

# NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 5

**Occoquan Watershed Coalition** November 1995

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## **OWC General Membership Meeting 7:30PM - December 7 Clifton Town Meeting Hall**

At this meeting we have a rare opportunity to hear and question, first hand, the VDOT thinking regarding the need for a central crossing. Such a crossing could be in our area — so all of us should be interested in listening to what the local VDOT man in charge has to say.

## **VDOT's Northern VA District Administrator Tom Farley to Speak**

Tom Farley has accepted our invitation to speak to the Coalition and respond to questions.. He will be our only guest speaker. Tom has been asked to discuss:

- **Status of the Draft RFP** for the Western Fairfax Transportation Study.
  - **Implications and impact of a new road connecting the PWC Parkway to the FFC Parkway.**
  - **VDOT's views of the PWC Parkway.**
  - **Viable mass transit alternatives.**
- Time will be allotted for questions from the floor. **Don't miss this opportunity to hear directly from VDOT on these and other**

**important subjects you might want to raise.**

## **Time for 1996 OWC Membership Renewal**

This has been a busy and full year! Your support throughout this year has made it possible for the Coalition to be actively involved in transportation as well as many other matters. Your participation and support by personal involvement, through letters, and by your attendance at meetings has been outstanding and gratifying. Supervisor Elaine McConnell, Kate Hanely, Jay O'Brien, and many others have commented favorably concerning your attendance and participation in community matters. Passing our one year mark, it is now renewal time for association and individual memberships. Please use the renewal form included herein to renew your membership in OWC. Mail it or bring it with you to our meeting on December 7th.

We are truly involved in the many matters facing our associations and communities in greater depth than most of us imagined when we formed the Coalition. The involvement of our committees and volunteers has surpassed our expectations. **The Coalition has made a difference.** The concerns of our general membership have

been heard and we are listened to by leaders at all levels. The knowledge of the importance and value of the Occoquan Reservoir, its Watershed, and our drinking water has been enhanced by our collective efforts. Now there is an increased awareness and commitment to protect our drinking water, the Occoquan Reservoir and our Watershed by citizens and elected officials.

It should be noted that there has been no meeting of the Joint Subcommittee, composed of three Supervisors each from Prince William and Fairfax County. Despite the fact that at the last meeting on March 1, 1995 it was announced that there would be a meeting in late June or July, none was held. This is of great concern! As we head into the New Year of 1996, there are lots of unknowns to include the proper designation of a Consultant to evaluate the possible need for and location of an Occoquan River crossing. That is why we need you!

**TOGETHER WE REPRESENT A POWERFUL CITIZEN'S GROUP WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED IN ANY DECISION PROCESS — DIVIDED, WE ARE INDIVIDUALLY VULNERABLE AND THUS COLLECTIVELY WE LOSE. THE**

**OWC NEEDS YOU AND YOU NEED US — STAY THE COURSE AND RENEW NOW!!**

## **Please Inform OWC of Your New President**

Please call or send us a note on your changes!

## **Update on Rte 123 Alignment**

To keep you informed on what is going on in our area, the following information is provided: In our October Newsletter, we reported the BOS had called for an additional public hearing on the alignments being considered for Rte 123. After reviewing all the comments received from the Location Public Hearings and citizens informational meetings, VDOT has recently concluded that sufficient input has been received and an additional public hearing is not necessary in order to select an alignment design.

There have been concerns raised by some citizens that the VDOT Draft Environmental Assessment was not sufficient and did not fully assess the impacts. VDOT indicates they have reviewed the document and supporting data and consider it adequate. The Federal Highway Administration also reviewed the document and approved its content.

VDOT also concluded they must be sensitive to the needs and concerns of several homeowners along each alternative who have indicated they have been unable to sell or make improvements to their property because of the pending decision on which alternative Rte 123 improvements would be chosen.

VDOT stated that these citizens deserve consideration by not prolonging the decision process.

The environmental affects and impact upon an existing subdivision based on Alignment D, an alternative introduced at the Location Hearing are currently being assessed. This alternative proposed moving Rte 123 approximately 2200 feet west of the existing Rte 123.

The Fairfax County Office of Transportation staff has scheduled a Board Item on this matter for December 4, 1995.

## **General Cmte Meeting 8PM, Dec 13th Clifton**

We will meet at 8PM in the Clifton Community Hall to refocus and vitalize the OWC General Committee. We ask those of you who have volunteered previously on membership or attendance forms to attend this important meeting.