



Greetings from the Occoquan District!

Spring is in the air, finally! With temperatures finally above freezing and no snow in the forecast, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you information about a few things going on around the Occoquan District.

In this Occoquan District E-Update:

1. Old Bridge Commercial Center
2. 2010 Census – Get the Word Out
3. Library Service Disruptions
4. Woodbridge Senior High Grad Night Fundraiser
5. Old Bridge Symphony Orchestra Free Concerts

Old Bridge Commercial Center

As you drive by the intersection of Old Bridge Road and Smoketown Road on the Old Bridge Estates side of Smoketown, you may have noticed some construction equipment and the removal of trees adjacent to the ball field. Since you might be wondering what is going on, I wanted to provide you the most recent information we have.

This corner is the future site for a project called “Old Bridge Commercial Center.” The first phase of the project is underway and it is my understanding that it is scheduled to include a Walgreen’s Pharmacy (without a drive-thru). There is also the possibility of additional office and/or retail space in the future.

At the outset, please allow me to explain that this was not a project that the current Board of Supervisors reviewed or approved. Rather, it is a rezoning that was reviewed and approved in 1988 (long before my service on the Board—in fact, Supervisor Jenkins is the only current sitting Supervisor who was on the Board at the time this project was approved).

Under Virginia law, once a rezoning has been approved, the owner of the rezoned property (or any subsequent owner) has a vested right to develop the property according to the specifications, proffers and commitments that were negotiated at the time of the original rezoning. In other words, a rezoning is valid “forever” as long as the developer honors the original commitments when engineering and building his or her project.

This is exactly what is occurring with Old Bridge Commercial Center, as the property owner has decided to develop the property in accordance with the 1988 rezoning. As a result, no additional approvals are required by the Board of Supervisors.

This is not to say that the county government has no oversight of the project at all. Although, we have no ability to deny the property owner his right to pursue the project, the county must still ensure that all commitments are honored. Specifically, the county will review and oversee the project as it is completed for compliance with our Zoning Ordinance, Design and Construction Standards Manual, transportation regulations, and the proffers (the commitments made by the original rezoning).

The specific proffers from the 1988 rezoning include a fifty-five foot tree buffer between the project and any homes, no direct access to Old Bridge Road, and certain architectural features to enhance the aesthetics of the project. The proffers also include landscaping commitments and a specific **prohibition** of the following commercial uses: car wash; auto fuel sales; automobile repair and/or storage; quick service foods stores (i.e. 7-11s); barbers and beauty shops; newsstands; copy or print shops; fast food restaurants; dog grooming; and dry cleaners. If you have any concerns about the project, I hope you won't hesitate to contact me or my staff. As stated above, we have no legal ability to prevent it, but we can try to answer any questions you might have. We can also provide you the contact information for the site engineers who have more specifics on the project itself and what kinds of uses they envision for the site in the future.

2010 Census – Get the Word Out

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

Reaching an Increasingly Diverse Population

The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure the nation's increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Russian as well as language guides in 59 languages will be available on request.

Recruiting Census Workers

By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Counting each person is one of the largest operations the federal government undertakes. For example, the Census Bureau will recruit nearly 3.8 million applicants for 2010 Census field operations. Of these applicants, the Census Bureau will hire about 1.4 million temporary employees. Some of these employees will be using GPS-equipped hand-held computers to update maps and ensure there is an accurate address list for the mailing of the census questionnaires.

10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about *how* we live as a nation, our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire. Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential.

For more information, visit the 2010 Census Web site at <http://www.census.gov/2010>

What you should know: For each person NOT counted, PWC will not receive approximately \$1300/year or over \$13,000 over a 10-year period. Per household, \$3,861 per year or \$38,606 over 10 years.

Library Service Disruptions

The Prince William County Library System is installing new software to better serve customers. However, there are a few service disruptions anticipated while the software is being installed .

From April 1 to April 21, hold requests for library items cannot be placed. However, any hold requests already in the system by March 31 will be filled. The ability to place hold requests will be available again the morning of April 22.

Beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 16 through Wednesday, April 21, no items can be renewed either through the online catalog or through telephone renewal. However, items can be physically brought in to a branch or neighborhood library to be renewed if needed from April 17 through April 21. Patrons must have their library card (or barcode number) and the items to be renewed with them.

In addition, books and other items will not be due from April 17 to April 21 due to data migration to the new system. The Library System is unable to accept payments for fines or lost materials from April 17 to April 21. Wowbrary, the Library System's free e-mail alert service for new items, will be suspended from April 1 to April 21. Wowbrary will resume on April 28.

Woodbridge Senior High Grad Night Fundraiser

Visit Five Guys Burger and Fries at Merchant's Plaza (Corner of Old Bridge and Prince William Parkway) every third Tuesday (March 16, April 20 and May 18) between 2 p.m. and closing and help support 2010 WSHS graduates. Please place your receipt in the Grad Night box.

Also, on Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to noon WSHS Seniors are hosting a "Spring Cleaning". Bring your old files, and for \$10 per box (paper size), have your old documents securely shredded and disposed. While your old documents are being shredded, have your car washed. Donations are accepted.

Old Bridge Symphony Orchestra Free Concerts

The Old Bridge Chamber Orchestra is still performing FREE concerts for the Prince William Community. Here is our information and schedule: All concerts are performed at: Covenant Presbyterian Church 5640 Hoadly Road Manassas, VA. Concerts are FREE, donations are appreciated.

Beethoven and Bach concert - Saturday, March 20 2010, 8:00pm - 10:00pm

Pre-concert chat at 7:30 with Dr Dana Eckenberg

Join the Old Bridge Chamber Orchestra for an evening of Beethoven and Bach featuring piano soloist, Ann Lee.

- Beethoven Coriolan Overture, and Symphony No. 2
- Bach Keyboard Concerto No. 1

Sensuous Strings concert - Saturday, May 01 2010, 8:00pm - 10:00pm

Pre-concert chat at 7:30 with Dr Dana Eckenberg

Join the Old Bridge Chamber Orchestra for an evening of music featuring our fabulous string sections. The program includes Dvorak's "Serenade No. 22" and Vivaldi's "Winter and Spring" from the "Four Seasons" featuring principal violinist, Sheyna Burt.

For more information email info@obco.org ,call (703) 966-5845 or visit www.obco.org.

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

[Back to E-Updates Home Page](#)