

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL *News*

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May 2010

Next BDC Meeting

June 8, 2010 - 7:30 PM

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

Future Events

BoB nominations due – May 28
BDC Meeting (Elections & BoB winners) – June 8
Braddock District Picnic & BoB Awards - July 13
Summer vacations – no August meeting
BDC Meeting (BDC Budget) - Sept 14

REMINDER – Next BDC meeting June 8th, Tuesday 7:30 PM

Students, citizens and businesses that do extraordinary achievements or significant community improvements always appreciate special acknowledgement for their outstanding work. The official public recognition of these outstanding Braddock residents is the **Best of Braddock Awards**. Do you know an outstanding student or Braddock business or organization that you believe should be so honored? **Nominations are due May 28**. Instructions and forms are at: <http://www.bdcfx.org/home/committees/citizenship-awards-committee>

The following **BDC Issues & Projects** will be included in the **May 11th BDC meeting** topics. Recommendations and suggestions are solicited from the members present. Special Committee members will address their topic and may also request more volunteer help.

1. **Grass Mowing**
2. **Web Page**
3. **Information Forum** (completed for 2010)
4. **Neighborhood College** has on-going sessions
5. **Dog Park** in Braddock District
6. **Braddock Road Beautification**
7. **Membership Drive**
8. **Guidelines for Best of Braddock**
9. **Mary Read Memorial Park**
10. **Political signs in Braddock Roads**

Farmers markets are now opening in several local areas - good local groceries and fun morning browsing. Buy local and support sustainable agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. You will find the freshest and most desirable fruit, vegetables, plants, baked goods, eggs, dairy and

meats available. For more info and directions go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-farm-mkt.htm> .

Grass Mowing Issue: The first meeting for the membership-voted decision on pursuing how to influence Richmond on improving mowing is on **Wednesday, May 19th** at 7:30 in Braddock Hall. This open meeting is to organize BDC associations in finding ways to change how VDOT is funded for mowing grass along Braddock District roads. The BDC Executive Council supports this approach and again notes that this is an open meeting for any Braddock resident.

“Your Community, Your Call”: Association Insurance — Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m., Channel 16. Live, call-in TV program for homeowner and condominium association directors, managers and members. Does your association have enough insurance coverage for the community? Are volunteer board members covered under the association's insurance policy? Is there a way to decrease the association's risk? Michelle L. Thompson, Consumer Affairs Branch; Kenneth Chadwick, attorney of Chadwick, Washington, Moriarty, Elmore and Bunn; and Douglas Henken, CIRMS of Community Association Underwriters. Call 703-818-1445 or e-mail yyc@fairfaxcounty.gov. The program also will be [online](#).

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.
- News about your association and neighborhood helps connects all of our communities. In each BDC meeting we set aside a few minutes for members to share significant stories or announce their up-coming events. Come prepared for this “give and take” of your news.
- Here’s info to help you plan for (or around) the GMU commencement schedule for the University (http://events.gmu.edu/documents/2010ScheduleofConvoandComm_001.pdf) and for all the high school graduation schedules (http://communityrelations.gmu.edu/high_school_graduations.html).
- **Visit us at the [BDC website](#)** save it as a favorite URL for easy access to BDC news.

See you next meeting,

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

Next BDC meeting – June 8, 7:30 PM, Braddock Hall

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Spring always seems to be a busy time of the year in the Braddock District, and this year is no different. Here are some highlights of what your Braddock District Supervisor's Office has been up to.

Constituent Day

On May 17, from 6:00-8:00 PM, I will be hosting another Constituent Day, this time at Keene Mill Elementary School in the West Springfield area. There is no agenda, no PowerPoint, and no speechmaking at my Constituent Days. Instead, people drop in at any time, sometimes with a question, maybe with a comment, maybe to say hello, or sometimes just to listen. Come anytime and stay as long as you like. This is our chance to talk informally about whatever is on your mind.

Community Engagement

My Community Engagement Initiative is well under way. Over 75 people attended the Leadership Institute in January and 36 participants have graduated from Neighborhood Colleges in March and April. This leaves us with an army of over 100 trained and energized individuals committed to making our communities better places to live. Now the attention turns to you. I am asking our civic and homeowners associations to step up to the plate in the coming year. I'm not looking for miracles. I am asking you to consider taking on a new project in the coming year, or enhancing an existing project or program. Maybe it's a membership drive, or starting or strengthening your neighborhood watch. Maybe you will send a team to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Or maybe it's something fun like a community picnic, or block party. Maybe you will decide to clean up your entrance signs or stream beds. Whatever it is, please consider taking on a new project. We are here to help. I will help you with County resources and would be pleased to stop by to help you "kick off" your project. Please let Ann Sharp of my staff know about your project so we can track our progress. Ann can be reached at Ann.Sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-425-9300. I have charged our Leadership Institute and Neighborhood College graduates not just to take home their newfound knowledge, but to put it to work in the community. Please join with these community leaders to make our neighborhoods the best they can be.

Help Us Help You

We take great pride in our efforts to keep our community groups and citizens informed on what is going on in Braddock District. But to do this, we need to know who you are. Many civic and homeowners' associations hold elections in the Spring and elect new officers and board members. When you do, please let us know who you are and give us your contact information. Then we can make sure you are "in the loop" on what is going on in Braddock District. Please contact Ann Sharp of my staff with this information.

I am still getting to know many of you and your communities. I appreciate the opportunity to attend your meetings, hear from you, and take your questions. Please contact Lindsey Smith of my staff (Lindsey.Smith2@fairfaxcounty.gov) to get your meeting on my schedule.

Code Enforcement/Illegal Boarding Houses

When I took office, I made closing down illegal boarding houses and enforcing zoning restrictions a centerpiece of my efforts to strengthen our neighborhoods. Over the last year, Fairfax County has made significant progress in this effort. County staff attributes these successes to three factors. One is the economy. Many owners of illegal boarding houses have been forced out of business by the bad economy. A second is that the County's legal enforcement efforts are beginning to bear fruit. Legal processes take time, so many cases filed in 2007 and 2008 are beginning to be closed now. The recent criminal prosecution of what the Washington Post called the McMansion Mortgage Fraud Scam is a prime example of the County's legal success. A third reason for continued results in the fight against illegal boarding houses and zoning violations is the increased attention given to the issue by me and the Board, and the increased vigilance that this attention has brought about in our communities. That means you!! Community leaders have followed our lead, and made it clear in their communities that illegal boarding houses will not be tolerated. Taken together, these factors have produced significant improvements in our neighborhoods. Let's keep up the good work!

I hope that you enjoy the rest of this Spring season! If there is any way that I can be of service, please do not hesitate to contact me at 703.425.9300 or braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov

John C. Cook
Braddock District Supervisor

Train the Trainer: **What to do when the government comes knocking.**

Presented by:

Census Complete Count Committee of Arlington and Fairfax Counties, Hogar Immigrant Services of Catholic Charities, Legal Aid Justice Center – Immigrant Advocacy Project, Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition (CAIR), and American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Friday, May 14, 2010
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

- WHO:** Community organizers, staff of civil and immigrant rights organizations, clergy, teachers, advocates and anyone who works with the immigrant community.
- WHAT:** The Train the Trainer workshop will cover the rights of the immigrant community when questioned by Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) as opposed to Census workers. Training materials will include a “Know Your Rights” handout, a presentation about the Census, and a question and answer session.
- WHEN:** Friday, May 14, 2010 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
RSVP with Katie Mathews at Katie@hogarimmigrantservices.org or call 703-534-9805 x 243.
- WHERE:** Culmore United Methodist Church - Fellowship Hall
5901 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041
- WHY:** The goal of this training is to provide up-to-date information to those who work with the immigrant community on how to recognize and prepare for ICE officials and Census workers. It is important that service providers be informed on these issues, as they are in a unique position to provide advice to clients and community members. Educating the community about the role of ICE officials and Census workers will directly reduce the fear that ensues when a government official knocks at the door.
Having educated organizations and advocates dispersed throughout Virginia provides the immigrant community with various points of contact for accurate information on their rights and responsibilities and identifying avenues for help.