

Coles District Newsletter

SUPERVISOR YESLI VEGA

May 2020

4th Edition



Dear Neighbor,

As I write this, our first full month of the COVID lockdown has passed. This has been a difficult time for all of us. Some of us have lost loved ones—twenty-four county residents have passed away (I also lost my dear Aunt to the virus last month) or lost their jobs. At this time, we're even more appreciative of our healthcare professionals and first responders as ever.

This edition of The Coles District Newsletter will detail our local community's ongoing response to the crisis and relay some hard truths, but also provide a symbol of hope that we will persevere and get through this.

The hard truth is that the Board decided to increase your property tax bills and motor vehicle fees in the midst of this pandemic. I was vehemently opposed to this, as I'll detail, but ultimately the majority decided this would be an appropriate time for such action.

Despite this, you're still stepping up to the plate as our local non-profits are doing a wonderful job providing assistance to those in need. Thank You!

Together, we will get through this. I believe our families, the backbone of our community, are being strengthened and brought closer together even while we are keeping our "social distances" from the outside world. This will only yield positive results in the future for our district, our county, and our commonwealth.

This month's edition ends with a special note and a few photos from one of our constituents. She delves a little into policy, but the heart of her message is one of hope and things coming back to life.

As always, I appreciate your feedback. We can be reached during normal business hours at (703) 792-4620 or by e-mail at colesdistrict@pwcgov.org.

For Coles,

Yesli Vega

Coles District Supervisor

 [/ColesDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/ColesDistrict)

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33,204 County Residents Laid Off Since Mid-March

More than 33,000 county residents filed for unemployment from mid-March through April 25th according to the Virginia Employment Commission.

This number represents nearly 14% of the 246,105 county residents employed through the end of February (US Department of Labor - Bureau of Labor Statistics).

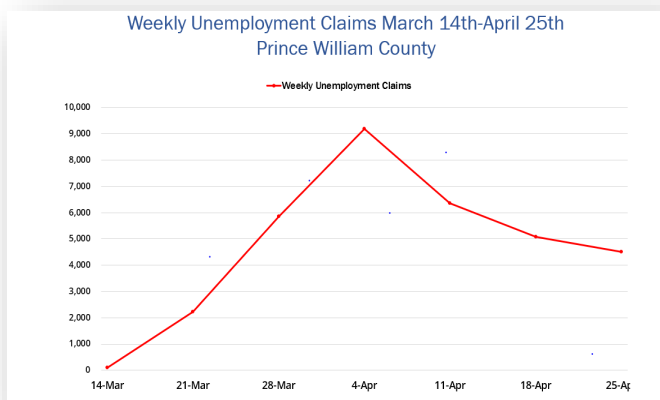
Data for the week ending on April 25th showed 4,508 county residents filed new claims for unemployment.

New claims for unemployment peaked the week of April 4th when 9,178 first time claims were made.

“This has been a heartbreaking period of time for our residents,” said Coles Supervisor, Yesli Vega. “Like everyone, I hope and pray life can get back to normal as soon as possible so that our families can get back to work.”

For small businesses looking for loans to help restart the hiring process they can apply for a Payment Protection Program Loan through the Small Business Administration at <https://www.sba.com/funding-a-business/government-small-business-loans/ppp/how-to-complete-paycheck-protection-program/>.

- Coles District Staff



Board Majority Increases Residential Taxes and Vehicle Fees By \$30 Million

On Tuesday, April 28th the Prince William Board of County Supervisors increased residential taxes and vehicle fees by a total of **\$30 million** dollars in a 5-3 party line vote.

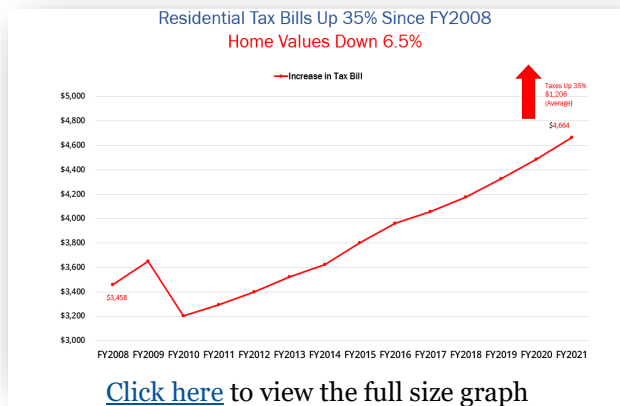
Though the tax rate was kept flat, property tax bills increased four percent following pre-COVID-19 real estate assessment values. A fact pointed out by County Executive, Chris Martino in February.

In mid-March, at the onset of the economic collapse brought on by COVID-19, Supervisors Candland, Lawson, and Vega issued a letter to Chairperson Wheeler and County Executive Chris Martino requesting a budget to debate based on a flat tax bill which would have meant county homeowners would paid the same amount they did last year to help offset the financial burden. A comparative budget option with a flat tax bill was never produced for the residents of the Brentsville, Coles, and Gainesville districts.

“This was the absolute worst time to raise taxes on our county’s families,” said Supervisor Yesli Vega. With stock portfolios tanking and unemployment skyrocketing we had a chance to, at the very least, not add to that burden. Unfortunately, ideological campaign promises to grow the size of government were put ahead of struggling families this evening.”

Part of the \$30 million in increased spending will go towards pay increases for 1,500 county employees.

- Coles District Staff



Pre-COVID Residential Home Values Lag Considerably Behind Pre-Recession Peaks

Average Residential Tax Bill Up Over \$1,200

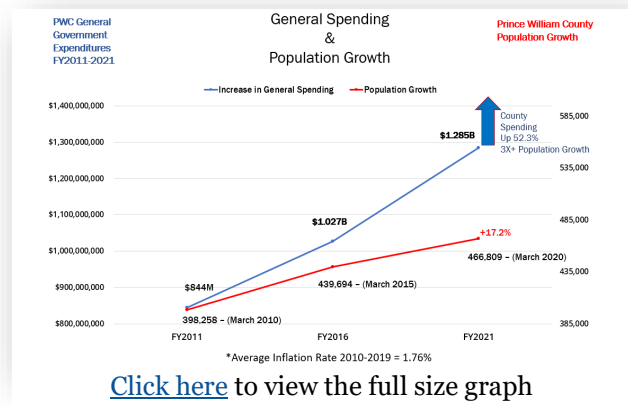
In data obtained from the county, the average residential home value, assessed pre-COVID-19 still falls approximately \$27,000-\$43,000 behind FY 2007 and FY2008 assessments.

The average assessment from fiscal year 2007 shows an average home value of \$429,747 with an average tax bill of \$3,257. The following year saw a dip in home values down to \$413,898 with an average tax bill of \$3,458.

The average assessed home value from this year (\$387,073), taken before the economic collapse brought on by COVID shows that while home values have risen since FY2010, they have still not yet rebounded enough to pre-recession peaks. Despite, this the average residential tax bill with the \$177 increase from Tuesday's vote, now stands at \$4,664 - or around \$1,200-\$1,400 more per home.

For comparisons sake, while the average home value in the county has decreased 6.5% since FY2008 (10% since FY2007), the average tax bill has increased between 35 and 43 percent.

- Coles District Staff



County Spending Outpaces Population Growth + Inflation

Government Spending Increases 52%, Three Times Population Growth

With the passage of Tuesday's \$1.285 billion dollar general fund budget, county government spending has increased by \$441 million over the last decade, a percentage increase of 52.3%.

Meanwhile, Prince William County's population has increased by roughly 68,000 over the last ten years, an increase of 17.2%.

Of the \$441 million in new spending, transfers to the school division has increased by \$220 million.

Over this same period the national inflation rate has averaged 1.76% annually.

- Coles District Staff



Tax Increase Op-Ed

Please read an op-ed I wrote in the April 24th Edition of InsideNova detailing my position on the county budget and residential tax increase. You can also read the article online [here](#).

Vega: Now is not the time for tax and fee increases

As of this writing nearly 30,000 Prince William County residents have lost their jobs in the last month. Personal stock portfolios and investments, years in the making, have tanked, and an AP News headline from this week read “Virus pushes US unemployment towards highest since (Great) Depression.”

The federal government just pumped \$2 trillion into the economy, including direct cash payments and an additional \$500 billion is being discussed for small businesses to try and stave off a total collapse. Prince William County residents, just like the rest of the country, are hurting.

Which is exactly why now is the absolute worst time to increase their taxes and fees.

Under the residential tax rate proposal that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors is set to vote on Tuesday evening, the average family’s residential tax bill will increase by \$177 more than what they paid last year, bringing the average bill up to \$4,664 annually. Now, this is far better than the \$351 average increase the Board majority was advertising as recently as two weeks ago, but still an added gut punch if you’re one of the 30,000 of our residents who have recently lost their jobs or have had to tighten their belts like virtually every other family through this time.

Prince William County Government can survive without this increase and its proposed increase in vehicle fees. Over the last decade county government expenditures have risen three and half times faster than population growth while residential tax bills have increased 35%, or well over \$1,000 per family annually.

I would argue that even before the COVID-19 pandemic broke out that our residents were due for a residential tax break based on their home values, which still lag considerably behind pre-recession peaks and the dramatic rise in their tax bills. Our residents currently pay the second highest residential tax rate of any county in the entire Commonwealth of Virginia.

It’s necessary now. This tax increase will affect everyone, no matter where they fall on the socioeconomic ladder, homeowner or not, as renters will undoubtedly see their monthly bills increase as landlords seek to offset costs.

Neighboring jurisdictions like Loudoun, Stafford, and Fauquier County’s, which already have lower property tax rates are cutting their rates even more or agreeing to a flat tax bill which doesn’t require their residents to pay a dime more than they did last year. It would be compassionate of us at this time to follow suit.

I cannot in good conscience look any one of my constituents in the eye and tell them I voted to levy upon them one of the largest tax increases in the last decade plus with everything going on. I hope after Tuesday night the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, as a collective body, can say the same.

- Yesli Vega has served as Supervisor of the Coles Magisterial District in Prince William County since January of 2020. She can be reached at colesdistrict@pwcgov.org.

How to Volunteer or Donate to Help Those Affected by COVID-19 in Our Community

[Volunteer Prince William](#) is connecting those who wish to volunteer with numerous charitable partners in our community. On their [website](#) you can find volunteer opportunities, and get connected with the organizations which are helping those in need during the COVID-19 crisis.

[The Prince William Food Rescue](#) program is a program coordinated by Action in Community Through Service which enables citizens to deliver food to individuals and families in our community that are food insecure. To volunteer to deliver food, you can download the [Food Rescue app](#). To donate food, please call (703) 441-8606, extension 251 to coordinate a drop off time or fill out the [online form](#).

[The Prince William Area Disaster Fund](#) was created in partnership with the Human Services Alliance of Greater Prince William. Funds raised will be distributed in the form of grants to organizations that provide food security, housing, human services, employment assistance and other critical assistance to those affected by COVID-19. You can donate [online](#), by check, or by texting the word "IMPACT" to 36413. For more information on donating to the fund, contact Chelsi Conaway at (703) 344-4729 or email cconaway@alliancegwpw.org.

[The Prince William County Community Foundation](#) is currently working to reduce food insecurity in our community to the COVID-19 crisis through their Combating Hunger on Wheels or C.H.O.W. Initiative. If you wish to volunteer, you can fill out their [application](#) and send it via email to info@pwccfoundation.org or call (800) 455-4773. You can donate to the C.H.O.W. Initiative via their [online form](#).

Response to COVID-19 by Local Non-Profits and Community Organizations

Prince William County has compiled a [Food Assistance Resource Guide](#) which is a list and map of the numerous local pantries, religious institutions, and community groups who are partnered with the county and are assisting those who are food insecure in our community. To get connected with the nearest food pantry or for assistance with scheduling an emergency direct delivery, citizens can call the Community Feeding Task Force Helpline at (703) 794-4668.

[Action in Community Through Service](#) or ACTS is providing food assistance and delivery, emergency utility assistance, housing assistance, and hotlines for domestic violence, sexual assault, and other personal crises. For any service, you can call the ACTS helpline 24/7 at (703) 368-4141.

[Streetlight Ministries](#) in Woodbridge is provides overnight housing, curb-side food pantry, financial assistance, and other services for those in need. For more information or to request services, you can reach them by email at rpowers@streetlightcom.org or by phone at (703) 491-2288.

[The Northern Virginia Family Service](#) or NVFS is accepting applications for financial assistance with utilities and housing through their [COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Program](#). NVFS also offers programs for food assistance, health and dental care assistance, and operates the SERVE Family Shelter. To request services, call (571) 748-2500 or email info@nvfs.org.

Prince William County Schools Continues To-Go Meals Program

Packaged breakfast and lunch are being served at certain school sites Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Parents or guardians without students present are asked to bring proof of student enrollment in the form of student ID, report card, or other official school documentation with the child's name print-ed on the document. Participating schools in the Coles District include Yorkshire Elementary, Coles Elementary, and Saunders Middle School. For more information on the program, and a full list of participating schools, please visit PWCS.edu.

Business Economic Recovery Task Force Assembled

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the Prince William County Department of Economic Development is assembling a Business Economic Recovery Task Force. The task force will be comprised of business leaders in our community from different industry sectors, including those in the fields of retail, restaurants, hotels and lodging, data centers and IT, life sciences, government contracting, distribution and logistics, construction, banking and finance, manufacturing, commercial brokers, and small businesses in any sector. The purpose of the task force is to develop a plan to accelerate economic recovery in the county after the COVID-19 crisis.

PrinceWilliamCounty.biz Launched as Resource for Businesses and Workers Affected by COVID-19

PrinceWilliamCounty.biz has been launched to provide a central resource of information for businesses and workers in Prince William County affected by the COVID-19 crisis. On the website, you can find details on financial assistance for businesses, tax changes, and other business resources, tools, and tips. Also on the website is information for workers affected by the crisis, including community resources, details on unemployment insurance, and other services available to those in need.

Executive Actions by the Governor of Virginia in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

Upcoming June Primary Elections Postponed

The upcoming primary elections which were scheduled for June 9th have been moved to **June 23rd** by the Governor's [Executive Order Number 56](#). With this new date, the voter registration deadline for the elections is now May 26th, 2020. Citizens may choose reason "2A - My disability or illness" for requesting an absentee ballot due to the threat posed by COVID-19. Absentee voting will begin on May 9th, and ballots can be re-requested until June 16th. A full list of candidates for the June 23rd primary election can be found [here](#).

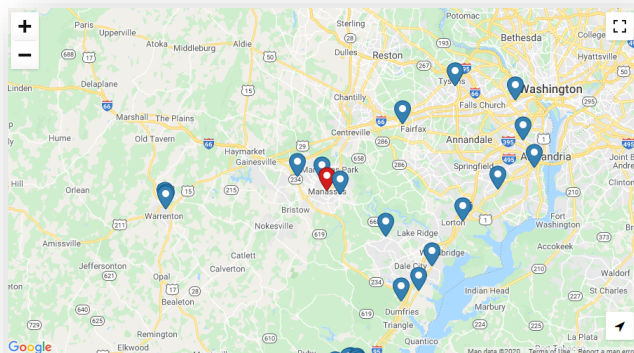
Hospitals Allowed to Resume Elective Surgeries

The Governor's restrictions on elective surgeries in the amended [Order of Public Health Emergency Two](#) expired on May 1st. This means hospitals and dental clinics are able to perform non-emergency surgeries again. In a press conference, on April 29th, Governor Northam said that our healthcare facilities have not been overwhelmed, and that "now hospitals and dental facilities are prepared to restart non-emergency procedures safely." Elective surgeries include many non-urgent procedures, ranging from knee replacements to cancer surgery. Along with hospitals and dental facilities, veterinarian offices can now resume all forms of care.

Virginia Department of Health Releases List and Map of COVID-19 Test Sampling Sites

The Virginia Department of Health has [added a list and map](#) of known locations of COVID-19 test sampling sites across the Commonwealth to their website for the general public. On the site, you can find the nearest testing locations by searching with your ZIP code. You should contact the testing site before visiting as each facility has different policies and procedures. Currently, some testing locations in Virginia are offering community testing events, such as drive-thru testing. Many insurance plans cover the cost of testing and related health care costs, and those who are uninsured or under-insured who have COVID-19 symptoms can get tested through the state public health lab for free.

Please talk to your doctor to determine if you require testing for COVID-19. Get medical attention right away if you have any health emergency. For more information on COVID-19 testing from the Virginia Department of Health, please visit vdh.virginia.gov.



Assistance from the Federal Government for Small Businesses Affected by COVID-19

Small Business Administration (SBA)

The **Paycheck Protection Program** or PPP can provide financial assistance for maintaining payroll to small businesses financially affected by COVID-19 through federally guaranteed loans from [eligible lenders](#). Businesses which are eligible are any small business with less than 500 employees, including sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed persons, as well as private non-profit organizations or 501(c)(19) veterans organizations affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Houses of worship and religious schools that are a 501(c)(3) with fewer than 500 employees are also eligible. The loan will be fully forgiven if the funds are used for payroll costs (75% of loans required for this purpose), interest on mortgages, rent, or utilities. The loan amount is determined by taking your company's average monthly payroll over the prior 12-month period and multiplying that by 2.5. Loan payments will also be deferred for six months. The PPP Borrower Application Form is can be found [here](#). For more information on the Paycheck Protection Program, please visit [SBA.gov](#).

Small businesses may be eligible for **Economic Injury Disaster Loan** or EIDLs due to the current Disaster Declaration. These loans can provide assistance to businesses that are experiencing economic difficulties due to the COVID-19 crisis. Through the EIDL program, businesses may be eligible for a \$10,000 advance for immediate financial relief. Businesses which are eligible are any small business with less than 500 employees, including sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed persons, as well as private non-profit organizations or 501(c)(19) veterans organizations affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Churches, religious schools that are a 501(c)(3) with fewer than 500 employees are also eligible. Homeowners and Renters must register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to obtain a FEMA Registration ID Number by calling 1-800-621-3362 prior to applying for an SBA loan. The interest rate on these loans are 3.75% for small businesses and 2.75% for private, non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere. For more information and how to apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans, please visit [SBA.gov](#). **NOTICE: The SBA is not accepting new applications at this time for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance program based on available appropriations funding.**

Express Bridge Loans can be provided to businesses with an existing relationship with SBA Express Lenders to quickly access up to \$25,000. This program is designed to supplement Economic Injury Disaster Loans while small businesses apply for and await long-term financing. More information on Express Bridge Loans can be found at [SBA.gov](#).

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

The **deadline has been extended for businesses to submit income tax filings and payments** in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The deadline for tax filings and payments had been moved from April 15th to July 15th, 2020. This is automatic, and taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms or call the IRS to qualify. More information on this deadline extension can be found [here](#). For businesses who cannot file by the July 15th, 2020 deadline, a six month extension to file a return may be requested with a [Form 7004](#).

Financial Assistance from the Private Sector for Small Businesses Affected by COVID-19

Non-profit organizations, philanthropists, large corporations, and other private entities have established assistance programs for small businesses during the COVID-19 crisis. These programs offer grants and forgivable loans, as well as other services to help struggling small businesses keep going during this difficult time. The following programs are still accepting applications as of May 5th, 2020.

Entrepreneur Pete Snyder had launched the **Virginia 30 Day Fund** to provide forgivable loans for small businesses affected by COVID-19 to provide immediate financial assistance for meeting payroll, preserving healthcare coverage for employees and saving Virginia jobs. For more information and how to apply, please visit va30dayfund.com.

Facebook has established a Small Business Grants Program which is offering financial support to 30,000 eligible small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The program can assist with payroll and operational costs, as well as help businesses connect with more customers. For more information and how to apply, please visit facebook.com/business/boost/grants.

Hello Alice, with the support of Verizon, Silicon Valley Bank, Ebay, and other corporate partners, is offering \$10,000 emergency grants for small businesses that have been severely affected by COVID-19. In addition to funding, grant recipients will receive ongoing support from the Hello Alice community. For more information and how to apply, please visit businessforall.helloalice.com.

With support from Verizon and Sam's Club, the **Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)** is offering grants of up to \$10,000 to businesses facing immediate financial pressure because of COVID-19. These grants are to help small businesses pay rent and utilities, meet payroll, pay outstanding debt to vendors, and for other immediate operational costs. The next round of applications will open on May 14th. For more information and how to apply, please visit lisc.org/covid-19/small-business-assistance/small-business-relief-grants.

GoFundMe has created the Small Business Relief Initiative which will provide micro-grants to qualifying small businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 in partnership with Yelp, Inuit, GoDaddy, and Bill.com. Small businesses which raise at least \$500 through a GoFundMe fundraiser can qualify for a matching \$500 grant from the Small Business Relief Fund to help care for employees or pay ongoing business expenses. For more information, please visit gofundme.com/f/smallbusinessrelieffund.

Beauty Changes Lives, with support from the Horst Rechelbacher Foundation, has established a COVID-19 Relief Grant program for beauty professionals and students who are unemployed and cannot maintain their regular income due to the COVID-19 crisis. The program will give \$1,000 grants for licensed professional or future professional in cosmetology, esthetics, massage or barbering. For more information and how to apply, please visit beautychangeslives.org/horst-rechelbacher-foundation-covid-19-relief-grant.

Prince William County Service Authority



PWCSA Message on Flushing Wipes

Protect Your Pipes, Don't Flush Wipes

The Prince William County Service Authority is appealing to customers who flush wipes down the toilet to throw them in the garbage instead.

Whether you are using wipes as a substitute for toilet paper or to disinfect surfaces, wipes are NOT "flushable" – even if they say so on the label. Flushing wipes can lead to clogged pipes in your home and sewer main stoppages in the street, so toss them in the trash can.

Wipes don't break down in the sewer system like toilet paper and often cling to grease inside sewer lines. If this scenario occurs too often, a blockage can form and lead to sewage backups. In the past, the Service Authority has had to temporarily shut down its two pump stations at the H.L. Mooney Advanced Water Reclamation Facility to allow staff to remove large volumes of wipes that have made their way through the sewage collection system.

Most pump stations throughout the system have bar screens and channel grinders that chop up debris in sewage. However, when the Service Authority takes a channel grinder out of service for maintenance or if sewage flows are high, wipes often accumulate on the bar screens. When that occurs, Service Authority field staff must put on personal protective equipment and remove them manually. Several 55-gallon drums worth of debris can be collected in a single month, the majority of which are composed of wipes.

For the sake of your plumbing, the sanitary sewer system and the environment, only pee, poop and toilet paper should be flushed down the toilet.

- Prince William County Service Authority



Upcoming Easement Clearing

Through the end of May, the Prince William County Service Authority will be performing water and sewer easement maintenance work (includes clearing of trees and brush) in the Coles District.

The easement work will take place during normal business hours: Monday-Friday 7am-3pm. Residents near the easement should receive an easement maintenance letter with contact information 24-48 hours in advance of the clearing.

Impacted areas in the Coles District will be parcels north of Bradley Cemetery Way between Dumfries Road and the Parkway, in addition to the land across from the Coles Run Manor neighborhood off the Parkway.

- Coles District Staff

Earth Day 2020 / The Environment

Supervisor Vega's Earth Day Message

Please find Supervisor Vega's Earth Day message on the environmental costs of over-development below. You may also read the message on her [Facebook page](#).

Happy Earth Day!

As a County, the number one thing your elected officials in Prince William County can do to protect our local environment is to put the brakes on the overdevelopment that our citizens are rightly concerned about.

Every new high density housing project (Devlin Road) or development that places an added burden on our traffic that your Board approves has an impact on our environment which results in higher levels of pollution, co2, and loss of green space.

On this Earth Day, I ask you to hold me and my colleagues accountable to protecting our earth and environment with the critical land use decisions ahead of us.

- Supervisor Vega

Request from Department of Public Works

Plastic litter is very light and can easily be blown into natural areas, storm drains and streams. It can harm wildlife and create significant pollution.

Please limit your use of plastic items such as bags, straws, and bottles. Learn more at pwcgov.org/cleanwaters.

- Department of Public Works





Prince William Conservation Alliance Rethinking Suburban Stormwater Part II

In case you missed the first part on April 30th, the Prince William Conservation Alliance will be having the second part of their “Rethinking Suburban Stormwater” program online this coming Thursday, May 7th. Following up on Part 1 of this series, Dr. Jake Hosen, Perdue University, will explain why solving stormwater quality in suburbanized areas is challenging and expensive. Using fundamental research from ecology and hydrology, scientists are working with stormwater managers to rethink how suburban stormwater is managed.

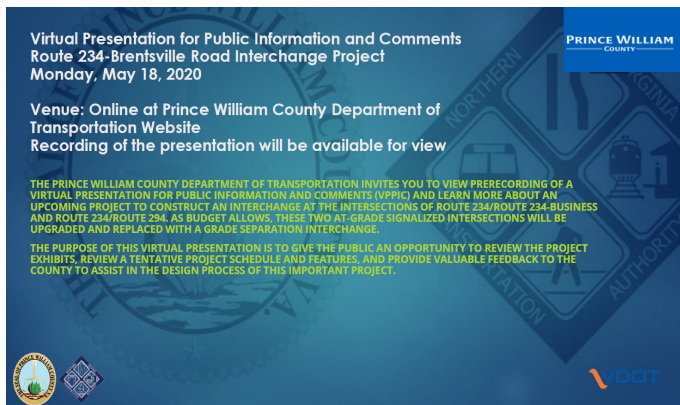
Housing developments cause impairments to stream water quality that have important implications for public and environmental health. More upstream development introduces heavy metals and organic pollutants to stream water. Increased nutrients from urbanization cause harmful algal blooms and eutrophication in the Chesapeake Bay. Increased water runoff from paved surfaces erodes sediment from stream banks, which harms aquatic plants that are important for water quality. Together, these impacts are known as the urban stream syndrome.

Each year, billions of dollars are spent to reduce the impacts of stormwater from suburban developments, but many restoration designs are in need of updating. Current research suggests that stream restoration projects that take place in stream channels which new studies suggest have a low probability of success. Instead, distributed stormwater infrastructure that includes strategies such as bioswales, retention ponds, and infiltration systems can achieve better results for a smaller investment.

Dr. Hosen will discuss the design principles behind distributed stormwater infrastructure and survey the results from localities that have implemented integrated stormwater management plans.

RSVP Required!! Use [this link](#) to register and receive a link to join the meeting.

- Prince William Conservation Alliance



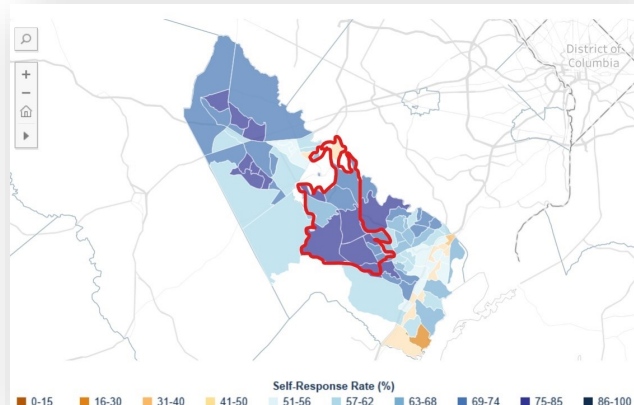
Brentsville Interchange Public Information Meeting

In light of COVID-19, the public information meeting on the Brentsville Interchange will be done a little bit differently.

Beginning on May 18th and going through June 1st, you will be able to view a pre-recorded presentation online detailing the proposed changes and have the opportunity to submit questions just like you would at a regular meeting.

Our office will be providing updates via e-mail and social media with the link to view the presentation and submit questions prior to the 18th.

- Coles District Staff



2020 Census Update

Thirteen of the fifteen census tracts within the Coles District (very roughly highlighted in red) have census self-response rates greater than the national (55.6%), state (60%), and county (63.4%) average!

In fact, nine tracts already have a self-response rate of over 70%.

If you haven't yet filled out your questionnaire you may do so online at my2020census.gov.

Keep up the great work Coles District!

- Supervisor Yesli Vega

Updated Coles District Website Will Go Live This Month!





April was National Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Board will take up a vote to retroactively recognize the month at a date in the future.

Five Local Men Arrested in NoVA 'COVID Crackdown' Child Predator Sting

Five local men were arrested last month during Operation COVID Crackdown, an online sting that identified and apprehended online predators who use the internet to sexually exploit innocent children.

- **Moises Aguilar Cano**, 36, of Manassas was charged with soliciting of a minor and attempted indecent liberties.
- **Yuson Joshi**, 27, of Woodbridge was charged with soliciting a minor and attempted indecent liberties.
- **Carlos Giron-Reyes**, 22, of Woodbridge was charged with soliciting a minor and attempted indecent liberties.
- **Cesar Vales II**, 29, of Manassas was charged with soliciting a minor and attempted indecent liberties.
- **Adam Wheeling**, 26, of Haymarket, was charged with four counts of soliciting of a minor and attempted indecent liberties



"In each case, offenders used online platforms to initiate explicit conversations and solicit sex from police officers posing as children," police said. "When each of the suspects arrived at agreed upon locations, detectives took them into custody."

Law enforcement agencies ask for parents to remain extra vigilant at this time as predators are taking advantage of the fact that more children are at home with more time to spend on the internet due to COVID-19.

Anyone with information regarding other cases involving the exploitation of children or human trafficking is asked to contact the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 6.

- Coles District Staff

Eye on Transparency

School Board Chair Questioned Over Computer Program, Superintendent Salary

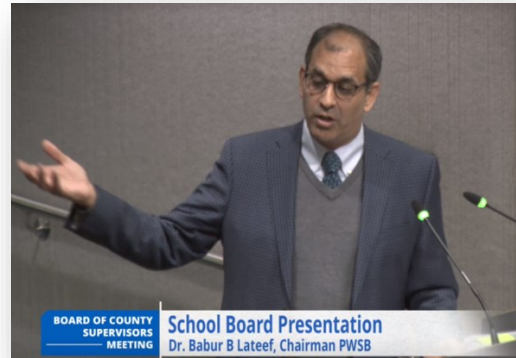
On April 16th, PWCS Board Chairman, Dr. Babur Lateef presented the Board with the school division's pre-COVID budget requests.

Several questions were asked, including many about the request to provide each high schooler in the district with a laptop computer to be able to learn and work remotely from home through COVID.

The cost of the program to provide each high school student with a laptop was estimated to be \$10 million. Certainly not all Prince William County student families are in need of a taxpayer provided laptop (Prince William County's status as the sixth wealthiest jurisdiction in the Commonwealth of Virginia was used routinely as a justification to increase tax bills). It is estimated that 41% of county students live in homes on the lower end of the socioeconomic spectrum. These are the families least likely to have an extra laptop in the home and where the focus should be.

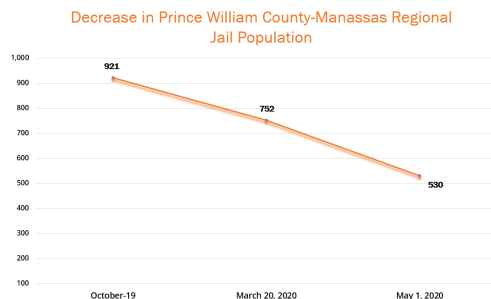
I later questioned Dr. Lateef on the salary paid to County School Superintendent, Dr. Stephen Walts. Many people are surprised to learn that Dr. Walts is the highest paid superintendent in the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, raking in nearly \$460,000 in salary and benefits. Dr. Lateef defended Dr. Walts's salary and job performance. When I asked if the school board would consider renegotiating Dr. Walts's benefits package in order to provide for pay increases for students or investments into the classroom given the current state of the economy and budget constraints, Dr. Lateef demurred.

- Supervisor Yesli Vega



Hundreds of Inmates Released from County Jail; COVID cited

Precipitous Drop Pre-Dates COVID-19 Crisis



As of May 1st the number of inmates incarcerated at the Prince William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center (ADC) stands at 530. A decrease of 222 since March 20th and a decrease of 391 since October 2019, which saw 921 inmates at the local ADC.

On March 20th, County Commonwealth Attorney, Amy Ashworth, announced that she would seek the release of 'non-violent offenders' to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.



JumpStart Your College Career with NOVA!

Northern Virginia Community College's JumpStart program offers tuition free college courses to eligible Northern Virginia high school graduating seniors in the Class of 2020. Eligible online courses are in the fields of art, communications, English, history, information technology, and math. A completed application is due by May 15, and the summer session will go from June 1st to July 15th.

For more information, and how to apply, please visit nvcc.edu/jumpstart.

- Coles District Staff



Teacher Appreciation Week

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week! As our children have been home from school now for nearly two months, the work our teachers do is now appreciated more than ever.

Please thank a teacher today for all that they do!

- Supervisor Vega

Historic Preservation Month

PWC Historic Preservation Division



The PWC Historic Division operates fourteen historic sites and 653 acres of cultural and natural landscapes. Four of the core historic sites are regularly open for visitation: [Rippon Lodge Historic Site](#), an 18th century colonial structure in Woodbridge, Virginia; [Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre](#), a 28 acre historic site that interprets the 4th county seat for Prince William County; [Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park](#), a 140 acre open space museum in Bristow, Virginia; and [Ben Lomond Historic Site](#), an 1861 Civil War field hospital in Manassas, Virginia. In addition to the four core sites, the PWC HPD also manages two 1790s structures: [Bushy](#)

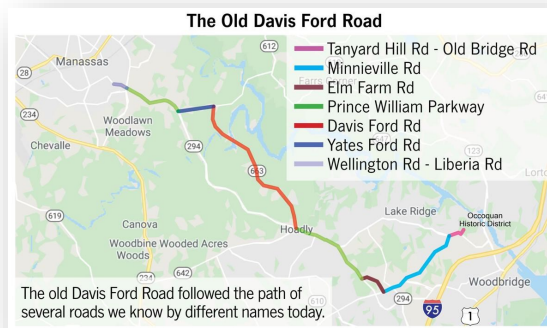
[Park](#) house in Gainesville, Virginia and the 1790s [Barnes House](#) in Montclair, Virginia. In Manassas, Virginia the 1894 [Old Manassas Courthouse](#) and Bennett School as well as a reconstructed African American schoolhouse, [Lucasville School](#). The Division's office is located in [a 1790s tavern](#) in Dumfries, Virginia. Nearby the main office are 113 acres at the future [Cockpit Point Civil War Park](#), also managed by HPD. In 2019, Rippon Lodge and Metz Wetlands were connected by the new, breathtaking [Neabsco Creek Boardwalk](#) to form the [Neabsco Creek Regional Park](#).

The Historic Preservation Division was originally created by Prince William County within the Department of Public Works after the county purchased Rippon Lodge Historic Site. Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre and Ben Lomond Historic Site were later transferred from the former Prince William Parks Authority directly to the PWC HPD, and since then the Division has continued to grow. At the end of 2019 Historic Preservation Division came under the umbrella of the rebranded PWC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to not only to continue expanding services to the local community, but to also promote our unique and valuable historic resources on a national level.

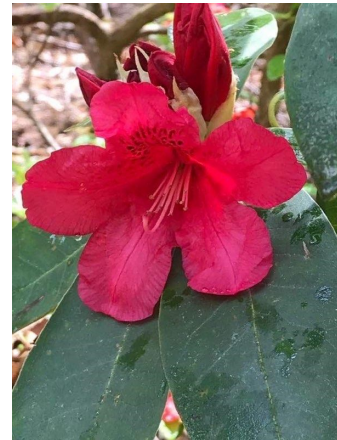
A Stroll Down Memory Lane on Old Davis Ford Road

[Davis Ford Road: Connecting the Past with the Present](#)

In recognition of Historic Preservation Month, please enjoy an article from Martin Jeter about the history of Old Davis Ford Road which stretched from Occoquan all the way into the Coles District.



In These Difficult Times, The Promise of **Spring Brings Hope**



“Happy Spring! Woodbine Woods (behind ACE) is in full bloom and I invite you to take a drive or a nice walk around the neighborhood. We have multitudes of azaleas and dogwood trees in their peaks....I wish all the Supervisors could see the beauty and vow to build so that we can protect our natural world and mature forests instead of plowing down every tree and replacing it with 2 trees per 1/4 acre lots! Here are a few shots I've taken on my walks...Stay safe and I hope all is well with you and your family and staff.”

Special thanks to a Coles District constituent who snapped these beautiful photos in Woodbine Woods.

As spring comes into full bloom we see reminders of new life all around us. Though it may feel like we're in the midst of a long winter, the sun will shine again on our county and our nation.

- Supervisor Vega

May Board of Supervisors Meetings

May 5th	2:00 PM	CANCELED
May 5th	7:30 PM	CANCELED
May 12th	2:00 PM	Regular Meeting
May 19th	2:00 PM	Regular Meeting
May 19th	7:30 PM	CANCELLED

SpeakUp! Prince William is a way for you to comment on meeting agendas of the Board of County Supervisors online. When the agenda is posted, you can add comments to items [here](#).

All Board of County Supervisors Meetings Are Broadcast Live:

- Comcast: Channel 23
- Verizon: Channel 37
- County Website: pwcgov.org/bocs

Links To Watch April Board of Supervisors Meetings

April 14th	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	FY2021 Public Budget Hearing
April 16th	7:30 PM	FY2021 School Budget
April 21st	7:30 PM	FY2021 Budget Markup
April 28th	7:30 PM	FY2021 Budget Vote

May Planning Commission Meetings

May 6th	7:00 PM	CANCELED
May 20th	7:00 PM	CANCELED

Coles Land Use Cases

Upcoming

Dar Al Noor Mosque Expansion

The Dar Al-Noor Mosque, located on Hoadly Road between Purcell Road and the Parkway, is requesting a Special Use Permit to expand its current 12,000 square foot structure to 88,276 feet.

The expansion would include three stories with a basement, along with an updated prayer hall, a multi-purpose banquet hall, a youth and senior center, meeting rooms, play areas, daycare, a private school for 200 students, and an auditorium. The expansion may also include a medical center.

The Special Use Permit would allow the applicant to increase its number of prayer rugs from 502 to 1,782, resulting in an increase of daily vehicle trips from 1,761 to 6,250 according to county estimates. Please [click here](#) to view the case under “Under Review”.

Kline Farm Development

Located at the corner of Liberia Avenue & the Parkway to Buckhall Road (South/Southeast). Would rezone 92.19 acres from A-1 Agricultural to Planned Business District, Planned Mixed Residential, and Semi-Rural Residential Cluster to develop mixed residential, retail, commercial, office, and recreational uses. A mixture of up to 250 multi-family townhomes and single family detached residential dwellings surrounding a 145,000 square foot commercial center are being proposed.

Twenty-four acres would be devoted to a new school or parkland. In addition, the Comprehensive Plan would be amended for up to forty-nine acres, and a Special Use Permit needed for a CVS pharmacy with a drive through which would also be built. The development would add an additional 9,400 vehicle trips per day to area roads according to Stanley Martin Homes. Please [click here](#) to view the case under “Pending”.

The Preserve at Long Branch (Mid County Park and Estates)

The Preserve at Long Branch, formerly known as Mid County Park and Estates. Would amend the Comprehensive Plan to rezone 325.6 acres out of the Rural Crescent to build 118 homes with sewer in addition to 195.6 acres for open space and a park. Located off of 234 East/Dumfries Rd, behind Canova Dr. Please [click here](#) to view the case under “Pending”.

Contact Information

Coles District Supervisor Yesli Vega

(703) 792-4620 | ColesDistrict@pwcgov.org | YVega@pwcgov.org

Board of Supervisors

BOCS@pwcgov.org

District	Name	Phone	Email Address
Chair At-Large	Ann Wheeler	(703) 792-4640	AWheeler@pwcgov.org
Brentsville	Jeanine Lawson	(703) 792-6190	JLawson@pwcgov.org
Gainesville	Pete Candland	(703) 792-6195	Gainesville@pwcgov.org
Neabsco	Victor Angry	(703) 792-4667	VSAngry@pwcgov.org
Occoquan	Kenny Boddye	(703) 792-4643	KBoddye@pwcgov.org
Potomac	Andrea Bailey	(703) 792-4645	ABailey@pwcgov.org
Woodbridge	Margaret Franklin	(703) 792-4646	MFranklin@pwcgov.org

School Board

District	Name	Phone	Email Address
Chair At-Large	Babur Lateef	(571) 353-6469	BLateef@pwcs.edu
Brentsville	Adele Jackson	(703) 791-8709	AJackson@pwcs.edu
Coles	Lisa Zargarpur	(703) 791-8709	LZargarpur@pwcs.edu
Gainesville	Jennifer Wall	(703) 791-8709	JWall@pwcs.edu
Neabsco	Diane Raulston	(571) 251-3467	DRaulston@pwcs.edu
Occoquan	Lillie Jessie	(571) 659-1636	LJessie@pwcs.edu
Potomac	Justin Wilk	(703) 791-8709	JWilk@pwcs.edu
Woodbridge	Loree Williams	(571) 242-8259	LWilliams@pwcs.edu

Contact Information

Supervisor Vega's Citizen Appointments

Airport Authority, Stafford Regional	Desi Arnaiz	desi@vasi.com
Animal Advisory Committee	Ron Crigger	roncrigger@comcast.net
Architectural Review Board	VACANT	N/A
Board of Equalization	Willie Deutsch	willie.deutsch@gmail.com
Board of Zoning Appeals	Davon Gray	davongray72@gmail.com
Commission on Aging	VACANT	N/A
Community Services Board	Pat Sowers	patrick@teamsowers.com
DCSM / Zoning Ordinance Advisory Committee	Steve Mitchell	snklm@verizon.net
Historical Commission	John DePue	jfdepue@comcast.net
Historical Commission	Erin Shockley	eerriiaann@gmail.com
Housing Board	Robert Gudz	rgudz@yahoo.com
Lake Jackson Sanitary District Advisory Cmte	Bill Berry	wjbo624@gmail.com
Lake Jackson Sanitary District Advisory Cmte	Howard Smith	howardhas@yahoo.com
Lake Jackson Sanitary District Advisory Cmte	Jason Curtis	jasocurtis@gmail.com
Lake Jackson Sanitary District Advisory Cmte	Michael Trentacoste	michael@trentacoste.net
Library Board	Catherine Turner	bobandcat4@verizon.net
Parks and Recreation Committee	Jane Beyer	janebeyer777@gmail.com
Persons with Disabilities	Sarah Pitkin	pitkinse1@gmail.com
Planning Commission	Joe Fontanella	colesplanning@gmail.com
Trails and Blueways Council	Michael DePue	mjdepue@gmail.com
Trails and Blueways Council	Eric VanNortwick	edvannortwick@comcast.net
Prince William County Arts Council	VACANT	N/A
PRTC Alternate	VACANT	N/A
Service Authority	Paul O'Meara	pom.arlington@gmail.com
Social Services Advisory Board	Jacob Mosser	mosserjd@gmail.com
Solid Waste Citizens Advisory Group	Harris Glasgow	harry.glasgow@gmail.com
Solid Waste Citizens Advisory Group	Joseph Chisholm	chisholms1@msn.com
Solid Waste Citizens Advisory Group	James Gestrich	jadi458@yahoo.com
Strategic Plan Development Team	Martin Jeter	sanmar02@aol.com
Taxicab Review Board	Ellen Miles	ellenmiles1@gmail.com
Weapons Control Committee	Robert Gudz	rgudz@yahoo.com

If interested in serving on any of the **VACANT** boards, commissions, or committees listed, please submit your resume to ColesDistrict@pwcgov.org

Contact Information

Statewide Officials

Governor Ralph Northam

(804) 786-0000 | governor@gov.state.va.us

Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax

(804) 786-2078 | ltgov@ltgov.state.va.us

Attorney General Mark Herring

(804) 786-2071 | mail@oag.state.va.us

State Senate

	Name	Capitol Phone	District Phone	Email Address
13th	John Bell	(804) 698-7513	(571) 367-9080	district13@senate.virginia.gov
28th	Richard Stuart	(804) 698-7528	(804) 493-8892	district28@senate.virginia.gov
29th	Jeremy McPike	(804) 698-7529	(571) 316-0581	district29@senate.virginia.gov
36th	Scott Surovell	(804) 698-7536	(571) 249-4484	district36@senate.virginia.gov
39th	George Barker	(804) 698-7539	(703) 303-1426	district39@senate.virginia.gov

House of Delegates

	Name	Capitol Phone	District Phone	Email Address
2nd	Jennifer Carroll Foy	(804) 698-1002	(571) 989-1713	DelJCarrollFoy@house.virginia.gov
13th	Danica Roem	(804) 698-1013	(571) 393-0242	DelDRoem@house.virginia.gov
31st	Elizabeth Guzman	(804) 698-1031	(571) 403-1213	DelEGuzman@house.virginia.gov
40th	Daniel Helmer	(804) 698-1040	N/A	DelDHelmer@house.virginia.gov
50th	Lee Carter	(804) 698-1050	(571) 606-7299	DelLCarter@house.virginia.gov
51st	Hala Ayala	(804) 698-1051	N/A	DelHAyala@house.virginia.gov
52nd	Luke Torian	(804) 698-1052	(703) 785-2224	DelLTorian@house.virginia.gov
87th	Suhas Subramanyam	(804) 698-1087	N/A	DelSSubramanyam@house.virginia.gov

Contact Information

U.S. Senate

Name	Capitol Phone	District Phone
Timothy Kaine	(202) 224-4024	(703) 361-3192
Mark Warner	(202) 224-2023	(703) 442-0670

U.S. House of Representatives

	Name	Capitol Phone	District Phone
1st	Robert Wittman	(202) 225-4261	(540) 659-2734
10th	Jennifer Wexton	(202) 225-5136	(703) 234-3800
11th	Gerry Connolly	(202) 225-1492	(571) 408-4407

County Departments

Adult Detention Center	(703) 792-6420	Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court	(703) 792-6160
Area Agency on Aging	(703) 792-6374	Management and Budget	(703) 792-6720
Circuit Court	(703) 792-6015	Neighborhood Services	(703) 792-7018
Commonwealth's Attorney	(703) 792-6050	Office of Elections	(703) 792-6470
Community Services - Manassas	(703) 792-7800	Parks and Recreation	(703) 792-7060
Community Services - Woodbridge	(703) 792-4900	Planning Office	(703) 792-7615
County Attorney	(703) 792-6620	Police Department (Non-Emergency)	(703) 792-6500
Criminal Justice Services - Manassas	(703) 792-6065	Prince William Health District	(703) 792-7300
Criminal Justice Services - Woodbridge	(703) 792-4984	Public Libraries	(703) 792-6100
Development Services	(703) 792-6930	Real Estate Assessments	(703) 792-6780
Economic Development	(703) 792-5500	Sheriff's Office (Non-Emergency)	(703) 792-6070
Environmental Services	(703) 792-7070	Social Services	(703) 792-7500
Executive Management	(703) 792-6600	Solid Waste Management	(703) 792-6254
Fire and Rescue (Non-Emergency)	(703) 792-6800	Taxpayer Services	(703) 792-6710
General District Court	(703) 792-6141	VDOT	(800) 367-7623
Housing and Community Development	(703) 792-7530	Virginia Cooperative Extension	(703) 792-4371
Human Rights Commission	(703) 792-4680	Zoning Office	(703) 792-7615