



OVER THE FENCEPOST

Holiday Issue of the Newsletter

The Independence Day holiday is fast approaching. Even though I will be sending out my monthly newsletter for July soon, I wanted to take the opportunity to let you know what events will be going on around town to celebrate the holiday, and to remind you of some fireworks safety tips. I hope you have a safe and fun holiday with friends and family, and don't forget to look for me at the Dale City Independence Day Parade!

Protect Yourself from the Heat

It's going to be hot out there this weekend so be sure to take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones from being a victim of hyperthermia.

One of the first signs/symptoms indicating the body's temperature is rising is heat exhaustion; a condition that precedes hyperthermia yet is considered less-threatening than heat stroke. Signs/symptoms of heat exhaustion are:

- Heavy sweating/Paleness
- Muscle Cramps /Tiredness/Fatigue
- Weakness/Dizziness/Fainting
- Headache, Nausea or Vomiting
- Skin: cool and moist
- Pulse rate: fast and weak
- Breathing: fast and shallow

The two most common symptoms of hyperthermia are heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat stroke is the most dangerous symptom. When heat stroke occurs, individuals should seek immediate medical attention. Signs/symptoms of heat stroke are:

- High body temperature (above 103°F)
- Red, hot, dry skin (no sweating)
- Rapid, strong pulse
- Throbbing headache/Dizziness
- Nausea

If you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms of heat exhaustion or worse, take immediate action:

- Get to a cooler area, preferably air conditioned (e.g. libraries, shopping malls, community facilities)
- Bathe/sponge/shower/spray with cool water (not cold)
- Wrap the body in wet towels or clothes
- Apply cold compresses to torso, head, neck and groin
- Drink water or fruit juice for hydration; avoid caffeine and alcohol
- Seek immediate medical assistance

The Department of Fire and Rescue suggests the following safety tips to protect you and your loved ones against the heat:

- Wear loose-fitting clothing
- Wear clothing light in color and weight
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat with vents, also light in color
- Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of liquids

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You Light It... We'll Write It!

Alarmed by an increase in the use of illegal fireworks, fire officials from Prince William County and across the region have launched an effort to inform the public about fireworks safety and have put in place an aggressive enforcement plan for Independence Day.

You Light It... We'll Write It! is a campaign targeting individuals who use illegal fireworks. Regionally, fire marshals and law enforcement officials will be joining forces in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia to enforce these laws. "The use of these illegal fireworks anytime, are dangerous and can lead to injuries, deaths and fires" said Prince William County Assistant Fire Chief Hadden Culp, Fire Marshal. "But we see a dramatic increase in their use around the July 4th holiday, and this could be deadly."

Fire officials will step up patrols in their jurisdictions to confiscate illegal fireworks but asked residents to help them by reporting the use of banned fireworks to the Fire Department.

"It's safe to say that there are probably just a few residential areas in the DC Metropolitan area where you weren't able to either hear or see illegal fireworks being used during past Fourth of July celebrations," said Prince William Fire Chief Kevin McGee. "These fireworks have been at backyard parties, neighborhood displays and individuals' homes and pose a great threat to life and property."

In recent years, Prince William fire officials alone have confiscated more than \$10,000 worth of illegal fireworks, a fraction of the amount authorities said were discharged on the Independence Day holiday in the region.

"We found that many of the people that we approached in years past expressed surprise when we confiscated their illegal fireworks," McGee said. "They felt that they purchased those fireworks legally and that their possession was legal."

Some jurisdictions allow a variety of fireworks regulated by the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission. Legal devices in many of the surrounding jurisdictions include cones, sparklers, sparkling devices and novelties. Illegal fireworks include Roman candles, skyrockets, aerial shells with mortars and firecrackers.

Bottle rockets, the whistling, sparkling fireworks that shoot into the air, often turning a backyard display into a professional show, are the illegal devices most commonly used each Independence Day. The problem is that you have no control over where it goes.

Studies show the use of fireworks in the United States has risen from 67 million pounds to 236 million pounds in a ten year period. With that, the risk of fires set and injuries caused by fireworks has increased as well.

"On the Fourth of July weekend, fire marshals and police officers will patrol the region looking for illegal fireworks, which will be confiscated," Assistant Chief Culp said. "The violator will then be charged with the offence and must appear in court. Locally, use of illegal fireworks in Virginia is a Class 1 misdemeanor, meaning a person could receive jail time of up to 1 year and a fine of up to \$2,500.00."

Fire officials are encouraging people to attend professionally supervised displays, either on the National Mall in Washington or at a number of shows at cities, towns, parks and other venues in the region.



County's Independence Day Holiday Closing Schedule

Listed below are the Independence Day closings for Prince William County government offices, Circuit and General District Courts, Landfill and Libraries:

Government Offices, Courts and Landfill:

- Closed Monday, July 4.

Libraries:

- Neighborhood libraries will be closed Saturday, July 2 through Monday, July 4.
- Full service libraries will be open Saturday, July 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will be closed Sunday, July 3 and Monday, July 4.



Dale City Independence Day Parade & Family Fun Day

It's that time again! Mark your calendars for the Dale City Independence Day Parade and new Family Fun Day. The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 4th, and runs along Dale Boulevard. I will be participating in the parade as I do every year and hope to see you there. There are many opportunities for people of all ages to volunteer and help make the event a success, contact my office if you are interested.

Marine Corporal Josh Himan has been chosen as the grand marshal of this year's parade. Josh, a 2002 Hylton High School graduate, was paralyzed from the chest down in September 2009 when an improvised explosive device exploded beneath a Humvee he was riding in while serving in Afghanistan's Helmand Province.

This year's parade will feature more than 150 entries including the Quantico Marine Corps Band and the Hylton, Freedom and Gar-Field high school marching bands. The theme for this year's parade is "America's Independence Day." For more information on the parade, call the parade coordinator at (703)590-2506.

The fun continues at the Family Fun Day that will be held immediately following the parade. This annual event features food and entertainment including carnival-style games for the whole family, the Old Mine Ranch petting zoo, a moon bounce, face painting, crafts, information booths, a helicopter landing and surprises.

The Family Fun Day event will be held until 2:00 p.m. in the commuter lot located behind Center Plaza at Dale Boulevard and Gemini Way (between Dairy Queen and Comcast).

Need more information or want to be a vendor at Family Fun Day? Visit the Dale City Civic Association Web site at <https://sites.google.com/site/dccawebsite/>, <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=170293383027439> or call (703)590-6662.



What's Going On Around Town?

Looking for something to do to celebrate? Look below for a list of area events:

Manassas

Old Town Manassas Train Depot (9431 West Street, Manassas)

Music, hay rides and other activities start at 4:00 p.m.; fireworks start at 9:15 p.m. The best seats for the fireworks are on the Manassas Museum lawn, get there early to get a spot. For more info, visit www.visitmanassas.org.

Manassas Park

Signal Hill Park

7:00 to 10:00 p.m.; fireworks at dark. Admission is free, but parking at Signal Hill is \$5. For more info, call (703)335-8872.

Potomac Nationals

Pfizer Stadium (7 County Complex Court, Woodbridge)

The Potomac Nationals have home games on July 2, 3, and 4, with fireworks after each of the games. Games start at 6:35 p.m.

Check www.potomacnationals.com for details and ticket information.

Quantico

Lunga Recreational Area, Quantico Marine Corps Base

Gates open at 7:00 a.m.; fireworks at 9:15 p.m.; live music and other entertainment through the day. Visitors to the base must have a valid form of identification and vehicles must have current registration and insurance.

Washington

National Mall

Access to National Mall begins at 10 a.m., fireworks at 9:10 p.m. Be prepared, all visitors to the National Mall must go through security check points.

Alexandria

Oronoco Bay Park (100 Madison Street, Alexandria)

Activities from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.; concert by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra at 9:00 p.m.; fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Fairfax City

Fairfax High School

Music begins at 7:00 p.m.; fireworks at dark. The rain date for fireworks is July 5. For more info, call (703)385-7858.

Falls Church

George Mason High School (7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church)

Live music starts at 7:00 p.m.; fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Herndon

Herndon Community Center (814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon)

Rides open at 5:00 p.m.; music, crafts and games start at 6:30 p.m.; fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Leesburg

Ida Lee Park (King Street and Ida Lee Drive, Leesburg)

Gates open at 6:00 p.m., fireworks around 9:30 p.m.

McLean

Langley High School (6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean)

Music, games and kids' activities begin at 6:00 p.m.; fireworks at dark.

Reston

Lake Fairfax Park (1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston)

Fireworks begin around 9:15 p.m.

Vienna

Vienna Community Center (120 Cherry Street Southeast, Vienna)

Music, activities and games start at 11:00 a.m.; fireworks at 9:15 p.m. at Southside Park on Ross Drive.



Fireworks Safety

June is Fireworks Safety Month and I wanted to again share with you the information below about fireworks safety.

During June and continuing through the latter part of July (June 22nd – July 22nd), fireworks-related injuries peak. It is during this brief period that 67 percent of fireworks-related injuries occur. In 2009, according to Consumer Product Safety Commission, emergency departments treated an estimated 8,800 fireworks-related injuries; an increase of 26 percent from the previous year's 7,000 injuries. Children under the age of 15 accounted for 39 percent of fireworks-related injuries while children and young adults under the age of 20 comprised the largest number of fireworks-related injuries, 54 percent, during this time period.

In an attempt to reduce the number of fireworks-related injuries and deaths, public information and public education are vital to the community. The Fire Marshal's Office, a division within the Department of Fire and Rescue, has initiated a fireworks enforcement campaign to stop possession and use of illegal fireworks. The campaign's slogan, *Illegal Fireworks, "If You Light It, We'll Write It!" Leave Fireworks to the Professionals*, is a means by which the Department is able to educate the community about the dangers of illegal fireworks while informing them about Prince William's zero tolerance for possession and use of illegal fireworks. This year as in the past, Fire Marshals will be teaming up with Police for their annual fireworks safety initiative and deploying personnel throughout the county in an effort to prevent injury and fires due to illegal or unsafe use of fireworks. In addition, the team will write summonses to individuals who possess and/or light illegal fireworks and will confiscate any and all illegal fireworks found in their possession. In Prince William County, the discharge of illegal fireworks is a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$2,500.00 and/or up to one year in jail.



Safety experts agree that the best way to protect your loved ones from fireworks-related injuries or worse is to **not use fireworks**. Numerous professional organizations often provide fireworks displays for public enjoyment during the Independence Day holiday and throughout the year.

Should you choose to use legal fireworks, the Fire Marshal's Office would like to help you celebrate safely by suggesting the following safety tips:

- Fireworks should only be used under adult supervision.
- Fireworks should only be used outdoors on a driveway, sidewalk or other fire-resistant surface. Remember, fires are caused by careless handling of fireworks in areas exposed to sparks or live fireworks.
- Never ignite fireworks during high winds where flying sparks can start a fire.
- Keep a bucket of water handy in case sparks start a fire.
- Be sure children know to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches on fire.
- Deposit sparklers in a metal container as they may cause injury if they are stepped on while still hot or with bare feet.
- Never aim or throw fireworks at another person.
- Never try to re-ignite fireworks that malfunction or fail to go off.
- Do not wear loose clothing when using fireworks and never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never experiment or make your own fireworks.

REMEMBER...

Misuse of fireworks causing death, injury or property loss shall incur civil or criminal liability. Our goals are public safety and voluntary compliance of the law. Help us protect you and your loved ones.

- Surrender illegal fireworks voluntarily when requested by authorities.
- Argument may lead to issuing a summons to court and confiscation of illegal fireworks.
- Refusal to comply will result in a custodial arrest and confiscation of the contraband.

Citizens may turn in illegal fireworks for disposal. Turning in illegal fireworks **will not** result in any fines or summons, and **no questions** will be asked. For more information about selecting and using legal fireworks, or if you would like to safely dispose of illegal fireworks, contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (703)792-6360, or visit our Web site at www.pwcgov.org/fire and click on Fireworks.



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Ways To Get Involved

Coles District Volunteer Fire Department - www.cdffd.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
Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department - <http://www.ljvfd.com/>
Lake Ridge Occoquan Coles Civic Association - P.O. Box 204 Occoquan, VA 22125
Leadership Prince William - www.leadershipprincewilliam.org
Meals-On-Wheels - (703)792-4156
Mid County Civic Association - www.midcopw.net
NAACP of Prince William County - www.pwnaacp.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.pwtrailsandstreams.com
Register to Vote - www.pwcgov.org/vote
Virginia Cooperative Extension - www.pwcgov.org/vce

If you know of a way for citizens to get involved in the community that is not listed above, send it to us at dmoyers@pwcgov.org and we'll add it to the list.



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