



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 1  
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2020

# PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



## BERTHA JUDGE NAMED DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Prince George County Administrator Percy Ashcraft has announced that Bertha Judge has been appointed Director of Social Services. Judge assumed the responsibilities on August 17th. Judge is no stranger to the department. She worked for Prince George County from 2011-18 as Administrative Manager in the Social Services Department before leaving to take the Director's position in Sussex County.



"We are very fortunate to be able to welcome Bertha back to Prince George County," commented Ashcraft. "She has worked extremely hard to grow within the profession, and has the confidence and willingness to achieve ultimate success." *(continued on pg. 2)*

## GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES AMAZON SELECTS PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam announced on February 19 that Amazon will open a new fulfillment center for its Amazon Basics line in Prince George County. The company will lease the former 798,000-square-foot Ace Hardware Corporation facility, adding up to 150 new jobs to Amazon's existing workforce of more than 10,000 full-time employees in the Commonwealth. Hiring has already started through the Amazon website.



"On behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the County Economic Development team, I am very excited about the expansion of Amazon in the former Ace Hardware building," said Prince George County Administrator Percy C. Ashcraft. "This investment will provide 150 new jobs for our community. The expansion also confirms that Prince George County continues to provide a business climate that is conducive for new and existing businesses to thrive and prosper."

## ROLLS-ROYCE IS CLOSING ITS DOORS

The Rolls-Royce aircraft component factory will close and lay off the remaining workforce by June 2021, a victim of the economic downturn and collapse in global airline travel resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jeff Stoke, Deputy County Administrator stated, "We are disappointed to hear about the Rolls-Royce decision to close the Crosspointe Centre facility in Prince George County, Virginia. We acknowledge the COVID-19 pandemic has decimated the aerospace industry and Rolls-Royce has reduced workforce at a global level. We will continue to work with Rolls-Royce in assisting the local labor force transition to their next endeavor and plan for an economic future beyond the pandemic."



The factory, which opened in 2011 on a 1,000-acre site, had reached peak employment of about 400 people last year. "The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a historic collapse in civil aviation, which will take several years to recover. As a result, we've had to make difficult, but necessary, decisions to protect the future of our business," stated Rolls-Royce North America spokesman Don Campbell.

In March 2012, the Rolls-Royce factory hosted a major public event for then-President Barack Obama, who toured the plant and spoke there to a large crowd of employees, visitors and media representatives, proposing a \$1 billion national network of research centers to foster manufacturing competitiveness in the United States.

### OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Bottoms Up held their grand opening on June 16th where a Key-to-the-County was presented. Bottoms Up is a children's used clothing store located at 4205 Crossings Blvd. They are open Monday - Saturday

from 10a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dollar General located at 14200 Moody Road is open!



New Dixie Mart

located at 12500 South Crater Road has gone through an extensive remodel and held their soft opening on July 27th.



### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT UPDATES



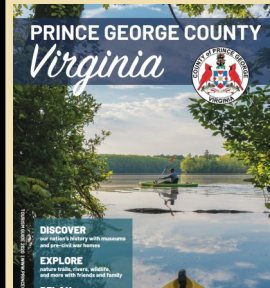
Post-quarantine restart of the 194,880 sq. ft. facility on Lot 12 within Southpoint Business Park is progressing very quickly. The Hollingsworth Companies states

that this facility will be available for lease or sale in the 4th quarter of 2020.

Rams Petroleum located at 12600 South Crater Road is under construction. Rams has planned a new convenience store and pump stations to accommodate travelers at Exit 45.



### COUNTY TOURISM UPDATE



The 2020 Tourism Guide is complete with new features and highlights of Prince George County. The new Tourism Guide can be found on our website under the Tourism Information Page. Unfortunately, many tourism events for 2020 have

been cancelled including the Virginia Garden Club Tour, several baseball and softball tournaments, The Great Beefsteak Raid and the Virginia Czech & Slovak Folklife Festival. The 2021 Dixie Softball World Series is still being planned.

### JUDGE NAMED DIRECTOR (CONT. PG. 1)

Judge inherits a department that has been extremely busy for the last few months serving citizens amidst the coronavirus pandemic. With higher unemployment in Prince George that is three times above the norm, many citizens are seeking benefits for the first time.

"Bertha understands the challenges of our residents," Ashcraft said. "Her leadership style fits perfectly into the opportunities ahead to continue to advance the department."

The department has an annual budget of five million dollars and has 27 employees. The director is also heavily involved with the Children's Services Act (CSA) responsibilities and issues related to emergency management and family displacement in times of disaster.

Judge received her bachelor's degree from Saint Paul's College, and her master's in administration and resource management from Central Michigan University.

Judge, who lives in Prince George County, was chosen from a pool of 56 applicants.

### PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY TO HOST DIXIE SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES IN 2021

On September 28, 2019 in Burns, Tennessee, the National Board of Directors for Dixie Softball, Inc. voted to award Prince George County, Virginia, the 2021 Dixie Softball World Series for both the Darlings division (7-8 years old) and Angels X-play division (9-10 years old).



The Dixie Softball World Series in 2021 will host teams from eleven states across the south and, as the host, Prince George County will be allowed to enter a team in both divisions to compete for the title.

The Prince George County Board of Supervisors and County Administrator have actively supported sports tourism initiatives and this "home run" is an exciting opportunity for the area to showcase our sports fields, local amenities, and community pride.

Planning efforts are underway and installation of new facility equipment at JEJ Moore Athletic Complex will take place in 2020.

### A NEW PLAYGROUND IS COMPLETE



The new playground at the JEJ Moore Sports Complex features equipment for ages 2-12. The facility has an asphalt walkway and a poured playground surface suitable for wheelchair accessibility.



## PARKS AND RECREATION

The pandemic has resulted in many activities and events being cancelled, but there is still so much for you to do! Here are a few things that may interest you:

**Line Dancing** - Prince George Parks and Recreation is offering Line Dancing with Balette Messer. Happy Feet Stepping to the beat. Something for everyone. Top 40, R&B, Shag, and many other dance songs thrown in. Dances are broken down for easy instruction and all about FUN. The five week class is open for ages 12 & up (16 and under must be accompanied by a parent) on Thursday evenings at the Prince George Community Center. The cost is \$25 per participant.



**YOGA- (Beginners)** – Yoga involves stretching and creating balance in the body through developing both strength and flexibility. Classes will be held for five weeks on Monday evenings at the Prince George Wellness Center (11023 Prince George Drive Disputanta, VA 23842) and Tuesday's at the Prince George Community Center for five weeks - bring a mat with you. Cost is \$25 per participant.

**Zumba** – Zumba is a fusion of Latin and International music – dance themes creating a dynamic, exciting, effective fitness workout. The routine features aerobic/fitness interval training with a combination of fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body. It is based on the principal that a workout should be “FUN AND EASY TO DO”. Classes will be held for five weeks on Monday evenings at the Prince George Wellness Center. Cost is \$25 per participant.



**Basic Abs and Fitness** – This class will include basic fitness combinations including jumping jacks, lunges, and sit-ups. Muscle conditioning is a complete dynamic full body workout for all fitness levels that delivers strength, balance, flexibility, endurance and core stability to tone, lengthen and define your muscles. This class incorporates all this using only your own body resistance to burn calories and get the results you desire. Classes will be held for five weeks on Tuesday evenings at the Prince George Community Center. Bring a mat for floor exercises and weights.

Class sizes are limited to follow State mandated COVID-19 distancing requirements, register early! *Temperatures will be taken when entering the building. A mask is required to be worn when entering and existing the building. Masks are not required during exercising.*

Register online at [www.princegeorgeva.org/online-registration](http://www.princegeorgeva.org/online-registration) or call the office at (804) 458-6164 with any questions.

The Parks and Recreation Community Center (11100 Old Stage Road) exercise rooms are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, for COUNTY RESIDENTS ages 13 and up. The cardiovascular room contains ellipticals, treadmills, and stationary bikes. The weight room houses strength training machines with limited free weights. *Due to mandated restrictions and space limitations, participation will be limited.*

Participants can call in (458-6164) on the last day of the work week and register for up to three 45-minute slots (a week) in either the cardio or weight room for the upcoming week. Slots will begin on the hour (7:00 – 7:45 a.m., 8:00 – 8:45 a.m., etc.) until the last slot which begins at 7:00 p.m. (6:00 p.m. on Friday). Registration fee is \$5 per month and/or \$50 a year.



Participants will have their temperature taken at the door and be asked to wear a mask until they are in the exercise room. Unfortunately, the Central Wellness Center exercise room is not available at this time due to mandated space constraints. Please give us a call if you have any questions at 458-6164. We look forward to seeing you!

Come visit this gorgeous recreation attraction and discover the beauty of Prince George County. The Appomattox River Regional Park is a 65-acre parcel of land on the banks of the Appomattox River, located at 800 FOLAR Trail, N. Prince George, 23860. The park has over two miles of trails, a canoe/kayak launch, an observation deck where you can fish and bird watch, an education pavilion, and two small river site pavilions.



### President and Vice President

Vote for only one

#### **DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

Joseph R. Biden, President  
Kamala D. Harris, Vice President

#### **REPUBLICAN PARTY**

Donald J. Trump, President  
Michael R. Pence, Vice President

#### **LIBERTARIAN PARTY**

Jo Jorgensen, President  
Jeremy F. "Spike" Cohen, Vice President

### Member

#### United States Senate

Vote for only one

Mark R. Warner - D  
Daniel M. Gade - R

### Member

#### House of Representatives 4th District

Vote for only one

A. Donald McEachin - D  
Leon Benjamin Sr. - R



### Constitutional Amendment #1

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to establish a redistricting commission, consisting of eight members of the General Assembly and eight citizens of the Commonwealth, that is responsible for drawing the congressional and state legislative districts that will be subsequently voted on, but not changed by, the General Assembly and enacted without the Governor's involvement and to give the responsibility of drawing districts to the Supreme Court of Virginia if the redistricting commission fails to draw districts or the General Assembly fails to enact districts by certain deadlines?

Yes

No

### Constitutional Amendment #2

Should an automobile or pickup truck that is owned and used primarily by or for a veteran of the United States armed forces or the Virginia National Guard who has a one-hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be free from state and local taxation?

Yes

No

Failure to notify the Registrar's Office of any change in name or address may result in temporary loss of voting privileges. If in doubt, please call the Registrar's office and verify your voting information. This will save you time on Election Day. Any questions about those affected by the restoration of rights for felons are urged to contact the Registrar's Office for information at 804-722-8748.

The Prince George County Board of Supervisors decided at its work session on September 1, 2020, to defer action on moving District 2 voting precinct from the County Courthouse to Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church until its December 8 meeting.

The action to defer leaves the voting precinct the same for the General Election in November. Contact Allan Richeson, County Registrar at [aricheson@princegeorgecountyva.gov](mailto:aricheson@princegeorgecountyva.gov) or (804) 722-8748 for any questions you may have.

The Registrar's Office is located in the County Administration Bldg. and office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. In-person absentee voting is available any time during these hours.

**House Bill 19, effective July 1, 2020, removed the requirement that voters show a form of identification containing a photograph in order to vote. Acceptable ID can be any one of the following:**

- Your voter confirmation documents
- Your Virginia driver's license
- Your Virginia DMV-issued photo ID
- Your U.S. Passport
- Your employer-issued photo ID
- Any other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID
- Your valid Tribal enrollment or other Tribal ID
- Your voter ID card issued by the Department of Elections
- A valid student ID issued by a public or private school of higher education located in the U.S.
- A valid student ID issued by a public or private high school in Virginia
- A current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or paycheck containing your name and address
- Any other current government document containing your name and address
- A signed ID confirmation statement

You must give (orally or in writing) your Full Legal Name and Current Residence Address upon request.

For more information, contact the Registrar's office at (804) 722-8748

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, Oct. 13 - **LAST** day to register to vote, or update an existing registration for the November General Election.

Friday, Oct. 23 - Last day to request an absentee ballot to be mailed to you.

Saturday, Oct. 24 - Registrar's office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for in-person absentee voting.

Saturday, Oct. 31 - Registrar's Office open 9am to 5pm for in-person absentee voting.

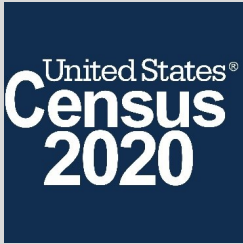
Tuesday, Nov. 3 - "ELECTION DAY" Polling locations open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.



## CENSUS 2020

- Every 10 years, we observe Census Day on April 1.
- August 2020—Census takers started door to door to count people who have not responded to the 2020 Census. Census takers are Census Bureau employees and will provide proof that they are official government personnel.
- December 31, 2020—By this date, as required by law, the Census Bureau reports to the President of the United States the population count and the apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives to each state.
- 2021—Initial 2020 Census data is made available to the public on census.gov.

The U.S. Census workers have been training in Prince George County to help maximize our complete count. These enumerators will be going from door to door for any address that has not submitted the census form. When you respond to the census, you help your community get its fair share of the more than \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs. Census 2020 – Make sure it counts!



## REPRESENTATIVES McEACHIN & SPANBERGER BRING CONVERSATION ON RURAL BROADBAND TO COUNTY



Congressman A. Donald McEachin (VA-04) and Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger (VA-07) co-hosted a Conversation on Rural Broadband with local officials, community leaders, and broadband advocates to discuss federal solutions to barriers expanding broadband access to unserved areas on February 20. Held at the Prince George Central Wellness Center, the roundtable was moderated by Jeffrey Stoke, Deputy County Administrator, and included leaders from the Prince George Electric Cooperative, VCTA - The Broadband Association of Virginia, and the Office of the Governor of Virginia.

“I was pleased to work with my colleague, Congresswoman Spanberger, to bring together federal, state, municipal and industry leaders for this critical conversation on rural broadband” stated Congressman McEachin. “Too frequently, constituents across the country struggle to ensure their voice is heard and their needs are addressed in Washington, and at the same time, Washington acts without engaging with impacted communities. Facilitating connections is where we do our best work,” McEachin continued.

## NEW MEMBERS ON THE

### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

We have three new members appointed to the Prince George County Industrial Development Authority:

Dr. Lillian K. Boyd  
Mr. Sterling Hunt, Sr.  
Mr. Darryl Cheek

Mr. James E. Cuddihy, Jr., Mr. F. Lewis Wyche, Jr., and Mr. William A. Young, Jr. all served with distinction during their time on the Board. The Richard Bland College dormitories bond financing, Rolls Royce, Service Center Metals, and the PGEC fiber to the home project all took place during their service on the board. We thank them for their successes in growing the economy of our community.

### FIBER TO THE HOME PROJECT PHASE II

Prince George Electric Cooperative and Prince George County come together again with the common goal of connecting our community through high-speed, fiber-to-the-home internet access.

Funding for Phase II of the broadband expansion will go toward the construction, equipment, operation, and installation of 500 new connection points, making broadband access available to potential subscribers within 1,000 feet of a VDOT road. With the county’s support, PGEC can expand broadband access to additional Prince George County residents at an accelerated pace.

“From educational opportunities to expanding workforce development initiatives, better access to better internet has never been more important. Our goal is to ultimately make access to fiber internet an option to everyone in Prince George County, and with the county’s continued support – this will be possible,” stated Casey Logan, Prince George Electric Cooperative President & CEO.

PGEC Enterprises, LLC DBA RURALBAND offers a secure, reliable, competitive, and sustainable infrastructure that is essential in meeting Prince George County’s future broadband needs. RURALBAND offers internet speeds of up to 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps), making it the best option for home-based businesses, online learning opportunities, accessing telemedicine resources, and more.

“The power of partnership is clear and is demonstrated by the successful partnership that began with the first broadband project with Prince George County. PGEC is grateful for Prince George County’s support in our FTTH initiative,” stated Paul Brown, Prince George Electric Cooperative chairman of the board.

Percy C. Ashcraft, Prince George County Administrator, stated, “We are pleased to enter into a second round of funding with this public/private partnership to help capitalize an expedited process during the COVID-19 pandemic. Broadband has become a required utility and, during these times of self-isolation, remains a vital link for work, school, family and even shopping. As Phase II targets the communities of Burrowsville and Carson, we hope our solution continues expansion and serves as a model for other communities.”

### PUBLIC RADIO SYSTEM UPDATE

Prince George County entered into contract with L3Harris Technologies to design, implement and support a new, state-of-the art, P25, Phase 2, digital, trunked public safety radio system. This technology is critical infrastructure for the effective reception and delivery of public safety service requests. The radio project includes nine (9) tower sites, and users will have the ability to effectively communicate anywhere within Prince George County and beyond. Currently, the County is in the process of working with tower site vendors to secure the required locations. In addition, Prince George County has entered into a maintenance agreement with L3Harris Technologies to provide maintenance to the system over the course of the next twenty (20) years. The project is tentatively scheduled for completion in December of 2021. The new system will replace the current, UHF, narrow-band system that was implemented in 2006.

### DRUG TAKE BACK EVENT

Prince George Police Department will host a drug take back event on October 24, 2020 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the parking lot next to the Police Department. For more information, contact the Community Services Unit at (804) 863-1846 or email [communitypolicing@princegeorgecountyva.gov](mailto:communitypolicing@princegeorgecountyva.gov).

### TAX REMINDER FY21

First half of FY2021 real estate taxes are due on or before **December 5, 2020**. Taxes not paid by this date will be subject to an immediate 10% penalty, plus interest. If you own property in Prince George County and have not received a tax bill, please call **(804) 722-8750**. Tax bills will be mailed no later than **November 5, 2020**. Failure to receive a bill does not relieve the taxpayer of any additional charges that will accrue under the law for failure to pay within the prescribed time. Please bring in or mail the bottom portion of the bill with payment. Office hours are 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m., Monday thru Friday. Drop boxes are available at the County Administration Building. **(Must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service by December 5, 2020).**

**Susan Clark Vargo, Treasurer**

### WREATH LAYING CEREMONIES

The wreath laying ceremony honors Prince George County Police Officers, Prince George County Sheriff's Deputies and Virginia State Police Officers that have fallen in the Line of Duty. There will be two ceremonies on December 6, 2020 at the following locations:

*Merchants Hope Cemetery - 9 a.m.*  
*Southlawn Cemetery - 11 a.m.*



### REGISTER YOUR ALARM SYSTEMS

On October 13, 2015, the Board of Supervisors amended the alarm ordinance combining law enforcement, fire, and personal medical alarm systems under one umbrella. Public Safety leaders recognized the need to create one alarm ordinance that is enforceable and manageable. Residential and commercial security alarm registration is required per the Prince George County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 34 – Emergency Services, Article II – Security Alarm Systems. So far in 2015, Police have answered 867 alarm calls and Fire/EMS has responded to 1,611.

What does this mean for citizens and businesses that have alarm systems? You will need to obtain and complete an alarm registration form which is then submitted to the police department. This supplies contact information to the Emergency Communications Center during a real emergency or false alarm. The details provided by the owner assist public safety personnel as they respond to an alarm call.

The registration forms can be found on the County's website at [www.princegeorgecountyva.gov](http://www.princegeorgecountyva.gov) or obtained from the police department. For individuals with questions, please contact Tamie Perryman at the police department at (804) 733-2773 or by e-mail at [tperryman@princegeorgecountyva.gov](mailto:tperryman@princegeorgecountyva.gov).

### PG TRIAD

#### MEETING SCHEDULE

October 26 - Regular meeting at 1:00 p.m. @ PG Library

November 23 - Regular meeting at 1:00 p.m. @ PG Library

December 21 - Holiday luncheon at noon at PG Parks & Rec

\*Meetings are subject to cancellation due to COVID-19



### JEFFERSON PARK FIRE STATION UPDATE

At the beginning of May 2019, the County began its journey towards replacing the existing Jefferson Park Fire Station. The existing facility is over 30 years old and has reached its capacity with the addition of full-time, 24-hour career personnel. The new station will be located at the intersection of Brandywine Drive and Garfield Street, within a mile of the current facility. The County is currently working with the owner/developer to secure the property.

Over the past year, Fire & EMS and the General Services Staff have worked closely with HBA Architects to design a station that can accommodate both volunteer and career staff seamlessly, as they work collaboratively to serve the Jefferson Park area. The project has faced challenges in the design such as ensuring enough space for both career and volunteer staff assigned to the station, providing adequate space for training, and areas for both rest and physical fitness. The three-bay station will have drive-through apparatus bays and will be constructed very similarly to Station #7 on Moody Road. The station will house an engine, a tower ladder, and an ambulance. The station handles on the average 1800 Fire and EMS calls for service annually making Station 5 the busiest company in the County.

The design will be shared with the Board of Supervisors in October. Construction is scheduled to start in March 2021 with completion sometime in late December 2021 to January 2022.



### SEPTIC PUMPOUT PROGRAM

The Prince George County Department of Community Development & Code Compliance Environmental Division continues the management of our Septic Pumpout and Inspections Program which was operationally transferred from the State Health Department. The intent of the program is to help improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area (CBPA) of the county through non-point source pollutant management. Approximately 2,400 households and businesses located within the CBPA of the county serviced by private on-site septic systems are required to participate in the program, which is designed to pumpout or inspect systems every 5 years.

The division saw a 79% compliance rate for our Zone 3 mailings which is made up of 397 properties. Due to the effects of the Pandemic, it was determined the best course of action would be to delay the Zone 4 mailings, which consist of 178 properties, from June, 2020 to September, 2020. After Zone 4 is completed, Zone 5 mailings are anticipated to be mailed to 113 properties beginning on June 1, 2021.

To aide with citizen service, the department has an email system for the program: [septicpumpoutprogram@princegeorgecountyva.gov](mailto:septicpumpoutprogram@princegeorgecountyva.gov). This email system has proven to be a very valuable tool in assisting with questions and concerns as well as a convenient way to accept program documentation.

A very special thank you to all who have helped to make this program a success!

### STORMWATER PROJECT UPDATES

The County recently completed three major stream restoration projects in the County and is working towards completing several smaller projects. Requests for Bids and grant applications are being developed for identified projects in the Branchester Lakes, Wildwood Farms and Rivers Edge subdivisions, as well as continuing work in the Birchett Estates and New Birchett subdivisions.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) awarded Prince George County an additional \$655,109 grant for the stream restoration projects in the Birchett Estates subdivision. Additional funding for this project is provided through the County's Stormwater Utility Fund. Fees collected through the Stormwater Utility Fee program can only be used for stormwater improvement projects throughout the County.



### BOARD ADOPTS SOLAR FACILITY SITING POLICY

As our global energy needs increase and energy providers look towards renewable sources to meet demands, Solar Energy is emerging as one of the fastest growing solutions for energy needs. Prince George



County has received several requests for construction of Solar Energy Facilities throughout the County, and has developed a policy governing the site design and development of these facilities. The Board of Supervisors adopted the Solar Facility Siting Policy at their August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, after delaying adoption in order to receive additional public comment on the policy. The siting policy is designed to set standards and guidelines for solar facility applications and development, and will be used when reviewing requests.

The policy addresses items such as public notices and meetings for proposed solar projects, setbacks from neighboring properties, landscaping and buffering, and requirements for removing panels and equipment when the useful life of the facility is complete. The policy will assist the Board in their consideration of future project requests in the County.

### PRINCE GEORGE CARES

#### SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Prince George County, in partnership with the Prince George Industrial Development Authority, is launching the "Prince George CARES Small Business Grant" program to support small businesses negatively affected by COVID-19.

The \$50,000 maximum grant is designed to provide immediate relief to a small business through the COVID-19 pandemic and assist for reopening under the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The County Board of Supervisors allocated \$1.7 million dollars, dedicated for the grant program, from the Governor's Office of the Commonwealth of Virginia through the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Coronavirus Relief Funds.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate that they are eligible per federal requirements, that they were operational pre-COVID-19, and that they are suffering negative business impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The online application process started on Wednesday, July 15th at 2 pm and ends October 30 at 5 pm or until the available funding is fully distributed. Funding is on a first come, first serve basis. Details on the program and the online application can be found on the Prince George County website through the COVID-19 Business Assistance Page. Link for program: [https://www.princegeorgecountyva.gov/business/cares\\_grant.php](https://www.princegeorgecountyva.gov/business/cares_grant.php)

## FISCAL YEAR 2021 ADOPTED BUDGET

The Prince George County Board of Supervisors adopted the FY2021 fiscal plan on May 26. The total adopted budget was \$3.5 million less than the budget County Administrator, Percy C. Ashcraft, proposed on February 25, chiefly due to anticipated COVID-19 impacts on revenues for the County, Public Utility and School Division.

FUND	FY2021 ADOPTED BUDGET	DROP FROM PROPOSED	FY2020 BUDGET
General Fund	\$60.27	\$(1.45)	\$57.76
School Funds	71.72	(1.48)	71.48
Utility Funds	8.5	(0.26)	8.54
Capital & Debt Funds	10.52	(0.02)	8.55
Other Funds	4.08	(0.67)	4.26
Transfers	(28.91)	0.31	(27.52)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$126.19</b>	<b>\$(3.56)</b>	<b>\$123.07</b>

Despite continued increases in service demands during 2019 there were no tax rate or fee increases included in the approved budget. In response to the financial strains being felt by residents and local businesses, *proposed* increases in permit fees, business and professional occupational license (BPOL) taxes, and increases to water (3%) and sewer (1%) rates were *eliminated* prior to approval of the FY2021 budget.

Only one additional / new County position survived the elimination and remained in the approved FY2021 budget; a Utility Meter Technician (paid from the Public Utility Fund Budget). Seven (7) proposed additional General Fund positions were cut, as were the majority of departmental requests for additional supplies, equipment, services and software. There will be no pay increases for County staff, nor will employees progress in various departmental career development programs. Training, travel, food, special events, fuel and repair budgets were trimmed below FY2020 levels to address a variety of required and mandated increases in:

- Capital contribution for new Walton Elementary School & other County & School Capital Projects
- Retirement contributions and worker's compensation premiums
- Regional Jail and Detention Center contributions
- Children's Services Act costs
- Software & contracted services commitments

Currently there are no planned staff layoffs, but conservative spending is planned for the duration of FY2021. Revenues and spending will be carefully monitored throughout the year as COVID-19 financial impacts continue to unfold.

The Board of Supervisors remains committed to the construction of a new Walton Elementary School and the School Division has indicated that project planning is nearly complete.

A copy of the FY 2020-2021 Adopted Budget is available on the County's website at <http://www.princegeorgecountyva.gov/Departments/Finance/Forms, Documents & Reports>].

## NACO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The National Association of Counties (NACo) granted Prince George County a 2020 Achievement Award for its program titled "IGSA between Fort Lee and Prince George County, VA for E911" in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

## WORKING WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

It is not often that the Federal government appropriates funding to a local government. But, that is exactly what happens when local government leaders actively engage their military counterparts and keep the lines of (emergency) communication open, literally. A sidebar discussion eventually led to an Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) signing ceremony on February 8, 2019 between Prince George County and Fort Lee.

The Fort Lee Police Department initiated discussions with the County Police Department to enter into a local agreement, which would add Fort Lee to the County's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and call handling system. This agreement will grant Fort Lee access to a newer CAD system and grant additional benefits to emergency calls on base. The IGSA will also improve interagency cooperation with the two entities sharing the same system and call handling equipment. The contract is for a period of five (5) years with the ability to renew for successive one (1) year periods for four (4) additional years.

Some of the highlights:

- Upgraded 911 CAD capabilities will decrease emergency response times and increase accuracy of emergency reporting in Prince George County and Fort Lee.
- Upgrades to the 911 CAD will bring the Prince George County 911 system in compliance with the Enhanced 911 dispatch standards, mandatory by 2022.
- Fort Lee's total 5-year investment is \$308K, which represents a \$5.3M cost avoidance over five years for taxpayers (difference in cost for a new Fort Lee only CAD system).

There will be an increased cost in expenditures during the contract term, but Fort Lee will be reimbursing Prince George County for 100% of the expenditures. The County will maintain the shared software and hardware installed in the County, while Fort Lee will maintain any equipment and software installed for Fort Lee staff. And since all of Fort Lee is within Prince George County, this partnership will provide an even closer working relationship for the public safety groups of both organizations. The project went live on January 30, 2020 and is now in full operation.





## FARMERS MARKET WAS A SUCCESS DESPITE THE PANDEMIC



This season was very different for everyone. The market was scheduled to open on May 2 but with the pandemic, the County wasn't sure if there would even be a market. After some creative thinking, it was decided that curbside pickup could be a great option. Corrie Hurt, the Market Manager, started exploring what other markets were doing to bring fresh produce to their customers, and soon after, the planning began. The market opened with curbside pick up on May 16 and a full market opened on May 23 with curbside pick up remaining an option for the entire market season.

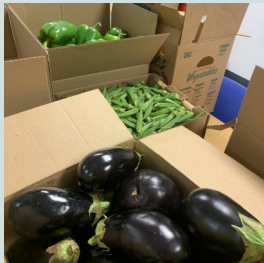
The season started with approximately 16 vendors and quickly grew to an average of 27 vendors per week. Vendors were required to wear a face covering when dealing with the public, and the market operated under new maximum occupancy regulations for the season. Several vendors set up outside of the pavilion with pop-up tents and tables. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, no additional activities were held in conjunction with the Farmers Market.

We are optimistic that next year will bring about some exciting extracurricular activities for people of all ages, as long as the Farmers Market guidelines allow. The initial planning has already started. Some ideas are expanded market days, children's story time, free children's book giveaways, "best of" competition, scavenger hunts for fresh ingredients, "building and painting" a birdhouse, craft days, senior day at the market, biggest pumpkin contest, recipe creation competitions, and much more!

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Corrie Hurt, Market Manager at [farmersmarket@princegeorgecountyva.gov](mailto:farmersmarket@princegeorgecountyva.gov) or by calling (804) 722-8777. The '21 application will be made available by late October 2020. Vendor spaces under the pavilion will be given on a first come, first serve basis. The overflow of vendors will be set up in the grass area around the pavilion.



### FRESH PRODUCE DELIVERED IN THE COMMUNITY



The County received CARES Act funding from the government that could be used to cover certain COVID-related expenses. The idea that there may be people who were unable to come to the Farmers Market to get fresh produce due to the pandemic was unsettling to County leaders. A team was quickly in place to formulate a plan to get this produce into the hands of the people who need it as quickly as possible.

Within three weeks, produce vendors were notified and teams were in place to deliver fruits and vegetables to six locations throughout the community. On September 19, three teams delivered produce to Bexley, Hills, and Oak Shades mobile home parks. On October 3, three more teams delivered produce to Manning, Country Aire, and Whispering Winds mobile home parks.

Each person who wanted to shop for produce was given a canvas Farmers Market bag that they could put their items in. The bags are reusable and have Prince George Farmers Market with the County seal on them. Citizens were very pleased with the produce they received and were very grateful to the County leaders for coordinating this effort.

County Administrator, Percy Ashcraft stated, "This is what it's all about, people helping people." We would like to give a special thank you to Archer Farms Produce, Mount Sinai Gardens, and Sunnyside Farms for their hard work in their gardens to make this possible.



### LOCAL FOOD BANK SUPPORT NEEDED

The coronavirus pandemic has brought a lot of uncertainty to our homes and neighborhoods. As unemployment rises, some people don't have access to basic necessities such as food. The best way to help support the local food bank is through a financial donation.

The food bank will use your donation to fulfill their exact needs efficiently. Having access to funds allows the staff to rise to the occasion as needs and situations shift. During this time when the future is unclear, monetary donations prepare the food bank to swiftly pivot to tackle needs in the community as they arise.

If you are unable to donate monetarily, the Food Bank can always use reliable volunteers to assist. Helping out, at any level, is fundamental to what food banks are. When volunteering, you will get the satisfaction that comes from rallying around the community at a time where we've perhaps never been more isolated. What the person who comes to ask for food will get, from your contribution combined with others in the area coming together, is help when it's possible no one else can. Contact Andre Barnes at (804) 733-1619 to see how you can volunteer or contribute to help make a difference in our community.

## **ROUTE 156 WATER MAIN EXTENSION AND ROUTE 460 WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS - UPDATE**

The Route 460 water system improvements is an extension of the 12" water main from the Petersburg Jail Annex to the booster station located near the Food Lion Distribution Center. The improvements will also include upgrades to the existing booster station located near the Food Lion Distribution Center. The water line extension was advertised for bid and a contractor has been selected; however, easement acquisitions have caused delays to the start of construction. Construction activities along Route 460 are anticipated to begin in October. The improvements to the booster station are anticipated to begin later in the winter.

The Route 156 water main extension project is an extension of the 12" water main along Route 156 from Mount Sinai Rd (west) to Pine Ridge mobile home park. The project was advertised with bids due on August 27. Construction activities along Route 156 are anticipated to begin in November. Residents and businesses along the new water lines will have an opportunity to connect to the county water system after the projects are complete. The Board of Supervisors has approved a 50% reduction in the connection fee for single-family homes that connect within 60 days after the water lines are made available. This represents a reduction of \$1,500 off the \$3,000 connection fee. The connection fee for single-family homes after the 60 days will revert back to \$3,000.

## **JORDAN ON THE JAMES FILTER REPLACEMENT**

The replacement of the water filtering system at Jordan on the James began on August 3. These filters are used to reduce natural elements found in well water to acceptable levels for drinking. The project is contractually scheduled to be completed in early November; however, the contractor has made significant progress and completion is anticipated in early October.

Customers should not notice any disruption of service during this work. The Jordan on the James well system is interconnected with the Beechwood Manor well system that supports Jordan on the James. Any work that may result in a reduction in water production will be coordinated during times of low water use. This work is approved by the Virginia Department of Health to ensure water quality is not impacted during construction.

## **PERMIT TO DISCHARGE TREATED WASTEWATER INTO BLACKWATER SWAMP**

On August 3, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit to the County to allow the discharge of treated wastewater into the Blackwater Swamp. Should the County decide to construct a wastewater treatment plant, this permit sets the limits of known contaminants in treated wastewater that would be discharged into the swamp. The permit also defines the monitoring and reporting requirements to demonstrate the treatment plant is operating within these limits. The permit was issued following a 30-day public comment period, which ended on July 13.

The County Board of Supervisors are still considering the options of building a waste water treatment plant or a new wastewater pipeline to Hopewell's treatment facility. The permit gives the County assurance that the regulating agencies would approve the discharge of the treated wastewater into the Blackwater Swamp should the Board decide a treatment plant is the best option to address the future wastewater capacity needs of the County. The Board has recently authorized a preliminary engineering report to begin conceptual design options and cost estimates for both options to better understand the impacts of each project.

## **WATER EXTENSION TO ROUTE 10 CORRIDOR**

A Preliminary Engineering Report was completed to consider improvements to extend the central water system supplied by ARWA to the Route 10 corridor. The report recommends a 4.5-mile water line extension from Sandy Ridge Road to serve the subdivisions of Jordan on the James, Beechwood Manor, and eventually Rivers Edge.

The well systems at Jordan on the James and Beechwood Manor would be decommissioned after connecting to the central system, resulting in a future cost avoidance to replace the aged infrastructure. This project would also support new developments in the corridor but will require such developments to construct a new tank and booster station. The design of the water extension will begin in October. The construction of the water line has not been scheduled at this time.



### TEMPLE AVENUE TANK AND BOOSTER STATION

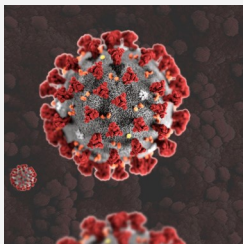
A Preliminary Engineering Report was completed to consider improvements required to provide the needed water capacity to serve the Southpoint business park and utilize the current allocation of 2.69 MGD from ARWA. The report recommends a new 1-million-gallon tank and 4 MGD booster station to maximize the use of the ARWA water supply to deliver 2 MGD to the Southpoint Business Park, a primary goal of the 2016 Master Plan. The new facilities would be located in the vicinity of the Temple Ave and River Road intersection. This location would also be suitable should the County pursue building a new water plant on the Appomattox River. This project will also decommission the aging booster station located near the Jefferson Avenue and Middle Road intersection. The design of the tank and booster station will begin in October. The construction of these facilities has not been scheduled at this time.

### NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

The Elementary School Steering Committee and the Design Committee have been working over the summer to finalize the design of the County's new elementary school, to be located on Middle Road. The school will accommodate 850 students ranging from Pre-K to fifth grade. The design of the school features multiple collaborative learning areas for each grade, a full-size gymnasium, and areas for reading, art, and music. Construction is slated to begin in the Spring of 2021.



### CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19 UPDATE)



The public was allowed to enter the Prince George County Administration Building under normal business hours beginning Wednesday, June 17, but under specific guidelines.

Balancing a robust local government for which Prince George County is known with protocols, resources, and procedures to reduce COVID-19 risks to our community has been our principal focus over the last few months. Our preparations have been aided by focusing on seven essential areas including preparing the building, preparing the workforce, reducing the number of entry points, creating a social distancing plan, reducing touch points, increasing cleaning standards, and communicating for confidence. While we have provided a host of considerations to help plan for and manage a successful reopening of the workplace, each department has unique needs that require a unique roadmap.

We have seen the effectiveness of face coverings, social distancing, and other measures to minimize exposure to the novel coronavirus, and we have continued to refine our monitoring, isolation and notification protocols. Prince George County also continues to monitor local conditions and receives frequent updates and input from public health officials. We will continue to provide more guidance and recommendations as new ideas and practices emerge. That's part of our ongoing commitment to helping our citizens prepare for what's next. In the meantime, contact us to learn more about how we can help you during this crucial phase of the recovery.

### Daily Visitors to Administration Building

WKLY TOTALS 6/17-6/18	WKLY TOTALS 6/22-6/26	WKLY TOTALS 6/29-7/2	WKLY TOTALS 7/6-7/10	WKLY TOTALS 7/13-7/17	WKLY TOTALS 7/20-7/24	WKLY TOTALS 7/27-7/31	WKLY TOTALS 8/3-8/7	WKLY TOTALS 8/10-8/14	WKLY TOTALS 8/17-8/21	WKLY TOTALS 8/24-8/28	WKLY TOTALS 8/31-9/4
269	974	270	271	322	284	266	244	269	271	355	426



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**Alan R. Carmichael**  
Vice-Chairman  
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**Floyd M. Brown, Jr.**  
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**Marlene J. Waymack**  
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**T.J. Webb**  
District 2  
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(804) 895-3022

tjwebb@princegeorgecountyva.gov

## ANIMAL VACCINATIONS & LICENSES

Dogs and cats over the age of 4 months must have a current rabies vaccination.

A signed and valid rabies certificate is required to obtain a county dog license.

County licenses are due by January 31st of each year unless you purchased a 3 year tag.

### FEES

#### **Dog License:**

\$10.00 not spayed or neutered

\$5.00 spayed or neutered

#### **Kennels:**

20 Dog Kennel: \$30 (5 valid rabies certs. req.)

50 Dog Kennel: \$50 (20 valid rabies certs. req.)



**Percy C. Ashcraft**  
County Administrator  
(804) 722-8600  
pashcraft@princegeorgecountyva.gov

## Board of Supervisors

### Meeting Schedule

10/13/20 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.

10/27/20 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.

11/12/20 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.

11/24/20 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.

12/08/20 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.

01/12/21 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.

**\*\*The 2021 dates will be approved at the January 12th Board of Supervisors Meeting.**

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