



Greetings from the Occoquan District!

As the cold, wintry weather continues, I hope you and your family are warm and well. I wanted to take a few moments to update you on a few things going on around the county and our district.

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**Lake Ridge Burglary Update**

We just received confirmation from Captain Smith of the Prince William County Police Department that the primary suspect in the recent string of burglaries throughout Lake Ridge remains in jail. The accused is charged with 8 counts of burglary, 8 counts of grand larceny, 8 counts felony destruction of property, and 4 counts of misdemeanor destruction of property. A second party of interest was located and interviewed, but this individual was released due to lack of evidence. Captain Smith reports that the pattern of burglaries has stopped. If any new information becomes available, we will be sure to pass it along.

**Noise Advisory**

You may have noticed some odd noises and/or vibrations over the past couple of days in your community. Our office has heard from a few concerned residents regarding the issue, and we have determined that the noises and vibrations are likely the result of scheduled training exercises at the Quantico Marine Corps Base. Exercises are scheduled to continue through Sunday, February 6. It should be noted that overcast conditions may increase noise and vibration. A complete schedule and updates on the exercises can be found at the Marine Corps Base Quantico website. Residents can also call the Quantico Public Affairs Office at 703-784-2741 for additional information.

**Potomac Mills Commuter Parking Reduction/Commuter Parking Town Hall Announcement**

As you are probably already aware, Potomac Mills has made the decision to reduce the number of commuter parking spaces they have historically provided effective February 14, 2011. Although the mall has provided as many as 1,000 spaces or more over the years, it is only legally required to provide 275 spaces consistent with its original rezoning proffers. The purpose of their reduction in spaces is to prepare for a new retail expansion.

Needless to say, the mall's decision is disappointing. However, we recognize that the mall is within its rights and the only thing we can do at this point is try to figure out how to make the decision as painless as possible for Prince William's commuters, bus riders and sluggers (myself included). Please know that we are working actively to address the situation in both the short term and long term.

In the short term, there are some other commuter parking options available to for commuters to use until a more permanent solution is found. For more information on other available commuter parking in Eastern Prince William, please visit Potomac Mills Parking Reduction or click here or an interactive map. In addition, our transportation staff is pursuing several leads on possible temporary leasing of spaces from churches and other businesses. These conversations have been productive so far, and we will keep the community posted on our progress.

In the long-term, the county is working to convert the old PRTC bus garage site into a commuter parking lot. The design for the site, located across Telegraph Road from what is referred to as the "Horner Road Lot," is currently underway. When completed, the lot will contain between 500 and 600 new spaces. Once the design is complete, we will have to make a determination on how to phase the project consistent with available funding. It is my understanding that county transportation hopes to begin construction in the coming year. Additionally we are working with VDOT to determine if spaces can be made available on a temporary basis.

Finally, Woodbridge Supervisor Frank Principi and I are co-hosting a Town Hall on February 9th, at 7:00 pm, in the Ferlazzo Building Auditorium to discuss the impact of Potomac Mills' decision. County staff, VDOT officials, and PRTC officials will be in attendance to discuss available options available and receive feedback from affected commuters. We welcome you and your family to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at 703-792-4643 or Supervisor Principi's office at 703-792-4646.

### **PechaKucha Night Lake Ridge - The Natural World**

Join the Prince William Conservation Alliance and Lake Ridge Parks & Recreation Assoc. for a fun evening of people sharing their passions about the natural world on Saturday, February 12 at the Tall Oaks Community Center (12298 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge) beginning at 7 p.m. All presentations will use the PechaKucha slideshow format of 20 images/20 seconds per image... each presentation is a total of six minutes 40 seconds.

You won't want to miss this exciting series of six-minute presentations on the natural world:

Earnie Porta - Chasing the Sun: Sahara to Gobi to Tarawato Pitcairn

Rob Hartwell - Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge

Ernie Sears - Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge

Kim Hosen - On Six Legs

Julie Flanagan - Glacier National Park

Charlie Grymes - Occoquan Reservoir - Past, Present and Future

Judy Gallagher - Wonderful World of Wasps

Nancy Vehrs - Milkweed, Monarchs and Migration

Laura Cohen - Prince William [National] Forest Park

David Werth - The Life and Death of Stars, or Joni Mitchell was Right!

Open to the public and free of charge. Donations for refreshments benefit the PechaKucha for Haiti Fund. For more information, contact Kim Hosen, PWCA, 703-499-4954 or Shirley Couteau, LRPRA, 703-491-2154.

### **Town Hall Announcement**

You and your family are invited to attend one of our upcoming town hall meetings. We will be hosting a town hall at Tall Oaks Community Center on Saturday, February 26 from 10 a.m. to noon. A second town hall meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9 at Westminster at Lake Ridge from 7 to 9 p.m.

This will be an opportunity to share your ideas and concerns and also learn a little more about what is going on in Prince William County and the Occoquan District. I hope you can attend one of our meetings! For more information please contact Alyssa Brown at 703-792-5180.

Thanks for reading our February E-Update! As always, if we can ever be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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