

# Citizen Comments

## 2008 Situation Analysis

### **What changes have occurred in the community that impacted your life over the past 5 years?**

Significant housing expansion, with resultant crowding of inadequate roadways. Deterioration of infrastructure.

Environmental Degradation

Illegal Immigration

Tails and Passive recreation

Childhood nutrition

The real estate market colapse

The housing market colapse

The fall of the stock market (impact on 401K plans and my retirement)

The phenominal increase in houses and traffic have created significant stress on our environment. Becoming a Master Gardener has increased my awareness of associated environmental issues. I think there is an urgent need though for prudent urban development within the PW County.

deforestation

high density development

increased traffic/travel times

overcrowded schools

overtaxed services ie. fire/police/library

Th increase cost of living, increased property taxes, without an equivalent increase in salary has proven a huge financial burdern that makes making ends meet become a creative event each month. I bought a home 3 1/2 years ago just before the bust, and have seen my home value decline so I am upside down, there are several foreclosures in my neighborhood that are selling at \$100,000 below market value, causing the value of my home to plunge even lower.

Have not live in PWC for 5 years Only 15 months. The lack of enforcement of the immigration laws here.

Traffic continue to increase.

People have less time and disposable income available to interact with others or volunteer to make the community a better place to live.

Identity theft

Urban sprawl, overall decline in common decency amongst citizens

too much traffic. erosion

\* Increase in immigration

Rising prices, most of which have been caused by higher oil prices and poor loan practices.

Over crowding by foreign groups

Over emphasis on supporting what I believe to be a heavy illegal population. No interest by the foreign community to assimilate into the culture of the country because we bend over backwards to not offend.

Increase of immigrant (both legal and illegal) population. Increased demands on county resources

population increase and impact on traffic, congestion on local roads.

Foreclosures - vacant and abandoned homes - leaving declining markets

New roads make it easier to get places.

The decline in home values

Increase in illegal immigration and the subsequent crackdown.

Downturn in the housing market.

MORE ROADS/DEVELOPMENT.

Additional traffic lights closer together as more development occurred has added more time to my commute.

Lack of stability in programs offered by county/state

Financial downturn

heavier traffic, financial issues, possibility of layoffs

Loss of habitat for many species due to construction/sprawl

Increased urbanization and decreasing open areas for recreation, wildlife, and water quality protection

It seems like there are no trees in Woodbridge anymore. Businesses line every street and there are not a lot of sidewalks for walkers and bicyclers.

Increase in violence.

Our property has experienced more flooding during heavy rains, perhaps because the urban tree cover is disappearing, or because there is increased development. Traffic is very heavy and one can't really safely walk anywhere because there aren't adequate sidewalks along busy roads and streets.

Food costs are rising and information on buying wisely and staying away from fast foods would be useful for me and for most families. I'm soon to be retired and will be living on a smaller budget.

Mortgage foreclosures...increased gas prices...increased food prices....ECONOMY

Population growth, transportation issues, housing market crisis.

Housing market

the urban sprawl

lack of sidewalks

lack of traffic calming devices in neighborhoods

increased development

The housing crisis has greatly impacted me. Also the huge number of Spanish speaking residents has changed the face of the community somewhat.

Economic and environmental changes toward a more suburban/urban community.

1. Increases in the cost of living including increases in real estate taxes have offset and prevented families from saving. (long term financial planning)

2. Urban sprawl with associated congestion due to traffic and increases in population has increased the stress levels on families. (how to relax and slow the pace of life)

3. Technology changes have become a lessened the likelihood of parents and neighbors becoming involved in the growth of children. (meaningful outdoor experiences)

4. Long term residents have lost the ability to make meaningful changes in the growth and development within their community. There is a great deal of resentment and anxiety resulting from an influx of individuals who have moved into the community because of opportunities versus having a sincere sense of becoming part of the community.

Changing demographics of our county.

economic/cost of living/transportation

the internet!

more and better grocery competition, except for a dearth of organics at the farmers markets

Road improvement.....Parkway and minnieville road. Bus service in the county.....maintainence of public parks....cleaning up the rivers.

I live in a condo and I'm always amazed that we have over 400 units and I rarely see anyone. People stay to themselves; when you wave, they look away. Is it because I'm a senior citizen and the majority of the younger generation on the street does not acknowledge gray hair? Or, is it because people are not as trusting of strangers because we live in such a transient society? It is difficult to connect in my neighborhood. Many of the condos house retired people who had to sell their single family home to downsize and they are sad & afraid; or, they are very young couples and single renters who are using this as a starter or stepping stone.

The landscaping has changed considerably. What was once beautiful Bradford Pear trees have grown too big for the area they were planted in. Some of these landscapers are no more knowledgeable than I am on how to plant for the long term! In the past, we had an invasion of the snowy crickets that was bred in the mulch they put around the shrubbery. How do we hold these landscapers accountable and educate them?

Traffic congestion

Home Values Decreasing

Increase in Violence, intolerance

The economic downturn and loss in housing assessment.

Housing Market

Taxes

Illegal Immigrants

Mega houses blighting the landscape. Overkill on development of retail business. Population cannot support all. Older retail areas boarded up and abandoned. County needs to create a procedure whereby these areas are rehabilitated and do not become eye sore to the community they are a part of.

New ball park developed near our home.

Streets are being widened for more traffic in several areas.

Treed areas are being clean-cut for more development.

Rapid population growth

Rapid development without proper infrastructure

Increased traffic and congestion

Traffic price increases in housing

Traffic, traffic, traffic. Also people moving into the area who do not share the same community values--they cut down trees, throw trash in the streets, park many vehicles on lawns killing the grass, etc. One does not wish to be seen as racist or xenophobic, but it is primarily undocumented immigrants who seem to be doing this. It is heartbreaking to see old trees being removed to make parking for pickup trucks.

No workers speak English when they come to my home.

Increased development - congestion on the highways, loss of forest areas due to building of homes and shopping centers. This is a drain on the natural resources in the area.

Overcrowding of our communities as it becomes more diverse.

Overcrowding of our schools and other governmentally provided services.

Cost of living

loss of green open spaces

More traffic and less sense of community

housing prices

The area is much cleaner.

Other than gas prices, the economy itself has had a major impact on my life and family in the past five years. The price of daycare cost rising and not being able to afford to have a licensed sitter watch my children, not to mention the cost of just trying to live!

Salary covering less every year.

Insurance becoming more expensive with higher deductibles and copays

Cost of medication

Higher density housing - more traffic resulting in increased time on the road and added frustration.

Advances in technology that reduced the opportunities for communicating with others i.e. Ipods, cellphones that focus people's attention away from people around them.

Rapid increase in house values followed by rapid decrease in house values.

none

no budget for raises in this ECONOMY

Increased Population; more diverse population; the increase then decrease in home value; change in leadership on the Board of County Supervisors and focus on illegal immigration to the detriment of other important issues; increase in gangs and graffiti in the area; foreclosures leaving empty houses with code violations (high grass, etc.) that detract from neighborhoods;

Development- our open spaces are being depleted by unchecked development.

Traffic- Because there are many more developments there is more traffic, no comprehensive plan to provide transportation solutions

Lifestyle- Seems that many more people are financially stressed and it is reflected in the self serving attitude towards others rather than community spirit where we are supportive and outgoing towards all people in the community

Financial crisis, housing, available educational programs for the kids, rising cost, etc.

Too many new homes. Too much traffic. Schools very crowded.

economy, housing markets, community diversity

More diverse neighbors

Several changes have occurred, but the one that has most affected my life is the increasing traffic congestion along the Old Bridge Road corridor, especially people trying to get to newer developments near the McCoart building and along Hoadly Road. This congestion affects the general quality of life and air quality specifically. It also pushes demand for more commercial development, which the Old Bridge corridor DOES NOT NEED!!

The increasing growth and traffic congestion in the area.

Decrease in home prices and foreclosures need to be addressed by the County and the State as soon as possible. These times are hard and someone needs to address the taxes in this County. Why are we still paying Personal Property Tax and buying County stickers when most of the surrounding areas are not required too? This is the type of issues that need to be addressed.

New residents/neighbors who don't speak English.

The lack of community centers- it costs so much a month to have community involvement.

The chance of libraries closing!! This will devastate many of our lives.

Lack of choices in utilities like cable.

Deportation has had a huge impact on families, failing economy and housing market.

Rapid development which has resulted in unmanageable traffic, less open spaces, and apparent lack of respect for the environment.

My children have learned so much from being involved in 4-H. They have learned leadership, public speaking, teamwork, financial responsibility, parliamentary procedures and crafts. 4-H has given them opportunities to speak to elected officials and inspired them to want to vote. They are frustrated by older teens and adults who have this honor and don't use it.

There has been growth in housing that is too close. Traffic is an increasing problem. Gangs are increasing and fear of being hurt has increased.

The constant change in the real estate market.

more roads and homes being built.

Housing market change

Transportation

Illegal immigrant hiring which reduced the availability of work.

Over-building and building too fast the amount of dwellings (and a poor quality dwelling) which almost ceased home building totally. This caused the price of homes to rise drastically and therefore be overpriced and caused persons purchasing to possibly default on their loans. The false rise in pricing also opened gov't revenues to be a false sense of security.

Overcrowding in houses which caused rodent infestation rats/pests in Manassas & PWC neighborhoods.

The overcrowding caused over use of gov't agencies/expenses and pushed gov't to overbuild their programs in an attempt to cover the needs.

Clear cutting rural areas for pack them in developments, more cars and people than roads and schools.

VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF OUR FIRE/RESCUE SERVICES BEING ABLE TO BURN TRASH W/NO PERMITS OR ANYONE AROUND WATCHING THEM AND TO DRIVE RECKLESSLY/SPEEDING THROUGH CROWDED NEIGHBORHOODS TO GET TO THEIR STATIONS TO RESPOND TO A CALL. WHERE THE NORMAL CITIZEN WOULD GET CITED, THIS REFLECTS BADLY ON PWC.

OVERCROWDING IN HOMES WHERE ROOMS ARE RENTED OUT, SERIOUS AMOUNTS OF TRASH BEING LEFT OUTSIDE POSSIBLY CAUSING HEALTH ISSUES. ALSO, OWNERS & RENTERS DON'T KNOW EACH OTHERS NAMES.

SMALL CHILDREN BEING LEFT IN VEHICLES IN PARKING LOTS W/NO SUPERVISION OR PROTECTION.

PARENTS ARE UNAWARE OF CHILDRENS SCHOOL SCHEDULES, OR EVEN WHAT SCHOOL THEY ATTEND.

WITH THE OVER ABUNDANCE OF POPULATION PARENTS NEED TO BE MORE INFORMED ON BASIC COUNTY ISSUES & BASIC PARENTING SKILLS.

- more 2 worker households
- more commuter traffic & time
- higher prices across the board
- less affordable activities and programs for kids
- less programs for art, music & dance available during the day time hours (Post 12 noon through 7 pm)
- less people understanding home economics & basic money management

Development of our forest land into business locations/shopping centers. This has caused traffic challenges, destruction of forests, and overflow of too many people in our area.

New development that removes all the exiting landscape creating barren areas and less wind protection.

This also creates too much traffic on our existing roads.

Just a couple of things...

Economic Issues

Crimes against children, community more prevalent

Traffic and road conditions

Storm drain run-off

Alien invasive plant/animal/insect

Open space

increased population growth, heavier traffic, more traffic lights adding to slower moving traffic and allowing for extra time to get to your destination, insufficient parking at the commuter lots, overcrowded commuter buses, insufficient number of restaurants along the Prince William Parkway around Potomac Mills

Severe traffic congestion, declining private property values, increasing taxes, non-responsive public leaders

Integration and diversity

The housing market.

more housing development with increased traffic in the "rural crescent", road development can't keep up with that change.

More transient, less english-fluent population flooding our schools, social services, free clinic services, etc, with insufficient staff and resources to help all these families--everyone suffers, including the low-income people with language/culture difficulties who are not used to coping with such overwhelmed and complicated systems.

Economic crisis with shrinking retirement savings and increased food/transport/energy costs, plus still paying property taxes all out of proportion to the drop in house equity, no good way to plan properly for retirement.

The most critical changes have occurred in the economy and the effects the changes are having on the availability of public services in the county.

The Immigration issue became a focal point of our community, creating much division.

Illegal aliens unlawfully residing in this county and because of this we have seen an increase in certain crimes, gang activity and overcrowded homes. Also, they were able to obtain mortgage loans that they couldn't afford and that they knew they couldn't afford. Of course with no money down they had nothing to lose and walked away leaving a trashed house behind. I know because they lived near me and I saw it all. I've heard that some banks are actually offering them money so they will not trash the house before they are evicted. Imaging that. They now hold these houses hostage!!! You want the truth. I just gave it to you.

Increase in population of PWC, the cost of real estate, the immigration policies of this county

I am a new resident to PWC. I can not answer this question

Economic recession and over-development of land resulting in erosion and run-off into water systems

Growth and development in the Gainesville and Haymarket areas. Major impact on traffic and water quality issues.

Aging

Higher traffic volume

Lack of convenient High Speed rail or Metro

High speeds and cut throughs on residential streets

Inflation

1. Increased building and population.

2. Increase in traffic and large number of roads.

3. Lack of increase in public transportation and inconvenience to use public transportation within the county; Lack of Bus service on Saturday, Sunday and early morning and night.

4. Lack of public transportation between counties like Stafford, Fauquier, Warren, Fairfax; Lack of public transportation from Commuter Rail to local buses (it takes two hours to get from Woodbridge rail station to my house in the evening)

5. Lack of facilities for the Homeless-new laws passed like movement of abandoned cars remove housing that the homeless traditionally use with no replacement. Clearing of land removed areas where homeless live without being replaced with some type of housing and no increase in the Winter Shelter. Cutback in funding for homeless

6. Increase in fees to use Chinn center and other recreational facilities, ie class for elderly \$9.00 per class and membership \$500 per year.

7. Atmosphere of hate towards certain populations in the community and projection of fear by police has changed and polarized this county. Even at the DMV in Woodbridge-question on what was needed to drive if license is from Mexico was treated very nasty. Was referred to police department to get answer rather than given the answer. Same question asked at DMV in Fairfax, and was given a civil answer.

The rise and fall of the housing market.

The assessment on our house.

Taxes.

Traffic situations and problems.

Massive construction and development in the area. With the constant building of multiple home facilities and unnecessary new shopping areas, we have jammed roadways and an increase in aggressive driving. It is almost impossible for children to have a safe area in which to play or non-drivers to be able to get around

All the development and housing creates a congested area and adds to stress.

9/11 was personal for us in this area.

Raising a teenage girl is HARD! especially with web-everything and internet and cell phones.

Growth and the slowing economy.  
population increase

increase in traffic and congestion

diversity of population and language barriers

Illegal immigration "crackdown" has changed the environment in the county in a negative way. It has made all immigrants feel unwelcome here and PWC is often viewed negatively as a result. People are more fearful and businesses were starting to suffer even before the overall financial difficulties hit. In addition, our politicians are far less civil which is contributing to the negative environment. Can't we all just get along and be nice to each other? We all live here together, after all.

**What are the major issues confronting residents of Prince William County in the next five years that could be addressed through educational programming?**

Overcrowding, and decrease in open-space opportunities.

Environmental degradation

Development impact on natural environment

Foreclosures

Stupid children

The lack of discipline in schools

Make parents responsible for the acts of their children

Major issues include traffic congestion and uncontrolled urban development creating huge traffic congestion and environmental impacts. The county needs significant improvement in public transportation systems and controlled growth along with environmental education and penalties for environmental damage.

energy conservation/alternative sources

Diversity of the county - the illegal immigration issue has divided so many people, we need to be able to accept each other and celebrate the diversity of the county and how we all are a part of and contribute to the community.

Cost of living - as the economy takes a downturn people are being hurt. living in the shadow of the government will help the region from hurting like some areas of the country, but we will need to know how to get by on less.

Living within our means - Too many people - especially the children in the region - don't know how to live within our means, like our grandparents use to do, without using credit, and only buying what we need, and not what we want (or are told we need). People need to know they don't need everything the advertisers say they need.

Education - Saving for college education is going to be put on a back burner, especially for some of the middle income families who are now finding it harder to make ends meet. Need to have educational options, financial options, and other information for students after college.

A method that residents can find out the truth about people running for public office.

In addition to those named above, time and resource management will become greater issues for suburban residents in the metro area

Classes on stress reduction

Literacy, vocational job skills.

Going green. water conservation, native plants, etc.

SEE SECTION 1 ABOVE

Water Quality and Environmental Stewardship

management of land resources due to increase demand for use and increased population

Land Use

Water conservation and management of resources

Land and environmental stewardship

Youth education of environment and stewardship

Education of domestic finances and credit

Continued financial education

Financial Literacy

Unemployment

New taxes

New govt. regulations

Lower revenue due to home foreclosures.

Understanding this declining market and how to deal with it. Not to walk away and leave their homes but to hang in there

Homeownership - foreclosure prevention

Management of credit

Parenting and Life Skills

Child Abuse

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS LEADING TO POLITICAL ACTION.

money management, less use of credit cards, keeping their homes, consumer fraud

Continued loss of habitat, water quality issues/concerns, litter, gang-related crimes, overuse of pesticides/herbicides,

Environmental awareness in community planning and personal land management choices; financial management; healthy eating and lifestyle

I think the more parents work the less they are watching out for their kids. Parents come home tired from their job and from their commute that it affects their parenting. In turn this affects the community as a whole because kids can do whatever they want and have more chance of turning the wrong way.

Money management, understanding credit, and strengthening families

Wise use of credit, saving plans, all the traditional programs of tech, plus assistance when there are problems with gardens, plants and pests. Four H is still valuable and I like the changes you have made to attract and increasingly urban youth.

Overall ECONOMIC security

Foreclosure crisis

Financial management personal finances

Homeownership education pre and post

Job Growth

Reduced level of Service provided by Local Government

Recycling

Good stewards of financial resources.  
finances, land management diversity

Financial pressures

Accessing community resources and personal resources

Increasing diversity - This can be a strength for the community and has not been perceived/presented as such. We need people who think differently in order to generate innovative solutions/partnerships/ideas.

Water management- impress upon folks the need to conserve water and preserve watersheds.

Solid waste management- Teach people to buy quality items that last versus the junk that ends up in the landfill within a year. Teach people that they should buy only what they need instead of what they want.

1. Crime
2. Quality of our children's education
3. Green issues
4. Transportation
5. Demographics

MONEY! environmental stewardship and community/personal resource mgmt  
transportation and alternatives

building community

health promotion (obesity reduction) (how about some fitness trails, even where we work)

financial education,

more community sharing/coops/bartering

how about things like tool checkouts and self-help for home repairs, etc

Teaching people to be more responsible in their own communities for the up-keep of their homes and property. Be respectful of your neighbors and their property. Prevent contamination of water and air.....we need both to survive. Over crowding of certain areas of the county. Provide good jobs that will keep citizens working closer to home.

One of the best things for my wife to get and keep us healthy is walking. The county should continue to expand walking and biking trails, as well as better maintain the ones we have now. Generally speaking, young people need training and education in basic life skills, particularly legal and financial management education. Certainly, obesity is a major issue for the long term health of our youth, and they need to be educated and given opportunities for physical exercise. With the great amount of vacant-abandoned homes increased crime rate; investors turning homes into rentals (absentee landlords) brings an influx of residents not caring about upkeep/maintenance of properties. Many youngsters grow up with little or no supervision; they are tied to TV, computers, etc. There is no interaction with community.

How can we train families to touch each other and care for each other when many parents are single-handedly working one or two jobs and trying to provide for their children? Is it possible to go into the communities and advertise with flyers that Extension is coming in with workshops?

Financial planning

Life Skills - Marriage and Parenting

Financial - weathering the downturn and cuts in County services.

Real estate market and taxes

Roads

See above. Establish committees to research other areas of our USA that have encountered these problems and developed solutions. Create citizen interest programs to educate the public of the problems and what can be done about them, with the right kind of input to county government.

Secondary use of gray water to safely obtain greater saving of clean water and less polluted water going into our waterways.

I think that the biggest return on investment would be educational programming focusing on health and well-being, including weight control, exercise for fitness, and disease prevention.

Housing costs

See above comments. Need to help people understand the norms of our communities and how to become a part of it.

diversity

reduce, reuse, recycle

credit and management of home

cultural diversity

proper schooling

See above check marks.

Educating our children on how to not get into debt before they go to college and not to get into too much debt trying to go to college!

Spanish influx.

Lessons in Spanish and culture would be appreciated

Home ownership

Affordable housing

Assimilating legal immigrants into the community.

Helping illegal immigrants find a path to legal immigration status.

Horticulture issues for the home owner i.e. turf, landscaping, proper use of chemicals.

Healthy relationships within families.

Job skills that match available jobs.

Child directed services such as after school programs, life skills programs, introduction to personal finances, caring for the environment.

- conserving energy (gas, electricity, etc.)

- sustainability - preserving our environment for the future

- Low impact development concepts and practices that can be adopted by residents in their own homes

- gang and graffiti prevention

- Community organization - working with neighbors during tough times

conservative lifestyle

intolerance

percieved success associated with accumulation of wealth

Financial Education (Mortgages, Housing, Debt Management)

How to deal with stress.

Career Counseling and Resume Writing.

Health care related classes.

Education on how to protect the environment. Finding quality jobs in Prince William County.

same as above

rising prices for consumer goods

awareness of going green

glut of empty homes

risk of declining neighborhoods due to foreclosures

state of national economy

1. Urban forestry/canopy management!

2. Open lands issues (and what to do with remaining open lands).

3. Before/after school opportunities for older children (GRADES 5-9) who are not yet able to drive.

Need education on deer & pest control.

Not much that we can do, there is going to be major layoffs County wide due to this recession. Maybe focus on Job placement and ways of surviving in this economy.

Increasing funding for English as a 2nd language courses for residents who want to improve communication.

Clean water and air seem to be the most important environmental issues effecting the county. Rapid growth without planning seems to have created problems with traffic congestion, crowding and lack of open spaces.

Financial planning and debt consolidation. Every day on daytime T.V. commercials for pay day loans or car title loans are shown over and over. Educational programs that teach people to live within their means and how those places are going to do more harm than good. Unlucky for our residents we have car title loan places in Manassas.

Gangs and drugs. the growing illiterate population. Unemployment.

The County Budget and why it is the way it is now

Financial management/Credit management

Environmental

More teaching how to fish rather than giving a fish programs like the Extension Service does by other groups. Work shops on basic home repairs, for men and women, plumbing(eg. changing a washer),carpentry(using basic saws and drills), electricity(simple wiring). Even 4-H has how to books, but some of us need to "see and do" to learn,

Repair people are expensive and money is tight.

DRIVING ISSUES

DOMESTIC LAWS

COUNTY POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR CITIZENS & BUSINESS OWNERS

IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING ENGLISH

PARENTS KNOWING WHERE THEIR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS ARE LOCATED AND WHERE THEY WILL BE GOING IN THE YEARS TO COME

- affordable activities and programs for kids

-programs for art, music & dance available during the day time hours (Post 12 noon through 7 pm)

- home economics & basic money management

Being knowledgeable about what is happening with the youth - the good as well as the bad things. We need to know how they spend their time - younger parents/singles as well as those adults who children are grown. No longer having children at home doesn't negate your responsibility towards your concern for your community and future.

same as above

Housing Market and the poor shape of the economy.

conservation in and around the home, lawn/landscape alternatives, plan shopping trips and combine errands to save fuel and time, take advantage of free offerings at the libraries/museums/parks for family outings

The economy. I think it is a wonderful time to explore various ways in which the population can become more financially savvy. We have a lot of financial things thrown at us but don't fully understand how they relate. How tax rates relate to program funding; How saving helps prepare for economic downturns, retirement, college education and etc., how staying informed on law changes that impact housing and finance are important. Also, some form of education in preparing for job transitions during these periods.

Severe traffic congestion, declining private property values, increasing taxes, and removing non-responsive public leaders

Get kids to help with food growth and prep so that they are prepared for their future.

financial management, parenting and anger management.

need to budget carefully

need to stop wasting natural resources

need to learn more about renewable, sustainable energy

continue info at earlier ages on drugs/alcohol, gangs, bullying, violence, money management

An upcoming issue may be meeting the needs of community members with less public services. We could implement prevention education to address issues, including chronic disease and obesity, financial responsibility and violence prevention.

Money management, and life skills.

Educate the public on how important it is to be involved in the community and in the political process.

Tolerance

Environmental/Green issues

Teaching how speak other language

Economic recession and environmental issues, especially watershed issues.

Water quality;

Parenting

Nutrition

Home garden practices

Financial management

Maintaining residences with pride

Need some sort of program to encourage, smoke detector use, etc.

Accessibility of hiking trails

1. How to conserve water and not pollute the bay

2. How to live with septic systems

3. Using and buying local foods.

4. Smart landscaping and creation of habitats rather than formal landscaping.

5. Tutoring of students-all ages, including college

6. Programs and resources for Seniors, including Day Care, identification of resources for Seniors and caregivers (more than once a year and publicize it)

How to save for and buy a house.

How to help children prepare for the future and get an education.

Loss of jobs -- how to plan for downsizing and not become a statistic or consumer of already overburdened charities and government programs -- how to avoid becoming homeless!

Safeguarding yourself against violence. RAGE MANAGEMENT what to do when confronted and when to intervene when seen.

home buying to keep them, not foreclose on them

educational resources as our schools are choked down to the bare bones

helping young people cope as well as the old folks in this recession

More funding for schools.

cultural diversity

language barriers

literacy barriers

How to survive a Recession.

How individuals can reduce their environment impact.

foreclosures, financial management, small business help,

**What are the major issues confronting the diverse populations of Prince William County residents in the next five years that could be addressed through educational programming?**

Immigrants should be provided language training and stop staying dependent on their native language. If they wish to live in this country they must learn the language

Immigration

Foreclosures

Money/Budgeting

Water Quality--

Educational programs should include environmental awareness programs citizen action groups to pressure the county into offering additional public transportation. Other conservation programs should also be emphasized.

The diverse populations don't trust each other, and don't understand each other. Provide cultural understanding or cultural dialog classes, something that shows we are all the same, trying to make a living, provide for our families and survive in Prince William County.

The divisive socio-economic classes that are in Prince William County. We have a large number of upper middle class and also a good amount of lower middle class and people below the poverty. The economic downturn may bring the two groups a little closer, but it could also bring a struggle for the same scarce resources, which may cause more animosity and division in the county.

Immigration

Issues as noted above

SEE SECTION 1 ABOVE

Environmental Stewardship and Money Management/Financial Planning

Lack of assimilation and conflicting loyalties

financial education and money management skills

Understanding minority issues both cultural and language

Financial Literacy

Credit Management

Homeownership

Family and Life Skills

Child Abuse

money management, less use of credit cards, keeping their homes, consumer fraud

same issues addressed above

Communication and cooperation among many cultures for common goals; respect for differences and sharing of talents/expertise

Lack of services from county due to no money will be the biggest one. Anything that can be offered cheaply or through the Internet would be valuable.

Understanding the English language so that there is a clearer understanding and unity of all populations.

Diversity education

Anger management

Diversity/Cultural Education

Social acceptance of Hispanics and other cultures.

People living within the same area respecting each other.

Over crowding of homes

Need for immigrants to learn English so they can function in American society effectively.

Education on naturalization and legal immigration.

See Above. Age, Race, Ethnicity - we are very diverse.

Perhaps a course which introduces folks from other cultures to the cultures and traditions of America.

same as above

financial, community building, diversity appreciation, health promotion, resiliency

Learn to speak ENGLISH if you plan to live and work here. Go through the process to become a legal citizen and teach your children to love this land and respect its values.

English is the primary language of America. The business of government and the courts is conducted in English. It is folly to try to cater to those whose native language is other than English. Socio-economic outreach should be based on the needs of individuals and their families without regard to their ethnic roots. Immigration laws should be enforced as a way to know who is in our community and to control the immigration of violent criminals. People certainly need to understand mortgages and home ownership principle and responsibilities. I think we're going to need many volunteers to give this kind of outreach because government cannot afford to meet all of these needs with paid staff.

Lack of communication/prejudices--workshops on teaching people in neighborhoods to interact in a positive way; bring communities together somehow. Teach people to become neighborhood leaders.

Lack of pride--workshops on holding absentee owners accountable for maintenance and upkeep of structures.

Educate HOAs on how to bring communities together rather than just enforcing ordinances.

SAME

housing, finances

see above.

Culture

See above. How the financial system works, handling money, accessing government services, simple home maintenance, child nutrition issues.

different customs of other nationalities

"Green" practices

learning to get along and except one another for our difference

cultural education

cultural tolerance

knowledge of government

See above checkmarks.

I believe that the major issues confronting the diverse populations of Prince William County residents in the next five years have been addressed and it is up to the residents to act on the advice in order to improve the situation.

see above

Assimilating legal immigrants into the community - classes in English, government, etc.

Helping illegal immigrants find a path to legal immigration status.

Access to health care with a focus on prevention.

Employment.

tolerance of different cultures

financial education for different cultures

Need English as a second language training for all ages

intolerance

have/have-not divide

Spanish to English Classes or English to Spanish Classes

Tutoring Services for Children

Enrichment after school activities

Focus on education and community success instead of individual cultural differences.  
Reinforce what is common between all Americans instead of emphasising differences.

surviving in a down economy

making ends meet

affordable housing

1. More English classes (offered at the times that these new immigrants can attend) WITH free/low-cost child care. The key to moving up in American society for these immigrants is learning English.

2. Understanding Credit & using it wisely.

3. Parenting classes (with an emphasis on helping parents HELP their children do well in school for a bright future).

4. Parenting classes (with an emphasis on teaching parents skills to nurture young children -- birth to age 6 -- and prepare them for school).

Understanding between the several different cultures in the county. Programs to educate the general population about the various cultures in the area would help reduce some of the conflicts between cultures.

More programs for at risk youths. We are having severe turn around of juveniles being involved with gangs here in PWC because there is no activities for them to get involved in.

Offering more English as a second language courses.

Merging and appreciation of differences in terms of culture, languages and ways of being in the world.

4-H units the families of PWC in ways that school districts and neighborhoods can never achieve. Through my children 4-H experience I have met people from all walks of life, all ages and social economic groups.

Cultural diversity. We all have to live together and no one group should be "picked on".

language barrier problems

Community and understanding

Economic education - recovering after loss and management of budgets

Environmental issues - don't want them lost with focus on economic problems

1. money management - I don't believe the average household income is enough to survive.

Language-both ways-Americans could learn basic words etc. of the language of their neighbors.

Being able to read English-especially all our traffic signs.

DRIVING LAWS, ESPECIALLY LAWS GOVERNING DRIVING W/CHILDREN  
KNOWLEDGE OF "AMERICAN DOMESTIC LAWS" INSTEAD OF "WE DO IT THIS WAY IN OUR COUNTRY"

BUSINESS HEALTH CONCERNS - STORES ARE BECOMING DIRTY, EMPLOYEES DON'T WEAR CLEAN CLOTHES OR EVEN SHOES, SOME EMPLOYEES GO BEHIND BUILDINGS TO USE BATHROOM. ALSO SOME CLERKS DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH NOR UNDERSTAND THE WORD "EXPIRED" ON PRODUCTS THEY ARE SELLING.

Remembering our Constitution - going back to basics of respecting each other whether it be race, economic status or religious beliefs.

More extensive parenting classes addressing age related issues for the 10 - 13 year olds.

Healthy eating for people without disease and those who have conditions such as diabetes, cancer, crones, high blood pressure, etc.

cultural understanding (diversity training)

environmental infrastructure

We need to inspire those citizens who are able to be more charitable, especially to those in need and find it harder than the average person, no matter what that person/s race may be.

conversational English classes/groups, basic lifestyle and protocol, checklist for newcomers

We must sure that the programs are addressing the needs of all the residents of the county and that they have equal opportunity to the same resources and potential to be extraordinary people? We must make sure that our youths are provided with as many resources as possible to compete on a global front. Maybe this means teaming up with other organizations.

All of above plus more English as Second Language and cross-cultural awareness programs that help us all live with each other.

Because of the diversity of the PWC population, it seems that we should continue to celebrate our differences and teach tolerance and recognition of cultural differences.

Cultural diversity.

For those who come here legally, they need to learn our culture, our language, our laws and our ordinances. For those who are here illegally, they need to go back to their country.

Understanding local taxes and tax structures

Learning about other peoples culture

ESL issues.

English speaking issues

Immigration issues

Availability and use of alternative Transportation

complete major highway projects, i.e. Route 1

1. Lack of understanding of school work - Tutoring and cultural activities to embrace the cultures
2. ESOL for all ages
3. Foreign language classes for general population

Understanding the English language.

A communication barrier is in place now. For two hundred years the language of this country has been English. Shouldn't new immigrants be expected to learn English instead of everyone else trying to change for them?

see above

see above

foreclosures, financial matters, learning to get along--

the diversity of the county is affecting the schools and the testing of students--children who do not speak English are at a terrible disadvantage--language classes for adults and children.

**What additional community issues do you feel Extension can address through educational programs?**

Other conservation programs beyond water and land conservation.

We need to make sure the children are not forgotten as financial strains come on the community. We must maintain a level of education which will supply our county, state and nation with a well-educated community in the future.

Not aware of any.

I am pleased that Extension already offers a great variety of programs to meet the needs of this community

childhood obesity and the increase of type 2 diabetes

Life Skills, Leadership Skills, Citizenship Skill

More outreach to different communities about both housing issues and financial issues the ones that you have are great.

beneficial/invasive insect programs/workshops and information- how to detect/identify and report. Invasive plant species programs/workshops- how to detect/identify, properly destroy and if applicable, report to appropriate authorities.

Increasing quality of life in PW by helping people rethink the need for material goods versus creating time for recreation, family, and community

I can't think of any.

None

Teaching communities how to establish partnerships/co-ops to address community challenges. Community-building programs.

You're doing well now.

health promotion at work-captive audience, gives employer/community a strategic advantage as well as a higher quality community

Teaching children at an early age respect for our flag and our country. Teaching them more about the history of the community they live in and those around them. What do they know about prince william county, of the state of Virginia? How to work together to "make things happen" in the community.

Prince William county has a lot to offer people but maybe lots of folks don't know what's available. Explore ways to get information out their.

Extension offers a great deal of beneficial printed materials. However, I seldom hear about programs or events; I guess our schedules do not cross that much. Is it possible to increase the marketing area more? Suggestions: Communicate and County Connection; Channel 23; press releases, water bills, flyers in neighborhoods? People in the farming communities are tied to their Extension Service; but those living in the city do not know what the Extension service is or what they do provide. We do not need more reading materials, we need the connection and interaction of people somehow. But, the people need to hear what opportunities are there.

Volunteerism

affordable child care

N/A

Job skills.

Community organization - people helping people

Very important to keep helping with lawn care and landscaping programs to keep the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries from getting polluted by household chemicals and fertilizers

community building

All the activities already addressing.

How to make Prince William County a truly "Green" community.

keeping neighborhoods safe & desirable

keeping gang activity under control

You do a great job with the educational programs you currently have!!! The only other community issue I'd like to see addressed (even as I recognize that you can't change attitudes overnight) is teaching a greater respect for diversity. Not saying we all have to be best friends or even like people who are different from us, but we MUST (for a civil society) learn how to accept diversity and show basic respect for all human beings!!

Lawn & Garden, recycling

No sure

Financial responsibility and debt consolidation.

Healthy life styles.

More language training for the Spanish as a second language.

Youth programs

Extension does a good job trying to keep abreast of issues. I congratulate you and your many volunteers. Your programs save the tax payers a lot of money.

ANYTHING THAT HELPS PEOPLE BECOME BETTER CITIZENS.

EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE LOST THEIR CONCERN FOR THEIR FAMILIES BECAUSE THEY ARE "SO" BUSY.

Providing ESOL classes for adults

before and after school programs for youth

Inspiring the community to work together to improve our county.

simple/inexpensive family activities list that shows how to have fun and enjoy quality time with your family; appreciate nature and our surroundings through music, art, crafts, hiking--specific ideas for families

Maximum safety from minimum food/resources, e.g. storing food/water/batteries for emergency, "making do" in times of dire financial crisis such that everyone gets enough basic nutrition at the lowest possible cost to survive, how to shut down to safely heat one room at a minimal temperature to avoid hypothermia and death, sheer survival skills on a ridiculously low budget.

None.

How to better take care of our neighborhoods.

Why we have a teen curfew and the fact that it exists

You can not teach Love.

Acquaint parents with advantages of youth programs, i.e. 4H, Scouts, etc.

Use of local foods and cooking classes

Victory garden

Living with sewer and well

Building Habitats rather than landscaping

Alternatives to concrete and asphalt

Alternatives to fertilizer

Family values - babysitting, disciplining children, marriage counseling, role of parents

Foreign language classes

What it means to be a US citizen.

How get involved and help your community.

Family interaction and health.

keep 4H running as our youth need an outlet other than gangs and running wild

### **What ideas do you have for addressing these issues?**

Capital Punishment!! If they survive, try corporal punishment. No I did not get it backwards.

If they're strong enough to survive the first MAYBE they're worth the follow-on effort

Perhaps encouraging citizen action groups to advise the County Board of Supervisors.

Start with the kids. Kids are eager to learn, they don't see differences in people until someone points them out. They see people for what they are, rather than stereotypes that are put on them.

None at this time.

Offer classes at local schools, churches, and community centers in local neighborhoods.

Invite Extension clients to suggest other programs that meet their needs.

More volunteers and opportunities for community education. As far as Financial Planning goes--I retired last year at 54, sold a house this year, and bought a house this year even during this stressful time by following two simple rules: One-tithe 10% of your income. Two-spend less than you make.

Maybe small fairs that can bring together people who work with these issues and working together can help educate the community as a whole.

Continue with the Financial and Family Life programs currently offered. Increase advertising of these services to encourage greater participation.

Work with the school system to develop joint educational programs for elementary through high school in Financial Literacy and Family Life taught by volunteers.

INCREASE AWARENESS BY INCREASING MEDIA OUTPUT AND PRESENCE AT COMMUNITY EVENTS, COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS, LOCAL/REGIONAL GROUPS WITH SIMILAR AGENDAS.

keep offering the classes that you currently have on financial issues, they are very valuable.

Find experts in these fields currently working with these concerns/problems and coordinate/plan/organize workshops or lectures.

Help people reconnect with our most basic physical and emotional needs and make sure those are being met before striving for the bigger house, fancier clothes, flashier car...

I would look carefully at services offered by the Health Department and CSB, and Office on Youth if it still exists and the resources offered at the library and try to supplement and not overlap them. I think all these agencies offer help to residents that they cannot get through businesses and that in these times of tight budgets we need to be careful in the way we use our staff that hopefully will remain after all the cuts so that essential human services will remain available.

Implement educational programs and saturate the media with this information via the schools and other systems that are available. Tackle these issues from the grass roots, by way of reaching out to the community.

Not only government, but volunteer organizations need to be organized so as not to duplicate efforts so that limited resources can be used to benefit more people.

Send extension ambassadors into the community through shopping center outreach, community centered programming and on site, community level interaction.

In other words, send paid or volunteer staff into specific communities to address specific on site needs. Set up at a grocery store and show people how to buy quality food. Set up at Home Depot and show people how to conserve water. Go to a community park and engage the community in multicultural fairs, health fairs, landscape workshops. Do these on site so the folks can see how these work in their own neighborhoods.

more community gardening/sharing. outreach to HOA and other communities. Guerrilla/urban greenscaping.

4 H for adults

outreach at grocery stores

anything to get people out of cars (but lure them with their cars!)

increased partnership with other local/state agencies, such as Health, Aging (maximize our resources)

more on your web. can be hard to find some stuff

Reaching out to parents(especially new citizens) to encourage them to learn about our community and its laws and teach it to their children. Using churches in the community to teach respect and responsibility.

People basically are very kind and want to help, learn and contribute. They need leadership. Not sure how to draw them in or what would draw them in at this point.

My middle son has often said that although he was an A+ student in high school; he was book smart, but he was never taught the basic of living on his own financially; he was taught about money, but not how to invest or plan for the future. He had a good home; plenty to eat and lacked no provision; but, now he's married with children and feels that no preparation was made or given to him regarding life issues. He is having to learn all of it on his own. How can Extension really connect with the non-farming communities?

clinics well advertised

forums through town hall mtgs

educational programs @ schools

More volunteers

N/A

Classes on creating a resume, grooming for an interview, or starting a small business.

Some sort of class or online community organization/social networking

Keep the Master Gardener Program strong and focussed on helping residents with low maintenance landscaping and low impact development

more community based organization

community dialog between competing classes

Local community get more involved in planting more trees along streets and state highways. Why is there so much grass that VDOT or the local community must mow. Plant more trees/shrubs/bushes.

Well. . . it's a tall order but maybe have a speaker's bureau where representatives from the various diverse groups in PWC (including "home-grown" residents) talk about their lives before coming here. A series of lectures from: County residents whose families go back here 3 generations or more; the African-American experience (and focus on the differences between recent African immigrants, recent Caribbean immigrants, and African-Americans whose families go back to the founding of this nation because all have slightly different experiences), the Latino experience (and focus here on the HUGE differences in this group -- Caribbean Latinos have a different life experience than do Mexican Latinos, and they have a different experience than other Central American Latinos, etc.); the Asian-American experience (ditto what I said for Latinos); the Jewish experience; the Muslim experience, etc. Maybe if people see where/how other people lived & developed, they might understand why the various groups hang on to certain traditions that we may not understand, respect or even like. It's a start!!!

Get some educated bi-lingual people to teach practical spanish to others free or at low cost.

Keep existing programs strong - especially the youth programs and 4-H. For the number of public dollars these programs reach out to a large population through organization and volunteer hours.

Programs for dealing with managing stress and educational programs to help those who are struggling to recover and not end up in same situation

Life and Money skills

IMPRESS "FAMILY NIGHT" OR GET TOGETHER W/FAMILY ONCE A MONTH AND ENJOY A MEAL TOGETHER AND TALK.

PEOPLE NEED TO INVEST IN PRIDE OF THEMSELVES, FAMILIES, AND BUSINESSES.....NOT JUST MAKING MONEY, SO ANY CLASSES THAT ENABLE PEOPLE TO ENHANCE THEIR OUTLOOK ON LIFE.

- offer more programs through 4H

- let everyone know what is available with 4H NOW

-get a data base of all 4H groups in the area to help out those seeking programs

Have the county provide funding to support and improve our green infrastructure.

be people oriented, not materialistic--avoid activities that involve spending money; show people how to plan and how to conserve; make it, don't buy it

Cooking classes-

Gardening classes

cooperate with emergency management systems and fire/rescue on life/safety and survival know-how at times of disaster or crisis.

Continue offering community education opportunities through local agencies and within the school system.

Community group meetings to address citizen's concerns.

Some of these issues are bigger than what the extension office can handle. I would suggest a partnership with the police and neighborhood services on what can be done encourage community involvement.

publications

Have more classes in learning about the cultures and teaching what is the American way

Increase Sales Tax to provide additional revenue.

1. Neighborhood community activities where neighbors can work together on projects and get to know one another.

2. See above

Public speakers in various areas throughout PWC.

Related commercials on public television.

Dance classes, gardening opportunities, or like programs where parents and children together can learn to have fun together and not spend a fortune.

Civility - just be nice to each other.

### **How could Virginia Cooperative Extension better address your needs?**

Conduct evening classes on related topics

Provide materials and classes in other languages?

Provide internet resources

Conduct evening classes on related topics

Provide printed material

Provide internet resources

Provide volunteers for community education

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