



Greetings from the Occoquan District!

Fall is upon us. The leaves are changing colors and the days are getting shorter. I hope you and your family are doing well and enjoying the changing seasons. I wanted to take a moment to update you a few things going on around our district.

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Old Bridge Sidewalk Opening

I am pleased to announce that after months of construction, the sidewalk project along Old Bridge near Woodbridge Senior High School is scheduled for completion at the end of October. On Monday, November 3 at 10 a.m., please join me for a special ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate this project in front of Woodbridge Senior High School. For more details about the ceremony or to be a part of the landscaping plan, please contact my office at 703-792-4643.

Smart, Clean and Green: New Approaches for Revitalizing Communities Close to Home

On Thursday, October 29 a panel presentation and community discussion will take place to explore new tools and ideas that can help communities make smart investments, use resources wisely and improve quality of life while reducing our footprint on the earth. Panelists include, Supervisor Mike May, Charles Grymes, Chairman of the Board for Prince William Conservation Alliance, Michael Rolband, President of Wetland Studies and Solutions and Paul Schwartz, National Policy Coordinator for Clean Water Action. This free program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Chinn Park Library Trustees Room.

I-95 Widening Project Update

It has been a few months since we last updated you on the progress of the I-95 widening project. The project is progressing smoothly, though you may have noticed lane closures on north and south bound lanes. These lane closures are expected to continue throughout the fall. The additional northbound lane between Route 1 and the Fairfax County Parkway is expected to open in December 2009 with the southbound lane opening in the fall of 2010. The additional northbound lane and southbound lane between Route 1 and Route 123 is to be complete in the fall of 2011.

Old Bridge Road and Occoquan Road Intersection

VDOT plans to begin improvements at the intersection of Old Bridge Road and Occoquan Road in the near future. Currently, there is no right turn permitted onto Old Bridge from southbound

Occoquan Road when the light is red. This is due to the poor site distance and blind curve, and this restriction will not change as part of VDOT's project. However, the lanes will be modified so that one southbound lane will exist on Occoquan Road approaching the signal at Old Bridge (as opposed to the existing lane and a right hand turn "mini-lane" that exists today).

VDOT believes this will improve southbound traffic flow out of the Town of Occoquan and also help eliminate red light violations at the intersection, which create a dangerous safety situation for westbound Old Bridge motorists. VDOT also plans to make improvements to pedestrian accessibility in the area through a crosswalk and other amenities.

New OmniRide Route to Serve Tysons Corner

A FREE bus ride from Woodbridge to Tysons Corner? That will be a reality next month when the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission, PRTC, introduces a new express commuter bus route to Tysons Corner from eastern Prince William County.

Free fares will be offered during the first week of service to entice people to give the new Tysons Corner OmniRide route a try and build ridership. And fares for the next six months of service will be half price!

PRTC provides commuter and local bus services in Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park. A ride on one of PRTC's OmniRide commuter buses typically costs \$4.75 when paying with a SmarTrip card or \$6.50 cash. But patrons of the Tysons Corner OmniRide service who use a SmarTrip card will pay \$2.40 per trip, and those paying with cash will pay \$3 per trip for the first six months of service.

The new Tysons Corner OmniRide service is being funded entirely by Virginia Megaprojects – a partnership between Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Virginia Department of Transportation. Virginia Megaprojects are a series of infrastructure improvements designed to help mitigate congestion in Northern Virginia. The Tysons Corner OmniRide service is a solution born from this plan to build a better commute in the Tysons area and the region as construction continues. When the I-495 HOT (High Occupancy Toll) Lanes are complete in 2013, buses and HOV-3 vehicles will have reliable travel times on the Capital Beltway.

"PRTC is proud to be working with Virginia Megaprojects to provide commuters in the I-95 corridor an alternative to driving alone to Tysons Corner," said PRTC Executive Director Alfred Harf.

Tysons Corner OmniRide will start operating on November 9. PRTC will offer four trips to Tysons in the morning and four return trips back to eastern Prince William in the afternoon. The new route will include stops at the Tysons Corner Transit Station at the mall as well as 15 other bus stops, primarily along Greensboro Drive and Jones Branch Drive.

Buses, which will be equipped with wireless internet access as part of a pilot program, will serve two local stops: the Woodbridge VRE station and the Route 123/I-95 commuter lot with trips starting between 6:10 a.m. and 8:05 a.m. After picking up passengers at these locations, buses will travel in HOV lanes to Franconia-Springfield and then take I-495 to Route 7.

Buses will start their afternoon trips from Tysons Corner to Prince William County between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

For more information about the Tysons Corner OmniRide service or any of PRTC's transportation services, visit www.PRTCtransit.org or call PRTC's Customer Service Department at (703) 730-6664.

Drive Safely During Deer Season

From the Office of Risk Management:

It's fall and time to watch out for deer in the road! For several reasons, including deer mating season, the change back to standard time, crop harvest that may flush out animals, and hunting season, this typically nocturnal animal is active and on the go. Hitting a deer can cause considerable damage to both people and property. Therefore, we encourage you to be **EXTREMELY ALERT** and on the lookout for deer when driving.

Some tips for avoiding deer on the roadway:

- Keep your eyes moving; don't just focus on the middle of the road. Pan the surrounding area for deer. Be proactive.
- Always wear your seatbelt. Most people seriously injured in deer crashes are not buckled up.
- Try to drive more slowly at night, giving yourself time to see a deer with your headlights. A deer is visible less than 200 feet from your vehicle; it takes a car about 317 feet to stop at 55 MPH under optimum conditions.
- When driving at night, always use high-beam headlights when there is no opposing traffic. Lowering the brightness of your dashboard lights slightly will make it easier to see deer.
- Do not rely on devices such as deer whistles, deer fences, and reflectors to deter deer. These devices have not proven effective.
- When you see brake lights, it could be because the driver ahead of you has spotted a deer. Stay alert as you drive by the spot, as more deer could try to cross.
- If you see a deer in the road, slow down, blow your horn and blink your high beams to urge the deer to leave the road. Stop if the deer stays in the road; don't try to go around it.

LRPRA Fall Festival

The annual LRPRA Fall Festival is scheduled for October 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tall Oaks Center. The event is family friendly and features food, games and prizes.

Can You Read? From Literacy Volunteers of America

Can you read? It's something most of us take for granted, yet there are many adults in our community who struggle with literacy every day. We are Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William. We offer free tutoring to adults who want to improve their lives through literacy. We are seeking adults who would like to become trained literacy volunteers. Tutoring experience is not needed. We will train you! Our next training is Saturday, November 7 (9-4) with the follow-up on Saturday, November 21 (9-12). There is a one-time \$35 fee for the training which covers the cost of your text book. Breakfast and lunch is provided. If you would like more information please visit our website at: www.lvapw.org or call us at 703-670-5702. Helping someone reach their goals is a very rewarding experience. Please consider joining our team!

2009 4-H Project Day for Kids!

Children ages 5 – 12 years are invited to participate in a day of workshops on Saturday, November 7 at Saunders Middle School. Some of the workshops offered include Mini Money Camp, Basic Photography, Duct Tape Fun and Crime Scene Investigation. Registration fee is \$15 per child. Workshops run from 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration forms are due no later than Monday, November 2, so contact the Prince William County Cooperative Extension Office at 703-792-6289 to sign up or to get more information.

Cell Phone Collection Program

Our office continues to collect used cell phones for the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program and the "Secure the Call" program. To make a donation, please stop by our office, located at 2241-B Tacketts Mill Drive in Lake Ridge, during normal business hours. If you have a preference of where your phone is donated, please notify us at the time of delivery. Thank you for your continued support!

Lake Ridge Lions Club Collects Used Eyeglasses

The Lake Ridge Lions Club is still collecting used eyeglasses around the community and our office is a collection location. Used eyeglasses are refurbished and distributed to needy in the community. Your donation is welcome.

Thanks for reading our October E-Update and please have a safe and enjoyable fall! As always, if we can ever be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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