Thank you for taking a moment to open this issue of the Prince George County Economic Development e-Newsletter. We hope you find this publication to be informative, timely, and interesting. Please feel free to contact us you should have any questions about the articles you see here, or if you have any ideas for future articles.

Perdue Farms
Expanding

Perdue Farms, Inc., has announced that it will increase capacity at its Mid Atlantic Replenishment Center in Prince George County. The $3 million investment would add more equipment to support growth in the Perdue and Harvestland brands, as well as customer-owned brands. This expansion is expected to bring 190 additional jobs to the center.

The Prince George County facility receives packaged fresh chicken products for the regional Perdue processing plants. Those packages are then labeled, boxed, and shipped to customers for retail sale.

For more information, visit www.perduefarms.com

Baseball and Softball are in Full Swing in Prince George County

Prince George County is pleased to announce that we will play host to several youth travel league tournaments this year. The tournaments will bring many teams and their families to our community, requiring service amenities such as hotels, restaurants, retail and fuel. We hope this is a great opportunity to demonstrate Prince George County's hospitality by giving everyone a warm welcome and enjoyable stay.

As more tournaments are added during the Summer and Fall, our County web site calendars will be updated, as well as the "Key Dates and Upcoming Events" section of each e-Newsletter.
Tourism Zone Proposed at Exit 45

Prince George County retained the services of Management Analysis, Inc. (MAI) to review the I-95 Exit 45 interchange which saw a 40% drop in room rentals (2012 to 2013) since the opening of the 1,000 room hotel on Fort Lee. The results of the MAI study came with a list of complementary solutions: 1) with 660 hotel rooms available, the area lacks a recognizable chain restaurant which is open seven days a week; 2) as a mature area, the aesthetics need a refreshed touch; 3) designate the area a state Tourism Zone which allows for state financing of new projects; 4) add streetscape improvements such as streetlamps and extended sidewalks, and; 5) continue County enforcement action for dilapidated structures.

The County will be working towards these suggestions in the near future. There will be a public hearing on May 13th at the Board of Supervisors' meeting on the proposed Tourism Ordinance for the Exit 45 area. Two "Welcome to Prince George County" signs have been placed at the north and south-bound I-95 off-ramps. The Economic Development Department's proposed FY15 budget includes $200,000 for street lighting in this area. This will be considered with the full proposed FY15 County Budget on May 13th.

Economic Development and Tourism Strategic Plans

On November 13, 2013, the Prince George County Board of Supervisors adopted updated Economic Development and Tourism Strategic Plans for the county. The Board selected Management Analysis, Incorporated (MAI) from Vienna, Virginia, to complete the study and development the plans. The consulting team conducted background and statistical research of the county, and met with citizens and businesses for interviews and input.

Each strategic plan will help chart a new economic and tourism direction to help build upon the growing assets in our community. The 2013 Economic Development and Tourism Strategic Plans and the Implementation Plans may be viewed and downloaded from the Economic Development page of the County's web site.
Prince George Farmer's Market

The Prince George Farmers' Market will open on Saturday, May 10th, from 8:00am to 12:00pm at Scott Park Pavilion. The Market will be open every Saturday through October 11, 2014. Two or three expanded markets are expected this year.

The Market is also hoping to expand its weekly vendors. It is seeking prepared food vendors as well as other produce and artisan vendors. All items must be grown or made in Virginia. Commercially produced items will not be accepted.

New this year, the Market will accept credit/debit cards and SNAP/EBT Cards in exchange for tokens. These tokens will act as money and are good only at Market vendors for the 2014 season. More details will be posted on the County's web page.

For more information on the Market or to become a vendor, please contact Kirsten Cherry, Market Manager at (804) 722-8777 or FarmersMarket@princegerogecountyva.gov.

Key Dates and Upcoming Events:

- May 3, 2014 - Prince George Community Day - Scott Park Pavilion - 9:00a-3:00p
- May 5, 2014 - VDOT Six Year Road Plan Public Hearing - VDOT Central Office, E. Broad Street, Richmond - 6:00p
- May 7, 2014 - FEMA Open House Floodplain Q & A - Prince George Library - 3:00p-6:00p
- May 10, 2014 - Prince George Farmers' Market - Scott Park Pavilion - 8:00a-12:00p
- May 13, 2014 - Board of Supervisor's Meeting - Board Room, Third Floor, Administration Building - 7:00p
- May 16, 2014 - Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament - Jordan Point Country Club - 12:00p-5:00p
- May 17, 2014 - Farmers' Market - Scott Park Pavilion - 8:00a-12:00p
- May 17, 2014 - Prince George County Relay For Life - PGHS Football Stadium - 11:00a-11:00p
- May 17 & 18, 2014 - USSSA Super NIT Baseball Tournament - PG County Ball Fields - (times vary)
- May 22, 2014 - Planning Commission Meeting - Board Room, Third Floor, Administration Building - 7:30p
- May 24, 2014 - Prince George Farmers' Market - Scott Park Pavilion - 8:00a-12:00p
- May 24-26, 2014 - USSSA AAA State Tournament (10U-14U) - PG County Ball Fields - (times vary)
- May 26, 2014 - MEMORIAL DAY - County Government Offices closed
- May 27, 2014 - Board of Supervisors Meeting - Board Room, Third Floor, Administration Building - 7:00p
May 31, 2014 - Farmers' Market - Scott Park Pavilion
- 8:00a-12:00p

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