



Supervisor John T. Stirrup
Gainesville District

THE GAINESVILLE EXPRESS

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Dear Gainesville Resident,

I have a few different topics I will address in this issue of the Gainesville Express, including the proposed Dominion Power transmission lines, problems experienced during the last election and the changes in membership of the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS).

Dominion Power

An issue affecting the Gainesville District which causes me great concern is Dominion Power's proposed transmission line. Their proposal involves building a new 40-mile 500 Kilovolt (500kV) transmission line extending from their Meadow Brook substation in Frederick County to their Loudoun County substation consisting of towers averaging 130 feet in height, spaced approximately 1000 feet apart with a right of way of 150 feet. The proposed alignment of this transmission directly affects the following areas of the Gainesville District: areas north of Route 29, Antioch Road, the Silver Lake property, the Dominion Valley Community and properties along Route 15 north of Route 234. Numerous residents will be directly and indirectly affected by degraded views of our pristine landscapes and reduced property values.

I have several concerns with Dominion Power's proposal. First, I have not seen sufficient documentation that this transmission line is needed. According to Dominion, these lines would only be needed six to 10 days a year. Before being given eminent domain powers, Dominion should be required to demonstrate that all other alternatives have been evaluated and exhausted. I have not seen any studies which address the possibility of increased power generation from existing facilities, the effects of new facilities such as the Lake Anna expansion, which is scheduled to go on line in 2016, as well as various other possible solutions. I am also concerned that the strategy Dominion Power is pursuing will circumvent the process which all other utilities must follow when pursuing a development project. In addition, questions persist regarding the harmful effects of overhead transmission lines on people's health.

In an effort to further understand the issue I attended the citizen information meeting hosted by Dominion Power, which was held at the Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center on Dec. 7, 2006. The turnout was truly impressive. It is obvious that many residents are concerned with this proposal as well. On Dec. 11, 2006, I attended a bus tour demonstrating the impact of the power lines to Thoroughfare Gap, which culminated in a press conference at Chapmans Mill where Congressman Davis, Congressman Wolf, Chairman Stewart, Fauquier Supervisors Bill Downey, Academy Award winning actor Robert Duvall and I spoke in opposition to the proposal. I have also submitted 24 questions to Dominion Power, which address my concerns, as well as the concerns of affected residents. They have yet to be answered.

Based on my concerns with the proposed transmission lines, I drafted a resolution which was unanimously approved by the BOCS opposing the proposed alignment of the transmission lines, as well as the designation of a "National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor" enabling the use of federal eminent domain authority to acquire the easements necessary for the construction and operation of the lines, if Dominion's proposal is not approved by the State Corporation Commission (SCC). This resolution requests an archaeological and environmental analysis to determine the potential effects of the proposed transmission lines to cultural resources and the County's Comprehensive Plan, with a recommendation to the SCC and the U.S. Secretary of Energy to deny the application for the proposed transmission line.

I would like to invite everyone to my **Emergency** Town Hall Meeting on this issue at Battlefield High School on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2007, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. Senator Warner, Senator Webb, Congressman Davis, Congressman Wolf, State Senator Colgan, State Delegate Marshall and Chairman Stewart have been invited to attend.

Please go to the following Web sites if you would like more information on this issue:

www.wewontglow.com

www.pwconserve.org/issues/landuseplanning/powerline/index.htm

www.whosedominion.org

Election Difficulties

Another issue of great concern to me is the numerous complaints my office received regarding last November's election. These complaints included long waits, sometimes longer than two hours, disorganization at various locations, voting machine malfunctions and voters not receiving notice of changes in their polling location.

As a result of numerous problems experienced by voters on Election Day, I asked the Prince William County Board of Elections to come before the BOCS to discuss the problems described by the residents, as well as determine solutions to these problems. As yet, the Board of Elections has not accepted this invitation. Meanwhile, I have forwarded the complaints I have received at my office to the General Registrar's office and asked for a response to these complaints. I will continue to pursue this issue until solutions are found. If this issue is not resolved, I will take my concerns to the State Board of Elections (SBE). If you would like to submit a complaint about your voting experience, please contact the SBE Secretary Jean Jensen at jean.jensen@sbe.virginia.gov.

Changes in BOCS Membership

I would like to offer my congratulations to Corey Stewart, the new Chairman of the BOCS. I have worked closely with Chairman Stewart during my term as the Gainesville District Supervisor and we share a similar philosophy on public policy. Chairman Stewart preciously served as the Occoquan representative on the BOCS. A special election to fill the Occoquan seat will be held on Jan. 30, 2007. Once the new Supervisor is determined, the BOCS will again be at full strength.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on the issues mentioned above or any other topic. You can reach me by phone at 703-792-6195 or by e-mail at gainesville@pwcgov.org. Also, information on several of these issues are posted on my Web site at www.GainesvilleSupervisor.com.

Sincerely,

John T. Stirrup



Supervisor Stirrup at a news conference on the proposed power lines. Supervisor Stirrup with Congressman Davis and Congressman Wolf, Fauquier Supervisor Bill Downey and actor Robert Duvall.

EMERGENCY Gainesville District Town Hall Meeting **Topic: Power lines-What Can You Do?**

Supervisor John T. Stirrup will hold an Emergency Gainesville District Town Hall Meeting on Jan. 24, 2007, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Auditorium at Battlefield High School, 15000 Graduation Drive in Haymarket.

Supervisor Stirrup will provide updated information on the proposed power lines and the opportunity for you to hear what local, state and federal officials are planning. Supervisor Stirrup will also provide information for citizens who wish to know what they can do to participate in this process. Several guest speakers have been invited, at this time; Congressman Tom Davis and Delegate Bob Marshall are confirmed to attend.

Recap of the November 16, 2006 Town Hall Meeting:

I would like to thank all those who attended my last Town Hall Meeting which was held on Nov. 16, 2006, at Alvey Elementary. The keynote speaker was Corey Stewart, the new Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors, who outlined his plan for the County and the changes in policy to make this plan a reality.

Chairman Stewart began his address stating that residential growth in the County is his greatest concern and our traffic problems are a direct result of this growth. In short, the County is growing too fast for the transportation infrastructure to keep up. Today two-thirds of the population work outside the County, and the Chairman wants to change this fact. As long as Prince William County is perceived as a "bedroom community" with few employment options, the traffic problems we experience will be increasingly difficult to solve. The County needs more business and the first step to attracting new business is to make it easier for business to operate in the County. In particular, improvements to the permitting system will make it easier for small businesses to begin operation. The new Development Services Building at the McCoart Complex is designed to minimize delays in the permit process, which will attract both large and small businesses. As the amount of business increases, the need to travel outside of the County will diminish, which will have a tremendous effect on the area's clogged roads, as well as quality of life.

Chairman Stewart has also developed a five-prong approach, designed to slow residential growth in the County. His first initiative involves changing the proffer guidelines to include a proffer for Police, open space and increasing school proffers. This will go a long way to offset the burden to the County's

infrastructure as a result of residential growth. Second, the County should stop “cut and fill” development, also known as “cookie cutter” houses. To do this, the Chairman will seek to change the Design and Construction Standards Manual (DCSM) to increase buffers for roads, streams and resource protection areas (RPA), as well as increase the preservation of trees in new development. The third approach is to push for the State Legislature to enact an adequate public facility ordinance, meaning that the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) would have the ability to deny a land use application because the roads, schools, utilities and other infrastructure are not already in place to accommodate the new development. Fourth, the County needs to revitalize the older neighborhoods. This can be accomplished with stricter code compliance and increased fines for violations. The last part of the Chairman’s plan includes directing the Planning Commission to take the lead in shaping our comprehensive plan. The County needs to establish and implement a process to complete the preparation and recommendation of changes to the Comprehensive Plan, including completion of surveys and studies of existing conditions and trends of growth as required by VA Code § 15.2-223, with emphasis on linkage between land use and transportation.

I strongly support Chairman Stewart’s policies and commend his efforts to address the challenges facing Prince William County. I look forward to working with him and the rest of the BOCS to take steps toward improving the quality of life for all County residents.



Prince William Board of County Supervisors Chairman Corey Stewart with Gainesville District Supervisor John Stirrup on Nov. 16, 2006, at the Gainesville District Town Hall Meeting at Alvey Elementary School.

Transportation Updates

Intersection of Heathcote Boulevard and Catharpin Road:

On Nov. 17, 2006, Supervisor Stirrup held a follow-up meeting with officials from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the developers and County staff to resolve the safety issues that exist at the intersection of Heathcote Boulevard and Catharpin Road. The goals of this meeting were to reiterate the need to expedite this project, develop a timeline to provide an estimate for completion of the project, and investigate the possibility of a partial opening of the intersection. The timeline explained below assumes that the design does not require any special exceptions from VDOT which will increase the review time.

One suggestion to help decrease the time required to complete the project was to lower the speed limit on Catharpin Road leading up to Heathcote Boulevard from the south. This measure may remove some of the

potential obstacles the new design must overcome. To this end, VDOT has agreed to conduct a speed study along Catharpin Road between Route 55 and Heathcote Boulevard to see if this is possible. VDOT estimates the completion of the speed study by the end of this month. When the speed study is complete, the engineer will make any necessary changes to the design for final submission which is expected in early spring 2007. Once submitted, the County and VDOT have committed to completing the review within 30 days. Lennar Homes has also committed to begin construction as soon as the design receives approval.

I-66 HOV Lane Extension (Route 234 Business to Route 234 Bypass):

This project is complete and open.

I-66 HOV Lane Extension (Route 234 Bypass to Route 29):

Phase II of the I-66 widening project will construct two lanes in each direction, one regular and one HOV lane, from the Route 234 Bypass to Route 29. The median will be preserved to accommodate future barrier-separated HOV lanes or transit. With right-of-way acquisition fully funded, two full years ahead of schedule. This project needs to be completed in order for the Gainesville Interchange project to move forward.

Sudley Manor Road:

This project is complete and open.

Land-Use Update

There are no Gainesville District land-use cases scheduled to come before the Board of County Supervisors for the next two months.

Announcements

The Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) Grant

The DRS would like to announce that a Rehabilitative Services Incentive Fund grant of not more than \$15,000 is being offered to address the unmet or underserved needs of persons with physical and/or sensory disabilities. For more information, please contact Sheila Williams with the Department of Rehabilitative Services at 804-662-7134.

PWC Board to Consider Broadcasting Planning Commission Meetings

Chairman Stewart would like to start broadcasting the Prince William Planning Commission meetings on Channel 23. The Prince William Board of County Supervisors will vote on his proposal Tuesday, Jan. 16. Chairman Stewart said the cost of broadcasting will be minimal and he has offered to pay for the amount necessary from his Chairman's office funds. Supervisor Stirrup supports this proposal. If you would like the opportunity to view these meetings via television, you may speak at the Board meeting which starts at 2 p.m. at the McCoart Building, Board Chambers, 1 County Complex Court, Woodbridge or write an e-mail to the [Board at BOCS@pwcgov.org](mailto:Board@BOCS@pwcgov.org).

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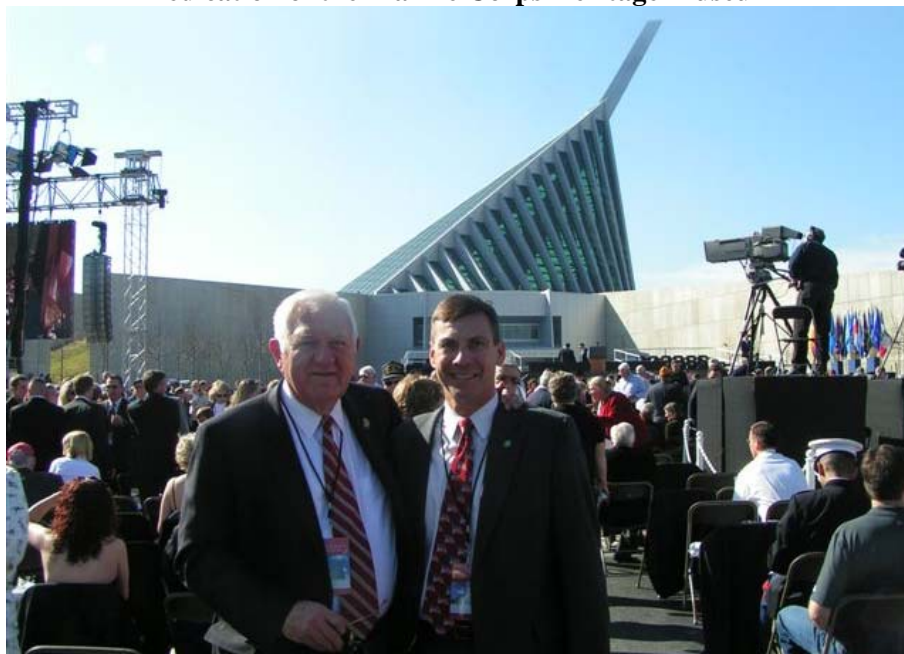
Recent Happenings:

Swearing-In Ceremony for New Chairman



Laurie Cronin, Assistant to the Chairman, with Chairman Corey Stewart, Nov. 20, 2006, at the McCoart Building.

Dedication of the Marine Corps Heritage Museum



Lt. Colonel Orson Swindle with Supervisor Stirrup at the dedication ceremony of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Friday, Nov. 10, 2006 in Quantico, VA

Supervisor Stirrup worked with former Assistant Secretary Orson Swindle at the Commerce Department during the Reagan Administration. Orson is a retired Marine Lt. Colonel who was shot down over North Vietnam in 1966. He spent almost seven years as a POW at the "Hanoi Hilton." The day this picture was taken was the 40th anniversary of Lt. Colonel Swindle's downing.

For more information on the National Museum of the Marine Corps click the link below:
<http://www.usmcmuseum.org/index.asp>