

August 2011



# OVER THE FENCEPOST

## Your Polling Place May Have Changed

In an effort to notify all citizens of the changes to district boundaries and polling places due to redistricting, the County's Communications department has asked us to help spread the word. New voter cards have also been mailed to all registered voters in Prince William County. The new voter cards provide the updated information including election district and polling place locations.

Another option to determine your election district and polling place is through [www.pwcgov.org](http://www.pwcgov.org). An interactive tool will instantly give the correct election district and polling place location based on the address you supply.

The Republican Party will hold a primary on August 23, 2011, to select its candidates for the November General Election in the following races:

- Board of County Supervisors in the Brentsville, Coles and Gainesville Districts
- State Senate in Districts 13, 36 and 39
- House of Delegates in District 87

The deadline to register to vote in the Primary Election has already passed. There will be no Democratic Primary this year.

To find out if you are currently registered to vote and what will be on the ballot in your polling place, visit [www.sbe.virginia.gov/](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/).

For more information, contact Voter Registration at (703)792-6470 or e-mail [voterinquiry@pwcgov.org](mailto:voterinquiry@pwcgov.org).

### ATTENTION VOTERS!

Your voting location may have changed. Visit [www.pwcgov.org](http://www.pwcgov.org), or scan here with your smartphone!



## 150th Anniversary Event Draws Thousands

The Sesquicentennial commemorative reenactment of the Battle of Manassas/Bull Run attracted thousands of reenactors and visitors from around the world. It is estimated the total participation to be nearly 37,000 people at the site over the weekend. Approximately 8,700 registered reenactors, 18,000 ticketed spectators, 700 guest spectators, 100 event staff personnel, 250 volunteers and 300 media representatives participated in the landmark event.

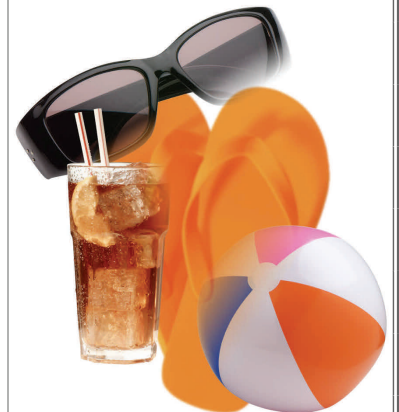
Despite the record-setting temperatures, and the massive number of people at the event, planners were well-organized and prepared. During the course of the weekend, Fire & Rescue personnel and volunteers treated only 248 people on the scene and transported just 14 people to the hospital, most of the problems were heat related. The reason for the relatively low number of heat-related injuries is due in large part to the significant planning that went into the event.

Potential traffic problems were also addressed prior to the event, which made travel throughout Prince William County manageable despite the influx of people. There were no major traffic issues or security problems during the weekend.

Thank you to everyone who worked, volunteered or attended the event for making it such a success!



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### In this edition:

- Changes to Polling Locations... (1)
- 150th Event a Success ..... (1)
- VDOT Pilot Program ..... (2)
- Citizen Police Academy ..... (2)
- New Items Recyclable..... (2)
- Back to School Safety ..... (3)
- County Govt Office Closings .. (3)
- Chinn Center Closed..... (4)
- VDOT Studies & Plans ..... (4)
- Contacts..... (5)
- Ways to get Involved..... (5)

## VDOT Pilot Program to Display Traffic Times

Beginning August 22, VDOT will display travel times on Interstate 66 electronic message signs between the Capital Beltway and Gainesville. If this two-month pilot project is successful, it will be expanded to other northern Virginia interstates and ultimately to highways throughout the Commonwealth.

Giving drivers accurate travel times to key destinations gives them the option of considering an alternate route and avoiding unexpected traffic backups. It will help motorists make informed travel decisions and reduce the stress and frustration of daily commutes. Travel times will be displayed weekdays from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and weekends from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Motorists will see travel times posted at three locations:

- Eastbound I-66, just east of Route 28 will display the travel time to I-495
- Westbound I-66, just west of Route 50, will display the travel time to Gainesville
- Westbound I-66, just west of Route 7100, will display the travel time to Gainesville

VDOT is using traffic data from Inrix and other sources to determine the travel times. Traffic controllers at the Public Safety Transportation Operations Center in Fairfax will ensure the travel times are successfully sent to the message signs and are accurately refreshed every five minutes.

Motorists can learn more about the pilot project and provide feedback on the display times at [http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/travel\\_times.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/travel_times.asp).

## Apply Today for the Citizen Police Academy

The Prince William County Police Department is currently accepting applications for the Citizen Police Academy (CPA). The next session begins September 13, and another session will be held in the spring of 2012.

The CPA is designed to give the public an overview of the Prince William County Police Department. Graduates of the course gain a better understanding of police operations, and a greater understanding of the challenges faced by police personnel each day.



The 10-week program will meet from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. each Tuesday through graduation on November 15. The program consists of both classroom and hands-on instruction. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to ride along with a patrol officer, visit the firearms and driving ranges, participate in firearms training scenarios, and become familiarized with police policies, procedures and equipment. Topics to be covered include virtually every aspect of police operations including patrol services, special operations, criminal investigations, forensic services, internal affairs and more.

For more information, visit <http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=040074003400002298> or call the Criminal Justice Academy at (703)792-6599.

## New Items are Now Recyclable

Residents can now recycle more items at the curb and the recycling trailers located throughout the community. In addition to newspapers, magazines, cereal and tissue boxes, mixed paper, cardboard (up to 2 ft. x 2 ft.), plastic bottles, aluminum and metal cans, and glass bottles and jars, residents may now recycle:

- books
- aluminum foil and pans (remove food residue and ball up foil)
- aseptic (shelf stable) milk and juice cartons and juice boxes (please discard caps and straws and rinse)
- empty aerosol cans
- wide-mouth plastic containers marked with #1 through #7 including peanut butter, margarine, yogurt, sour cream and cottage cheese

All items should be rinsed and free of food residue. Some refuse collectors allow residents to mix the paper/cardboard and food and beverage containers together and some require that paper/cardboard and other recyclables be kept separate. Contact your hauler for specific requirements.

Remember, not all items can be recycled in your curbside bins. For a list of prohibited items, and alternate disposal options for those items, visit [www.pwcgov.org/recycling](http://www.pwcgov.org/recycling).

For more information about ways to reduce, reuse and recycle in Prince William County, visit the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division Web site at [www.pwcgov.org/RecycleRefuse](http://www.pwcgov.org/RecycleRefuse) or call (703)792-4670.



## August is Back to School Safety Month

Pedestrians, individuals who travel by foot, bicycle, wheelchair, stroller or similar means, are at constant risk of being injured or killed in traffic crashes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the next 24 hours, 324 people on average will be treated in an emergency department for pedestrian-related injuries. In the next 2 hours, one pedestrian on average will die from injuries in a traffic crash.

The CDC states that children are at high risk for pedestrian-related injuries and deaths due to their small size, inability to judge distances and speed, and lack of experience. According to Safe Kids USA, each year approximately 630 child pedestrian fatalities occur on streets, driveways, parking lots and sidewalks - 83% occur at non-intersection locations. Although policies, laws and regulations have proven to be effective in improving safety for pedestrians, pedestrian injury remains the second leading cause of injury-related death for U.S. children ages 5 to 14.



August is Back to School Safety Month, a reminder to motorists that the school year is about to begin and to be vigilant when driving. According to a national survey of school bus loading and unloading operations for the 2009-2010 school year, there were 13 student fatalities. When driving, whether taking your kids to school or driving near a school or bus stop, be on the lookout for children loading and unloading the bus or walking and riding to and from school.

To keep you and your loved ones safe, the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue urges pedestrians and drivers to follow these simple safety tips:

### DRIVERS:

- Slow down and be alert, especially in the residential neighborhoods and school zones.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- *Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving!*

### KIDS:

- ALWAYS cross the street with an adult, at least up until age 10, when your traffic skills and judgment are better.
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks whenever possible.
- NEVER run out into the street or cross in between parked cars.
- Wear reflective material or clothing and carry a flashlight to increase your visibility at night.
- ALWAYS walk in front of the bus, at least 10 feet, where the driver can see you.
- If waiting for a parent, wait on the same side of the street as the school bus loads and unloads.
- *DO NOT* play in driveways, streets, parking lots or unfenced yards next to the street.

### ADDITIONAL PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS:

- Make eye contact with drivers prior to crossing in front of them. Don't assume that because you can see the driver, the driver can see you.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing a street and continue looking while crossing.
- It's safest to walk on a sidewalk, but if you must walk in the street, walk facing traffic.

For more safety tips and information, visit the Department of Fire & Rescue's page on the County's Web site at [www.pwcgov.org/fire](http://www.pwcgov.org/fire).

## County Offices Holiday Closing Schedule

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, all Prince William County government offices will be closed on Monday, September 5th. County offices will re-open at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6th.



## Chinn Aquatics & Fitness Center Closed for Maintenance

The Chinn Aquatics & Fitness Center will be closed for cleaning and maintenance beginning Monday, August 29th. The Center will reopen Tuesday, September 6th.

During this time, all 30-day and 6 & 12-month passholders are allowed to use the Sharron Baucom Dale City Recreation Center and the Freedom Center at no additional cost.



For operating hours, directions and more information, visit [www.pwcparks.org/dcrc](http://www.pwcparks.org/dcrc), [www.freedom-center.com](http://www.freedom-center.com), or call (703)670-7112 or (703)993-8444.

## I-66 Studies, Plans and Projects Aimed at Managing Congestion

Congested Interstate 66 is getting some much needed attention. From reconstructing deteriorated pavement to planning how the 35-mile corridor from Washington to Haymarket should operate in the coming decades, the Virginia Department of Transportation has a host of studies and projects aimed at easing delays now and in the future. Here is a rundown of I-66 projects under construction, in design or being studied:

### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

**I-66 Spot Improvement** - The westbound acceleration and deceleration lane between Fairfax Drive and Sycamore Street is being lengthened to form a continuous auxiliary lane between the two ramps. A new 12-foot-wide shoulder is being constructed with full-strength pavement capable of carrying traffic during emergencies. (This is the first of three spot improvements planned). When completed this December, the two-mile project will ease congestion and increase safety.

**I-66 Pavement Rehabilitation** - A \$48 million project is under way to repair and resurface six and a half miles of badly deteriorated pavement between the Capital Beltway and Route 50 in Fairfax County. To minimize impacts to motorists, all lane closures are at night - between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday nights. The project will be complete in the fall of 2012.

**I-66 Ramps at I-495 (Capital Beltway)** - Two new ramps connecting I-66 with the Beltway will mean that motorists will no longer merge into the left lanes of the Beltway. Motorists traveling from eastbound I-66 to northbound I-495 or from westbound I-66 to southbound I-495 will merge into the right lanes of the Beltway. The new ramps are part of the Beltway HOT lanes project which will open to traffic at the end of 2012.

### COMING SOON

**I-66 Active Traffic Management** - This is the next generation of managing congestion through technology. The initial focus will be on the most congested section of I-66, between I-495 and Route 50. Gantries with electronic lane control signs will be installed every half-mile giving motorists advance notice of lanes closed ahead so drivers can begin to merge well before the actual closure. Speed limits and travel times will be displayed on the sign gantries as well. Work begins summer 2012 and continues through fall 2013.

### IN DESIGN

**I-66 Widening from Gainesville to Haymarket** - Widening to eight lanes (two new lanes in each direction, including one HOV lane) from Route 29 in Gainesville to Route 15 in Haymarket, including improvements to the I-66/Route 15 interchange. A public hearing will be held later this summer.

**I-66 Vienna Metro Access Ramp** - A bus-only ramp will be constructed from the east and westbound HOV lanes of I-66 to Vaden Street near the Vienna Metro Station. A community meeting will be held later this year.

**I-66 Spot Improvement 2** - Construction of a westbound acceleration/deceleration lane between Haycock Road and Westmoreland Street. No right-of-way is required. A public hearing was held in October 2008. Design will continue after the I-66 Multi-Modal Study is completed.

**I-66 Spot Improvement 3** - Construction of a westbound acceleration/deceleration lane from Glebe Road to Lee Highway. No right-of-way is required. A public hearing was held October 2008. Design will continue after the I-66 Multi-Modal Study is completed.

### STUDIES

**I-66 Multi-Modal Study (Inside Beltway)** - This study began in June 2011 to identify and evaluate transit, bike, pedestrian, operational and highway options for near and long term. The one-year study will include citizen meetings and be completed in May 2012.

**I-66 Environmental Impact Study (Outside Beltway)** - This study will identify current and future transportation needs and their environmental impacts on the 25-mile corridor from I-495 to Haymarket. A draft EIS is expected by June 2012 for public review and final EIS anticipated by June 2013.



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Senator Mark Warner  
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Congressman Frank Wolf  
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Congressman Gerry Connolly  
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### Prince William School Board

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Milton Johns, Chairman-at-Large  
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### State Senators

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Chuck Colgan, 29th District  
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Toddy Puller, 36th District  
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George Barker, 39th District  
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Jackson Miller, 50th District  
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Rich Anderson, 51st District  
(804)698-1051, (571)264-9983

Luke Torian, 52nd District  
(703)785-2224, (804)698-1052

## Ways To Get Involved

Coles District Volunteer Fire Department - [www.cdffd.org](http://www.cdffd.org)  
Court Appointed Special Advocates of Greater Prince William - [www.casaofgpw.org](http://www.casaofgpw.org)  
Dale City Civic Association - <http://sites.google.com/site/dccawebsite/>  
Dale City Volunteer Fire Department - [www.dcvfd.org](http://www.dcvfd.org)  
Habitat for Humanity - [www.habitatpwc.org](http://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](http://www.leadershipprincewilliam.org)  
Meals-On-Wheels - (703)792-4156  
Mid County Civic Association - [www.midcopw.net](http://www.midcopw.net)  
NAACP of Prince William County - [www.pwnaacp.org](http://www.pwnaacp.org)  
Prince William Chamber of Commerce - [www.pwchamber.org](http://www.pwchamber.org)  
Prince William Conservation Alliance - [www.pwconserve.org](http://www.pwconserve.org)  
Prince William Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals - [www.pwspca.org](http://www.pwspca.org)  
Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District - [www.pwswcd.org](http://www.pwswcd.org)  
Prince William Special Olympics - [www.pwsova.org](http://www.pwsova.org)  
Prince William Neighborhood Leaders Group - [www.pwcgov.org/neighborhoodleaders](http://www.pwcgov.org/neighborhoodleaders)  
Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition - [www.pwtrailsandstreams.com](http://www.pwtrailsandstreams.com)  
Register to Vote - [www.pwcgov.org/vote](http://www.pwcgov.org/vote)  
Virginia Cooperative Extension - [www.pwcgov.org/vce](http://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](mailto:dmoyers@pwcgov.org) and we'll add it to the list.



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