

VIRGINIANA FILE

THOROUGHFARE

Cozy general store is considered center of hamlet in county's west end

PWC - Cities and Towns (Thoroughfare Historic District)

By PAMELA GOULD
of the Potomac News

Gina Thomas met her husband-to-be while visiting her grandparents one summer in the hamlet of Thoroughfare.

A native of Washington, D.C., Thomas moved to this community on the fringe of Prince William County believing it would be a safe place for families.

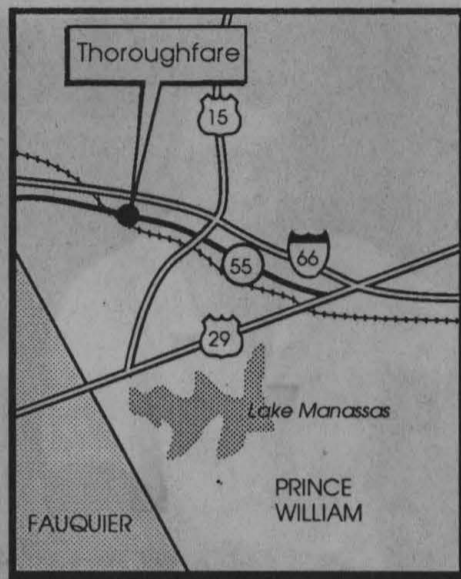
"I moved from the city to find a quiet place to raise kids," the 28-year-old said last week during a stop at Tim's Market, the local convenience store. "I came because of the family atmosphere and to be near people you can trust."

Thoroughfare is a rural area with wide spaces and few homes within two miles of the Fauquier County line. Cars can be heard racing past along Interstate 66 within easy view of John Marshall Highway (Va. 55), along which sits Tim's Market and a handful of homes including the Thomases.

Thomas lives with her husband Lawrence and their two daughters, 2-year-old Danyelle and 1-year-old Dominique. They bought the property where their home now stands from his parents.

Thomas said Thoroughfare is a peaceful community where people are friendly. Her only concerns have been the impending growth, talk of a landfill and vandals who have damaged her mailbox twice this year.

At home *Prince William Library*
Manassas, Virginia



Jeff Moore is one of the area's newcomers. He owns and operates Saturday Acres, a Morgan horse farm that offers boarding, training and breeding on a nearly 40-acre spread.

Moore, 35, said he bought the property because he saw it as a good in-



By Ron Sinfelt-Potomac News

Tim's Market, Thoroughfare's convenience store, is near the railroad tracks.

vestment. A native of Manassas, Moore most recently lived in Fauquier County.

He moved back to Prince William because its growth rate exceeded Fauquier's.

Tim's Market is an all-purpose facility offering groceries, a quick lunch, antiques, work gloves and kerosene. And if you want to check your freshly killed deer, bear or turkeys, you've come to the right place.

The one thing the market doesn't have is ample parking. Cars and pickup

trucks pull in and out, parking at odd angles as drivers run in for an item or two.

The market proprietors do a bustling business throughout the day with people stopping for coffee en route to work or for a pack of cigarettes or a cool beverage returning home, said part-time employee Mary Ellison.

The market, which displays a sign boosting it as "home of the very best deals in downtown Thoroughfare," truly epitomizes the community's name.