



Neighborhood News

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE I

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Interested in Helping Improve Your Community??? Consider Joining the Neighborhood Services Team!

We currently have openings for Property Code Enforcement Inspectors and a Field Supervisor position that oversees the Litter Crew Program.

For additional information, please visit the Job Opportunities section of the County website—see highlighted links below:

[Property Code Inspector](#)

[NSD Field Supervisor](#)



NSD

5 County Complex Ct
Prince William, VA
22192
703-792-7018





PWC Solid Waste
703-792-4670

News from Solid Waste...

Curb Your Christmas Tree & Wreaths After the Holidays

After all the holiday festivities are over, give your Christmas tree, wreath, and other cut greenery another life as compost and mulch. Simply remove all ornaments, decorations, tinsel, nails, and the tree stand and set the empty tree and greenery at the curb for pickup as a part of yard waste collection by your waste and recycling collection service provider, during the first two full weeks of January.



Or take the tree and greenery to one of locations listed below to be recycled:

- The Prince William County Landfill at 14811 Dumfries Road. Monday - Friday, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. The facility is closed New Year's Day.
- The Balls Ford Road Compost Facility located at 13000 Balls Ford Road. Monday - Friday, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. The facility is closed New Year's Day.

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC) located at 5399 Wellington Branch Road in Gainesville will accept drop-off of greenery from December 26 to January 9. The drop off area is in the front parking lot in the area outlined with the orange safety cones. For more information, contact NOVEC's vegetation management department at 703-335-0500 x 1600, or VegetationMgmt@novec.com.

For more information on Solid Waste facilities or recycling in PWC, visit www.pwcva.gov/trashandrecycling.



Landfill & Compost Facility to Close on Sundays and Reduced Hours Begin on January 9...



The Prince William County Landfill and the Balls Ford Road Compost Facility will be closed on Sundays, beginning January 9, after the holiday season, until further notice. The decision to reduce hours at these facilities was made due to staffing shortages, overtime costs, and escalating COVID-19 safety concerns. These facilities are scheduled to remain open on Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Residents may also use recycling trailers provided by the Solid Waste Division and located throughout the County as well, the Saturday collection sites are scheduled to be open after New Year's Day. Visit www.pwcva.gov/trashandrecycling for recycling trailer locations and Saturday Collection site information.

Customers at Solid Waste facilities are encouraged to follow these guidelines to protect each other and employees from the spread of disease:

- Maintain six-foot social distancing and wear a mask.
- Take care of your disposal quickly but use caution when driving through the convenience center and facility property.
- Bring someone to assist you with unloading, if needed, because the staff has been restricted from this activity.

Other service notes:

- Bulky items and construction debris (limit - 2.5 cubic yards) customers may be directed to a disposal area at the landfill. (The County is not responsible for vehicle damage).
- Bulky items and construction debris are not accepted at the Balls Ford Road facility on the weekend.
- Yard waste and brush disposal at the landfill will be directed to the yard waste area.
- Have your Driver's License ready to display unless you have a solid waste decal.
- No cash or check payments: credit or debit card only.

Visit www.pwcva.gov/trashandrecycling for additional guidance. Residents are encouraged to sign up for PWC Alerts to receive the latest information on Solid Waste services and programs.



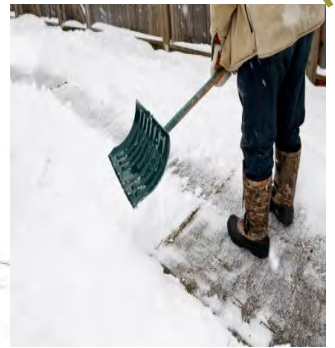


VDOT

800-367-7623

vdotplows.org511virginia.gov

PROPER TECHNIQUE FOR SHOVELLING SNOW



8 Ways You Can Help With Snow Removal in Your Community

Road snow removal in Prince William County is led by the Virginia Department of Transportation. But what about the sidewalks and other areas around your home or business?

The State and the County **DO NOT** clear snow and ice from public walkways (sidewalks and trails). While not legally obligated, residents and businesses are asked to help keep sidewalks safe (homeowner associations may require members of their communities to clear walkways near their property). You should, as soon as possible, clear snow off the sidewalks in front of your property so that all pedestrians, especially school children, people with disabilities and the elderly, may walk securely as conditions improve.

Eight ways you can help:

1. Start a Neighborhood Team to help shovel snow for elderly and those unable to shovel. And please be aware of the risks for people with heart conditions.
2. Residents and businesses should ensure all accessible parking spaces for people with disabilities are cleared of snow and ice.
3. Don't put trash cans and recycling bins out until after the plows have come.
4. If possible, remove parked cars from the road. Navigating around objects severely hampers a plow or heavy equipment driver's ability to clear the roads and costs valuable time.
5. Clear snow away from fire hydrants in your neighborhood. Ask neighbors to adopt a fire hydrant and clear snow and ice away from all hydrants so that they are easily visible in the event of a fire.
6. Shovel snow into the yard instead of into the street to minimize the problem of the snowplow covering your driveway with snow after you've just shoveled it.
7. Keep the openings of storm drains clear of snow and debris to help alleviate potential flooding and to protect the environment. (At no time, however, should a resident attempt to enter a storm drain to remove debris.)
8. Volunteer to use or lend equipment such as small snow blowers for a community removal effort.



2021-2022 Northern Virginia District SNOW FACTS

LANE MILES TO PLOW: 14,142



Interstate: 803
Primary: 1,693
Secondary: 11,571
 (includes 17,159 subdivision streets)

Crews work interstates, major roads, and main subdivision roads in priority order.

PIECES OF EQUIPMENT: 3,500

MOBILIZATION

We monitor the forecast closely and mobilize crews and resources. Trucks report, load, and deploy:

- **12-18 hours** before smaller event
- **18-24 hours** before large storm



If 2" + of snow is forecast, residents may see trucks staged in neighborhoods.

CLEARANCE GOALS



After storm ends:
 2-4": 24 hours
 4-6": 48 hours
 6" +: 72 hours

Crews start treating once precipitation starts.

They start plowing once 2" of snow has accumulated.



ANTI-ICING



- Reduces bonding to asphalt and concrete
- Performed if pavement temps are above 20 degrees and weather won't begin as rain
- Most effective during first hour of storm

Depending upon the storm and the window of time, we may perform a partial or full anti-icing treatment of bridges, overpasses, elevated surfaces, primary and/or secondary roads.



DID YOU KNOW?

Brine is a mix of 23% salt and 77% water. It is sprayed as a liquid that dries to create white "brine lines" on the pavement.

18 MAINTENANCE AREA HEADQUARTERS

Arlington: 1 • Fairfax: 9 • Loudoun: 4 • Prince William: 4



Salt domes and sheds: 24

Our largest dome, at I-495 and Van Dorn Street in Alexandria, holds 33,000 tons of salt.

MATERIALS ON HAND

Brine: 250,000 gallons
 Salt: 120,000 tons
 Sand: 25,000 tons





VDOT

800-367-7623

vdotplows.org511virginia.gov

2021-2022 Northern Virginia Snow Facts

WHAT DOES "PASSABLE" MEAN?



- ✓ In neighborhoods, an 8'-to-10' path for emergency vehicle access.
- ✓ Drivable with extreme caution, but is snow-packed and not curb-to-curb or to bare pavement.
- ✓ Crews will sand hills, curves and intersections to help with traction.

SNOW MAPS

In northern Virginia, roads are divided among 647 maps assigned to plow drivers. Interstates and high-volume roads are made passable, then bare pavement where possible. Neighborhood main roads are made passable, then remaining streets and cul-de-sacs.



HOW RESIDENTS CAN HELP

- ✓ Monitor weather closely, as forecasts can improve or worsen quickly.
- ✓ Adjust commutes, telework, or avoid driving during a storm and after until road conditions improve.
- ✓ Park in driveways or on the same side of the street.
- ✓ Wait to shovel driveways until plows have come, as they will push some snow back.
- ✓ Have enough gas, wiper fluid, proper tires, medication, and an emergency car kit.
- ✓ Be patient: crews need time and room to work.
- ✓ While we do not clear sidewalks, crews are asked to be mindful, especially near schools. There is often limited room to pile snow in significant storms, to make roads passable. Residents and businesses are asked to clear near their properties. Check with your locality for ordinances.

STAY INFORMED



TWITTER

Follow @vadotnova for the latest news, updates, photos, and information



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

See virginiadot.org/novaemergency for updates, FAQs, and other resources



CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

Report road hazards at 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623) or my.vdot.virginia.gov



VDOT PLOWS

Visit vdotplows.org for plow status and locations once 2" of snow has accumulated



511 VIRGINIA

Check traffic conditions before you travel at 511virginia.gov

News from Our Community Partners...



SAVE THE DATE:
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2022
9 AM - 3:30 PM
 REGISTRATION OPENS EARLY JANUARY

STOP MOWING, START GROWING!

4TH ANNUAL, NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM FOR BEGINNERS & BEYOND

Keynote Speaker: Matt Bright, Earth Sangha

NVCC'S Workforce Center, Woodbridge, VA
**Create a Beautiful Yard, Save Time & Money, Improve
Water Quality, Build Habitat for Pollinators and Birds.**

Sponsored by



If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, services, or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Virginia Cooperative Extension at 703-792-6285 during the business hours of 8 am and 5 pm to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.



PWC Neighborhood
Services Division

5 County Complex Ct,
Suite 280
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22192

703-792-7018

News from Neighborhood Services...

NSD by the Numbers

2021	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<u>Spot Blight</u>	0	1	0	0	0	0
<u>Zoning</u>	160	208	202	173	106	221
<u>Building Maintenance</u>	34	49	28	54	17	55
<u>Vegetation</u>	50	74	62	36	7	3
<u>Graffiti</u>	1	2	0	2	2	6
<u>Refuse</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Unsafe/Unfit</u>	12	14	15	4	10	17
<u>Illegal Roadside Signs</u>	11	4	2	4	0	1
Total Cases	268	352	309	273	142	303
<u>Removed Roadside Signs</u>	556	435	272	404	270	69

Neighborhood Services' Mission is to assist residents understand, abide by, and raise concerns about compliance with Property Codes. The Codes are the basis for and guide the way we work together to maintain adequate health, safety and quality of life in the places where we live, work and enjoy Prince William County.

Property Code Enforcement staff members work to ensure our communities are properly maintained by educating and enforcing, when necessary the following:

[Prince William Zoning Ordinance](#) (regulates how land is used)

[Building Maintenance Code](#) (regulates safety and structural elements of existing structures)

[Spot Blight Program](#) (addresses extremely deteriorated properties)

[Illegal Roadside Signs](#) (signs placed illegally in the road right-of-way)

[Tall Grass and Weeds](#) (seriously neglected lawns and properties)

[Graffiti](#) (vandalism that is not removed or repaired in a reasonable time)

How Neighborhood Services Help Communities Thrive...



How Current is your HOA/COA Information???

Neighborhood Services maintains a [HOA & Condo Database](#). It contains contact information for any group that voluntarily provides it to the Neighborhood Coordinator.

Check the information on file for your group and send any additions or corrections to nsd@pwcgov.org. The list is considered public information therefore other agencies may reach out to you so kindly be aware that other unsolicited mail may be received. Take a few minutes to review the database to ensure your Association's information is up-to-date!



Reminder ~ What to do about Graffiti...

[Report It & Remove It!](#)

The Property Owner's Responsibility



The property owner must **remove the graffiti**. Studies indicate that **quick removal is the best deterrent**. Be persistent, too. Research has shown that it may take an average of three times before vandals get discouraged with one spot. [Keep America Beautiful](#) and its partners also provide additional information [here](#).

If the property owner does not remove or cover the graffiti within seven days of the date of legal notification by Neighborhood Services, County employees are allowed to enter the private property to remove or cover the graffiti. This will be done using the most cost-effective means available. While the utmost care will be taken in removing graffiti, do not expect paint colors to match and know that power washing may alter surfaces. Because the County cannot be held liable for any damage done to surfaces, it is best if the property owner removes the graffiti.





1 County Complex Ct
Prince William, VA 22192
703-792-6800

News from Fire & Rescue...

Stay Safe and Warm this Winter - Winterize Your Home and Car

AccuWeather predicts another below-normal year for the Nation's Capital area, predicting between 7-11 inches of snow for the winter in Washington, D.C. which is slightly more than the 5.4 inches that fell last winter but still below average of 15.6 inches. The city hasn't measured above normal snowfall since the winter of 2018-2019.

Regardless of what winter has in store for us this year, make sure you're prepared, at home and on the road, by taking the necessary precautions to stay safe and warm during the winter season.

Winterize Your Home

Furnace and Heating Ducts

Call an HVAC professional to inspect your furnace and clean and inspect the heating ducts. Replace the furnace filter throughout the winter.

Ceiling Fans

Reverse ceiling fans to rotate clockwise allowing the fan to push warm air down and recirculate throughout the room.

Drafts/Air Leaks

Drafts can waste up to 30% of your energy use. Place draft guards or rolled up towels across the bottom of the doors; add weather-resistant caulk or weather-stripping tape around windows where there are holes, cracks and open seams.

Window Insulation

Place window insulation film on your windows; this can increase your home's energy efficiency by 70%.

Air Conditioning Unit

Drain any pipes and hoses coming from your air conditioner and cover the unit.

Fiberglass Insulation

Add fiberglass insulation in your attic, around basement doors, windows in unused rooms and window AC units.

Wrap your Pipes

Insulating pipes reduces heat loss, raises hot water temperatures and prevents pipes from freezing.

Check Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Perform monthly checks on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and change the batteries when needed.

Lower the Thermostat

Lower your energy bill by setting your thermostat to 68 degrees and dress in layers of warm clothing for comfort.

Trim Trees

Trim any nearby trees to prevent ice and snow build-up that could damage property.





Winterize Your Car

Battery and Charging System, Cables, Terminals, Drive Belts and Engine Hoses ~ Have a certified technician check these items to prevent the risk of breaking down.

Tire Type and Tread ~ All-season tires work best in light to moderate snow conditions; however, snow tires on all four wheels are the best for winter traction; Tires should have 3/32 inches of tread; anything less should be replaced.

Tire Pressure ~ Check tire pressure frequently during winter months. As the temperature drops, so will the pressures in the tires so refill as needed.

Air Filter ~ Check the engine's air filter. If you can see through much of the filter, it's still clean. If not, it's blocked, and needs replaced.

Coolant levels ~ Ask your technician what antifreeze should be used for your vehicle and the appropriate coolant to water ratio to prevent against corrosion and potential freezing.

Lights ~ Check the operation of all headlights, taillights, emergency flashers, turn signals, brake lights and backup lights. Replace any burnt out bulbs.

Wiper Blades ~ Replace blades that leave streaks or miss spots. Consider installing winter wipers to prevent ice and snow buildup on the windshield.

Washer Fluid ~ Fill the windshield washer reservoir with a cleaning solution that has antifreeze components for cold weather use.

Brakes ~ Have your brakes inspected by a certified technician to ensure all components are in good working order.

Transmission, Brake and Power Steering Fluids ~ Check all fluids to ensure they are at or above the minimum safe levels.

Winter Driving Safety Tips

- Leave earlier for your destination.
- Use main roads or arteries whenever possible.
- Use your knowledge of the area to your advantage.
- Expect traffic to travel at a slower pace.

Additional Safety Tips

Stay informed about emergency alerts and important information by signing up for [PWC Alerts](#), and keeping a NOAA weather radio handy for updates. For information about Prince William County government, go to the emergency information [portal](#).



PWC Solid Waste
703-792-4670

Helpful Tips from Solid Waste...

Automotive and Lawnmower Fluid Disposal Guidance

There is lots of advice on how often to change the oil in a vehicle depending on the age of the vehicle and the type of oil. Oil changing advice ranges from 3 months/3000 miles, 6 months/6000 to annually/7500 miles. No matter which timetable is used, the motor oil needs to be disposed of properly. Likewise, lawnmowers and other gas operated lawn equipment are usually retired for the season in November/December and removal of oil, filters and fuel are recommended for optimal operation in the coming season.

Prince William residents can dispose of used motor oil and oil filters as well as anti-freeze and lead-acid car batteries at the Prince William County Landfill, or the Balls Ford Road Compost Facility convenience centers during normal operating hours. Residents may bring old fuel to the Landfill location on Wednesday and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling program's operation.

All these items-- oil, anti-freeze, oil filters, lead-acid batteries, and fuel, require special disposal and should never be placed in the regular trash or poured down a drain because doing so poses harm to the environment, humans, and animals. In most cases the materials are recycled. Some automotive shops or retail businesses that sell these items may also have disposal provisions available to customers.

For more information on proper disposal resources in Prince William County, referred to the A to Z Disposal Guide, www.pwcva.gov/disposalguide, on the County's website.

The Prince William County Landfill and Balls Ford Road Yard Waste Compost Facility are operated by the Prince William County Solid Waste Division. In 2013, the Solid Waste Division earned the Governor's Environmental Excellence Gold Medal Award for its Sustainability Program. The division is a part of the Prince William County Public Works Department, an accredited agency of the American Public Works Association. The Prince William County Landfill is the only active landfill with an Extraordinary Environmental Excellence (E4) rating in Virginia, the highest level of certification awarded by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP). For more information on Solid Waste services and programs visit www.pwcva.gov/trashandrecycling



Everyone Can Help Prevent Litter...

Every workday, our Litter Crew walks over three miles picking up trash and debris from our County roadways. Despite their best efforts, Neighborhood Services continues to receive daily complaints about litter. Here's a simple way each resident of the County can do their part to help control the amount of litter on our roadways.

Per the Code of Virginia § 46.2-1156. Construction, maintenance and loading must prevent escape of contents; load covers; exemptions.

A. No vehicle shall be operated or moved on any highway unless it is so constructed, maintained, and loaded as to prevent its contents from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping.

By simply ensuring your loads are covered and secured when you travel our roadways, you can prevent the dangers of loose items from falling from your vehicles littering the road, while also reducing the potential of road-debris crashes from these roadside hazards.



"Secure Your Load
as if everyone you love
is driving in the car behind you"

TO SECURE THE LOAD IN YOUR VEHICLE OR TRAILER:

- Tie it down with rope, netting, or straps.
- Tie large objects directly to your vehicle or trailer.
- Consider covering the entire load with a sturdy tarp or netting.
- Don't overload your vehicle or trailer.
- Always double-check your load to make sure it's secure.
- Don't forget that animals should also be properly secured.

BEFORE YOU DRIVE, ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

- Is there any chance of debris or cargo falling or blowing out of my vehicle?
- Is my load secured at the back, sides and top?
- What would happen to my load if I had to brake suddenly, I hit a bump, or another vehicle hit me?
- Would I want my loaded vehicle driving through my neighborhood?
- Would I feel safe if I were driving behind my vehicle?
- Is "Secure Your Load" on my company's safety checklist?