

OCCOQUAN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME IX, ISSUE 2

Fall 2016

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR ANDERSON

Dear Neighbors & Friends,
I am grateful and honored to be serving as the Occoquan District Supervisor...these first few months have been busy and full of opportunities to help make good things happen in our District.

One of our major goals is to relieve congestion on some of the busy roads in our District. Most would say that this is an impossible task; however, we have an active "congestion think tank" in progress, please see page 12. Our goal is to implement resident solutions!

A second major goal is to encourage more business in our area. We encourage you to share your success stories about starting and expanding your businesses with our office. We are also very willing to listen to obstacles you have faced. My job is to encourage government processes that are working well and help to improve other processes.

Another goal is to get more people involved in community affairs. Under the banner of our new initiative GO ACT, Greater Occoquan Area Coming Together, I invite each and every resident to engage in something that will better our community. If you are pas-

sionate about community beautification, public safety, the homeless situation, etc., we can help you get involved.

We also have three active civic associations involved in our District: Mid County Civic Association of Prince William; Lake Ridge, Occoquan, Coles Civic Association; and Occoquan Lake Ridge Civic Association. Each association helps with land use decisions, economic development and much more. Please call my office to get additional information about each one.

And, for your information, I must announce a couple of staffing changes. Alyssa Souvignier, a long-time staff member in this office, is moving to Montana in late September (Page 12) and Chase Sawyer has transitioned to the office of Delegate Jackson Miller. We wish both of them the very best!

On behalf of the Occoquan District Office Staff,



Ruth M. Anderson
Occoquan District Supervisor

CENTRAL DISTRICT POLICE STATION & STATION 26 UPDATE

As many of you may have noticed, construction has begun on the new Central District Police Station, as well as the new fire station, Station 26. With the ever-growing population in Prince William County, these new public safety facilities will allow for the needs of the mid-county residents to be met. County staff worked with local public safety officials, designing architects, as well as the community to adopt a final design for these new facilities. Supervisor Anderson attended separate ground breaking ceremonies for both facilities that occurred this past spring.

Construction of the 54,200 square-foot Central District Station is progressing as planned and major milestones are being met. Although the project experienced some weather delays (very wet site conditions at times), recent drier weather patterns are making up for lost time. Building slab and concrete foundation work is nearing completion for the main building and the erection of steel framing has begun. Steel installation will continue for approximately the next 20 days. Site work continues, including clearing and grading for visitor and employee parking and other surrounding areas. Other key activities planned to start in the near future include construction of interior and exterior walls. The building is scheduled to be under roof by the end of October when other interior work can begin. The final completion is planned for Fall 2017.

The facility will provide police services to the mid-county area, primarily Dale City, Lake Ridge, and the Davis Ford Road corridor. This station will serve administrative purposes as well; personnel from the Patrol Service Bureau, Criminal Investigations Division, and Office of the Chief are planned to be located in this facility. Many patrol units will be based out of this station, placing them in closer proximity to their "beats" in the community areas.

Construction of the new 18,000 square foot fire and rescue facility, "Station 26," continues to make good headway. While the rain earlier in the year caused some delays, the station is still expected to be completed and open by mid-2017. Currently, the concrete footers have been completed, most of the underground utility piping is in place, and the masonry walls are beginning to go up. The steel structure is set to begin to be erected by September 1.

The completed building will include three apparatus bays, sleeping quarters, a kitchen and dayroom, an area for physical fitness, and an exterior training tower. Career staffing will provide 24-hour coverage of an Engine and an Advanced Life Support medic unit. Additionally, the station will house a brush truck. This station will ease the burden on existing stations and ensure response times continue to meet national standards.

LOST TOWNS: WHERE WAS MINNIEVILLE & SMOKETOWN

From the Prince William County Historical Commission—

In the nearly 300 years since the first European settlement in what is now Prince William County, scores of communities have dotted the landscape. While some are still around today, many have been lost with only a handful of reminders, such as a street name, left to inform current residents of these once thriving places. Examples of these are two of the most commonly traveled corridors in the eastern end of the county: Minnieville and Smoketown roads.

By the 1700s, a European settlement began to creep westward from the Potomac River. One of the many small communities that sprung up during this time was Minnieville which was located at the intersection of a small country crossroads, modern day Minnieville Road and Delaney Road.

Situated at a busy crossroads, this small community of Minnieville saw its fair share of traffic from soldiers during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars to smaller commercial traffic in the post-war years. About the Civil War, the area around Minnieville was settled by many Northerners who established some of the first dairy farms in Prince William County.

The village of Minnieville passed into history around the mid-20th century when this area began to be developed into what is now Woodbridge and Dale City.

Today the Lake Ridge Commuter Lot in Occoquan sits on the general location of the community of Agnewville, sometimes known as Chinntown or Smoketown. Founded by newly freed African-Americans, the town boasted a store, a restaurant, gaming hall, and homes for numerous families.

Originally named Agnewville, the area was also referred



Picture courtesy of Prince William County Historical Commission

to as Chinntown, because nearly half of the families in the village had that surname. Later the area was more commonly known as Smoketown after the dense clouds of smoke that were produced by the nearby sawmills. The community began to fade during the 20th century after the main north/south highway was relocated from Telegraph road to U.S. Route 1.

Today the street signs for Smoketown Road and Minnieville Road and two Prince William County Historic Commission Road Markers are the only reminders we have of these once thriving communities.

The Prince William County Historical Commission is composed of 16 citizens appointed by the Board of County Supervisors. The Historical Commission advises the Board in its efforts to identify, preserve, protect and promote Prince William County's historical sites, artifacts, buildings and events.

Members review land development applications and make recommendations regarding their impact on cultural resources; produce publications related to local history; provide input on the installation of historical highway markers; propose properties to be classified as County Registered Historic Sites; conduct tours; and award community service certificates.

2016 GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

The ballot this year will include the U.S. President, all House of Representatives seats, and two Virginia Constitutional Amendments. This year's election will be on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016; polls open at 6 a.m., and close at 7 p.m.

Voter Registration

The voting registration deadline is 5 p.m., Monday, Oct. 17, 2016.

If you are registered at your current address, you do not need to register again.

If you need to register, or change your name or address, you must fill out the VA Voter Registration Application (available at <http://elections.virginia.gov/Files/Forms/VoterForms/VoterRegistrationApplication.pdf>), sign and mail it to Prince William County Office of Elections, (9250 Lee Ave, Suite 1, Manassas, VA 20110). You may also register online at elections.virginia.gov.

Citizens needing to verify their voter registration status may call the General Registrar's office (703-792-6470) or check online at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>.

Absentee Voting Before Election Day

If you will be away from the County on Election Day (whether on a trip, working long hours and/or commuting) or are unable to go to the polls because of an illness or disability, you may vote by absentee ballot (comprehensive list of those eligible is provided below). You may submit an Absentee Ballot Application to receive a ballot by mail prior to the election. The last day to request an Absentee Ballot by mail is Tuesday, November 1.



In-person absentee voting at all four locations will begin on Friday, September 23 and will be available weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. through Friday, November 4. In-person absentee voting will be held at the following locations:

- Prince William County Office of Elections (9250 Lee Ave, Suite 1, Manassas, VA 20110)
- Woodbridge DMV (2731 Caton Hill Rd. Woodbridge, VA 22192)
- James J. McCoart Administration Building (1 County Complex Ct. Woodbridge, VA 22192)
- Dr. A.J. Ferlazzo Building (15941 Donald Curtis Dr. Woodbridge, VA 22192)

In-person absentee voting will also be available at all four locations on the following Saturdays: October 22, October 29, and November 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The following Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon are additional dates when you can vote in-person absentee at the DMV only: September 24, October 1, October 8, and October 14.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

2016 GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION—CONTINUED

If you meet any of the following criteria, you are eligible to vote absentee, both in-person or by mail:

- are or are a spouse/dependent of: college student of a University outside PWC, Active Duty Military
- work outside of Prince William County, are on vacation, or out of town
- work outside Prince William County and work/commute for more than 11 hours on election day
- are a first responder (law enforcement, fire fighter, search and rescue)
- are an employee temporarily living outside of U.S.
- are pregnant
- have religious obligations on Election Day/working in polling station or member of electoral board/ registrar
- are confined, convicted of a misdemeanor, or awaiting trial
- are disabled/ill, or a caretaker of such persons

When you go to vote In-Person absentee you will complete the Absentee Ballot Application form, provide valid ID, and vote as you would on Election Day.

Valid Photo IDs

As a reminder, you will be asked to provide a proper form of identification when you go to vote. Acceptable forms of identification include: valid Virginia Driver's License, DMV-issued photo identification, valid United States Passport, valid Employee Identification card, other government-issued photo identification card, valid college or university photo identification card (Issuer must be an institution of higher education located in Virginia).

If you do not have a valid form of identification, one can be provided to you for free by contacting your local voter registration office (703-792-6470). These identification cards will be issued through Election Day. Cards will be mailed to residency 2-4 weeks after request filed, but a temporary ID card will be provided for use on Election Day.

OCCOQUAN TOWN HALLS ANNOUNCED

We are pleased to announce our fall series of bi-annual Town Hall Meetings!

These meetings will serve as an opportunity for us to meet with residents to answer any questions and address any concerns. RSVP is not required and we encourage all area residents to attend. For more information please contact Jacob via email at jmosser@pwcgov.org or call 703-792-5096.

This year's Fall Meetings will be held as follows:

Saturday, September 10, 2016

Buckhall VFD
7190 Yates Ford Road
Manassas, VA 20111
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Woodbridge Senior High School
3001 Old Bridge Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, September 17, 2016

McCoart Administration Building,
BOCS Chambers
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, VA 22192
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, September 22, 2016

Westminster at Lake Ridge
12191 Clipper Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: DON'T MISS IT!



The Occoquan District Supervisor's Office is seeking highly-motivated students with a strong interest in local government, especially with the ability to work independently in an office setting, to intern in our

office. Students will assist Supervisor's Aides in addressing constituent concerns, clerical tasks and office management and have the opportunity to work directly with the Supervisor on key projects. Students will gain a working knowledge of the procedures of local government.

Job Description: An Intern to the Supervisor provides support to the elected official by responding to concerns of constituents and completing general office operations. Interns will answer phones and be expected to quickly adapt and respond to different situations as they arise.

Requirements:

- Basic knowledge of the public policy process
- Ability to work independently with little supervision
- Skilled in oral and written communication
- Currently enrolled as a degree-seeking student in good academic standing

This is an unpaid, part-time internship with the possibility of a promotion to paid "part-time" status. We ask for a commitment of 10-15 hours a week and flexible with scheduling. Our office is also willing to help students earn academic credit while interning.

To Apply: Email your résumé and references to Jacob Mosser at jmosser@pwcgov.org.

DID YOU KNOW??

Have you ever wondered why we vote on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November? Congress started the tradition in 1845 before the invention of the car. Most Americans were farmers who lived far from their polling places, needing at least a day to travel; weekends and Wednesdays were impractical due to Church and farmer market days, respectively. Therefore Tuesday was selected, to give farmers a two-day window to travel to the polls and back. November was considered the best month

because it was after the harvest and right before the advent of winter weather.



Citation: Andrews, Evan. "Election 101: Why do we vote on a Tuesday in November?" History. A&E Television Networks, 30 October 2016. Web. 21 July 2016.

NATURAL DISASTERS: BE PREPARED

Natural disasters can happen at any time. Whether it be a hurricane, tornado, or fire, Prince William County residents need to be prepared in case they are asked to leave their homes or stay put for several days. Emergency planners suggest having enough food, water, medications and other essential supplies on hand to last for at least three days. The following three simple steps will help you and your family be prepared for the unexpected.

Be Informed

Understand what types of disasters hit your area regularly and know how they will affect your neighborhood. Winter storms, flash floods, and summer thunderstorms occur annually in Prince William County. Use resources like NOAA weather radios or sign up for Prince William Community Alert network which will send you a notification if a disaster has occurred and give you periodic updates to your phone and/or e-mail.

Make A Plan

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know beforehand how you will contact one another, how you will meet back together and what you will do in different situations. Plan safe locations outside of your house to meet. Identify an out-of-town contact. After a disaster it is often easier to place calls outside of the disaster area. Make sure everyone has the contact's home, work and cell phone numbers as well as e-mail addresses.

Get a kit

In a disaster you may be on your own for some period of time. Think about your family and what they will need to be self-sufficient for at least three days. Basic supplies include: Non-perishable food and drinking water (one gallon per person per day), first aid kit and prescription medications, battery-powered radio and flashlight as well as extra batteries, NOAA weather radio, whistle, toiletries and sanitation supplies including toilet paper, soap, plastic garbage bags and disinfectant, cash or traveler's checks, basic hand tools (wrench, pliers, utility knife etc.), extra clothing and bedding, copies of important documents, cell phone and charger, spare car keys along with local maps.



Preparedness helps you protect your family. Take time today to get informed, make a plan and put together an emergency kit that will meet the needs of everyone in your family, including pets. For further information, please go to www.pwcgov.org/emergency or www.readyvirginia.gov for more information regarding emergency preparedness. Please pick up a "Is Your Family Ready?" brochure at the Occoquan District Office or at any of our Occoquan District Town Halls.

NOTARY SERVICES

A notary acts as an official, unbiased witness to the identity and signature of the person who comes before the notary for a specific purpose. The person may be taking an oath, giving oral or written testimony, or signing or acknowledging his or her signature on a legal document. In each case, the notary attests that certain formalities

have been observed.

Our office is pleased to provide notary services to the public, free of charge. Please contact Jacob at 703-792-5096 or (by email at jmosser@pwcgov.org) for more information or to schedule an appointment.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

There are many designated boards, commissions and committees in Prince William County that oversee specific topics and provide advice to the Board of County Supervisors and County Staff. This list has the designated Occoquan District appointees who serve the citizens of our district on 24 of the committees. If you have any questions or would like to know when these groups meet, please feel free to contact our appointees. Citizens are always welcome to attend the public meetings and give their input on subject matter. For more information, visit www.pwcgov.org/government/boards.

Animal Advisory Committee

Advises Board of County Supervisors on policies and practices relating to programs and events which improve animal welfare services, namely animal shelters.

Jen Jones—k9luv810@yahoo.com

Architectural Review Board

Advises Board of County Supervisors on historic preservation issues, and reviews and approves certificates for existing and proposed structures in historical overlay districts.

Elizabeth Long—Call the district office for contact information.

Commission on Aging

Informs Greater Prince William governments of aging-caused problems.

Lana Tobey—tobey6809@msn.com

Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Advises county government on disability related issues.

Michael Bizik—mhb2288@verizon.net

Jonathan Torres -
johnthantorres@yahoo.com

Community Policy and Management Team for Comprehensive Service Act - At Risk Youth and Families

Presides over funding of and services provided to at risk youth and their families.

Marlo Watson -
marlo@themarlocompany.com

Community Services Board

Establishes and evaluates Greater Prince William Area's policies of Mental Health, Intellectual Disability, Substance Abuse, and Prevention programs.

Obediah Baker—obediahbaker@aol.com

Convention and Visitors Bureau, Prince William County/Manassas

Improves tourism as well as promotes Prince William County as a tourist destination.

Jan Cunard—Jcunard@verizon.net

DCSM/Zoning Ordinance Advisory Committee

Reviews regulations and revisions to the Zoning Ordinance and Design and Construction Standards manual.

Wayne Barrett—
wayne.barrett711@gmail.com

Equalization Board

Act on appeals of real estate assessment from property owners.

Ron Yoho—ronald.yoho@dtra.mil

Historical Commission

Advise and assist BOCS in efforts to preserve and protect County historic sites and structures.

Dennis VanDerlaske -dvanderl@verizon.net
Kimball Brace—kbrace@aol.com

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BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES—CONTINUED

Housing Board, PWC

Oversees and implements housing and community development programs, expenditure of housing funds, and addresses housing needs of Prince William County.

Robert Sharpe—sharpe1042@aol.com

Human Rights Commission

Ensures protection and enforcement of human and civil rights for County citizens by the elimination of and provisions of remedies for discriminatory practices.

Don Scoggins—donelsco@aol.com

Industrial Development Authority

Promotes industry and develops trade by persuading businesses to locate or remain in State and County.

Patrick O'Leary—oleary22@verizon.net

Library Board

Manages and controls library system.

Burk Andrews—marine10@verizon.net

Parks & Recreation Commission

Advises the Board of County Supervisors and the County Department of Parks & Recreation recreational services.

Brodie Freer—Brodie0007@gmail.com

Planning Commission

Accomplishes county planning objectives set by Code of Virginia and Advises Board of County Supervisors.

Bill Milne—occoquanpc@gmail.com

PWC Trails and Blueways Council

Advises Board of County Supervisors on development, growth, and promotion of trails and blueways in Prince William County.

Eileen Sheridan—sheridan_landuse@yahoo.com

Neil Nelson—neil-nelson@comcast.net

Service Authority

Provides water and sewer utilities to County residents.

Jack Kooyoomijian—kjkooyoomjian01@verizon.net

Social Services Board

Monitors the formulation and implementation of public and social services programs, and advises BOCS on needs for social services within the community.

Clete Shultz—freedom_6@verizon.net

Solid Waste Citizens Advisory Group

Provides input for improving the effectiveness of county landfill operations, policies and procedures.

William Thomas Lewellen—WilliamT@Lewellen.name

Strategic Planning Team

Organizes community input into issue areas. Prepares and presents the Strategic Plan to the BOCS.

Amelia May—ameliawmay@verizon.net

Jonathan Smith—jon.lori.smith@gmail.com

Taxicab Review Board

Acts upon applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and appeals from actions to the Taxicab Inspector's Office.

David Bridges—Call district office for contact information.

Weapons Control Committee

Studies requests of the Board of County Supervisors and citizens relating to the Weapons Control Ordinance.

David O'Neil—TheONeilClan@aol.com

Wetlands Board

Reviews and approves construction activities proposed for intertidal area.

Joyce M. Donahue—joyce.donohue@comcast.net

Kim Hosen—kdhosen@gmail.com

ANTIETAM SIDEWALK UPDATE

Antietam Road will soon be getting a long-awaited sidewalk. The side walk is currently in its planning phase with construction to begin in the spring of 2017. Completion is scheduled for end of summer 2017. The sidewalk will be

approximately 18,000 ft. on the western side of Antietam Rd. This will connect the sidewalk on Old Bridge road to the sidewalk at Woodfern Court.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BUCKHALL VFD

Occoquan residents,

The members of the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) proudly provide Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to residents of the Occoquan district. Since 1981 our volunteers have answered the call for our community.

BVFD operates one station at 7190 Yates Ford Road. We participate in the combined Emergency Services fabric of Prince William County. This fabric consists of eight other volunteer stations, the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue (DFR), and you; the citizens of the Occoquan District and Prince William County.

Our geographic 'first due' responsibility stretches from the Prince William County/Fairfax County line to the Prince William Parkway; from approximately Hoadly Road to Liberia Avenue; continuing on Liberia towards Manassas to approximately Euclid Avenue.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week our volunteers and the Prince William County DFR provides emergency services to our community. Operating in a 'combined system', a mixture of Prince William County DFR personnel and BVFD Volunteers provide Emergency Services by operating an Engine, two Ambulances, a Hazardous Materials (HazMat) support unit, a Tanker and Brush Truck. Our volunteers primarily provide service to our community 6:00pm to 6:00am daily, weekends and holidays by operating our Ambulances and Tanker.



Ambulances in front of the Buckhall Fire Station.
Picture courtesy of Buckhall VFD.

In addition to Emergency Services, our volunteer members participate in community events. Our volunteer members support fireworks displays, school, and holiday events. Our 'Santa Ride' is one of our favorite traditions at BVFD. Our members believe strongly in the connection to our community.

BVFD consists of Operational and Supporting members. "Operational" members are responsible for responding to calls for assistance, while "Supporting" members assist with the administrative tasks in the department such as fundraising, social events, catering, and more.

Connect with us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/buckhallvfd> or via our website at www.buckhallvfd.org. Email us directly at community@buckhallvfd.org.

We look forward to talking with you. Our combined system provides outstanding Emergency Services without increased taxes. These savings are attributed to committed, dedicated citizens giving their time for the greater good of the community.

Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR OWLVFD

CHIEF JIM McALLISTER

Hello Occoquan District residents,

My name is Jim McAllister and I am the Chief of Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department (OWL). Speaking on behalf of myself and the volunteers at OWL, it is an honor to serve the greater Occoquan area. OWL was established in 1938 and is extremely proud to be the first fire and rescue department in Prince William County, one of only nine Volunteer Fire & Rescue Departments in the county today.

OWL currently has three fire and rescue stations: Station 14 (12400 Hedges Run Drive in Lake Ridge), Station 2 (1306 F Street in Woodbridge), and Station 12 (2170 Montgomery Avenue in Woodbridge). Our primary response area is from 1 County Complex Court in Mid-County, throughout Lake Ridge to the Fairfax County line, including the Town of Occoquan, and all of Woodbridge.

OWL Volunteers, combined with the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, provide fire and rescue coverage for the citizens and visitors of our community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Volunteer and career personnel working together is known as a Combination Fire and Rescue System. OWL Volunteers provide services weekdays from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., all holidays and all weekends. Career personnel provide services Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., excluding holidays. While providing the best fire and rescue services to our citizens, this combined service saves the residents of our community millions of dollars annually in salaries, overtime, and benefits. OWL Volunteers serve the community by providing such services such as medical standbys for sporting events, Occoquan Days, community HOA events, holiday events, and provide citizens with the American Heart Association Hands-On CPR course. If

you see us at any of these events, please come by and say hello!

OWL VFD's continued success is due

to the foresight and hard work of those who built our foundation in 1938, and the dedication and commitment of our members who serve today. Even from our humble beginnings, OWL VFD has historically and strategically planned for disaster events, keeping up with the latest training, equipment, and education available. OWL VFD invests thousands of hours in professional training and certification courses each year. Our dedication to fire and rescue is reflected in our efforts to stay up to date and ready for any challenge that may arise on a service call.

Please check out our website at www.owlvfd.org, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OWLVFD or follow us on Twitter @OWLVFD #OWLVFD.

Please feel free to contact us at 703-494-2319 for more information concerning the services we provide to our community, savings we provide to our citizens by keeping taxes lower or for information on how to join our volunteer fire and rescue department family.

Respectfully,

Chief Jim McAllister

The "L" in OWL does mean "Lorton" but only because the Lorton area was included in the service area when the department first opened.



Fire Truck in front of O.W.L.
Picture courtesy of O.W.L.

FY 18 OCCOQUAN DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE

This past spring residents from the Occoquan District came together under the leadership of Supervisor Anderson and her Chief of Staff, Alyssa Souvignier, to form the Occoquan District Budget Committee. The purpose of the Budget Committee was to analyze the Prince William County Budget for potential ways to reduce spending and find creative ways to fill critical, unmet needs.

This year, Supervisor Anderson and her staff

plan to start meeting with the Occoquan District Budget Committee in late fall. Involvement with the Committee is a means for interested citizens to learn about the budget process and to provide invaluable feedback to Supervisor Anderson.

If you are interested in joining the Occoquan District Budget Committee for the 2018 Fiscal Year, please contact Alexander Stanley at AStanley@pwcgov.org, with your contact information.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION THINK TANK PROGRESS

About a dozen residents are attending “Think Tank” meetings currently focused on Old Bridge Road (OBR). Leaders from PWC Transportation, Public Safety and Schools highlighted the first three meetings to identify the current status of OBR, problems police and firefighters have while trying to respond to calls, and problems school officials are having to get children to and from school on time amid congestion.

Future meetings will include speakers from public transit and transportation experts. Those attending the “Think Tank” sessions have submitted dozens of ideas to lessen congestion. The goal is to merge ideas to discover viable solutions. For more information contact Alex Stanley at astanley@pwcgov.org or 703-792-4643. Your ideas are very welcome!

LONGTIME SUPERVISOR’S AIDE HEADS WEST

Long-time aide in the Occoquan District Supervisor’s Office, Alyssa Souvignier will be saying goodbye to Virginia this fall. After seven and a half years working with the residents of the Occoquan District, Alyssa and her husband, Ryan, are moving to

Great Falls, Montana. Alyssa’s last day in the office will be Wednesday, September 21. You are invited to stop by and wish Alyssa farewell. We will certainly miss Alyssa and wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE LILLIE G. JESSIE

I had the pleasure of attending eight graduation ceremonies this past school year. All of these ceremonies were similar but each one had a different flavor representing the culture of the individual school. All of the ceremonies were organized and presented in a flawless, professional manner. All had at least one thing in common: the tossing of the graduation hats at the end of the ceremony, enormous roar of the crowd and the calling out of names from family members. It was raw excitement at its best. I am writing this article approximately one month after these celebrations and I wonder what is happening in the individual homes of these students. For some that sheer excitement of transitioning to college is still evident. For others, the career credentials obtained while in high school allow them to enter the job market, some with earnings that will exceed those of the college graduate. For others, there is the realization that a high school diploma allows entrance into a job market as an hourly wage earner. Unfortunately, too large a number of graduates are waking up each day to the morning mantra from their parents, "It's time for you to get a job!" Unfortunately, also for this latter group, they lack the skill sets needed for job entrance. This lack of skill sets, augmented by the lack of communication and planning skills, leaves this group of former students lacking the necessary tools needed to successfully seek/and or interview for employment. This is a rude awakening for some former students and their parents.

I served on the Governor's non-partisan Standards of Learning (SOL) Innovation Committee for the past two years. The Virginia Department of Education is now putting the final touches on what is called "Profile of a Virginia Graduate." This is a result of a national call for improved workplace readiness of our students from colleges and employers. For example, there are thousands

of jobs in the Cyber Security arena that have not been filled due to a lack of adequately trained applicants. Employers and colleges are telling us that we need to improve what has been labeled "Life Readiness Skills." The suggested profile highlights four areas of concentration for Virginia graduates to become "Life Ready Individuals." The four areas are: (1) Content Knowledge, (2) Workplace Skills, (3) Community Engagement and Civic Responsibility and (4) Career Exploration.

This graduate profile is a beginning for us as our new technologies and job opportunities will change as frequently as we change cell phones in the future. Implementing the above will require us to change how we use our resources and our emphasis. Pencil-paper and fill-in-the-blank types of testing will become obsolete and replaced with opportunities for students to think critically and problem solve. Every student in our school system should be college bound or have career credentials.

You see: *"Our goal for students is not for them to be doctors, scientists, businesspersons, teachers or lawyers...but rather doctors, scientists, businesspersons, teachers or lawyers WHO WILL CHANGE THE WORLD."*
Stultes Elementary in Richardson Texas.

- Lillie G. Jessie

Occoquan District School Board Member

Phone: (571) 659-1636

Email: Ljessie@pwcs.edu

DEER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

From the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), Certified Wildlife Biologist, Kevin Rose: White-tailed Deer in Prince William County seem to be everywhere, and they are! They eat our gardens, are struck by vehicles on the road, and can do severe damage to our ecosystem. The good news is that through the efforts of VGDIF, the county-wide herd is slowly declining due to liberal hunting seasons and special regulations. The bad news is that many local herds in the developed areas have not experienced these declines due to lack of hunting pressure. Lake Ridge Parks and Recreation Association has taken an active step in addressing this issue with the formation of Lake Ridge Deer Manage-

ment, a local group of qualified resident archers that not only remove deer, but are also actively removing invasive plants and planting native ones. This program should be a model for other Home Owner's Associations and neighborhoods to take action and join the effort. Additionally, landowners can allow hunting on their own properties. Local problems from local deer herds require local action! For more information... Lake Ridge: <http://www.lakeridgedeermanagement.com/>; Deer information from VDGIF: <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/deer/>; or contact Kevin Rose at: kevin.rose@dgif.virginia.gov (preferred) or 540-899-4169.

ANNUAL FALL ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW RETURNS

On September 24th and 25th, the Town of Occoquan will host its annual Fall Arts and Craft Show. This Arts and Craft Show will showcase more than 300 contemporary and country crafters, as well as artisans from across the United States. This annual show, now in its 47th year, has become a time-honored tradition for Prince William County residents as well as out-of-town visitors.

This is a family-friendly event, where the shopping possibilities are endless. Hand-crafted items ranging from woodwork and candles to beautiful jewelry will be available. There will also be a wide variety of food vendors, live music, and kid-friendly enter-

tainment. The newly completed River Mill Park will be open for show-goers to enjoy as well. Please visit www.occoquanva.gov for more information and @OccoquanCraftShow on Facebook.

Volunteers are needed to help behind the scenes with the Fall show. Volunteers are needed to help set up on Friday and are needed on Saturday as well as Sunday to assist with logistics and provide customer service through collaboration with vendors, customers, and staff. Volunteers are also needed to help with breakdown on Sunday at 5pm. Please call (703)-491-2168 or email dbrown@occoquanva.gov to add your name to the volunteer list for the upcoming show.

CONTACT INFO

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TRANSIT INFO

www.virginiadot.org

Your resource for everything Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT): projects, programs and studies. VDOT Customer Service can be reached at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623).

www.511Virginia.org

Virginia Traffic Info

www.commuterconnections.org

Free ride matching for carpools and vanpools, information on commuting options and a Guaranteed Ride Home program to get you home in an emergency.

Carpooling Info

1-800-745-RIDE(7433)

Slugging Info

www.slug-lines.com

Virginia Railway Express

1-800-RIDE-VRE(743-3873)

www.vre.org

OmniRide

703-730-OMNI(6664)

www.prtctransit.org

Police, General Complaint Line

703-792-6500

To Report Graffiti

PWC Police: 703-792-6500

To Report Tall Grass and Weeds

Neighborhood Services: 703-792-7018

To Report Potholes

VDOT: 1-800-367-7623

To Report Smoking Ban Violations

Consumer Services: 703-792-6310, option 1

Prince William County Government

<http://www.pwcgov.org/>

Prince William Public Schools

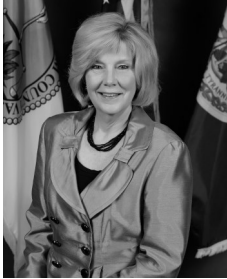
<http://www.pwcs.edu/>

McCoart Government Center

703-792-6000



Supervisor Ruth M. Anderson
Occoquan District Supervisor
2241-K Tacketts Mill Drive
Woodbridge, Virginia 22192



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Occoquan Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday and Sunday,
September 24 and September 25
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Saturday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Sunday at
Historic Town of Occoquan

The Annual Craft Show will include both contemporary and country crafters and artisans from Occoquan and from all around the United States. For more information, visit www.HistoricOccoquan.com or call 703-201-8499

Taste of Prince William

Saturday, September 24
11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Manassas Mall
8300 Sudley Road
Manassas, VA 20109

VAStrEats is proud to be hosting a food truck festival where you can come and enjoy over 30 food trucks from all over the region. For more info and details, including what trucks are participating, visit the event website at www.VAStrEats.com

The Capitol Steps "What to Expect When You're Electing"

Sunday, September 18
7:00 p.m.
Hylton Performing Arts Center
10900 University Blvd.
Manassas, VA 20110

Before you head to the polls to elect our 45th president, join us for the rocking and roasting local institution, The Capitol Steps.

For more information or to order tickets, please visit www.hyltoncenter.org

Occoquan Haunt Hunt

Saturday, October 29th
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Historic Town of Occoquan

Join the shops of Occoquan in finding and validating 6 Halloween Characters and be entered in a drawing to win a life-size Halloween Character. Pick up your entry form at participating shops which will be flying orange and black balloons.

For more information, visit www.HistoricOccoquan.com or call 703-201-8499