



## **Dulles Direct Newsletter**

**April 2013**

Welcome to the April edition of the Dulles Direct Newsletter. We have a lot of information to share on a wide range of topics this month. As always, if you have questions on any of these items, we'll be happy to elaborate.

One highlight for me this month was Loudoun County's annual Youth in Government Day. This year, I was pleased to be joined by two students from Freedom High School who sat with the Board of Supervisors at the dais during our April 17<sup>th</sup> business meeting. Earlier in the day, the students had a chance to hear from a variety of County departments about the day to day operations of our government. Although I'm coming up on my 15<sup>th</sup> high school reunion (!), it does not seem like that long ago that I was a high school student interested in government, so I always enjoy visiting with students and encouraging them to pursue their interest in public service.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

#### **ES-21 Receives Final Approval**

The last hurdle has been cleared for ES-21, the new elementary school to be built next to Lunsford Middle School. The Board of Supervisors approved a special exception application from LCPS to allow the school in that location. I appreciate the work of LCPS, the School Board (especially Jeff Morse) and County staff to accommodate my request to move the main entrance of the school to Bull Run Post Office Road (rather than Braddock) to provide better traffic flow. With this final approval, construction can start and ES-21 should be opening on schedule in the fall of 2014. As a reminder, the attendance boundary process for Dulles South elementary schools will be conducted by the School Board this fall.

#### **Loudoun County Parkway and Center Street Traffic Study**

As I've previously discussed at length, the intersection of Center Street and Loudoun County Parkway has been quite dangerous, with an unusually high accident rate. This month the Board

approved funding for the design and installation of traffic control devices to restrict left turns from Center Street onto Loudoun County Parkway, followed by a comprehensive traffic study of the entire area to observe traffic flow. There is no perfect solution for this intersection. This approach was chosen because it allows us to move forward with safety improvements quickly, as opposed to something like a traffic signal, which could take much longer and has right of way challenges. I understand that there are concerns from residents on surrounding streets about what this change will mean, and that is why the County will be conducting the traffic study. The study will start prior to the end of the school year, and then the traffic control devices will be installed and in place for 90 days. When school starts again next fall, the traffic engineers will conduct a second study to compare traffic patterns and volumes, and analyze safety data. The plan put forward received support from the South Riding Proprietary Board of Directors, and I will be continuing to work with them when we receive the data.

### **Eastern Loudoun Transportation Study**

We all know that the road network in Eastern Loudoun is incomplete. To help us fully understand all the missing links, the Board initiated a comprehensive study that includes information on missing road links, network deficiencies, right-of-way availability, and various funding sources to complete the network. The area studied included roads east of Route 659 from the Potomac River to the north to Prince William County in the south and Fairfax County in the east. The project was divided into three phases with reports given to the board on each study phase.

Phase Two of the study focused on Dulles South and was just completed and presented to the Board. This section includes a review of roads and missing links south of Ryan Road. Phase two outlines 36 road segments, one third of which are funded by proffers. Two roads are completed—East Gate View Drive and Creighton Road—although the latter is not yet open to traffic.

This study will be a great resource for the community, as you seek information on road projects, but also for the Board moving forward as we implement the two cent dedicated transportation funding stream we adopted as part of our budget, and begin allocating any potential funds that come from the Commonwealth. The County has set up a website for the public to view the study and see specifics for each road segment at [www.loudoun.gov/easternloudountransportationstudy](http://www.loudoun.gov/easternloudountransportationstudy). The site includes an interactive map which you can click on road segments for information about funding, construction, and other details.

### **Child Care Home Provider Public Meeting Scheduled for May 7**

In previous newsletters, I have discussed our effort to reconcile the county's zoning ordinance with the reality of existing home day care providers in the county. This was in response to new regulations released in July 2012 by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) requiring new and existing home child care providers to be in compliance with local zoning ordinances. After the Board approved my motion to amend the zoning ordinance to more

accurately reflect the needs of home child care providers and their clients, staff has worked to draft new zoning regulations.

A public briefing and input meeting will be held on the new regulations on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. in the Board room at the Loudoun County Government Center located at 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg. I encourage all current providers and those considering becoming a provider to attend this meeting, ask questions and provide feedback.

Additional information regarding the proposed changes to the Child Care Home zoning regulations, including the draft text, may be found online at [www.loudoun.gov/childcarehome](http://www.loudoun.gov/childcarehome). You may also leave a question or comment via email at [DEPT-BD-CHILD\\_CARE\\_ZOAM@loudoun.gov](mailto:DEPT-BD-CHILD_CARE_ZOAM@loudoun.gov) or by calling 703-777-0442.

### **Dulles South Multipurpose Center Set as Permanent Absentee Voting Location**

In the FY2013 budget, I was able to obtain funds to open up an absentee voting location at the Dulles South Multipurpose Center for the November 2012 election. A total of 1,719 residents voted at this location during the two week period it was open, which is a strong turnout for a new absentee location. I'm pleased to report that as a result, the Board of Supervisors voted to make this absentee voting location permanent. For non-presidential elections, absentee voting will be available one week before the election, with the caveat that the location will be open for two Saturdays prior to the election. For presidential elections, it will be open for two weeks before the election.

### **Baseball and Soccer Stadium Approved at One Loudoun**

Professional baseball and soccer is, at long last, coming to Loudoun County. Earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors approved a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to allow the developers of One Loudoun to construct a 5,500 seat/10,000 person capacity stadium at the intersection of Loudoun County Parkway and Route 7.

The ballpark for the Loudoun Hounds minor league baseball team had previously been slated to be part of the Kincora Development, near Route 28. However, Kincora has been very slow to develop, and it became clear that if there was to be a baseball stadium in Loudoun, it would not be a viable location. The owners of the Hounds negotiated an agreement with One Loudoun to move the stadium to that complex, which is developing much faster. Eventually, a minor league soccer franchise, the Virginia Calvary FC, was also established and will play at the stadium.

There were significant concerns from some residents who live in close proximity to the proposed location. However, in reality, the new location is not all that far from the original one, and a variety of conditions of approval were put in place by staff, the Planning Commission, and the Board, to help control noise impacts. In addition, infrastructure improvements are being made to the Ashburn Village Boulevard/Route 7 intersection which will provide another entry/exit point into the stadium area.

I did have some significant concerns about one aspect of the application (unrelated to the stadium) regarding the timing of residential vs. commercial development. The Board did go on record opposing these changes by passing a motion I made on a 6-2-1 vote, but for legal reasons we could not remove them from the application. Ultimately, the entire application had to be voted on as a whole—up or down. In this case, I felt the greater good was achieved by supporting the application and clearing the way for the stadium to be built. I think the stadium will be an excellent addition to our community, giving us not just a sports venue but a civic center for outdoor events such as graduations, concerts and festivals.

The Hounds have stated that they believe they can have the stadium built in time for next year's baseball season.

### **E-Comment Program for Seniors Restored**

The Board voted earlier this month to restore the e-Comment program for seniors held at Senior Centers in the county. E-Comment allows seniors to record comments at senior centers by video to be distributed to the Board of Supervisors. The program was started in 2011, but suspended in 2012 when the Board added a morning public input session. I voted against suspending the program at that time but was not in the majority. Due to a change in our meeting schedule, that morning public input session no longer occurs, so the program will now be restarted. After a six month trial period, staff will report back to the Financial Services and Government Operations committee for a review and evaluation of this program.

### **Board Approves One-Time, Merit-Based Employee Bonuses**

As part of the FY13 budget deliberations, the Board indicated we would provide a one-time bonus to county employees if the county achieved enough savings in FY13. Since the county has achieved savings of approximately \$26 million, the Board approved a one-time, merit-based bonus for eligible county employees, to be paid in May 2013.

All regular full-time and part-time county employees (including employees of constitutional officers) hired on or before January 1, 2013, are eligible for the bonus. Bonuses will equal 1% or 2% of base salary, depending on date of hire. In order to receive this performance-based bonus, all eligible employees must have completed a performance assessment on file for FY 2012, or an interim assessment if applicable, with an evaluation of "meets expectations" or higher.

There is some misinformation out there regarding these bonuses. First, to be clear—these bonuses are part of last year's (FY13) budget, not the one just approved. The funds have been reserved contingent on cost savings in last year's budget. LCPS employee payroll issues are under the jurisdiction of the School Board, so these bonuses do not apply. However, county employees received no net increase last year, while the School Board gave LCPS employees a \$1500 across the board raise.

For FY14, the Board of Supervisors approved a 2 percent, merit-based pay increase for county employees. While the School Board is still working on reconciliation for the FY14 budget, my

understanding based on the School Board's direction is that LCPS employees are also very likely to receive the same pay increase.

## **DULLES DISTRICT UPDATES**

### **New Commuter Bus Route Proposed for Dulles South**

I'm pleased to tell you that a new route is under consideration for Loudoun County Transit commuter bus service from the Dulles South park and ride lot. I have received complaints from riders that several routes are at times so crowded that riders have to stand for the duration of their trip. I've been working with Transportation staff to alleviate this problem by adding an additional trip. We will have two new commuter coaches online in June. To see the proposed schedules, please click [here](#).

Public comment regarding the new schedules will be accepted via email until May 19, 2013. All email comments will be compiled and considered by staff and the Commuter Bus Advisory Board (CBAB) in finalizing the June 3, 2013 operating schedules. I'd like to thank Angela Blair, my Dulles District appointee to the CBAB and a LC Transit rider, for her work on this issue. Send your comments to [rideshare@loudoun.gov](mailto:rideshare@loudoun.gov)

### **Traffic Signal at Tall Cedars Parkway and Poland Road**

As I have previously reported, VDOT has recommended a signal to be installed at the intersection of Tall Cedars Parkway and Poland Road. Over 4,300 cars pass through this busy intersection each day. Last fall the Board approved \$625,000 in funding for the signal. Currently, VDOT has received the 30% design plans and will be returning their comments within 45 days. The County is also working to acquire easements that will be needed. We are looking at final approval from VDOT this fall and construction with installation in spring 2014.

### **Field Lighting Update**

As I referenced last month, the Board took up two items related to field lighting at Brambleton Community Park and Byrne's Ridge Park. Both items were approved. The Board approved a special exception to allow lights at the new Brambleton Community Park. In addition, funds were allocated from a developer proffer to expand light to all six fields at Byrne's Ridge Park. Those funds will also provide for safety netting at the park so that balls from the diamonds do not impede on the rectangle fields. We are currently working with staff to address concerns about parking lot lighting. Additional lighting at these two parks will be a partial solution to the lack of playing fields in the county, as it will allow for more teams and leagues to take the field.

### **Freedom High School Team Runner-Up in Governor's Economics Competition**

Congratulations to the Freedom High School team, led by teacher Philip Sessoms, who were runners-up in the Governor's Challenge in Economics and Personal Finance. Over 160 students

competed in the day-long challenge held on April 17 at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The Governor's Challenge is part of the Virginia High School Initiative designed to support teachers and school divisions with implementation of new economics and personal finance courses. Team members are Josh Wasserman, Rahul Nanchahal, Taylor Gilman, and Matt Riley.

### **Lunsford Middle School Teams Win State Odyssey of the Mind**

Two teams from Lunsford Middle School recently competed and placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the State Competition for Odyssey of the Mind (OM). The competition was held at John Champe High School on April 13. Odyssey of the Mind is a program that encourages students to learn creative problem-solving methods, imaginative thinking and teamwork to solve problems. The teams worked together for about six months and competed in a long term problem as well as a spontaneous problem. These two Lunsford teams will now compete at the World Competition at Michigan State University which will take place May 22-25. Members of the two teams are: Sydney Campbell, Virginia Campbell, Alexis Thomas, Masha Plugina, Pranav Yanambakkam, Zander Rodriguez, Caitlin Knee., Corin Smith, Elena Becker, David Ung, Nitin Chetla, Michael Munley, Christian Europa, and Josh Harrington. Team coaches are Bill Munley, Carin Campbell & Brian Thomas.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Dulles Direct Town Hall Meeting May 22**

Please join me for the quarterly Dulles Direct Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, May 22 at 7:00 P.M. at Lunsford Middle School, 26020 Ticonderoga Rd, South Riding. As part of this meeting, I will be hosting representatives from VDOT and Shirley Contracting to give a comprehensive update on Route 50 construction. As always, I will also take questions on any topics you bring forward. Please mark your calendars and I look forward to seeing you there.

### **Stone Ridge Spring Community Yard Sale on April 27**

Stone Ridge will be holding its annual Spring Community Yard Sale on Saturday, April 27 from 8:00am to 12:00pm in the commuter parking lot behind the Village Center. Search for gently used treasures from resident vendors or shop for new items at the business vendor booths. Stop by the stage area for entertainment and presentations by local businesses. Refreshments will be available for purchase. In case of inclement weather, a rain date of Sunday, April 28 is scheduled. For more information, please contact the Stone Ridge Association Office at 703-327-5179.

### **South Riding Business Expo and Community Yard Sale May 4**

South Riding will be holding its annual community yard sale and business expo on Saturday, May 4 from 8:00am-12:00 pm at the Dulles South Multipurpose Center. Once again, I will have a booth at the business expo and will be available to answer questions. Please stop by booth B1 and say hello!



## **Countywide Food Drive on May 4**

For the second year, several community organizations have joined together to hold the “Love Your Neighbor, Feed Your Neighbor” countywide food drive on Saturday, May 4 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Food donations may be dropped off at several locations throughout the county (see a list [here](#)). Donations will be used to stock six food pantries in the county: LINK, Loudoun Interfaith, Messiah’s Market, Catholic Charities, Seven Loaves, and Tree of Life. For more details on how you, your family, or your organization can be involved visit [www.lynfyn.org](http://www.lynfyn.org). In support of this initiative, the Board declared the month of May, Hunger Awareness Month in Loudoun County.

## **VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program Public Hearing on May 29**

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) invites your comments about essential highway, rail, transit, transportation demand management, bicycle, and pedestrian projects in the draft fiscal year 2014-2019 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). This document enumerates transportation priorities throughout the Commonwealth. The draft SYIP will be presented to the CTB on May 15 and should be available shortly afterwards [here](#). VDOT will then hold a public hearing on the draft in the Northern Virginia area on Wednesday, May 29, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. at the VDOT District Office Potomac Conference Center located at 4975 Alliance Drive, Suite 1N201, Fairfax, VA. You may also submit comments via email to [Six-YearProgram@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:Six-YearProgram@vdot.virginia.gov).

## **Leadership Loudoun Youth Summer Program**

Leadership Loudoun is now accepting applications for the fourth annual Youth Summer Program. The one week course is offered twice during the summer and is open to Loudoun County public, private, and home-school students who will be entering the 10<sup>th</sup> grade or above for the 2013-14 school year. Participants will take part in workshops on leadership and public speaking, take tours of local businesses, interact with government, business, and cultural leaders, and enjoy an overnight retreat with a ropes course and other team building experiences. For more information visit [www.loudounyouth.org](http://www.loudounyouth.org) or contact Mike Morgan at 703-963-4292 or send an email to [info@leadershiploudounyouth.org](mailto:info@leadershiploudounyouth.org). Deadline for applications is May 31, 2013.

## **Coaching Today: Implications of Concussions**

StoneSpring Emergency Center presents “Coaching Today: Implications of Concussions,” a meet and greet event with Christopher Crowell, M.D. Dr. Crowell, StoneSpring Emergency Center Medical Director, will share information on recognizing a concussion and your next steps as a coach. He will also give a brief introduction to StoneSpring Emergency Center and the services that will be available. The event takes place Wednesday, May 15 at 6:00pm at Van Metre Home Design Studio, located at 24600 Millstream Drive, Suite 400, Aldie, VA. RSVP to Tracey White at [tracey.white@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:tracey.white@hcahealthcare.com).

## **Loudoun Targets Lyme**

In 2012, the Board declared the year “Lyme Disease Awareness Year,” created the Lyme Disease Commission, and adopted a 10-point plan to combat Lyme Disease. Out of that project grew the Loudoun Targets Lyme Initiative, which starts this month, engaging government, business and community leaders to educate the public about ways to stay safe from Lyme. A list of events and outreach efforts is available [here](#).

### **Dulles Greenway Toll Rates Public Hearing**

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) announced that it will hold public hearings about the toll rates on the Dulles Greenway coming up this spring. The remaining Loudoun hearing will be held **June 6 at 4pm and 7pm at Park View High School in Sterling**. A hearing will also be held in Richmond on July 18 at 10 am at the commission’s courtroom located in the Tyler Building at 1300 E. Main Street.

Delegate David Ramadan initiated the request for the SCC to look into the rates, as the SCC itself states that the rates must “be reasonable to the user in relation to the benefit obtained; not materially discourage use of the roadway by the public; and provide the operator no more than a reasonable return as determined by the Commission.”

Anyone interested in submitting written comments must do so by July 9 by going to [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case) or by mailing comments to Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, VA, 23218-2118. The case number is PUE-2013-00011.

To unsubscribe, click [here](#).