



Supervisor John T. Stirrup
Gainesville District

THE GAINESVILLE EXPRESS

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Dear Gainesville Resident,

My office has been very busy over these past 10 months resolving issues and learning more about the Gainesville District of Prince William County. Many of you have made it down to my office in Manassas to bring your concerns to my attention. I hope you will continue to email, write and call with your questions, concerns, and suggestions.

Over the past year I have seen a wide variety of concerns in the Gainesville District. Traffic concerns resonate the loudest, while other concerns, such as gang activity, property code violations, and high property tax bills, have also been heard. I have worked hard to address traffic problems in Gainesville. I have been actively attending meetings with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on such projects as the Gainesville Interchange and the East West Connector. I am also working with VDOT to find an alternative solution to the traffic signal for Route 55 and Catharpin Road. To address the gang threat in the eastern portion of the Gainesville District, I attended a regional gang summit and met with key staff in Prince William County and across Northern Virginia. My office also worked closely with the Property Code Enforcement branch to ensure residents are following the Zoning Ordinance and maintaining a safe community. The next task I will focus on is the upcoming budget cycle. Last year the Board successfully lowered the property tax rate. This year I hope to persuade the Board to substantially lower the property tax rate further, resulting in a property tax bill which does not increase above the inflation rate.

I want to thank all of our Gainesville District residents for their support and many contributions. It is due to the support of our volunteers, appointees, and citizens that we have been so successful in achieving our goals. The Gainesville District now benefits from quarterly town hall meetings, a quarterly newsletter (sent out electronically to bring you updates at an affordable cost), and our Web page (where you can check for the latest updates in Gainesville).

Sincerely,

John T. Stirrup

Town Hall Meeting:

The Fourth Gainesville District Quarterly Town Hall Meeting will be held at Battlefield High School at 1500 Graduation Drive on December 2, 2004, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Directions: Guest speakers will include George Foresman, Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness and Patrick Collins, Emergency Services Coordinator from the Office of Disaster Management with Prince William County. From I-66, take exit 40 (Haymarket). This will be Route 15 North. Travel approximately 2.5 miles and take a right at the traffic light onto Graduation Drive.

One of my concerns for the Gainesville District is our increasing problem with transportation. For the Third Quarterly Town Hall Meeting held September 20 at Tyler Elementary School, I invited Brentsville District Supervisor Wally Covington and Brentsville District residents to join Gainesville residents for an informational meeting on transportation issues. The turnout from the community was impressive, with approximately 150 residents attending.

At the meeting, Tom Farhney and Dusty Holcombe of VDOT and Tom Blaser, Transportation Division Chief with Price William County Public Works, gave presentations regarding transportation issues. Farhney's presentation stressed federal funding as the largest single funding source for road construction. Holcombe's presentation focused on projects already funded and currently underway. Blaser concluded the presentations with current and proposed transportation improvements to Prince William County.

After the presentations, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns. Generally, attendees were happy with the quality and informative nature of the presentations; however, some expressed concerns about land development that has already occurred and the resulting transportation problems that residents now face. Various opinions, such as the "no growth" policy were given to combat these problems. I believe a more balanced approach to the transportation issues should include tighter control over zoning, a strong Comprehensive Plan and enforced proffers, as well as, proportional funding from the state budget for road construction in Northern Virginia.

The next segment of the meeting focused on funding problems in Northern Virginia. Delegate Harry Parrish, who was in attendance, argued that the formula used by the state for funding road construction needs to be changed. The state budget simply does not provide Northern Virginia with a fair portion of transportation funding when compared to our tax revenues sent to Richmond. The formula used to determine a locality's share of transportation funds is based on several variables, including a region's lane miles and the need for funds. Under the current formula, 70 percent of a locality's allocation of transportation funds is based on the number of lane miles in the jurisdiction; whereas only five percent is based on a need for these funds. Since Northern Virginia is a relatively small geographic space, with fewer lane miles than other jurisdictions in Virginia, we are under-funded even though we have a disproportionately higher population. As the population grows, roads will continue to deteriorate under the increased traffic, which further exacerbates the problem. Gainesville District Planning Commissioner Martha Hendley explained that the Gainesville Sector Plan had twice as much growth as transportation infrastructure can ever support. She added that citizens might want to push for a review of the Gainesville Sector Plan.

Many thanks to Tom Farhney, Dusty Holcombe, Tom Blaser, the Heritage Hunt Men's Chorus, Tyler Elementary School Principal Michele Salzano and all those who were able to attend.

We look forward to seeing all of you at Battlefield High School for our next meeting. Please tell your neighbors and friends to attend! If you have any questions concerning the Town Hall

Meeting, please contact my Communications Director Karen S. Ulrich at 703-792-7779 or via e-mail to kulrich@pwcgov.org.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Recently installed traffic signals:

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
4. Irongate Way and 234 (Sudley Road)
5. I-66 ramp and 234 (Sudley Road).

Traffic signals under study and design:

1. Hilldale Drive and Haddock Road
2. Lomond Drive and Victoria Road
3. Washington Street and Jefferson Street

Linton Hall Road from Route 29 to Devlin Road

Linton Hall Road will be widened from four lanes to six lanes between Route 29 and Glenkirk Road, and from two lanes to four lanes between Glenkirk Road and Devlin Road. Right-of-way acquisition for this project is complete and utility relocation is underway. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2005. Only one bid was received by the September 22 deadline, which was substantially higher than the estimate. VDOT has recommended the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) reject the lone bid. If rejected by the CTB, the project will be re-advertised in December 2004 with a contract award planned for February 2005. If the contract is awarded in February 2005, the anticipated completion date is fall 2007.

I-66 Widening

The CTB awarded a \$37.1 million contract to widen I-66 to eight lanes for 3.8 miles from Route 234 Business in Manassas to Route 234 Bypass/Prince William Parkway. Two lanes will be added to I-66 in each direction, one regular and one HOV lane. The inside lane will be reserved for two-person carpools during peak periods. The median will be preserved to accommodate future barrier-separated HOV lanes or transit. Construction will be sequenced to minimize disruption to motorists. No lane closures will be permitted during Nissan Pavilion events or during rush hours and holidays. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on August 30. VDOT expects the widening to be completed in October 2006.

Wellington Road

Construction is scheduled to begin in December to widen Wellington Road from Limestone Drive to Balls Ford Road. The intersection at Wellington Road, Devlin Road and Balls Ford Road will be realigned.

Wellington Road Extension

Wellington Road will be extended and adjusted to intersect with Linton Hall Road by the developer of Virginia Gateway. Construction was scheduled to begin in August.

East/West Connector (Phase I – Gainesville Interchange)

Construction of a four-lane road over I-66, from Route 29 to Wellington Road, will begin soon. Right-of-way acquisition is complete. Several bids were received by the September 22 deadline. Construction will begin in late November/early December. The anticipated completion date is summer 2006.

Sudley Manor Drive Extension

1. The Sudley Manor Drive extension between Linton Hall Road and the Prince William Parkway is scheduled to be completed in August 2006.
2. The Sudley Manor Drive extension between the Prince William Parkway and Chatsworth Drive is scheduled to be completed in October 2006 and will extend Sudley Manor Drive south from its current dead-end at Chatsworth Drive to the Victory Lakes development

Road Rail Crossings

1. Wellington Road Rail Crossing: construction is complete, traffic signal upgrade to be scheduled.
2. Jefferson Street Rail Crossing: construction of temporary asphalt crossing completed, railroad to schedule installation of concrete panels.
3. Gallerher Road Rail Crossing: construction of asphalt crossing completed, upgrade of lights, gates and traffic signal to be scheduled.

Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) CELEBRATES THE START OF NEW SERVICES THIS FALL!

This fall will bring new services and changes to PRTC that are worthy of a celebration. Just look at what could be coming to a bus stop near you!

FOR COMMUTERS:

A new Metro Direct route from Linton Hall/Gainesville to the West Falls Church Metro Station began service on November 8. The route starts at the Virginia Gateway Shopping Center at Linton Hall Road and Route 29, then continue along Linton Hall Road, Devlin Road, Balls Ford Road, the Route 234 Bypass and I-66 before arriving at its last stop – the West Falls Church Metrorail Station. The reverse route is in effect in the afternoon. For more information on fees and rider information, call 703-730-6664 or visit their Web site at <http://www.prtctransit.org/omniride/metrodirect.php>.

Linton Hall Metro Direct, Linton Hall to West Falls Church Metro Station (AM)
 First trip departs 5:00 a.m.; Last trip departs 7:30 a.m.

Virginia Gateway Shopping Center Commuter Lot	Linton Hall & Hunting Cove Place	Balls Ford & Wellington	West Falls Church Metro (Bus Bay F)
5:00 a.m.	5:07 a.m.	5:11 a.m.	6:01 a.m.
5:45	5:53	5:57	6:48
6:30	6:38	6:42	7:33
7:30	7:37	7:40	8:28

Linton Hall Metro Direct, West Falls Church Metro Station to Linton Hall (PM)
 First trip departs 4:10 p.m.; Last trip departs 6:40 p.m.

West Falls Church Metro (Bus Bay F)	Balls Ford & Wellington	Virginia Gateway Shopping Center Commuter Lot	Linton Hall & Hunting Cove	Devlin & Pike Branch
4:10	4:54	5:09	5:16	5:18
4:50	5:35	5:50	5:58	6:00
5:40	6:27	6:42	6:50	6:52
6:40	7:22	7:36	7:43	7:45

LAND USE UPDATE:

From Martha Hendley, Gainesville District Planning Commissioner

Zoning Ordinance Revision

Revisions to the Prince William County Zoning Ordinance are long overdue since the document has not been updated to keep up with Comprehensive Plan changes since 1991. The Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) held a work session and continuation of the public hearing on the revisions to the Zoning Ordinance on November 16. The target date for voting on the revisions is the December 1, 2004, meeting. Several controversial issues have already been identified by the Planning Commission which will be pulled from the document and considered separately. Some controversial issues still remain which will come before the BOCS, such as the ability for churches to build “by-right” in office high rise districts, restriction of development on slopes 25 percent and greater next to streams, increased setbacks for buildings and parking lots, home occupation permits, big box retail, and fire hazard issues regarding separation distance between dwelling units.

Development Application Processing Schedule format:

To access the Prince William County Planning Office, go to <http://www.pwcgov.org/planning> and select the Development Application Processing Schedule (DAPS). This is the Planning Department’s scheduling tool which shows what applications will be coming before the Planning Commission and coming before the BOCS. The DAPS schedule also shows applications which are active within the Planning Department, but which are not complete and ready for a public hearing, or are not making any progress.

A significant case which has passed the Planning Commission and is awaiting action by the BOCS is the proffer amendment to Rez #88-81 at Westmarket. Those changes to the Westmarket proffers will

facilitate the design of Route 15 from I-66 north to the Route 234 intersection as well as a new intersection for Route 15, Route 234, and Waterfall Road. Once the design is complete, The County can proceed with the taxpayer-approved \$15.7 million road bond project to complete the widening of Route 15. The proffer amendment also includes the donation of right-of-way for the completion of Heathcoate Boulevard from Old Carolina Road to Route 15.

Other pending cases:

1. Perrymont Links (Bull Run Country Club) PLN 2005-00027: withdrawal from open space land use agreements.
2. Gateway Service Center PLN 2005-00036: fuel sales, service center, car wash and quick service food within the Gateway Commercial Center.
3. Amendment to Gainesville Sector Plan: to include entire portion of three parcels and to change designation from SRL to CEC.

Active cases not scheduled:

1. Foxwood (Hunt Chase II) PLN 2004-00168: 139 single family detached at Lightner Road east of Rt. 15.
2. Main Street Landscape PLN 2005-00109: landscape service on Route 15 south of Loudoun Drive.
3. Stringer Property II PLN 2004-00345: mixed use north side of Route 29 east of Route 15 (Brentsville District)
4. Turning Leaf Estates PLN 2004-00389: 21 single-family detached at NE intersection of Devlin Road and Linton Hall Road. (Brentsville District)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New Employee in Our Office:

Scott A. Chambers has joined our office as a full-time Staff Assistant. Scott recently graduated from George Mason University with a BS in Economics. Scott will be working on constituent services as well as budget and tax issues. Scott's direct office number is 703-792-5785, and his e-mail is schambers@pwcgov.org.

Newsletter Subscribe/Unsubscribe:

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