



Welcome to the July edition of my Dulles Direct Newsletter. I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. The Board of Supervisors has just begun our summer recess, with no meetings scheduled in August. However, there are still a number of important updates to share, including on the next Dulles Elementary School and Waxpool Road.

Although the Board isn't meeting in August, my office will still be open and I'll still be accessible. As always, please share this newsletter with your friends and neighbors, and remember that the best way to stay up to date is to "like" my [Facebook page](#).

## Citizen Appointments

**Commuter Bus Advisory Board:** I have nominated Angela Blair of South Riding to be the Dulles District representative on the Commuter Bus Advisory Board (CBAB). Angela has been a regular user of the LC Transit bus system since 2006. I expect her nomination to be confirmed at the Board's September 4 Business Meeting. With the Board's Metro vote, it will be important to get good feedback from the CBAB as we start to formulate comprehensive public transit plans.

**Lyme Disease Commission:** As part of the Board's Lyme Disease Initiative, we created a Lyme Disease Commission to take a closer look at potential solutions to this growing problem. At the last Board meeting, I nominated Dr. John Farrell, founder of South Riding Pediatrics, to serve as the Dulles District Representative on the commission. I appreciate Dr. John's willingness to lend his expertise to the commission. I also expect his nomination to be confirmed at the September 4 meeting.

## Legislative Update

**Metro:** As I've previously communicated with you about (and as you no doubt saw on the news), the Board of Supervisors voted to opt in to the Phase II Metro project on a 5-4 vote. Our vote allows Phase II to move forward with three stations in Loudoun—at Dulles Airport, at Route 606, and at Route 772 (near Loudoun County Parkway). To pay for the project, the Board has begun the process of implementing a special tax district. I still get questions about the tax

district and want to be clear—there are no residential homes from the Dulles District in the tax district. In many ways, opting in is just the beginning of our work on Metro. We must now put together a comprehensive transit plan that includes public transportation to and from the stations, parking garages, and appropriate infrastructure. Since the vote, discussions have continued on several of these elements and I am currently focusing on ensuring that there is appropriate access from the south to the Route 606 station. I will be providing regular updates on this topic as things progress.

**Waxpool Road:** The Board voted 8-0-1 at the July 17 Business Meeting to use \$1 million in gas tax revenue to fund design improvements along Waxpool Road at the Pacific Boulevard intersection (where Wegman's at the Dulles 28 Center is). Anyone who travels through that corridor already knows how bad traffic is there. VDOT has suggested lane extensions and turn improvements at the intersection which would allow for concurrent signals. It is not yet known exactly how much construction will cost, but we have directed staff to begin that process and we'll know more when the design work is complete. This project as well as the completion of Gloucester Parkway should help the flow of traffic on Waxpool significantly.

**Future Dulles South Elementary School (ES-21) Update:** At the July 17 Business Meeting, the Board formally approved a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) amendment to finance the construction of ES-21 in FY2013 at the Grant-Perkins Site adjacent to Lunsford. The Board also approved a bond referendum for this November which will include a request to authorize \$136,150,000 to fund the construction of both ES-21 and HS-6, a new high school in Loudoun Valley Estates which will relieve severe overcrowding at Briar Woods, as well as renovations at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville. I will be discussing this ballot question in greater detail before November. The approval of ES-21 in our CIP keeps it on track to open in the fall of 2014.

**Bond Ratings:** I'm pleased to report that the three main credit agencies have all affirmed Loudoun's top AAA credit rating. In addition, the most recent bond sale resulted in one of the best interest rates ever obtained (2.31%). Of particular interest is the fact that one of the credit rating agencies specifically mentioned the Board's decision to move forward with Metro in their justification for our AAA rating. Just as I did, the agency recognized that the decision is likely to spur significant economic development in our county. While often overlooked, our credit ratings have a greater impact on tax rates than almost everything else we do because they allow us to get better financing, meaning fewer taxpayer funds expended. As we make decisions, the Board works carefully with our management and financial team to ensure that we stay within recommended guidelines to maintain our ratings.

## **Dulles District Updates**

**Stone Ridge Street VDOT Process:** I have been contacted by several Stone Ridge residents concerned about potential changes in signage and speed limits in the area of Greenstone and Mineral Springs. These changes could occur as a result of the street being transferred to VDOT. Van Metre is currently in the process of performing a traffic and speed analysis to initiate acceptance by VDOT of certain neighborhood streets in the area surrounding Mercer Middle School. This allows the state to be responsible for maintenance, snow removal, etc. This is

standard practice once a development has been built and begun to mature. Before VDOT will accept roads into its system, the roads are reviewed to make sure they meet VDOT's requirements for everything from the type of materials to stop signs, traffic lights, and speed limits. It is possible that the configuration of the four way stop at Greenstone and Mineral Springs could be changed, and the speed limits on those roads may be adjusted. While Loudoun County has no formal role in this process, my office has discussed this issue with VDOT to ensure that the proper parameters are in place for the studies that are occurring. Following VDOT's decisions, I will work with the HOA and residents to request changes if they are needed.

**Harris Teeter Robbery:** The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office is investigating an armed robbery at the Harris Teeter grocery store in Stone Ridge. Around 2:20 a.m. on July 17, two men entered the store. Their faces were covered and one was brandishing a weapon. The suspects forced two cash registers open then fled the store with an undisclosed amount of cash. The Sheriff's Office is asking for anyone with information about the robbery to contact them at 703-777-0475. Callers wishing to remain anonymous may call Loudoun Crime Solvers at 703-777-1919. Harris Teeter is offering \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the two suspects. I have discussed the investigation with the Sheriff's Office and they are pursuing several angles. If you do shop in the overnight hours at any of the area stores, please remain vigilant.

## **Announcements**

**Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan Community Meetings:** Loudoun County will be hosting Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) community meetings in August. This is an important topic that could have major implications on what happens on property throughout the county as Loudoun will be required to meet new mandates in the coming years. The purpose of the meetings is to provide information to the public concerning the Phase II WIP and to begin a dialogue about ways to meet the mandate. The meetings will be identical in format and held at the following locations:

- Tuesday, August 7: Cascades Senior Center from 7-9 p.m.
- Thursday, August 9: Ashburn Library from 7-9 p.m.

**South Riding Fall Business Expo and Community Yard Sale:** Registration is now open for the Fall Business Expo and Community Yard sale taking place on Saturday, September 8 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 available on the website by [clicking here](#).

**South Riding National Night Out:** Tuesday, August 7 is National Night Out. National Night Out is an annual, nationwide Neighborhood Watch campaign. Its purpose is to heighten crime prevention awareness, generate support for local anticrime programs, and build close-knit communities to make criminals aware that America is united in fighting crime. South Riding will be having a free Ice Cream Social at the Town Green from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. For more information, please visit <http://www.southriding.net/events>.

**LCSO Announces First Annual Child Victim Awareness Day:** The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office will hold the first annual Child Victim Awareness Day on Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 2PM – 6PM at the Junction Plaza Shopping Center in Ashburn, Virginia.

The event will provide information to parents on how they can best protect their children from becoming a victim of a crime. The Virginia DMV Ident-A-Kid program will also be in attendance to offer parent's cell phone electronic child identification, eKid-ID, along with a traditional child ID card.

Specialty units from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office will be on hand, including the Motor Unit, the Crime Scene Unit, the Bicycle Unit, the Underwater Search and Evidence Recovery Team and many more. Residents will also be able to view the agency's specialty vehicles. For more information on this event, please visit [www.loudoun.gov/childvictimawareness](http://www.loudoun.gov/childvictimawareness).

This year's event will remember Erica Heather Smith. The fourteen-year-old disappeared on July 29, 2002. Her body was found eleven days later in a grave along Broad Run Creek near an old pump house. The area is in Ashburn near the intersection of Beaumeade Circle and Loudoun County Parkway (Adjacent to Redskins Park).

During this event Loudoun County Sheriff Michael L. Chapman will be provide information regarding this ongoing investigation.

Anyone with any information regarding the murder of Erica Heather Smith is asked to call the Loudoun Crime Solvers anonymous tip line at 703-777-1919 or 1-877-777-1931. If this information leads to an arrest and indictment, the caller is entitled to a cash reward.

For more information on the Erica Smith case and for case updates, or to submit a tip online, please visit [www.loudoun.gov/ericasmith](http://www.loudoun.gov/ericasmith).

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