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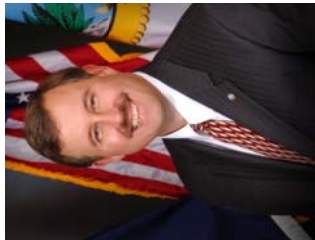
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Please send your email address to [bjohnson1@pwcgov.org](mailto:bjohnson1@pwcgov.org) and you will automatically receive the electronic version of the *Woodbridge Vision* quarterly.

*Economic Development,  
Better Transportation,  
Better Neighborhoods*

Resident  
Woodbridge District



# Woodbridge Vision

Frank J. Principi  
Woodbridge District Supervisor

Winter 2009

## *Frankly Speaking* Supervisor Frank J. Principi

I wish each of you a Happy Holiday and prosperous New Year. As I reflect back over the past year I am proud of the progress that we have made in the Woodbridge District. Working with Neighborhood Services, Woodbridge Potomac Communities Civic Association, community organizations and the faith community we cleaned, landscaped and enforced zoning violations throughout the Community.

To keep the momentum going, Team Principi is launching what I call "The 2010 Project." It will involve twenty community improvement events and the demolition of 10 blighted/deviant properties during 2010. To be a successful community project, we need residents, neighborhoods and organizations to participate.

Let us know if your group or organization has an event or activity that might qualify as one the 20 projects. We have identified six events and want your help in identifying the remaining activities. The identified projects are the: Spring Clean-up, Earth Day Event, Veterans Park Clean-up, Opening of VRE Crosswalk, Marumsco Lake Clean-up, and a Business Beautification Initiative.

The list of ten unsightly properties begins with the demolition of the old gas station the corner of Jefferson Davis Highway and Route 123. VDOT assures me it will be gone by the first of the year. I want your help identifying the remaining properties.

For more information on how you can be part of "The 2010 Project," call (703) 792-4646 or email me at [woodbridge@pwcgov.org](mailto:woodbridge@pwcgov.org).

Sincerely,

Frank J. Principi

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# Economic Development

Woodbridge is continuing to build and plan new development despite the economic slowdown nationwide. Supervisor Principi's vision of a New Woodbridge with, mixed use development is beginning to be seen in our community.

Potomac Town Center at Stonebridge will open several stores before the holiday season. They anticipate the remaining stores in Phase I to open in Spring of 2010. Potomac Town Center will be the home of restaurants and stores are appealing to local residents, and will attract regional customers.

Just down the street, Town Center Properties, LLC broke ground for the Town Center Professional Building. Located across from Potomac Hospital, the new building will provide 28,000 square feet of rental office space that is ideal for medical, dental or professional occupants. The anchor tenant, **NoVa Orthopedic & Spine Care**, will occupy the third floor. The building will be constructed with some of the newest green technology to promote energy savings.

George Mason University is partnering with the U.S. Wildlife Refuge to build the **Potomac Science Center** in Belmont Bay. It will include a science-learning center for people of all ages as well as be the site for graduate level courses on satellite imagery and environmental studies. Belmont Bay is moving forward with plans to build the retail, restaurants, and lodging phase of the community.

As the economy continues to improve, Supervisor Principi hopes to see more projects that offer residents the opportunity live, work, and play in New Woodbridge. To keep up to date on what is happening in the District go to [www.NewWoodbridge.org](http://www.NewWoodbridge.org).

# Around Woodbridge

Route 1 Beautification

October 10, 2009



Boards and Commission Breakfast

September 26, 2009



Metro Extension Press Conference

August 20, 2009



# Volunteer Opportunities

## Team Principi Needs You!



Join Team Principi in making your community a better place. We have volunteer opportunities available in a variety of areas. No matter how many or how few hours you have available, we need your help. Let us know your interest and we will find a way for you to join us in creating a New Woodbridge.

**Woodbridge District Office:** Needs volunteers to assist once a week with general administrative duties.

**Beautification Committee:** Volunteers needed to help plan clean-up activities in Woodbridge. Meetings are monthly during the day.

**Boards and Commissions:** We are currently seeking applicants for the Animal Advisory Committee, the Architecture Review Board, Historical Commission and the Solid Waste Management Citizens Advisory Committee.

**Mailings/Special Events:** Join a list of volunteers we can call when needed for mailings and other one time activities.

There are many ways to get involved and make a difference in your County government. Depending on your time, talents and interests, the right opportunity is out there, and the only thing missing is you!



## Citizens Budget Committee

Are you financially savvy? Are you interested in how your tax dollars are spent? Are you looking for a way to get involved in your community? Supervisor Frank J. Principi needs interested residents to join his Citizens Budget Committee. The committee is tasked with examining the proposed County Budget for FY 2011 and giving Supervisor Principi their recommendations and observations. The Budget Committee will meet approximately six times between December 2009 and April 2010. All interested residents should send their resumes to [bjohnson1@pwcgov.org](mailto:bjohnson1@pwcgov.org) or call 703-792-4646.

## Economic Development cont'd

## New Athletic Field for the Woodbridge District



Exciting News! A new athletic field will be built in the Woodbridge Magisterial District off of Neabsco Road. The Board of County Supervisors purchased a parcel of land near the Julie Metz Wetland Bank. The field will be located on Neabsco Mills Road near Leesylvania Elementary. Currently, the land is being used as a staging area for the Route 1 Neabsco Creek bridge improvements. The Park Authority will create an area suitable for a multi-purpose field. This field has several uses such as children's soccer, volleyball, flag football, rugby, badminton, cricket, and frisbee golf. Supervisor Principi anticipates the Park to be open in the summer of 2010. Check [www.NewWoodbridge.org](http://www.NewWoodbridge.org) for information about the official grand opening.



## Woodbridge Potomac Communities Civic Association

Any resident, business, non-profit organization or property owner in the Woodbridge Magisterial District, eighteen years of age or older, may be an Association member. Membership requires annual registration and attendance at least one meeting a year. The WPCCA currently has over 100 members. Please join the WPCCA and become part of creating a positive image for "New Woodbridge." Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month in the Leesylvania Room at the Ferlazzo Building @ 7:00 pm. To register, please go to the website: [www.NewWoodbridge.org](http://www.NewWoodbridge.org).

# Better Transportation

## Woodbridge to Tysons Corner



A new express commuter bus route to Tysons Corner from Woodbridge began November 9, 2009.

Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) now offers four trips to Tysons in the morning and four return trips in the afternoon. Access points in Prince William are the Woodbridge VRE Station or the Route 123/I95 commuter lot. In Tysons Corner you have the option of 16 bus stops, including the Transit Station at the mall. Fares for the next six months will be half price! In addition all Buses are equipped with wireless internet access.

For more information about the Tysons Corner OmniRide service or any of PRTC's transportation services, visit [www.PRTCtransit.org](http://www.PRTCtransit.org) or call PRTC's Customer Service Department at (703) 730-6664.

## Station Expansion Offers Commuters More Options



Woodbridge Station expansion rendering

The Virginia Railway Express station in Woodbridge will have a second platform by December, making it easier and safer to access the trains.

The new platform will be connected to the parking garage with a 142-foot overhead pedestrian bridge. The additional platform will help avoid bottlenecks and back-ups

because it enables safe use of the second track. If a train is delayed on one track, pedestrians can access the second track safely via the pedestrian bridge.

The 600-foot platform is on the west side of the tracks, and will be accessible from Route 1 via a temporary small paved area for vehicles, lighting for safety of pedestrians and fencing to prohibit pedestrians from walking onto the tracks.

## Better Transportation cont'd

## Commuter Ferry Service Received Regional Support



Prince William County Board of Supervisors (BOCS), Northern Virginia Regional Commission, and Washington Council of Governments reviewed and unanimously approved the findings from the Commuter Ferry Service feasibility study. They have agreed the formation of an advisory committee make up of all the stakeholders (private sector, public sector, military, intergovernmental agencies) to ensure the project continues to move forward.

Prince William Department of Transportation conducted the study and a route proving exercise (RPE) along the Potomac River last spring. In conjunction with the RPE, Supervisor Frank J. Principi held a Commuter Ferry Summit. The Summit brought together industry experts, regional staff and citizens to discuss the challenges and advantages of ferry service in our area. Presentations from the Commuter Ferry Summit and results of the study are available at [www.NewWoodbridge.org](http://www.NewWoodbridge.org).

The report details that a commuter ferry is feasible for Prince William County and the Washington D.C Metropolitan area. There are 11-13 proposed stops for the commuter ferry in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington D.C. Anticipated cost of a roundtrip ticket from Prince William County to Washington D.C. SE is about \$11 dollars. The cost of capital improvements such as parking decks and docks would range from \$22 million to \$30 million dollars.

The study indicates that in order to be successful the ferry system must be a regional transportation option. Since they are not a member of COG, Supervisor Principi welcomed the support of the Charles County Maryland Board of Commissioners to participate in the regional effort.

## Transit Options for Senior Citizens

Due to a huge deficit, Prince William County cut many programs in the FY10 Budget. Transportation to and from the Woodbridge and Manassas Senior Centers was one of the programs eliminated. At a Senior Town Hall meeting hosted by Supervisor Principi, over 100 senior citizens shared the problems and frustrations they are experiencing because of this cut.

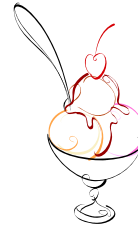
Our community relies on the automobile to access the outside world. In Prince William County most destinations are too far or too unsafe to walk. Public transportation is limited and taxi service quickly becomes very expensive. Prince William County is also seeing an increase in the number of older adults who have physical limitations that impedes their ability to drive. This leaves them stranded in their homes, isolated from family and friends and prone to various negative outcomes from depression to social isolation.

Supervisor Principi feels very strongly that we must offer our older residents a variety of transit options if they are to remain independent and active. He is embarrassed that Prince William is the only jurisdiction in the region that does not provide our older residents transportation to and from the Senior Centers. Fairfax, Loudoun, Alexandria, Arlington and the Rappahannock Region all have free door to door service to their senior centers. These jurisdictions also provide lost cost transportation for medical appointments.

At the Board of Supervisors October Financial Retreat, staff was directed to revisit the transportation issue. At a January Board of Supervisors meeting staff will present options for restoring some type of transportation to and from the centers.

# Better Neighborhoods

## Senior Ice Cream Socials



Supervisor Principi spent three delightful afternoons sharing ice cream and conversation with the residents of Potomac Woods, Potomac Place and Envoy. Residents discussed issues affecting the Woodbridge District while they enjoyed ice cream and cookies served by Principi's staff. They shared their concerns about a variety of issues including; lack of transportation to the senior center, a scarcity of recreational activities for older adults, future development, public safety, and community maintenance. The residents offered a very valuable perspective on the issues as well as delightful tales about the regions history.

Discussions at the ice cream socials reaffirmed Supervisor Principi's commitment to find a lasting solution for senior transportation. As a community, we need to insure that senior citizens are provided a variety of transit options once they are no longer able to drive.



Potomac Woods Town Hall/Ice Cream Social  
September 4, 2009



Potomac Place Town Hall/Ice Cream Social  
August 10, 2009



Envoy Town Hall/Ice Cream Social  
September 16, 2009



## Fall Clean-up and Landscaping

Supervisor Principi and his staff are continuously striving to achieve the vision of a New Woodbridge. Creating better neighborhoods is a critical component of the vision. Working in conjunction with the Neighborhood Services Division, private citizens and local businesses he is determined to enforce property codes in the Woodbridge District.

The FY 2009 property code violations data for Prince William County shows that 70% of all complaints handled by Neighborhood Services Division are in the Woodbridge District. This is a significant increase over from prior years. It results from and expanded educational initiative from Neighborhood Services, a proactive clean-up effort from Supervisor Principi's staff and increased citizen involvement.

In FY 2009, the top six zoning complaints decreased significantly from the prior year. This is due to the diligence of County staff and the willingness of businesses to join Supervisor Principi in his campaign to change the image of Woodbridge.

Supervisor Principi and the Woodbridge Potomac Civic Association are joining forces on several projects. But this truly takes all of us working together. We need your help if we are going to be successful. You can report property code violations by going on line, calling Neighborhood Services at 703.792.7018 or calling Principi's office at 703.792.4647.



## Bridging the Gap



On several occasions over the past two years, Supervisor Principi had the opportunity to work with residents, county staff, builders and developers to resolve a variety of issues. The issues varied in degree from minor landscaping disputes to major construction and safety problems.

In all these circumstances, Supervisor Principi advocated for his constituents by bringing the right parties to the table and facilitating positive discussions.

Georgetown Village Homeowners Association was delighted with the outcome of a dispute between them and a builder from a neighboring development. The HOA received a monetary settlement to be used for improvements in the community. In addition, four residents were compensated for damage to their property. The two communities are now working together as neighbors rather than adversaries.

Older neighborhoods often suffer when newer communities open. Roads that were once safe for children to play on are now being used by commuters eager to get home. Working with the communities, the Prince William County Department of Transportation, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Police Department several traffic calming initiatives are being implemented. These initiatives are designed to slow traffic and discourage the use of neighborhood roads as a thoroughfare.

Sometimes it is impossible to resolve all the issues residents encounter. Supervisor Principi and county staff can only work within existing zoning regulations, building codes and county regulations. When you have a mixture of problems that are spread between several different stakeholders finding one solution to please everyone is not going to happen. However, most of the time issues are resolved through communication, education and a willingness to do what is best for the community.