



OVER THE FENCEPOST

DMV to Offer Services at Local Libraries



Representatives from the Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles, or DMV, will open "DMV Connects" at several area libraries in December and January to help people with getting identification cards, drivers' licenses, veterans' ID cards, vehicle titles, registrations and more.

According to the DMV website, DMV Connects is an outreach program to serve people who may

not be able to travel to a DMV office. There are five DMV Connects teams throughout the Commonwealth.

The program was originally created to provide inmates with identification so they could open bank accounts, enter public buildings and apply for benefits upon release from jail. It has recently expanded to serve retirement communities, government centers, homeless shelters, and more. Advances in technology have made it possible to fit everything that is needed to generate identification cards into one suitcase, which allows the connect teams to take services into the community.

Following are the dates and times the DMV Connects teams will be in library branches across the county:

- Chinn Park Regional Library: 13065 Chinn Park Drive, Friday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Bull Run Regional Library: 8051 Ashton Avenue, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Montclair Community Library: 5049 Waterway Drive, Thursday, Dec.21, 11 a.m. to 4p.m.
- Central Community Library: 8601 Mathis Avenue, Friday, December 29, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Potomac: 2201 Opitz Boulevard, Wednesday, January 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Haymarket Gainesville: 14870 Lightner Road, Tuesday, January 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The service is first come, first served until capacity is reached.

For more information, as well as the list of the documents required for DMV services, visit the library website at www.pwcgov.org/library.



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Now Accepting Toys for Tots Donations!

Our office is happy to yet again be an official drop-off location for the Toys for Tots program! We will be accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys from now until Friday, December 8th. Our hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm and we are located at 13476 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112.

For more information you can call our office at 703-792-4620 or visit the Toys for Tots website:

<http://quantico-va.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx>



Tips to Keep Holiday Package Deliveries Safe

It's the holiday season and residents increasingly will come home to packages on their doorsteps – either their own shopping or gifts from friends and family. Along with all those deliveries come thieves preying on these items.

The Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit advises there are steps you can take to reduce the chance that your deliveries are stolen:

- Have your packages delivered to a location where someone can receive them in person, such as a neighbor or relative who is usually at home, or your workplace (if your employer allows it).
- Encourage your neighbors to watch for deliveries and agree to secure each other's packages. This includes being watchful for any person who is going onto porches for no apparent reason, or who is following delivery trucks around.
- Ask the shipper to hold your package at their facility. Most will offer this service.
- Track deliveries online, or look into receiving a text notification to your cell phone when a package arrives, as many companies offer these services.
- Request a signature confirmation of delivery and arrange to be there to sign for the package. This is especially useful to consider for expensive, desirable or irreplaceable items.
- Insure valuable items.
- Provide delivery instructions. If packages arrive while you are not home, try to have them left out of sight from the street.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, call the police non-emergency number at 703-792-6500. Try to provide as much information as possible: vehicle descriptions, license plate numbers, individual descriptions, the last direction of travel, etc.

Observing these tips can help keep your holidays merry and bright.

Animal Shelter Promotes Spay/Neuter of Pets

Spaying or neutering of pets helps improve the quality of life of our pets and our community. Toward that end, the Prince William County Animal Shelter advises residents that a spay/neuter transport will be held on Friday, Dec. 8, 2017.

Saint Seton's Orphaned Animals "Neuter Scooter" will be picking up cats and dogs at 7 a.m. on December 8th from the Animal Shelter parking lot located at 14807 Bristow Road in Manassas (20112). The animals will be safely transported to Loving Touch Animal Hospital in Fredericksburg for the procedures. The mobile unit will return the pets to the Animal Shelter parking lot at 6:30 p.m. for owner pick up.

All dogs are required to have a heartworm test. If your dog has heartworms the doctor cannot perform surgery as this could be fatal. The hospital also requires a pre-anesthesia panel and IV catheter for pets over the age of seven years, to make sure your senior pet can process the anesthesia before performing surgery. There are costs associated with these requirements so if your pet already has vaccines and a heartworm test, please have your vet fax the records to Loving Touch Animal Hospital prior to the day.

For more information, and to register, visit www.saintseton.com. Click "Programs" and then "Neuter Scooter."

Christmas Trees, Holiday Decorations & Lights-Decorate Safely

Christmas trees and decorations add to the holiday spirit, yet, pose the risk of fire and injury to many, especially children. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas trees are a major source of fuel in a fire. Between 2011 and 2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 200 structure fires, per year, caused by Christmas trees resulting in an annual average of 6 deaths, 16 injuries and \$14.8 million in property damage. When comparing Christmas tree fires to other reported home fires:

- 1 out of every 32 home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death compared to 1 death out of every 143 reported home fires.
- Christmas tree structure fires are more likely to occur after Christmas than before.

Safety Tips

When decorating this holiday season, follow these simple safety tips:

- Decorate with children in mind. DO NOT put ornaments that have small parts or metal hooks, or look like food or candy, on the lower branches where small children can reach them.
- Keep near each phone the number of the National Poison Center (800) 222-1222.
- Trim protruding branches at or below a child's eye level, and keep lights out of reach.
- Natural trees always involve some risk of fire. To minimize the risk:
- Get a fresh tree and keep it watered at all times.
- DO NOT put the tree within 3 feet of a heat source, i.e. fireplace, space heater, radiator or heat vent.
- DO NOT burn tree branches, treated wood or wrapping paper in a home fireplace.
- Remove your tree after Christmas (December 26th) or when it is dry.

Holiday Lights & Decorative Lighting

Holiday lights and decorative lighting add a festive touch during the holiday season; yet, 25% (1 out of every 4) Christmas tree fires were caused by electrical failures or malfunctions.

According to NFPA, one quarter (25%) of the Christmas tree fires and in 80% of the deaths were due to a form of heat source such as a candle or equipment that were too close to the tree.

- Two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles.
- December is the peak time of the year for decorations/home candle fires.
- Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are the top 4 days for home candle fires.

Safety Tips

When using holiday or decorative lights, follow these simple safety tips:

- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that burns.
- NEVER leave a lit tree or other decorative lighting displays unattended.
- TURN OFF ALL decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Inspect lights for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections and broken sockets.
- DO NOT overload extension cords or outlets.
- DO NOT run an electrical cord under a rug.

Holiday Plants - Decorative but Toxic

Holiday plants such as Poinsettias, Mistletoe, Holly, Amaryllis and Daffodils, Cyclamen and Jerusalem Cherry, may enliven a room but they are poisonous to humans and/or pets. When displaying these types of plants, place them in locations that can be admired from a distance by all, yet, unattainable to children and pets.

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue Chief Kevin McGee would like to remind residents that holidays were designed to spend memorable moments with family and friends not visits to the emergency room. Make your holiday a cherished and memorable holiday by preparing and implementing proper precautions.

For more information regarding Christmas trees and Holiday safety, visit the National Fire Protection Association www.nfpa.org and U.S. Fire Administration www.usfa.fema.gov/.

Recycle Your Holiday Greenery

After all the holiday greenery has lost its luster, make it green again! Give your Christmas tree, wreath and other cut greenery another life as compost, mulch or habitat. Simply remove all ornaments, decorations, tinsel, nails and the tree stand and take the greenery to one of locations listed below to be recycled or repurposed.

- The Prince William County Landfill at 14811 Dumfries Road in Manassas. Monday - Saturday, 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The facility is closed New Year's Day. 703-792-4670
- The Balls Ford Road Compost Facility located at 13000 Balls Ford Road in Manassas. Monday - Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The facility is closed New Year's Day. 703-792-4670
- Leesylvania State Park located at 2001 Daniel K. Ludwig Drive in Woodbridge (off Neabsco Road). Trees may be dropped off at Shelter 2 and will be used for habitat.
- Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC) located at 5399 Wellington Branch Road in Gainesville. Dec. 26 - Jan. 9. The drop off area is located in the front parking lot in the area outlined with the orange safety cones. NOVEC will deliver the wood-chip mulch to interested customer-owners at no charge, visit www.novec.com/mulch.

For more information on recycling in Prince William County, visit <http://www.pwcgov.org/trashandrecycling> or call 703-792-4670.

Family Holiday Events at County's Historic Properties



Holiday concerts and visits from Santa Claus are just some of the events on the slate for December at the county's historic properties.

During Holidays through the Ages at Rippon Lodge, visitors will see the Colonial-era house decorated for the holidays, inside and out. Rooms in the house will represent different periods of holiday celebrations from the Colonial Period through the 1940s. Tours of the property run between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, during the first four weekends in December. Tours will begin on the hour in front of the porch. An admission fee of \$5 per person includes a warm beverage and light refreshments. Children under six get in free. Reservations for the tours are strongly recommended for groups of

four or more. Call Rippon Lodge Historic Site, 15520 Blackburn Rd., Woodbridge, at 703-499-9812 for more information.

Santa is coming to town on Dec. 9. He will visit Rippon Lodge between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and parents will be given special "Things Santa Should Know" cards to cue Santa on things he should know about the children. Bring cameras for pictures and dress appropriately for the weather, as some activities are outside. Admission is \$2 per child. Call 703-499-9812 for more information.

Santa will also be at the Old Manassas Courthouse at 9248 Lee Ave. in Manassas on Dec. 9 for Breakfast with Historic Santa. In December of 1862, artist Thomas Nast made one of the first known illustrations of Santa Claus. Join us at this event for a family breakfast, make authentic 19th-Century Christmas decorations and get a chance to meet Santa, who has dusted off that old 1862 suit. Breakfast will be from 10 a.m. until noon, and crafts and pictures with Santa will be open until 3 p.m. Admission for breakfast with Santa is \$5 per adult, \$10 per child. Children under two are free. Visit with Santa between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. when children get in for \$2. For reservations, call 703-792-4754.

On Dec. 16, plan to attend the Brentsville Holiday Concerts. Two holiday concerts with seasonal music performed by the Brentsville District High School Choir will be at the beautiful and historic Brentsville Union Church at the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Road in Bristow. Enjoy hot cider and cookies by a warm bonfire. The free, evening concerts begin at 5 p.m. and run until 7 p.m. Call 703-365-7895 for more information.

For a full list of events happening in December at the county's historic properties, visit www.pwcgov.org/history.

“Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” Campaign Begins Dec. 13th

DON'T WRECK THE HOLIDAYS.



**DURING DECEMBER
FROM 2012-2016, 28% OF
THOSE WHO DIED IN
TRAFFIC CRASHES DIED
IN CRASHES INVOLVING
DRUNK DRIVERS.**



This year's “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” high-visibility campaign begins on Wednesday, Dec. 13th and runs through New Year's Eve. Prince William County Police, as well as law enforcement agencies throughout Virginia and the region, are targeting this period because the holidays bring a surge in impaired driving.

Drunk driving is both reckless and preventable. The “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign aims to get that point across. Drivers break the law by driving impaired, putting thousands of travelers at risk every day. The Prince William County Police Department wants drivers to know drunk driving is not tolerated. No excuses and no warnings. If drivers are caught driving impaired, they will be arrested.

Consider the following facts from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):

- For many Americans, “holiday cheer” involves drinking alcohol at holiday parties and events. That means a spike in drunk-driving crashes each December.
- According to NHTSA, 37,461 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2016, and 28 percent (10,497) of those fatalities were in crashes during which a driver had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) over the legal limit of .08.

Remember to Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over!

Project Underway to Help Prevent Flooding Near Route 1

The first phase of the Dewey's Creek stream restoration project is underway near the intersection of U.S. 1 and Wayside Drive near Dumfries. The aim of the project is to reduce bank erosion, enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitat, foster the protection of nearby residential and commercial properties, and prevent flooding of Possum Point Road.

The restored stream will also provide educational opportunities for elementary school through high school students to learn about stream ecology by studying the aquatic life in the creek and terrestrial life around it.

The project will also provide infrastructure protection as the creek has exposed a Prince William County Service Authority sewer main pipe, as well as other features meant to prevent flooding. “We have our own stormwater facility here that's under threat of collapsing because of the erratic nature of the stream,” said Tom Dombrowski, an environmental engineer with the county's Department of Public Works. “Once we create a balance for the stream itself, it will stay within its channel and the storm flow will go out to the flood plain and recede, which means it's not going to make a flooding situation.”



The project will include creek bank reinforcement with stones and matting along the creek edges made of coconut fibers that will keep soil out of the creek until vegetation becomes established.

Restoring streams with riffles, which flow over shallow rock emplacements, and pools that collect at the bottom of the riffles in the bends of the creek, will attract wildlife as a bonus. “That also will provide habitat for all sorts for fish and fun critters that will be here,” Dombrowski said.

While local governments are required to pay for stream restoration projects, federal grants are available, and the county's Department of Public Works has been able to take advantage of the funding in many of its projects.

The county recently received a \$1 million Stormwater Local Assistance Fund matching grant to help pay for the first phase of restoration along Dewey's Creek, about 1,000 linear feet, according to Dombrowski. The first phase is a part of a larger project that will stretch more than a mile between U.S. 1 and Possum Point Road when it is completed by the winter of 2018.

Dewey's Creek is a tributary of Quantico Creek, a fresh-water tidal estuary of the Potomac River, which feeds into the Chesapeake Bay.

Reduce the Risk of Vehicle Theft

With colder temperatures, an increasing number of people are tempted to start their cars to warm them up, thaw the windows or just keep the motor running while a quick trip is made inside a convenience store. Unfortunately, vehicles that are left running, unattended and unlocked are more susceptible targets for vehicle thieves.

The Crime Prevention Unit suggests the following tips to reduce the opportunity for theft to occur.

- Remain with your vehicle whenever it is running. Do not leave your car unattended with the keys in the ignition.
- If you insist on leaving an unattended car running, use a second key or keyless remote to lock the door. Maintain view of the vehicle, keeping in mind that locked vehicles can be easily opened by criminals.
- Consider purchasing a remote starter for the vehicle which locks the doors and prevents the vehicle from being driven away without a key in the ignition.
- Remember that these are crimes of opportunity. They can occur anytime that the circumstances permit.
- The most important thing you can do is call the police to report crime or any suspicious activity.

Please remember to report suspicious activity immediately to us at 703-792-6500.

Safety Tips for Holiday Shopping, Travelling

The holiday season is here, and the Prince William County Police Department reminds residents of some basic safety tips they can practice, whether the holiday entails travel, shopping or sightseeing. Jostling through crowded shopping malls or sidewalks while carrying your jacket, or juggling countless bags, makes you an attractive target to criminals looking to grab wallets, purses, and your purchases.

If you will be shopping or sightseeing:

- Do not carry large amounts of cash, or more than two credit cards.
- Wallets should be carried in a front pants pocket, rather than in a rear pants pocket or a jacket.
- Hold your purse close to your body with the opening facing toward the body.
- Do not wear large amounts of valuable jewelry.
- Consolidate purchases into one or two large shopping bags so you can keep track of everything.
- Never leave your purchases unattended, even for a minute.
- Do not walk alone around shopping areas, banks and convenience stores.
- Walk in well-lighted areas, and avoid dark, unlit shortcuts.
- While using an ATM, look around from time to time and be aware of what is happening around you. If anything suspicious happens, immediately cancel your transaction and leave.

If you are traveling for the holidays, make your home look "lived in" while you are gone. Avoid the temptation to turn off exterior lights to save money, and enlist the help of a trusted neighbor, friend or family member to help achieve this goal.

If you will be out of town:

- Have a trusted neighbor collect your mail, newspapers and advertisements, and even park their car in your driveway from time to time.
- Provide that neighbor with your contact information in the event of an emergency.
- Use timers to turn lights off and on. Put an automatic timer on several lights and the radio.
- Leave shades, blinds and curtains in their normal positions.
- Lock all doors and windows in your home. Secure the garage and shed, and secure valuable items that are inside these structures.

Following these basic tips can help ensure a happy holiday for you and yours, as well as bring peace of mind that your property is secure.

Contacts

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Senator Mark Warner
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Congressman Gerry Connolly, 11th District
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Luke Torian, 52nd District
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John Bell, 87th District
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Ways To Get Involved

ACTS - www.actspwc.org

Arc of Greater Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc. - <http://arcgpw.org/>

Coles District Civic Association - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Coles-District-Civic-Association/152351374830027>

Cooperative Council of Ministries (CCoM) - <http://www.ccomcares.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

Equality Prince William - www.equalityprincewilliam.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.kpw.org

Lake Jackson Citizens' Association - lakefacebook@hotmail.com

Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department - <http://www.ljvfd.com/>

Lake Ridge Occoquan Coles Civic Association - <http://www.loccapeltva.org/>

Leadership Prince William - www.leadershipprincewilliam.org

League of Women Voters - www.princewilliamlww.org

Meals-On-Wheels - (703)792-4156

Mid County Civic Association - www.midcopw.net

NAACP of Prince William County - www.pwnaap.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 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

Rainbow Therapeutic Riding Center - www.rainbowriding.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 kclark@pwcgov.org.



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

WWW.COLESDISTRICT.ORG
WWW.PWCGOV.ORG

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

December Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Board of Supervisors 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm McCoart Build Board Chambers Historical Commis- sion 7:30 pm -10:00 pm Old Manassas Court- house	13	14	15	16
17	18 Board of Zoning Appeals 2:00 pm-4:00 pm McCoart Build Board Chambers	19 Trails and Blueways Council Meeting 6:30 - 9:30 pm Hellwig Memorial Park	20 Parks Commission 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm George Hellwig Me- morial Park Planning Commission 7:00 pm-10:00 pm McCoart Build Board Chambers	21	22	23
24	25 Prince William County Offices Closed for the Holi- day Season	26 Prince William Coun- ty Offices Closed for the Holiday Season	27	28	29	30
31						