



Supervisor John T. Stirrup
Gainesville District

THE GAINESVILLE EXPRESS

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Dear Gainesville Resident,

Prince William County recently created a new Department called the [Department of Developmental Services](#) (DDS). Headed by Wade Hugh, this department will help streamline building development in the County. Specific issues handled by DDS are construction without required permits, unsafe structures, HOA issues related to Bond release, and the Occupancy Evaluation Process. The creation of DDS is a part of the County's BUILD initiative which is designed to make the processes of building within the County as efficient as possible.

The efforts to streamline the development process began with the construction of the Development Services Building at the McCoart complex. This building now houses all departments involved in the approval process. Now an applicant can easily walk from counter to counter, inside one building, to obtain approvals where they had to make several trips across Manassas before. The creation of the DDS similarly streamlines the process by bringing the [Land Development Division](#) and the [Building Development Division](#) together into a unified organizational structure to provide a single hierarchy of authority. The department also includes the [Project Early Assistance](#) functional area and the [Commercial Development Ombudsman](#). The department is charged with the review and permitting of all land development and Building Development projects.

The mission of the DDS is simple and clear: DDS is in the business of assisting customers with their projects while at the same time ensuring the safety of citizens and the protection of the natural environment. The department is charged with helping customers navigate the myriad of rules, regulations and policies in the most efficient and timely manner possible during the commercial development process. These efforts contribute to the success of the customer and the success of the community in its goal to attract quality economic development and new investment. Staff has worked with various customer groups to define specific customer desired outcomes, which include consistency, predictability and timeliness.

The Land Development Division (LDD) is responsible for reviewing and coordinating the review of land development plans for conformance with the County's Design and Construction Standards Manual and Zoning & Subdivision Ordinances. The LDD reviews and provides project facilitation and case management services for commercial and residential plans, including preliminary plans, sketch plans, final [site and subdivision plans and plats](#), plan revisions, and minor, administrative, and simple subdivision plans. The LDD reviews and issues [land development permits](#); ensures the posting of [performance bonds](#) and escrows; and ensures that all development requirements, proffers and special use permit conditions have been met prior to releasing bonds and escrows.

The Building Development Division of DSS enforces the [Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code](#) to ensure the buildings in which we live, work and play are safe. The Building Development Division is only one of many steps in the building construction process, and they deal specifically with reviewing construction plans and specifications, issuing construction permits, performing critical construction inspections and ensuring code compliance.

The creation of DDS will certainly help residents, attract new business to the County, and enhance the County's reputation as a premier community. If you have questions on development or any other topic please feel free to contact my office at by phone at (703) 792-6195 or by email at Gainesville@pwcgov.org.

Sincerely,

John T. Stirrup
Supervisor
Gainesville District

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) Meetings

The [BOCS](#) will hold meetings September 23rd and October 7th, 14th & 21st starting at 2:00 p.m. 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 view the current agenda, visit: [PWC - Board Of County Supervisors \(BOCS\)](#)

Haymarket Day, Saturday September 20, 2008

The Town of Haymarket will celebrate their 20th Annual Haymarket Day on Saturday, September 20th in beautiful downtown Haymarket from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The parade will start at 10:00 a.m. For more information visit their website [The Town of Haymarket, Virginia](#).

Pumpkin Pandemonium October 4, 2008

The Gainesville Ruritan Club in Partnership with Battlefield High School will hold their Pumpkin Pandemonium event, Saturday, October 4th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. rain or shine at Battlefield High School located at 15000 Graduation Drive in Haymarket. There will be pumpkins available for purchase, food, many games and competitions. Fun for the whole family!

Planning Commission Public Hearing on Proposed Land Use and Transportation Changes, October 8, 2008

At 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8 at the McCoart Government Center on Prince William Parkway, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on proposed changes to the Land Use and Transportation Chapters of the County's Comprehensive Plan. These chapters will shape the overall plan.

Where: Board of County Supervisors' Chambers
James J. McCoart Administration Building
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, Virginia

Work on these chapters began two years ago with a Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) and a Mobility Committee, each composed of eight citizens appointed by the Board of County Supervisors. The Planning Commission has spent the last six months reviewing these drafts.

The most significant change in the Land Use Chapter is the addition of overlay areas for six “Centers of Commerce” and 19 “Centers of Community” scattered throughout the county which allow for dramatically higher densities within a half-mile radius.

The most significant change in the Transportation Chapter is a new focus on transit.

At the hearing, citizens will be allotted three minutes to address the Commission (5 minutes if speaking on behalf of an organization). Comments may also be submitted via e-mail, fax, and letter. To view drafts of these proposed chapters and receive contact information for the Planning Commissioners, please use this link [PWC - Planning Commission](#).

If you would like more information, contact the Prince William Planning Office at (703) 792-6830, or use the link below.

<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=040073001410004480>

More information will be sent out when it becomes available.

Community based environmental celebration on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at Silver Lake

The Prince William County Park Authority has invited the Bull Run Mountain Conservancy (BRMC) to partner in a community based environmental celebration on Saturday, September 27, at Silver Lake, 9am to 1pm. The Park Authority and BRMC will host volunteer citizens in an organized environmental clean up of the 277 acre property to include removal of large debris, limbing up trees, trail clearing, edging, general trash pick-up and invasive species removal. The Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition will also participate. For more information and to volunteer please contact: Dianne Cabot, Public Relations Manager, PWC Park Authority at 703-792-4253 or dcabot@pwcparke.org.

Farm Field Days October 7-8, 2008

Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District invites you to join them from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Each day 750 fourth graders will be learning about agriculture and natural resources in a “hands-on” way in six different activity areas-Trees, Animals, Crops, Regions of Virginia, Horsepower to High Tech, and Save Our Soils. Students will learn what it takes to create horsepower and walk the “tractor time line”. They’ll talk to the animals and see Prince William County’s rich agriculture legacy. This event supports the Virginia Standards of Learning. Please come join the students and volunteers in this fun and educational event and see how much fun learning about agriculture can be! A luncheon will follow each day’s activities at 1:15 p.m. If you would like to join us for lunch, please RSVP by Friday, September 19, to (703) 594-3621.

Did you know?

Move Over, America-Help Protect Our Law Enforcement Officers

More than 150 U.S. law enforcement officers have been killed since 1997 after being struck by vehicles along America's highways, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Move over, do your part to help protect the people who protect you. Remember, by moving over, you give our troopers the room to move safely on the side of the road. You can view the Move Over law and more information on this important program at [Virginia State Police](#).

Personal Property Tax Bills Mailed Out - Bills Due October 6, 2008

The Prince William County Department of Finance is distributing the 2008 individual and business personal property tax bills to County residents. Personal property taxes and decal fees are due on or before Monday, Oct. 6, 2008.

The personal property tax relief reduction on qualifying vehicles for tax year 2008 is 58.5 percent of the tax due on the first \$20,000 of a vehicle's value. The reduction is shown on the tax bill, and the taxpayer pays the reduced tax instead of the full amount. Residents with vehicles worth more than \$20,000 receive a reduction on the first \$20,000 of assessed value, but must pay 100 percent of the tax due on the portion of the assessed value that exceeds \$20,000.

The tax on vehicles is prorated monthly for the portion of the year it is located in the County. If you receive a bill and the months being taxed are incorrect, please call 703-792-6710 to have your bill adjusted.

Individuals and businesses that owe no prior year taxes will also receive their 2009 decal along with the tax bill. Individuals or businesses that owe prior year taxes must pay all taxes and decal fees before a decal will be issued. When you receive your 2009 decal, you should place it on your vehicle immediately.

There are several convenient ways to pay your bill. If you choose to pay by check, payments should be mailed in the remittance envelope included with your tax bill. Checks for payment of taxes should be made payable to "Prince William County." Payments by mail must be postmarked no later than October 6, 2008, to avoid a late payment penalty and interest charges.

Bills can also be paid in person at the County's Tax Administration Offices at the James J. McCoart Administration Building, the Dr. A.J. Ferlazzo Building and the Sudley North Government Center. These offices are open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You can also pay your tax bill online using eCheck. eCheck is Prince William County's automated payment system that allows you to pay personal property taxes, decal fees and other taxes over the Internet. This option saves you the time it takes to write and mail a check and the cost of postage. It also eliminates worry about mail delays. To access the eCheck system, visit <http://www.pwcgov.org/tax>.

In addition, tax bills can be paid using your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express credit card. This service is available only via phone at 1-888-2PAY-TAX or online at <http://www.officialpayments.com>. Please note that there is an additional service fee added to your charge for use of this service. Information on how to pay by credit card and instructions for using this service can be found on the reverse side of your tax bill.

Residents who do not receive their tax bill by Sept. 6, 2008, or who receive an incorrect bill should contact the County Tax Administration Office at 703-792-6710 or by e-mail to Taxpayer_Services@pwcgov.org.

Recent Happenings in Gainesville

Samuel L. Gravely Jr. Elementary School Ribbon-Cutting ceremony, Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008



Gravely Elementary School Principal, Michele Salzano receives an American Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol from Supervisor Stirrup



Supervisor Stirrup, Mrs. Gravely, Rear Admiral Julius S. Caesar



School Board Chairman, Milt Johns; Principal, Michelle Salzano; Supervisor Stirrup & Gainesville School Board member, Don Richardson

Supervisor Stirrup attends Crossroads Village Neighborhood's National Night Out Celebration, August 5, 2008 and presents a commendation to Crossroads Village Neighborhood Watch



Supervisor Stirrup with Jeff Bergman, Crossroads Village Homeowners Association President

COMMENDATION

On behalf of the residents of the Gainesville District of Prince William County, I hereby recognize the members of the Crossroads Village Neighborhood Watch for exemplifying their mission of community policing, and for providing mentors to partner with fledgling watches in neighboring communities. Working with the Police Department, coordinator Jeff Bergman is likewise commended for developing strategies targeting specific problems within the community.

For the second year in a row the Crossroads Village Neighborhood Watch has won Neighborhood Watch of the year in Prince William County for the Western District. Crossroads Village Neighborhood Watch was also recognized for its participation in the National Night Out. In 2008 the Virginia State Crime Prevention Association awarded Crossroads Village Neighborhood Watch the Most Organized Neighborhood Watch in Virginia. On the occasion of this 2008 National Night Out, I hereby commend members of the Crossroads Village Neighborhood Watch, and wish them continued success in their efforts to improve and protect the community



*Supervisor Stirrup's Senior aide, Scott Chambers
Supervisor Stirrup & Jeff Bergman*



Sgt Merriman, McGruff, Officer Alex Domingez & Jeff Bergman

Staples Opens at Shops at Stonewall



From left to right: Cheryl Buys, Assistant Manager; Supervisor Stirrup; Chris Hamm, Easy Tech Expert; Jason Sebesta, Sales Manager; Dawn Hemma, General Manager

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