

Dulles Direct Newsletter September 2019

Welcome to the September edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter. It was great to see so many of you at the parade we hosted in South Riding for the Loudoun South Little League Southeastern Championship team (and other Loudoun South teams). We had a great turnout from the community on the parade route and at Freedom High School, where Chair Randall, Supervisor Buffington and I presented the 8-10 Virginia State Champions and 10-12 Southeastern Champions with official Board Resolutions. Many thanks to County Administration, Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Loudoun County Fire and Rescue, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Loudoun County Public Schools, Loudoun South Little League and South Riding Proprietary for making this event possible.

In This Issue

[Millstream / Stone Springs Phasing Changes](#)

[Dulles South Recreation Center Pool Staffing Issues](#)

[Cedar Crest Through Truck Restriction Request](#)

[Tall Cedars / Riding Center Drive Signal Update](#)

[Firearms Discharge / Legislative Agenda](#)

[Shellhorn Acreage Purchase](#)

[Retail & Commercial Updates](#)

[Announcements](#)



This past Thursday, I hosted a Town Hall at Mercer Middle School to discuss status updates on many transportation projects in the district. At that meeting, I announced that we have made substantial progress with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority regarding land for the proposed Route 50 northern collector road from Tall Cedars Parkway to Route 28 at the Air and Space Interchange. We also discussed plans for Northstar Boulevard, Shellhorn Road, Braddock Road, Loudoun County Parkway and many others. If you weren't able to make it, the live stream is available [here](#).

Many thanks to the Loudoun Times Mirror and the 40 Under 40 selection committee for choosing me for this honor. An event was held to recognize the recipients earlier this month and it was a very enjoyable evening.



Matthew F. Letourneau
Dulles District Supervisor
Loudoun County Board of
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I was honored to bring forward several resolutions at the September 3 Board Business Meeting. The first proclaimed September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Loudoun County. Presenting this resolution on behalf of the Board has become an annual event for me, as the fight against childhood cancer continues. Fortunately, we have many amazing groups doing work in Loudoun to eradicate childhood cancer and provide comfort and resources for families experiencing the effects of this terrible illness. Representatives from several of those groups were able to join me for the resolution, and it meant a lot to hear from the people who are daily on the front lines of this important fight.

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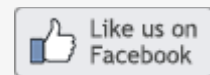
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I also brought a resolution commending my friend Mark Miller for his six-year tenure as Chairman of the Loudoun County Public Library Board of Trustees. In addition to his service to our library system, he has spent many years volunteering in the community and on various quality of life projects - including the Smashing Walnuts Foundation, founded in honor of his late daughter Gabriella. As Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, he helped oversee the opening of Gum Spring and Brambleton Libraries - both invaluable resources for Loudoun residents.



Last Wednesday I visited the Dulles South Veterinary Center to present a resolution to owner Dr. Drew Luce celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Aldie

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Veterinary Hospital. Dr. Luce has pioneered some fantastic advances in the field of animal science and vet surgery. He also served as a member Loudoun's Animal Advisory Committee. Thank you Dr. Luce for your contributions to our community!



Last week I met with the Westwind Crossing HOA to brief them on the status of the Westwind Drive extension. Westwind will be extended from Loudoun County Parkway to Ladbroke Drive, with access to Route 606. The right of way for the extension north of the Broad Run was provided to the County as part of the 1993 Loudoun Parkway Center rezoning, which created the Westwind Crossing community. That right of way has remained undeveloped to this point, and there are townhomes adjacent to it, so members of the community have concerns. The County's Traffic Demand Models show a need for this road even with the Shellhorn extension. Westwind has already received funding for design. Land acquisition is funded in FY20 and FY21, construction is funded in FY20-FY23 with a \$19.8 million state SMART SCALE Grant coming in FY22 and FY23. At this point, we expect design to begin in 2020 and construction is not likely to start until 2025. So, we are at a very early pre-design stage in this process but when we do bring a design firm onboard, we will communicate the need for

buffering and landscaping to the greatest extent possible.

Finally - as usual, I will have a table at the South Riding Business Expo on October 5. We will be set up from 1-5 PM at 42420 Unicorn Drive. I'll be speaking with constituents and answering any questions you may have. Stop by and say hello! It's a great time to connect with the community and get to know you all better.

DULLES UPDATES

Millstream / Stone Springs Phasing Changes

For a long time, I have been working alongside VDOT to facilitate phasing changes to the traffic signal at Millstream Drive and Stone Springs Boulevard. Previously, both east and west Millstream approaches would receive a green light at the same time - meaning that left turns had to yield to through traffic, creating confusion and the potential for accidents. After my own observations and feedback from many of you that utilize the intersection, we worked with VDOT to implement changes to the phasing so that the approaches receive green lights at different times; left turns no longer have to yield to oncoming traffic. The one downside to this change is that overall signal timing will be a bit longer to facilitate the additional phasing.

VDOT ultimately made the decision to go forward with these changes after sustained communication from our office. The safety record at the intersection simply wasn't good enough for VDOT to continue with the old phasing. Throughout this process, VDOT concluded that increased volume on Millstream might be due in part to commuters using the street to avoid the Tall Cedars / Stone Springs intersection. As you will see later in the newsletter, that intersection is receiving a signal. In turn, that should clear up some of the congestion on Millstream. As always, we will be monitoring these changes to ensure that they are getting the job done.

Dulles South Recreation Center Pool Staffing Issues

If you're a patron of the pools at the Dulles South Rec Center, you have noticed continuing closures of the leisure pool. As I have mentioned, that's unfortunately due to a massive shortage of lifeguards. And it's not just us - this shortage has been affecting the entire DMV region. I have been extremely disappointed that this facility has not been available as much as it should be, given the investment we made to get it constructed. I continue to talk to PRCS leadership several times a week about this issue. I should mention that the Dulles South location is not the only pool impacted; we are also having issues at the Round Hill and Claude Moore facilities.

PRCS has worked on a short term contract for staffing that has allowed us to provide some coverage. They have also been working to hire and train lifeguards, increase lifeguard pay to make the positions more attractive, and convert some of these positions from part time to full time in order to cover more pool hours. Recreation center passholders will be given an extension on their current passes to help make up for some of the closures. Hopefully this situation will continue to improve.

Cedar Crest Through Truck Restriction Request

After several years of discussions with VDOT, we are able to move forward with a through truck restriction in the Cedar Crest community. We were held up due to some disagreements with Prince William County. The Board of Supervisors will be holding a public hearing on October 10 to consider a request for VDOT to implement a through truck restriction on roads in the southern portion of our area. The restriction would apply on Cedar Ridge Boulevard between Gum Spring Road and Bull Run Post Office Road, Bull Run Post Office Road from Cedar Ridge Boulevard to Braddock Road, and Ticonderoga Road from Gum Spring Road to Braddock Road. If approved at the hearing, the Board would make a request to VDOT for these restrictions and VDOT would in turn complete their process before eventually taking it before the

Commonwealth Transportation Board for consideration. The hearing will begin at 6 PM at the County Government Center (1 Harrison Street, SE) in Leesburg.

Tall Cedars / Riding Center Drive Signal Update

Work is progressing on the traffic signal at the Tall Cedars and Riding Center Drive intersection. This signal was proffered by Toll Brothers and is being constructed by their contractor. The steel poles and mast arms arrived in late August and have now been installed. Restriping work is underway currently with new turn lanes being created as well as the installation of crosswalks at the intersection. The barrels on those lanes will be removed once the signal is active.

Following restriping, a VDOT inspection process will begin and the signal will be activated in flashing mode before being placed into service. The contractor estimates that we are approximately three weeks out from full activation.

Tall Cedars / Stone Springs Signal Update

All geotechnical survey data has been received and the County's consultant is in the process of preparing design plans for the signal pole foundations. This design will be submitted to VDOT for review and approval. The survey found rock at all four corners that will require some slightly different foundation methods than what is typically done.

We are working with VDOT on the installation of flashing beacon lights as an interim measure while we work to get the signal installed. VDOT's contractor is expected to complete this by mid-October.

There is some right of way needed at the intersection and plats are being prepared to secure that from the Stone Ridge HOA. At this point, we are looking at beginning construction in 2020.

LOUDOUN UPDATES

Firearms Discharge / Legislative Agenda

Loudoun's approach to firearms discharge is back in the spotlight after another instance of stray gunfire from target practice, this time in western Loudoun. A woman was grazed by a bullet but fortunately was not seriously injured. In this particular instance, the Sheriff's Office has made an arrest for reckless discharge. In other instances, arrests were not made due to the inability to prove who fired the weapon.

The Board of Supervisors discussed several changes to the existing ordinance and referred the matter to the Transportation and Land Use Committee for discussion. I am not a member of that committee, though I did attend one of their meetings on the subject. At the most recent meeting of TLUC, staff recommended that Section 684 of the codified ordinance be updated to read that bullets will not be allowed to leave the property on which they have been shot. In some of the instances in which buildings have been struck, the structures were 700 yards away from where the shooting was occurring. TLUC decided to send language to the Board that would require shooters at ranges to use a backstop to ensure that projectiles do not leave the area. I have not yet fully reviewed the Committee actions, which were forwarded to the Board's November 7 Business Meeting, but I certainly will. I am encouraged that the Committee did take some action and allow this matter to come to the Board.

The Board of Supervisors also considered a proposal for our legislative agenda that would endorse a particular approach to a "red flag" gun law - a law in which either a gun is removed from an individual or an individual is placed into custody if they are believed to be a threat. Seventeen states have passed these types of laws with several more under consideration.

This type of approach may make sense, and if properly constructed, could give law enforcement an important tool to deal with immediate threats to physical safety. However, there are big differences in how the

outcome is achieved, and there are several competing bills in the Virginia General Assembly that go about it very differently. All of those bills have been referred to the Virginia Crime Commission for analysis and recommendations. The Crime Commission is a bipartisan group of legislators and experts, and their report is due back in November.

The particular approach that was proposed for the Board's endorsement raised questions and concerns from Loudoun County staff and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office about implementation. The questions raised were legitimate and require more investigation. Therefore, I joined the Board's majority in voting to defer this item until 1) the Crime Commission analysis is complete, 2) an analysis of all bills on this subject is done by County staff, and 3) the Board receives information about the specific proposals that other states have crafted and how they have been implemented. I wish this vote had been unanimous, but it was a 6-3 vote. It would be irresponsible for the Board to authorize our lobbyists to begin lobbying for a bill that our own staff has implementation concerns about, and without having the full spectrum of information. The Board's legislative agenda is actively discussed all the way through the session, so there's no rush or time crunch for us to endorse a particular bill at this moment.

Shellhorn Acreage Purchase

Early in September, the Board of Supervisors gave formal approval to a series of right-of-way acquisitions that will allow us to build Shellhorn Road. You may remember from past correspondences that Shellhorn will act as a major east-west alternative to the Dulles Greenway. This right-of-way purchase will also allow us to complete our planned road network around the new Silver Line Metro stations coming to the County. Thanks to the proffers we negotiated with the Silver District West developers, the first phase of construction will see Shellhorn built and a new bridge across the Greenway. The Board authorized the purchase of 24.9

acres from Sentinel Data Centers at a cost of \$17.7 million.

RETAIL & COMMERCIAL UPDATES

South Riding Food Lion Closing

I have heard reports that the Food Lion in South Riding will be closing in about three weeks' time. Food Lion was one of the first retail locations in South Riding back when the community was established, and I know that many longtime customers will miss it for its convenience and friendly workers. I immediately notified our Department of Economic Development and they have had conversations with the brokers that will be working on the property. The indication is that this closure was part of a larger strategy calibration for Food Lion, as it retreats from the highly competitive Washington DC market. I know that this news has sparked immediate interest from the public about what might replace it. One name that has been mentioned to me dozens of times already is Trader Joe's. There are no indications that Trader Joe's is interested in a second Loudoun location at this time, and years of planning go into their decisions. However, we will actively pursue that tenant and others in concert with the broker. I also want to mention that the County has [resources](#) for workers that will be displaced as a result of the shutdown.

Avonlea

I am in regular communication with Peterson Companies on their work to revise the plans for the Avonlea project. There is some news. Based on recent conversations, they expect to be submitting a site plan to the County by the end of the year for a section of retail / entertainment development that would be adjacent to the existing Market Square shopping and dining area, behind the Home Depot. In fact, there is an interim update meeting with planning staff and the Company this week. This piece of development would not require a full rezoning.

Our understanding of the overall new plan is that there is a new application that would result in 650,000 square feet of non-residential development (including a hotel, continuing care facility, office, and automotive service) and up to 450 residential units on the total 78 acre property, including both the new section and the existing Avonlea parcel. A movie theater is still shown on the property and would be in the area adjacent to Market Square that does not require a rezoning. These items have not been formally submitted yet and are subject to change, so I have not engaged in specific discussion about each of these components other than high level briefings that Peterson has given me. The pieces that need a rezoning will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors after referrals to County agencies - with opportunity for public input at each step of the process.

East Gate

Zaxby's opened earlier this month and has proven to be quite popular so far. King Spa is slowly progressing with predominately interior work underway. They are planning for a 2020 opening. The hotel ownership has advised that they expect to close on their construction financing by the end of this year. In the meantime, they have been refreshing their permits and preparing for placement of a construction trailer after closing takes place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Absentee Voting

An election will be held on November 5th at all normal voting precincts to elect many different state and local positions, including State Senate, Delegate, Board of Supervisors, and many others. You may confirm your voting location [here](#).

Absentee balloting for the November 5, 2019 General Election has already begun. In-person absentee voting will be available at:

- Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration, 750 Miller Drive SE, Suite C in Leesburg.
 - September 20 through October 25, 2019, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 - October 28 through November 1, 2019, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.,
 - Saturday, October 26, and Saturday, November 2, 2019, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Several years ago, I worked to add an in-person absentee location close to us locally:

- Dulles South Recreation & Community Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding
 - October 28 through November 1, 2019, Monday through Friday, 4:00-8:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, October 26, and Saturday, November 2, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

More information about the upcoming election, including sample ballots, may be found at loudoun.gov/NovemberElection.

Inova Blood Pressure Screening

Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Health Services will be providing a free blood pressure screening on Tuesday, October 1 at the Dulles South Recreation & Community Center (24950 Riding Center Drive in South Riding). The screening will run from 9 AM to noon. For more information call the Mobile Health hotline at 703-858-8801 or visit [their website](#).

2020 Census Jobs Recruitment Sessions

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center is hosting a series of information sessions with the U.S. Census Bureau in October to recruit for and fill U.S. census enumerator positions.

Hundreds of U.S. census enumerator positions are needed in local Loudoun neighborhoods from early spring through the summer of 2020. These positions will be part-time and flexible and have a starting pay of \$25 per hour. Paid training for U.S. census enumerators is also provided.

Attend one of the information sessions at the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center throughout October to meet with U.S. Census Bureau staff and get employment application assistance. Three sessions will be offered on each of the following days: October 4, 11, 16, 25 and 31, 2019. Each session will last from 45 minutes to an hour and 15 minutes. [Click](#) to register for a session.

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center is located in the Shenandoah Building at 102 Heritage Way NE in Leesburg. For more information, contact the center at 703-777-0150 or go [here](#).

Lunsford Middle School Veterans Day Program

Drew Sansonetti, a teacher at Lunsford Middle School, is working with students to develop a Veterans Day program for later this year. To thank veterans for their service and sacrifice, the school's leadership is inviting veterans to Lunsford to talk to students about their military service. The veterans will also serve as judges in a patriotic poster competition that the students put on. The event will run from 8:40 - 10 AM on Veterans Day, which is Monday, November 11 this year. Lunsford is looking for 105 veterans or current Armed Forces members to attend the event. For more information, please reach out to Mr. Sansonetti directly at drew.sansonetti@lcps.org or 412-480-9929.

Friends of the Gum Spring Library Fall Social

Join Friends of The Gum Spring Library (FROGS) for an evening of fun featuring live music, savory bites, local beer and a silent auction on Saturday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds benefit Gum Spring Library. For more information and to

purchase tickets, visit
www.friendsofthegumspringlibrary.org.

Dulles South Food Pantry

The Dulles South Food Pantry provides food assistance up to twice a month to any person who resides in the school attendance zones for Freedom High School, John Champe High School, Independence High School, Rock Ridge High School and Briar Woods High School. The Pantry also provides one-time emergency food assistance to anyone in need. 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 <http://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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