



Supervisor John T. Stirrup
Gainesville District

THE GAINESVILLE EXPRESS

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Dear Gainesville Resident,

This year's budget will likely be challenging. With the economy remaining weak and unemployment remaining high it will be difficult for all levels of government to balance the needs of residents. From the reports the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) is receiving from the state level, localities will see reductions in state funding. While the amount of this reduction remains unclear, it is likely that the County must choose between increasing local taxes to make up the difference or reassessing the need for some programs. The reductions from the State should become known by March 13th, following the General Assembly's final vote on the State budget.

Given the challenges at the state and local level there is some good news. In past years, the BOCS has exercised fiscal restraint by not allowing the County budget to expand beyond a sustainable size. Now that we are faced with an uncertain economy, Prince William County will not be forced to dramatically raise taxes while significantly cutting services. In the last few budget cycles, the BOCS anticipated that the economy would continue to weaken and programs were scaled back to prevent a funding crisis. It is likely that more reductions will be necessary this budget year but these are likely to be less severe than the situation neighboring jurisdictions will be facing.

One of the bigger issues with this year's budget will be the effects of the down turn on business properties. While residential properties have remained stable for the most part, business property values have fallen greatly over the last year. The average decrease in business property values is 24.3%. Because of this, revenues will fall for the County unless the tax rate is increased to help offset this loss of value. If the BOCS accepts the tax rate of \$1.224 per one hundred dollars of assessed value, the rate which served as the basis for the proposed budget, average residential tax bill will increase by 2%. Recently, the BOCS has adopted the advertised rate of \$1.236. This is the rate which will be advertised in the newspapers and serves as the highest rate the BOCS can adopt. They can adopt a lower rate than the advertised rate, but not a higher one. If the BOCS adopts \$1.236 as that tax rate, the expected increase in residential tax bills will be 2.5%. At this rate, the County anticipates a decline in revenues of \$5.9 million.

As the budget process continues there are several noteworthy dates to put on your calendar. Below are the remaining dates for the Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) Budget Process Calendar. In addition, please plan to attend my next Gainesville District Quarterly Town Hall Meeting. This meeting will be a joint Town Hall Meeting with Brentsville District Supervisor, Wally Covington and the Brentsville District residents. The topic is the proposed Prince William County Fiscal Year 2011 budget. The meeting will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on March 25th at Bristow Run Elementary School located at 8990 Worthington Drive in Bristow.

March 9 (Tue.)	BOCS Budget Worksession – 7:00pm
March 23 (Tue.)	BOCS Budget Worksession – 2:00pm and 7:00 pm
April 5 (Mon.)	Public Hearing – 7:30 pm
April 12 (Mon.)	Public Hearing – 7:30 pm
April 13 (Tue.)	BOCS Budget Recap – 2:00 pm
April 20 (Tue.)	BOCS Budget Markup – 2:00 pm
April 27 (Tue.)	BOCS Adopts FY11 Budget – 2:00 pm

Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are held in the Board Chambers in the McCoart Building - 1 County Complex Court, Prince William, VA.

In these tough times, it is critical that the County continue with its policy of budget restraint. We have to make the tough choices now to give us the flexibility to deal with the future. The price of a prosperous future is to live within our budget today.

More information on the budget can be found on the County website at www.pwcgov.org/budget. Please feel free to contact my office at 703-792-6195 or Gainesville@pwcgov.org if you have any questions on the budget.

Sincerely,



John T. Stirrup
Supervisor Gainesville District

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) Meetings

The [BOCS](#) will hold meetings on March 9th, 16th and 23rd, 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 \(BOCS\)](#). You can also visit the County website to view video of past BOCS meetings using the following link: <http://www.pwcgov.org/MeetingRoom.aspx>.

Gainesville and Brentsville District Town Hall Meeting, March 25

Supervisor Stirrup and Supervisor Covington (Brentsville) will hold a joint Town Hall Meeting on the topic of the proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. County staff will give an overview of the proposed budget and will join with Supervisors Stirrup and Covington to answer your questions. This meeting will be held at Bristow Run Elementary School, 8990 Worthington Drive, Bristow, 20136 on Thursday, March 25th from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Occupancy Ordinance Limitation Meeting, March 16

The public is invited to a presentation on the occupancy ordinance in Prince William County on Tuesday, March 16 at 7 p.m. in the Development Services Building, Room 202 at 5 County Complex Court in

Woodbridge. The ordinance limiting occupancy was amended last year by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors.

The presentation, “Occupancy Limitations in PWC” will provide information on the changes to the County Code, and what citizens can expect from enforcement measures. Property Code Inspector Charles M. Black will explain the codes that apply to residential occupancy and describe the process by which “overcrowding” complaints are investigated. In addition, Nick Evers, PWC Zoning Administrator, will solicit citizen input on the permissibility of second kitchens.

Prince William County’s Department of Public Works’ Neighborhood Services Division is sponsoring the presentation in conjunction with the Neighborhood Leaders Group. Registration for the presentation is recommended. For more information or to register, call Neighborhood Services at 703-792-7018 or e-mail nsd@pwcgov.org.

Virginia Railway Express Public Hearings

Virginia Railway Express will hold public hearings to consider the addition of an early morning express train on the Fredericksburg line, adding cars to select trains on both lines and proposed service changes to one morning and one evening train on each line in regard to their termination/origination from VRE's L'Enfant station. Proposed changes would occur in July 2010.

- If you haven't read the proposed changes, visit [Comment page](#).
- FAQ on proposed service changes.

Comments on the proposals will be accepted through Wednesday, March 31, 2010 and can be made four ways:

- Via e-mail at publiccomment@vre.org
- Via U.S. Mail to:
Public Comment
 Virginia Railway Express
 1500 King Street, Suite 202,
 Alexandria, Virginia 22314
- Via fax at (703) 684-1313, Attn: Public Comment
- In person at a public hearing at any of the locations below:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Wednesday, March 10, 2010	Rappahannock Regional Library Theatre Room 1201 Caroline Street Fredericksburg, VA 22401	7:00pm
Tuesday, March 16, 2010	Manassas City Hall City Council Chamber Room 9027 Center Street Manassas, VA 22110	7:00pm

Tuesday, March 23, 2010	<u>Burke Centre Conservancy</u> <u>"The Commons" Community Center</u> <u>5701 Roberts Parkway</u> <u>Burke, VA 22015</u>	7:00pm
Wednesday, March 24, 2010	<u>P.R.T.C.</u> <u>Board Room, 2nd Floor</u> <u>14700 Potomac Mills Road</u> <u>Woodbridge, VA 22192</u>	7:00pm
Tuesday, March 30, 2010	<u>V.R.E. Offices.</u> <u>1500 King Street, Suite 202</u> <u>Alexandria, VA 22314</u>	12:00pm
Wednesday, March 31, 2010	<u>The Washington Court Hotel</u> <u>525 New Jersey Avenue NW</u> <u>Washington, DC 20001</u>	12:00pm



Love My Library 2010 Campaign Begins! Campaign Ends April 17th

The Library System's annual Love My Library Campaign has begun! This is the 6th year for the Campaign. Branches and neighborhood libraries display heart-themed cards with titles of books, music CDs, audiobooks and DVDs that the Library System could use in its collection.

Library users simply select and complete one of the displayed cards, then give the card and either cash or check to the Circulation staff. In return, donors receive a reusable Love My Library bag that features art work by local architect and artist, Paul Econa. A special Love My Library book plate with the honoree and donor's names will be placed in the item selected. Items may be donated in honor of or in memory of any individual or group.

In our 2009 Campaign, 769 items were donated, which represented \$7,417 worth of materials. The Campaign began on Valentine's Day (February 14th) and ends on the last day of National Library Week (April 17th).

Prince William County 2010 Census Awareness Day Event, March 20

Prince William County's Complete Count Committee will hold an informational event on the 2010 Census at Potomac Mills Mall, March 20th from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

2010 Census, How Does \$400 Billion Sound?

That's the amount of funding that the federal government will distribute annually to states and communities based on the results of the 2010 Census. Data collected from the Census will also determine redistricting on the state and local level, as well as determine how many seats each state will have in Congress. A complete count is vital to accurate representation and to guiding important decisions in your community, such as where to build roads, schools and more. So, it's important that everyone is counted and counted once!

What can you do? The 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest census questionnaires in the history of the United States and should take only a few minutes to complete. When you receive your questionnaire in the mail, please fill it out and send it back right away. The aim of this historic endeavor is to ensure that every household fills out and mails back a completed census form on or around April 1, 2010. For every 1 percent of the population that mails in their questionnaires, it saves \$80-90 million.

What should you know? That the 2010 Census questionnaire is not only simple, it's safe. The questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person – name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race, and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. It does not ask immigration status, and by law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies.

What if you're not counted? In Prince William County, for each person not counted, the community may not receive approximately \$1300 per year or more than \$13,000 over a 10-year period. Although the number may change, every community may not receive substantial funding for those not counted.

2010 Census Timeline:

February – March 2010	Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households
April 1, 2010	Census Day
April-July 2010	Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail
December 2010	By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment
March 2011	By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states

Spread the word and share this information with everyone you know so that there is a complete count! For more information about the Census, please visit <http://2010.census.gov>. If you are a Prince William County resident, visit www.pwcgov.org/census.

County Wants to Hear About Snow Damage

Residents of Prince William County are asked to report structural damage (except roof leaks) that may have occurred to their homes, outbuildings, barns, or businesses as a direct result of the snow storms that occurred the week of Feb. 5 - 10, 2010. The Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue Office of Emergency Management is collecting information to develop a damage assessment from the recent snow storms. This information will be used to determine if the County is eligible to receive Federal assistance for repairs or low-cost loans to assist property owners with the effects of the recent snow storms.

Please e-mail your information to pcollins@pwcgov.org with a detailed description of the damage, estimated repair costs and pictures, if available. Residents may also call 703-792-5828 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Information is needed by Mar. 12, 2010.

Example of information requested:

[Address in Prince William County] - 10x14 wood shed collapsed on Monday, Feb. 8 at 1 p.m. from heavy snow on roof. Contents of shed included small hand tools and wood working equipment. Building was a total loss. Damage estimate \$2,500. Contents of the building had no damage.

Recent Happenings in Gainesville

Gainesville Library Fundraiser



Supervisor Stirrup and Bethanne Kim
Gainesville Library Fundraiser
Battlefield High School
March 6, 2010

The Gainesville Library Fundraiser held at Battlefield High School on Saturday, March 6th was an outstanding event!!! Approximately 700 attended and the proceeds of over \$10,000.00 will be used for the improvement and/or expansion of the Gainesville Neighborhood Library. Bethanne Kim along with many volunteers and businesses worked together to achieve a truly remarkable community effort. Congratulations to all. We will have a follow-up segment on this event in the next issue of the Gainesville Express.

**Gainesville Library Fundraiser Event Coordinators
with Chairman Stewart and Supervisor Stirrup**



Pictured from left to right: back row: Sarah Hyde, Karen Benedict, Prince William County Board Chairman Corey Stewart, Jack Hargis, Gainesville District Supervisor John Stirrup and Donna Sproles
Front row: Bethanne Kim and Michele Morris
Battlefield High School
March 6, 2010

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