



VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1
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2021

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



GOVERNOR NORTHAM ANNOUNCES SERVICE CENTER METALS TO INVEST \$101.7 MILLION IN PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY EXPANSION, CREATING 94 NEW JOBS

CENTRAL WELLNESS CENTER RENOVATIONS ARE COMPLETE



Renovations have been completed on a \$1.5m project to enhance several areas such as masonry work, roofing, fire protection, bathrooms, electrical, fire alarm and HVAC. The

CWC is now open to the public for the exercise room, gym, community group rooms and several special events that are being planned. The CWC will be utilized as an official County primary shelter during emergency times of need for the community.

A special re-dedication of the facility will be held October 30 to honor the past and look toward the future wellness of our community.

Governor Ralph Northam announced that Service Center Metals, a manufacturer of aluminum extrusions, will invest \$101.7 million to expand its footprint in Prince George County. The company will construct an aluminum extrusion plant and a Compact Remelt Plant in Crosspointe Centre to increase production and meet customer demand, mirroring its campus in SouthPoint Business Park. Virginia successfully competed with Tennessee for the project, which will create 94 new jobs.



Floyd M. Brown, Jr., Chairman, Prince George County Board of Supervisors stated, "I am proud to announce another expansion to one of our most successful and homegrown companies, Service Center Metals.

Continued on page 2

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY IS THE 5TH FASTEST GROWING COUNTY IN THE STATE

The U.S. Census initial numbers were released on August 12, 2021. Only behind the counties of Loudoun (34.7%), New Kent (24.5%), Stafford (21.6%), and Manassas Park (20.6%), Prince George County's population increased 20.4% from the year 2010 with an added population of 7,285 making it the 5th fastest growing County in the State. Preliminary information about this increase can be found at the Virginia Public Access Project. <https://www.vpap.org/visuals/visual/population-change/>

At the time of print, the Prince George County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 on September 28 to keep the two district election model and not shift to five single member districts within the county. The adjusted two district election model with the new census data is set to be presented October 26 with a possible public hearing on November 23.



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Fort Lee Grand Openings: Since Fort Lee is located entirely within Prince George County, County staff and the Fort Lee Army & Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES) have worked to recognize businesses opening on Fort Lee. A grand opening for six Fort Lee businesses (Tropical Smoothie; Richmond Comix Tricities; PXtra Beauty Supply; Get it Done Sportz; Jimmy Johns; and Beauty Salon – The Braiding Station) was held on July 9th at the PXtra on Fort Lee. Earlier this year, a grand opening ceremony was also held for the Award and Frame Shop, which opened in the Main Exchange on Fort Lee.



Hollingsworth Buildings:

The Hollingsworth Companies began construction on a 650,250 SF speculative building in the Southpoint Industrial Park in February 2021. This is the largest speculative building in the region and will contribute hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in investments to Prince George County.



Holy Mackerel Brewing: Holy Mackerel is now open at 700 Jordan Point Road, home of the former Dockside



Restaurant. The new taproom offers a full bar, craft beer and a full food menu focused on seafood and offers other items such as nachos, salads, burgers and tacos. Holy Mackerel is currently open for limited hours Thursday – Sunday. Updates will be posted on their website:

www.holymackerelbeers.com/Virginia and to their Facebook page: @holymackerelva.

Scott Park Dedication: Prince George County held a dedication for the new infrastructure updates at Upper Scott Park on Saturday, May 22. Remarks were made by Chairman Floyd M. Brown, Jr. of the Board of Supervisors, Percy Ashcraft, County Administrator, and Chairman, Keith Brown of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council.



SERVICE CENTER METALS (CONT. PG. 1)

This investment will provide new jobs for those who wish to live and work in our community. The private investment expansion of over \$100 million also confirms that Prince George County has created the environment for new and existing businesses to thrive and prosper.”

Scott Kelley, President & CEO, Service Center Metals stated, “The Commonwealth of Virginia and Prince George County have both played significant roles in catapulting Service Center Metals from a greenfield startup in 2002 into the North American benchmark for safety and productivity today. Our next expansion will be the largest in our history, adding significant capacity to both our billet casting and extrusion operations that will further satisfy our customers’ needs. Virginia’s excellent business climate, including its right-to-work status, strategic location, and access to a world-class workforce, was significant in our site selection process. As the saying goes - “there’s no place like home” - and we’re proud and excited to be expanding in Virginia.”

Service Center Metals was founded in 2002 and started operations in 2003 in Prince George, and has evolved into a top aluminum extrusion and billet company. Service Center Metals produces aluminum rods, bars, shapes, and tubing; all of which are shipped to metal service centers across the United States. The company is vertically integrated with two plants on its 30-acre campus in SouthPoint Business Park. Its flagship extrusion plant has two state-of-the-art presses and its Compact Remelt Plant, the world’s largest horizontal billet casting plant, recycles its scrap and produces aluminum logs for its extrusion presses.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Prince George County to secure the project for Virginia. Governor Northam approved a \$350,000 grant from the Commonwealth’s Opportunity Fund to assist Prince George County with the project. The Governor also approved a performance-based grant of \$900,000 from the Virginia Investment Performance Grant, an incentive that encourages continued capital investment by existing Virginia companies. Service Center Metals is eligible to receive state benefits from the Virginia Enterprise Zone Program, administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Funding and services to support the company’s employee training activities will be provided through the Virginia Jobs Investment Program.

PARKS AND RECREATION

SPORTS AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Basketball - Basketball is for county residents ages 7-15. A birth certificate is required at the time of registration. Co-Ed league for ages 7-8, Pee Wee Boys for ages 9-10, Junior Boys for ages 11-12 and Girls for ages 9-11, Senior Boys for ages 13-15 and Girls for ages 12-15. Must be 7 years old and cannot have turned 16 on or before January 1, 2022. Registration will be held October 4 - November 5. Register online at www.princegeorgeva.org/onlineregistration or at the Parks and Recreation office Monday through Friday 8:30am-5pm. The fee is \$30 for one child, \$50 for two children and \$70 for three children.



Adult Basketball - Registration will be held October 4-November 5. Prince George Parks and Recreation is offering a Basketball League for participants 35 and older (participants must be 35 years of age by January 1, 2022). The \$175 team registration fee is required at sign-up. The league will begin in December and run through the beginning of March, number of games will depend on the number of teams. Participants must live or work in Prince George County.

Wrestling - Wrestling is for county residents ages 5-14 (must be 5 years of age and cannot have turned 15 years of age on or after October 1, 2021). A birth certificate is required at the time of registration. The season will begin in November and go through February. Registration will be held September 27 - October 29. The fee is \$75 per participant. Register at the Prince George County Parks and Recreation Office or online at www.princegeorgeva.org/onlineregistration.



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Tree Lighting - The Annual Prince George Parks and Recreation Tree Lighting will be held on December 1 at 7:00 PM beside the Historic Courthouse. Enjoy Christmas songs and refreshments. Join us in welcoming the holiday season!



Christmas Parade: The Prince George Parks and Recreation will hold their Annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 4th beginning at 3:00 pm. Any persons or group wanting to be in the parade can call 804-458-6164. Applications are available at the Parks & Recreation Office (11100 Old Stage Road) Monday through Friday from 8:30am-5:00pm October 25- November 19. All parade applications must be turned in by November 19.

Christmas Decorations and Display Contest: All Prince George residents, businesses and churches are encouraged to enter the Christmas decoration-judging contest. Awards will be given for the following **six** categories: "Traditional", "Religious Display", "Tacky Holiday Fun", "Best Front Door and Porch", "Children's Delight", and new this year "Businesses and/or Churches." **Participants can enter in two of these categories.** We will also have a separate category Most Facebook Likes!. Judging Date TBA. For more info please call 804-458-6164.

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 stationery bikes. The weight room houses strength training machines with free weights. Due to mandated restrictions and space limitations, participation will be limited. Registration fee is \$5 per month and/or \$50 a year. Please contact Parks & Recreation at (804) 458-6164 for more information on the availability of the Central Wellness Center exercise room and to receive a status update on mask requirements that are in place at the time of your planned visit.

GOVERNOR

Vote for only one

Glenn A. Youngkin - R
Terry R. McAuliffe - D
Princess L. Blanding - LP

**MEMBER
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
63RD DISTRICT**

Vote for only one
Kim A. Taylor - R
Lashrecse D. Aird - D

**MEMBER
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISTRICT 1**

Floyd M. Brown, Jr.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vote for only one

Winsome E. Sears - R
Hala S. Ayala - D

**MEMBER
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
64TH DISTRICT**

Vote for only one
Emily M. Brewer - R
Michael H. Drewry - D

**MEMBER
SCHOOL BOARD
DISTRICT 1**

Vote for only one
Robert E. L. "Rob" Eley III
Anthony C. Howard

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Vote for only one

Jason S. Miyares - R
Mark R. Herring - D

CLERK OF COURT

For unexpired term to end
December 31, 2023
Joyce Burke Jackson

**MEMBER
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISTRICT 2**

Marlene J. Waymack

**MEMBER
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
62ND DISTRICT**

Vote for only one

Carrie Emerson Coyner - R
Jasmine E. Gore - D

SHERIFF

For unexpired term to end
December 31, 2023
Vote for only one
Paul W. Burroughs
R.W. "Buck" Vargo
Christina L. "Crissy" Woods

**MEMBER
SCHOOL BOARD
DISTRICT 2**

Christopher "Chris" Johnson

The Registrar's Office is located in the County Administration Building and office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In-person absentee voting is available September 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with Saturday hours available on October 23 and October 30 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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.

Bring Your ID - You need to show your ID or sign an ID confirmation statement to vote in person in this election.

Acceptable forms of identification:

- Voter confirmation documents
- Virginia DMV-issued driver's license* or ID card **
- United States Passport (valid)
- Employer-issued photo ID (valid)
- Student ID issued by a Virginia college/university/high school (valid)
- Student photo ID issued by U.S. college/university (valid)
- Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued ID
- Tribal enrollment or other tribal ID (valid)
- Virginia Voter Photo ID card
- Any current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document with your name and address (within the past 12 months)
- A signed ID confirmation statement

*Virginia law permits an expired Virginia DMV license to be used for voting purposes.

**A Virginia driver's privilege card is not acceptable for voting purposes.

A voter who does not bring an acceptable ID to the polls or does not sign an ID Confirmation Statement will be offered a provisional ballot.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, Oct. 12 - LAST day to register to vote or update an existing registration for the November General Election.

Friday, Oct. 22 - Last day to request an absentee ballot to be mailed to you.

Saturday, Oct. 23 - Registrar's office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for in-person absentee voting.

Saturday, Oct. 30 - Registrar's Office open 9am to 5pm for in-person absentee voting.

Tuesday, Nov. 2 - "ELECTION DAY" Polling locations open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

DIXIE SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES

HOSTED IN PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

From July 23-27, Prince George County hosted the Darlings and Angels X-Play divisions of Dixie Softball at JEJ Moore Athletic Complex. There were twenty teams participating, including a Prince George County team in each division.

Kristi Higgins', Progress Index article, reported on July 26; "It's been a long time [2012] since we've been in Virginia for a World Series," said Dixie Softball, Inc. President Obie Evans of Birmingham, Alabama. "The Prince George people are doing a fantastic job and have a fantastic facility." According to President Evans, one of his directors reported that Prince George County is hosting one of the best organized World Series that he's ever witnessed.



The community economic impact is conservatively estimated at \$782,085 with hotels, restaurants, retail, and entertainment venues in the area. Tennessee won the Darlings division and South Carolina won the Angels X-Play division.

CITIZEN COMMITTEES GIVE NEW PERSPECTIVE TO BOS

Citizen involvement in County Government is very important to the Board of Supervisors. Earlier this year, three citizen committees were authorized – a Senior Citizens Task Force, a Pastor's Council and a Youth Task Force – to receive input on matters of importance in these areas.

The Senior Citizens Task Force has members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Its mission is to discuss and recommend ways to assist the 50+ age population in Prince George County. A citizen's survey was taken and a list of priorities was established.

The Pastor's Council is comprised of representatives from churches and parishes in Prince George County. Its mission is to discuss issues that are mutually important to the faith community and Prince George County Government.

The Youth Task Force is waiting appointments from the Board of Supervisors. Its mission will be to identify ways to assist youth in their formidable years and tackle complex issues such as bullying and peer pressure.

All the committee meetings are open to the public. Contact County Administration at (804) 722-8600 for times and dates of the meetings.

ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

In August, the 9th annual back to school fair allowed the public to drive-through and pick up school supplies. Although it seemed to be a non-traditional way of doing things, there were 649 backpacks distributed to county children. An additional 241 backpacks were provided to the schools to distribute to children that were identified



as being in need of a backpack with supplies. This event would not be possible without the generous support of many churches, employees, citizens and the business community. With the assistance of many partners, many children had a successful start to the school year.

THREE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS HAVE NEW LEADERSHIP



Three departments within Prince George County Government have new leadership.

Dean Simmons was promoted to Director of General Services. He was hired in March of 2018 to serve as Deputy Director of Community Development & Code Compliance, and was selected to fill the General Services position in July.

Paul Beamon was hired as Director of Fire & EMS on June 14 and later his title was changed by the Board of Supervisors to Fire & EMS Chief. Beamon was formerly Vice President of Trinity EMS Academy in Columbus, GA.



Donna Prince is the new Real Estate Assessor effective August 16. She joins county government after serving in the private sector as a commercial industrial reviewer for Bright Minds in Danville.

County Administrator Percy Ashcraft said, "These three professionals bring the value and expertise Prince George County Government needs at this time. We were very fortunate in a competitive job market to be able to place them in these key positions."

PUBLIC RADIO SYSTEM UPDATE

Prince George County entered into a contract with L3Harris Technologies to design, build, 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 in Prince George County and beyond.

Currently, the project is in the final implementation phase of the process. The multi-year project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2022. Additionally, the County has entered into a maintenance agreement with L3Harris for 20 years for total system support. This agreement will commence after the one year warranty expires.

TAX REMINDER FY22

First half of FY2022 real estate taxes are due on or before **December 5, 2021**. 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, 2021**. 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, 2021).**

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 3, 2021 at the following locations:

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



PRINCE GEORGE BECOMES GRANT RECIPIENT FOR CRATER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Effective July 1, Prince George County became the grant recipient for the Crater Regional Workforce Development Board (Crater WDB). The Prince George County Board of Supervisors issued a resolution of support to take on this role on August 10, and the Crater WDB Chief Elected Officials then voted to appoint Prince George County as the new Grant Recipient.

The Crater Regional Workforce Development Board (CRWDB) is part of a statewide workforce system which is business-driven, customer-centric, streamlined, and outcome-oriented. It is led by committed business leaders who can ensure that the local workforce system is responsive to current and projected labor market demands and develop a comprehensive vision for the local workforce system with a focus on strategic decisions. The Crater Regional Workforce Development Board (CRWDB) strives to increase private sector employment opportunities and to ensure the integration of services to prepare individuals to meet the needs of business and industry across region the Crater region. CRWDB oversees activities authorized under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, including the Crater Area Workforce Development Board and Youth Council.

The County's grant recipient role will involve reporting CWDB grant activities in its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and conducting sub-recipient monitoring of grant-related activities. The Crater WDB receives funding from three federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grants administered by the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). The City of Petersburg formerly served in this role.

NEWS FROM FIRE & EMS

Staffing & Training

The Fire & EMS Department has been working aggressively to get back to full staffing, which includes 31 full-time employees and several part-time employees. Another priority has been on the retention and recruitment of volunteer personnel for all companies. In July and August, 15 applications for new volunteers were received. Four full-time medic firefighters were hired in August. The 2021 EMS Academy began on September 6 with 20 students enrolled. In addition, the 2021 Fire Academy was held in July.

Volunteer Station Improvements

Upgrades and improvements to three volunteer stations are in the works. For the Jefferson Park Volunteer Fire Station, plans are to replace the HVAC system, upgrade the living space to provide additional room and office space, update the plumbing, and address issues related to the roof and kitchen area. On September 14, the Board of Supervisors approved an award of contract to DJG, Inc. to provide architectural and engineering services at a cost not to exceed \$100,500. The estimated renovation construction cost is \$480,000 - \$575,000.

For the Emergency Crew Building, a complete electrical upgrade will be installed to meet demands of technology. DJG, Inc. was hired in May 2021 to provide professional design services, to prepare construction documents, and to assist with the bidding of this project at a cost of just under \$38,000. The estimated costs of the electrical upgrades is \$125,000.

For Prince George Volunteer Fire Station #1, the Board of Supervisors approved a Scope of Work to be developed by DJG, Inc. for renovations. The cost of the study is \$35,584.50, but the scope of work and renovation / construction costs are currently unknown.

COUNTY FLEET GARAGE EXPANSION

Several Prince George County staff members from the Garage, General Services and IT participated in the Fleet Focus Management Software kick-off meeting with the AssetWorks team on July 26. Project implementation details were discussed, weekly zoom meetings were established and a timeline of approximately six months was set to go live. Once the department goes live with AssetWorks, the Garage will be provided with the tools needed to ensure the most effective and efficient fleet maintenance system possible.

In April 2021, an onsite meeting was held with Guernsey Tingle regarding the limited space available to perform required repairs and maintenance on County vehicles. One of the biggest challenges the garage faces is the lack of space to service and maintain large fire apparatus. The project is currently in the architectural design phase and the design is expected to be presented to the Prince George County Board of Supervisors for approval this fall.

5 AND DIME: A NEW ROAD TRIP



Prince George County is working closely with the Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce, the Hopewell Downtown Partnership, Charles City County, Surry County and James City County to develop the 5 and Dime

tourism trail. This road trip is an 80 mile loop that directs travelers from Hopewell through Prince George County down Route 10 to the Jamestown Ferry, across the James River, and back up Route 5 to Charles City County.

This trail can be completed in a day or spread out over a weekend. Some of the Prince George destinations that will be featured along the 5 and Dime include the new Holy Mackerel restaurant, Jordan Point Marina and Ed Hatch's Fine Art Studio. Over the next few months, there will be collaboration with stakeholders and partners to further develop the trail. More information can be found on our tourism website: www.visithpg.com/five-dime/.



FEDERAL COMMISSION TASKED WITH CHANGING FORT LEE NAME

Congress voted January 1, 2021 to override President Donald Trump's veto of the Fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act ("Act") -- a \$740 billion defense policy bill that includes a provision for the U.S. Defense Department to create a special commission tasked with putting an end to the longstanding U.S. military tradition of honoring Confederate leaders.

On September 14, the federal commission members visited Fort Lee to gather input on changing the name of Fort Lee and changing several other building and street names of Confederate leaders on the base.

The Pentagon has three years to put into action a plan from the commission to "remove all names, symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia that honor or commemorate the Confederate States of America from all assets of the Department of Defense," according to language in the Act.

The Commission is chartered with five primary activities:

1. Assessing the cost of renaming or removing names, symbols, displays, monuments, or paraphernalia that commemorate the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America.
2. Developing procedures and criteria to assess whether an existing name, symbol, monument, display, or paraphernalia commemorates the Confederate States of America or person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America.
3. Recommending procedures for renaming assets of the Department of Defense to prevent commemoration of the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America.
4. Developing a plan to remove names, symbols, displays, monuments, or paraphernalia that commemorate the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America from assets of the Department of Defense, within the timeline established by this Act.
5. Including in the plan procedures and criteria for collecting and incorporating local sensitivities associated with naming or renaming of assets of the Department of Defense.

The Commission members:

Michelle Howard, Admiral, U.S. Navy, retired (Chair)

Ty Seidule, Brigadier General, U.S. Army, retired (Vice Chair)

Thomas P. Bostick, Lieutenant General, U.S. Army, retired

Jerry Buchanan, Oklahoma businessman, Sergeant, U.S. Army, retired

Robert Neller, General, U.S. Marine Corps, retired

Lawrence Romo, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force, retired

Kori Schake, Director of Foreign & Defense Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute

Austin Scott, Congressman (R-GA-8)

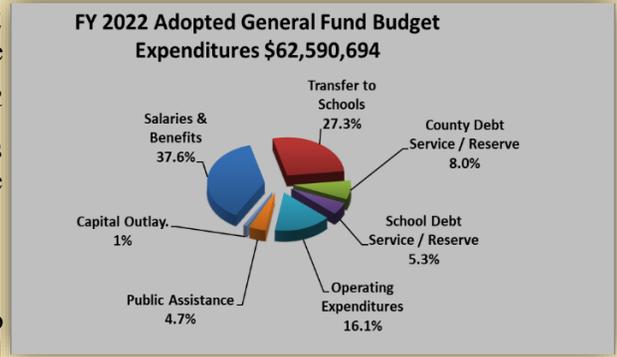
The Commission website for information and public input is <https://www.thenamingcommission.gov/>

FISCAL YEAR 2022 ADOPTED BUDGET

The Prince George County Board of Supervisors adopted the FY2022 County budget on May 11. Six pre-budget work sessions were conducted where Board members provided input into budget priorities, and County Administrator, Percy Ashcraft presented the introduced FY '22 budget to the Board of Supervisors on March 9. Two work sessions followed the introduced budget presentation and a public hearing on the budget was held on April 27.

Budget Highlights:

Continued Contribution of \$1,244,686 to capital / debt reserves to fund construction of a new elementary school and other county and school capital projects as outlined in the County's Capital Improvement Plan. This will be an ongoing, long-term annual contribution to accommodate projects approved for FY'21 and FY'22 **and for future projects.**



General Fund transfer to the **Public School Division of \$17,056,643**; an increase of \$367,808.

Increases to **Riverside Regional Jail and Crater Youthcare Commission** of \$49,763 (2.3%) and \$17,798 (5.5%) respectively based on census.

Increase in **Children's Services Act** expenditures of \$158,420 or 7.9%.

Two new positions for the Department of Social Services were included in the adopted FY '22 budget due to expanded service mandates that impacted staff workload.

An increase of \$26,694 was approved for software enhancements (Information Technology). Additionally, increased lease costs for equipment housed on communications towers is included at \$45,842 as part of the County's ongoing radio system replacement. A building maintenance repair budget of \$250,000 remains funded to address needed facility repairs throughout the county. Capital funding remains in for public safety and county vehicles at \$400,000.

No Tax Rate increases were approved for Real Estate or Personal Property. Assessed real property values did increase, mainly due to new construction and improvements. An increase in permit fees was approved for FY'22, and state sales tax collections are expected to rise. Personal property tax revenue is expected to increase due to increased taxable property values. Machinery and Tools tax will decline due to the recent closure of Rolls Royce, and interest revenues will dip in FY'22. There are no increases in the water or sewer rates for FY'22. A new credit and debit card convenience fee was implemented on September 1 to offset rising third party processing costs for citizens who choose to pay County bills and registration fees using a debit or credit card.

A copy of the FY 2021-2022 Adopted Budget is available on the County's website; Home page - [http://www.princegeorgecountyva.gov/ \[Departments/Finance/Forms, Documents & Reports\]](http://www.princegeorgecountyva.gov/Departments/Finance/Forms, Documents & Reports)

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Economic Development and Tourism Department is currently working on a Strategic Plan for the Exit 45 area to assist with business recruitment and future housing initiatives. Sanford Holshouser is developing the plan for Board review by the end of the year. A countywide Strategic Plan was placed out to bid in August with a consultant selected in October. The countywide plan will look at increased housing opportunities, new business opportunities, aligning workforce training needs with local business, and enhancing sports tourism fields and local assets. Both of these plans will help direct community growth policy over the next five years.



CLEAN COMMUNITY DAY

Prince George County and the Prince George Extension Office held its Annual October Clean Community Day on Saturday, October 16. Residents of Prince George were able to dispose of tires, mattresses/box springs, document shredding, white goods, yard debris, household items and trash at no cost from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



This event is held in October of each year at the County Complex and PG Convenience Center locations. Several hundred citizens dropped off tons of material during the designated hours of the event. (Note: The event had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic). For more information, call General Services at (804) 722-0775.

NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE



Construction of a new elementary school along Middle Road is currently underway. The new school will replace existing William A. Walton Elementary School, which was constructed in 1960. The school will accommodate 850 students ranging from Pre-K to fifth grade.



Following months of planning, a construction contract was awarded to Loughridge & Company on March 18, 2021. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 21, 2021 and construction is expected to wrap up in the summer of 2022, with the new school opening for instruction in September of 2022.

Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, School Superintendent, and Steven Halsey, with Moseley Architects, provided a status update at the August 10 Board of Supervisors meeting and reported that construction is progressing well and that the project is expected to be completed on time. Currently the parking areas have been graded and curbing installed, the footings and foundation have been completed, and walls are being built. A turn lane will be added to Middle Road to assist with traffic flow and buses entering the new site when completed.



Progress Highlights as of September 9:

Concrete has been poured and the contractor has begun setting the steel for the administrative area and first grade classrooms;
Bearing walls for the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms have begun;
The elevator shaft has been completed;
Work continues on raising the gymnasium walls; and
The sewer line from the pump station to the school has begun.

NEW VIDEO PLATFORM, SWAGIT,

ALLOWS IMPROVED ACCESS TO LOCAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

Prince George County has announced a new streaming service for every County public meeting, meaning anyone can now watch Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and School Board meetings online in a new and improved format.

The new streaming software from Swagit Productions, LLC (Swagit) provides a comprehensive platform for citizens to watch meetings live, view archived meetings, and access meeting transcripts.

Meetings are also indexed so viewers can navigate between different agenda points, and view the meetings on computers, laptops, or mobile devices.

Meetings may be viewed by following the links at www.princegeorgecountyva.gov.

All Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and School Board meetings will be archived and accessible for on-demand viewing. Once archived, the on-demand feature allows for viewers to choose which meeting agenda items, or conversations, they wish to watch and then go directly to that video segment. A transcript is created by voice to text technology, allowing citizens to search the archives for the spoken word in a meeting which is synced to the video.

This webcasting feature is compatible with multiple platforms including Apple, Android, and other popular devices. You can now watch and experience the meetings in a streamlined manner while on the go. A full transcript will be available after the meeting.

“Prince George County is excited to announce the implementation of new meeting streaming software that will provide a new and improved consistency and experience for citizens who watch our public meetings live or via archived recordings,” said Floyd Brown, Jr., Chairman of the Prince George County Board of Supervisors.

“Transparency is important for Prince George as we conduct business; this new resource enhances the transparency of our public meetings.”

Swagit is known for their ability to provide streaming and content management solutions with a cost-effective, convenient means to engage the local community.

PUBLIC UTILITIES UPDATES

Water Main Extension to Route 10 corridor

The County requested Community Project Funds from the Office of Congressman McEachin to aid in County efforts to extend its central water system 4.5 miles from Sandy Ridge Road to serve the subdivisions of Jordan on the James and Beechwood Manor. This project will provide reliable water service to these neighborhoods allowing the County to decommission the existing aquifer system. This will result in a future cost avoidance to replace the aging infrastructure and will support new developments in the corridor. The design to extend the water system has begun. Upon approval of the House and Senate to approve the funding, construction activities could begin as early as this winter.

Route 460 Water Main Extension

The Route 460 water line extension to connect the Industrial Water System located near the Food Lion distribution center is complete. Installation of the 5,600 feet of water line began in November 2020. The project experienced some delays along the way, but is anticipated to be complete in October. The improvements to the booster station began immediately after the Route 460 water line is complete.

These improvements will increase the water capacity, improve water pressures and add a significant increase in the water volume available for fire control to the area currently served by the Food Lion water system. Furthermore, the connection adds one million gallons of storage for fire control to the central system, which significantly improves the fire protection at the business park.

Route 156 Water Main Extension

This project will extend the 12" water main along Route 156 from Mount Sinai Rd (west) to the Pine Ridge mobile home park. This will provide a loop in the water system, which improves water quality, increases water volume available for fire control and provides redundancy to the water system, which provides the ability to isolate a disruption of service to a smaller area.

Installation of the water line began in March and completion is anticipated by July 2022.

Residents and businesses along the new water line will have an opportunity to connect to the county water system after the project is complete. The Board of Supervisors has approved a 50% discount in the connection fee for single-family homes that connect within 60 days after the water line is complete. This is a reduction of \$1,500 off the \$3,000 connection fee. The connection fee for single-family homes will revert to \$3,000 after the 60 days. Residents along Prince George Drive that wish to connect are encourage to contact the Department of Engineering and Utilities at (804) 722-8706.

Pump Station #7 (Richard Bland) Replacement

The rehabilitation of the wastewater lift station that serves Richard Bland College and the residential subdivisions along Johnson Road is complete. This station will receive new pumps, control panels, generator and a renovation of the wet well. Improvements also include the addition of SCADA to allow remote monitoring and control of the station. The project was completed in September.

SEPTIC PUMPOUT PROGRAM

The Prince George County Department of Community Development & Code Compliance Environmental Division continues to experience positive compliance results for the Septic Pumpout and Inspections Program.

The intent of the program is to help improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Protection Area (CBPA) of the county through non-point source pollutant management. Under the provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, owners of properties within the James and Appomattox River watersheds serviced by private on-site septic systems are required to have those systems pumped or inspected once every five (5) years. Zone 4 is recorded as being 80% compliant and zone 5 to date is at 48% compliant.

To aide with citizen service, the department has established an email system for the program septicpumpoutprogram@princegeorgecountyva.gov. This 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.

AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING

Prince George County has received the first of two tranches (installments) of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Federal Recovery funding. The county is slated to receive a grand total of \$7,449,621 in two equal tranches. The first half was received in August of 2021 and totaled \$3,724,810.50. The second installment of \$3,724,810.50 will arrive in approximately one year.

The funds were provided by the federal government to state, city and county governments to: support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease the spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control; replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs; support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic on certain populations.

The funds can be used to cover costs incurred on or after March 3, 2021 and may be used to: support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff; address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector; replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic; provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and, invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

The Board approved some initiatives at a July 21 work session, and plans to devote the majority of the first tranche to utility infrastructure. Some funding will be allocated to provide a personal property tax rebate to taxpayers who experienced an increase personal property values for the same vehicle between 2020 and 2021. More details will roll out about that initiative in the coming months. Other approved expenditures included an air filtration system for the Courthouse and safety partitions for the jury box in the General District courtroom. The board will continue to deliberate on possible uses in the coming months. The funds must be fully obligated by December 31, 2024 and fully expended by December 31, 2026.

CENTURY FARMS OF PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA

The Virginia Century Farm Program recognizes and honors farms that have been in operation for at least 100 consecutive years, and the generations of Virginia farm families that have taken care of those farms. These farms provide nourishment to citizens and contribute greatly to the economy of the County and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In order to be considered a Century Farm by the Virginia Department of Agriculture, a farm must have been owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years, must be lived on or farmed by a descendent of the original owner, and must gross over \$2,500 annually from the sale of farm products. Farms must register with the Virginia Department of Agriculture to be listed on the Century Farms website. More information on this program can be found at <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/conservation-and-environmental-virginia-century-farms.shtml>.

There are fifteen Prince George County farms listed on the Virginia Century Farm Program website. These farms include: Adams Farm owned by Thomas C. Adams, Arwood Farm owned by Pattie Arwood, Baird Farm owned by James & Janice Loftis, Burrow Farm owned by Lillian Burrow, Butler Branch Farm owned by William Wood, Cibula Farm owned by Emmett Cibula, Ellis Plantation House owned by Madelyn Ellis, Kanak Farm owned by Ben Kanak, Kvasnicka Farm owned by Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Kvasnicka, Marsh Isle Farm owned by William E Tomko Jr. & William E Tomko III, Mattox Farm owned by Roy & John Mattox, Old Rives Farm owned by Susan Stowe and Caroline Covington, Pecan Grove Farm owned by Raymond & Susan Rusnak, Skalsky Farm owned by Charles and JoAnn Skalsky, and Three Springs Farm owned by Carol and Lewis Dean. These farms grow and have grown a variety of crops to include: peanuts, corn, cotton, barley, wheat, sorghum, oat, and soybeans. Many of the farms also raise livestock.

Some of these farms now rent to other farmers in the area. The Cibula Farm, Marsh Isle Farm and Pecan Grove Farm are all still farmed by the original families. The Kanak Farm is now known as the Barns of Kanak and also serves as a wedding and event venue (pictured right).





PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY NEWSLETTER

"A global community where families thrive and businesses prosper"

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VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1
FALL/WINTER 2021

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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
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(804) 722-8600
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Board of Supervisors Meeting Schedule

10/12/21 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.
10/26/21 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.
11/10/21 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.
11/23/21 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.
12/14/21 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.
01/03/22 - Organizational Mtg. @ 5:00 p.m.
01/11/22 - Board of Supervisors Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.

**The 2022 dates will be approved at the January 3rd Board of Supervisors Meeting.