



Dulles Direct Newsletter May 2014

Welcome to the May edition of the Dulles Direct Newsletter. I know it is a busy time of year, but there are two meetings coming up soon that I want to call your attention to.

First and foremost, on this coming Monday, the Board of Supervisors will be holding a Public Hearing to discuss proposed routes for the Dulles Access Road at Briar Woods High School in Brambleton beginning at 7 pm. Thousands of you have weighed in already with VDOT and the Board, but this is an important chance to directly tell the Board how you feel about VDOT's plans to build limited access express lanes down the middle of Route 50. Call 703-777-0200 during business hours today and Monday to reserve a speaking spot in advance (or you can sign up when you arrive.) I have some updates on this issue below.

Speaking of Route 50, I will be hosting VDOT and Shirley Contracting at my second quarter Town Hall meeting on June 12th at Freedom High School. They will be reviewing progress to date on the project and discussing the timeline for completion. Traffic has been particularly bad over the last month, so I think you'll want to hear how things are progressing and when we might expect some relief. I hope to see all of you at these meetings.

LEGISLATIVE

Sign Up Now for Board of Supervisors Public Input Session on Proposed Dulles Access Highway Scheduled for June 2 in Brambleton

Now is your chance to be heard - the Board of Supervisors has scheduled a public input session on the proposed Dulles Access Highway on Monday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium of Briar Woods High School at 22525 Belmont Ridge Road in Brambleton.

Many of you attended VDOT's public information session at Liberty Elementary School, you've written the Board of Supervisors, written VDOT, signed petitions and you've asked me what else you can do to fight VDOT's recommendation.

This public meeting will be your chance to come to the Board and express your preference. It is far more powerful for the Board to hear from you in person. Some of my colleagues on the Board are undecided, so coming to the meeting and speaking will make a difference in which option the Board recommends to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. So, my answer to those who have asked what else you can do is: **please attend and speak at this meeting.**

The County has begun accepting advance sign-ups to speak at the meeting. I highly recommend you call 703-777-0200 and reserve a speaking spot as soon as possible. You will be allowed to speak even if you don't sign up in advance, but you'll probably have to wait a while.

I joined with Senator Black and Delegates Ramadan and LeMunyon to send a letter to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne calling for VDOT to withdraw its recommendation. Our letter contains a detailed analysis of the two alternatives, and rebuts many arguments made by supporters of Alternative 2. **I encourage you to read our letter and analysis, particularly if you are planning on speaking to the Board,** as it will help you better understand the debate.

A copy of the letter is available [here](#) and a copy of my original explanation of the project can be found [here](#).

VDOT has now told the Board of Supervisors that they will in fact put the potential routes for the Access Road through a congestion relief formula mandated by the General Assembly—as our letter requested. Given that Alternative 3C spends nearly a quarter billion dollars to build one lane in each direction and does nothing to actually relieve congestion, I think this is a very positive development.

If chosen, Alternative 3C would limit future options on 50 by putting a single express lane in each direction for airport traffic, an incredibly short sighted decision. Unlike any other proposed or planned project, including interchanges, it would require Route 50 to be torn up and rebuilt, causing numerous delays.

I hope you'll take advantage of the chance to speak directly to the Board on this issue.

Lingering LCPS Budget Concerns

Recently, Loudoun County Public Schools Administration sent an email to all parents regarding layoffs as a result of the FY2015 budget. The email was deceptive, and it was sent without the knowledge of the School Board. After it went out, several members of the School Board spoke out against it and called it inappropriate.

The biggest problem was that LCPS gave the impression that there will be a net reduction of teachers and employees as a result of this year's budget process. In fact, 177 new positions were funded in the budget, as well as enhancements to a host of areas including network infrastructure.

There were in fact some personnel reductions as a result of policy choices made by the School Board, and these should not be taken lightly. But it is important to understand why that occurred. The School Board chose to fully fund the restructuring of the STEP salary system and provide a STEP increase to employees at a cost of \$23 million. The Board of Supervisors budget suggestions to LCPS had included \$16 million for salary increases, which was consistent with a 3% across the board increase. The difference in cost between the two compensation plans had to be made up elsewhere in the budget, and this was the reason there were any positions eliminated. Clearly, the School Board felt that the STEP restructuring was a higher priority, as is their right.

In any case, parents should be presented with accurate and complete information about the budget. Using official LCPS communications as a tool to promote a particular agenda is inappropriate. It is my hope that the new Superintendent will bring an end to these tactics and enact a better, more transparent school budget process. The reconciliation process made it clear that many of the Board of Supervisors concerns about the quality of the original LCPS request were in fact legitimate. Over the past month I've had very positive discussions with several members of the School Board about this and there seems to be a genuine desire to work together from the beginning during FY2016 to avoid the divisive process we had this year. Our School Board Representative, Jeff Morse, has been leading this effort and I know that we'll continue to work together.

Small Business Week in Loudoun



Small businesses with less than 20 employees make up more than 80% of the businesses in Loudoun County. They play a large role in the economic vitality of our community and we appreciate them choosing Loudoun as their home.

As the Chairman of the Board's Economic Development Committee for the County, I was pleased to participate in this year's Small Business Week, which was held May 12 through 16. This week provides the opportunity for small business owners and entrepreneurs to come together, while learning and networking with others.

During the week, I had the privilege of visiting with Premium Rx National LCC, a prescription drug supplier located in the 606 corridor. Premium Rx National was founded by Brian Greenwald, a Loudoun resident who recently relocated his company's main office to Loudoun from Maryland. Brian's hard work to build a business that provides critical medications to health care providers is exactly what makes us proud of the many small businesses in Loudoun.

Revisions to the Bed and Breakfast Ordinances

Following a period of review and input from stakeholders and County staff, the Board recently approved revisions to the Bed and Breakfast ordinances. The changes will increase the number of guest rooms permitted and allow bed and breakfasts to hold larger special events. The changes also included limits to nighttime outdoor music, and maintain a requirement for zoning permits for some larger events and increased screening and buffering from neighboring properties.

During this process, one of my main areas of concern was related to public safety. Fire and Rescue staff identified a potential issue with the new language related to changing the use of facilities, like barns, from agricultural to venues hosting large events without ensuring compliance with the fire code.

To alleviate these concerns, the Board added language that would require building and fire permits for any historic or agricultural building that is converted to an event venue. While there are some concerns by operators that this requirement is burdensome and costly, Fire-Rescue will work closely with operators to ensure common sense measures. As I pointed out during the debate over this ordinance, it will only take one tragic event to ruin the entire industry for everyone—so it was entirely appropriate for the Board to ensure code compliance when the way that a facility is being used changes significantly.

Ultimately, by finding a balance between allowing these businesses to grow and preventing major incidents, we are ensuring the economic viability of the rural economy.

DULLES DISTRICT UPDATES

Possible Measles Exposures

As I shared on my [Facebook](#) page, there have recently been two confirmed cases of measles with ties to our area. Last Week the Board received a briefing from Dr. David Goodfriend, Loudoun County Health Director. Dr. Goodfriend worked with our staff to contact everyone who could be identified and was potentially exposed in the South Riding area. He reiterated that the chances of exposure are very low, especially for those who were vaccinated.

For more information on measles, click [here](#).

For more information about the first exposure investigation, click [here](#).

Potentially exposed individuals with questions may call 1-877-275-8343.

Opening of Tall Cedars between Riding Center Drive and Pinebrook Road

As you may have noticed, the section of Tall Cedars between Riding Center Drive and Pinebrook Road opened this month. This portion of road was under developer control, and the developer did not open the road when it was completed. Over the last few months we worked to facilitate an agreement between VDOT and the developer to expedite the opening of the road.

The remaining section of Tall Cedars Parkway between Riding Center Drive and Gum Spring Road is a County project that has been fully funded and is expected to go to bid this summer.

Route 50 and Gum Spring Road

There were big changes to the Gum Spring Road and Route 50 intersection last week. While there were some hiccups over the first couple days, drivers are becoming more accustomed to the new traffic pattern. You can review the detour map [here](#). The new signs for the “old” Gum Spring Road—now named Gateway Village Place—went up earlier this week.

One of the ongoing concerns is about the changes in accessing the Gum Spring Village Center. I share these concerns, and in fact the County slowed down this project in order to try to work them out. Eventually, Southpointe Drive will be extended to the new Gum Spring Road, which will give access on both sides to the shopping center. Unfortunately, the construction of that road is tied to the development of a parcel behind the Village Center by a different property owner who is not yet ready to build. We ultimately were not able to forge an agreement between the two private property owners. The County did make the owners of the Gum Spring Village Center aware that this configuration was a possibility many years ago, before it was built, but we certainly understand the frustration about this situation. Van Metre is building a link between Millstream Drive and the shopping center which will be open this summer, and that should help.

Gum Spring Road and Evergreen Mills Road

I am pleased to say the Board recently approved funding for a study of the Gum Spring Road and Evergreen Mills Road intersection. As you may recall, Supervisor Janet Clarke and I brought an item before the Board requesting that a study be commenced and funding be identified in

December. Since that time, County staff engaged an on call engineering firm to provide a cost estimate for a study. The study would provide the Board with options for improving traffic flow at this intersection.

This intersection is an almost constant source of congestion for Dulles South residents travelling north/south. Our options for improvements are limited because the intersection is land locked between multiple buildings and private property. Ultimately, when future roads such as Arcola Boulevard (a realignment of Gum Spring Road north of Rt. 50) and Northstar Blvd are completed, this intersection will see a drastic reduction in use. However, we are several years from the completion of these projects and we need to know the extent of our options in the near term.

I look forward to reviewing the study when it is complete and working with VDOT and my colleagues to improve the intersection as viable options are identified.

Dr. John Farrell Appointed to Loudoun Health Council

This month, the Board of Supervisors confirmed my nominee for the Loudoun Health Council, Dr. John Farrell. Recognized as one of Washingtonian Magazine's "Top Doctors," Dr. Farrell is known to many in our area as Dr. John at South Riding Pediatrics and has been serving as my representative on the County's Lyme Disease Commission. The Health Council works with County and state officials to identify public health issues in Loudoun and provide public policy guidance. In reviewing the membership, I discovered that there was not a single pediatrician on the Council despite our large population of children, so I think the Council will benefit from his insight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dulles Direct Town Hall Meeting on Rt. 50 Widening on June 12th at Freedom High School

I will be hosting my next Dulles Direct Town Hall meeting on June 12 at 7 pm. The meeting will be held at Freedom High School in South Riding. In addition to my general updates on County issues, I will be hosting VDOT and Shirley Contracting for their annual progress report on the Route 50 expansion project. Many of you experience the frustration of Rt. 50 construction and I encourage you to attend and have your questions answered by VDOT and their contractor directly.

As always, I will open the floor for questions on these or other topics. I look forward to seeing you there.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal at Freedom High School

On Saturday, June 28 at Freedom High School in South Riding there will be a household hazardous waste disposal where items such as gasoline and household chemicals will be accepted for disposal. The event will be open to all Loudoun County residents from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

A list of acceptable items can be found [here](#). For more information call 703-771-5552 or visit www.loudoun.gov/hhw.

Leadership Loudoun Youth Days Accepting Participants

Loudoun Youth Inc. is now accepting applications for their Leadership Loudoun Youth Days, which will take place this summer. Through the program sophomore, junior, and senior students will discover their leadership style, learn from leaders in the community, and increase their confidence in leadership.

More information, including dates, tuition, and application, can be found [here](#). Please contact Mike Morgan at info@leadershiploudounyouth.org or Barbara Josselyn at bjosselyn@loudounyouth.org if you need further information. You can also call 703-963-4292 or 703-431-2303.