

October 2011



OVER THE FENCEPOST

New Coles District Website Launched

I am excited to announce that I have launched a new constituent website, www.colesdistrict.org!

The website provides information including an overview of the Coles district, services provided by my office, a way to sign up for my monthly newsletter, upcoming events, news and links to resources such as community organizations and County and state government. We will continue to add content and features to keep the website dynamic and user-friendly.

I hope you find the website useful and informative, and your feedback is always appreciated. Please send comments or suggestions to my Chief of Staff, Delain Moyers, at dmoyers@pwcgov.org.



Smithfield Cemetery Ribbon Cutting

I am pleased to announce that the Prince William Resolves Chapter of the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution has completed the restoration of the historic Smithfield Cemetery which dates back to the 1830s. I invite you to join me on Saturday, October 22, at 10:00 a.m. for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the project's completion.

As part of the restoration project, a wrought iron fence was fabricated and installed surrounding the cemetery to replace an aging and dilapidated existing fence, and signage was mounted to identify the many individuals that donated. The past Regent of the Prince William Resolves Chapter, Kimberly K. Walters, raised funds and obtained a grant from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution to make the project possible. This was a huge accomplishment that took creativity and many hours to complete, and will honor the many individuals interred at the cemetery and their families.

The cemetery is located at 5712 Ridgedale Drive in Dale City. As the cemetery is located at bit off the beaten path, please wear comfortable shoes. In the case of inclement weather, call (703)792-4621 before departing for the event and a recorded message will advise you of the alternate event location. For more information, contact Delain Moyers at (703)792-4621.

2011 Fall Caregivers' Conference

The Prince William Area Agency on Aging will host the 2011 Fall Caregivers' Conference, "Practical Caregiving: What to do when it is time," on Saturday, October 15, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The conference will be held at the Manassas Park Community Center which is located at 99 Adams Street in Manassas Park. The cost is \$25 per individual or \$40 per couple, and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

The conference is for family members, professional caregivers, professionals in aging and related areas, and volunteers working with older adults. The day will include guest speakers, question and answer sessions, and a vendor expo. Free respite care is available if you register in advance. For more information, contact the Prince William Area Agency on Aging at (703)792-8374 or visit www.pwcv.gov/aging.

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In this edition:

- New Coles District Website (1)
- Smithfield Cemetery Event (1)
- 2011 Caregiver Conference (1)
- Flood Update (2)
- New Dominion Choraliers (2)
- Coles VFD Open House (2)
- PWC One of the Wealthiest ... (3)
- 4th Annual Brotherhood Ride. (3)
- Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary .. (4)
- First Organic Farm in PWC (4)
- Haunted House Safety..... (5)
- Optimist Intl. Poster Contest.. (5)
- Diabetes Class (5)
- Contacts (6)
- Ways to get Involved..... (7)

Tropical Storm Lee Flood Response Update

On Thursday, September 8, many homes and businesses suffered major damage as flood waters from Tropical Storm Lee devastated the area. As a result, numerous families were displaced as their homes were determined to be unsafe for occupancy. Several different agencies collaborated to meet the needs of the families. Many residents received services from the American Red Cross, Action in Community Through Service (ACTS), SERVE, Volunteer Prince William and other local charitable organizations. A number of the faith-based communities in Prince William County stepped up to provide assistance as well. Additionally, there has been a great deal of support from Prince William County government, Prince William County Public Schools, local businesses and individuals throughout the county.

The American Red Cross immediately opened an emergency shelter on September 8 at Woodbridge High School and subsequently at the Dale City Recreation Center and First Mount Zion Baptist Church. Longer-term temporary housing has since been identified for all of the displaced families and the shelter was closed on September 23, but the families affected by the flood will continue to have many needs as they get settled into new homes.

Many generous people throughout Prince William County have asked how they can donate items to the flood victims. ACTS and SERVE are currently assessing the specific needs of each family and will know these needs after October 11. If you would like to help these families with a donation such as furniture, household items, tools, vehicles and other basic necessities, please contact ACTS with a list of goods you are willing to donate or acquire. The best way to reach ACTS is by email at actsinfo@actspwc.org, or you may call their Emergency Assistance Office at (703)221-3186.

The Prince William County Public School System and Prince William County government are working together to collect monetary donations for the families impacted by the flood. Donations are being handled by SPARK, an education foundation of the Prince William County Schools. Approximately \$75,000 has been collected to date; however, the SPARK fund continues to accept monetary donations for the families. Donations may be submitted by credit card online via Pay Pal, or by check (made payable to the PWCS Education Foundation) mailed to SPARK at P.O. Box 389, Manassas, Virginia 20108. Please make sure that your check mentions "flood relief" in the memo line, or that your Pay Pal donation mentions "flood relief" in the payment notes. [To donate, click here.](#)

It is commonly said that Americans come together and support each other in times of tragedy, and while that reality was borne out here in Prince William County following the recent flooding, many individuals and families in our community are in need throughout the year. To support those in-need in our community, contact any of the organizations listed on the back page of this newsletter, or contact ACTS by calling (703)221-3186, SERVE at (703)368-2979, or Northern Virginia Family Service at (703)385-3267.

New Dominion Choraliers Present *Freedom*

The New Dominion Choraliers will present *Freedom: A Salute to American Liberty* on Friday, November 4, at 8:00 p.m. The performance will be held at the Hylton Performing Arts Center located at 10960 George Mason Circle in Manassas. Tickets are \$15.00 each, and \$10.00 discount tickets are available for students, seniors, veterans and active-duty military. Children four and under are free. The performance will feature special guests including the Old Bridge Chamber Orchestra, harpist David Crookston, and the Mary G. Porter Traditional School Elementary Chorus. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (703)590-2147, (703)498-8906 or visit www.newdominionchoraliers.org.

Coles District Volunteer Fire Department Open House

The Coles District Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad will hold an open house on Sunday, October 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be a great opportunity to meet some of the volunteers and learn more about the services they provide to our community. The event is being held in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week which is October 9 -15. The Coles District Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad is located at 13712 Dumfries Road Manassas. For more information, visit <http://www.cdafd.org/>.



Pr. William County One of the Nation's Wealthiest Communities

According to the Census, Prince William County is one of the nation's wealthiest communities by median household income. A key factor in the high rating is the considerable population growth in Northern Virginia due to an increase in available jobs in Northern Virginia. Also contributing to the rating is the growth in the Washington-Metropolitan Area workforce, and the fact that Prince William County has become a location destination for that workforce. Prince William County has drawn a large number of people to move into the county because of:

- its geographical location at the center of Northern Virginia,
- its quality public school system,
- its significantly lower taxes compared to other D.C. Metro markets, and
- the ample job opportunities in the county and around the area.

Combined with low unemployment rates and high-wage job opportunities, these factors provide an opportunity for household incomes to remain high. Here are few more reasons that Prince William County is such a desirable place to live:

- Prince William County is #13 in the country for job growth according to CNN Money.
- Prince William County has received a AAA bond rating from all three major credit rating agencies, even at a time when the federal government has been down-graded.
- Prince William County was rated the #1 tourist destination in the entire U.S. by the American Bus Association this past year because of the Civil War history events the County undertook.
- Prince William County was named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise Alliance.
- Prince William County's scientists at the GMU Life Science Campus are leading the way on a national level with groundbreaking findings in cancer research and medical diagnostics led by the Center for Proteomics and the National Center for Biodefense. Recently, a local scientist was named one of the nation's 10 most brilliant scientists under the age of 40 for her work in proteomic research.
- Prince William County remains the center of the Northern Virginia workforce with 75 percent of the Northern Virginia population within a 30-minute rush-hour commute.
- Prince William County is home to Quantico Marine Corps Base and the Marine Corps National Heritage Museum.
- Prince William County is home to the Hylton Performing Arts Center, named one of "THECOOLIST's" 10 Modern Music Hall Masterpieces (<http://www.thecoolist.com/theater-architecture-10-modern-music-hall-masterpieces/>).

Brotherhood Ride Stops in Prince William County

Brotherhood Ride is a yearly event which began as a way to honor the memories of the nine firefighters killed on June 18, 2007, in Charleston, South Carolina. Each year, the team selects a fallen hero from around the country to honor by riding their bicycles to the hero's hometown and by providing financial and emotional support to their family and friends.

The 4th Annual Brotherhood Ride was dedicated to the 411 emergency service workers who lost their lives responding to the Twin Towers in New York City on September 11, 2001. The 22-day ride of 1,600 miles began in Naples, Florida on August 20, and ended in New York City on September 10. Cyclists from along the East Coast, and as far west as Texas and Arizona, participated and proceeds were donated to the Concern of Police Survivors and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

On September 5th, 2011, the group of 38 riders pulled in to the Elks Lodge on Minnieville Road. I was honored to be there, along with Lodge members, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, residents and Prince William County first responders to cheer and welcome the team after they completed day 17 of their 22-day ride. The day's ride consisted of 93 miles from Charlottesville to Woodbridge.

The team showered at the Dale City Recreation Center and after a treatment from the team of physical therapists from INOVA Physical Therapy Center, settled in for dinner while visiting with those that came to support them.

Day 18 of their trip started with a breakfast provided by the Lodge while packing equipment to be hauled by the support team. After their morning prayer for safe arrival at their next destination, Severn, Maryland, and a reading of the individuals' names to which that day's ride was dedicated, the riders departed with an escort of over 30 emergency vehicles (from motor patrol to fire engines) from both Prince William and Fairfax counties.

For more information about Brotherhood Ride, visit www.brotherhoodride.com.



Moon Property Designated a Wildlife Sanctuary

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) Ambassador's Program and the Virginia Cooperative Extension-Prince William (VCE-PW) Master Gardener Program have designated Joan and Norman Moon's property as an *Audubon At Home Wildlife Sanctuary*. The Moon's property demonstrated the native plant and environmental diversity necessary to attract beneficial wildlife such as birds and butterflies.

Certifying the Moon's property kicks off a partnership between the ASNV Ambassador Program and the VCE-PW Master Gardener program that is intended to give homeowners the tools and information they need to improve their properties, protect the environment, promote native plants, attract native wildlife, and protect the watershed.

I would like to congratulate the Moons for their achievement and thank them for their efforts to make our community a better place to live, work and play. I'm thrilled to be a participant in this exciting new partnership between ASNV and VCE-PWC. It's important for the residents of Prince William County to know that they don't always have to wait for the government to improve the quality of our community and the environment. This represents a partnership between two groups with the expertise and volunteers necessary to promote citizen activism to protect our environment.

For more information on designation as an *Audubon At Home Wildlife Sanctuary*, contact Nancy Berlin at nberlin@pwcgov.org, Cliff Fairweather at cliff@audubonva.org, or Al Alborn at al@alborn.net.



from left: Supervisor Marty Nohe, Coles Magisterial District, Prince William Board of County Supervisors; Nancy Berlin, Natural Resource Specialist and Master Gardener Coordinator; Cliff Fairweather, Environmental Education Coordinator and Naturalist with the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia; and Al Alborn, VCE-PW Master Gardener Volunteer and ASNV Ambassador.
Photo Credit: Al Alborn, The Alborn Foundation

Evergreen Acres Farm Achieves "Organic" Certification from USDA



As of August 1, Nokesville farm Evergreen Acres is the first "certified organic" farm in Prince William County. The farm has two acres of Beefsteak and Roma tomatoes which Jim Gehlsen, the farm's owner, and his family plant in May each year. The tomatoes are now "certified organic" because of the planting processes utilized.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), "certified organic" means that agricultural products have been grown and processed according to the USDA's national organic standards and certified by USDA-accredited State and private certification organizations.

The steps to become a certified organic farming or handling operation include picking an organic certifier, following national organic standards, keeping records of practices and materials used, and having an annual inspection. A three-year transition period is required for land used in organic production unless records prove that no prohibited substances were used in or near the production area during the previous three years.

Certifying agents review applications from farmers and processors for certification eligibility, and qualified inspectors conduct annual onsite inspections of organic operations. Inspectors talk with operators and observe their production and processing practices to determine if they are in compliance with organic standards that, for example, virtually prohibit synthetic pesticide use in crop production and require outdoor access for animals in livestock production.

At Evergreen Acres, no pesticides are used on the tomatoes and the necessary nutrients for the them to thrive are provided in the form of horse manure, instead of petroleum-based fertilizers, and Hairy Vetch, a legume that produces nitrogen. Other plants are also grown to entice deer and to dissuade them from eating the tomatoes.

The process to become USDA "certified organic" is a lengthy and rigorous process and I would like to congratulate Evergreen Acres and the Gehlsen family!



Safety Tips for Halloween Haunted Houses

As we make our plans to celebrate Halloween, I wanted to take this opportunity to pass on a few reminders from the Department of Fire & Rescue that all non-profit organizations, merchants and school personnel have the responsibility to ensure the safety of their patrons, students, parents and staff during events and activities.

When planning for your haunted house or other attraction, please observe the following precautions and regulations:

- An application process is required for all haunted houses and carnivals.
- Highly flammable materials such as cotton batting, straw, dried plant material, certain plastics, etc. cannot be used for decorations or construction.
- Avoid using combustible materials in displays. If used, combustibles must be treated with an approved commercial flame-retardant. Samples of all such materials must be submitted to the Fire Marshal's office for flame tests prior to use.
- Extension cords, multi-plug adapters and un-fused plug strips are not permitted. Only circuit breaker strips or code-approved wiring is permitted.
- If any walls, partitions or raised flooring are to be constructed, approval by the Department of Public Works is required, (703)792-6935.
- Depending on where the activity is located, approval from the Zoning Division of the Planning Office may be required, (703)792-6830.
- Call the Fire Marshal's office for an inspection at least 48 hours prior to opening your display to the public, (703)792-6360.
- Maintain all exits in a clear and useable condition.
- Know the location of the nearest alarm box and nearest fire extinguishers and how to use them.
- Make sure a telephone is available to call the fire department and that everyone knows the emergency number: 9-1-1.

For more information on haunted house safety, or for questions regarding the application process, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (703)792-6360.



Optimist International Club Holds Poster Contest

The Optimist International Club of Manassas is holding its 17th Annual Optimist Poster Contest with the theme, *Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader*. This year's contest is dedicated to late Delegate Harry Parrish.

Entries will be judged on creativity, theme impact and neatness and posters may be submitted in one of three categories: 1) kindergarten and first grade, 2) second and third grades, or 3) fourth and fifth grades. Entries are due Monday, October 17, at 4:00 p.m. and should be mailed or hand-delivered to Virginia Commerce Bank located at 9161 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, VA, 20110. Make sure to include the following information on the back of all entries: entrant's name, address, grade, school, teacher, parents' name and parents' phone number.

Posters should be no smaller than 8" x 11" and no larger than 11" x 17". Any medium may be used such as collage, 3-dimension, crayons and markers, and students are encouraged to be creative. Prizes for the winning entries include a \$100 savings bond, a \$50 savings bond, a \$15 gift card and book, and a \$10 gift card and book.

For more information, contact Maanasi Balakrishnan at (804)365-8516.

VCE to Offer Living Well With Diabetes Classes

The Nutrition Program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office will offer a series of classes, *Living Well with Diabetes*, on four consecutive Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. starting October 13. Classes will be held at the James J. McCoart Administration Building located at 1 County Complex Court in Woodbridge.

Classes are taught by a registered dietitian and a registered nurse with a certified diabetes educator as a guest speaker. Topics include: eating nutrient-dense foods to get the most nutrition from your calories, tricks for helping control portion sizes, managing carbohydrates, medications and insulin, and eating out. A light meal is served at 6:00 as part of the class.

The fee for the class is \$40 for the person with diabetes. A spouse or friend, or anyone who wants to learn about a healthier lifestyle, may accompany a person with diabetes for a cost of \$15. Class registration forms are available at www.pwcv.gov.org/vce/nutritioned. For more information, call (703)792-4764 or e-mail nstegon@vt.edu.



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Contacts

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Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling, (804)612-9122
Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, (804)698-7537

Federal Representatives

Senator Jim Webb
(202)224-4024

Senator Mark Warner
(202)224-2023

Congressman Rob Wittman
1st District
(202)225-4261

Congressman Frank Wolf
10th District
(202) 225-5136, (703) 709-5800

Congressman Gerry Connolly
11th District
(202)225-1492, (703)670-4989

Prince William School Board

Dr. Michael Otaigbe, Coles District
(703)791-2475

Milton Johns, Chairman-at-Large
(571)261-2157

State Senators

Richard Stuart, 28th District
(804) 493-8892, (800) 889-0229

Chuck Colgan, 29th District
(703)368-0300, (804)698-7529

Toddy Puller, 36th District
(703)765-1150, (804)698-7536

George Barker, 39th District
(703)301-1426, (804)698-7539

State Delegates

Bob Marshall, 13th District
(703)853-4213, (804)698-1013

Scott Lingamfelter, 31st District
(703)580-1294, (804)698-1031

Jackson Miller, 50th District
(703) 244-6172, (804)698-1050

Rich Anderson, 51st District
(804)698-1051, (571)264-9983

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

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.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

SERVE - http://www.nvfs.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=91788

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 above, send it to us at dmoyers@pwcgov.org.

