



Greetings from the Occoquan District!

I hope that all is well with you and your family as another school year begins and we say “hello” to cooler weather.

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**Public Safety Training Exercise This Saturday!**

I wanted to inform you of a public safety training exercise planned for this Saturday, September 26. If you notice a large number of rescue vehicles in the area, please do not be alarmed.

The details of the exercise are as follows:

On Saturday, Sept. 26, the County is participating in the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System's (NVERS) full scale exercise. This is the third in a series of three exercises utilizing the same scenario and taking lessons learned and apply them to the next exercise. Responders from Fairfax County , Fairfax City , Arlington , Alexandria , Prince William and Loudoun are participating in their respective jurisdictions.

The scenario designed for Prince William County includes an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) being detonated at the entrance of the walkway from the parking lot to the VRE Rippon station platform. The simulated explosion is confined to the parking lot area and creates a mass casualty situation with many burn patients. The scenario is designed to test the capabilities of incident management and coordination of pre-hospital and medical surge resources.

The exercise will begin at 9 a.m. and will run for approximately three hours. Area residents may notice a number of public safety vehicles in the vicinity during the exercise. Operations for the Prince William County incident will include equipment and personnel from:

- Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue
- Prince William County Police Department
- Prince William County Office of Emergency Management
- Prince William County Department of Public Works
- American Red Cross
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Community volunteers

Pat Collins, 703-792-5828, is the Prince William County contact for this exercise.

### **Old Bridge Road Sidewalk Project Update**

The Prince William County Transportation Department is reporting that the sidewalk project along Old Bridge Road should be completed by the end of October (weather pending). At that time, a landscaping plan will be developed to add vegetation to the area. Recently, the Manassas Journal Messenger printed a story about the project's history and status. In case you missed it, it can be viewed at:

[http://www2.insidenova.com/isn/news/local/lake\\_ridge/article/old\\_bridge\\_sidewalk\\_project\\_could\\_be\\_finished\\_in\\_october/43547/](http://www2.insidenova.com/isn/news/local/lake_ridge/article/old_bridge_sidewalk_project_could_be_finished_in_october/43547/)

### **Dining with Diabetes Program**

The Virginia Cooperative Extension is hosting a "Dining with Diabetes" program in October to help those with diabetes and their families to learn about ways of controlling diabetes. The classes aim to increase knowledge about healthy food choices, healthy cooking techniques promote physical activity and encourage self-management. Classes are held October 7, 14, 21 and 28 at Bull Run Regional Library Community Room and costs \$40 for diabetes patients and \$15 for the family members or caregivers. Enrollment ends September 30. For more information please contact Nancy Stegon at 703-792-4764

### **Prince William Area Home Buying Information Fair**

The Prince William County Office of Housing is hosting a home buying fair on Saturday, October 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Dr. A.J. Ferlazzo Building. Workshops begin at 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and are free to the public. If you are interested in buying home, now is a great time and many resources will be available at the fair. For more information call 703-792-4392.

### **Citizen Satisfaction Survey**

I am pleased to announce that the 2009 Citizen Satisfaction Survey results are in and citizens report overall satisfaction with Prince William County services. In the event you are unfamiliar with the annual Citizen Satisfaction Survey, it serves as way for citizens to rate the quality of services and trust in their local government on an annual basis. The information collected provides us with valuable data and benchmarking so that we can continue to improve our service to the residents of Prince William County .

Below, please find a brief summary of the 2009 Survey.

This year's telephone survey of 1,746 randomly selected County residents was conducted from May 11 to June 24, 2009. Some of the highlights of survey include:

- Overall satisfaction with County services is 90.6 percent. More than one-third said they were "very satisfied" with the services of the County government in general.
- Overall quality of life in Prince William County increased to 7.30 (on a 1-10 scale), which is the highest it's been in four years.
- Satisfaction with the County providing effective and efficient services in general rose from 85.8 percent in 2008 to 89.7 percent in 2009.
- Satisfaction with value received for tax dollars increased from 74.8 percent in 2008 to 80.8 percent in 2009.
- Satisfaction with the job the County is doing in planning how land will be used and developed in the County increased from 56.4 percent in 2008 to 66.5 percent in 2009.
- Satisfaction with the way residential and business development is coordinated with transportation and road systems increased from 48.6 percent in 2008 to 59.1 percent in 2009.
- Satisfaction with the County's growth rate increased from 56.1 percent in 2008 to 70.5 percent in 2009 – the highest it has ever been.

For the complete survey, please visit [www.pwcgov.org/accountability](http://www.pwcgov.org/accountability). In addition, if you have comments about any of the survey topics or ideas about how your local government can better serve you, I hope you will contact me or my staff! We would love to hear from you.

#### **Cell Phone Collection Program**

In addition to collecting phones for "Cell Phones for Soldiers", a program that provides calling cards to soldiers serving overseas, our office is now collecting cell phones for the "Secure the Call" cell phone program. This new program refurbishes donated phones for distribution to elderly in the community. The phones are programmed to provide 911 emergency service at no cost to the elderly. We continue to welcome your donations. If you have a preference of where your phone is donated, please notify us at the time of delivery. And 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 September 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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