A local community newspaper...

volume 5, issue 13

August 1, 2014

Prince George Department of Social Services

Foster Parents Wanted

Many of these deaths occur when babies are placed to sleep on their stomachs. The safest place for your baby to sleep is in his or her own crib or bassinet and on their backs. Here's why: one in five Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) deaths were caused by a baby sleeping in a prone position. Babies should not sleep on their stomachs. This is true even if the blanket is pulled up over their heads. If you are a foster parent, you have a unique opportunity to save lives. Please contact your local office of Social Services to learn more about this rewarding opportunity.

Baby Cribs

Dress your child lightly for bed to keep him or her from getting too hot. Keep the crib in a smoke-free area and in a cool, dry place. The baby’s room should be quiet and not too hot. This is especially important for older infants who may be more likely to develop heat stroke.

New Volunteers Needed

Gerald is a long time resident of Prince George County and a member of Prince George Rotary. He has volunteered at the local library, helping to organize and maintain the collection. Gerald is a friendly face to the front desk to help serve our customers. Along with years of work experience and a dedication to community service, Gerald brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his role at the library.

Alexia Falkner Joins Administrative Team

On August 1, 2014, Alexia Falkner joined the Administrative team. She has extensive experience in the field of social services and is known for her expertise in child care assistance eligibility caseload. Alexia has a great service mind and is excited to be a part of the team at Prince George Department of Social Services.

Human Services Building Renovations Completed!

The Prince George County Human Services Building renovations are finally complete! The renovations included updates to the heating and cooling systems, as well as improvements to the overall energy efficiency. The building is now more energy-efficient and comfortable for clients and staff.

Smart Beginnings Program

The Prince George Department of Social Services recently received a Prince John Randolph Foundation grant to support the Smart Beginnings program in an effort to increase screening efforts in Prince George County. Smart Beginnings is a local pediatric organization designed to screen young children for developmental delays and identify those in need of individualized interventions. The program was launched in Prince George County in 2013 and has already seen success. Now we start planning for the 4th Annual Back to School Fair.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Weatherization Assistance: This program applies air infiltration measures to existing housing structures. The assistance offered includes one time only heat equipment and/or payment for electricity to operate cooling equipment.
- Fuel Assistance: This program primarily provides assistance with their immediate home energy needs. To be eligible, households must have a member of the family who needs foster families have been removed from their birth family homes for a variety of reasons. Foster parents provide a temporary, safe home for children in crisis.

For more information please contact Libby Vinsh, Services Coordinator at 804-862-8999.

Next edition: November 2014