



Greetings from the Occoquan District!

I hope the warmer weather finds you and family well. It is certainly a busy time of year as the Board of County Supervisors just approved the FY11 Budget. As it has been for the past couple of years, this was once again a very challenging exercise. However, I'm pleased that the Board was able to work together as a team to reduce expenditures, while at the same time preserving those vital services that help make Prince William County a premier community. If you should have any specific questions about the budget, I hope you will not hesitate to contact me.

In addition, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you information about a few things going on in our area.

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**Local Farmers' Markets Update from the Prince William-Fairfax County Farm Bureau**

It is that time of year when residents can begin to enjoy local products from our farmers' markets. Below are the schedules and locations for the farmers' markets near the Occoquan District:

The Town of Occoquan hosts a farmer's market on Mill Street every Saturday from April 24 through November 6, 2010. The market is open from 8 a.m. until noon.

The Dale City Farmer's Market, located on Dale Boulevard next to the Center Plaza Shopping Center, is open every Sunday from April 4 to November 21 between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Besides getting great produce and products at reasonable prices, another benefit of our local farmers' markets is that they give residents an opportunity to support our local farming community. However, ***did you know*** that many consumers at local farmers' markets are unaware that produce, meats, fibers, and other products sold there may not necessarily be locally produced, but instead purchased at wholesale markets and then resold?

To arouse awareness of this practice and to encourage consumers to buy truly local products, members of Prince William-Fairfax County Farm Bureau have implemented a new initiative. Specifically, under this program a local farmer may request that the Farm Bureau inspect his or her farms. Upon satisfactory inspection, a certificate will be issued to the vendor who will then display that certificate at his market stand. This way, local consumers will know whether the products they are purchasing at local farmers' markets are genuinely "local" in nature.

So if you want to support local Prince William County farmers this summer, be sure to look for the "locally grown certificate" and patronize our local Farm Bureau members. After all, food that is locally produced is always fresher, tastier, and more environmentally friendly because less fossil fuel is required to get it from the field to the consumer.

### **Age Long, Live Strong from the Area Agency on Aging**

On May 12, 2010, Older Americans Month, *Age Long, Live Strong*, will be celebrated at Camp Snyder in Haymarket located at 6100 Antioch Road, Haymarket, VA 20169, (571)-248-4904. Lunch, live music, and entertainment, as well as transportation to and from the Senior Centers will be provided for persons age 55 and older between 10am and 2pm. For information call the Manassas Senior Center at 703-792-6405 or the Woodbridge Senior Center at 703-792-5081.

May is also National Elder Abuse Prevention Month. The number of older adults being abused is growing. Abuse can be financial, physical, verbal or psychological and include willful or unintentional neglect. Please report any suspicions of abuse; you can do so confidentially and anonymously by calling 1-888-832-3858

### **Preventing Spring Break-Ins from the Prince William County Police Department**

Spring is here! That being said you have probably made plans to go out of town and visit some family or travel to one of the local beaches and soak up some sun. The bad news is just because you leave your house in your rearview mirror does not necessarily mean you leave crime behind. Burglars could be keeping watch over your neighborhood just looking for the perfect opportunity to strike. The good news is you can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

One way in which you can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a victim is to make your house look "lived in" while you are away. This can be accomplished by locking all doors and windows, discontinuing all deliveries (e.g. mail, newspapers, etc.) before you leave, and putting the lights, television, and radio on a timer.

Another way in which you can greatly reduce your chances is to enlist the assistance of a trusted neighbor, friend, or relative. Specifically, you can have that person park a car in your driveway, visit your home at regular intervals, put trash out on collection days, and remove all flyers, circulars, or packages that may have been left at your door.

Unfortunately, even if you follow all of the aforementioned instructions, there is still a chance that you will become a victim. In the event that you return to find that your house has been burglarized, do not enter the house. Call the police immediately and do not touch or allow anyone else to touch anything in or around your house until the officers arrive.

Thank you for doing your part! If you should have any questions concerning home security, please contact our Crime Prevention Unit at (703) 792-7270.

### **Land Conservation in Northern Virginia**

Join federal, state and local decision makers to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing land conservation in Northern Virginia on Monday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the McCoart Government Center. Guests include Congressman Gerry Connolly, 11th Congressional District, Robert Davenport, Board Director, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and Supervisor Mike May, Vice-Chairman, Prince William County Board of Supervisors.

### **Woodbridge Senior High Grad Night Fundraiser**

Visit Five Guys Burger and Fries at Merchant's Plaza (Corner of Old Bridge and Prince William Parkway) on Tuesday May 18 between 2 p.m. and closing and help support 2010 WSHS graduates. Please place your receipt in the Grad Night box.

Thanks for reading our April E-Update and please enjoy the beautiful weather! As always, if we can ever be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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