



# Social Service Currents

A quarterly newsletter for the Prince George Department of Social Services

June 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

## DID YOU KNOW:

STARTING IN MID JUNE THE PRINCE GEORGE FARMER'S MARKET WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT EBT PAYMENTS. USING YOUR EBT CARD AT THE FARMER'S MARKET:

### How to use your EBT card at a farmers market

1. FIND THE MARKET MANAGER'S TABLE
2. SWIPE YOUR EBT CARD FOR THE AMOUNT YOU REQUEST. YOU WILL RECEIVE \$1 WOODEN TOKENS. THESE TOKENS ACT LIKE CASH IN THE MARKET.
3. USE YOUR TOKENS TO BUY FRUIT, VEGETABLES, MEAT, EGGS, BAKED GOODS, HERBS, AND MORE!

FOR 2013- FOR EVERY \$1 IN SNAP BENEFITS YOU SPEND AT THE PG FARMER'S MARKET, YOU WILL GET \$1 IN MATCHING TOKENS FOR THE MARKET THANKS TO A GRANT FROM THE JOHN RANDOLPH FOUNDATION

### Buy fresh, local foods with SNAP

FOOD FROM THE FARMERS MARKET IS LOCALLY GROWN, HEALTHY, AND TASTY. VISIT THE PRINCE GEORGE FARMERS MARKET ON SATURDAY FROM 9 AM- NOON AT SCOTT PARK

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## "Say Yes to the Dress" Prom 2013 Dress Project is a SUCCESS



Thank you to all our community partners and volunteers who made the 2013 Prom Dress Project a great success. We collected over 300 dresses for the day and found something for everyone who came through. Thank you to everyone who brought us a dress.



Special thanks to the James River Jr. Woman's Club who will be carrying on this project next year; to CCHASM and Patriot YMCA for being drop off spots and helping with the publicity. Thank you to Vegara's Cleaners for providing the garment bags.

Thank you to the folks at PGHS, especially Mr. Pelter and his crew of students who helped load and set up, and to Missy Smith for loaning us MG & Company for the event.

Thank you to Mandi Cummings and the Prince George Girl Scouts for all the work collecting and organizing the beautiful gowns for us.



And finally a special thank you to the staff at PG DSS who once again showed their commitment to offering a helping hand where ever it is needed.

– Shel Douglas, Director



## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Prince George County Back to School Fair- Supply Drive

**Donate School Supplies  
Through August 16  
Donation Boxes in  
County Admin & School Board  
PG Library & Social Services**

For more info contact  
Social Services 733-2650  
We will gladly accept supplies for all ages  
and monetary donations



## Cooling Assistance

The Prince George Department of Social Services will begin accepting Cooling Assistance applications from June 15<sup>th</sup> –August 15<sup>th</sup>. You may submit an application online at <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov> or return a completed application signed and dated, Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5:00 pm, or by fax to 804 733-2652.

The Cooling Assistance Program provides purchase or repair of cooling equipment/ and or payment for electricity to operate cooling equipment. To be eligible, a household must contain at one vulnerable individual who is 60 or over, disable, or under age 6, be a resident of the locality in which the application is made, have a cooling expense responsibility, and fall within the income eligibility guidelines.

## STAFF NEWS

### Happy Retirement to Brenda Gwaltney!

At the end of June, Brenda Gwaltney will retire from Prince George Department of Social Services with 15 years of dedicated service to the County. The administrative department is both excited about her retirement and sad to see her go.

Brenda is described by her peers as kind, easy to work with, a good person, always willing to help and a team player. She has held several positions while employed with the agency, each progressively moving her to the position of Administrative Associate.

Brenda came to the agency in June 1, 1998 as Office Assistant II and was the smiling face our customers would see when they entered our office. As Brenda

grew professionally, she was promoted to other positions where her talents could be used to their fullest. As the Administrative Associate, her responsibilities encompass fiscal duties, EBT responsibilities, state and local reports and back up assistance to the front desk. Her supervisor reports that Brenda's sweet demeanor, dedication to tasks, dependability and many years of DSS wisdom will surely be missed. She has been a pleasure to work with and we could not have asked for a better employee. Brenda will attend several celebrations wishing her well and will receive Commendation from the Board of Supervisors at the July Board's meeting. She will leave big shoes to fill. Congratulations to Brenda Gwaltney, the admin team wish you the very best!



**Mary Bell** joined Prince George County Department of Social Services as a Social Worker on March 16, 2013.

Mary has over seven years experience as a seasoned Investigator in Child Protective Services. Mary's experience includes assessing the validity of child abuse and/or neglect complaints, coordinating services to address identified needs, and serving as a resource in implementing social work policies and practices. Some specialty projects included revising documentation protocol and implementing a Diversionary program while working at the Dekalb County Department of Family & Children Services in Decatur, Georgia. Mrs. Bell has also served as a mentor to new employees, as well as accepting supervisory responsibilities at the City of Richmond Department of Social Services in Richmond, Virginia.

Mary possesses a Bachelor of Science Degree from South Carolina State University in Psychology and a Masters of Arts Degree from Argosy University in Forensic Psychology. She completed her practicum internship at the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute in Falls Church, Virginia. Mary is the recipient of many academic awards, including the Presidential Honors Award and "Who's Who Among College Students." She is an active member of Psi Chi and the National French Honor Society.

Mary is married to her wonderful husband, Roy Bell, and they lovingly share in raising their children, Kiara and Roy III. When not working, Mary enjoys spending time with her family and traveling. She continues to volunteer in her community, as she is very passionate about helping others. Join us in welcoming Mary.





## OUR TRAINING NOTES:

### Foster Parent Training



The Prince George Department of Social Services in partnership with the Hopewell, Dinwiddie and Petersburg Departments of Social Services recently concluded training for individuals wishing to become licensed foster parents.

Three Prince George families successfully completed the training and are currently undergoing the home study process.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent for Prince George Department of Social Services please contact us at 733-2650 and ask to speak with Zina Gaines or Tee Smith.



## Prince George County 2nd Annual Back to School Fair Looking For Community Partners

On Thursday August 22, 2013, Prince George County will sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Back to School Fair at Scott Park. The time will be 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

The goal of this event is to assist the families of Prince George County with school supplies and information that will help parents find positive ways to give their children have a good start and a productive school year. The event will be open to all county residents.

There will be space for our Community Partners if your church or organization would like a table.

There is no cost to you to participate. Participants will need to bring their own table, chairs, and materials. Participants are asked to have some sort of school related item (pencils, erasers, etc) as a give-away at their table.

Please email Laura Chambliss at [laura.chambliss@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:laura.chambliss@dss.virginia.gov) by July 31, 2013 if you would like to participate in this County event.



## Child Protective Service Complaints

Did you ever wonder how Prince George Social Services performs when compared to their peers? It is easier than ever to find information about our community.

The Virginia Child Protection Accountability System (System) collects and makes available to the public information on the response to reported cases of child abuse and neglect in the Commonwealth. Quarterly reports provide information on the number of referrals received, accepted, investigated, founded and appealed by locality and for the State as a whole.

If you are interested in learning more about Child Protective Services click on the link below and look for the quarterly and annual summaries dating back to SFY 2009.

[http://  
www.dss.virginia.gov/  
geninfo/reports/children/  
cps/accountability.cgi](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/children/cps/accountability.cgi)



### Excuse out mess.

The Human Services Building is currently under renovations. Look out for future editions and we will keep you posted on the progress.

## Prince George Department of Social Services Social Services

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Shel Bolyard-Douglas, Director

Prince George County 2nd Annual

# BACK TO SCHOOL

# FAIR

**Thursday, August 22**

**4:00pm - 7:00pm**

**at Scott Park**

Dunk Tank

Free information  
for families

Over 25 Booths

Live Music

Lots of FUN!!

FOOD

Police, Fire, and EMS

GOOD NEWS CLUB

Free School Supplies for kids in our community

