The Gainesville Group

Democratic volunteers serving Prince William County

Issue #2 9/2009

Pack-A-Back big success

Our first ever Operation Pack-A-Back in support of the SERVE school supplies drive was a great success. We collected 48 backpacks, over 800 pens and pencils, and so much more. Great job everyone! SERVE was very appreciative.

This year SERVE gave out roughly 1000 fully outfitted back packs to needy kids in our area. Their efforts and yours go a long way to getting these kids off to a good start in the new school year and you should give yourselves a big pat on the back for the effort you put forth this year.

TGG Adopts Heathcote

Carol Noggle briefed the group on a wonderful opportunity she had discovered to do something good for the community and to get our name in front of many people everyday by adopting Heathcote blvd. From 29 to Old Carolina Rd. All it requires from us is a periodic (quarterly) trash pick up. In exchange we get a lovely sign with our name on it posted on a busy road. Much thanks to Carol for doing the research and for leading the way in getting us signed up.

Crunch Time

The campaigns are entering the home stretch now and it's time to give all our efforts that little extra push needed to sweep these elections. I know many of you are already volunteering with one or more campaigns and Creigh Deed's has really closed in on McDonnell in the last couple of weeks. Now the challenge is to push ahead.

John Bell and Jeanette Rishell did wonderful jobs at the PWC100 debates on Tuesday September 22, but once again, we were out attended by the Marshall/Miller people. Big kudos to the Bell team though for their amazing signing at the site. They left the Marshall people hunting for little places to stick an odd sign or two. It was great, but we all know signs don't win elections.

There can never be too many volunteers, or too much money in a campaign and while John has out fund-raised Marshall time after time, the fanatical support that Marshall gets from his small base coupled with the advantages of incumbency mean we have to work twice as hard.

If you want to put out a **yard sign** stop by the headquarters and pick one up – they go well in windows too. Talk to your friends and neighbors about John. Even if you only have an hour or two a week to spare, John needs your help making **phone calls** or **knocking doors**. A Yale university study I saw recently

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on the national Dem website showed just how effective volunteer phone banking is in effecting voters choice.

Letters to the Editors

A very successful tactic for getting press for our candidates is the letter to the editor. The more we submit the better, as editorial boards often do op-ed's and even reporting along the lines of which way they think their readers are leaning.

Here are some tips for writing letters.

- Before putting pen to paper, think carefully about what your letter should say.

- When writing the letter, keep to one point. Remember, the editor has the privilege of abbreviating your remarks.

- The shorter the letter, the more likely it will be published. Shorter than 250 words is good.

After you have finished writing, let a friend read the letter to see if your point is easily grasped. If possible, put the letter away for at least 24 hours. Sometimes it is necessary to re-think the contents and purpose of a letter before mailing. Read the letter again. If you still feel your letter successfully conveys your point, send it in.

And some tips to *avoid*:

- Avoid grammatical errors. Nothing diminishes a letter more than poor verse.

- Do not make open-ended statements. A good letter is concise and its main points are strongly supported.

- Do not say anything in your letter that you would not say to a small group of people or

see printed on the front page of *The Washington Post*.

- Remember, all letters to the editor must be signed.

- Do not write an overly emotional letter. You should make every effort to resist using exclamation marks and slang.

Letters are submitted electronically through the web sites of the News-Messenger (http://www2.insidenova.com/) or the Gainesville Times (http://www.gainesville-times.com/). For the Washington Post, email your letter to: letters@washpost.com

Campaign News

John Bell:

The campaign needs people to man their phone bank Monday through Thursday 10 am – 9 pm and 10 am to 6 pm Saturday. You need to bring **your own** cell phone and charger.

There is always a need for canvasser's Monday through Thursday 4-8 pm, Saturday at 10 am and 1 pm, Sunday noon and 5 pm. Trust me it's not that hard to do and not at all scarey.

To volunteer contact the office at (703) 743-9595 or visit the website http://www.johnbell2009.com/

Creigh Deeds:

On Sunday September 27, from 10 – 11am Creigh will be at Giuseppe's Restaurant Italiano, 15120 Washington Street, Haymarket VA, 20169

Please RSVP to pfrisbie@aol.com

http://www.deedsforvirginia.com/upcomingevents

Next Meeting

October 12th (Columbus Day), 7 pm to 9 pm at Taste of Asian, 7921, Heritage Village Plaza, Gainesville.

Please RSVP to thegainesvillegroup@gmail.com

New members are always welcome.

Editor?

If you have experience publishing newsletters or anything similar and want to write the newsletter let me know.

We also need a webmaster to manage out site.

To make suggestions for our next agenda or how we can improve the group, the site, or

this newsletter, call me at 571-233-8593 or email me at

thegainesvillegroup@gmail.com

Please visit our web site at

http://www.thegainesvillegroup.org

Anyone who can help (read webmaster) would be greatly appreciated.

Any suggestions or comments appreciated.

Carl