

Dulles Direct Newsletter June 2016

Welcome to the June edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter. I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Independence Day.

Speaking of big fights for freedom, we have seen great progress on our efforts to fight Dominion's proposed Rt. 50 power line route this month. As I shared with you in a prior [News Alert](#), Dominion filed a rebuttal to our testimony that conceded that their preferred route was not feasible due to certain parcels of land that are owned by the County and, just as we argued all along, that it would be cheaper to build one of our suggested alternatives. Their rebuttal expressed Dominion's support for the County's alternative 6.

That filing led to a joint agreement between Dominion and the parties challenging their proposed routes that was reached at the State Corporation Commission hearing in Richmond yesterday. There's one issue outstanding, but at this point it appears that we have in fact achieved a successful result. I'll get into more details below.

Earlier this month, I spoke to the Dulles South Alliance (DSA) at their Dulles Airport Meeting. DSA partnered with the Committee for Dulles and the Washington

In This Issue

[Kirkpatrick West
Commercial Center](#)

[Tall Cedars and Stone
Springs](#)

[Pedestrian Access from
Poland Road to
Paramount Place](#)

[Loudoun County
Parkway/Route 50
Interchange](#)

[ERP Program Update](#)

[Power Line Update](#)

[Route 50 Signal Timing](#)

[Chick-Fil-A](#)

[Claiborne Parkway](#)

[Greenway Case Update](#)

[Appointees to Boards
and Commissions](#)

[Black Bear Activity](#)

[Announcements](#)

Airports Task Force to host a community meeting on the importance of Dulles Airport to the community, county and region. Dulles Airport has been vital to the growth and economic success of Loudoun County and it remains vital to our strategy going forward. From an economic development standpoint, Dulles is not just an airport, but a significant piece of strategic business infrastructure. A world-class airport is vital to the high value and time sensitive firms that we are trying to attract.

Meanwhile, in the Board Room, I was pleased to recognize Jason Thomas of Troop 1430 on earning his Eagle Scout rank. Jason's project was the construction of a 12' x 6' deck designed to pivot on a fulcrum similar to a giant seesaw for the new ropes course element called the "Whale Watch" at Camp Highroad in Middleburg. I wish Jason the best as he attends Virginia Tech in the fall.



Finally, on a sad note, I will pass on news that one of Loudoun's greatest residents, Charlotte Nurge, passed away at the age of 94 yesterday. Charlotte was a long time resident of South Riding during the "early days" and was part of the group of citizens that helped create an identity for our community. One of her passions was ensuring that the County was taking care of our seniors, and to that end she fought for years to bring senior services to Dulles South. She served on the Commission on Aging under at least four different



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Boards of Supervisors and was Chairman for most of that time!

Nothing has made me prouder than having the opportunity to fulfill Charlotte's ultimate goal by obtaining funding to build a full scale senior center in South Riding, which is now under construction. While Charlotte moved to Ashby Ponds (where she was known as the unofficial "Mayor"), she cared deeply about the bond referendum on this project and spoke to everyone she could to make sure they supported it.

In 2014, I introduced a resolution to name the Recreation Room in that new building the "Charlotte Nurge Recreation Room." A few months ago, Charlotte was able to attend the topping-off ceremony for the building. I was so looking forward to her seeing it finished next year, and I told her that I expected her to be the first user of the rock climbing wall that is being built adjacent in the indoor recreation center. I wouldn't have bet against her.

Unfortunately, she won't get to see the finished building, but our thoughts will be with her over the next year as construction continues. She was a special person, the kind who makes our community great. Even over the last year, she was liable to show up at a Board of Supervisors meeting to make sure we knew she was watching! I'll miss seeing her.

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Quick Links



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Charlotte Nurge sharing the original design for the Senior Center with me at the Dulles South Multipurpose Center topping-off ceremony in April 2016.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Kirkpatrick West Commercial Center

I have heard from many of you near the intersection of Braddock Road and Northstar Boulevard about the proposed changes to the already approved commercial center at the southeast corner of that intersection.

When the Kirkpatrick West development was approved in 2005, that development included approval for a commercial center and childcare facility. Fast forward to now, and the owner has submitted applications to increase the size of the commercial center, add fueling stations and three drive through restaurants.

Harris Teeter is the main tenant (and owner) of the Center, so it is thought that the applications would result in the region's largest Harris Teeter. There is

both good and bad with that-obviously, the store itself may be a showcase for the company, but it may also attract a lot of customers from outside the immediate neighborhoods.

The applications that seem to be generating the most concern are for the fueling stations and the drive through restaurants. I am most concerned about the transportation impacts that adding these uses to the site will have, especially with the challenges surrounding the adjacent intersection and Braddock Road towards Gum Spring. Planning staff does not support adding the drive throughs and would support the fueling stations if their location is more internal to the commercial site. While the Countywide Transportation Plan shows Braddock as four lanes the entire way to Northstar, there is no funding for that project in our budget and frankly I don't anticipate that happening anytime soon.

The zoning here is very complicated. Technically, the parcels are in the Transition Policy Area (TPA), which does not support dense development. However, previous Boards have approved multiple rezonings in the TPA, such as Kirkpatrick Farms, Seven Hills and Virginia Manor.

I have been working closely with Blue Ridge Supervisor Tony Buffington (this development is actually in his district) on this application. The Planning Commission has recommended denial of the drive through restaurant additions, and approval of the rest of the project. It will be heading to the July 15 Transportation and Land Use Committee for further review and discussion before returning to the Board for consideration and I plan on having further conversations with the developers to discuss some of my concerns. At this time, I'm still working through these applications and haven't made up my mind. I'll keep you updated.

Tall Cedars and Stone Springs Intersection

There has been a recent increase in accidents at the Tall Cedars and Stone Springs intersection in Stone Ridge. Large all way stop intersections consistently prove

difficult for drivers for various reasons and this intersection was constructed for a future signal to be installed when warranted.

At our second Business Meeting this month, the Board approved my initiative that identifies and allocates funding for a traffic signal warrant analysis to be completed for the intersection. Before permitting the installation of traffic signals, VDOT requires that a study be completed to determine whether an intersection meets certain criteria. Traffic volume, accident history and delays are all factors. In this case, we're seeing a significant uptick of accidents recently. In fact, there were four accidents between September 2013 and December 2015, and five accidents in the last 18 months.

The cost of the warrant study is approximately \$17,000 and will come from proffer funds that were specifically collected for a planned signal at that intersection. This will help us get a jumpstart on construction of a signal to avoid waiting for the missing link of Tall Cedars to be completed in 2018.

I should also add that we've also seen an uptick in accidents at Gum Spring and Tall Cedars. This intersection has a light that is planned as part of the Tall Cedars extension. I've requested that the light signal go in as early as possible, possibly before completion of the intersection. I'm not sure yet if that will happen, but we're working on it.

Pedestrian Access from Poland Road to Paramount Place

Design work continues on the permanent roundabout for the intersection of Edgewater and Poland. Right of way needs have been identified and discussions have started with those property owners.

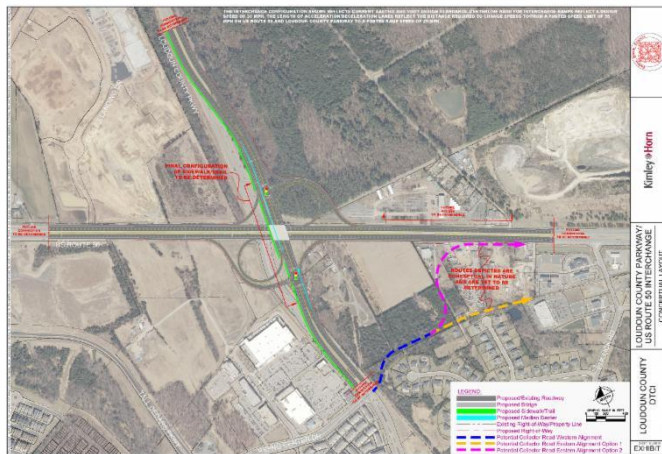
While reviewing the project, it was determined that inadequate pedestrian accommodations exist from the edge of the project limits towards Paramount Place in the Ridings at Blue Springs community. Given the need to connect missing pedestrian links across our

area, I feel strongly that we should take advantage of the planned work at the intersection to extend the walkway for easier access to East Gate and the new commuter lot.

The Board approved my item requesting that County staff determine the cost and available funding sources to design and construct this sidewalk segment. Currently, most pedestrian pathways are included with road construction or widening. There are no plans to improve Edgewater Street in this area and no other opportunity to include this missing sidewalk link with other projects.

Loudoun County Parkway/Route 50 Conceptual Interchange Design

At the June 7 Business Meeting, the Board discussed a design endorsement for the future Loudoun County Parkway/Route 50 interchange. The proposed design is a partial cloverleaf.



Supervisor Buffington and I have a concern on this potential design, which is related to the ability to handle the eastbound 50 to eastbound 606 movement. We are currently working with staff to do some additional traffic modeling to see whether this design can handle the projected volumes.

County Terminates AST Contract for ERP Program

At the last Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board terminated our contract with AST Corporation for implementation of our county and school system wide computer update. This project was initiated by the 2007 Board of Supervisors, and inherited by my Board in 2012 (and to an extra extent, by me personally when I took over as Chairman of the Finance Committee at the beginning of 2015).

I won't go into a lot of details, but this item has consumed quite a bit of my time over the years. Suffice to say, things did not go smoothly, and the County has been withholding payments, which resulted in claims and counter claims. Ultimately, after many months of negotiation, a settlement has been reached with AST in which the cost of a new contractor will be partially reimbursed by the company. There will eventually be about an additional \$4 million that the County will have to pay a new contractor to finish the work. My goal has always been for the County and LCPS to find a way forward with a modern system that works while trying to protect our costs as much as possible. Given the situation we inherited, there were limited options as to what we could do.

DULLES DISTRICT UPDATES

Power Line Fight Headed to a Successful Conclusion

Yesterday in Richmond, all parties to the Dominion Route 50 power line case stipulated to the set of facts and evidence in support of Loudoun County Alternative 6. This is a remarkable turn of events, and I must once again credit our outstanding County Attorney, Leo Rogers, and all of you for your involvement and engagement in this case.

Alternative 6 is not perfect. It runs from the Yardley Ridge site at Evergreens Mills Road and 606 down 606, and on the north side of 50 to Poland Road. I know that many would prefer there be no power lines (and no data center) at all. But, given our situation, it

is the best outcome we could have hoped for. It keeps the power lines off of Route 50 between Northstar and 606, preserving full development potential for Avonlea Town Center, the StoneSprings Hospital campus, Arcola Center and Dulles Landing. In the County's assessment, it protected our interests as much as possible.

I'll share with you Dominion's statement on the outcome:

On June 29, 2016, during the combined Evidentiary Hearing for the Poland Rd and Yardley Ridge Electric Transmission cases before the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC), the Company and interested parties, including the SCC Staff, were all in agreement that these projects are needed and that the Hearing Examiner should approve "County Alternative 6" as the route for these projects, subject to a short route segment that crosses Evergreen Mills Rd to be decided by the Commission.

This consensus marks a collaborative effort among many to develop a route that meets the needs of the projects and reasonably minimizes impacts to the area at a reasonable cost.

The Hearing Examiner still needs to review the facts in the case and issue a recommendation to the Commissioners for final ruling. However, we believe this unified approach among the parties is compelling in these cases.

We appreciate the involvement of Loudoun County and others to get to this point.

We have maintained from the earliest stages of the Poland Road and Yardley Ridge projects - during both of the open houses we conducted and throughout the entire process -- that we were looking to local stakeholders for input on a routing solution that is least impactful on all concerned parties. Much to the credit of engaged residents, businesses and public officials we collectively have come to the agreement that the

proposed "County Alternative 6" route is appropriate and should be the one approved subject to the short route segment to be decided by the Commission.

The full [agreement](#) between the parties is filed with the SCC and is posted on the project pages on [Dom.com](#).

There does remain one outstanding issue with the route that is still being resolved at this point. This has to do with where the line would cross specific pieces of the Arcola Center development on Evergreen Mills Road and limiting the impacts on their planned uses. I do have concerns about Dominion's favored routing for this piece, as I believe it would negatively impact future development on that site. The parties have agreed to suspend the case until July 20 in order for negotiations on this specific piece to occur.

In addition to resolving the northern portion of the route, the SCC still needs to make this "official." We'll remain completely engaged to make sure that happens, and of course be providing updates as it continues.

Route 50 Signal Timing

As the Route 50 reconstruction project came to a close, VDOT began a project to optimize the Route 50 signal network. This is being performed in two phases.

Phase I has a total of 57 signals and is expected to be complete around the end of July. This phase includes all of the signals on Route 50 from Stone Springs Boulevard to Fair Ridge Drive (Fairfax County), signals on Stringfellow Road from Route 50 to Route 29, and isolated signals along Loudoun County Parkway, Evergreen Mills Rd, and Gum Springs Road. Phase II has a total of 47 signals and is expected to be complete by the end of October. This phase is completely based within Fairfax County.

To date, they have completed data collection (traffic volumes, roadway geometry, signal phasing information, pedestrian crosswalk distances, etc.) for all the Phase I intersections. Upon completion there will be eight different timing plans for all signals in the

network area AM, PM, midday, off-peak, weekend AM, Saturday peak, weekend PM, and Sunday peak periods.

This project is a significant effort on the part of VDOT to balance timing at all of the signalized intersections in and around the Route 50 corridor. While it won't resolve all of our issues with congestion, there should be some level of improvement, with more to come as the Route 606 widening and other projects in the area are completed.

Chick-Fil-A

Since it is a frequent topic of conversation, I thought I'd give an update on the Chick-Fil-A under construction on Defender Drive. I had the opportunity to have a lengthy discussion with the owner/operator, Charles Bohs. He is very excited about coming to our community, and is extremely committed to being a part of it by supporting community events, PTA's, etc. He has previously owned another Chick-Fil-A in New Jersey (among other places). He told me that they are targeting August 25 for a grand opening and that things are going well with construction. I think this will be a nice addition to our offerings in Dulles South, and I told him I would be very surprised if his restaurant didn't do extremely well!

Claiborne Parkway

I have been providing periodic updates on the status of construction for the missing link of Claiborne Parkway between Croson Lane and Ryan Road. To be honest with you, I am absolutely at my wit's end with this project. It seems that every time we make progress, we hit another obstacle. At this point, it has taken an absurd amount of time to get construction under way, and now we've encountered another issue that will delay things further.

Columbia Gas recently completed an analysis of the lines and determined that before construction of the roadway could begin, the lines needed to be relocated and reconstructed. I will point out that on more than one occasion during the planning of this project, the County asked Columbia if there were any pipeline

issues expected, and nothing was flagged. At this point, the County essentially has no choice but to pay Columbia to relocate the pipeline, at the cost of \$1.7 million. (We tried negotiating that and got nowhere).

At this point, we expect Columbia Gas to complete work by this fall, allowing us to bid the project and issue a notice to proceed on road construction later this year. Construction is estimated to take 18 months. I wish I had better news.

Greenway Case Update

Earlier this month, County Attorney Leo Rogers argued the appeal of the SCC decision in the Greenway case to the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Our County Attorney argued that the SCC failed to properly regulate TRIP II as a public service company as required by law. The SCC had found that TRIP II was not a monopoly or a public utility and was subject to competitive pressures due to the existence of alternative routes. The County countered that alternative routes were available when the law was enacted, when the Greenway received its charter. Those routes existed when the Greenway doubled its rates, and they will continue to exist which will not deter TRIP II from seeking additional rate increases. The County's own traffic analysis showed that use of those alternative routes has increased due to toll avoidance. We also pointed out that the SCC has focused on "return to investor" which is a subjective decision, based on TRIP II's accounting procedures, rather than the return to TRIP II as the operator which would be an objective determination.

Our case may be an uphill battle, but we expect to receive a decision in September.

Appointees to Boards and Commissions

Over the past several months I have received applications from residents to serve on some of the County's Advisory Boards and Commissions. Since my last update, I have appointed the following individuals:

Dr. Drew Luce- Animal Advisory Committee
Samiah Bahhur- Commission on Aging
Bidisha Roy- Community Services Board
Scott Fisher- Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Mark Miller- Fiscal Impact Committee
Chuong Nguyen- Library Board of Trustees

Black Bear Activity

The Department of Animal Services has been receiving a large number of calls over the past few weeks on bears from different parts of the County, including in Dulles South and Brambleton.

At this time, they believe there are only three separate bears generating the calls. They are doing their best to track the movement patterns of the bears as the calls come in, and all three appear to be moving along, without staying in one specific area for more than a couple of days. This is pretty common this time of year as young bears set out on their own.

Unless they seem to be setting up a permanent resting/feeding area, the general policy is to leave them alone, and they will, with few exceptions, move along. When they do not move along (and Animal Services needs callers to reach out to them so they can make that determination), Animal Services will work with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for them to make further assessments on what can be done.

Relocation is very rarely done, as bears are just about everywhere, but if people are feeding them, and they are becoming increasingly fearless, it is possible that the bear will not end up with a positive outcome. So, for the safety of people and animals alike, it is very important that residents do their best to make their yards of little interest to bears. This includes leaving bird feeders empty for a week after a bear visit (or empty in summer entirely), not putting suet out in the summer, storing grills inside the garage when not in use, enclosing/fencing compost piles (and never putting meat in the compost), taking extra tempting trash to a remote, secure dumpster, and most importantly,

NEVER intentionally feeding or interacting with the bears.

Right now, Animal Control officers are performing extra patrols in areas that they have received bear calls so that they can keep an eye out for abnormal patterns. Thankfully, so far, there has not been anything out of the ordinary. If you have any concerns with bears or other wildlife, you can contact Animal Services at 703-777-0406.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner of the Revenue Ends DMV Select Services June 30, 2016

Commissioner of the Revenue Bob Wertz has announced that his office will end DMV Select Services on June 30, 2016. He found that the DMV workload had increased substantially, diverting resources from the office's primary role as tax assessors.

DMV Select workload had increased 50% since Fiscal Year 2014 and over 500% since 2006 when these services were first offered, with the most significant increases over the last two years. This increased workload has strained his limited resources and the revenue received for providing these services did not adequately cover the increased costs to the County.

DMV presently has two customer service centers serving Loudoun residents in Leesburg and Sterling. Wertz said he has been provided assurance from DMV that its DMV 2 Go mobile customer service center will continue to visit his Sterling office, according to its regular schedule, so that customers will still have access to convenient DMV service in the area. We also frequently see the DMV 2 Go at the Dulles South Public Safety Center in South Riding. DMV will also be reevaluating service options in Loudoun County in order to provide residents with the high standard of local service to which they are accustomed.

DMV services such as vehicle registration renewal, driver/vehicle records requests, driver's license renewal, and plate purchases may all be done online. For a full list of DMV's online services, please visit www.dmvnow.com/onlineServices. Additionally, a complete listing of DMV office locations and hours, and schedule of dates for visits by DMV 2 Go may be found online at www.dmvnow.com.

Fireworks Safety Tips

As July 4th festivities approach, the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office wants you to begin planning for a safe holiday. Did you know more fires are reported on July 4th than any other day of the year in the US? Nearly half of these fires are caused by fireworks. Did you know most injuries that occur while using consumer fireworks are to children and teens between the ages of 10 and 14? Safely enjoy your holiday and the fireworks with these safety tips:

PROCEED WITH CAUTION!

- In Loudoun County, consumer fireworks, namely sparklers and ground based fountains, are legal to possess and use on private property. You should only purchase legal consumer fireworks from a local business or roadside stand possessing a fireworks retail permit from the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office. These fireworks have been tested to ensure they meet the Consumer Products Safety Commission's requirements. A comprehensive list of legal consumer fireworks and permitted retail sale locations is available at www.loudoun.gov/fireworks.
- Consumer fireworks that rise into the air, explode, travel laterally on the ground or emit projectiles are illegal to possess or use anywhere in Virginia. Local businesses will not sell these fireworks and possession and/or use of these materials is a Class 1 Misdemeanor.
- For backyard displays using legal consumer fireworks, wet down the area before use to prevent accidental fires. Ground based fireworks should be

placed on open, stable, flat surfaces, keeping onlookers 20ft from the display.

- Adult supervision is critical! Only sober adults should ignite and supervise the use of fireworks. Adults should supervise the use of sparklers as they burn at a temperature of more than 1,200 degrees, hot enough to cause severe burns. Keep children from running while using sparklers as they can be a poking hazard.
- After lighting fireworks, spent fireworks should be soaked overnight and placed in a metal container with a lid. Place the container at least 15ft away from any building or structure so that it may cool overnight. Re-check the container regularly to ensure nothing is smoldering, then properly dispose of the wet materials.
- Never pick up fireworks that may be left over, as they may still be active!

Remember, the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted by trained professionals. The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office has posted all firework related information at www.loudoun.gov/fireworks.

Loudoun Chamber and Loudoun Economic Development Authority Launch Young Entrepreneurs Academy

The Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce and Loudoun Economic Development Authority are launching a local entrepreneurship training program that will match local business owners and leaders with high school aged students to help them formulate, develop and launch their own business or nonprofit organization.

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a proven national program that partners with more than 100 local Chambers of Commerce in 39 states to provide hands on entrepreneurial training to students between grades 6 through 12.

YEA! was developed at the University of Rochester in 2004, with the support of a grant from the Kauffman Foundation, and today partners with the US Chamber of Commerce to engage local chambers. YEA! has graduated more than 4,500 students since 2004, who have started more than 3,000 businesses and social movements!

The Loudoun chapter of YEA! will launch this October at the Mason Enterprise Center in Leesburg. YEA! is a 30-week program with weekly classes, field trips, guest speakers, a trade show and a pitch event where the student entrepreneurs pitch their business plan to an investment panel for seed funding. At the end of the YEA! Program the students will have a legally registered business.

For more information for parents, students & potential sponsors, visit their website:
<http://www.loudouchamber.org/YEA> or contact Chamber President Tony Howard at thoward@loudouchamber.org.

Dulles South Food Pantry

The Dulles South Food Pantry has expanded its geographic boundaries to serve families in the Brambleton community who are in need of food assistance. Since its inception two years ago, the food pantry has served any person who resides in the school attendance zones for the Freedom High School and John Champe High School clusters in Dulles South. Thanks to the generous support the pantry has received from the community, the food pantry is pleased to begin serving the areas that have been assigned to attend the new Brambleton Middle School opening in 2017.

The food pantry is now open every Wednesday in the historic white chapel at Arcola United Methodist Church, 24757 Evergreen Mills Road, Dulles, VA 20166. On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, the pantry is open to walk-ins from 5-7pm. Other Wednesdays the pantry is open by

appointment. Call 703-507-2795 or email info@dsfp.org to schedule a private appointment.

Since opening two years ago, the food pantry has distributed more than 150,000 lbs. of food and currently averages nearly 140 visits a month from local families. Additionally, the pantry provides weekend food to over 100 students in 10 different Dulles District schools. See the Dulles South Food Pantry's website at <http://www.dsfp.org/> for information on how you can help the food pantry fight hunger locally. The Dulles South Food Pantry Inc. is a multi-faith emergency food pantry providing nutritious food, personal supplies and other services to those in need in the Dulles South area regardless of income, faith or other criteria. It is an all-volunteer organization focused both on feeding the hungry and promoting the self-sufficiency of those it serves. Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry, Inc. are tax deductible.

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