



Supervisor Caddigan's Update

From the desk of Maureen S. Caddigan, Dumfries Magisterial District Supervisor

www.dumfries.com

February, 2009

(703) 792-4645

Greetings!

I am pleased to be share with you a brief overview of the state of the county – the good news as well as the bad. In the latter case I will explain how we are taking measures to mitigate the bad.

By all measures the United States is currently experiencing one of the most severe economic recessions on record and we are experiencing similar challenges in our own community. Assessed housing values have fallen, commercial development has slowed and many projects have been put on hold.

While national data show significant job losses, overall job growth in Prince William is slightly positive despite a slowing economy during 2008 with 28 new and expanding companies announced intentions to invest \$326 million and hire 520 new high-wage workers.

The potential exception to a steady employment outlook may include the retail sector due to expected weakness in consumer spending.

Additionally in 2008 more than one half million square feet of office space was delivered and Prince William remains a prime location for developers even though many have put 2009 plans on hold until the economy improves.

Innovation Technology Park continues as a hallmark of our economic development activities. The Hylton Performing Arts Center is nearing completion and will be the centerpiece for a planned mixed-use town center. The FBI is in residence in their northern Virginia Resident Agency and the Virginia Forensics Lab is nearly complete. George Mason University's Regional Biomedical Lab is also under construction.

BRAC activity at Ft Belvoir and the Quantico Marine Base provides opportunity for the County, especially with defense contractors. I co-chair the BRAC committee along with a supervisor from Stafford County.



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This past year developers have delivered, or are about to deliver, over 300,000 square feet of speculative office space in and near the Potomac Communities to meet anticipated BRAC demand.

Let me turn now to your local government and what we are doing during these difficult times.

Prince William families are concerned about the economy as they try to make ends meet. The County Board, our staff and our many Boards and Commissions must do the same. The decline in residential assessment and sales tax revenue along with other revenue sources creates a shortfall of approximately \$190 million for the upcoming fiscal year beginning on July 1st of this year. That broken out represents a shortfall in the County's portion of \$82 million and for schools of \$108 million. Both organizations are also facing substantial cuts from the state.

"I Listen - I Care - I Respond"

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The County is proud of our proactive measures to mitigate some of the downturn effects for the current year – that while other jurisdictions are struggling to cut current year spending.

We are doing things better, faster and cheaper than in the past and our spending is down more than \$7 million for the first few months of this year compared to the last fiscal year.

We know we must continue to tighten our belts as we face the challenges of the next few years. We know that citizens are worried about their own expenses and it would be unacceptable to consider raising taxes to further burden our residents. The county executive has been charged to prepare a proposed budget so that all single residential property owners will see a decrease in their tax bill.

We addressed transportation and we have built our own roads even though that is a state responsibility. All told we have built 182 lane miles of roads in the County at a cost of \$500 million. The County is in the business of road building in the absence of the state fulfilling their charter to do so. In 2008 the County had nearly \$100 million of capital investment in roadway construction projects.

- Linton Hall Road 4 lanes
- Minnieville Road widening – Old Bridge to mid-county
- Heathcote Boulevard
- Route 1 sidewalk
- Fuller Heights Road sidewalks
- Quantico streetscape
- Building demolition on Route 1 in Triangle

The County cannot maintain our investment in light of the current fiscal situation however we have several “ready to go” projects if we can take advantage of potential federal stimulus funds.

We have initiated a Home Help Program initiated to make it possible for County employees, Police and Fire/Rescue staff to

purchase a home in the County allowing them to live in the community they serve as well as reducing the present serious oversupply of homes for sale.

We are addressing foreclosures. I mentioned the home help program through which the Sun Trust Bank will provide \$50 million per year in bank loans to county employees.

We have made great strides in support of the business community by streamlining our inspection and permitting processes. Through the new Department of Development Services customers now receive a coordinated response to a project rather than allowing fragmented permits or responses from individual departments.

We addressed illegal immigration with the positive result that more than 1300 illegals who committed crimes have been deported.

You may have noticed that the County razed the hotel at the intersection of Rte 1 and Joplin Road in Triangle. Thanks to the successful bond referendum in 2006, all buildings along Route 1 in Triangle will be down by this spring. Utilities will be placed underground making way for the widening of the road to 6 lanes with a median in the center, a running path on one side and a sidewalk on the other. That entire effort will take from 18 to 24 months.

The next effort will be the beginning of work to develop the Village of Triangle behind Route 1 and the creation of a traffic circle at the Route 1 – Joplin Road intersection. It is hoped that the Iwo Jima statue can be moved to the center of the circle. This project has been 12 years in planning and 2 years since passage of the successful bond.

The locating of the magnificent Marine Corps Heritage Museum in Triangle has given me the incentive to move the Route 1 project along. Marines and citizens worldwide visit the museum and a solid and aesthetic business infrastructure is essential to support that tourism influx.

Wegmans has established new stores in Woodbridge and Gainesville. Lots of new and

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exciting businesses are being discussed for the Woodbridge location, but no contracts have been signed as yet.

The Pope John Paul the Great High School is located on the Cherry Hill Peninsula. The Kettler Company's efforts to build on the peninsula are on hold pending better economic times. The Jack Nicklaus Golf Course is completed and we were anticipating a gated community surrounding the golf course. Both are on hold.

The Science Museum at Belmont Bay is still being planned and will anchor the northern end of the county in the east.

The county purchased the Williams Ordinary in the Town of Dumfries. When times are better it is the plan to turn the building into a colonial themed restaurant.

The county also subsidizes VRE and PRTC in the millions with federal, state and local funds.

We have a difficult year ahead and we on the Board are united in addressing the challenges we face. We commit this next fiscal

year to continuing to fix problems in our community, even when those problems are caused by federal and state government inaction.

The cuts we will make will be both deep and painful but, while other counties consider tax increases, our Board is committed to deliver a tax cut to all homeowners.

We will meet the many challenges facing us head on. Prince William County is a recognized national leader and, as such, we won't wait for others to fix our problems.

You can always reach me by phone at (703) 792-4645 or by email at mcaddigan@pwcgov.org with your concerns and issues. I invite you to also check my website at www.dumfries.com for continuing updates of District and County news.

Warm Regards,
Maureen

"Dining with Diabetes" Course

This Prince William County Cooperative Extension program is a lifestyle program that focuses on the consequences of high blood sugar and how to improve lifestyle behaviors: exercise, correctly taking medications, and monitoring your eyes, feet, and kidneys. The fee covers four sessions and a follow-up

meeting three months later, and an A1c test at the first class and at the follow-up class for persons with diabetes. The class will also demonstrate healthy cooking techniques and include a light meal.

For more information see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Neighborhood Leaders Group

The Neighborhood Leaders Group have been bringing together leaders from neighborhoods across the County for the purpose of networking, learning and sharing successful strategies for solving community maintenance issues. The Neighborhood Leaders Group has a mission statement, monthly meetings and has begun work on a strategic plan. Speakers have been brought in

for code education on topics chosen by the group. The group has provided input on such initiatives as the new graffiti abatement process and I will continue to seek their ideas, advice and priorities for their neighborhoods.

For more information [Visit the group's website](#) or contact the Neighborhood Services Division of PWC's Department of Public Works at (703) 792-7018 or nsd@pwcgov.org

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Neighborhoods Meeting the Challenge of Foreclosures

Over 8,000 foreclosures were recorded in 2008 in Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. The Prince William Association of Realtors forecasts the number to balloon to 12,000 new foreclosures in 2009. The impacts of foreclosures range from litter and tall grass to vandalism and arson, all of which degrade neighborhood appearance, property values and the quality of life. Neighborhoods will need information

about available resources and self-help strategies to order to preserve their communities. The 2009 Prince William Neighborhood Conference, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 7, will offer residents the information needed to deal with community maintenance issues in the current economic climate.

For more information see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Gang Response Intervention Team Mentoring Program

The goal of the Gang Response Intervention Team is to reduce gang and youth violence activity and thus improve the quality of life in Greater Prince William. It tries to achieve that goal by engaging the entire community in a comprehensive approach to identifying and helping to deliver those services needed to discourage delinquent behavior, while encouraging positive behavior and development in at-risk youth.

Mentoring is a proven method of mitigating risk factors and increasing those positive developmental assets in at-risk youth. To that end we are working on increasing the availability of mentoring and raising the quality of mentoring in Greater Prince William by starting a Mentoring Partnership. The goal of the partnership would be to increase mentoring capacity and

quality by collaborating in mentor recruitment, mentor training and sharing of best practices.

In furtherance of building a Greater Prince William Mentoring Partnership it would be helpful if we could obtain the help of a community member, perhaps retired, who might have some experience in mentoring or human services and who could help guide s in this effort. Please contact Richard Buchholz GRIT Coordinator with any questions or offers to help.



Richard Buchholz
Gang Response Intervention Team (GRIT) Coordinator
Serving Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park
9540 Center Street, Suite 200
Manassas, VA 20110

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Tax Assistance for Seniors

Once again this year, the Prince William Senior Center at Manassas, located at 9320 Mosby Street, will be hosting the AARP Tax Aide Program, beginning February 3, 2009. Appointments are necessary and are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please call (703) 792-6405 or come to the senior center office for appointment dates, times and detailed information.

For more information see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Recipe of the month

Annie's Fruit Salsa and Cinnamon Chips

Ingredients

- 2 kiwis, peeled and diced
- 2 Golden Delicious apples - peeled, cored and diced
- 8 ounces raspberries
- 1 pound strawberries
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons fruit preserves, any flavor

- 10 (10 inch) flour tortillas
- butter flavored cooking spray
- 2 cups cinnamon sugar

Directions

1. In a large bowl, thoroughly mix kiwis, Golden Delicious apples, raspberries, strawberries, white sugar, brown sugar and fruit preserves. Cover and chill in the refrigerator at least 15 minutes.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
3. Coat one side of each flour tortilla with butter flavored cooking spray. Cut into wedges and arrange in a single layer on a large baking sheet. Sprinkle wedges with desired amount of cinnamon sugar. Spray again with cooking spray.
4. Bake in the preheated oven 8 to 10 minutes. Repeat with any remaining tortilla wedges. Allow to cool approximately 15 minutes. Serve with chilled fruit mixture.

Find this and more recipes online at www.allrecipies.com

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I Listen – I Care – I Respond!



Please feel free to contact my office with your issues, concerns and suggestions.

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Roll Call

Our County, State and Federal Representatives

Federal

President Barak Obama	(202) 456-1414
Senator Jim Webb	(202) 224-4024
Senator Mark Warner	(202) 224-2023
Congressman Gerry Connolly <i>11th District</i>	(202) 225-1492
Congressman Rob Whittman <i>1st District</i>	(202) 225-4261

Commonwealth of Virginia

Governor Tim Kaine	(804) 786-2211
Lt Governor Bill Bolling	(804) 786-2078
Attorney General Bob McDonnell	(804) 786-2071
Senator Chuck Colgan <i>29th District</i>	(703) 368-0300 (804) 698-7529
Delegate Jeffrey Frederick <i>52nd District</i>	(703) 490-8405 (804) 698-1052

Prince William County

[Board of County Supervisors](#)

Corey A. Stewart <i>Chairman-at-Large</i>	(703) 792-4640
Maureen S. Caddigan <i>Dumfries District</i>	(703) 792-4645

Dumfries District Appointees

www.dumfries.com/Appointees

[Prince William County School Board](#)

Milton C Johns <i>Chairman-at-Large</i>	(571) 261-2157
Betty D. Covington <i>Dumfries District</i>	(703) 221-0883

“Dining with Diabetes” Course

Food shopping, cooking for your family and eating out are especially challenging when you have diabetes. Learn to make healthy choices in the course, “Dining with Diabetes: A Program for People with Diabetes and their Families”.

This Prince William County Cooperative Extension program is a lifestyle program that focuses on the consequences of high blood sugar and how to improve lifestyle behaviors: exercise, correctly taking medications, and monitoring your eyes, feet, and kidneys. The fee covers four sessions and a follow-up meeting three months later, and an A1c test at the first class and at the follow-up class for persons with diabetes. The class will also demonstrate healthy cooking techniques and include a light meal.

The series of four Monday evening sessions will be held at the McCoart Administration Center in Prince William from 6-8 p.m. on February 23, March 2, 9, and 16. Course fees are \$40 for the person with diabetes and \$15 for the spouse, family member, caseworker or caregiver, and include a notebook of information and recipes. The registration deadline is Tuesday, February 17, 2009.

For more information, contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension: (703) 792-6287 or visit <http://www.pwcgov.org/vce>.

January 23, 2009

For Immediate Release
Contact: Pat Reilly, Neighborhood Coordinator
703-792-6892
preilly@pwcgov.org

Neighborhoods Meeting the Challenge of Foreclosures

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA . . . Over 8,000 foreclosures were recorded in 2008 in Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. The Prince William Association of Realtors forecasts the number to balloon to 12,000 new foreclosures in 2009. The impacts of foreclosures range from litter and tall grass to vandalism and arson, all of which degrade neighborhood appearance, property values and the quality of life. Neighborhoods will need information about available resources and self-help strategies to order to preserve their communities. The 2009 Prince William Neighborhood Conference, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 7, will offer residents the information needed to deal with community maintenance issues in the current economic climate.

The conference is a joint effort by Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park. It will be held in the James J. McCoart and Development Services Buildings from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Registration is required; the fee of \$25 includes breaks, a box lunch and conference materials.

Classes are designed for individuals from neighborhoods with and without homeowners associations. Representatives from each of the sponsoring jurisdictions will outline the services of their respective neighborhood services and property code agencies. Local community management experts and successful neighborhood leaders will share their knowledge of dealing with neighborhood issues. Exhibitors will offer information about gangs, fire and crime prevention, the Citizen Corps, Habitat for Humanity and local civic associations. Details about the conference and registration forms can be found at www.pwcgov.org/neighborhoodconference or call 703-792-7018.

Please contact Neighborhood Services at 703-792-7018 or nsd@pwcgov.org for more information.

* * * end * * *

<p>Note to Media: Media is invited to attend the conference free of charge. There will be an opportunity to interview speakers from the conference. Please call Pat Reilly at 703-792-6892 if you are interested in attending.</p>
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TAX
ASSISTANCE
OFFERED



Once again this year, the Prince William Senior Center at Manassas, located at 9320 Mosby Street, will be hosting the AARP Tax Aide Program, beginning February 3, 2009.

Appointments are necessary, and will be scheduled on
Tuesdays from 9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
and
Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call (703-792-6405) or come to the senior center office for appointment dates, times and detailed information.

Appointments are available on a first-come, first serve basis. In the event of inclement weather, cancelled appointments will be rescheduled for the next available times.

ONLY electronic filing will be done this year.