



Greetings from the Occoquan District!

Happy Independence Day! I hope this E-Update finds you well. As you make your 4th of July plans, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on a few things going on throughout the district.

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Dale City Independence Day Parade and Family Fun Day

Looking for a great way to get into the Independence Day spirit? Come and watch the annual Dale City Independence Day Parade and then stay for Family Fun Day on Saturday, July 3, 2010. Details are as follows:

Dale City Parade-commences at 10 a.m. and runs along Dale Blvd. between Kirkdale Drive and Gemini Way in Dale City, Virginia.

Family Fun Day-commences at 12 noon(immediately following the parade) in the commuter parking lot at the intersection of Gemini Way and Dale Blvd. in Dale City. Come for carnival style games, food, crafts, a petting zoo, moon bounce and other fun activities!

Enjoy Independence Day Celebrations in Prince William, Manassas or Manassas Park

After seeing a great parade on July 3rd, there are several opportunities on July 4, 2010 to watch fireworks in the evening--with three great options close to our community!

In Prince William County, the Potomac Nationals will play a home game at Pfitzner Stadium (behind the McCoart building off the Prince William Parkway) and on July 4, 2010 and have fireworks planned for the evening. In fact, they will have fireworks on both the 3rd and the 4th! The following information is from the National's website:

"The Potomac Nationals have prepared a 4th of July weekend party that will surely top any before at Pfitzner Stadium. This year there will be not one, but TWO, back-to-back fireworks extravaganzas on Saturday, July 3 and Sunday, July 4! But it doesn't stop there. This year the Potomac Nationals 4th of July party includes Food, Fireworks and Fun! Just \$24 covers your ticket to the game and an all-you-can-eat picnic on Saturday or Sunday. Combine that with the P-Nats' everyday low prices on food, drinks and tickets, and this is a can't-miss event! Potomac hosts the Wilmington Blue Rocks for a four-game series July 3-6. Game times for Saturday and Sunday are set for 6:35 p.m., with gates opening at 5 p.m. The P-Nats celebrate every Saturday with a fireworks show. Every Wednesday night is Belly Busters, when fans can get a ticket to the game and all-you-can-eat Moe's Southwest Grill, Hard Times Cafe and Uno Chicago Grill for just \$15. Visit our promotions page to learn all about the weekly promotions at The Pfitz!

It's time for you to Join the Party! Affordable Potomac Nationals ticket plans and individual game tickets are available now, so call 703-590-2311 to order yours today!"

In addition, fireworks will be available to the public on July 4th in the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. Details are as follows:

Old Town Manassas is hosting its annual Independence Day Celebration on July 4 at the Manassas Train Station. The fireworks are set to start at 9:15 p.m. Parking is available at the commuter lots on Prince William Street and at Metz Middle School. Pets are not allowed. For more information call 703-361-6599 or visit www.visitmanassas.org.

Manassas Park will be hosting a fireworks show across the street from city hall on Sunday, July 4. Rides and food vendors open at 5 p.m. and close at 10 p.m. Free parking is available and you can park at city hall for \$5 per car. Officials ask that spectators not bring alcohol, personal grills or pets. For more information call 703-335-8872 or visit www.manassasparkcommunitycenter.com.

Zero Tolerance for Illegal Fireworks Zero Tolerance for Illegal Fireworks from the Prince William County Police Department

Fireworks have become a part of many celebrations throughout the year. Long gone are the days when fireworks could only be enjoyed on the Fourth of July, the most celebrated holiday of the summer. Fireworks, although beautiful, are dangerous and even life-threatening. During June, Fireworks Safety Month and continuing through the latter part of July (June 22nd – July 22nd), fireworks-related injuries peak; it's during this brief period, 60 percent of fireworks-related injuries occur. In 2006, according to Consumer Product Safety Commission, over 2,300 children under the age of 15 sustained fireworks-related injuries.

Of all fire-related injuries, burns account for 50% and occur mostly to the hands, eyes and head. On an annual basis, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, there are approximately 116,600 children treated for fire/burn injuries and approximately 528 children under the age of 14 that die from unintentional fire/burn-related injuries. Children ages 5 to 14 are most likely to be injured by rockets and children under the age of 5 by Sparklers. Blindness, third degree burns and permanent scarring are often associated with fireworks injuries; yet, fireworks are also known to be life-threatening when causing fires in residences and motor vehicles.

Over time, the fireworks injury rate has declined as the result of public information and public education; yet, more needs to be done. In an attempt to reduce the number of fireworks-related injuries and deaths, the Fire Marshal's Office, a division within the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, has initiated a Fireworks Enforcement Campaign to stop possession and use of illegal fireworks. The campaign's slogan, "Illegal Fireworks, If You Light It, We'll Write It!" Leave Fireworks to the Professionals" is a means by which the Department is able to educate the community about the dangers of illegal fireworks while informing them about Prince William's zero tolerance for possession and use of illegal fireworks. This year as in the past, Fire Marshals will be teaming up with Police for their annual fireworks safety initiative and deploying personnel throughout the County in an effort to prevent injury and fires due to illegal or unsafe use of fireworks. In addition, the team will write summons to individuals who possess and/or light illegal fireworks and will confiscate any and all illegal fireworks found in their possession. In Prince William County, the discharge of illegal fireworks is a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$2,500.00 and or up to one year in jail.

Safety experts agree that the best way to protect your loved-ones from fireworks-related injuries or worse is to not use fireworks. Numerous professional organizations often provide fireworks displays for public enjoyment during the holiday and throughout the year. Check your local newspaper or web site for listings of fireworks displays in your area.

Should you choose to use legal fireworks, the Fire Marshal's Office would like to help you celebrate safely by suggesting the following safety tips:

- Fireworks should only be used under adult supervision.
- Fireworks should only be used outdoors on a driveway, sidewalk or other fire-resistant surface. Remember, fires are caused by careless handling of fireworks in areas exposed to sparks or live fireworks.
- Never ignite fireworks during high winds where flying sparks can start a fire.
- Keep a bucket of water handy in case sparks start a fire.
- Be sure children around fireworks know to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches on fire.
- Deposit sparklers in a metal container as they may be stepped on while hot or lost in the grass and stepped on while playing.
- Never aim or throw fireworks at another person.
- Never try to re-ignite fireworks that malfunction or fail to go off.
- Do not wear loose clothing when using fireworks.
- Never experiment or make your own fireworks.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.

For more information about selecting and using legal fireworks, or if you would like to safely dispose of illegal fireworks, contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 703-792-6360, or visit our website at www.pwcgov.org/fire. Turning in illegal fireworks will not result in any fines or summons, and no questions will be asked.

Rippon Lodge Seeks Volunteers

Rippon Lodge Historic Site (one of the oldest houses still standing in Prince William County) is seeking volunteers for an array of activities. For more information or if you are interested in volunteering please contact Kathryn Fullerton at 703-494-3920.

Heat-related Illnesses from the Area Agency on Aging

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the number one way not to suffer from heat-related illness is prevention. Read the newspaper or watch the news for information about the weather and anticipated high temperatures with high humidity and prepare as follows:

- Drink more fluids (nonalcoholic), regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. Warning: If your doctor generally limits the amount of fluid you drink or has you on water pills, ask how much you should drink while the weather is hot.
- Don't drink liquids that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar—these actually cause you to lose more body fluid. Also, avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.
- Stay indoors and, if at all possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. More information will be coming about local cooling sites.
- Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, fans will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath, or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- NEVER leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.

Although any one at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others. Check regularly on:

- Infants and young children
- People aged 65 or older
- People who have a mental illness
- Those who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure

Visit adults at risk at least twice a day and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Infants and young children, of course, need much more frequent watching.

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

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