



**John T. Stirrup**  
Gainesville District Supervisor

# THE GAINESVILLE EXPRESS

Sudley North Government Center  
7873 Ashton Avenue  
Manassas, VA 20109  
(703) 792-6195 Fax: (703) 792-7664  
Email: [Gainesville@pwcgov.org](mailto:Gainesville@pwcgov.org)



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Dear Gainesville Resident,

I am now settled in at my office located at 7873 Ashton Avenue in Manassas. It has been a busy few months since I have taken office and I am really excited to share with you all we have done. First, I held an open house in January to welcome residents to my office. Next, I held a town hall meeting in March where we discussed issues ranging from schools to the budget and transportation. Over 70 citizens attended our first Town Hall meeting.

You are now reading the first issue of The Gainesville Express, my new quarterly electronic newsletter. This newsletter is designed to update citizens on new issues of importance. Please let your friends and neighbors know they can subscribe to this newsletter by sending an email to my Communications Director, Karen Ulrich, at [kulrich@pwcgov.org](mailto:kulrich@pwcgov.org). Please include the word "subscribe" in the subject line. If you are receiving this newsletter and would like to be taken off the list, please include the word "unsubscribe".

The next new item is our webpage at [www.gaineesvillesupervisor.com](http://www.gaineesvillesupervisor.com) where you can stay current on Transportation projects, Land Use cases and many other pertinent issues. The web page provides links for the County Mapper and our Prince William County Planning Department webpage. Homeowner Associations will also have the ability to update contact information when a new Board of Directors takes office. The website is up and running, but still new and under construction, please check back often to view our progress.

Our next town hall meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2004, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Stonewall Jackson High School. Topics of discussion will be centered on Land Use Planning and Transportation. There will be an open question session at the end of the presentations so please come and share your concerns.

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Serving on the Board of County Supervisors allows for the opportunity to also serve on regional boards and committees. I have been invited and am now serving on the Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) Board of Directors, the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) Community Development Standards Planning Committee and the Council of Governments (COG) Metropolitan Development Policy Committee.

I have hired two professional staff members to maintain a full-time office, open between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. You may reach the office at (703) 792-6195 or my Aide Nancy McDonnell at (703) 792-6196. Karen Ulrich is my part-time Communications Director and can be reached at (703) 792-7779. Emails may be sent to

[Gainesville@pwcgov.org](mailto:Gainesville@pwcgov.org).



Nancy McDonnell with Supervisor Stirrup at the January Open House

## **BUDGET RECAP:**

We have now adopted the FY 2005 Budget for Prince William County and I would like to address a few of my concerns. The Board of County Supervisors is given the responsibility to balance vital community needs with maintaining a fair and affordable tax bill for our citizens. I feel we could have done more to lower the FY 2005 tax rate, resulting in lower taxes while still funding our transportation needs.

I will focus my attentions on the upcoming FY 2006 budget now rather than waiting until the late fall. It appears the majority of increased spending for FY 2005 is for roads and public safety. This increase of additional spending is on top of last year's base budget. The new Board came into the FY 2005 budget process after it was well underway. It is a comprehensive process and equally comprehensive document. I want to make certain citizens understand where every dollar is going, and I hope to educate my constituents so we can fully understand where our hard earned dollars are going.

The County has a policy called the Tax Trigger Plan. A goal has been to reduce the tax rate by eight cents over the next ten years. The additional funds collected over what is budgeted are assigned first (the equivalent of one cent) to the general revenue to reduce the tax rate, then to the County and the Schools for improvements. Prince William County is growing rapidly and produces significant surplus tax revenue. We can improve on this trigger plan. I feel all additional revenues should be returned to the taxpayer. The Board should not spend more when a surplus is created. The surplus is generated, in part, because we are experiencing a large amount of growth, primarily from new home sales. This increase in residential properties will eventually slow down. Prince William needs to create efficient budgets, which will survive when we settle into a steady growth pattern.

The state has voted to cap the revenue localities are reimbursed from the personal property tax. The state has left us in a position to either raise the personal property tax rate or to raise the real estate tax rate to generate the funds on which we depend. I believe we should try a different approach and use this opportunity to reduce spending.

## **TRANSPORTATION NEWS:**

Traffic congestion in the Northern Virginia area is among the worst in this great nation. In Prince William County, due to new development, our increased commuting time is adding stress to our lives and our environment. Building additional roads to improve our commuting needs is an answer, but construction costs rely heavily on taxpayers.

There is no doubt transportation is the number one concern of Gainesville District residents. The Gainesville District is rapidly growing due to approved rezonings and by-right development. The increased density is adding a drastic burden to our road infrastructure. The state approved a budget leaving no new monies for the Northern Virginia region for transportation. This leaves the responsibility to build new roads in the hands of the taxpaying citizens of Prince William County. With the use of proffer funds from the development community we are able to mitigate some of the impact on our infrastructure but we are still operating in a road deficit.

There is no easy way to get caught up on the current needs for roads in the Gainesville District. Please write your State Delegate and State Senator and ask them to pressure the Virginia Department of Transportation for more funds for road projects in Prince William County. Ask them to also support legislation to change the antiquated funding formulas so that Northern Virginia gets more of our fair share of transportation dollars. Raising the personal property or real estate tax rates is not an option. To find information on your representatives, please use the following webpage: [Find your polling place](http://www.sbe.state.va.us/VotReg/Polling_Place/Polling_Place_Lookup_request.htm) ([http://www.sbe.state.va.us/VotReg/Polling\\_Place/Polling\\_Place\\_Lookup\\_request.htm](http://www.sbe.state.va.us/VotReg/Polling_Place/Polling_Place_Lookup_request.htm)).

I will work hard over the next four years to get funding for as many road improvements as I can. Please continue to write or contact my office and inform me which road projects are important to you and your community.

## **LAND USE UPDATE:**

*From Martha Hendley, Gainesville District Planning Commissioner*

It is a great privilege to be representing the Gainesville District on the Planning Commission, and I pledge to citizens that I will do the very best job I can.

The Planning Commission has already approved two important items, which were stalled by the former BOCS last year. The first item was to increase the Levels of Service for Recommended Monetary Proffers. The second item was to approve a Zoning Ordinance change that requires new “big box” retail facilities to apply for special use permits.

There are two more very important items coming up in the near future. First is a revision to the entire Zoning Ordinance. One impetus for this update is that when the 1998 Comprehensive Plan was approved, it created inconsistencies with other county documents, especially the Zoning Ordinance. This will be coming to the Planning Commission in June. Once the Zoning Ordinance is updated, work will begin on the Design and Construction Standards Manual.

For those interested in the updated Zoning Ordinance and the Design and Construction Standards Manual, the time to become involved is now. Your supervisor and I both welcome input from the community and hope that Gainesville citizens will be active in Land Use and Zoning issues.

Individual rezoning applications filed in the county Planning Department include:

- **Camp Glenkirk (REZ PLN 2003-00350):**  
Located on Glenkirk Rd. approx. 1.25 miles west of its intersection with Linton Hall Rd.
- **Bethlehem Woods (REZ PLN 2004-00114):**  
Located 160° north of the intersection of Burrell Ln.
- **Market Center North (REZ PLN 2004-00298):**  
Located on the west side of Rt. 15, approx. 1000 feet north of its intersection with I-66
- **Hunt Chase II (REX PLN 2004-00168):**  
Located on the south side of Lighter Rd., approx. 1200 feet east of Rt.15
- **Stringer Property (REZ PLN 2004-00345):**  
Located east of Madison Crescent near the intersection of Rt. 29 and Rt. 15
- **Univ. of VA Property (REZ PLN 2003-00373):**  
Located on the east side of Rt. 15 at the intersection of Thoroughfare Rd.
- **Carolina Road (REZ PLN 2004-00051):**  
Located at its intersection with Thoroughfare Rd north of Route 29.

Camp Glenkirk seems to be furthest along and will probably be heard at the Planning Commission in June. Stringer, University of Virginia and Carolina Road were formerly

located within the Gainesville District, actually within the Gainesville Sector Plan area, but are now in the Brentsville District since the redrawing of magisterial boundaries. They are included in the list because of their potential impacts on the Gainesville District, and we are aware of the community's continuing interest in the Sector Plan area.

Included in the Comprehensive Plan Amendments initiated for study by the BOCS was one in Gainesville, the Gateway area called Wentworth, which encompasses the former Dataport site. In fact, it is located within the Gainesville Sector Plan area.

We hope to hear from the citizens of the Gainesville District with their thoughts on these proposals and will be happy to provide information as it comes available.



First Sergeant Van Gelder with Supervisor Stirrup at the First Town Hall Meeting

## **Town Hall Meeting:**

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**Supervisor Stirrup's Second Gainesville District Quarterly Town Hall Meeting will be held at Stonewall Jackson High School, 8820 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109 on June 16, 2004, from 7:30pm to 9 pm.**

Supervisor Stirrup has pledged to have quarterly Town Hall Meetings, and we would like to invite all Gainesville District residents to attend. These meetings are designed to give the community the opportunity to receive information on issues concerning Prince William County with specific emphasis on the Gainesville District. These meetings also give Supervisor Stirrup and County employees the opportunity to hear your concerns and answer your questions.

The First Quarterly Town Hall Meeting was held on March 20, 2004, at the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Station in Haymarket. Boy Scout Troop 1833 performed a formal flag ceremony and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance; the Heritage Hunt Community Men's Chorus sang America the Beautiful and God Bless America; Supervisor John T. Stirrup, announced and introduced his appointees to various County Boards and spoke about several issues he has been working on since taking office; Evergreen Fire Chief Scott

Belleville spoke and gave an update on activities and plans for the Volunteer Fire Station; Mr. Craig Gerhart, Prince William County Executive, gave an update and overview of County operations; Mr. Brad Johnson, PWC Transportation Planning Branch Chief, gave a presentation on County Road Improvements; First Sergeant Van Gelder, PWC Police Department, and Mr. Don Richardson, Gainesville District School Board Member, were in attendance and answered questions from the community. We would like to thank all those who participated and attended the First Quarterly Town Hall Meeting.

We look forward to seeing all of you at Stonewall Jackson High School for our next meeting. Currently scheduled to attend this meeting along with Supervisor Stirrup are: Brentsville District Supervisor Wally Covington, County Executive Craig Gerhart, Greg Steverson of PWC Transportation, Raymond Utz of PWC Planning Department, Lieutenant Ken Murray of the PWC Police Department, Mr. Lawrence Smiley of PWC Code Enforcement and The Haymarket Baptist Church Choir. Please tell your neighbors and friends to attend! If you have any questions concerning the Town Hall Meeting, please contact Karen S. Ulrich at (703) 792-7779 or via email to [kulrich@pwcgov.org](mailto:kulrich@pwcgov.org).

## **TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:**

### **Route 55 and Catharpin Road:**

VDOT is progressing in a study to see if it is feasible to lower the speed limit on Catharpin Road between Haymarket and Route 29. VDOT is waiting for the adjacent property owner to complete the proposed turn lanes so they can install the approved traffic signal for this location.

#### **Traffic signals approved and waiting developer installation:**

1. Sudley Manor Drive and Linton Hall Road
2. Sudley Manor Drive at the entrance to the shopping center
3. Linton Hall Road and Braemar Parkway/Saybrooke Drive

#### **Traffic signals approved and waiting VDOT installation/final inspection:**

1. Linton Hall Road and Glenkirk Road
2. Irongate Road and 234 (Sudley Road)
3. I-66 ramp and 234 (Sudley Road)

#### **Projects Funded for Construction Advertisement Through 2004:**

1. Balls Ford Road Rail Crossing (Brentsville/Gainesville) –Install concrete crossing surface. Construction authorized. Railroad to perform work.

2. Wellington Road Rail Crossing (Brentsville/Gainesville) –Improve rail crossing and synchronize signals. Construction authorized. Railroad to perform work.
3. I-66 HOV Lane extension (Rt. 234 Business to Rt. 234 Bypass) (Gainesville) – Construct two conventional and two non-barrier separated HOV lanes; right-of-way acquisition complete; project was advertised for construction in April 2004.
4. East/West Connector (Phase I – Gainesville Interchange) (Gainesville/Brentsville) – Construct four lane road over I-66 from Route 29 to Wellington Road; right-of-way acquisition complete; advertisement date summer 2004.
5. Linton Hall Road from Route 29 to Devlin Road (Gainesville/Brentsville) –Widen to six lanes between Route 20 and Glenkirk Road and four lanes between Glenkirk Road and Devlin Road; right-of-way acquisition complete; utility relocation underway; advertisement date summer 2004.

#### **Funded Studies in Prince William County:**

1. Tri-County Parkway EIS (Gainesville/Brentsville)- *Detailed traffic, engineering and environmental analysis underway for Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS); The DEIS scheduled for completion in late summer 2004 with public hearing tentatively scheduled for early fall 2004. Website ([www.virginiadot.org/projects/tcp.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/tcp.asp)) established.*
2. Route 234 Bypass North EIS (I-66 to Loudoun County)-*Pre-scoping meeting held on February 26, 2002; project placed on hold until alternatives for Tri-County Parkway and Manassas Battlefield Bypass are evaluated.*
3. Manassas Battlefield Route 29/234 relocation EIS (Gainesville)
  - \**Joint Study being performed by National Park Service and*
  - \* *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA);*
  - \**Web site developed [www.battlefieldbypass.com](http://www.battlefieldbypass.com);*
  - \**Technical committee meeting held on December 18, 2003;*
  - \**Fourth newsletter published in January 2004;and*
  - \**Candidate build alternatives have been narrowed to five alternatives.*



Chairman Connaughton with Supervisor Stirrup at BOCS meeting

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Board of County Supervisors' Meetings Are Broadcast Live:**

Prince William County Government access Channel 23, available to Comcast Cable subscribers, broadcast the regularly scheduled Supervisors' meetings live on the first, second and third Tuesdays of the month at 2 p.m. Meetings will be re-broadcast on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. Tune in and see your County Supervisors in action!

### **Boards, Committees and Commissions Positions Available:**

Please contact Nancy McDonnell at [nmcdonnell@pwcgov.org](mailto:nmcdonnell@pwcgov.org) if you are interested in serving the Gainesville District on one of the following Boards, Committees or Commissions: *Housing Board, Disability Board, or Solid Waste and Equalization.*

### **Attention Homeowner Associations:**

Need a speaker at you annual meeting? Please contact my scheduler, Nancy McDonnell at (703) 792-6196.

In order to better serve you, our office is in the process of collecting updated information for homeowner associations. Please email any changes in association name, address, phone number and email address of the current contact. Please let us know the date, time and location of your next annual meeting. For homeowner associations served by a management firm, please provide their name, the contact person and phone number as well. Send information to Nancy McDonnell at [nmcdonnell@pwcgov.org](mailto:nmcdonnell@pwcgov.org).