

The Braddock Beacon

Volume 18 | Issue 1
01.09.2026

Dear Neighbor,



I am excited to serve as your new Braddock District representative on the Board of Supervisors. It is truly an honor to step into this role, and I'm energized by the opportunity to work together on behalf of our community. For those who may not know me, I most recently served nearly six years on the Fairfax County School Board—first as an at-large member and later representing the Braddock District. I shared a brief [introductory message](#) last month which you're welcome to review if you'd like to learn more about my background.

I'm proud to present to you my first Braddock Beacon newsletter since being sworn in on December 16. Continuing our office's tradition, this Beacon is packed with information that we hope you will find relevant and useful.

Upcoming Events

Some highlights of the next few days include a "[Discover Your Path](#)" expo on Saturday, January 10 to help youth and young adults find career or educational opportunities (one of about 20 different learning opportunities in this Beacon); a Fairfax County Public Schools hearing about proposed school boundary changes; a [special election](#) on Tuesday, January 13 for House of Delegates District 11 (precincts in and around Fairfax City -- [see map](#)); and Volunteer Fairfax's annual [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service event](#) on January 19.

Open House February 4

To connect (and reconnect) with community members, I'm happy to invite you to stop by our Braddock District Open House.

Supervisor Rachna Sizemore Heizer's Open House

- **Date & Time:** Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Drop in anytime between 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.



- **Location:** Braddock Supervisor’s Office
9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015
Light refreshments will be served.
[Click here to RSVP](#)

Coming to a Neighborhood Near You

I’m eager to visit with neighborhood groups, community organizations, local nonprofits, business leaders, cultural groups, and more in the Braddock District to hear your concerns and ideas about how we can improve life in Fairfax County. If you’d like to meet, I invite you to email braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov or call (703) 425-9300, and we’ll work on scheduling a visit.

Yours in service,



Supervisor Rachna Sizemore Heizer

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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
- January.....Stalking Awareness Month
Human Trafficking Prevention Month
- January 9.....Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- January 10.....FCPS Boundary Hearings
- January 10.....Discover Your Path Expo
- January 10.....General Assembly Public Hearing
- January 10.....Virtual Green Breakfast
- January 11.....Submission Deadline for Clay International Exhibition
- January 12.....Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences Training
- January 13.....FCPS Overflow Boundary Hearing
- January 13.....**Special Election** in 11th House of Delegates District
- January 13.....FCPS Overflow Boundary Hearing
- January 13.....Braddock Office Closed (teleworking) Until 10:30 a.m. for Utility Work
- January 13.....FCPD Scout Night
- January 13.....**Board of Supervisors Meeting**
- January 14.....Volunteer Fairfax Community Conversation
- January 14.....Public Comment Meeting on Annual Report on the Environment
- January 19.....MLK Day of Service
- January 19-26.....Passenger Safety Week
- January 19-25.....Community Risk Reduction Week
- January 19.....Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - County Government Closed
- January 19-26.....Passenger Safety Week
- January 20.....National Day of Racial Healing
- January 20.....Braddock District Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting
- January 24.....Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) Training
- January 27.....FCPD Presentation - Avoiding Scams & Fraud
- January 28.....Leadership Fairfax Lunch & Learn Event
- January 31.....Fairfax Federation Citizen of the Year Nomination Deadline
- February 4.....Lifetime Learning Institute February Forum
- February 4.....Supervisor Sizemore Heizer's **Open House**
- March 4.....**Best of Braddock** Awards and Reception

Rachna in the Community



Supervisor-Elect Sizemore Heizer attends Board Committee meetings on December 16



Supervisor Rachna Sizemore Heizer taking the oath of office administered by Hon. Judge Steve Shannon, December 16



Visit with staff and participants at the Wellness Center for Older Adults, December 17



Speaking with the Braddock District Council of Community Associations, December 17



Supervisor Sizemore Heizer with Police Chief Kevin Davis following a briefing from the Police Department, Dec. 19



Meeting with Fire & Rescue Department Chief John Butler and Assistant Chief Brian Edmonston, December 19



Visiting the hypothermia shelter at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church to meet guests and thank volunteers on December 30

Seasonal Items

Virginia 250 Passport Offers Discounts to Historic Sites

In 2026, the United States marks its 250th anniversary. This historic milestone—extraordinary in our lifetimes—provides the ideal moment to come together, better understand our shared past, and renew our commitment to the pursuit of *A More Perfect Union*.



The Virginia Museum of History & Culture invites you to explore the outsized role Virginians played in securing American Independence, and our journey since, by visiting the many leading museums and historic sites of this Commonwealth. Use the [Virginia 250 Passport](#) to chronicle your adventure, receive special discounts, and win prizes!

Learn more at virginiahistory.org.

Visit Virginia's official semiquincentennial website, va250.org.

Prevent Frozen Pipes this Winter

An infographic titled 'Fairfax Water Winter Water Tips'. It has a blue header with the Fairfax Water logo and the title. Below the header, there's a section 'PREVENT FROZEN PIPES' with a checklist of tips. The tips are organized into three columns: 'BEFORE THE COLD WEATHER SETS IN', 'WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING', and 'BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE'. Each tip is accompanied by a small icon. At the bottom, there's a section 'REPORT WATER MAIN BREAKS' with a circular logo and contact information for Fairfax Water.

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 Conversation January 14 – Volunteerism is a Force for Good: Can Leaders of Volunteers Help Heal a Fractured Community?

When: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Hosted by Volunteer Fairfax



Volunteerism has long been a powerful force for good — bringing people together to lend their times, talents and compassion to serve others. Yet recently, we have seen a shift to fewer people showing up, disconnected virtual volunteering and an emphasis on seeking results over relationships. We have an opportunity to reinvigorate volunteering by bringing it back to its original roots in mutual care, stronger connection and shared

community growth. We will explore how volunteering can go beyond helping others to become a true “transformative service” in building the community: where everyone contributes, everyone belongs, and a stronger, more trusting community emerges.

For more information about this panel discussion and to register, visit the [VolunteerFairfax website](https://VolunteerFairfax.org).

2026 MLK Day of Service, January 19

Volunteer Fairfax invites families, businesses, and youth to come together for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Join them to complete hands-on projects that support local nonprofits and neighbors across Northern Virginia and show the next generation just how fun and meaningful service can be.

[Register at VolunteerFairfax.org](https://VolunteerFairfax.org).

WHEN: Monday, January 19, 2026

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m.: Check in opens for shift 1

9:30 a.m.: Welcome ceremony

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.: Shift 1 service projects

10:30 a.m.: Check in opens for shift 2

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: Shift 2 service projects

**All ages are welcome and service projects are suitable for ages 5 and up*



WHERE

Northern Virginia Community College – Ernst Community Gymnasium
8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003



Fairfax County Economic Development Authority to Host Free Hiring Event

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) will host a free hiring event on January 22, 2026, at Capital One Hall, bringing together more than 40 employers and thousands of open roles across a wide range of industries.

The event is designed to support professionals at all stages of their careers, including former federal workers and contractors navigating career transitions, as well as students, veterans, and experienced professionals seeking new opportunities in Northern Virginia.

Connecting Talent with Opportunity

The hiring event will feature employers from across the region's innovation economy, including organizations working in information technology, cybersecurity, engineering, aerospace, healthcare technology, artificial intelligence, data analytics, renewable energy, and professional services.

Supporting Career Transitions

In addition to employer engagement, attendees will have access to free professional headshots provided by on-site photographers, helping job seekers strengthen their professional presence for resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and online portfolios.

Event Details

What: Free public hiring event

- **When:** January 22, 2026 | 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Capital One Hall
7750 Capital One Tower Rd, Tysons, VA 22102
- **Who Should Attend:** Job seekers of all backgrounds, including transitioning federal workers, cleared professionals, veterans, students, and experienced professionals
- **Cost:** Free

Registration is encouraged but not required. Additional event details and registration information are available at <https://techandcyber.vfairs.com/>. The registration platform is powered by vFairs, an event management solution for virtual, hybrid & in-person events.

Nominate a Fairfax Federation Citizen of the Year

The Fairfax County Citizen of the Year Awards recognize and honor our County's residents whose voluntary time, talent, and energy results in major improvements to the quality of life, safety, or well-being of residents in Fairfax County. Since 1940, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations has proudly sponsored these annual awards.

In continuance of our community recognizing its volunteers, the Federation requests your participation by [**nominating a person deserving of recognition**](#).



With your named nomination, please provide the detailed information requested. You may attach additional pages or endorsements of the nominee. The independent Citizen of the Year Selection Committee comprised of local community leaders will review nominees for appropriate awards.

You can complete the nomination form online, or save and either email to [**COY@FairfaxFederation.org**](mailto:COY@FairfaxFederation.org), or print and mail to:

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
C/O Citizen of the Year Chair

P.O. Box 3913
Merrifield, VA 22116-3913

The final submission date is **Saturday, January 31**. Nominations postmarked, emailed, or submitted online after that date cannot be accepted.

Donations Needed at ECHO

ECHO's Donation Door (7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield) is open from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on weekdays and from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, as well as one Saturday morning per month. Please visit www.echo-inc.org to find out which Saturday they are open.

Donations may also be placed in the box outside the Braddock District Office during office hours, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke.



ECHO volunteers are grateful for the many generous donations during 2025. They will work to fill the continuing needs in 2026. The Housewares Department needs clean, gently used pots, pans, small appliances and comforters. Their Clothing Department needs infant clothing, size 0-6 months, and adult coats or jackets in all sizes. The Food Pantry currently needs bags of dried beans, masa flour, sugar, pancake syrup, laundry detergent, and shampoo.

Donors can use ECHO's newly redesigned website, www.echo-inc.org/donate/donate-goods/ to identify items that are most urgently needed or to find a list of items that they are

unable to accept.

Community News

Public Hearing with Members of the General Assembly

On **Saturday, January 10**, members of Virginia's legislature (General Assembly) will be holding a public hearing at the Fairfax County Government Center to hear about your priorities for the upcoming legislative session in Richmond.

Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation's Pre-2026 Session Public Hearing

- **Date & Time:** Saturday, January 10 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Location:** Fairfax County Government Center - Board Auditorium
12000 Government Center Pkwy
Fairfax, VA 22035



The event will also be broadcast live on Cable Channel 16 and streaming on the [Channel 16 website](#).

For information about the program and requirements for speakers, visit the [County web page about this public hearing](#).

Ceramics Artists: Submit for the Clay International Exhibition by January 11



The Workhouse Arts Center is excited to announce the Call for Entries for its 16th annual Workhouse Clay International Exhibition in 2026.

This is an Open Call for functional and/or sculptural ceramic artworks, to continue our tradition of exhibiting the best of contemporary ceramic artwork being created throughout the US and abroad.

All levels of creators are welcome and encouraged to apply.

Submittal deadline: January 11, 2026

Exhibition: March 14 - May 9, 2026

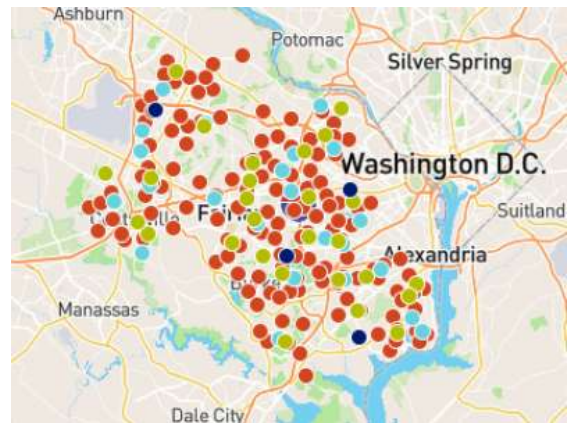
Reception: Saturday, April 11, 2026, 6-8pm

Public Hearings on School Boundaries

The Fairfax County School Board will hold public hearings on the Superintendent's recommended adjustments to School Boundaries and the Proposed FY 2027-FY 2031 Capital Improvement Program.

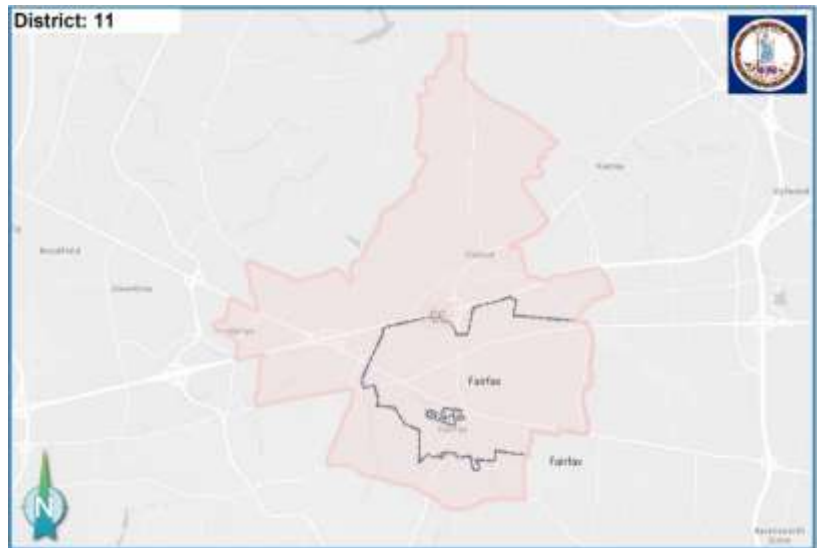
If capacity is reached for the **January 10** public hearing, then individuals will be assigned to the **January 13** School Boundaries Overflow public hearing at 6:00 p.m.

- [Register to Speak at the School Boundaries Public Hearing](#) (only live testimony via in-person or Zoom permitted)
- View the [Comprehensive Boundary Review website](#)



Special Election in the 11th House of Delegates District

A Special Election is taking place for a member of Virginia's state legislature, the House of Delegates, in the 11th District. The purpose is to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the Honorable David L. Bulova. Only registered residents of Virginia House of Delegates 11th District are eligible to vote in this election.



Locations for early in-person voting through January 10:

- Fairfax County Government Center
Friday, January 9 until 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 10, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax VA 22035
- Jim Scott Community Center
Friday, January 9 until 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 10, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
3001 Vaden Dr, Fairfax VA 22031

Special Election Date: January 13 (6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at your regular polling place)

Check your voting districts and registration status at the [Virginia Department of Elections website](#).

Learn more about this special election at the Fairfax County [Office of Elections website](#).

George Mason University Leadership Coaching for Organizational Well-Being Certificate Program

Make positive change happen by becoming a leadership coach trained in well-being science. Apply by Friday, **January 23, 2026**, to join Mason's next [Leadership Coaching for Organizational Well-Being](#) cohort, which will take place from February 2026 to June 2026. Read [success stories from their alumni](#) and make your own success story happen as a coach in this Level 2 ICF-accredited coaching education program.



Learn more about their coaching programs in [this video](#).

Click for more information and to apply at Mason's [Continuing and Professional Education website](#).

Leadership Fairfax Presents Lunch & Learn: Intrusive Leadership

Effective leadership takes courage — and sometimes, a little intrusion.

Leadership Fairfax invites you to join them on **Wednesday, January 28, 2026**, for an engaging **Lunch & Learn** featuring the **Canady Leadership Group**, as they present on *Intrusive Leadership* — a critical leadership style that has a profound impact on organizational success yet is often misunderstood.

During this interactive session, you'll explore how intentional, constructive "intrusion" can:

- Strengthen accountability and trust within teams
- Enhance communication between leaders and staff
- Drive higher performance through authentic connection



Date: Wednesday January 28, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Location: BXP Conference Center - 11951 Freedom Drive, Reston, VA

Speaker: Marcus Canady of the Canady Leadership Group



[Learn more and register for this event at the Leadership Fairfax website](#)

Lifetime Learning Institute Forum on February 4

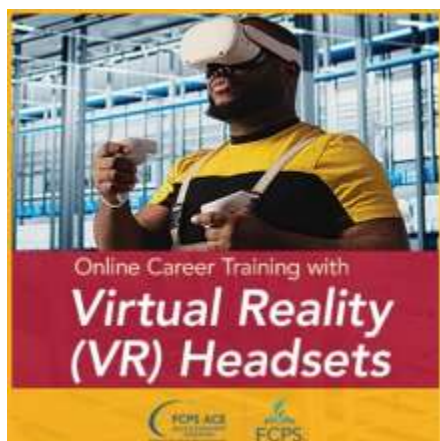
At LLI's next forum, Earnest W. Porta, Jr., the Mayor of Occoquan, Virginia, will talk about interesting historical episodes in the over 200 years history of the town. These include major events in Occoquan leading to enactment of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, and the evacuation of most of the population when Hurricane Isabel hit.



- **Date:** February 4, 2026
- **Time:** Social 9:30 a.m.; presentation begins 10:00 a.m.
- Register at linova.org.

Classes and Training with Fairfax County Public Schools' Adult and Community Education

Online Career Training with Virtual Reality Headsets



Get the skills you need to advance your career in the trades! Learn on your own schedule with flexible career training programs that combine expert instruction with Virtual Reality (VR) headsets for "hands-on" realistic simulations and practice! From Die Setting to Welding, there are 15 new [manufacturing and skilled trade VR courses](#) available from [FCPS Adult & Community Education](#) to give you an immersive learning experience that bridges the gap between flexible, online learning and real-world training.

Learn more and register at the [FCPS ACE website](#).

Discounts on CPR Classes

Want to keep someone's heart beating this Valentine's Day? You and your love (or just a friend!) can learn to save a life together with a BOGO ½-OFF offer on CPR Classes from FCPS Adult & Community Education. Choose from the five special classes scheduled during Valentine's week (February 9-13) and you'll receive 25% off your tuition. Register yourself and a friend (or Valentines' date, spouse, significant other, etc.) and you'll both receive 25% off, making this a Buy-One-Get-One ½-OFF Tuition special! Use the code HEARTSAVER at www.fcpsace.org when you sign up for these special CPR/AED/First Aid classes and learn how you can be a real Heartthrob this Valentine's Week!



Register at the [FCPS ACE website](http://www.fcpsace.org).

Environment & Parks News

January 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.

As noted in December, a DPWES consultant initiated a bathymetric survey (measuring water depth and mapping lake bottom topography) of Lake Accotink. However, due to ice build-up on the lake it could not be completed. The consultant will complete the bathymetric survey after the icy conditions are resolved.

A DPWES consultant also began evaluating sediment management measures upstream of Lake Accotink. These measures will be evaluated in association with the sediment transport model to estimate how much sediment is trapped and streambank erosion is avoided for a stretch of Accotink Creek upstream of Lake Accotink.



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](#).

Virtual Green Breakfast, January 10

The Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District invites you to join them for their Virtual Green Breakfast event.

This event is FREE and no prior registration is required.

Date & Time: January 10 at 9:00 a.m.

Topic: Data Centers in Northern Virginia

Speaker: Julie Bolthouse, Piedmont Environmental Council

Northern Virginia already has the largest concentration of data centers anywhere in the world, with more in the pipeline. What demands do data centers place on local land, energy, and water resources? What does this mean for our climate goals? Join Julie Bolthouse, Director of Land Use at the Piedmont Environmental Council, to learn more about the local impacts of this booming industry at our January virtual Green Breakfast.



Virtual Green Breakfast programs begin at 9:00am and are hosted on Teams.

Questions may be directed to ConservationDistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov

[Click to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 272 998 095 660 00

Passcode: 4ht2dQ6u

Dial in by phone

[+1 571-429-5982, 380558614#](tel:+15714295982)

View the Annual Report on the Environment and Comment on Environmental Issues

The Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)'s 2025 [Annual Report on the Environment](#) has been released, providing an in-depth analysis of Fairfax County's environmental status. This report evaluates key areas including air and water quality, transportation, waste management, climate change, and ecological conservation. Along with valuable insights, the report offers actionable recommendations to guide the county's environmental initiatives and policies. For quick reference, an Executive Summary highlighting the report's priority recommendations is also available.

Share Your Input at the Annual Public Comment Meeting



EQAC invites residents to attend the Annual Public Comment Meeting on **January 14, 2026**. This meeting provides a platform for community members to share their concerns, suggestions, and feedback directly with EQAC, supporting the development of responsive environmental policies that address the needs and priorities of residents. Your voice matters in shaping a healthier, more sustainable Fairfax County!

Details:

- What: Annual Public Comment Meeting
- When: Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 7:15 p.m.
- Where: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Room 4/5

To share your thoughts in person, virtually, in writing, or via pre-recorded video, please contact the Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) at (703) 324-7136, TTY 711, or send an email to EQAC@fairfaxcounty.gov. [Learn more at the OEEC website.](#)

Residents can also provide input during public comment periods added to selected in-person meetings throughout the year, as indicated on the EQAC meeting schedule on the EQAC webpage.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Learn more about EQAC's work or access the 2025 Annual Report on the Environment by visiting the [EQAC webpage](#).

Grant Programs available for Promoting Native Trees



Does your group need a grant for planting trees? View some possibilities for programs you could participate in on the [Plant NoVA Natives website](#).

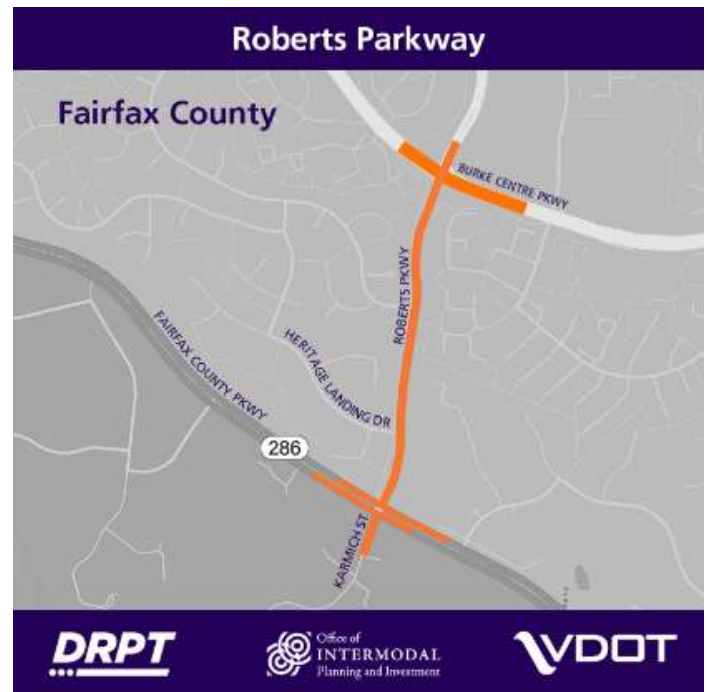
Transportation Updates

VDOT Seeks Feedback on Roberts Parkway Study

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in partnership with Fairfax County and the [Northern Virginia Transportation Authority](#) (NVTA), is seeking feedback on a [study](#) assessing potential safety, operational and multimodal improvements along Roberts Parkway from Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286) to Burke Centre Parkway (Route 643).

VDOT invites residents and travelers to [take an online survey](#) regarding the proposed improvements under consideration for this approximately half mile stretch of Roberts Parkway. 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 study is also evaluating potential impacts of the [future Fairfax County Parkway/Burke Centre Parkway intersection changes](#) on Roberts Parkway.

More details can be found on the [VDOT website](#).



Free Pedestrian/Bicycle Lights

The Braddock District office has a limited supply of free clip-on lights for pedestrians and bicyclists, to improve safety while traveling after dark.



Stop by the Braddock District office at 9002 Burke Lake Road from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. You can call us at (703) 425-9300 to check for availability.

Virginia Railway Express to Make Service Adjustments for Long Bridge Project

This month, VRE will adjust service to accommodate construction of the Long Bridge Project—the largest rail investment in the region in generations. When completed, this nationally significant project will ultimately allow more frequent and reliable rail service across Virginia and the East Coast.

Because District of Columbia noise ordinances limit construction to 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., crews must work during the day, requiring a five-hour midday construction window (8:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Mon–Sat). To fit this work in:

VRE Service Adjustments:

- No VRE trains will be eliminated – but some trains will start/stop at Alexandria instead of Union Station.
- The Amtrak Step-Up Program is returning, giving VRE multi-ride ticketholders more options to travel in/out of Union Station.
- Service adjustments will be temporary and may be refined over the 2026–2030 project period.



Amtrak Virginia Service Adjustments:

Amtrak will continue to serve Virginia during construction but with temporary adjustments:

- 4 daily roundtrip trains (2 to Norfolk and 2 to Newport News).
- 2 daily express buses to and from Hampton Roads, giving Newport News an additional connection to Washington, DC
- Total service will equal 6 combined rail + bus roundtrips (slightly more than the current 5 all-rail roundtrips).
- Departure and arrival times will shift slightly, but corridor connectivity remain

VRE Rider FAQ

- **Will my morning train still run?**
Yes. Morning trains will continue operating, but some will terminate at Alexandria instead of Union Station.
- **What about evening service?**
PM trains will still run, though some will originate at Alexandria rather than Union Station.
- **Why can't work be done at night?**
DC noise and vibration regulations prohibit overnight construction. Work must take place in daytime hours, forcing the creation of a midday work window.
- **How long will this last?**
The construction window begins in January 2026 and is expected to continue until the Long Bridge Project is completed in 2030.
- **What's the Amtrak Step-Up Program?**
It allows VRE multi-ride ticketholders to use select Amtrak trains to/from Union Station, adding flexibility during construction.
- **Where can I find updated information?**
VRE will post schedules and updates on vire.org, email subscribers directly, and share through social media and station pop-ups.

Full information and VRE service schedules are available at vire.org/long-bridge.

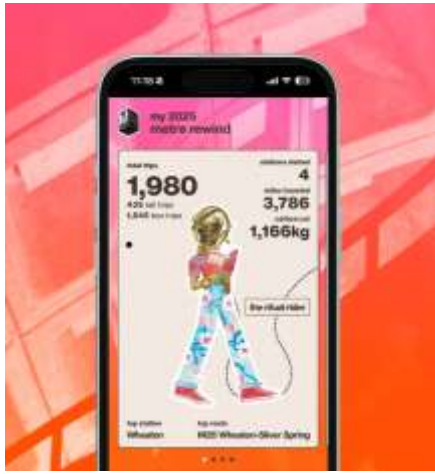
For additional information, read VRE's [Long Bridge Service Impacts Fact Sheet](#).

The image contains two side-by-side fact sheets. The left sheet is purple and titled 'AM IMPACTS'. It states that some trains will start or end at Alexandria instead of Union Station. It lists that Manassas Line 332 and 334 will terminate at Alexandria, with transfer available to Metro (Yellow Line). It also lists that Fredericksburg Line 312 and 314 will terminate at Alexandria, with transfer available to Metro (Yellow Line). The right sheet is blue and titled 'PM IMPACTS'. It also states that some trains will start or end at Alexandria instead of Union Station. It lists that Manassas Line 325 will depart Union Station at 1:00PM, with Fredericksburg passengers to transfer at Alexandria. It also lists that Manassas Line 327 will depart Union Station at 3:20PM, with Fredericksburg passengers to transfer at Alexandria. It lists that Fredericksburg Line 307 will depart Union Station at 4:00PM, with Manassas passengers to transfer at Alexandria. Finally, it lists that Manassas Line 331 will depart Union Station at 5:10PM, with Fredericksburg passengers to transfer at Alexandria. Both sheets feature a bridge graphic at the bottom.

Time	Line	Service Change	Transfer Location
AM	Manassas Line 332 and 334	Will terminate at Alexandria	Metro (Yellow Line)
	Fredericksburg Line 312 and 314	Will terminate at Alexandria	Metro (Yellow Line)
PM	Manassas Line 325	Will depart Union Station at 1:00PM	Fredericksburg passengers to transfer at Alexandria
	Manassas Line 327	Will depart Union Station at 3:20PM	Fredericksburg passengers to transfer at Alexandria
	Fredericksburg Line 307	Will depart Union Station at 4:00PM	Manassas passengers to transfer at Alexandria
	Manassas Line 331	Will depart Union Station at 5:10PM	Fredericksburg passengers to transfer at Alexandria

Get Your Personalized Metro Year-in-Review with Metro Rewind

From the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA):



Metro is proud to announce the launch of the 2025 edition of Metro Rewind, your personalized ridership report, at MetroRewind.com!

Now in its third year, customers will find an all-new experience with even more data, an eye-catching art collage, and new badges to celebrate your transit-riding achievements. Keep an eye out for fun easter eggs along the way.

Metro Rewind isn't just data -- it's a celebration of your year in transit, transforming each person's transit history into a vivid, shareable snapshot that captures how you

move across the region.

This year, your detailed report includes:

- Number of bus and rail trips
- Rides by month
- Your longest streak riding Metro
- Where you rank among all Metro customers
- Miles traveled on transit
- Carbon dioxide emissions saved by taking transit
- Top 5 Metro Rail stations
- How you rank among others who use your top station
- Top 5 Metro Bus routes
- How you rank among others who use your top route
- Your Metro archetype
- Option to buy merch for your top station

To access Metro Rewind, customers can enter their 20-digit SmarTrip number on the back of their card. The number can also be found in your Google or Apple Wallet.

Youth News

Discover Your Path Expo Offers Youth Career, Educational Resources on January 10

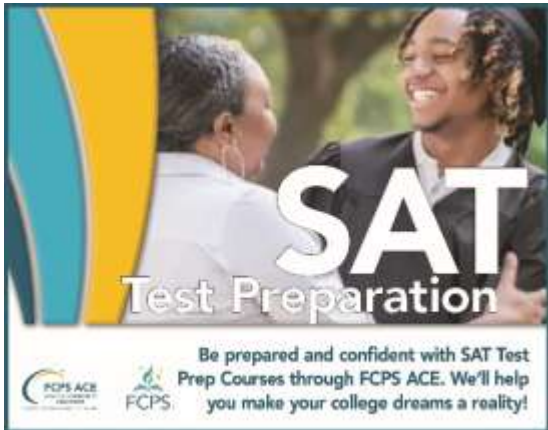
Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services' DiscoverYour Path Expo will offer career resources for youth and young adults on Saturday, January 10, 2026 (11 a.m. - 3 p.m.) at Thomas Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Rd., Alexandria.

The Expo will feature an array of career and educational opportunities and community resources for Fairfax County residents and those who seek employment pathways and economic mobility. Interested in an entry-level position in healthcare, hospitality, trade careers or exploring entrepreneurship? Join the Expo!



Learn more on the [Neighborhood and Community Services website](#).

SAT Preparation Classes



From Fairfax County Public Schools' Adult & Community Education:

SAT testing season is fast approaching! Be at your best to get in to the college you want by *ACE*ing your SATs with Test Prep courses from [FCPS Adult & Community Education](#). Offered at convenient locations and times near you, [ACE Test Prep](#) courses for Math and Writing are an affordable way to become prepared and confident to make your college dreams a reality!

View available classes and register at the [FCPS ACE website](#).

Apply for the 2026 Conflict Resolution Youth Summit



Hosted by George Mason University's Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, this four-day, overnight Youth Summit is where high school students from across the country come together to collaborate, problem-solve, and spark real impact. Students can earn college credit by attending, and scholarships are available.

Learn more at carterschool.gmu.edu.

Community Engagement for Youth

"Truth In Voice, Truth In Service" is a free event being hosted by Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services for students in grades 7 – 12, Saturday, January 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Jim Scott Community Center, 3001 Vaden Dr, Fairfax, VA 703-865-0520.

Activities will include the following:

- Communications skill-building featuring youth dialogue and group discussions
- Giveaways
- A community service project
- Live music
- Snacks

Transportation is available.

Registration is required. To register and request transportation, contact your [local NCS Teen Center or Community Center](#) or Katina.Matthews@fairfaxcounty.gov.



See the [Truth in Voice, Truth in Service event flyer](#) for more information. The event is one of several taking place Countywide for the Day of Racial Healing in Fairfax County.

Human Services

January is Stalking Awareness Month

Stalking...

- is repeated and unwanted contact that makes you feel afraid or harassed
- is serious, often violent, and can escalate over time
- is common – about 1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men have experienced stalking in their lifetime
- is a crime in all 50 states and the District of Columbia
- happens across all ages and genders, though people aged 18 to 24 experience stalking more often than all other age groups
- can impact a person's mental health and well-being



A person who stalks someone could be...

- a current or former dating partner like a boyfriend or girlfriend
- a husband or wife
- a friend
- a stranger

- a family member
- a boss or coworker

Stalking can look like...

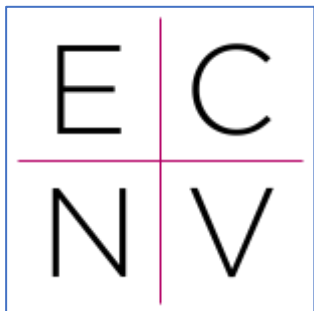
- calling, texting, social media messages, or leaving voicemails even after you've asked them to stop
- constantly checking in on you at home, work, or school
- breaking or destroying things that belong to you
- showing up where you are, even when you haven't shared your location with them
- asking friends, family, children, or co-workers for information about you
- tracking your location using your phone or another tracking device or tracking your social media

Prevention is possible. Everyone can work together to know, name, and stop stalking.

- Help educate others to see and recognize stalking behaviors.
- Create and support safe environments in relationships, families, schools, and communities by talking about healthy relationships.
- Share information about the Domestic and Sexual Violence 24-hour Hotline (703-360-7273) for people who are being stalked or are worried about someone else.

Learn how Fairfax County's Domestic and Sexual Violence Services is observing Stalking Awareness Month and visit their Stalking Awareness Month [community engagement toolkit](#) for content and graphics to share on social media.

ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia's Money Matters Course



A Five-Part Training Series to Help You Understand How to Manage Your Money

ECNV offers this five-part training to help people with disabilities understand and manage money. Eligibility is open to FIS Waiver and DARS referrals as well as anyone interested in expanding their knowledge about money. All interested individuals (or counselors) are welcome to ask questions at info@ecnv.org. Participants must be Northern Virginia residents. The next training session will take

place from March 30-April 3, and the registration deadline is March 1. Visit ENCV.org for details.

Electric Bill Assistance for People with Disabilities

Good news: You may be eligible to receive up to \$500 through the EnergyShare® program, administered by Dominion Energy. This special benefit is available one-time per year to Virginia households with a person with a disability.

[Fill out the form hosted by ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia to request assistance.](#)

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.](#)

Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences Training - January 12

Our experiences have a profound impact on who we are and who we will become. When children experience traumatic events, it can have lasting effects on their mental health and wellbeing. These events are called Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs. Trauma can even increase the likelihood of developing a chronic disease.

The [Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board](#) (CSB) invites you to join a presentation on ["Building Resilient Communities and Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\)"](#) to learn how hope and connection can buffer ACEs.

What's predictable is preventable.

This **free** presentation includes in-depth information about:

- How trauma impacts brain development.
- The impacts of childhood adversity and trauma on population health.
- Resilience and what we can all do to improve health and well-being across the lifespan and within our community.

Learn more and register for this training at the [CSB website](#).



Public Safety

FCPD Launches First Traffic Safety Initiative of 2026

The Fairfax County Police Department has launched its first traffic safety initiative of the year with a renewed focus on enforcement, education, and community awareness. Their yearlong mission is clear: to reduce fatal, serious injury, and property damage crashes while improving the overall quality of life in Fairfax County.

A Balanced Approach, Education and Enforcement

Traffic enforcement and education are essential components of effective law enforcement. While enforcement holds drivers accountable for unsafe behavior, education helps prevent dangerous choices before they lead to serious consequences.



Throughout 2026, officers will continue using a balanced approach that includes visible traffic enforcement, public awareness campaigns, and community engagement. This combination allows them to address risky behavior while also empowering residents with the knowledge needed to make safer decisions behind the wheel.

National Passenger Safety Week: January 19-26

January 19 through January 26 marks [National Passenger Safety Week](#), an important opportunity to highlight the role passengers and peers play in keeping roads safe.

This initiative promotes safe driving by encouraging passengers to speak up when they observe reckless or dangerous behavior. Whether it is excessive speed, distracted driving, or impairment, passengers have the power to influence decisions that can prevent crashes.

Parents are encouraged to talk with their children and teens about the importance of speaking up. A simple reminder or refusal to ride with an unsafe driver can make a life-saving difference.

Key safety reminders for all road users include:

- Always buckle up
- Put the phone down and avoid distractions
- Never drive impaired
- Speak up if you feel unsafe as a passenger

Working Together for Safer Roads

Traffic safety is a shared responsibility. Law enforcement plays a critical role through enforcement and education, but lasting change happens when the community is engaged and informed.

As we move through 2026, the Fairfax County Police Department remains committed to proactive traffic safety initiatives that protect lives and strengthen our community. By working together, we can reduce crashes, prevent injuries, and ensure our roadways are safer for everyone.

Events Hosted by the West Springfield Police Station

Scout Night

The officers of the **West Springfield District Station** (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA) will be hosting **Scout Night** on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026**.

If your den or troop would like to visit the station and meet with officers, please contact us to reserve a time slot.

Program Highlights:

- Welcome introduction in the community room
- Video tour of the station
- Short presentation by officers
- Hands-on tour of a police car outside

Details:

- One den/troop per half-hour session
- Maximum of **20 participants per group**
- Available time slots: 5:30 PM, 6:00 PM, 6:30 PM, 7:00 PM
- Special badge requirements for older scouts may be accommodated with prior notice

For Scheduling or Questions:

- MPO Tony Capizzi – (703) 277-2363



Please note: In the event of inclement weather, Scout Night will follow **Fairfax County Public Schools** for cancellations.

January 24: Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) and STOP THE BLEED



Would you know what to do if you found yourself in an active shooter or violent attack situation? For many, the honest answer is no. Being prepared can make all the difference.

Join FCPD for a free safety training session on Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events. The training will be held on **Saturday, January 24, 2026**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the **West Springfield**

District Station Community Room (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA).

This training will equip you with lifesaving strategies, including how to:

- Recognize threats and respond effectively (Avoid, Deny, Defend)
- Understand attacker behavior
- Prepare for and respond to being trapped during a violent event

FCPD is pleased to offer STOP THE BLEED® training as part of this program. This life-saving training equips participants with the skills to respond effectively to severe bleeding emergencies—anytime, anywhere. Attendees will learn how to apply direct pressure, pack wounds, and properly use tourniquets.

Space is limited, and registration is required.

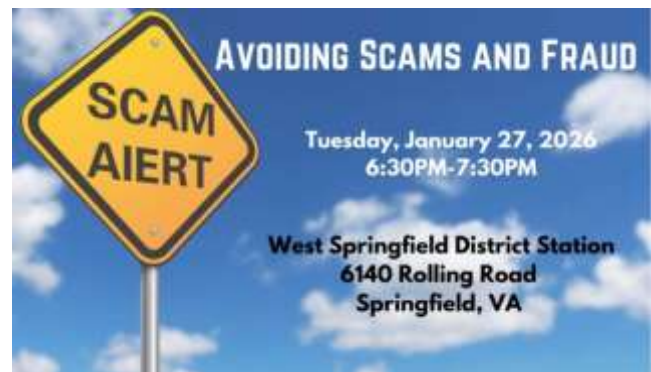
To reserve a spot, please contact MPO Tony Capizzi at (703) 277-2363 or via email at Anthony.Capizzi@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Take the first step toward protecting yourself and others.

January 27: Avoiding Scams and Fraud

Have you ever received an email from a “prince” offering you millions—or a text claiming you owe money on your EZ-Pass account?

Scams like these are becoming more convincing and more common. Don’t fall for them. Join FCPD on **Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:30PM** for an informative



presentation: **"Avoiding Scams and Fraud."**

Hosted by local law enforcement, this session will cover:

- Common scams circulating in our community
- How scammers target victims (and how to spot the signs)
- Steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones
- What to do if you think you've been targeted

📍 **Location:** West Springfield District Station – Community Room
6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA

☑ **No registration required**

📞 **Questions?** Contact MPO Tony Capizzi at Anthony.Capizzi@fairfaxcounty.gov or (703) 277-2363.

Resources for Older Adults & Caregivers

Pause. Question. Protect. Fairfax County's New Approach to Stopping Scams



From the County's [Golden Gazette](#) newsletter

Scam artists have become more sophisticated, using phone calls, emails, text messages, and social media outreach to create a sense of urgency and trick people into sharing personal information or sending money. To help residents stay ahead of these schemes, the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission has launched a new initiative

called **"Pause. Question. Protect."**

Read more about this campaign and the Top Five Signs of a Scam in the [Golden Gazette](#).

Free Tax Preparation Help Available until April 15

The [AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program](#) is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax preparation service. Volunteers in this program prepare taxes for low and moderate income taxpayers, with special attention to seniors.

Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year, according to AARP. At every location, volunteers can

help you prepare your federal and Virginia state tax returns, and some locations can also assist you with District of Columbia and Maryland taxes. [Find a Tax Aide near you.](#)



Tax Aides can help you with most — but not all — tax returns, including returns with:

- Wages, interest, dividends, capital gains or losses, pensions & Social Security benefits
- Self-employment income with limits
- Qualified business income deduction with limits
- 1099 income
- IRA contributions
- Health savings accounts

Learn more at novataxaide.org.

Free Classes Hosted by ElderLink

ElderLink Virtual Support Call for Family Caregivers of Older Adults

Via Microsoft Teams, Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Topic: Dimensions of Caregiver Wellness. It can be difficult to prioritize and navigate how to take care of yourself when you are so focused on caring for someone else. To keep providing the best care to others, caregivers need to start taking the best care of themselves. Learn more about the different dimensions of wellness and how to support yourself while caregiving. Register at tinyurl.com/CaregiverTSG or call the ElderLink Intake Line, (703) 324-5374.

Exploring the Dimensions of Aging, via Microsoft Teams

Using a training platform called Embodied Labs, you will see what it's like to be an older adult facing real-life challenges. This unique experience will promote empathy and help you better understand and support older adults and caregivers. After the training, you will receive a license to use the Embodied Labs platform whenever you want, so you can keep learning. Register at tinyurl.com/exploring-aging.

The Clay Lab: End of Life Conversations; Wednesday, January 14, Noon - 1:15 p.m.
Embody Clay as he and his family cope with his terminal illness and move into hospice care, learning how clear and caring communication can help with end-of-life choices and understanding what to expect in his final days.

The Beatriz Lab: Alzheimer's Disease; Tuesday, January 20, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.
Embody Beatriz as she goes through the challenges of progressive Alzheimer's Disease, seeing how it affects her communication, thinking, and emotional well-being, while learning ways to help her feel safe, supported, and maintain a better quality of life.

The Frank Lab: Social Isolation; Friday, January 30, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.
Embody Frank as he experiences the impacts of social isolation and how it can overlap with loneliness, poor family relationships, and health.

Free Community Events at the Wellness Center for Older Adults

Wellness Center address: 4027B Olley Lane, 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.

January Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12 10:00am-2:00pm Memory Screenings	13	14 10:30am Creativity Leads to Wellness	11:15am Dance for Brain Health	16
19 SERVICESOURCE CLOSED- MLK DAY!	20	21 10:30am Creativity Leads to Wellness	22 11:15am Dance for Brain Health	23 12:00pm- 2pm: Movie Club
26 1:00-2:30-Birthday Bash BINGO!	27	28 10:30am Creativity Leads to Wellness	11:15am Dance for Brain Health	30

Descriptions of Community Events at the Wellness Center for Older Adults

Creativity Leads to Wellness

Join our 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

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.

Movie Club

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

- January 20 at 7:00 p.m. – Braddock Hall

Community Meetings on Accessory Living Units (ALUs)

- Tuesday, January 20 – 12:00 p.m. – *virtual*
- Wednesday, January 21 – 7:00 p.m. – *virtual*

Help Inform Potential Changes to Accessory Living Units (ALUs)

The County is exploring potential changes to Accessory Living Units (ALUs) and invites the community to participate in the process.

An ALU is a secondary dwelling unit established in conjunction with and clearly subordinate to a single-family detached dwelling unit. These living spaces include areas for eating, cooking, sleeping, living, and sanitation. ALUs contribute to the housing supply and offer an option for

older adults, young professionals, caretakers, and others while supporting homeowners with rental income. The Board of Supervisors adopted new standards for ALUs in 2021 and has been monitoring their implementation.



As directed by the Board in its Zoning Ordinance work program, County staff has begun researching potential changes to the Zoning Ordinance that would revise the current regulations for ALUs. These revisions may include changes to permissions, size limitations, minimum lot size requirements, occupancy, and other related standards.

On January 20 and 21, virtual community meetings will be held to discuss the potential changes that could be made to the Zoning Ordinance regulations for ALUs. Each meeting will include the same content. The different dates and times are offered to provide flexibility for attendees. No registration is required.

Save the date to join one of the following community meetings:

- Tuesday, January 20, at 12:00 p.m.
[Virtual Meeting - MS Teams](#)
Call In Number: (571) 429-5982
Conference ID: 370 746 823#

- Wednesday, January 21, at 7:00 p.m.
[Virtual Meeting - MS Teams](#)
Call In Number: (571) 429-5982
Conference ID: 676 820 675#

Visit the [County website](#) for additional project information.

Public hearings on this Zoning Ordinance amendment have not been scheduled.

If you cannot attend the meetings, recordings will be available on the website. If you have any questions or comments, email casey.judge@fairfaxcounty.gov or carmen.bishop@fairfaxcounty.gov or call (703) 324-1314.

Braddock District Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting

The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, January 20, at 7:00 p.m. in Braddock Hall**. The agenda will include a presentation and discussion on the Fairfax Center Area Study – Phase III and updates on other 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.

Policy Plan Update Approved by Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors approved Plan Forward Phase 1, the first major update to the Policy Plan since 1990. Revisions modernize Countywide land use, transportation, environment, parks, and healthy community policies, with equitable development integrated throughout the document. Community input shaped the updates, and work on Phase 2 will begin later this year.



Background: The [Comprehensive Plan Policy Plan](#) guides planning and development activities by describing future development patterns in Fairfax County and protecting natural and cultural resources.

While the Policy Plan has been amended over the years, it had not been holistically updated since its original adoption in 1990. Much of the background information and rationales for the goals, objectives, and policies needed to be updated to be consistent with more recently adopted County policies, documents, and initiatives. It is also important to adjust to changing land use trends and provide additional flexibility to adjust to evolving market conditions.

Action Taken: Plan Forward Phase 1 incorporates the following into the Policy Plan:

- Updates to the Comprehensive Plan Overview, previously called the Preface/Introduction
- Revisions to several elements within the Policy Plan including Land Use, Transportation, Environment, Parks and Recreation, and Glossary
- Creation of a new Healthy Communities Element
- Incorporation of equitable development policies throughout
- Absorption of the Visual and Performing Arts, and Human Services elements into other elements of the Policy Plan

These elements are those most often used during development review and the long-range planning process.

Plan Forward Phase 2 will kick off later this year and will focus on reviewing the remaining Policy Plan elements: Housing, Economic Development, Heritage Resources, Parks and Recreation, Revitalization, the Chesapeake Bay Supplement, and Public Facilities, with updates to the Glossary as needed. While the Housing and Public Facilities elements have been recently updated, Phase 2 will include review and revisions of those elements for consistency. There will be multiple opportunities for community engagement.

More information, including links to the proposed text and Staff Report on Policy Plan Amendment Phase 1, is available on the [project website](#).

Three Actions Approved by Board of Supervisors to Preserve Manufactured Housing

Background: Fairfax County is home to seven manufactured housing communities (also known as mobile home communities), including Waples Mobile Home Park in the Braddock District. Unlike traditional home ownership, where the land and home are owned by a single entity, residents of manufactured homes typically own the home but rent the land from a separate entity. These communities serve as crucial but diminishing sources of housing for working families.

In August 2021, the Board of Supervisors established the Manufactured Housing Task Force for the purpose of developing a set of strategic recommendations to preserve these affordable housing opportunities. The task force developed 34 recommendations, three of which relate to the Comprehensive Plan.

Action Taken: On December 9, the Board of Supervisors approved three actions aimed at supporting and preserving manufactured housing communities in Fairfax County. These actions include an update to the Comprehensive Plan, a Zoning Ordinance amendment, and approval of relocation guidelines. Together, they implement the Manufactured Housing Task Force's recommendations and help strengthen preservation of this source of affordable housing.



The [Comprehensive Plan amendment](#) includes revisions to the Housing and Land Use elements of the Policy Plan to preserve the affordability of manufactured housing communities, and where redevelopment is planned, supports a goal of no loss of affordable units.

A concurrent [Zoning Ordinance amendment](#) updates outdated standards for manufactured home parks by reducing nonconformities related to district size, density, setbacks, and separation distances. This change revises requirements so they align more closely with how the communities were originally designed and allow for more flexibility while maintaining safety standards.

Revised Manufactured Housing Relocation Guidelines developed by the Department of Housing and Community Development, following extensive community outreach, were also approved. These complement the recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan to assist homeowners and renters of manufactured homes whose community is redeveloped or converted to another use.

For additional information, visit the [Manufactured Housing Program website](#).

Board of Supervisors Approves Zoning Ordinance Amendment on Electrical Substations

On December 9, the Board of Supervisors approved a Zoning Ordinance amendment for electrical substations. The new standards ensure that as utility infrastructure expands to

support the digital economy, neighboring communities are protected from noise, visual impact, and encroachment.

Background: There are currently more than 80 electrical substations in Fairfax County. Substations are a necessary part of the interconnected energy network. They connect transmission lines, move bulk electricity over long distances, and step power down to the distribution level for customers. The equipment varies in height from circuit breakers that are approximately 15 feet tall to backbone structures and transmission poles that are 75 to 95 feet tall.



Recently, most of the applications have been for new substations associated with the development of data centers or for upgrading existing substations. The Zoning Ordinance amendment revised the standards for electrical substations to provide for compatibility with surrounding uses.

Action Taken: The newly adopted ordinance brings substations under tighter regulation. New buffering requirements shield neighborhoods from the industrial look and scale of substation equipment. Significant physical barriers are now required:

- 100-foot setbacks: All substation equipment must be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the property line of any adjacent residential area.
- Solid 12-foot walls: Substations must have a minimum 12-foot-high, visually solid fence or wall along all boundaries facing a street or residential property to obscure the view of the facility.
- 50-foot landscaped buffer: A 50-foot-wide landscaped buffer using dense trees and evergreen shrubs must be installed next to any residential area to create a natural shield.

Any application for a substation located near a residential zone must also include a formal noise study which demonstrates that the substation's operation will comply with the County's Noise Ordinance.

For more information, visit the [Substations – Adopted Zoning Ordinance Amendment webpage](#).

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.

➤ **Alan F. Kravitz – 5002 Ravensworth Road, Annandale
SP-2022-BR-00091**

The applicant requested a reduction of setback requirements based on error in building location to permit an addition (enclosed carport) to remain 10.2 feet from the side lot line, and an accessory storage structure 9.3 feet tall to remain 4.0 feet from the side lot line and 4.7 feet from the rear lot line. The BZA approved this application on January 7, subject to Development Conditions. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, may be found on the [PLUS website](#).

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

The applicants are requesting to permit a home day care facility. They are also requesting 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 proposed home day care facility would serve up to 12 children, aged from 0 months to 12 years of age. Hours of operation would be from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Drop-offs and pick-ups would be staggered and all would occur in the driveway. One to two assistants would be employed depending on the number of children present. This application has been scheduled for a BZA hearing on January 14, 2026. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, 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 February 25, 2026. Information, including a map of the site and staff report, when available, 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, 2026. 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.
