



John C. Cook

Braddock District Supervisor

Kings Park Library
9002 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA 22015

703-425-9300
Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock

NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER 1, 2012 NVCC WAKEFIELD FORUM

On behalf of Supervisor Cook, I'd like to thank all of you who were able to attend last night's meeting. I know there are others of you that wanted to attend, but had other commitments, and for that reason I am sending out a recap of last night's meeting, based on the notes I took. If what I report is incorrect, please let me know.

Supervisor Cook began by reminding us of the Countywide Dialog on Transportation Presentation at the Braddock District Office on the evening of October 11.
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/cdot/>

Dana Kauffman of NVCC announced that a contract had been signed for the planting of trees and shrubs along the eastern boundary of the campus adjacent to The Midway and Minor Drive.

Capt. Dan Dusseau, NVCC Chief of Police talked about how the NVCC police department works. We were given a number for Central Dispatch that can be called 24 hours a day. He encouraged community members to report any suspicious activity they hear or see on campus. The number is 703-764-5000. He let us know that there is a Security Report available online at <http://www.nvcc.edu/current-students/police/college-safety/2012NOVAAnnualCampusSecurityReport.pdf>. Security on campus is divided into three components: Emergency Management, Lab Safety, and Student Mental Health and Behavior. Community members may sign up for NOVA Alert <https://alert.nvcc.edu/index.php?CCheck=1> but need to bear in mind that you will receive alerts for each of the six campuses, as they have not created a way to sign up for alerts only from one campus at this time. Officers are on campus 7 AM to 11 PM every day, with a security service on campus during the other hours. Lt. Cheryl Creed and Sgt. D.J. Anglin also attended from the NVCC police.

Last, but certainly not least, we got to the issue of traffic and parking along Wakefield Chapel Road. Mr. Kauffman first of all let us know that parking fees did go up from \$75 to \$90 per semester. He also acknowledged that because so many students prefer to try to find parking in the garage and pay on an hourly basis rather than pay for an entire semester's worth of parking at one time, the parking garage is full almost all of the time. Monday and Wednesdays seem to be the busiest days on campus, especially during the hours of 8-11:30 AM and 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Parking is at a premium during those hours. In response to that, NVCC Annandale is looking at pushing some required classes and labs to Fridays and other lesser used days. They are also pushing students to enroll at other campuses, particularly Alexandria. In the meantime, students are choosing to park off campus. Now that streets closest to campus have RPPD established, the parking has extended further down Wakefield Chapel Road and into the neighborhoods, farther than the 2000' away from the nearest pedestrian entrance to campus. At this time there is a question as to whether or not all houses on Wakefield Chapel Road within the 2000' feet of the southernmost pedestrian are eligible to be part of an RPPD due to the designation of Wakefield Chapel Road as a minor arterial. Del. Vivian Watts indicated she would be willing to look into that with the Attorney General or County Attorney, and we will be asking FCDOT how they came up with the current policy.

Mr. Kauffman was asked the exact number of parking spaces available for students to park, as well as total number of spaces available on campus. He was also asked to provide total staff and total enrollment numbers, number of parking passes sold, enrollment projections and if there is anything in state code that designates how much parking must be made available on campus. He promised to send those numbers to our office to share with you.

The community is tired of being burdened with the college's problem. They are fearful of accidents due to students' inattention while walking and driving, and they do not appreciate the illegal parking practices taking place in the area. Officer Kim Furman, Parking Enforcement Officer for the West Springfield Police District, let us know what the fines were for various parking offenses, as well as what some of the most common ones are that she sees in the NVCC area (mostly parking too far from the curb and too close to intersections, sidewalks and driveways). She also indicated that none of those offenses are cause to have a car towed in Fairfax County, and we do not use boots.

Citizens suggested making arrangements with nearby churches to use lots that are empty most of the week. They also suggested some sort of satellite parking where shuttles could bring students to and from campus. They asked about scheduling more online classes and distance learning. Mr. Kauffman assured us that all of those options had been looked at, and the distance learning component of NVCC is one of the most successful programs they have. It was also suggested that some of the NVCC Board members be invited to these meetings. We were asked if we could speak with VDOT about adjusting timing on the signal at Braddock Road and Wakefield Chapel so that there might be a gap in the cycles that would provide residents with the time to make a left turn onto Wakefield Chapel Road and leave their neighborhoods in the morning hours. One comment was made asking about how students can be educated about proper parking, driving and walking on the roadways so as not to endanger themselves and other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Just about everyone at the meeting agreed that this is problem that NVCC cannot ignore and that the residents deserve more answers. We left the meeting with the following intentions: Mr. Kauffman will provide the numbers requested. I will be talking to VDOT about the signal and to FCDOT about what might be done about Wakefield Chapel Road parking restrictions. Del. Watts will also be asking about that issue. Officer Furman will continue to monitor the parking along the roads in the area and write tickets as needed.

Our next meeting has been tentatively set for February 6, 2013. Please mark your calendars!