

Best of Braddock Awards 2015

Citizens of the Year

Amy Zydell – Olde Forge/Surrey Square. Amy has quietly become a pre-eminent champion for of foster care children and foster care parents in the Braddock District and Fairfax County through her selfless devotion of time and talent. In addition to all that she does for the Fairfax County Foster Care and Adoption Association, she is also a key supporter of “Let’s Help Kids”, a local charity aimed at giving a helping hand to elementary school age children whose parents are suffering financial hardship.

Duwain Ketch – Burke Centre, for his many years of working with the Kings Park and Burke Centre Libraries. He is currently serving on the Executive Board of the Fairfax Library Foundation and is head of the Foundation’s Scholarship Committee. He has served in the past as a member of the Burke Centre Conservancy Board of Trustees and is a member of the Rotary Club of Burke.

Young Person of the Year

Jonathan McCarty – a member of Boy Scout Troop 1115. As part of his Eagle Scout project he and his group of volunteers completed a trail improvement in Accotink Park by digging a ditch next to the trail which will help reduce the amount of standing water on the trail after rainstorms. All work had to be done by hand since it is located in an area of archeological importance.

Most Can Do Public Employee – Local

Dennis Barton of the FCPA – Volunteered to work overtime with Jonathan McCarty to help haul away the 13 cubic feet of dirt that was removed when digging the trail ditch. Without his help, the project couldn’t have been completed.

Club or Organization Making a Difference in the Braddock District

Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley – Less than a year old, this group organized itself for the express purpose of improving both environmental and recreational opportunities in the Long Branch Stream Valley, a part of the Accotink Watershed.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification in the Braddock District

Community Group or Association –

- 1. James Watkins and other members for the Commonwealth Swim Club property** – When declining club membership and tight budgets caused the pool board to cut back on grounds maintenance funds, the grounds began to show signs of neglect. Mr. Watkins, a member of the swim club and a handyman stepped forward with his time and resources to remedy the problems. He repaired the roadway into the entrance of the pool, restoring the primary storm water runoff channel, installed new lighting, and landscaped and beautified the area leading to the clubhouse. He and other volunteers also did significant work in the Walport Lane parking lot area.
- 2. Marilyn Stoney and other residents for the Kings Park West Townhouses HOA** – When Marilyn’s property began experiencing flooding she came to the board with a simple request which morphed into a full scale community storm water management project. She volunteered her experience as a program manager to research the problems, solicit bids and oversee the work on behalf of the community. What was thought to be a small project became a storm water improvement project to improve areas throughout the entire community. She researched innovative solutions such as rain gardens, flo-wells, retaining walls and permeable walkway materials. She wrote a request for a NEPP grant to assist with replanting once the

construction work was completed, and the community was awarded a grant to be used for materials and plants. She became acquainted with native species of plants that would enhance and be cost efficient to the community, and a dozen members of the community came out to work on getting the trees and plants in the ground. Since the Kings Park West Townhouses were built in the late 70's, a great deal has changed in the surrounding area, and natural erosion along with unintended foot traffic caused water management issues. She oversaw the accomplishment of community goals while being a good steward for the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Special Recognition –

Employees of the FCPA who worked with the residents of Olde Forge/Surrey Square to build the new community playground