

November 2013



OVER THE FENCEPOST



Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

I hope you can join me on Saturday, December 7th, at 4:00 p.m. for the second annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at the historic Lucasville School which is located at 10516 Godwin Drive in Manassas.

The free event will include refreshments and entertainment. New this year we will show the animated movie, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, at 4 p.m., followed by a musical performance by the Bennett Elementary School choir and a visit from a very special guest who will light the tree. Free pictures with Santa will be offered inside the schoolhouse following the ceremony.

We will be accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps annual Toys for Tots program. Donation drop boxes will be located near the entrance of the event.

Please be aware that parking for the event will be on-street parking on Godwin Drive. Please plan ahead and arrive around 3:45 p.m. to allow time to find a parking space, walk to the schoolhouse and find a spot to watch the movie.

For more information, call (703)792-4620 or send an e-mail to ColesDistrict@pwcgov.org.

I hope to see you on December 7th!



Upcoming Holiday Open House

Mark your calendar for my annual holiday open house which will be held on Friday, December 13th, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Stop by my office to say hello, enjoy some good food, and help us celebrate the holiday season. My office is located in the Woodbine Shopping Center at the intersection of Hoadly Road and Dumfries Road (13476 Dumfries Road).

I invite you to bring a donation to the Open House as my office is supporting several charities this year. We will be accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps annual Toys for Tots program. Donations such as an un-opened pack of diapers, warm coat or a non-perishable food item are also welcome and will be given to the charities Action in the Community Through Service (ACTS) and SERVE Inc., non-profit organizations serving the residents of Prince William County.

For more information about the Open House, give my staff a call at (703)792-4620 or send an e-mail to ColesDistrict@pwcgov.org.

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Precautions to Avoid Problems with Coyotes

The Prince William County Police Department’s Animal Control Bureau is advising residents to take precautions to avoid problems with the county’s coyote population. Coyotes have been living in Prince William County for several years and generally are not a danger to humans unless the animals are sick, injured or threatened. Dog owners are reminded to keep their dogs on the leash at all times when they are off of the owner’s property and to stay on established trails in park areas to avoid areas where dens may be located.

If a person is approached by a coyote, making a lot of noise (clapping, yelling and stomping feet) typically will scare off the coyote. It is important to remember they approach humans (and pets with humans) only under unusual circumstances. More information about dealing with coyotes and other wildlife is available on the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/problems/coyotes/>.



Coyotes will eat cats, small dogs and other small pets. Coyotes do most of their hunting at night. Therefore, owners of dogs, cats and small pets should not leave these pets outdoors unattended, especially at night. Residents can help discourage coyotes from coming on their property by not leaving pet food outdoors, including bird feeders, and by securing all household trash.

If a coyote appears to be sick, injured or acting aggressively, contact Animal Control through the non-emergency dispatch number at (703)792-6500.

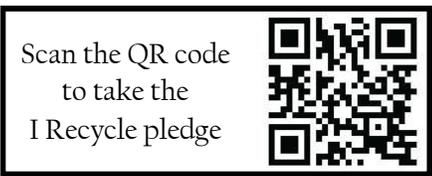
Celebrate America Recycles Day – Take the “I Recycle” Pledge

America Recycles DaySM is a national program of Keep America Beautiful, and is the only nationally recognized day and community-driven awareness event dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the U.S. Since its inception in 1997, communities across the country have participated in America Recycles Day on November 15 to educate, promote environmental citizenship, and encourage action.

The Prince William County Solid Waste Division Recycling Program encourages individuals, families and business people to join *TeamSort* and take the “I Recycle” pledge. It is super simple, just can go online to www.americarecyclesday.org and take the pledge, scan the QR code or text “recycle pledge” to 91011. All online and QR code pledges until November 30 will be entered into a drawing to win a park bench made from recycled plastic!



Public Works employee Deb Oliver explains the “I Recycle” Pledge to guest.



For more information about recycling in Prince William County and *TeamSort*, visit www.pwcgov.org/recycling. You can also learn more about America Recycles Day at AmericaRecyclesDay.org.

Buckle-Up During Holiday Travel

When it comes to driving safely, one of the most effective ways to protect yourself and your family is to use a seat belt. And an overwhelming majority of the millions of families traveling our nation's highways on Thanksgiving weekend, one of the busiest travel times of the year, will be buckling up, according to new survey results released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). New NHTSA research shows that nationwide seat belt use reached an all-time high of 86 percent in 2012.

According to NHTSA's annual National Occupant Protection Use Survey, seat belt use has steadily increased since 1994, with the record high of 86 percent in 2012 representing a two percent increase over the previous year. Among the most dramatic increases in seat belt use were in the southern region of the country, rising to 85 percent in 2012 - up from 8 percent in 2011. Seat belt use continues to be higher in states that have primary belt laws, which permit law enforcement officers to issue citations to motorists solely for not using a seat belt rather than requiring additional traffic violations.



Changes to PRTC Bus Service

Gainesville OmniRide, a new express commuter bus route between Gainesville and Washington, D.C., launched on Monday, November 4, providing the first direct bus service to the nation's capital from rapidly expanding western Prince William County.

Concurrent with the start of the Gainesville OmniRide route, PRTC is restructuring its other commuter bus services in the Manassas and Gainesville areas and will no longer lease commuter parking spaces at the Manassas K-Mart. In addition, PRTC made minor changes to other routes throughout the service area on November 4, when the agency's Fall Service Change takes effect. PRTC updates its schedules twice a year to reflect changes in travel times, routing and bus stops.

New schedule brochures will be available and all timetables are posted at <http://www.PRTCtransit.org>.



A Solemn Remembrance: Officer Paul T. White, Jr.

On October 27th, the Prince William County Police Department celebrated the service and commemorated the sacrifice of Officer Paul T. "Pete" White, Jr., who died in the line of duty 40 years ago that day. Officer White was the first Prince William County Police Officer to suffer a line-of-duty death.



Officer Paul T. "Pete" White, Jr.

The observance was held at the Paul T. White, Jr., police station, 8900 Freedom Center Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110. The event was attended by Officer White's surviving family, members of the Prince William County Police Department, dignitaries and other guests.

"This Department is richer for all the men and women who daily do the work of keeping the peace and upholding the law, both now and over our history," Chief Steve Hudson said. "And we are the poorer for having lost Pete White so early in his life and career. Pete is woven into this Department's fabric and he will never be forgotten."

Officer White was a 1968 graduate of Falls Church High School in Fairfax County, Va., and attended Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Va. He joined the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) in Washington, D.C., in April 1970.

Officer White had an interest in law enforcement from childhood and, when the age to be a fully-fledged police officer with the MPD was lowered to 20 just before his 20th birthday, he applied for the position and was hired. He was one of the youngest police officers in the MPD, and patrolled a beat in Georgetown. He served during the "May Day Protests" in 1971. These protests were a series of large-scale civil disobedience actions in Washington, D.C., in protest against the Vietnam War. The May riots resulted in the largest mass arrest in U.S. history — some 12,614 people — between the U.S. Park Police and the MPD.

He joined the Prince William County Police Department in 1971, and attended the 16th session of the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy. Upon graduating from the academy in 1971, Officer White was assigned to work Patrol on A Squad, a position he held until his death.

Officer White received numerous posthumous awards, including the Jaycees "Man of the Year" Award for 1973-74.

Officer White is survived by his wife, Christy; his brother Robert, and his family; and his brother Michael, and his family.

County Offices Closed for Holiday

In observance of the Veterans Day holiday, all Prince William County government offices will be closed on Monday, November 11. County offices will re-open at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 12.

Prince William County offices will also be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. County offices will re-open at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, December 2.



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is Returning

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is a national program sponsored by the IRS. VITA is implemented in the Northern Virginia area by Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William County Governments and various community organizations. Together, the organizations make up the Northern Virginia coalition for Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (NVACASH).

Each tax season, VITA volunteers all over the country prepare federal and state tax returns for low-income families – those making \$51,000 and less in 2012 – in public libraries and community centers, and on college campuses. NVACASH-VITA volunteers prepared over 5,500 tax returns in the 2012 filing season. Clients received over \$8 million in refunds and credits and saved over \$1.1 million in professional filing fees.

Volunteers are needed for a 10 week period beginning in late January or early February to prepare taxes or as organizers. The tax prep site for Prince William County is the Ferlazzo Building which will be open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting sometime in January until April 12, 2014.

Work experience, classroom education or personal tax prep experience is preferred. Training will be provided on December 3, 2013; passing an exam is required for participation. Volunteers do not have to commit to all 10 Saturdays.

If you are interested, contact Mary Eure (pronounced "Your") at Mary.Eure@fairfaxcounty.gov or James Do ("pronounced "Dough") at 571-749-7838; TTY 711 or James.Do@fairfaxcounty.gov.



7th Prescription Drug "Take-Back Day" Is a Success

More than 987 pounds of expired or unused prescription medications were collected in greater Prince William County on Saturday, October 26th, as the Crime Prevention Unit of the Prince William County Police Department, the City of Manassas Police Department, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Novant Health Prince William Medical Center, Heathcote Health Center and Sentara Lake Ridge all participated in the DEA's "Take Back" initiative.

Last April, more than 840 pounds of expired prescription drugs and other medications were collected in greater Prince William County. The nationwide prescription drug "Take-Back" initiative seeks to prevent pill abuse and theft. According to the DEA, rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are increasing at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

For more information, please call the Crime Prevention Unit at (703)792-7270.

New Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) is pleased to announce a new Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline, a resource for resolving human-wildlife conflicts. The helpline is a collaborative effort between the VDGIF and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (WS) to address human-wildlife interactions by sharing science-based wildlife information. The Helpline is available toll-free at (855)571-9003 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Techniques recommended to the public are environmentally sound, safe and selective, and meet wildlife professional's standards. Individuals are helped with do-it-yourself instructions and are provided with the necessary information and literature, referred to websites when appropriate, or directed to other sources of assistance. In those instances where more specific technical assistance is needed, callers are linked up with subject matter experts.

Helpline activities are conducted in cooperation with VDGIF in accordance with WS policy guidelines and federal, state and county laws, regulations and policies. The Farm Bureau of Virginia, Virginia State University and Virginia Tech Extension are partners assisting in the development of outreach and educational materials from information and data gathered from the helpline.

The development of the helpline resulted from the expansion of suburban development into rural Virginia, and significant human population growth topping 28 percent over the past 20 years. These trends have created more interactions between humans and wildlife, many leading to negative consequences. Concerned citizens seeking information and assistance related to human-wildlife interactions now have to go no further than their telephone for technical information and assistance.

Suggestions for Fall Foliage Removal

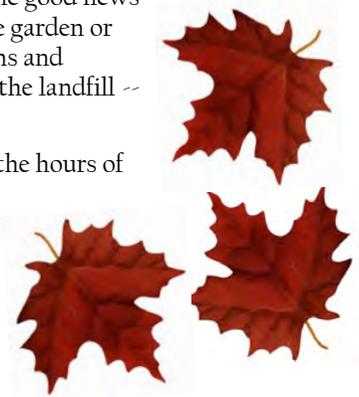
The Department of Solid Waste Offers some helpful fall foliage removal tips...

- As summer gives way to fall and trees give up their beautiful leaves, Prince William County citizens can collect and recycle nutrient rich leaves by starting backyard compost. The resulting humus like material can be used to enrich garden soil and improve lawn and soil quality.
- Prince William residents can purchase a compost bin from the Solid Waste administrative office or Balls Ford Road Compost Facility for \$25 and start a backyard compost pile. Compost bins are also available at most local lawn and garden centers.
- For information and publications on backyard composting and its numerous benefits visit the Virginia Cooperative Extension website www.ext.vt.edu and <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/HORT/HORT-49/HORT-49-PDF.pdf>.
- Citizens can also bag their leaves and bring them to Prince William County Landfill or Balls Ford Road Yard Waste Compost Facility free of charge and the facility will compost them. There is no limit on the number of bags, but citizens are requested to empty leaves and yard waste from the bags into the containers marked yard waste. Bulkier items such as trees, stumps, logs may be accepted in limited quantities at the discretion of the Solid Waste Superintendent.
- So whether you decide to compost at home or bring it to a County facility for composting, the good news is that leaves and other yard waste with beneficial nutrients are recycled and returned to the garden or landscape. Plus, valuable nutrients that can be used to help enrich our soil, beautify the lawns and gardens in our communities and promote a healthier environment are not wasted, buried in the landfill -- reducing landfill capacity.

The Prince William County Landfill is located at 14811 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112 and the hours of operation are: Monday – Saturday and Holidays* 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Balls Ford Road Yard Waste Compost Facility is located at 13000 Balls Ford Road, Manassas, VA 20109. Hours of operation: Monday – Saturday and Holidays* 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Solid Waste Administration Office is located at 5 County Complex Court, Suite 250. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on holidays.



Turkey Fryers Popular but Dangerous

The number one cause of home fires and injuries is cooking fires. According to U.S. Fire Administration, approximately 2,000 Thanksgiving Day fires occur in U.S. residences each year, resulting in 5 deaths, 25 injuries and \$21 million in property loss.

Turkey fryers have become extremely popular during the holiday season. Retailers anxious to capture the market during this brief and prosperous time, stock their shelves with turkey fryers. Although the industry has made great strides in the improvement of turkey fryers, they still are not safe to use due to the amount of oil and high temperatures used to cook a turkey.

Dangers associated with turkey fryers:

- Hot oil can spill or splash over onto the flame igniting a fire. This can occur during the cooking process especially when placing the turkey in the fryer or when removing it.
- Fryers designed for outdoor use with or without a stand are prone to collapse causing a major hot oil spill.
- Cooking oil is combustible. If heated beyond its cooking temperature (375°), its vapors can ignite.
- Steam can result from hot cooking oil exposed to snow or rain causing a splattering of the hot oil leading to burns.
- The use of turkey fryers in close quarters poses a burn hazard/danger to children and others in the home. Oil inside a pot can stay dangerously hot for hours after use.
- DO NOT use in, on or under a garage, deck, breezeway, porch, barn or any structure that can catch fire.
- Frozen or partially frozen turkeys, when cooked, will cause the hot oil to splatter or produce hot steam leading to burns.
- Call 911 immediately should a fire occur!
- NEVER use water to extinguish a grease fire!

To view video presentations on the dangers of turkey frying, visit

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yObDuYTfudY> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQYTMFCly5E>.



Pet Safety Tips to Keep Your Holidays Merry and Bright

The best present you can give your pets during the holiday season is good health. Follow these safety tips to keep your four-footed friends happy and healthy through the New Year!

- Food is often the number one holiday hazard for companion animals. Do not feed turkey or chicken bones to your pets. Bones splinter easily and can cause choking. Chocolate, coffee, tea and alcohol all contain dangerous ingredients which cause serious illness. Secure garbage in bins with pet-proof lids or store trash behind locked doors. Remind guests not to give your pets treats from the dinner table.
- When decorating for the holidays, place lights and ornaments in safe places. Avoid glass ornaments, and be aware that your pet may eat tinsel or other decorations. Secure trees to a wall to prevent tipping, and use a screen around the base to block access to water in tree stands, electrical cords, and gifts. Read labels on products such as tree water preservatives and artificial snow, and buy only non-toxic products.
- Do not leave paper, ribbon or tape out after you have wrapped presents. Gift-wrap and accessories can cause choking, upset stomach or even more serious problems. Display candles on high shelves and use fireplace screens to avoid singed whiskers and painful burns. Keep items such as tablecloths and table runners from hanging too low to the ground. Tuck or tape electrical cords to keep out of your pet's reach.
- Holly, poinsettias, mistletoe and other poisonous plants are best kept away from inquisitive four-footed friends. Ingestion of the leaves and berries can cause diarrhea, convulsions, and in some cases even death.
- Please do not give a pet as a gift unless you are sure the person will care for the animal. Give a gift certificate so the recipient can choose his or her own pet *after* the holidays. If you are thinking about getting a new pet for yourself, remember animals need routine and a time to bond with you. With the noise, commotion and special hazards around the holidays, consider getting your new pet after the New Year. If you decide to welcome a furry friend into your home this holiday season, give the gift of life to a homeless animal and adopt your next pet from the local animal shelter.

These tips are brought to you by the Prince William County Animal Advisory Committee (AAC). The mission of the AAC is to help improve the quality of life of companion animals in the county.



Contacts

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Senator Mark Warner
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Congressman Robert J. Wittman, 1st District
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Congressman Frank Wolf, 10th District
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Congressman Gerry Connolly, 11th District
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Luke Torian, 52nd District
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David Ramadan, 87th District
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Community Announcements

- The Yorkshire Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization is proud to introduce our school's very own Cub Scouts program. They are Pack 1375 Yorkshire and the troop is starting with 22 cub scouts spanning Tiger Cub Den, Wolf Cub Den, Bear Cub Den along with Webelos 1 and 2. The troop is looking for local businesses to sponsor them by donating desperately needed funds or opportunities to purchase discounted apparel, badges, supplies, outings, workshops, seminars, training, etc. If your business would like to contribute to Pack 1375, please contact Cub Master Jackie Gaston at jmgaston53@gmail.com or (571)220-4924. For more information, visit <http://1375yorkshire.scoutlander.com/publicsite/unithome.aspx?UID=29197>, <http://aplacetogive.scouting.org/> or <http://www.scouting.org/Sponsors.aspx>.
- The Lake Ridge Occoquan Coles Civic Association Planning, Environment and Land Use Committee (LOCCA-PELT) will hold its next meeting on November 14, at 7:30 pm. Meetings are normally held the Prince William County Development Services Building, 5 County Complex Court, Prince William, Virginia, unless otherwise announced.
- Volunteer Prince William is hosting a Volunteer Management Training Series each Thursday beginning January 9 through February 13, 2014 from 9 to 11 a.m. All classes will be held at the ARC of Greater Prince William located at 13505 Hillendale Drive in Woodbridge. Topics include: planning your volunteer program, matching skills with needs, training and supervising your volunteers, and how to evaluate the effectiveness of your volunteer program. Please visit www.volunteerprincewilliam.org to register.

Ways To Get Involved

ACTS - www.actspwc.org
 Coles District Civic Association - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Coles-District-Civic-Association/152351374830027>
 Coles District Volunteer Fire Department - www.cdvfd.org
 Court Appointed Special Advocates of Greater Prince William - www.casaofgpw.org
 Dale City Civic Association - <http://sites.google.com/site/dccawebsite/>
 Dale City Volunteer Fire Department - www.dcvfd.org
 Habitat for Humanity - www.habitatpwc.org
 Historic Prince William - <http://www.historicprincewilliam.org>
 Hylton Performing Arts Center - <http://hyltoncenter.org/preview/>
 Keep Prince William Beautiful, Inc. - www.kpwb.org
 Lake Jackson Citizens' Association - lakefacebook@hotmail.com
 Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department - <http://www.ljvfd.com/>
 Lake Ridge Occoquan Coles Civic Association - www.loccapelt.org
 Leadership Prince William - www.leadershipprincewilliam.org
 Meals-On-Wheels - (703)792-4156
 Mid County Civic Association - www.midcopw.net
 Neabsco Action Alliance - www.neabscoactionalliance.org
 NAACP of Prince William County - www.pwnaACP.org
 NAMI Prince William, Inc., an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness - www.nami-pw.org
 Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department - www.owlvfd.org
 Prince William Chamber of Commerce - www.pwchamber.org
 Prince William Conservation Alliance - www.pwconserve.org
 Prince William Area Members-at-Large Unit, League of Women Voters of Virginia - www.lwvPWAMAL.org
 Prince William Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals - www.pwspca.org
 Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District - www.pwswcd.org
 Prince William Special Olympics - www.pwsova.org
 Prince William Neighborhood Leaders Group - www.pwCGOV.org/neighborhoodleaders
 Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition - www.pwtsc.org
 Register to Vote - www.pwCGOV.org/vote
 SERVE - http://www.nvfs.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=91788
 The House (a Student Leadership Center) - <http://www.thehouse-inc.com/#/welcome/>
 Virginia Cooperative Extension - www.pwCGOV.org/vce
 Volunteer Prince William - www.volunteerprincewilliam.org

If you know of a way for citizens to get involved in the community that is not listed, send it to us at dmoyers@pwCGOV.org.



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Friend my office on Facebook,
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Office-of-Supervisor-Marty-Nohe/257450714285639?ref=hl>

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To subscribe or unsubscribe
 from our newsletter distribution list,
 send an e-mail to dmoyers@pwcgov.org.

November Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Free VIN Etching, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Manassas Mall by Sears
10	11 County Offices Closed	12	13 Neighborhood Leaders Group, 7 p.m., Development Services Building	14	15	16 Open Hearth Cooking Class, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre Free Revolutionary War Weekend 1776! Program, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Rippon Lodge Historic Site
17 Free Revolutionary War Weekend 1776! Program, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Rippon Lodge Historic Site	18	19 Board of County Supervisors Meeting, 2 p.m., McCoart Board Chambers	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Board of County Supervisors Meeting, 2 p.m., McCoart Board Chambers	27	28 County Offices Closed	29 County Offices Closed	30