



**Supervisor John T. Stirrup**  
**Gainesville District**

# THE GAINESVILLE EXPRESS

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Dear Gainesville Resident,

The Virginia General Assembly is now in session and is busy with a multitude of bills. The General Assembly begins its session in January and usually ends in March. As a part of this process, The Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) develops a legislative program which identifies the needs of the County and then meets with its representation in Richmond to relay these issues. Numerous issues are included in the program. Some of the issues for the 2008 session include immigration, land use and transportation planning, community maintenance issues which would give the County more latitude in addressing blight, education funding, and many others. For a full report of the Prince William County 2008 Legislative Program please go to <http://www.pwcgov.org/docLibrary/PDF/007627.pdf>.

Many times I am contacted by a resident wanting to know the status of a particular bill in the legislature. Due to the short amount of time the legislature is in session the status of these bills can change very quickly. I always advise people to go to the Virginia General Assembly website to get the most up-to-date information on a particular piece of legislation. This website can be found at <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?081+men+BIL>. You can also contact the Senate bills and information line at (804) 698-7410 and House of Delegates bills and information line at (804) 698-7150 for a status of a bill.

I highly recommend that you contact your state representatives if you feel strongly about a particular piece of legislation. Feedback from the community allows elected officials to know which issues are important to the community which is essential for effective management. If you would like to contact your elected officials in Richmond but you are not sure who they are, please use the following link and type in your address: <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>.

If you have any questions on the state legislature or any other topic, please feel free to contact my office by phone at (703) 792-6195 or by email at [gainesville@pwcgov.org](mailto:gainesville@pwcgov.org).

Sincerely,

John T. Stirrup  
Supervisor  
Gainesville District

## **Legislative Update**

In the coming days, the House of Delegates will send over legislation to the Senate Courts of Justice Committee which could help the Gainesville District of Prince William County. These include: HB 90/

HB 926/HB 1047/HB 1298 requiring the verification of workers' legal presence; HB 103 the determination of citizenship status of inmates; HB 47/HB 155/HB 51 would deny bail to illegal immigrants; HB 623/HB 305 state police enforcement of federal immigration laws; HB 1026 barring localities from granting public benefits to non-citizens; HB 151 citizenship proof before a name change, and HB 157/HB 51 providing immunity to agencies and employees of the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions for authorized enforcement of immigration laws. Additionally, HB 82/HB 200/HB 205/HB 304/HB 430 address overcrowding problems, and may be heard by a different committee. You can check the status of these bills at <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?081+men+BIL>.

Contact information for the Senate Courts of Justice Committee is provided below:

Chairman Henry Marsh, III	<a href="mailto:district16@sov.state.va.us">district16@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7516
Senator Richard Saslaw*	<a href="mailto:district35@sov.state.va.us">district35@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7535
Senator Frederick Quayle*	<a href="mailto:district13@sov.state.va.us">district13@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7513
Senator Kenneth Stolle	<a href="mailto:district08@sov.state.va.us">district08@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7508
Senator Thomas Norment, Jr.	<a href="mailto:district03@sov.state.va.us">district03@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7503
Senator Janet Howell	<a href="mailto:district32@sov.state.va.us">district32@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7532
Senator Louise Lucas*	<a href="mailto:district18@sov.state.va.us">district18@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7518
Senator John Edwards*	<a href="mailto:district21@sov.state.va.us">district21@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7521
Senator Roscoe Reynolds	<a href="mailto:district20@sov.state.va.us">district20@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7520
Senator Linda Puller	<a href="mailto:district36@sov.state.va.us">district36@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7536
Senator Ken Cuccinelli, II	<a href="mailto:district37@sov.state.va.us">district37@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7537
Senator Mark Obenshain	<a href="mailto:district26@sov.state.va.us">district26@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7526
Senator Ryan McDougle	<a href="mailto:district04@sov.state.va.us">district04@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7504
Senator Creigh Deeds	<a href="mailto:district25@sov.state.va.us">district25@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7525
Senator Robert Hurt	<a href="mailto:district19@sov.state.va.us">district19@sov.state.va.us</a>	804-698-7519

\* indicates four members of the Courts of Justice subcommittee on immigration, which Senator Saslaw serves as Chairman.

If you do not want to pay for a phone call directly to the office of a Delegate or Senator, you may speak with an operator who will write your phone message at 1-800-889-0229, and deliver it the next day to the office of the Delegate or Senator you designate.

### **Changes in Voting Precinct Announced**

In June 2007, the Board of County Supervisors approved new voting precincts to improve efficiency in processing voters on Election Day. A new voting precinct has been announced in the Gainesville District of Prince William County by the Voter Registration and Elections office. Voters in the new Pace West Precinct will vote at Pace West School located at 14550 John Marshall Highway, Haymarket. Click to view new: [District & Precinct Maps](#). Voters whose precinct will change will be receiving new Voter Information Cards in the mail with information on where to vote. This new precinct will be used in the Feb. 12, 2008, presidential primary. For additional information, visit the Voter Registration Web site at <http://www.pwcgov.org/voterweb> or call the Registrar's office at 703-792-6470.

**Restrict Through Truck- Route 624**

A traffic study conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation, due to a request from the Prince William and Loudoun County Boards of Supervisors, determined that Route 624 meets the criteria to restrict through truck traffic. Through truck traffic is prohibited on Route 624 (Little River Road/Peach Orchard Lane) between Route 701 (Logmill Road) in Prince William County and Route 600 (New Road) in Loudoun County.



*Left to right: Delegate Bob Marshall; Gainesville District School Board Representative, Don Richardson; School Board Chairman, Milt Johns; Board of County Supervisors Chairman, Corey Stewart; Town of Haymarket Mayor, Pam Stutz and Gainesville District Supervisor, John Stirrup at Haymarket Town Hall, Gainesville District Town Hall Meeting January 10, 2008.*

**Recap of the January 10, 2008 Gainesville District Quarterly Town Hall Meeting:**

The topic of my most recent town hall meeting was an overview of your state and local government. To this end, I invited several state and local elected officials who represent the Gainesville District to speak. This way, the residents of the Gainesville District can put a face to a name and give the elected officials an opportunity to speak about individual projects they are working on.

I began the meeting giving an outline of government at the state and local level. The highest office in the executive branch of Virginia government is the Governor who is elected to a 4-year term. The Governor is responsible for managing all state agencies. In Virginia, the Governor can serve multiple terms but not consecutively. Other high offices in the executive branch include the Attorney General and Lieutenant Governor which have no term limits.

The legislative branch of Virginia is comprised of the Senate and the House of Delegates similar to Congress. All of the Gainesville District is in the 29th Virginia Senate District represented by Senator

Charles Colgan. Three precincts of the Gainesville District are represented by Delegate Jackson Miller with the remainder represented by Delegate Bob Marshall.

Other elected officials that represent Prince William County include Michelle McQuigg who was recently elected as Clerk of the Court for an 8-year term and the Commonwealth's Attorney, Paul Ebert, who is the longest serving Commonwealth's Attorney in the history of Virginia. Presently Paul Ebert has served for 40 years.

One of the lesser known qualities of Virginia's government is that it is a Dillon Rule state. John Dillon was a judge from 1875 – 1900 who wrote books on local governments during a time when corruption of political control by Tammany Hall was strong. He was afraid of political corruption on the local level in Virginia, and the Dillon Rule was protection from that. What the Dillon Rule states is that a locality does not have any authority which is not expressly granted to it by the State. For example, the County has the authority to seek proffers from developers, a voluntary contribution to offset the infrastructure cost required to support new development, but the County currently does not have the ability to charge impact fees. This is significant because proffers can only be sought if the developer has to rezone the property. If a developer wants to develop a property and the appropriate zoning already exists on the property, the County does not have the ability to seek proffers. The authorization for the state to allow the County to charge impact fees would mean that all new development would be responsible for the impacts to infrastructure, not just rezoned properties.

Another commonly asked question received from residents is who owns the roads. All public roads in Virginia are owned by the state. Recently, the County has begun to bond to build roads, but these are turned over to the state for maintenance.

The first guest was the Mayor of Haymarket, Pam Stutz. Haymarket was established as a town in 1799. Mayor Stutz began stating that she is trying to maintain the town's historic nature and is concerned about development. She also spoke of the potential of staggering terms on the Town Council. Currently, all seats are up for election every two years. With all the terms expiring at the same time, all new members could be elected creating instability in planning. Haymarket has its own police force, but relies on Prince William County for its fire and rescue services as well as public works. The Town Council meetings are the first Monday of the month and all are invited to attend.

Corey Stewart, Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors, spoke next regarding immigration. He complimented the citizens of the County who were critical to calling attention to the problem. He also mentioned that the wording of the resolution adopted by the County was well worded and the County was successful in the first court challenge. He continued to caution that the implementation of the immigration resolution should be done carefully. All members of the police department will receive some training and the new Criminal Alien Unit will specialize in immigration matters. If there is probable cause, the officers will be required to report the individual to the federal level. He concluded with his commitment to fund the resolution in next year's budget.

Next, Milt Johns, the School Board Chairman, addressed the crowd. Previously, Milt Johns had been the Brentsville District Representative on the School Board. He said, "I am a parent first." Therefore, he understands that parents place the education of their children as a top priority. The School Board has amazing challenges. Of 9,000 new students this year, 76% or 7,000 do not speak English. These are very challenging times. He concluded saying that the completion of Kettle Run High School is his first priority and he is concerned that teacher salaries in Prince William County are last in the metro region. He stated he wants to make sure that Prince William County Schools can be competitive.

Following was Don Richardson, the Gainesville District School Board Representative. He said that when he first moved onto Waterfall Road 15 years ago, there were no schools north of Route 66. His two children attended Stonewall Jackson High School. When he was first elected in 2001, security was and has been the main issue, with the schools developing crisis plans. During his term a permanent Advisory Council has been created for safe schools. As a software engineer, Don Richardson's interest for the schools has been in technology. During his tenure, an efficient I-Net fiber optics system connecting all schools has been operating from Independent Hill. All information affecting the schools is online, and meetings can take place online without traveling. Mr. Richardson also stated that he would like to see the School Board have fiscal autonomy. Presently school funding is appropriated by the County or the Commonwealth, and the schools have a revenue sharing agreement.

Delegate Bob Marshall was the final speaker who drove up from Richmond to attend the meeting. Delegate Marshall said that he advocates for proof of citizenship to register to vote. He also advocates for implementing the recommendations of former Governor Wilder's 2002 "Efficiency of Government" report which allows for transparency of the budget in the same way that we now have transparency for knowing who is being awarded a state contract. Citizens need to be able to find out what is in this budget. He then spoke briefly on several bills he has place in the General Assembly for consideration. He concluded saying that the year 2008 is significant because it is the first year that baby boomers can retire under Social Security. He warned that under the current system, the liability of a new flood of retirees is unsustainable.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) Meetings**

The BOCS will hold meetings February 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers at the McCoart Building located at 1 County Complex, Woodbridge. Meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Cable Channel 23, and then re-broadcast in their entirety at 7:30 p.m. on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday following the Tuesday Board meeting and at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

### **Summer Job Fairs for Teens**

**Date:** Thursday, Feb. 21

**Time:** 7 - 8:30 p.m.

**Location:**

[James J. McCoart  
Administration Building](#)  
Board Chambers  
1 County Complex Court  
Woodbridge, VA 22191

**Date:** Saturday, March 1

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 12 noon

**Location:**

[Bull Run Regional Library](#)  
8051 Ashton Avenue  
Manassas, VA 20109

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25

**Time:** 7 - 8:30 p.m.

**Location:**

[Chinn Park Regional  
Library](#)  
13065 Chinn Park Drive  
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Please contact the PWC Office on Youth for more information or to RSVP, at 703-792-6095 or [youth@pwcgov.org](mailto:youth@pwcgov.org)

### **Did you know?**

The Prince William County, Agency on Aging operates a Bluebird Tour program which provides high quality domestic trips for the over 55 population. For information on up-to-date schedules and tours, you may call their Hotline at (703) 792-RIDE (7433) or contact the Tour Coordinator, Christina Nicholas at (703) 792-6402. For more information about programs and services, please call the PWAAA Information and Assistance Office at 703-792-6374 or TDD 703-792-6444.

# Townhall of Fame

Honoring the Leaders Among Us

## The Resolve of John T. Stirrup

When it comes to the fight against illegal immigration, the eyes of many activists have been focused in recent months on Virginia's Prince William County. Elected officials, led by Republican John T. Stirrup, vice chairman of the Board of County Supervisors, have passed measures to confront the problem in their area head on.

Stirrup, who was just reelected to his second 4-year-term, explains, "Immediately after I was first elected, the constituents started bringing to my attention the issue of overcrowding." This was soon followed by increasing complaints from specific communities about vehicles being parked illegally and on lawns, trash accumulation, noise and music being played throughout the night, and public drunkenness.

As the problems intensified, the 50-year-old Stirrup was compelled to introduce a resolution in 2005 asking that Virginia's governor declare the county in a state of an emergency. The resolution

was not successful.

It would take an additional two years for Stirrup's assertive efforts to gain traction and, finally, practical results. "I think the problem had been building for so long that it got a white hot response this past summer when the Congress failed to act again on addressing illegal immigration," he says.

Stirrup, who met his wife, Heidi, when they both worked for the Reagan administration, submitted a breakthrough resolution last June that passed with a unanimous vote from the board. Thanks to his leadership, today Prince William directs its police officers to confirm the status of anyone in custody they suspect is an illegal immigrant. (So far, the county has moved for the deportation of approximately 250 individuals that were arrested for crimes and subsequently identified as being illegal aliens.) Prince William also identified several services in its county budget which could be legally denied to illegal immigrants.

—Jay Swartzendruber

(Photo: Stephen Voss)



Supervisor Stirrup in the February 2008 issue of Town Hall Magazine, reprinted with permission from Town Hall Magazine [www.townhall.com](http://www.townhall.com)



*Supervisor Stirrup gives a plaque of appreciation to Annika Bleier, who recently served as an intern in his Gainesville District Supervisor's office*



*Supervisor Stirrup with members of the Battlefield High School Chorus at an event held at the high school, January 29, 2008*

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