

Dulles Direct Newsletter June 2018

Welcome to the June edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter. Summer has arrived and hopefully you are able to enjoy some downtime while school is out. I have noticed an improvement in traffic this week which is always welcome as well. However you may be celebrating, I wish you a safe and happy Independence Day next week.

Thank you to everyone that attended my Dulles Direct Town Hall meeting on Tuesday evening. We had a good turnout and lots of discussion about the Silver District West application to bring a very large mixed use community to Loudoun County Parkway near the Greenway. I will have the presentation from Planning and Zoning staff posted on [my website](#) for those of you that couldn't make it, and we once again utilized Facebook Live to record the meeting, so it can be viewed on my [Facebook page](#). As I shared at the meeting, I have asked for two pieces of analysis before moving any further with this application: a transportation analysis and a fiscal analysis. Both of them are being completed this summer by County staff and our independent, outside consultants. This application is still under review by the Board's Transportation and Land Use Committee and we expect it will come back to the full Board of

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Supervisors for consideration this fall, possibly October. I look forward to receiving the more detailed analysis that I have requested to help the Board make an informed decision.

I was pleased to sponsor a Resolution of Commendation from the Board of Supervisors to recognize Liberty Elementary Principal Paul Pack and present it to him at the fifth grade promotion ceremony (my son was among those being promoted.) Mr. Pack was recently recognized as Loudoun's Principal of the Year and the Washington Post's Principal of the Year for the entire region, which encompasses over 1,000 public schools. This recognition was a testament to the hard work that Mr. Pack and the staff of Liberty have put into making the school known for its strong STEM immersion program. Congratulations to Mr. Pack and the Liberty Elementary community!



I also was pleased to sponsor a Resolution of Commendation to recognize the Freedom High School Gymnastics Team on their recent State Championship. This year's win continues a long history of strong performances by the team and we should all be proud of these student athletes.

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Matthew F. Letourneau
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Loudoun County Board of
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Contact Me

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I enjoyed attending the Dulles South Public Safety Center Open House last Saturday. It was a great turnout. It was the last such open house for Captain Bobby Miller, who has been transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division. Many thanks to Captain Miller for his work in Dulles South!



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Firearms Discharge Ordinance

An accident occurred in early May in which stray bullets from a nearby property were found to have struck homes in the Willowsford neighborhood. The bullets were found to have originated from shooting that took place over 200 yards away. Following an investigation, the Sheriff's Department and the Commonwealth's Attorney decided that there was not sufficient evidence to identify and charge the individual responsible for those specific bullets with reckless discharge of a firearm. Their investigation also concluded that the shooting took place within the limits permitted by the County's Firearms Discharge Ordinance.

Among other things, this ordinance establishes limits on how far from occupied structures (100 yards) and roadways (50 yards) firearms may be discharged. It also establishes an area that is considered too highly

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populated for the safe discharge of firearms. Currently this area encompasses most of the County's Suburban Policy Area and is bound on the south by Braddock Road, west by Gum Spring Road/Belmont Ridge Road (Route 659) and proceeds north to the Potomac River. While there are areas such as Stone Ridge that are in the Suburban Policy Area, but outside the prohibition area, the distance requirements effectively ban the activities in this area.

Given the recent events and some questions about why charges could not be filed, the Board scheduled an information session on the incident and our Ordinance for our meeting last week. At the meeting, the Sheriff and Commonwealth's Attorney went into detail on the limits they have when charging an individual in this case and explained why they had not done so. According to law enforcement, it came down to two reasons: 1) inability to identify the individual(s) who shot the bullets that hit homes, because all four individuals shot the same weapon, and 2) inability to prove "reckless" nature. I think it is fair to say that the Board was frustrated by this discussion and the ultimate outcome.

In response to the incident, Leesburg District Supervisor Kristin Umstattd proposed an ordinance change that would have limited the discharge of a firearm to more than half a mile from any occupied structure, countywide. This proposal drew strong opposition from a capacity crowd at the Board room.

The problem with Supervisor Umstattd's proposal is that it used a sledgehammer to address a problem that needs a scalpel. The ordinance change would have effectively banned hunting and recreational shooting anywhere in the County. The Board heard testimony from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in strong opposition to the ordinance change because of the impact it would have on the deer population, which then leads to other issues like Lyme Disease and vehicle accidents. Ultimately, Supervisor Umstattd's proposal died for lack of second, meaning that no other member of the Board supported it.

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That does not mean, however, that the Board should simply accept the fact that some homes were shot without consequences. Instead, I supported a motion that the Board passed 6-3 which directs staff to research and bring back language that would 1) address shooting in the direction of occupied structures, 2) prohibit shooting across property lines without the owner's permission and 3) update the prohibition area map to reflect newer development. I think this is a reasonable way to move forward. This is an issue that can be very easily politicized (and probably already was), but it does not need to be.

NVTA Approves Funding for Loudoun Projects

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority adopted its first six-year transportation program, which includes funding for many Loudoun projects designed to reduce traffic congestion.

Loudoun County projects are receiving \$508.7 million, which is approximately 21 percent of the available funds in the total NVTA six-year program. We are counting on this funding in our Capital Improvement Plan to complete construction of these important transportation projects. Much of this funding was projected and assumed in our Capital Budget, but was subject to actual awards from NVTA. The projects of most interest to our area that received funding are:

* Dulles West Boulevard: Loudoun County Parkway to Northstar Boulevard- \$47.8 million

* Northstar Boulevard: Shreveport Drive to Tall Cedars Parkway- \$64.8 million

* Prentice Drive: Lockridge Road to Shellhorn Road- \$76.2 million

* Route 28 Northbound Widening: Dulles Toll Road to Sterling Boulevard- \$20 million

* Shellhorn Road: Loudoun County Parkway to Randolph Drive- \$16 million

We are working to understand the timing of these awards. Early indications are that the funds will be available when we are ready for them from a construction standpoint. Some of the project awards are being combined with other funds to move projects forward. Now that we know the NVTAs for the next 6 years, we will be able to make any needed adjustments in our own 6 year funding plan during the next budget cycle (FY20) which, as Finance Committee Chairman, I am having my first staff briefing on this week!

Discovery Communications

Discovery Communications (which includes numerous television networks such as HGTV and the Food Network) is expanding its global technology and operations hub in Loudoun County with a \$16 million investment and 240 new jobs with an average salary of \$150,000.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors agreed on providing an incentive that meets our three year Return on Investment criteria on this project and serves as a match to additional funding from the Commonwealth. We faced competition from several other locations that Discovery was considering for this investment. This deal is part of our strategy to diversify our economy across a broad range of sectors. Many thanks to our outstanding Economic Development staff, led by Executive Director Buddy Rizer, who worked hard to make this a reality over several months.

Commercial Parking

After hearing from many small business owners with concerns over the continued loss of areas suitable for parking their take home and company vehicles, I decided to initiate an item to try and look at the issue and offer some potential solutions. My initiative, as approved by the Board, establishes a working group of zoning staff, law enforcement, HOA and commercial property managers, and small business operators to look at the issue of commercial vehicle parking and identify some potential opportunities for consideration.

Many HOAs do not allow commercial vehicle parking within the community. They also have a different standard for what is commercial than that defined by the County. This has pushed many trucks and vans to look for street parking opportunities in commercial areas. This has caused an eyesore as was experienced on Defender Drive between Elk Lick and South Riding Boulevard and caused sight distance issues as we are seeing in the Overland Drive and Pebble Run areas off Route 606.

My hope is that this working group will look at existing zoning and ordinances to see if there are opportunities to partner with land owners or shopping centers with excess capacity to offer solutions. We also should look at our public lots to see if they can be put to use outside of current use hours.

Contact my office if you have interest in working with the County on this issue.

Ashburn Recreation and Community Center

With the recent opening of the Dulles South Recreation and Community Center, the County has now turned its sights to the next similar facility to be located in Ashburn. This facility has a long history in that it was originally called the Broadlands Recreation Center and failed on a referendum several years ago. During the last Board's term, the facility re-entered the CIP and the Ashburn Recreation and Community Center garnered the votes needed to be approved for General Obligation Bond funding, the most favorable terms financially.

The facility was planned for an 18.76 acre proffered site located on Belmont Ridge Road within the Broadlands Community. However, as the County began the design and engineering process, it was determined that the property presents several development challenges due to its shape, sloping topography, shallow bedrock, and the buffer requirements for the adjacent residential properties. Due to these development challenges, the property does not provide sufficient area for the necessary surface parking spaces required by the Zoning

Ordinance to accommodate the full recreation and community center programs. To provide the Zoning Ordinance required parking spaces, structured parking will be necessary. All of these items would lead to significant cost increases.

The discussion then shifted to a potential land swap with Van Metre for a 21.3 acre site located adjacent to commercial uses such as Lidl on Broadlands Boulevard. The Van Metre site is more conveniently located and provides additional space to accommodate the full program of services and required parking. The buffering needs are lower since it is not adjacent to residential properties. All of this leads to an expected net savings of \$4.7-5.4 million.

The Board voted this week to move forward on initiating the needed changes to begin the land swap process. These processes include a rezoning of the current County property to allow Van Metre to construct single family homes on the site.

The changes are expected to result in an additional 6 months to complete the design process. But, the project is currently scheduled to receive the final installment of construction funding in FY21. So, that should not impact the overall schedule. This facility will be a great addition for residents in the northern part of the Dulles District looking for indoor recreation opportunities.

Transit Summit

The Board held our second transit summit of this term last week to discuss current and future transit issues. First, the County inherited a fixed route bus system from VRT several years ago when the eastern portion of the County changed from rural to urban for purposes of federal funding. Along with that came all of the infrastructure. Over time, County staff became concerned about the accessibility of bus stops and recently conducted a study to determine ADA compliance. At the summit, the Board learned that over 300 bus stops are not in compliance. This is obviously of immediate concern, and the Board instructed staff to prepare to fund efforts to bring stops

up to compliance as soon as we can. It should be noted that about 60 trips per day have identified disability needs, so one thing that needs to be on the table is a discussion of how to effectively provide services to those individuals, which may end up being less costly than physically altering every bus stop.

The Board also discussed the future of the Dulles North Park and Ride lot. The current lot is near where the County is building a parking garage for the Loudoun Gateway Metro Station, which will be a paid parking area. Therefore, there could be issues with having a free lot nearby. There are a number of steps the County can take to ensure that only bus riders are using the lot, but the best long term solution is to relocate the lot. The lot itself is owned by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, and there may be a different location also on MWAA property that would create less conflict. I also think this would be a good idea from a traffic management standpoint. The Board directed further discussions on that issue.

Another topic was the future of bus service. The Board voted to affirm the plan to increase the long haul bus fare by \$1 next month, to help bring it closer to revenue neutral status. Given the planned toll increase on the Dulles Toll Road, the bus fare will still be a good deal in comparison to other options. At the same time, a single Metro car can move as many or more people as a bus, and Metro trains have 6-8 cars and leave much more frequently, so the majority of investments are going into providing Metro service. To that end, LC Transit is developing routes that would encompass more neighborhood stops instead of just park and ride lots. I have been pushing for this so that residents that live in densely populated areas-say, the Riding Center Drive corridor as an example-could board a bus on the corner and be taken to a Metro station without having to drive to a park and ride lot. I think this would encourage ridership and take cars off the road, which is the ultimate goal.

School Resource Officer Unit Recognized as Model Agency

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has received the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Model Agency of the Year Award. The Model Agency Award recognizes agencies that exemplify the NASRO Triad Concept, training, policies and standards. These practices ensure professional service to the school community.

In 1996, the SRO program began with one deputy serving three high schools throughout the County. Today, there are 12 high schools, 13 middle schools and an alternative education school served by the program, each with its own assigned officer.

For next school year, the Board voted to add two SRO positions to serve Willard Intermediate and the Academies of Loudoun. We also approved an SRO floater position that helps assist other SRO staff in investigations.

DULLES DISTRICT UPDATES

Poland and Edgewater Roundabout

I am pleased to share that the roundabout at Poland Road and Edgewater Street in South Riding is now complete. I initiated the project following the success of a temporary roundabout that had been installed to address major safety concerns at the intersection. This was funded jointly by the County and VDOT.

There is some final detail work this summer that will continue without major traffic impacts, but the \$1.9 million project is under budget and finishes ahead of its original October completion date. Thanks for your patience during construction, the final product is a significant improvement over the temporary solution that proved to be a maintenance headache. The contractor is to be commended for finishing the project well ahead of schedule.



Safety Improvements at Dulles South Commuter Lot

The Board has finally approved the construction funding for safety improvements to the pedestrian crossing at the entrances to the Dulles South Commuter lots that straddle Millstream Drive in Stone Ridge.

We were experiencing some visibility issues in the early morning and evening hours that put commuters in jeopardy when attempting to cross the roadway or exit the buses. The \$80,000 project will add lighting to the pedestrian crossing area as well as flashing beacon signs to alert drivers that there are pedestrians crossing.

I look forward to seeing these improvements finally implemented. I first brought this forward to the Board for review in December 2015. Following study, concurrence with the HOA, and plan approval; we are finally moving forward with implementation. Thank you to the Stone Ridge HOA for their cooperation and input throughout the process. The future use of those lots are under examination as part of the transit discussions I mentioned earlier.

Route 50 Blighted Properties Update

- Former United Rentals Building:

To date, the County has not received a detailed demolition plan from the property owner, though they have told us that they plan to sign a contract for the demolition by the end of June. In the meantime, the County is awaiting a bid from a contractor to complete the work. We expect to have that by the end of this

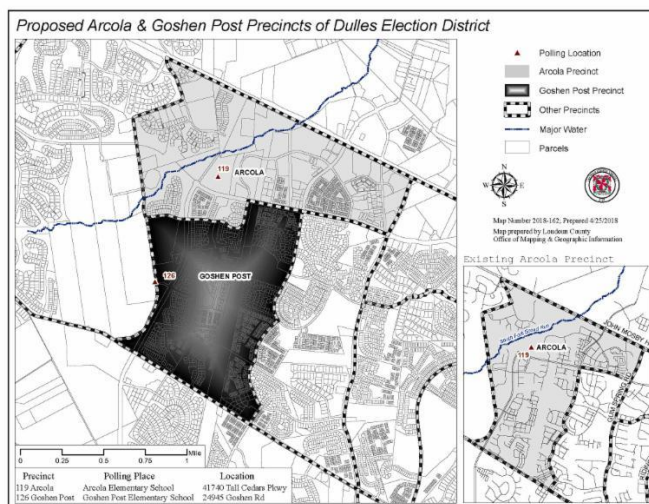
month and then it will be brought forward to the Board in September for consideration and scheduling of a Public Hearing in October.

- Hotel Site:

In April, the property owner submitted a Site Plan Amendment with the County to incorporate additional parking and a parking garage for the hotel. They anticipate re-instating their building permits depending on when they get approval of the Site Plan, which is still under review. Zoning Enforcement is consulting with the County Attorney to see how this active site plan review impacts their ability to issue a Blight Termination Notice.

Voting Precinct Changes Approved

The Board of Supervisors has approved a voting precinct change that impacts Dulles District voters. The existing Arcola-119 voting precinct that currently votes at Arcola Elementary School was split to create a new voting precinct called Goshen Post-126 that will vote at the new Goshen Post Elementary School. New voter registration cards will be sent to impacted voters, but be sure to check the map below to see if this change impacted you. About half of you that live in the Arcola Precinct will have a new precinct for the November election. You can always [check your voting location here](#).



There also were changes approved for Buffalo Trail-313 in the Blue Ridge District and Ashbrook-627 in the Broad Run District.

Boards and Commissions Openings

I am currently looking for Dulles District residents that would be interested in serving on two County Advisory Boards/Commissions:

- **Animal Advisory Committee:** The committee works to advise the Board of Supervisors on the effectiveness of the Loudoun County Department of Animal Services, serve as an advisor to the Animal Services Director, serve as ombudsman for animal control problems, and work to promote a public awareness of the Loudoun County Department of Animal Services. More information is available [here](#).
- **Community Criminal Justice Board:** This board enables Loudoun County to develop, establish, administer, monitor, and maintain community-based corrections programs for those who meet the eligibility criteria established under the Code of Virginia or other applicable provisions of state law. More information is available [here](#).

If you are interested in either of these positions, please complete the [application](#) and send me an e-mail at matt.letourneau@loudoun.gov to let me know you are interested.

RETAIL UPDATES

I have added a section to the newsletter that will provide information related to ongoing retail and commercial development in the Dulles South area. That seems to be the most frequently asked topic, especially updates on Avonlea.

Avonlea

Peterson Companies brought on H&R Retail to handle marketing and leasing for the project. They are seeing a lot of interest and activity for the smaller inline stores, but still need the anchor tenants to be in a position to

secure the necessary financing. They remain optimistic, but note that there is still much work to be done.

Braddock Spring

An application has been filed by Peterson Companies for the southwestern corner of the Braddock/Gum Spring Road intersection to rezone the property to develop a 98,000 square foot retail center and Special Exceptions for an automobile service station and two restaurants with drive-through facilities. This application is in the Blue Ridge District, not the Dulles District. It has still not been scheduled for a Planning Commission work session, pending resubmittal from the applicant. We will have further updates when we know more about exactly what is being proposed, lately the discussion seems to be about townhouses/condos on the property and a less intense retail use.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Workshop on Dulles Airport Noise Contour Map Update Tonight

MWAA is holding public workshops regarding the effort to update the noise contour map for Dulles Airport. These workshops provide an overview of the study, including airfield plans, existing airport operations and basic information regarding aircraft noise and noise modeling standards.

Tonight's meeting (Thursday, June 28) is being held 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at Rock Ridge High School (43460 Loudoun Reserve Drive) in Ashburn.

A [noise contour map update](#) for Dulles will help guide local land use planning in the immediate vicinity of the airport. The maps are an update to contours prepared in 1993 that serve as the basis for the Loudoun and Fairfax counties' Airport Impact Overlay Districts zoning. This helps ensure compatible land uses surrounding the airport. Public workshops include an opportunity to visit with subject matter experts involved in the effort.

Individuals are welcome to [submit](#) questions and comments during these workshops, or at any time online until the conclusion of this process in early 2019.

Transit Service Changes Effective July 2018

After a process of reviewing operational data, including rider and stakeholder feedback, Loudoun County transit staff have finalized service changes that will go into effect throughout the month of July 2018. This includes an addition to Route 88x to serve the Dulles South Park & Ride and StoneSprings Hospital. To view detailed information on the new schedules and maps, please visit www.loudoun.gov/buschanges.

Fare increases on the Premium Commuter Bus services will go into effect on July 23, 2018. Fares to/from Loudoun County to/from Rosslyn, the Pentagon, Crystal City, and Washington DC will increase \$1.00 for both SmarTrip (\$10.00) and cash fares (\$11.00).

Dulles Toll Road Rate Increases

MWAA is considering adjustments to toll rates on the Dulles Toll Road. In July, they will conduct three public hearings on a published set of proposed toll rate adjustments that could raise the cost of a full trip from \$3.50 to \$4.75.

Public meetings are being held:

- Wednesday, July 11**, 5-8 p.m. at Spring Hill Elementary School in McLean
- Tuesday, July 17**, 5-8 p.m. at South Lakes High School in Reston
- Thursday, July 19**, 5-8 p.m. at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn

Additionally, they are taking written comments on the proposed adjustments during the public hearings and on [their website](#). The public comment period will begin on July 2, 2018 and end at 11:59 p.m. on August 3, 2018. Final action on the proposed rate adjustments will be taken by the Airports Authority's Board of

Directors only after the conclusion of this public toll rate-setting process.

Loudoun County Works with Waze to Improve Traffic Information

I'm a heavy Waze user myself, so I'm particularly pleased that Loudoun County is taking steps to help reduce traffic congestion by participating in the Waze Connected Citizens Program, one of the first Virginia localities to do so. I have been pushing for better information to be made available to the public when there are incidents on our roads. There are complications based on who is responding to the call (LCSO vs State Police) and human errors about exactly where the incidents are.

Local incident data from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) is being provided directly to [Waze](#), the world's largest community-based traffic and navigation app. As a result, Waze users will have an enhanced experience in Loudoun because data are being sent directly to Waze from the county's Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, LCSO calls, and calls that are dispatched by the LCSO Dispatch Center to the Virginia State Police.

Loudoun's live feed of traffic incidents can be viewed using either the [Waze live map](#) or the Waze mobile app; incidents are shown as "Reported by LoudounCoSO." This information will provide motorists who use Waze with real-time traffic incident information that may inform their commuting routes, allowing them to circumvent road closures and traffic jams. In addition, Waze provides traffic data to the county that can be used for mapping and analysis. Loudoun's participation in the Waze program is made possible through Loudoun's Geographical Information System (GIS), which gives the county the ability to share data and web applications securely with external agencies and organizations such as Waze. To learn more about how the system works and for links to the app, view the [Waze story map](#).

Loudoun's participation in the Waze Connected Citizens Program is one of the initial capabilities available through the county's "GeoHub," a new resource for GIS information. Additional applications will be added in the coming months. More information is available at www.loudoun.gov/GeoHub.

Loudoun also offers motorists traffic-related information through the "Loudoun Traffic and Road Closures" category of [Alert Loudoun](#), which delivers messages by text and email, and the law enforcement traffic activity map at www.loudoun.gov/traffic.

Dulles South Food Pantry

The Dulles South Food Pantry provides food assistance to any person who resides in the school attendance zones for Freedom High School, John Champe High School or the upcoming Independence High School in Brambleton. The food pantry is open Wednesdays in the historic white chapel at Arcola United Methodist Church, 24757 Evergreen Mills Road, Dulles, VA 20166. Call 703-507-2795 or email info@dsfp.org to schedule an appointment. See the Dulles South Food Pantry's website at www.dsfp.org for information on how you can help the food pantry fight local hunger. Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry, Inc. are tax deductible.

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Sent by matt.letourneau@loudoun.gov in collaboration with



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