

TODAY'S TOP ONLINE STORIES

1. Grant makes home affordable for Prince William teacher  
 It may not be much to look at now, but in November a Prince William County school teacher will have a newly renovated home that he can finally afford.
2. Boy, 3, drowns after fall into Potomac tributary  
 ARLINGTON — Authorities say a 3-year-old boy has drowned after falling into a tributary of the Potomac River.
3. 3 dead, 4 wounded in shootout in central Virginia  
 LOUISA — A man involved in a dispute with other family members over property and belongings opened fire in a rural central Virginia neighborhood, killing two people and wounding four others before police fatally shot him, authorities said.
4. Open house for proposed wartime museum draws thousands  
 Allan Cors owns so many tanks, he's lost count. "I really don't know" he said, at the annual American Wartime Museum's open house. "I have approximately 90 to 100 vehicles, everything from motorcycles to 60-ton heavy tanks."
5. Man charged in pharmacy robbery  
 City police have charged a McLean man with robbing a CVS in Manassas early Sunday.

ONLINE READER REACTION

Comment at insidenova.com about dogs distracting their owners while driving:

» "Heck, I witnessed a dog driving the other day! What's the big deal? LOL!"

— Posted by cjcnu01

HOW TO SUBMIT

Check out the latest news and photos every day on the Lake Ridge/Occoquan community page at [insidenova.com](http://insidenova.com), and write your own community news at Keyword: **SUBMIT**.

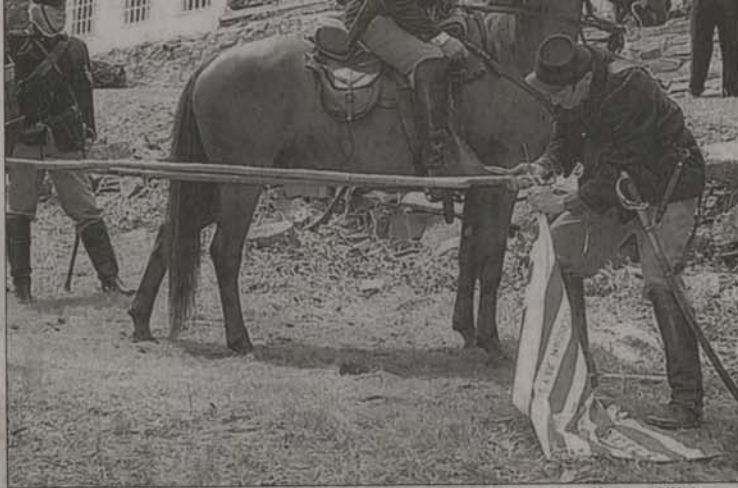


During a recreation of "The Liberty Pole Incident," Prince William Militia re-enactors remove the Abraham Lincoln banner. [Submitted photo by Sharon E. Cavileer]

# Civil war buffs explore Occoquan

**BEFORE THE WAR** » Re-enactment of Liberty Pole incident draws crowd

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# Civil war buffs explore Occoquan

**BEFORE THE WAR »** Re-enactment of Liberty Pole incident draws crowd

A recent historical reenactment in the town of Occoquan drew a large crowd.

Dolores Elder, acting manager of the Prince William County Tourist Information Center, said visitation to Occoquan for "Before the War" increased by more than 60 percent.

Families, Civil War buffs and individuals spent the day exploring Occoquan, with many staying for lunch and dinner at the town's variety of restaurants.

"Occoquan has a fascinating history" said Occoquan Mayor Earnie Porta, who welcomed the visitors to the re-enactment of the Liberty Pole incident. "We hope people will return often to enjoy the mix of the modern and traditional that the town has to offer."

The "Before the War" event was sponsored by local businesses and an events stimulus grant from the Prince William County/Manassas Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

During the event, re-enactors from the Prince William Militia rode into Occoquan on July 31 to

forcibly remove an Abraham Lincoln banner from the property of Joseph Janney, reprising the 100th anniversary of the "Liberty Pole Incident."

On July 4th, 1860, some 60 people had joined Janney in erecting a "Liberty Pole" from which they broadcast their pro-Lincoln sentiments.

County officials ordered the display removed, and on July 27, 1860, armed soldiers and horses traveled along Mill Street to Rockledge Mansion. Janney protested but the soldiers brushed him aside and chopped down the flagpole. They removed the banner and carried it off to the Brentsville Courthouse.

In July 1860, Occoquan was a town divided, with some favoring abolition and others slavery and secession. On Election Day in November of 1861, only 55 votes were cast for candidate Lincoln in Prince William County. All of them originated in Occoquan. The following May, Virginia voters ratified secession from the Union and the state joined the newly formed Confederate States

of America.

To commemorate the unique event, the town, the Occoquan Historical Society, the Occoquan Merchants' Association and other sponsors created a full day of exhibits, lectures and events including an historic boat tour along the Occoquan River which left from the town dock in Mamie Davis Park.

There was period music, a "Mourning and Medical Exhibit" at town hall, a discussion and demonstration of cavalry weapons and tactics by the Black Horse Troop, 4th Virginia Cavalry and a lecture on the Liberty Pole Incident by Mark Trbovitch, a local historian and member of the Prince William County Sesquicentennial Committee. Children's activities and a host of authors signing books completed the "banner" day.

Porta said Occoquan plans to sponsor additional events within the context of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War between 2011 and 2015.

For more information, visit [www.historicoccoquan.com](http://www.historicoccoquan.com) and [www.occquanhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.occquanhistoricalsociety.org).

— Submitted

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