



Supervisor John T. Stirrup
Gainesville District

THE GAINESVILLE EXPRESS

Sudley North Government Center
7873 Ashton Avenue
Manassas, VA 20109
(703) 792-6195 Fax: (703) 792-7664
E-mail: Gainesville@pwcgov.org
www.gainesvillesupervisor.com



April 2008
Volume 18

Dear Gainesville Resident,

Immigration has been a big issue this year. Since the adoption of the Rule of Law resolution, numerous news articles, citizen letters, and debates of the Board of County Supervisor (BOCS) have occurred. I feel it is important that a full view of the issue be told instead of a two line quote from a newspaper or a 5 second sound bite from a television news report.

This issue came to the forefront in the summer of last year. At that time, many residents, concerned with illegal immigration were contacting my office demanding that the County become more proactive with regard to immigration. Their complaints ranged from public safety issues to quality of life issues. Many stories were reported in the newspapers concerning illegal aliens who had been stopped by the police numerous times but released as there was no standing policy to check their immigrant status due to the nonviolent nature of the infraction. After release, some of these individuals did commit a violent crime. Also, residents pointed to difficulties the County had enforcing overcrowding issues. In all cases, there was a commonality in the complaint: The County has no policy in place to check the immigration status of individuals who displayed probable cause of being in the country illegally.

Since the residents would no longer accept the statement "this is a federal issue" I proposed a resolution to the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) which was unanimously approved to develop policies to check immigration status and to determine which County services could be withheld as a result of illegal status. At the same time, the County entered into the 287g program which allows staff at the jail to investigate a person's immigration status and report violators of immigration law to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials. The effect of the resolution is better coordination with the federal government and an increased ability to identify violators of immigration law, which in time will enable the police department to arrest known violators of federal immigration policy who have outstanding federal warrants. These were actions the County was already authorized to take; the resolution simply affirmed the intent to take advantage of them. With the adoption of the resolution, my office was inundated with emails and phone calls from residents who supported this effort.

Now that the resolution has begun to be implemented, we have seen some dramatic improvements. Wait times in the emergency rooms has decreased, people vacated homes suspected of overcrowding, and school enrollment has increased much less than was anticipated prior to the implementation of the resolution. Since July 2007, 599 jail inmates have been turned over to ICE from 31 different countries. In April, ICE committed to removing inmates twice a week. Since this commitment 94 individuals have been removed. The resolution is having its intended effect. Any efforts now to repeal portions of the resolution will be giving up the gains we have already seen.

The final point I will address is that of cost. Much debate has occurred recently on this issue, but it is important not to forget the cost savings the County will receive as a result of the decreased illegal alien population. The media has reported estimates of what the immigration resolution might cost, but there has been little discussion of the many cost savings the County has and will likely experience in the future. Reduced demand for County services such as social services, schools and at the health department will translate into a very real benefit to the County taxpayer. In its budget debate, the BOCS will decide how much money will be allocated to this effort. One of the major issues the BOCS will address at the next meeting is the budget. Large increases have been recommended to further implement the resolution. It is difficult to say how much it will cost at this point, but if the final decision is in line with the debate, the price tag will probably be significantly lower than has been previously reported.

There is a report in the press stating Supervisor Principi plans to offer a new resolution to the BOCS on Tuesday, April 29th to rescind parts of the Rule of Law Resolution. I would recommend that everyone with a strong opinion on this issue take the time to call, email, or speak at citizen's time at the two o'clock Board meeting located in the Board Chamber at the McCoart Building. The Rule of Law Resolution was offered because of citizen requests, passed because of citizen support, and the citizens will need to send a clear message to the BOCS if the resolution will remain intact.

Please feel free to contact my office by email at gainesville@pwcgov.org or by phone at (703) 792-6195 if you have any questions or concerns on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,

John T. Stirrup
Supervisor
Gainesville District

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Board of County Supervisors' Budget Meeting Schedule

The final budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 29th beginning at 2pm. The meeting will be held in the BOCS Chambers at the McCoart Building located at 1 County Complex Court, Prince William, Virginia, 22192. For more information about this meeting, contact the Budget Office at (703) 792-6720 or you can contact my office at by phone at (703) 792-6195 or my email at Gainesville@pwcgov.org.

Six Year Plan Hearing, May 14, 2008

The Commonwealth of Virginia will host public hearings across the state to receive public input on a scaled down program for highway and transit improvements. Six year transportation on revenue projections are down \$1.1 billion from a year ago. These revenue shortfalls will result in a 44 percent reduction in funding for primary, secondary and urban highway construction, and a 10 percent reduction in transit allocations. The meeting in Northern Virginia will be held at No. Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Ctr. Forum Area, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, 22003 on May 14th starting at 7:30 p.m. Lists of specific projects and changes from the current plan will be available at the public hearing and on the Virginia Department of Transportation's website <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/syp-default.asp>.

Gainesville District Quarterly Town Hall Meeting May 22, 2008

Supervisor Stirrup will hold his next Town Hall Meeting on May 22nd from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Stonewall Middle School, 10100 Lomond Drive, Manassas, 20109.

Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) Meetings

The BOCS will hold meetings starting at 2:00 p.m. on April 29th, May 6th, May 13th and May 20th in the Board Chambers at the McCoart Building located at 1 County Complex Court in 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. To check the meeting schedule and view the current agenda, visit: [PWC - Board Of County Supervisors \(BOCS\)](#)

Conversations on Aging

The Area Agency on Aging and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission invites the community to attend several meetings. For more information, call (703) 792-6400. Come listen, discuss and share your thoughts about the following services: Transportation, Nutrition information, Senior Centers, Long term care, Adult day care, Case management, Meals on wheels and In-home services.

May 5, 7 pm
Lake Ridge Baptist Church
12450 Clipper Dr.
Woodbridge, VA 22192

May 6, 10 am
Manassas Senior Center
9320 Mosby St.
Manassas, VA 20110

May 8, 7pm
Manassas City Hall
9027 Center Street
Manassas, VA 20110

May 14, 10 am
Ferlazzo County Building
15941 Donald Curtis Dr.
Woodbridge, VA 22191

Recent Happenings in Gainesville

Bert Buscher Receives Commendation From Board of County Supervisors



Bert Buscher with Chairman Corey Stewart at BOCS meeting April 15, 2008

Gainesville District resident Bert Buscher received a commendation for his past service as Supervisor Stirrup’s appointee on the Commission on Aging. In addition to his service with the Commission on Aging, Bert serves on Supervisor Stirrup’s Budget Committee and is involved with several community volunteer organizations. Thank you Bert!!!

Gainesville District Little League 2008 Spring Season Opening Ceremony

Hundreds of Gainesville District Little League players gathered for the opening ceremony of the Gainesville District Little League (GDLL) at Long Park in Haymarket on the evening of Friday, April 18th. Charlie Husser, GDLL President, introduced teams, managers, and officers, the national anthem played and a prayer was offered. Park Authority Board member, Rick Berry and Supervisor Stirrup spoke. The little league's pledge was read: I trust in God, I love my country and will respect its laws, I will play fair and strive to win, but win or lose I will always do my best. Supervisor Stirrup threw the opening pitch to Paul Spyros and yes, it went right over the plate.



Paul Spyros with Supervisor Stirrup



Rick Berry, Gainesville Park Authority Board appointee, Supervisor Stirrup and GDLL President, Charlie Husser



Supervisor Stirrup throws opening pitch for Gainesville District Little League Opening Long Park, April 18, 2008

Stonewall Middle School's Dance Team Wins



Stonewall Middle School's Dance Team attended the Kings Dominion Spirit Weekend Competition. They won first place in the Hip Hop dance competition, second place in the Jazz dance competition and third place in the Pom dance competition. Congratulations!!!!

Long Park Soccer Fields Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Left to right: Rick Berry, Gainesville District Park Authority Board appointee; Supervisor Stirrup; Jay Ellington, Park Authority Director; Dave Milne, President of VSA (Virginia Soccer Association) and Mrs. Brenda Gardziel, Chairman, Park Authority Board at Long Park, in Haymarket Virginia, April 12, 2008

The rain held off long enough for yet another historical ribbon cutting ceremony at James S. Long Park on Saturday, April 12, 2008. Supervisor Stirrup, along with members of the Virginia Soccer Association and the PWC Park Authority Board, officially opened two new artificial turf fields at Long. The Park Authority in partnership with VSA installed these two fields for the use and enjoyment of our youth soccer league. Toll Brothers, Virginia Commerce Bank and J.L. White & Associates, LTD were instrumental in securing these wonderful additions to Long Park.



April 12, 2008 James S. Long Park new artificial turf fields

Crossroads Village Community Receives Awards and Recognition

This year the Crossroads Village Community received the award for the Most Organized Neighborhood Watch in the state by the Virginia State Crime Prevention Association at their 30th anniversary Awards Luncheon in March. For the second year in a row they won Neighborhood Watch of the year in Prince William County for the Western District and they were recognized for their participation in the National Night Out. Congratulations!!!

Westgate of Lomond Starts Neighborhood Watch

Patty Mattes is the coordinator for the new Neighborhood Watch group for the neighborhood of Westgate of Lomond. Patty and twenty-six volunteers gathered together at a training session held by Prince William County Police Officer Marcia Whaley. Officer Whaley gave an excellent presentation to the citizens and answered many questions. Neighborhood watch member are asked to: Look out for your neighbors, report any suspicious activity, make your home as burglar resistant as possible and periodically you will be asked to patrol. Neighborhood watch neighborhoods are 20 times safer than non-watch neighborhoods. If you are interested in receiving information on starting a neighborhood watch for your community, contact Officer Alex Dominguez at (703) 792-7232.



Officer Marcia Whaley

Did you know?

Take a bite out of crime. Below are several suggestions from the Prince William County Crime Prevention Unit for Home Security & Theft Prevention:

Home Security

Address Markings - Clearly visible from street; easy to read, good contrast with the background and can be spotted at night when lighted at night; do not use script numbers or numbers written out.

Landscape - Keep shrubbery trimmed, do not block windows or doors; keep your lawn well kept.

Deadbolts & Locks - Make sure you have a deadbolt on every exterior door in your home; use your locks!!

Lighting – At the very least keep your front and rear porch lights on at night; use timers inside the home; use motion sensor lights or light sensitive lights outside.

Vacation Hints – Have your home looking lived in; stop all deliveries; leave a key with a trusted friend or neighbor.

Theft Prevention

1.) Do not leave bicycles outside unattended. 2.) Keep your vehicle locked at all times and use an anti-theft device. 3.) Report suspicious activity immediately. 4.) List property noting serial numbers, make, model and color. 5.) Engrave your property with VA and your driver's license number (not your social security number), if you can't find or don't know the serial number. 6.) Photograph all property including jewelry, silver and collectibles.

Newsletter Subscribe/Unsubscribe

Please let your friends and neighbors know they can subscribe to this newsletter by sending an e-mail to my Communications Director, Karen Ulrich, at 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."