



Welcome to the February edition of my Dulles Direct Newsletter. I want to thank all of those who took the time to come to my Town Hall Meeting in South Riding. I'd also like to thank Jeff Morse, our School Board Representative, for joining me at the meeting and taking tough questions about the school budget. I appreciate the input that you gave to me and I hope the meeting was informative. I will continue to host Town Hall Meetings throughout my term — look for the next one in late spring, with a focus on the Board's coming decision on Metro to Loudoun.

I also appreciate all of those who have communicated with me through email. I value your opinions and concerns and appreciate your feedback. The Board is about to get much busier as we have hit budget season. I will continue to try and be as responsive as possible, but it may take a few extra days for me to respond. As a reminder, the best way to stay up to date on key issues in our district is by "liking" my official [Facebook page](#) (key word: Supervisor Matt Letourneau).

Citizen Appointments

As I mentioned last month, one of my responsibilities as a Supervisor is to appoint citizens to the advisory boards and commissions that help assist the Board of Supervisors. Below are my latest nominations:

Art Advisory Committee – Paula F. Glick (re-appointment). A resident of Forest Run, Paula's career as an appraiser, art consultant and collections manager gives her a tremendous amount of art knowledge and experience valuable to the committee. (*Nominated 1/31/2012, Confirmed 2/14/2012*)

Transportation Safety Committee – Shawn Sutherland. A Loudoun Valley Estates resident, Shawn works in law enforcement for a neighboring jurisdiction. (*Nominated 2/14/2012, Expected Board Action 3/6/2012*)

Legislative Update

FY2013 Budget: Following the guidance of the Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator presented to the Board two proposed budgets for Fiscal Year 2013. One of those proposals

would result in no change in the average homeowner's tax bill (by decreasing the tax rate to \$1.27) and the other would reduce the tax burden by five percent. I have received some questions about why the Board took tax increases off the table. I think that Loudoun's tax rate is simply too high, and is hindering our ability to retain and attract businesses. As the Board's Economic Development Committee chairman, I know we are competing with neighboring jurisdictions for businesses, most of which have considerably lower tax rates. I believe we can provide core government services and quality education to our citizens without raising taxes this year.

The Board faces many challenges as it works to keep taxes level. The Superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools originally proposed an \$85,723,164 million increase to the school budget for FY2013. The Loudoun County School Board has since recommended \$13,599,236 million in cuts to that budget, resulting in a \$72,123,928 million increase over last year as we begin our deliberations. (I do think it is worth noting that the "cuts" made by the School Board are reductions to the amount the budget will increase—not overall reductions to the dollar amount allocated.)

A significant portion of that increase is needed to fund contributions to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) for our teachers and to open and staff two new schools. In addition, LCPS will need to absorb around 2,500 new students next year, and must meet many state and federal mandates. I will be continuing to work with School Board members on this aspect of the budget.

Of course, there are many other aspects to the budget, including public safety, social services and economic development. The Board of Supervisors will be carefully reviewing these items line by line in budget work sessions beginning next week. These work sessions, like all other Board meetings, will be televised and are open to the public. Since the proposed budget was presented to us a few weeks ago, my staff aides and I have spent many hours reading and researching it so that I can be as prepared as possible for budget deliberations.

Commercial Zoning Ordinance: One of the concerns I heard loud and clear from Dulles South residents during my campaign was frustration with the lack of retail options in our area. Most residents along the Route 50 corridor must travel to Fairfax County to shop at major retailers, which means Loudoun is losing tax revenue.

As I examined the factors which have led to our slow pace of growth in the retail sector, it became clear to me that a significant part of the problem was the onerous rules and regulations imposed by the County itself. Many of our ordinances have been in place for decades and simply need updating. To begin that process, the Board of Supervisors voted 9-0 to direct staff to develop a Resolution of Intent to Amend the Revised 1993 Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance for the purpose of advancing commercial development throughout the County. I won't get into too many details in this newsletter, but this amendment will allow us to review permitted uses within certain zoning districts, and potentially could help us eliminate some of the many layers of red tape that currently exist for commercial businesses wishing to start up in Loudoun. The amendment process will take about a year and will include multiple opportunities for public input.

"Big Box" Ordinance Review: Along the same lines, the Board of Supervisors voted 9-0 to begin the process of reviewing new regulations narrowly passed by the previous Board that

restrict large retail establishments from locating in Loudoun County. Adopted in early 2011, the new regulations added costly and time consuming layers of review to the application process for large retail establishments. The passage of this ordinance has had a negative impact on our ability to attract commercial businesses to Loudoun and sent the wrong message to the retail industry. Dulles South residents have been looking forward to the development of commercial centers such as the Arcola Center and Dulles Landing, both of which could potentially include “big box” stores. Repealing this ordinance will make it easier for those shopping areas to develop.

Metro: There is not much news on this front. In the next several weeks, Loudoun County will receive the final “Project Engineering” for Phase II of Metro (from Wiehle Avenue/Reston to Ashburn). Once we receive the project engineering, we will have 90 days to decide whether to opt in or opt out of the rail project. I will be holding my second Town Hall meeting during this 90 day period to allow for public input on the issue, and will devote a future edition of this newsletter to a comprehensive review of the pros and cons of the Metro project. At this point, we have very little actual information about the costs, but that should soon begin to change.

Dulles District Updates

Gum Springs Library: I have received many emails expressing concern that the Gum Springs Library will not be fully funded and thus will not open as scheduled in December 2012. Those concerns stem from the “-5%” budget proposal that I discussed earlier. In that budget scenario, no “enhancements” (new projects) are funded. However, that scenario was intended only to provide the Board with options.

I fully support funding the Gum Springs Library so it can open on time this year with the inventory needed to serve our residents. Dulles District residents have waited long enough to have a library. The Gum Springs Library will almost instantly become the busiest in the entire Loudoun County Library System. It will have the largest children’s area. I am committed to doing absolutely everything I can to make sure that this line item is funded in the FY13 budget.

Traffic Light at Greenstone/Gum Springs: The intersection of Greenstone Drive and Gum Springs Road in Stone Ridge has been a growing concern. The County’s Office of Transportation Services did a traffic study at the intersection and concluded that traffic counts now warrant a signal. Funding for the traffic signal will be provided by Stone Ridge as part of the developer’s original proffer agreement. I can’t give an exact date as to when the traffic light will be operating, but you may start to see work on it this spring.

Loudoun County Parkway Traffic Lights Timing: There have been complaints about the traffic signals on Loudoun County Parkway. LCP is heavily travelled, especially during rush hour, and the timing of the lights did not seem to make sense. I have been working with VDOT to adjust the light schedule at the intersection of LCP and Mooreview Parkway/Gleedsville Road. At my request, a sensor has been installed in the road at the intersection. This should result in decreased waiting time during rush hour traffic for those traveling on Loudoun County Parkway. I will continue to monitor traffic conditions on this road and as always welcome input.

Traffic Enforcement on Elk Lick Road: It was brought to my attention by residents in the South Village community that cut through traffic on Elk Lick Road has been traveling at high

rates of speed, creating a danger for the community. At my request, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office placed a radar trailer on Elk Lick and stepped up patrol enforcement in the area. The Sheriff's Office reports a significant increase in speeding violations issued on Elk Lick as a result. I appreciate the responsiveness of the Sheriff's Office to my request and I look forward to continuing to work with Captain Leonard and his team at the Dulles South Sheriff Substation.

Byrne's Ridge Park: Two items of note regarding Byrne's Ridge Park in Stone Ridge. First, I worked to accelerate the Board's approval of a restroom and concessions facility at the park, which will help accommodate larger crowds. My hope is to have these facilities in place in time for summer, but thus far I have been told that it may not be possible. I'm continuing to work on this issue. This project was first proposed in April of 2011 — and quite frankly there's no excuse why it should be taking this long. Second, the County is just about to begin the process of installing lights to allow for greater utilization of the fields. This can be a lengthy process also — but my office will be doing all we can to move it along. Since we do have a shortage of athletic fields in our community, it is important to utilize the ones we do have to the largest extent possible.

Capital Improvement Plan for Dulles: As part of the Board's budget deliberations, we will be approving a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that serves as the blueprint for what will be built when in Loudoun County. Given our rapid growth in the Dulles District, this year's CIP will be of particular interest. There are a number of Dulles District school projects that will be discussed. I will be working closely with School Board Representative Jeff Morse to ensure that our school needs are met, and will be providing more details once we complete a review of student population projections.

New Precincts: Many of you received new voter registration cards directing you to vote at a new location in 2012. Following the county's redistricting, new precinct boundary lines were drawn. In the South Riding area, this will help correct some of the rather nonsensical boundaries which required some residents to drive past polling sites closer to their homes in order to reach the assigned polling location. There are two new precincts in Dulles — Town Hall (South Riding Town Hall) and Lunsford (J. Michael Lunsford Middle School). In addition, the Moorfield precinct in the northern part of the District will be moving its voting location from Eagle Ridge Middle School to the National Parks and Recreation Association building on Belmont Ridge Road. These new locations will be in effect for the March 6, 2012 Republican Presidential Primary. For more information, visit the Loudoun County Electoral Board's website at www.loudoun.gov/vote/.

Announcements

South Riding Spring Business Expo and Community Yard Sale: Registration is now open for the Spring Business Expo and Community Yard Sale taking place on Saturday, May 5th at the Dulles South Multipurpose Center. South Riding residents can call 703-327-4390 or stop in Town Hall to purchase yard sale spaces. More information and registration is available on the website by [clicking here](#).

Election Officers Needed: The Loudoun County Electoral Board is looking for civic-minded individuals to serve as election officers for the March 6th presidential primary and the 2012 presidential election. Workers are desperately needed at all precincts in the South Riding and

Stone Ridge areas. If you are interested, please visit www.loudoun.gov/electionofficers or send an e-mail to elections@loudoun.gov.

Prom Wishes: The Junior Woman's Club of Loudoun (JWCL) will be holding their annual prom event for all high school girls in the community. Through Prom Wishes, JWCL collects prom dresses and accessories which are then made available at a one-day boutique where the high school girls can select prom attire free of charge. This year's event will take place April 21st from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott Dulles Town Center. From March 1st to April 7th, JWCL will be collecting new or gently used dresses, shoes, purses, jewelry, accessories, and un-opened cosmetics. All donations may be left at any Loudoun County Library or at the South Riding Town Hall. For more information please email promwishes@jwcl.org.

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