



Dulles Direct Newsletter

November 2012

Welcome to the November edition of the Dulles Direct Newsletter. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. I want to begin by letting you know that my next **Dulles Direct quarterly Town Hall** meeting will be held **Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00pm at Lunsford Middle School (26020 Ticonderoga Rd. Chantilly, VA)**. I will be providing a general update and will once again take questions on all topics, but I want to focus specifically on safety concerns and some possible changes at the intersection of Center Street and Loudoun County Parkway. More information about this intersection is below.

I have two other public engagements coming up soon. On Wednesday, November 28, I will be speaking at the Loudoun Valley Estates III Annual Meeting (7 p.m., Liberty Elementary School). Also, on Friday, November 30, I will be delivering a policy address on the state of Loudoun's Economic Development efforts at a Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce breakfast. For more information, click [here](#).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Seasonal Displays on the Courthouse Grounds

As you have probably seen in past years, there has been a great deal of controversy regarding displays on the Courthouse Grounds in Leesburg. Previous approaches by the last Board of Supervisors have resulted in a national embarrassment for Loudoun. It was clear that a new policy was needed.

For that reason, I supported a proposal backed by the Courthouse Grounds and Facilities Committee that will result in County-sponsored displays. The display will include a Christmas tree with lights and ornaments, a Nativity Scene, a Menorah, and a Santa Claus with reindeer. This proposal passed 7-2 and will be in place shortly.

In supporting this approach, I reviewed case law and other policies from different jurisdictions. The clearest legal direction given by the Supreme Court, the 1984 *Lynch v. Donnelly* case, found that the City of Pawtucket, RI, was within its legal rights to display a nativity scene as long as it was not the only display. The display put together by the County represents multiple religious traditions and secular symbols of Christmas. I believe it is an appropriate way to celebrate the Holiday season and I hope that it will put most of the controversy behind us.

Carter School Road

Those of you who drive on 606 may have noticed a new street sign a few weeks ago (with traffic moving so slowly, unfortunately you have some time to look around.) Leesburg Supervisor Ken Reid and I cosponsored a resolution which passed the Board of Supervisors unanimously to change the name of Route 857 (located on the airport side of 606 just before Loudoun Valley Estates III) from Bear School Road to Carter School Road. The name change came about when a Leesburg resident who attended Carter's School in the 1930s brought to our attention the fact that the road was incorrectly named (Bears School was located a few miles away). An article about the issue was published by Loudoun historian Eugene Scheel in the Washington Post. We recently had a small ceremony with the resident and her daughter in front of the new sign.



(L to R) Eugene Scheel, Planning Commissioner and County Historian, Christena Rose Martyn Fulcher, Carolyn Lineberry, Supervisor Ken Reid and myself at the new Carter School Road

DULLES DISTRICT UPDATES

Snow Removal Information

My staff was recently briefed by VDOT about their snow removal plan for the winter. VDOT's policies bring the most focus on major roads first (like Route 50), then major local roads and finally neighborhood streets. During a snow event, you can call 1-800-FOR-ROAD to report an unplowed road, or contact my office. Among the others tips from VDOT are:

- When shoveling driveways, leave the last 5 feet of snow at the curb until after the plow has passed.
- Shovel to the right facing the road
- Park on the odd numbered side of the street or in driveways
- Allow room for the plow to come through
- Call 511 for road conditions, or visit 511virginia.org for traffic cameras

More information is available at www.virginiaDOT.org www.YouTube.com/VDOTweb , novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov , @511northernva on Twitter.

Center Street-Loudoun County Parkway Intersection

As I have previously reported, the Loudoun County Transportation Safety Committee has conducted a review of this intersection at my request and they have identified some options for changes to improve the safety there. This intersection is one of the most dangerous in the Dulles District and has seen a large volume of accidents—some of them quite serious. I'm going to have a discussion of these options at my Town Hall meeting and would invite all interested residents to attend.

Route 606 Design Community Meeting

On November 1, I held a community meeting with over 60 residents of Loudoun Valley Estates III to begin receiving public input on the design for a widened Route 606. Loudoun County, VDOT and MWAA have funded the preliminary engineering, which is almost complete. VDOT's project engineers and County staff were present to answer questions about the proposed design, which would take 606 up to 4 lanes. The challenge now is to obtain funding for the project, which will cost between \$120-\$140 million. As I've previously mentioned, the Board of Supervisors has designed 606 as the top transportation priority in the entire County. One way or the other, 606 must be widened by the time Metro trains are running to Loudoun—and hopefully sooner. We are continuing to work on funding options.

Traffic Signal Timing at Braddock and Gum Springs Road

I received several complaints from citizens who travel on Braddock Road and experience long delays at the intersection with Gum Spring Road. As a result, I asked VDOT to send a traffic engineering team to examine the intersection and check the signal timing. After review, VDOT agreed that the signal favored north-south traffic too much and adjusted the light. Hopefully, those of you who travel that route have noticed a difference. Thank you to those who brought this issue to my attention.

Acceleration of Future Dulles North High School (HS-6)

LCPS released their updated enrollment projections on November 13. There are a number of potential issues that caught my eye. I will be working with our School Board Representative, Jeff Morse, to determine the best course of action to relieve projected overcrowding in our schools. Most immediately, Briar Woods High School, which already has ten trailers, will be overcapacity by 566 students in 2014. HS-6, to be built in the Loudoun Valley Estates community, is scheduled to open in 2015. Last week, Jeff and I released a statement indicating our support for accelerating construction of the school to be open by 2014 if feasible. LCPS and the County are currently studying this issue, but I believe that it would not have a negative impact on our carefully managed debt ratios and should not add significantly to the cost of the project. It is also clear that we must look at the need for a new Middle School in the Dulles North area, since Stone Hill also is badly overcrowded. There is no land currently designated for that school, so it will take longer to find a solution.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Byrne's Ridge Park Field Lighting

The County is proceeding with a project to install field lighting at Byrne's Ridge Park in Stone Ridge. Presently, with the exception of the high school athletic fields, there are no lit fields in the entire Dulles district. The first step is a required Special Exception to allow lights at this site. There will be a public information session hosted by Parks and Recreation Department at Mercer Middle School on Monday, December 3, beginning at 7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for neighbors to learn about the plans and ask questions of county staff involved in the project. Following the public information session, the Planning Commission will review this at their Public Hearing on December 19 and the Board of Supervisors is expected to review this in February. Last fall, I put forward an initiative regarding utilization of our existing athletic field resources. The introduction of lights to athletic fields will help increase the capacity on these fields with expanded use for our sports leagues. I will provide updates as the process continues over the next few months.

New Captain at Dulles South Sheriff Station

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has announced that Captain Eric Prugh was recently promoted as the Dulles South Station Commander, replacing Captain Ed Leonard who retired. Captain Prugh has worked in a law enforcement capacity within the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office since 1998. Prior to his promotion to the Dulles South Station, he worked as a B-Squad Duty Lieutenant, responsible for coordinating multiple law enforcement resources for up to 50 multi-functional Operations Bureau employees. Sheriff Chapman speaks highly of Captain Prugh and I look forward to building a strong working relationship with him.

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