development Authority's Entrepreneurship 101](#)

[\(E-101\)](#) next workshop March 10 to master the fundamentals of starting a business in our community.

To stay ahead of the curve, be sure to subscribe to the [Fairfax CORE newsletter](#) for the latest grants, educational opportunities, and game-changing business insights delivered straight to your inbox.

Let's keep Fairfax County the best place to build and grow!

Presidents Day Clean UP on Americana Drive **Canceled**

The Clean UP Event on Americana Drive in Annandale on Presidents Day, Monday, February 16, has been **canceled** due to icy conditions. Watch this newsletter or visit www.fcrpp3.org for notice of the next clean up opportunity.



Prevent Frozen Pipes this Winter

Fairfax Water **Winter Water Tips**

PREVENT FROZEN PIPES

Frozen pipes can leave you without water in the worst of weather – and cost a lot to repair. But with a few simple steps, you can easily preserve your budget and your peace of mind.

BEFORE THE COLD WEATHER SETS IN	WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING	BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE
 Make sure sprinkler or irrigation systems are turned off and drained.	 If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow through.	 Shut off the water immediately.
 Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines. Plug and fix drafty windows and doors.	 Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of cold tap water to run.	 Use warm air to thaw frozen pipes, but be careful—don't stand in water while using anything electric. Never use a flame or torch to thaw a pipe.
 Know how to shut off your water at the main line valve.		 Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on. Check pipes and joints for any cracks.
 Protect your pipes in uninsulated spaces. Wrap them with insulation.		

REPORT WATER MAIN BREAKS

If you see or suspect a main break, please contact Fairfax Water right away:

- Fill out the form: fairfaxwater.org/mainbreak
- Call during business hours: 703-698-5800, TTY 711
- Call on nights and weekends: 703-698-5613, TTY 711

Fairfax Water has developed a few simple steps that residents can take to protect their pipes from freezing during the winter. These include:

- Knowing the location of your main water valve and how to shut it off
- Turning off and draining outdoor faucets and irrigation systems
- Eliminating sources of cold air near water pipes by fixing drafts
- Wrapping water pipes with insulation
- Keeping water running at a trickle when temps are below freezing; and
- Opening under-sink cabinet doors to allow warm air to flow around pipes

If you see or suspect a main break, please contact Fairfax Water right away:

- Fill out the form at:

fairfaxwater.org/mainbreak

- Call during business hours: (703) 698-5800, TTY 711
- Call on nights and weekends: (703) 698-5613, TTY 711

Community News

Bridges to Success: Career Pathways for Military-Connected Families

Veterans, transitioning military members, and military spouses are welcome to attend this event. Bridges to Success will feature opportunities to connect with local area employers, career enhancement opportunities, and more.

Date & Time: Wednesday March 11 from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Location: National Museum of the United States Army

1775 Liberty Dr. Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

[Register on Eventbrite](#)



BRIDGES TO SUCCESS:
Career Pathways for Military-Connected Families

Join us for an opportunity to connect with local area employer offering paid internships, fellowships, apprenticeships, and jobs. Military services opportunities and entry level federal employment opportunities will be available as well as opportunities to engage with colleges, universities and certification resources to explore professional development pathways to career success.

Stuff the Bus Returns March 14

Fairfax County's [Stuff the Bus initiative](#) began in 2011 in response to a critical need to help restock the shelves of local food pantries after the holidays.

This collaborative program is a partnership between Fairfax County Government and local nonprofits. Now in its 16th year, Stuff the Bus continues to support food assistance efforts for families and households. Stuff the Bus has collected more than 250 tons of food to feed people experiencing food insecurity in Fairfax County since its inception.

When Stuff the Bus locations are announced, they will be shared in the Braddock Beacon and Advisory messages.



Save the Date
COUNTY-WIDE DAY FOR DONATIONS
Saturday, March 14, 2026
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

This year's Stuff the Bus events will take place on March 14 at various grocery store locations across the county. Scan the QR code or check the webpage for details and locations closer to the event date.



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/NCS
Search: Stuff the Bus

ONE DAY ONLY!



For more information on Stuff the Bus, inclement weather arrangements or to request this information in an alternate format, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov, and search "Stuff the Bus," or call 703-324-4600, TTY 711. A Fairfax County, VA, publication. 1/2026

Donations Needed at ECHO

ECHO, 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22150, is open to receive donations of household goods, clothing and non-perishable food from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Monday through Friday, and from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, as well as one Saturday morning a month which varies - see www.echo-inc.org. You can also drop donations at the box outside the Braddock District office at 9002 Burke Lake Road Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Currently, ECHO needs infant clothes (0-6 months), children's and men's sneakers, new underwear in men's sizes 32/34, and men's winter coats in small and medium. The Housewares Department has an ongoing need for sheets and comforters in King and Queen sizes as well as for pots and pans in medium and large sizes.

Currently, the Food Pantry especially needs Masa flour, spaghetti sauce, lemon juice, canned fruits packed in juice, laundry detergent, shampoo and deodorant, but they can use all types of non-perishable foods and hygiene items. Please choose "regular" sizes, not giant-sized products. Remember

that, for safety purposes, ECHO cannot distribute foods that are past an expiration date or that have been opened or re-packaged.

Volunteer Opportunities

ECHO has some intriguing volunteer positions for a few people who would be interested in leadership roles. These, of course, would require a larger commitment than a weekly shift. The positions would be most appropriate for people who, in other organizations, perhaps, have enjoyed the challenges of team building and problem-solving. Want to put your skills and expertise to work for a great cause? Does this sound like you? Contact their Volunteer Coordinator at www.echo-inc.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/. Other weekly opportunities to work with clients or donations are also listed on their webpage.

Summer Acting Camps for 1st - 5th Graders with Traveling Players

Traveling Players has options for young actors looking for new adventures, artistic challenges, and friends!

Day Camps!

- [Acting Studio Day Camp](#) (grades 1-3 | *Tyson's Studio*) Beginners dive into the wonderful world of theatre through acting games and scenework!
- [Players Studio Day Camp](#) (grades 3-5 | *Tyson's Studio*) is designed for actors ready to take on a bigger artistic challenge! Learn how to take the show from the page to the stage by performing multiple scenes.
- **Sleepaway!** [Act: FIVE Sleepaway Camp](#) (grades 3-5 | Christchurch Boarding School) This 5-day mini session is the PERFECT first sleepaway camp! Every day mixes acting with outdoor adventures, building confidence and independence – onstage and off!



Environment & Parks News

February Update on Lake Accotink Preservation Feasibility Study

The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) has been working with an interdisciplinary team of County staff, United States Geological Survey (USGS) staff, and a team of consulting engineers, scientists, and professionals (referred to as the Accotink team) to support the Smaller Lake Accotink Preservation Feasibility Study.



Bathymetric Survey: The bathymetric survey of Lake Accotink, initiated in mid-December to measure water depths and map the lake bottom topography, is currently on hold due to ice build-up on the lake. The consultant overseeing the survey is awaiting improved lake conditions to finalize the work.

Public Engagement Website: DPWES is redesigning the [Public Engagement website](#) for the Smaller Lake Accotink Preservation Feasibility Study to enhance user navigation and simplify access to relevant information. The updated website is set to launch later this month.

Comments submitted regarding the Desktop and Permitting Assessment Technical Memorandums, along with DPWES responses to each comment, will also be published on the redesigned website under the “What’s New” section.

Sediment Management Modeling: Modeling to evaluate the potential effectiveness of sediment management measures upstream of Lake Accotink is ongoing. The analysis aims to estimate the amount of sediment that could be trapped and the extent of streambank erosion that could be prevented if these measures were implemented along portions of Accotink Creek upstream of the lake.

For feasibility study updates, outreach announcements and information released about the feasibility study, please visit the [Public Engagement website](#) and the “Additional Resources” section on the right side of the website.

Dam Assessment: The Park Authority has completed an assessment of the dam structure to ensure its integrity and identify any maintenance or repair needs. They are awaiting the report on the findings based on the inspections, which is expected in late winter/early spring.

For additional information, including project background and previous studies, visit the [DPWES project website](#).

Clean Up Salt from Roads, Driveways and Walkways

Now that the weather has cleared, it is time for removal of excess road salt from our neighborhoods. Please help keep the excess salt from draining into our streams and lakes when the ice melts. The Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services recommends that residents sweep up, store, and reuse salt for the next winter event. (Use caution if you are in the roadways.)

Why remove the salt? Salt runoff ends up in our waterways and groundwater, increasing their salinity and harming both aquatic life and our drinking water sources, which have no cost-effective method of removing it. Salt is also corrosive to pipes and other infrastructure, which increases maintenance costs.



In the next winter event, please use salt sparingly. Read some [tips from Fairfax Water](#) on being a Smart Salt User.

Seedling Sale Starts February 19



The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) will begin accepting orders February 19 for their popular Annual Native Seedling Sale Program, through which they provide native trees and shrubs to Fairfax County residents at low cost. All seedlings are native to Virginia and were selected with advice from the Fairfax County Urban Forestry Management Division and Virginia Department of Forestry.

To browse the available trees for sale, visit the [NVSWCD website](#) and mark your calendar for February 19!

Native plants beautify residents' yards, promote beneficial habitats, and enhance our native forest. Sale proceeds help to support the stewardship and engagement programs offered by NVSWCD that also support Fairfax County's Environmental Vision, including those that engage the Fairfax County community in additional local reforestation efforts, volunteer stream monitoring, our local *Envirothon* high school competition, storm drain marking and education, Green Breakfasts, and others.

Drop-In Interviews for Burke Lake Park Seasonal Jobs

If you're looking for a seasonal job that gets you out from behind a desk and lets you work in a beautiful setting while building real-world skills, this is it. Spend your season at Burke Lake Park, one of Fairfax County's most beautiful outdoor destinations!

Drop-in interviews at the Burke Lake Park Information Center will be held Feb. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27 from noon to 5 p.m. Appointments are not necessary, so come by to explore job opportunities, complete an application and interview on the spot -- all in one visit!

Seasonal opportunities include manager on duty (MOD), marina attendant, office attendant, train attendant, mini-golf attendant, camp store attendant, and maintenance positions.



At Burke Lake Park, you'll work outdoors in a scenic environment, build customer service, leadership and teamwork skills, and become part of a fun and supportive team. Gain experience and transferable skills that look great on a resume.

Can't make it to the drop-in interviews? No worries! View job ads and apply now for open positions at the [Burke Lake jobs website](#). To view all employment opportunities with FCPA, [visit the Park Authority's Jobs website](#), email the Park Authority at FCPAJOBS@fairfaxcounty.gov or call (703) 324-8792.

Burke Lake Park is located at 7315 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. For more information, visit the [Burke Lake Park website](#) or call (703) 323-6600.

Transportation Updates

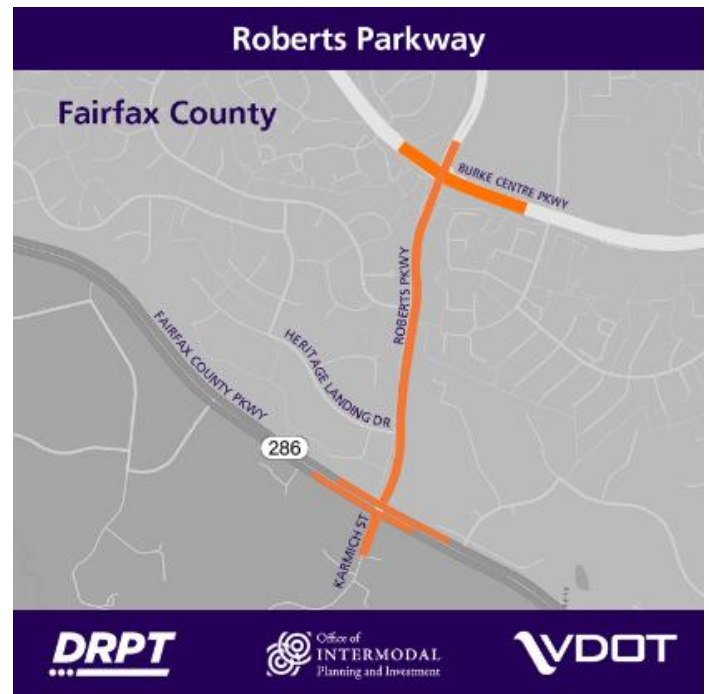
Roberts Parkway Study Update

As shared in the January 2026 Beacon and the January 15 Advisory, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is conducting a [study](#) assessing potential safety, operational and multimodal improvements along Roberts Parkway from Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286) to Burke Centre Parkway (Route 643).

The study is focused on improving roadway and pedestrian safety; preserving capacity to keep traffic flowing smoothly; multimodal (bicycle, pedestrian and transit) accessibility and connectivity; capacity mitigation/preservation; and transportation demand management (TDM) needs.

The online survey regarding the proposed alternatives was completed last month.

Supervisor Sizemore Heizer will be meeting with VDOT to discuss the alternatives and address the concerns raised by community members. VDOT's study team will use this input from the public and from members of the Board as it refines the alternatives and performs planning-level cost estimation before selecting the preferred alternative(s) to address the identified needs.



More details can be found on the [VDOT website](https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/).

Board of Supervisors Sends Letter to the Federal Aviation Administration Supporting the Recommendations for the DCA South of Airport Noise Mitigation Project Final Report

At the February 3 Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Storck moved that the Board approve and send a [letter](#) to the Regional Administrator of the Eastern Region of the FAA, emphasizing the importance of the proposed recommendations to the County and ask that FAA move this effort forward and take timely action to implement these recommendations. Supervisor Sizemore Heizer will be monitoring these recommendations for any impacts on the Braddock District.



Background: In 2023, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Prince George's County hired a consultant to help identify strategies to reduce noise impacts for communities south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). The purpose of the South of Airport (SoA) Noise Mitigation Project was to provide recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), through the Community Working Group (CWG), to reduce noise concentration from aircraft routes converging over areas of the three jurisdictions. The recommendations include moving the departing aircraft towards the center of the Potomac River and moving arriving aircraft over less

populated areas and over the Potomac River, where possible in accordance with the design philosophy.

The consultant, Vianair, has maintained a project website since 2023 that provides all meeting materials and technical analysis, along with the final report at <https://www.vianair.com/soa/>.

Fairfax County Recognizes Best Workplaces for Commuters



The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized 17 local employers as Best Workplaces for Commuters (BWCs) at its February 3 meeting. The employers were celebrated for prioritizing innovative programs and benefits that enhance employee well-being, reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Three of the honored organizations are in the Braddock District: **Northern Virginia Community College**, **Apple Federal Credit Union** and **Peterson Companies**. They joined a growing list of over 190 Best Workplaces awarded to Fairfax County businesses and organizations since 2010.

Thanks to the efforts of Fairfax County and other jurisdictions around the Commonwealth, **Virginia now ranks Number One in the nation** for Best Workplaces for Commuters! These honorees join more than 90 employers across Virginia who were recognized.

Popes Head Road Project Update

Weather permitting, Popes Head Road (Route 654) will have one lane of alternating traffic via flagging between Revercomb Court and just east of Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286) on weekdays from Monday, Feb. 2, through Friday, Feb. 27, for water main relocation work as part of the [Fairfax County Parkway and Popes Head Road interchange project](#), according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

If weather conditions allow, the flagging will occur along Popes Head Road as follows:

- **Monday, Feb. 9, through Friday, Feb. 13:** 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 17, through Friday, Feb. 20:** 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day (no flagging on Monday, Feb. 16, due to the Presidents' Day holiday).
- **Monday, Feb. 23, through Friday, Feb. 27:** 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Drivers should expect delays and are advised to use alternate routes.

The [**Fairfax County Parkway and Popes Head Road interchange project**](#) is replacing the traffic signal at Fairfax County Parkway and Popes Head Road with an interchange. The interchange will feature triple roundabouts that will allow traffic to flow freely via two new bridges over Fairfax County Parkway.

Education News

Update from School Board Member At-Large Ilryong Moon

Upcoming Budget Milestones This February

The Superintendent presented her [**proposed budget**](#) on January 22. On February 17, the County Executive will release the FY 2027 Advertised Budget.

Key Dates:

Feb 10 – FCPS Budget Public Hearing
Feb 17 – County's Advertised Budget released
Feb 24 – County and FCPS Joint Budget Committee meeting
Feb 26 – School Board adopts proposed budget



I encourage our community to stay engaged and informed as we move through this important period. I will continue to share updates as the budget process progresses.

Update from School Board Member At-Large Kyle McDaniel

The Fairfax County School Board invites interested community members (with architecture, construction, engineering, facilities management, capital financing, permitting and procurement, land use planning, or development expertise) to apply for five Community Member appointee seats on the School Board Comprehensive Planning and Development Committee. The deadline to apply is Sunday, February 8, 2026.



This committee consists of five School Board Members and five Community Members. The committee's primary role is to assist the Fairfax County School Board with its capital planning and facility maintenance efforts.

The Comprehensive Planning and Development meets monthly, for approximately two hours. More information, including how to apply, is available [here](#).

Kyle McDaniel, School Board Member At-Large, is seeking applicants for the following committees (click on a committee name to learn more):

- [**Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee \(MSAOC\)**](#)
- [**School Health Advisory Committee \(SHAC\)**](#)

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees and meet the requirements, please [**reach out to Mr. McDaniel's office**](#) with a resume and what committee you are interested in, and they will be in touch with more information.

Sign Up for the Patriot Brew for Mason Athletics News



George Mason Athletics has a morning newsletter. "Patriot Brew" will hit inboxes first thing every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, providing fans with a rundown of top news and notes, links to unforgettable highlights, videos, information on upcoming games and events, and more. Written in a friendly and entertaining tone, the Patriot Brew helps fans stay on top of everything happening with George Mason Athletics.

Visit [**this news post**](#) to learn more.

[**Click here to subscribe**](#) to the Patriot Brew!

\$100 Scholarships Toward Career Education from FCPS ACE

You can advance your career in any field through additional learning. FCPS Adult & Community Education (ACE) wants to help you. They are awarding \$100 scholarships toward any of their online, self-guided, career advancement courses. The application is quick, easy, and not exclusively needs-based. You could receive multiple \$100 awards when you take multiple classes! Browse hundreds of career courses available and [**apply for your \\$100 scholarship today**](#).

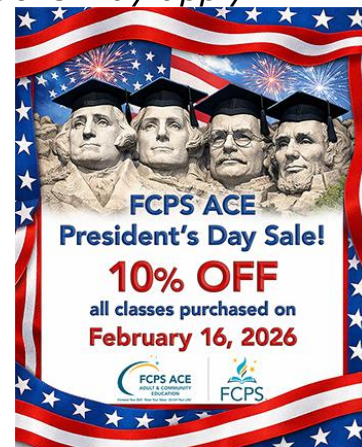


If you don't need a scholarship but would like to help support adult career education, [please donate](#) to FCPS ACE scholarships.

Please note that these scholarships cannot be combined with any other scholarship, discount, or promotion offered through FCPS ACE. Other restrictions may apply.

FCPS ACE President's Day Sale! 10% OFF ALL Classes!

You'll get presidential savings when you purchase any class from FCPS Adult and Community Education on February 16, 2026! Whether you're looking to switch careers, upgrade your current skills or just learn something fun, you'll get 10% off the tuition of any and all classes purchased on www.fcpsace.org! But only when you register on President's Day, February 16, 2026. [Click here](#) for details.



Human Services

Free Home Repairs and Modifications for Fairfax County Homeowners



Rebuilding Together Arlington/Fairfax/Falls Church (RT-AFF) provides **free critical home repairs and accessibility modifications** to help older adults, people with disabilities, and families under financial strain live safely at home. Volunteers can install grab bars and stair rails, improve lighting, make minor plumbing and electrical repairs, ensure proper dryer venting, build wheelchair ramps and more.

Fairfax County homeowners qualify with incomes below **\$74,800 for individuals** or **\$85,450 for two people**, with higher limits for larger households.

To apply, call **(703) 528-1999** or visit rebuildingtogether-aff.org/apply to download an application and program brochure.

Home Heating Assistance Available

You may be eligible to receive help with home heating bills through two energy assistance programs that are accepting applications now. The Fuel Assistance Program helps eligible households in meeting their energy needs by supplementing the cost associated with their primary heat source. The Crisis Assistance Program is designed to help households overcome energy emergencies that cannot be met by other resources. If you or someone you know needs help with home heating costs during the coldest months of the year, apply to the Fuel Assistance and Crisis Assistance programs [online](#) or by calling (833) 5-CALL-VA (833-522-5582).

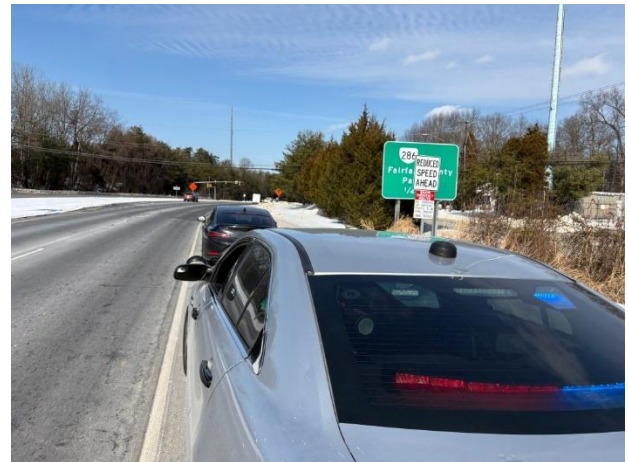
[Learn More about Energy Assistance Programs.](#)

Public Safety

February on Our Roads: Protecting School Zones and Preventing Impaired Driving

Keeping our roadways safe is a shared responsibility, and throughout February, the Fairfax County Police Department is focusing on two key traffic safety priorities: school zone enforcement and impaired driving prevention.

Their goal is to reduce fatal crashes by increasing community awareness, encouraging safe driving habits, and proactively enforcing traffic laws. As winter conditions linger and traffic patterns shift, officers will be highly visible in areas where safety risks are greatest.



School Zone Enforcement Month

February marks School Zone Enforcement Month, with a month-long focus on protecting students, pedestrians, and families during school travel times. Officers will be conducting targeted enforcement near schools, crosswalks, and bus routes throughout the county.

Enforcement efforts will focus on:

- Speeding in school speed zones
- Pedestrian safety violations
- Passing a stopped school bus

Passing a stopped school bus remains one of the most dangerous violations FCPD sees. Drivers are reminded that stopping for a school bus with flashing red lights is the law, and violations can result in serious penalties under Virginia Code.

As we continue to experience lingering ice and snow in some neighborhoods, families may see temporary adjustments to bus stops or altered walking patterns. These changes make it even more important for drivers to slow down, stay alert, and expect the unexpected in school areas.

Recent School Zone and Bus Enforcement Efforts

Officers have been actively enforcing school zone safety and stopping violations involving school buses. The [FCPD News Blog](#) includes recent videos highlighting these efforts and why they matter.

Impaired Driving Enforcement During Super Bowl Weekend

While school zone safety remains the primary focus this month, officers will also place additional emphasis on impaired driving enforcement during Super Bowl weekend.

Super Bowl celebrations often involve alcohol, and impaired driving remains one of the leading causes of serious and fatal crashes. Officers will be out proactively looking for impaired drivers to keep everyone safe.

Fans don't let fans drive drunk. Planning ahead, choosing a sober driver, using rideshare services, or arranging a safe ride home can save lives.

A dedicated Super Bowl safety tips blog will be shared at the [FCPD News Blog](#) with more information and reminders for game day.

Resources for Older Adults & Caregivers

When Is It Time for Hospice Care: What Caregivers Need to Know

Wednesday, February 18, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

In this virtual webinar presentation, hosted by the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, Kim Grove, Vice President, Executive Director of Operations, and Stephen Cone, Vice President of Development for Strategic Initiatives at Capital Caring Health, will present on preparing loved ones for hospice care. Kim and Stephen will also outline differences between nonprofit



and for-profit hospice care, payment options, and what families can do if loved ones live outside the DC/VA Metro area. This presentation aims to provide caregivers with practical and compassionate guidance for navigating hospice care.

Online Registration

Exploring the Dimensions of Aging

February 11, 17, 23, Times Vary

Join Inova ElderLink, in partnership with the Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging, for virtual caregiver training using the immersive Embodied Labs platform. Participants “see through the eyes” of older adults facing real-life challenges and gain practical insight to support empathy, inclusivity, and effective caregiving. This year’s program includes two **new** labs: **The Beatriz Lab: Alzheimer’s Disease** and **The Clay Lab: End of Life Conversations**. After the session, attendees receive on-demand access to the platform for continued learning.



Online registration

Free Community Events at the Wellness Center for Older Adults

February 2026

Wellness Center address: 4027B Olley Lane in Fairfax, VA, 22032

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Visit: <https://www.servicesource.org/virginia-wcoa/>

Call **(703) 970-3601** or email VAwellnesscenter@servicesource.org for more information

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9	10	11	12	13
10:00am-2:00pm Memory Screenings	10am Chair Yoga	10am Chair Tai Chi	11:15am Dance for Brain Health	10am Chair Zumba
10:30am Make Valentine’s Cards		10:30am Creativity Leads to Wellness		

16 SERVICESOURCE CLOSED- PRESIDENT'S DAY	17 1pm- BINGO!	18 10am Chair Tai Chi 10:30am Creativity Leads to Wellness	19 11:15am Dance for Brain Health	20 12:00am-2pm: Movie Club: TBA
23 11am- BINGO! 1pm Chair Tai Chi	24 11:30 Chair Yoga	25 10:30am Creativity Leads to Wellness	26 11:15am Dance for Brain Health	27 10am Chair Zumba

Descriptions of Community Events at the Wellness Center for Older Adults

Creativity Leads to Wellness

Join creative art sessions led by local artist, Sharon Fishel from **McLean Project for the Arts**, every Wednesday. This class will focus on individuals discovering their own creativity and learning the elements of art. All materials will be provided.

Dance for Brain Health

Based on CDC reports, research shows that the areas of the brain that control memory and skills such as planning and organizing improve with exercise. Dance has the added dimensions of rhythm, balance and music that enhance the benefits of simple movement – plus, it's fun! This class is appropriate for persons living with dementia, their caregivers and anyone interested in preventing health conditions associated with cognitive decline. Call to reserve your space at (703) 970-3601.

NOVA Scripts Presentation

NOVA Scripts Central will present a free workshop at 10:30 for all to join. **In recognition of National Cancer Prevention Month in February, this session will highlight evidence- based strategies to reduce cancer risk. Topics will include screenings, early detection, lifestyle modifications, understanding hereditary risk, and how medications and preventive therapies play a role in cancer prevention.**

Please call to reserve a seat at (703) 970-3601.

Movie Club

Join for a movie club experience. This activity is centered around watching quality films and having a discussion following the movie. Bring your lunch and enjoy the film!

Memory Screenings

Insight Memory Care Center offers free confidential memory screenings and educational materials to people with concerns about their memory or who want to check their memory now for future comparison. Call to reserve a 30-minute appointment at (703) 970-3601.

Land Use & Development

UPCOMING LAND USE MEETINGS & HEARINGS

Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee Meeting

- February 17 at 7:00 p.m. – Virtual

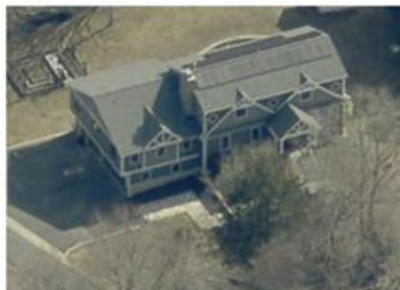
Board Supports Governor's Efforts to Streamline VDOT Approval Processes to Advance Infrastructure and Housing Projects



On February 3, the Board of Supervisors approved a letter to Governor Spanberger and Cabinet Secretaries in support of the Governor's [Executive Order](#) to review agency processes to make it easier to build much-needed and necessary housing throughout the Commonwealth to tackle our affordability issues. VDOT plays a critical role in almost all housing projects; however, VDOT approval processes can be long and inconsistent, leading to delays and cost overruns.

The Board's letter to Governor Spanberger asks that the administration conduct this regulatory review as expeditiously as possible and offers the County's assistance.

Share Your Thoughts on Potential Changes to Regulations for Accessory Living Units (ALUs)



Fairfax County is considering updates to the zoning regulations for Accessory Living Units (ALUs), which are secondary living spaces commonly known as basement apartments or in-law suites.

The [Zoning Ordinance](#) contains requirements for ALUs, which include limitations on size, occupancy, entrance locations, requirements for parking, and more. Some of these requirements could be updated through an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.

A [community survey](#) is underway to gather feedback and help determine next steps for our neighborhoods. County staff will use information from the survey alongside their analysis to determine next steps. The survey will be open through **February 28**.

Whether you are a homeowner, a renter, or just interested in the future of local housing, your feedback is encouraged.

For more information, including videos and staff presentations from the January community meetings, visit the [ALU project webpage](#) or call (703) 324-1314.

**Take the Survey by
February 28**

Braddock District Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting

The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee will hold a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m.** The agenda will include updates on pending Braddock District land use cases and related proposals.

Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee meetings are open to the public and interested residents are encouraged to participate. Join [online](#) or by phone: (571) 429-5982, Phone Conference ID: 730 922 969#.

Braddock District 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. These matters will not come before the Board of Supervisors but will be decided by the BZA, whose members are appointed by the Circuit Court. The BZA meets on Wednesdays beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Auditorium. BZA meetings are aired live on the County government's cable TV [Channel 16](#), [streamed online](#), and over the phone at (703) 324-7700. Meetings are also available to [view on demand](#) following the meeting.

BZA meetings are open to the public. Residents who have concerns about an application are encouraged to submit a letter for the record or testify at the hearing on the case in person, by telephone, or by pre-submitted video.

- **To speak in person:** It is recommended that you sign up ahead of time using the BZA [Speaker Sign-Up Form](#).
- **To submit video testimony:** Requests must be fully completed by 3:00 p.m. two days before the hearing. Follow the [Instructions for Video Testimony Submissions](#).
- **To submit written comment:** It can be emailed to BZAClerkMail@FairfaxCounty.gov or mailed to the Clerk. To ensure your comments are included with the BZA Board package distributed to BZA members, information must be received prior to 3:00 p.m. on the Tuesday one week before the meeting at which the matter is scheduled. More information is available at the [Provide Written Comment](#) link on the webpage.

For additional information, please visit the [Board of Zoning Appeals website](#) or contact the Clerk's office at BZAClerkMail@FairfaxCounty.gov or by phone at (703) 324-1280.

Access to information on BZA cases is available through the Planning and Land Use System, or PLUS. The PLUS record includes background documents and staff reports, which are published one to two weeks prior to public hearing, depending on the case type. PLUS is updated in real time. Visit the [PLUS website](#) for more information on this land use platform.

➤ **Uzma Ashar & Rabail Asher – 8807 Victoria Road, Springfield SP-2025-BR-00100**

The applicants requested permitting a home day care facility. They also requested a reduction in setback requirements based on errors in building location to allow an accessory structure (shed) to remain 4.5 feet from the rear lot line and 3.8 feet from the northeast side lot line. The home day care facility will serve up to 12 children, aged from 0 months to 12 years of age. Hours of operation will be from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Drop-offs and pick-ups will be

staggered and all will occur in the driveway. One to two assistants will be employed depending on the number of children present. This application was approved by the BZA at a hearing on January 14, 2026. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, may be found on the [PLUS website](#).

➤ **Ogechi Muotoh & Brian Muotoh – 11409 Shirley Gate Court, Fairfax
SP-2024-BR-00119**

The applicants are requesting a reduction of setback requirements to permit an addition (20-foot x 16-foot sunroom) 17.9 feet from the rear lot line, and an increase in the limitations on coverage of the minimum rear setback to 60 percent. The BZA hearing on this application was administratively moved to March 18. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the [PLUS website](#).

➤ **Richard F. Hayes & Janice C. Hayes – 8322 Queen Elizabeth Boulevard,
Annandale
SP-2025-BR-00045**

The applicants are requesting a reduction of setback requirements to permit an addition (garage) 7.2 feet from the north side lot line such that the side setbacks total 14.7 feet. This application has been scheduled for a BZA hearing on April 8. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, may be found on the [PLUS website](#).

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