

# BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL *News*

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January 2010

## **Next BDC Meeting**

**February 9, 2010 - 7:30 PM**

Braddock Hall  
9002 Burke Lake Road  
Burke, VA 22015  
(703) 425-9300

## **Future Events**

Braddock Information Forum - February 9  
Fairfax County Budget Review - March 9  
BDC Meeting – April 6  
Legislature Forum - April 13  
Braddock District Picnic - July 13

## **REMINDER – BDC meeting January 9<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 7:30 PM.**

This Newsletter starts the New Year with a new BDC web page (hurray) and several issues already on our agenda (busy times ahead!). The issue closest to my heart is citizen participation in their community. For every organization, recruiting new members from the community goes hand-in-hand with volunteering for the community. Both are a rewarding civic responsibility. Hey, ever notice that Vote, Volunteer, and Victory all have something in common?

**Your Community and You** - - Working for one's community supports the American tradition of getting involved in its future. In 2008, 1.7 million Virginians (29.3% of adults) volunteered their time and energy to their communities, contributing 215.2 million hours of service. Even with the economic crisis, the national volunteer rate remained relatively constant, from 26.2% in 2007 to 26.4% in 2008. In October, President Obama lauded the power of civic involvement. **The BDC believes that future generations of Braddock citizens will benefit from today's volunteerism.**

OK, now let me give you a heads-up about this newsletter. There are three agendas included: the *BDC Meeting Agenda* for January 12<sup>th</sup> (print & bring it), a preliminary agenda for the February 12<sup>th</sup> *BDC Information Forum*, and the agenda for Supervisor Cook's January 23<sup>rd</sup> *Braddock Leadership Institute*. (I warned you that busy times were ahead).

So soak up the information enclosed, contribute to enriching our community, and bring a neighbor to the January 12 BDC meeting. See you there.

**The first Community Engagement Initiative - Braddock Leadership Institute:** Please read Supervisor Cook's write-up and proposed agenda on page 7. This will be a fun and educational experience in learning ins and outs of leading and managing a community. Also read about it in the Fairfax Connection, January 7-13, 2010, page 2. You may still sign up.

**Information Forum:** Braddock District Council presents "DO'S AND DON'TS; INS AND OUTS OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS" at the annual Information Forum on February 9, 2010 at 6:00 PM. A panel of experts will discuss:

1. The importance of community associations; how associations protect your neighborhood; and how your association can solve problems that can arise in your neighborhood.
2. The legal and fiduciary responsibilities of the board that runs the homeowner or civic association.
3. Case studies of neighborhood problems/situations that were either solved with the assistance of an association or could have been solved if an association existed.

Join us at 6:00 PM for a light supper followed immediately with the program. This is a must program for all BDC members with an opportunity for you to ask questions and help you solve problems/situations within your community. Tena will accept attendee names and discuss questions at the January 12<sup>th</sup> BDC meeting. (See page 5 for the preliminary agenda).

**Grass Cutting Issue Decision Time:** Maintenance of the grass on our street medians and curbs has been a problem for a long time. BDC members persistently complain. Supervisor Cook's office notes that there were many calls at the beginning of the summer about residential grass issues, but as the summer wore on, the calls were more about medians and sides of the roads, with complaints about visual impairment, unsightliness, and after the last mowing without any sweeping, the concern of grass being left in gutters to obstruct storm water drainage. To create a Braddock District plan, the BDC has researched and made available a paper describing potential grass cutting courses of action. At the **January 12th BDC meeting**, we will select which action or actions to pursue. Please spread the word to have any and all interested parties come to participate in this broad District issue. This is the time to offer your options and comments and to ultimately join in solving this issue. **Only through a HUGE turnout at Braddock Hall on January 12th at 7:30 PM will this issue truly represent the Braddock opinion.** Your attendance and participation will determine exactly how important this issue is. This is your opportunity. Don't miss it!! (Click this link to read the [proposed actions](#))

**New BDC Website:** Mike Perel has transferred current and historical data to the new website he created for the Braddock District Council. Through this website, we intend to share information and keep Braddock associations involved in district news and activities. Please go to [www.bdcfx.org](http://www.bdcfx.org) and check out what we currently have. Save it as a favorite location for easy access later. We will continue to update and improve the content. This exciting and pleasing-to-the-eye tool is tremendous progress in linking and sharing news within our communities.

**Braddock District Dog Park:** A group of dog owners has been working with Fairfax County Park Authority in reviewing potential locations to establish a dog park in Braddock District. The group is working with the Braddock Office to map a schedule to make dog owners in our district and Braddock residents aware of this effort. At the present time, Braddock is one of the few districts without a dog park and dog owners walk dogs on our streets and parks or have to drive to places like South Run Dog Park to let them run.

**BDC Dues invoices and surveys:** As of January 4<sup>th</sup>, the BDC membership has renewed 22 associations. This confirms their community financial and volunteerism support for 2010.

**Supervisor Bulova Town Meeting:** On November 18<sup>th</sup> Bruce and Bill attended Supervisor Bulova's Town Meeting on **"Energizing Fairfax County – Climate Change and Energy Efficiency."** The panel of five informed experts in green housing, environmental impacts, energy conservation and even community energy activism in Fairfax provided a really eye-opening and informative two and half hours. The taped program may still be being broadcast at <http://fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/vod.htm> where it will be posted under the heading "Supervisor Programs" or click: [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/chairman\\_bulova\\_town\\_meeting.asx](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/chairman_bulova_town_meeting.asx).

**Notes of Interest:**

- To broaden the distribution of BDC news and community events, we request members to add or update their email addresses by contacting Dottie Dane, [dottie.dane@cox.net](mailto:dottie.dane@cox.net).
- News about your association and neighborhood is important and even may be funny! The opportunity to share and discuss is available at each Council meeting (see the Agenda).
- Are there topics and concerns that you'd like to hear about? BDC solicits your opinion and suggestions for topics for the May and June, 2010, meetings
- FYI - The conclusion of the Fairfax fiscal planning year is approaching. You can find information about the community dialogues, the budget process, and a summary of the discussions and recommendations at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget>.

Cheers, and Happy New Year,  
**Bill**

**Braddock District Council Officers and Chairs**

Chair: William Barfield  
Vice Chair: Janyce Hedetniemi  
Treasurer: Kevin Morse  
Secretary: Bruce Wallachy  
Membership Chair: Dottie Dane  
Communications Chair: Bruce Wallachy  
Programs Chair: Paul Maltagliati  
Information Forum Chair: Tena Bluhm

**Braddock District Council of Community Associations, Inc.  
Meeting Agenda – 12 January 2010**

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** (5 min)

Article II of BDC Bylaws.

**Welcome and Announcements** (5 min)

Newcomers & BDC Membership Chair – Dottie Dane

New Program Chair – Paul Maltagliati, CCV

Calendar of BDC Events – soliciting topics for May and June

Congratulations for web page going live – www.bdcfx.org

Send picture (jpg or gif) of your neighborhood entrance sign or logo

Observations & pictures on the big snow

**Treasurer's Report** (5 min)

Braddock Beatification balance        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Reed Memorial balance        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BDC Dues/Surveys Received        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BDC Balance                                \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BDC Issues:**

1. **Grass Cutting** - Bruce, Tom (35 min)
2. **Web Page Development** - Bruce, Mike (5 min)
3. **Information Forum** - Tena, Jan (5 min)
4. **Neighborhood College** - Jan, Bill (5 min)
5. **Dog Park** - Bruce, Russ (3 min)
6. **Braddock Road Beautification** – Tom Reinkober (2 min)
7. **Membership Drive** – Bill

**Supervisor Cook** - (10 min)

**Community News & Announcements:** Open discussion – (10 min)

**Next BDC meeting – February 9, 7:30 PM, Braddock Hall**

**(PRELIMINARY AGENDA)**

**2010 BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**INFORMATION FORUM**

DO'S AND DON'TS;  
INS AND OUTS  
OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

Tuesday February 9, 2010

Kings Park Library Meeting Room  
9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA

- 6:00 PM** Registration and Light Supper in Braddock Hall
- 6:30 PM** Opening Session in the Kings Park Library Community Meeting Room  
Welcome: Bill Barfield, Chair, Braddock District Council (5 minutes)
- 6:35 PM-7:30 PM** Basic Primer of Homeowner / Civic Associations (45 minutes)  
Question/Answer session (10 minutes)  
Speakers:  
Supervisor John Cook,  
Michelle Thompson, Fairfax County Consumer Protection
- 7:30 PM-8:20 PM** Legal, Financial and Fiduciary Responsibilities (40 minutes)  
Speaker:  
Attorney \_\_\_\_\_  
Question/ Answer Session (10 minutes)
- 8:20 PM-8:30 PM** Break
- 8:30 PM- 9:20 PM** Case Studies (40 minutes)  
Speaker:  
Attorney\_\_\_\_\_, Fairfax County Zoning Dept\_\_\_\_\_
- Question/Answer Session (10 minutes)
- 9:30 PM** Closing Remarks

**(PRELIMINARY AGENDA)**

## SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

It's a New Year, and there is much to look forward to and about which to be excited.

The biggest excitement in my life is the expansion of the Cook Family by two. On December 30, my wife gave birth to Andrew John and Stephen Michael Cook. My wife and the babies are doing well and our daughters are very happy about the arrival of their brothers. As you might imagine, under the circumstances, I am scaling back my public schedule for the next few weeks, but you can be assured that my staff will still be communicating with me on a regular basis.

I am also excited about the first of our Community Engagement Initiative educational events. The **Braddock Leadership Institute**, a full day seminar, will take place on **Saturday January 23rd from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Woods Community Center in the Burke Centre Conservancy, located at 10100 Wards Grove Circle in Burke.** My staff and I have worked along with County staff and agencies to create what I believe will be a rewarding and informative day.

The Leadership Institute is ideal for those on Home Owners Association or Civic Association Boards or anyone considering community leadership in any capacity. Participants will learn (the full agenda is below):

- Their role in creating an “engaged community” and responsibilities of volunteering and board leadership
- Leadership skills, including running successful meetings, volunteer recruitment and cultural competency
- Fiduciary responsibilities of organizational leadership, e.g., how to read financials and how to be financially viable in a down economy

Participants also will have the opportunity to engage with other citizens to discuss ideas for a community action plan for their home owner's association, civic association or community-based organization.

We currently have about 35 people signed up, and there is definitely room for more. I invite you to join us in a day that is sure to leave you motivated and more confident when going back to your communities, with tools that will help your organization to be more successful.

I hope you will seriously consider joining us for this unique opportunity. For questions please contact Ann Sharp in my office at 703.425.9300.

**Lastly, my next Constituent Day is on February 18, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. also at the Woods Community Center in the Burke Centre Conservancy.**

Have a great 2010!

**John C. Cook**

Fairfax County Neighborhood Leadership Institute  
January 23, 2010  
Proposed Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Opening Session
- Supervisor Cook – Vision for the Braddock District
  - Deputy County Executive – Patricia Harrison
  - Bill Barfield - Braddock District Council Chair
- 9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Fairfax County as Community Partner  
*Understand the county’s Vision Elements and how your neighborhood’s commitment to a “ thriving community” helps to sustain that vision.*
- 9:45 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. Leadership – Sustaining the Commitment to Your Community’s Vision  
*Discover the art of engaging a broad group of stakeholders to achieve sustaining results for your community. Discuss how to increase buy-in and shared ownership of community projects and initiatives. Learn how to initiate and sustain continuing projects rather than expending all of your resources on on-time community project. Share strategies on how to nurture new leaders , increase volunteerism and plan for succession.*
- 10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:05 a.m. –12:05 p.m. Workshop (BREAKOUT) Session I

A. *Creating and Maintaining Safe Neighborhoods*

Creating and Maintaining Safe Neighborhoods is not only the responsibility of the local law enforcement agency, but also the responsibility of residents, businesses, schools and many other stakeholders. Discover the importance of engaging various stakeholders together to maintain/create a safe community for all.

B. *The Nuts & Bolts of Managing and Sustaining Community Organizations*

Learn about the state statutes that govern homeowners, condominium and civic/community associations. Discover best practices on how to manage your organization's legal and fiscal responsibilities. Hear ideas on how to successfully plan for succession and long term sustainability of your organization.

C. *Environmental Stewardship*

The concept of Environmental Stewardship has been one that government and the private sector has taken the lead on in the past. Today, more and more communities recognize the need and importance of engaging individuals and their communities in preserving and strengthening the environment. Find out from residents who serve on the County's Environmental Coordinating Council and how each of us can make a difference.

12:10 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. *Human Capital and Engaging Diverse Populations*

In this session topics include understanding the various demographic groups in your community. Share successful ideas for engaging the skills and passions of everyone in your community.

1:35 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Workshop (BREAKOUT) Session II

D. *Creating and Maintaining Safe Neighborhoods*

Creating and Maintaining Safe Neighborhoods is not only the responsibility of the local law enforcement agency, but also the responsibility of residents, businesses, schools and many other stakeholders. Discover the importance of engaging various stakeholders together to maintain/create a safe community for all.

E. *The Nuts & Bolts of Managing and Sustaining Community Organizations*

Learn about the state statutes that govern homeowners, condominium and civic/community associations. Discover best practices on how to manage your organization's legal and fiscal responsibilities. Hear ideas on how to successfully plan for succession and long term sustainability of your organization.

F. *Emergency Preparedness*

Learn about Fairfax County's emergency response plan, what you should do in the event of a disaster and steps you can take today to be ready for an emergency.

2:55 p.m. – 3:55 p.m. Bringing It All Together – Neighborhood Planning

When it comes to getting things done in your neighborhood, hard work is important but you can't underestimate the importance of effective planning. This session will give an overview of the key elements of effective Neighborhood Planning

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Closing Session