

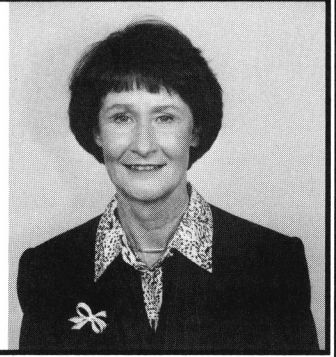
BRADDOCK BYLINE

Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova
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Spring 2003

Spring was reluctant this year. As your Braddock District office team prepares this spring's *Braddock Byline*, the temperature is almost frosty. The snowy winter of 2003 doesn't want to let go!

Neither snow, nor the first hours of war in Iraq, deterred the hardy participants in our **Braddock District Community Dialog on Transportation & Land Use**. Following defeat of last November's Sales Tax Referendum for Transportation, more than 40 interested individuals signed up for this eight-part series to explore alternative solutions and strategies for addressing transportation and land use issues in the Northern Virginia region. The series included an educational element with speakers from the county, state and regional agencies. In early April, Dialog participants organized themselves into sub-groups to focus on different aspects of the issue. A discussion of the process and final recommendations from the Community Dialog will be the subject of the **Braddock District Spring 2003 Town Meeting scheduled for June 25th at 7:30 PM in the Kings Park Library Community Room.** I'd like to thank members of the Community Dialog for their commitment and contributions to this significant effort.

During a particularly fractious 2003 session of the General Assembly, very few county bills survived. One exception was commercial vehicle parking legislation recommended by an earlier Braddock District community effort, **The Community Challenges Task Force**. This group of community leaders, concerned about crowding and the proliferation of vehicles on neighborhood streets, met throughout last year. They eventually adopted a slate of recommendations which included better communication of existing laws, strategies for constructive outreach to new neighbors, and the pursuit of legislation to restrict the more problematic vehicles from neighborhood streets. See **Yours for the Asking** inside for the newly published pamphlet that is a direct result of this effort. Contact my office to learn more about the newly adopted legislation and other Community Challenges recommendations.

I often hear compliments about our Braddock District – well kept neighborhoods, dotted with tranquil little community parks and friendly shopping centers. Our schools are among the best in the nation. Mainly it's the people who make Braddock such a great community. A new program called **The BOBs** (Best of Braddock Awards) invites members of the community to thank and recognize individuals, organizations and businesses that have *gone above and beyond* to be the very best. Categories include neighborhood enhancements, commercial beautification or improvement, most "can-do" public employee, most outstanding business person, and club or organization really making a difference. For more information call 703-425-9300 or go to:
<http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/bos/bd/BestofBraddockAwardsForm.pdf>.

Because 2003 is an election year and Board of Supervisors' policy prohibits us from distributing taxpayer funded newsletters during the campaign season, you will not be receiving a Fall edition of the *Braddock Byline*. Please feel free to give my office a call or contact our Braddock District website if you have questions or concerns, or would like an update on matters in your community. I look forward to seeing you at Braddock Nights this summer and at our Town Meeting in June!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Bulova".

Sharon Bulova

ROADWORKS UPDATE

The continuing state budget crisis has had a significant effect on transportation construction throughout the state. In last fall's Byline, I reported that a number of Braddock District projects would be removed from the state's Secondary Program. These road projects, extending **Shirley Gate Rd.** from Braddock Rd. to the Fairfax County Parkway, **Guinea Rd.** widening from Colony Park Pool (former traffic circle) to Pommeroy Dr.; and **Guinea Rd.** widening from Braddock Rd. to Braeburn Dr. remain on the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan but will not be constructed within the foreseeable future. The following State projects are funded and will go forward as follows:

Rt. 236 (Little River Turnpike) Spot Capacity and Safety Improvements - Pickett Rd. to Lake Blvd. at entrance to NVCC (State project - 2 miles) Bid advertisement was delayed approximately one year to mid-2004 due to the statewide reductions in funding. The County was successful in obtaining regional funds to restore full funding for this project. While Rt. 236 is *ultimately* planned to be widened to 6 lanes, this project provides for *spot capacity and safety improvements at key intersections* in the corridor. A citizens' task force has been involved in design of this project.

Burke Lake Rd. - Widen from 2 to 4 lanes from Fairfax County Parkway to Burke Centre Parkway (State Project - 1 mile) Design is complete, and the project is now in land acquisition. Construction is expected to begin in spring '04.

Rt. 123 (Ox Rd.) - Widen to 4 and 6 lanes from Burke Lake Rd. to the Occoquan River (State project - 7 miles) Funding of this regionally significant project would not have been possible without Northern Virginia Transportation District bonds and Regional Surface Transportation Program funds secured by Fairfax County and the region. Construction of the northern segment (Burke Lake Rd. to Lee Chapel Rd.) began in December 2001 and is nearing completion. The second segment from Lee Chapel Rd. to Davis Dr. began construction in August 2002 and is well underway. Construction began on the segment from Davis Dr. to north of the bridge over the Occoquan River this spring. Bid advertisement for widening the bridge is scheduled for this summer, a one-year delay from the pre-budget-cut schedule.

I-95/395/495 Interchange Project - (State Project) Work continues on this mega-interchange reconstruction project, with a targeted completion goal of late 2007. For updated ramp closure and other information on this project, go to www.springfieldinterchange.com.

Little Buck Big Bang "SPOT" ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Braddock Rd. at Rt. 123 (Ox Rd.) (County/State Project) Lengthen the eastbound Braddock Rd. right turn lane to southbound Ox Road. County has committed full funding for this project. VDOT had hoped to construct this turn lane using state forces without design plans. After further review, VDOT has determined that full design and contract construction services will be required due to the need to relocate several large drainage inlets and underground pipes. Due to increased cost and engineering, the project is delayed until 2005.

Roberts Rd. at Burke Centre Parkway (State Project) Construct a right turn lane on northbound Roberts Road approaching Burke Centre Parkway. VDOT is funding and constructing this project, which is on hold pending resolution of signal pole/pedestrian conflicts. Construction is planned for 2004.

Roberts Rd. at Braddock Rd. (County Project) Construct a right turn lane on to Braddock Road from southbound Roberts Road next to GMU. Project is in survey. Significant utility relocations will be required and will delay the start of construction. Construction currently expected to begin in late 2004/early 2005.

ZION DRIVE SAFETY UPGRADES

Safety improvements on Zion Dr. (east of Roberts Rd. to Windsor Hills Dr.) were approved as part of a rezoning proffer package last year. The developer will dedicate and construct frontage improvements along Zion Drive to include curb, gutter and a trail, construct a third lane on this portion of Zion to allow for protected left turns; and "shave the hump" on Zion Drive by lowering the vertical elevation of the road. Work should begin later this year.



On April 28th the Board of Supervisors adopted the **Fiscal Year 2004 Budget**. As we “marked-up” the County Executive’s Advertised spending plan, I was reminded of the budget process two years ago, as we considered the FY 2002 budget Mr. Griffin had referred to as *The Perfect Storm*. For the first time since the late 80s, average real estate values had risen by double digits above the prior year. Unlike the 80s, however, *only* residential real estate revenues have increased substantially. Revenues *other* than real estate have declined or grown only modestly. Additionally, we were faced with reductions in State funding and a faltering economy. The majority of State reductions affected our School System, triggering pleas to close the gap with local dollars. We didn’t know at the time that *The Perfect Storm* would become ***The Perfect Storm, a Mini-Series***, as those dynamics continued and additional challenges in the public safety and health arena arose after September 11th, 2001.

Last year, when the Board adopted the FY 2003 Budget reducing the tax rate by two pennies we adopted a Budget Guideline stating: “*If Real Estate assessments continue to increase significantly, the Board will direct the County Executive to develop a budget for FY 2004 that includes a reduction in the Real Estate Tax.*”

In February, in response to those guidelines, Mr.Griffin presented a budget incorporating a two-cent reduction, arrived at by reducing expenditures from the previous year by \$22.5 million, and increasing a number of user fees and fares (\$5.1 million). **The final package we adopted reduced spending by an additional \$28.7 million and lowered the tax rate from \$1.21 to \$1.16, an additional three cents.** To diversify our revenue and shift some of the burden away from the real estate tax, the Board adopted a cell phone tax (capped at no more than \$3.00 per month) and increased the E-911 telephone fee by 0.75 cents to more fully cover our emergency call-taking operation. Most of our sister jurisdictions have already adopted a cell phone tax. An Ambulance Fee and new user fees to cover the maintenance of Athletic Fields were *not* adopted.

The adopted FY 2004 Budget is, I believe, *Responsive* to the needs and concerns of our constituents and reflects a *Responsible* approach toward reducing the real estate tax rate, while maintaining services and programs that people in our County rely upon and value. The budget **reduces all non-School expenditures to almost 1% below last year**. **The School Transfer is an increase of approximately 6%, the lowest increase in recent years.** **Our Transfer to the Schools represents 53.1% of our entire budget, the highest percentage in 20 years.** Overall spending in this package increases by 4.7%.

The adopted budget represents a **net reduction of 87 positions from FY 2003**. In fact, since FY 1991, our total position count has increased by only 86, despite our having opened 150 new and expanded facilities (fire and police stations, libraries, child care centers, etc.) and a population increase of 24% (the equivalent of adding the entire population of Arlington into our boundaries).

In response to those who would advocate a tax rate reduction of **43-cents**, which would result in a **76-cent tax rate** I would like to provide some context. A 43-cent reduction would require **\$560 million in reductions**. If pro-rated across the spectrum of County services, we would be closing libraries, abolishing over 800 public safety positions, eliminating 20% of our County bus routes and reducing the School Transfer by almost \$264 million. We would be destroying the very things our County residents tell us they value and appreciate about living here. *A reduction of \$560 million is equal to the total funding of the Police Department (\$134 million), the Fire and Rescue Department (\$119 million), the Office of the Sheriff (\$49 million), the Health Department (\$41 million), the County’s Department of Family Services (\$168 million), our Public Safety Communications Center (\$7.4 million) and our entire library budget (\$28 million).* Information on the budget can be viewed at <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/omb/homepage.htm>, or give my office a call and we’ll send you copies of the Citizen’s Guide to the Budget.

LAUREL HILL PLANNING MEETING (The old Lorton Prison)

Re-planning this former prison site is one of the most exciting ventures going right now! My thanks to Hickory Farms resident Bob Cosgriff for very ably serving as Braddock District's Representative on the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Citizens' Task Force. The group is ready to take its preliminary proposals on the road for the public to see and discuss. On **Tuesday, May 27, from 7 PM to 9 PM in Braddock Hall at 9002 Burke Lake Road**, Springfield Supervisor Elaine McConnell and I will be hosting a Community Meeting to provide information about Laurel Hill and the planning process. The presentation will include a video on Laurel Hill, along with displays, maps and pictures of some of the proposals under consideration. I hope you'll join us in this first step toward the exciting transformation of the former Lorton Prison into a jewel in the crown of Fairfax County's Laurel Hill.

CELEBRATE FAIRFAX!

The 22nd annual *Celebrate Fairfax!* (scheduled for June 6-8 at the Fairfax County Government Center) is Northern Virginia's music, entertainment and high-tech festival. In addition to 120 performances on eight stages, the festival boasts nightly fireworks, an arts and crafts market, virtual reality attractions, an award-winning SciTech Center, hundreds of business and non-profit exhibits, children's and family programs, and more than 40 vendors featuring your favorite traditional festival and international food selections! Ticket information can be found at the festival's web site (www.celebratefairfax.com).

SPRING CLEAN-UP?

Neighborhoods planning a clean-up can call my office to make arrangements for a county garbage truck (Saturdays only). You can augment your labor force with help from the Sheriff's Department **Community Labor Force**. Teams consist of low-risk offenders convicted of traffic and misdemeanor offenses who are able to perform manual labor as ordered by the court. Deputy sheriffs and citizen volunteers will oversee trash removal. For information, call the Sheriff's Office at 703-246-3213.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARKS?

Long Branch Stream Valley Trail Extension: This long-awaited trail is currently *under construction* and is due to be completed by June 2003. Hikers and joggers will now be able to follow the beautiful Long Branch stream valley all the way from Wakefield Park to Olley Lane.

Wakefield Skate Park: The contract for design and the first phase of construction is underway, with completion hopeful for November 2003.

Wakefield New Softball Fields: The plan to add two lighted, irrigated, 60-foot diamond fast pitch softball fields at Wakefield Park is in the permit application process with construction planned for summer 2003 and completion planned for April 2004.

MOVIES UNDER THE MOON at GMU

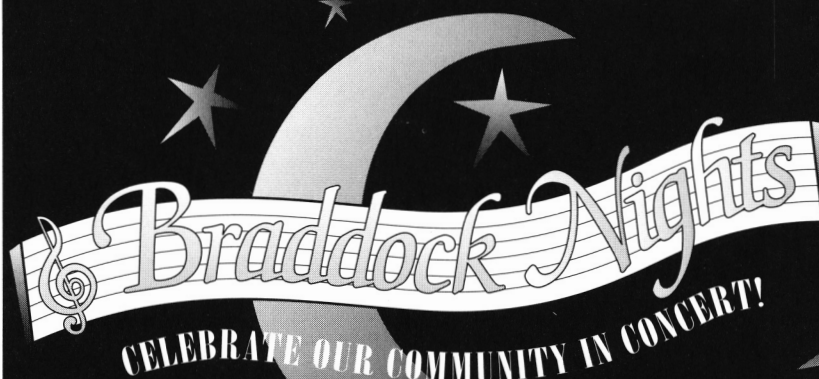
Starting July 11th, Cox's *Movies Under the Moon*, a family-friendly outdoor film festival, will feature nine of your favorite movies from yesterday and today on a giant screen under the stars. Sponsor/vendor Red Hot & Blue will be on hand to provide BBQ treat. Spend your lazy, hazy summer nights on the GMU campus in the large open field behind the Physical Education Building/Day Care Center. Click on www.moviesunderthemoon.org to learn more.

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT



The Learning in Retirement Institute (LRI), now in its 12th year, provides learning opportunities for retirement-age adults. LRI offers daytime, non-credit courses, special events, lectures, and social activities. LRI is affiliated with George Mason University and Elderhostel Institute Network. Classes are taught at Tallwood in Fairfax, 4210 Roberts Road, and at Lake Anne in Reston. Courses are taught by qualified LRI members, GMU teachers, and speakers from government, community and foreign embassies. Registration begins for the summer term on May 22. The term goes from June 24 – July 31. For more information call 703-503-3384 or email lri@gmu.edu. The web site is: www.gmu.edu/departments/lri

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY PRESENTS
2003 SUMMER CONCERTS ★ FRIDAYS, 7:30 p.m.



LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield

Saturday, May 24 — 2:00-6:00 p.m. **Bonding of the Bands**

Multiple bands from Robinson and Lake Braddock High Schools perform original music to promote safe and drug-free fun and unity between the students of the two schools. Bonding of the Bands is a National Youth Services Day project sponsored by the Robinson and Lake Braddock Coalitions.

June 6 Takoma Mandoleers

Founded in 1923, the Takoma Mandoleers mandolin and guitar orchestra plays music from classical to folk to pop.

June 13 Swing Shift

Come to dance with this high energy 18-piece band presenting a mix of Big Band, jazz and swing tunes from the golden age of American music.



SWING SHIFT

June 20 Dixie Power Trio

This entertaining trio plays a varied mixture of New Orleans music — traditional jazz, Cajun, zydeco and even rock 'n' roll.

June 27 National Concert Band

America's heritage of symphonic band music is celebrated by the talented National Concert Band.

July 4 No Performance

July 11 Night Music

Night Music, a Washington area favorite, gets in the groove with classic rock and top 40s hits.

July 18 Fairfax Symphony Summer Band

A showcase for the county's most talented young musicians. The repertoire includes light classical and Broadway selections, waltzes, fugues and marches.

July 25 City of Fairfax Band

In its 33rd season, the 90-member City of Fairfax Band, directed by Robert Pouliot, presents musical greats from classical works to the jazz compositions of Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller and Sammy Nestico.

August 1 Annandale Orchestra

The orchestra's program incorporates music traditions from the classics through pop, all designed to appeal to a young audience.

August 8 Mariachi Los Amigos

Mariachi Los Amigos presents a celebration of the vibrant color, lively rhythms and wonderful vocal harmonies of traditional Mexican music.

August 15 Fairfax Jubil-Aires

Barbershop at its best! The Fairfax Jubil-Aires Barbershop Chorus, the Fairfax, Virginia chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEB-QSQA), Inc., sings the old songs and the new.

August 22 Mill Run Dulcimers

Old time, traditional and sentimental music featuring mountain dulcimer, autoharp and other traditional instruments. The group's recently released album is an outstanding mix of multi-layered vocal harmonies and sparkling instrumental arrangements.

August 29 Fairfax City Alte Kameraden German Band

The Alte Kameraden German Band is a unit of the City of Fairfax Band. The first American group ever given membership in Germany's national band association, Alte Kameraden preserves the musical heritage and festive spirit of Bavarian village bands.



ALTE KAMERADEN GERMAN BAND

Performances are **FREE** and begin at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.
 Concerts are cancelled in case of rain; call 703-425-9300 for cancellation information.
 These parks are not lighted. For a safe exit after dark, please bring a flashlight.



DA VINCI'S NOTEBOOK



RHONDA VINCENT AND THE RAGE

ROYAL LAKE PARK

5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax

June 6 Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun

Grammy nominated all-American music with roots in country, rock 'n' roll, blues, bluegrass and western swing. Kirchen was inducted into the Washington Area Music Association Hall of Fame in 2002 joining Dave Grohl and John Phillip Sousa. A kid-friendly show.

June 13 Steel Pan Players

Keeping to the roots of good rhythm, Steel Pan Players stretches the traditional definition of pan music by creating a rich sound that embraces the musical traditions of many world's cultures.

June 20 Rhonda Vincent and the Rage

Rhonda Vincent is one of the premier bluegrass vocalists and instrumentalists in America today. With her all-star band, The Rage, she presents the best of contemporary bluegrass in a hard-driving style highlighted by exquisite vocal harmonies.

June 27 Hot Kugel

Jinny Marsh's Hot Kugel Klezmer Band brings together the hottest musicians in the Washington area. This band will keep your toes tapping with a variety of klezmer, Yiddish and Israeli dance tunes as well as Broadway, jazz and American standards.

July 4 No Performance

July 11 The U.S. Army Blues

Formed in 1972, The Army Blues carries on a tradition begun by the Army Dance Band that entertained soldiers and civilians during World War II. As the premier jazz ensemble of the U.S. Army and one of the few remaining professional groups of its kind, the Blues' present-day mission is to promote America's art form: jazz.

July 18 Da Vinci's Notebook

Da Vinci's Notebook is post-modernist a Capella, a four-man singing group that has been featured on the Drew Carey Show, NBC's Today Show, at the

Kennedy Center, and on festival stages from Wolf Trap to Falcon Ridge. The Washington Post described their style as "subversive pop songs and cleverly tailored vocal harmonies," and their performances as "live musical fun at its best."

July 25 The Barrettones

Five-time Washington Area Music Association "Wammie" award winner Randy Barrett leads the all-star Barrettones in a performance of bluegrass, country, folk, swing and rock.

August 1 The Moonlighters

Since 1990, the Moonlighters have been one of the best loved groups in the Washington metro area, specializing in the west coast "jump blues" and Chicago style of the 1950s.

August 8 Catfish Hodge

Catfish Hodge has been called an "American folk blues hero" and has been a mainstay on the American blues music scene for three decades now! He has 24 albums to his credit, comprised almost totally of original material.

August 15 Ruthie and the Wranglers

Ruthie and the Wranglers perform rockin' American roots music. Their songs combine country, blues, rock, jazz, rockabilly and even bluegrass. Recent winner of many Washington area music awards including 2002 Best Country Vocalist.

August 22 Squeeze Bayou

With 1998's best recording by a Cajun band outside of Louisiana to their credit, Squeeze Bayou plays songs that are made for dancing Cajun-style. "Spicier than grandma's gumbo and steamier than the French Quarter."

August 29 The New Oldtime String Band

New Oldtime String Band plays original, bluegrass and old-time acoustic music. Hot picking and harmony singing in the mountain style.

Braddock Nights is made possible through the efforts of The Braddock District Supervisor, Friends of Braddock Nights, and the generous support of:



Appropriate accommodations may be provided upon request.

Call 703-324-8563 for information.

TTY 703-324-3988.

STREET PAVING IN BRADDOCK

The state's Virginia's Department of Transportation (VDOT) will be repaving certain streets in the following Braddock District neighborhoods this year: *Fairfax Hills, Wakefield Chapel Estates, Kings Park, North Springfield, Annandale Terrace, Rutherford, Middleridge, West Springfield, Ravensworth Farms, Canterbury Woods, Long Branch, Lee Forest and Signal Hill*. Some streets in the *Olde Creek Estates* and *Somerset* communities will be "slurry sealed" (an oily treatment which enriches and extends the life of the asphalt pavement).

Due to budget constraints, VDOT is planning **no curb, gutter and sidewalk** replacement projects in the Braddock District this season. In mid May, I'll be hosting a meeting for VDOT officials to discuss the repaving and slurry-sealing with association leaders. Call my office if you have questions.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

All types of roads are available for adoption under Virginia's Adopt-A-Highway program. A group or individual usually adopts two miles of roadway and agrees to pick up litter at least four times a year. VDOT puts up signs with your name or organization on them and furnishes trash bags, orange vests and safety information. To sign up, call 1-800-PRIDE-VA.



GIVE PEDESTRIANS A BRAKE!

New "*Yield to Pedestrians*" **safety signs** are being installed at certain crosswalks throughout the County where there are unexpected crossings, poor sight distance or a history of accidents. Failure to yield to pedestrians in these crosswalks is a violation with a fine as high as \$500. In Braddock, watch for signs at the following intersections:

Backlick Road and Hechinger Drive,
Braddock Road and Queensberry Avenue,
Braddock Road and Roanoke Lane,
Braddock Road and Wakefield Chapel Road,
Little River Turnpike and Olley Lane,
Ox Road and Burke Centre Parkway and
Ox Road and Fairfax County Parkway.

IN THE PIPELINE...

Olley Lane Public Water Main Extended – Fairfax County Water Authority extended its 12" water main 1,860 feet from Briarpatch Ct. to Little Run Elementary School. This project to replace failing wells was delayed due to inclement weather and working at night as required by VDOT. Project came in on budget. Projects are based on a unit price of work completed so contractor doesn't benefit from weather delays, etc.

Mill Creek Dr. Sanitary Sewer Extension – Project to extend sanitary sewer from Woodlark Dr. across Rt. 236 to Mill Creek Dr. This project to build 1,783 feet of 8" sewer main with 11 manholes replaces failing septic systems. The severe winter delayed the project, but it will be completed in August.

Sideburn Rd. Sidewalk Extension – Project to connect existing 8-foot asphalt trail on Braddock Rd. with existing 4-foot concrete sidewalk on east side of Sideburn. This project to construct 115 feet of 4-foot sidewalk was completed this winter.

Pond Spice Ln. Sidewalk Extension – Project to install missing link in sidewalk across from Terra Centre School south of Burke Centre Pkwy. is in design. Construction scheduled for this summer.

Roberts Rd. Trail Project – Project to construct 1,700 feet of 6-foot asphalt trail on western side of Roberts next to GMU to connect with sidewalk on Braddock Rd. Project funded for design and land acquisition only. Project is in the design phase.

Little River Glen II, Assisted Living and Adult Day Care Facility – Project to build 60-bed assisted living facility and adult day care off Olley Ln. adjacent to the Senior Center has been delayed a year due technical financing issues related to the state tax credit financing.

Burke Centre VRE Station Structured Parking Facility – Project to expand parking capacity is in the early design phase. Preliminary concepts recently presented to neighbors. County is seeking grant money to fund pilot "subscription bus service" project as an interim solution.

Burke Centre Community Library – Project to build a 17,000 square feet community library at Fred's Oak Rd. and Fairfax County Parkway. Land acquisition is completed and the project is in the design phase. Construction is to be funded through a 2004 Bond Referendum.

SCHOOL UPDATE

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Meals on Wheels Program urgently needs volunteers for just a few hours a month for three types of volunteer positions. **The Volunteer Group Coordinator** assists frail or convalescing, homebound older adults in receiving meals and handles the day-to-day operations. **The Volunteer Driver-Coordinator** schedules drivers from an existing pool of drivers to deliver the meals. **Volunteer Drivers** pick up the meals at Fair Oaks Hospital, and deliver them to designated recipients of the program. For information, call the Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging at 703-324-5846 or go to:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/aaa/homepage.html.

Alternative House - The Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge. Participate in group activities and discussions with the children. Provide tutoring and homework assistance. Answer crisis hot line calls. Interact with them on the streets as part of the Mobile Outreach Unit. Training and supervision provided. Afternoon, evening and weekend hours are available. Call Karen at 703-506-9191 for more information.

Pathway Homes, Inc. - Supportive Residential Mental Health Services has a variety of volunteer positions available. **Cook/Nutritionist Volunteers** are needed to teach cooking skills and proper nutrition habits at a group home for women in Annandale. **Exercise Buddy Volunteers** are needed to help residents get and keep in shape by going on walks and other exercise activities around the community. **Arts and Crafts Volunteers** are needed to bring out the creative side of residents by teaching various arts and crafts projects. **Pet Therapy Volunteers** are needed to bring their loving and caring pets to visit residents. **Neighborhood Volunteers** are needed to keep the homes of residents beautiful by picking up trash. For more information, call 703-876-0390.

At last spring has arrived! And with spring comes the annual budget process for both the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. Although the Board of Supervisors has already voted on its budget, the school system will not vote on its budget until May 22nd.



This has been a particularly difficult year for both budgets. And it has been a particularly difficult budget year for the state. The Fairfax County public schools anticipated that its funding from the state would be cut again this year, and we began to take steps to trim spending earlier in the year to offset the state funding cuts. We were pleasantly surprised when the legislature held spending for K-12 education at the current level, and we did not receive the cuts we had all expected. Because of our efforts, we were able to keep our request to the Board of Supervisors to an increase of 6.3%. After a great deal of hard work, the Board was able to fund a 6.03% increase.

While we will not be able to add any new programs, or expand other programs, such as Project Excel, we will continue to provide all of our students with the type of education our citizens have come to expect.

It was extremely pleasant to go through a budget cycle without the usual rancor and discord. Unfortunately, based on current economic projections, I believe we have at least a few more "lean" years. This means that we, as a school system, must continue our efforts to hold costs down, and to get the best value for each and every dollar we spend. To that end, we have hired an outside independent consultant to look at all aspects of our operations, both program and administrative. I fully expect this will identify areas where we can reduce costs or increase efficiency. We are also exploring hiring an Inspector General to monitor our costs on an on-going basis.

It is important to realize and accept the fact that most of the money spent by the school system comes from the hardworking parents and taxpayers of our community - our neighbors, friends and family. While there will always be new programs and projects we can implement in our schools, it is essential that elected officials hold spending to a high standard that is responsible, open and accountable to those who pay the bills.

Tessie Wilson

Braddock School Board Member

YOURS FOR THE ASKING

(Contact my office for the following brochures)

- **HOW TO BE AN ELECTION OFFICER:** Work at The Polls on Election Day. Also available are **Voter Registration** and **Absentee Ballot Applications**.
- **HISTORIC PROPERTIES RENTAL SERVICES:** Put a little history into your future; eight distinctive sites to make your event memorable.
- **THE GYPSY MOTH:** Instructions on how to deal with forest pests from the Department of Public Works & Environmental Services. We have **burlap** for banding trees.
- **PUT THE BITE ON MOSQUITOES:** Get them before they get you. We will have a "*first come, first served*" supply of **Mosquito Dunks** (sprinkle in standing water to kill mosquito larvae.)
- **STREAMS UNDER STRESS:** What can you do?
- **COMMUNITY CHALLENGES & CONCERNS:** A guide to reporting code and zoning violations (commercial vehicles on residential streets, unsafe/unsanitary yard or house conditions, too many animals in a home, construction without permits.)
- **TAX FACTS:** What they are and when they are due. (We also have forms for **Personal Property Return**, **Real Estate Assessment Appeal Application**, and **Application for Tax Relief**.)
- **YOUR FAMILY DISASTER PLAN/SUPPLY KIT & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST:** How to prepare for the unthinkable. Northern Virginia Regional Commission's **YOUR GUIDE TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** (this publication was distributed by The Washington Post and has a comprehensive list of phone numbers.)

Supervisor Bulova's Braddock District

SPRING 2003 TOWN MEETING

Wednesday, June 25th, 7:30 P.M.

Kings Park Library

Meeting Room

9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke, Virginia

Report of the Braddock District Community Dialog on Transportation and Land Use

Discussion will Focus on

Land Use and Transportation Planning

Legislative/Structural Changes

Transportation Funding

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination in all County programs, services and activities. Special accommodations and/or alternative information formats will be provided upon request. Call 703-324-3187, TTY 703-324-2935.

**SHARON BULOVA
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
9002 BURKE LAKE ROAD
BURKE, VA 22015**

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL