

## Dulles Direct Newsletter November 2019

Welcome to the November edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter. I wish you all a happy and safe Thanksgiving with friends and family.

We have a lot to be thankful for this year. On a personal note, I'd like to thank the voters of the Dulles District for electing me to continue to represent you on the Board of Supervisors. One of the great things about running a campaign is the opportunity to get out and visit with so many constituents. I think the election results showed that we are on the right track with our priorities, and we're also working on some of the things I heard from constituents in the many neighborhoods I visited.

A campaign like this one does bring a lot of stress and strain on family and time. One thing that was different for me this year was that my older children were able to participate more fully, and I really enjoyed having them with me on the campaign trail. I am also incredibly thankful for the support from my wife Margaret, who not only managed to keep our family together and on track but also picked up a lot of the administrative work of the campaign. And finally, I want to thank Tom Parker and Jared Midwood in my

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Board office who have worked hard on behalf of all of you. They make me look good on a regular basis.

There will be significant turnover on the Board of Supervisors, with four new members and a new majority party. The work that we do is largely non-partisan and that's how I have always approached my role on the Board, so I don't anticipate big changes. There may be times when I don't agree with the majority, particularly if there is a desire to extend the scope and focus of the Board's work beyond the many Loudoun issues and into national politics. If that happens I'll speak up. But I have good working relationships and personal friendships with all of my returning colleagues, and I'm looking forward to getting to know my new ones.

Beyond my personal thanks, we also have a lot to be thankful for in our community. The latest statistics which came out last month from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments show that Loudoun is once again the safest jurisdiction in Northern Virginia, with significantly less Part I violent crimes than neighboring counties. Our law enforcement does a wonderful job, and we have committed ample resources to keeping our residents safe. Smaller crimes like burglary are also down significantly, thanks in part to LCSO's #9PMRoutine, which reminded residents to secure their belongings before heading to bed.

We also continue to see record investments in Loudoun County, with thousands of jobs created and less tax burden on homeowners. We have the Silver Line to look forward to, hopefully in the next 12-18 months, and we have some really exciting projects on the horizon to improve our transportation infrastructure and give us additional amenities. It can be easy sometimes to focus on what we don't have - yes, like a movie theater (still working on it!), but I hope that we can also take time to reflect on the overall high standard of living, good schools, and great people from many different backgrounds that we have here in the Dulles District.



**Matthew F. Letourneau**  
Dulles District Supervisor  
Loudoun County Board of  
Supervisors

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**Contact Me**

**Mailing Address:**

Speaking of being thankful, I don't want to miss the chance to recognize our veterans and active duty military who live and work in our community. Many of our schools had very nice Veterans Day ceremonies to recognize their service. Since we are so close to our nation's military hub we have a particularly large population of members of the armed forces, and I salute you all for your service and sacrifices.

Finally, I am planning a Town Hall meeting for December, date and location to be determined. I anticipate discussing the Tall Cedars / Nations intersection in detail (more on that in the next item) and other issues.

## DULLES UPDATES

### Tall Cedars / Nations Intersection

The intersection of Tall Cedars and Nations Street has become an increasing problem. The County previously recognized this, and it was included in our Intersection Improvement Program for unsignalized intersections.

The traffic studies completed as part of the Intersection Improvement Program found that it ranked high for accidents in the County, and the frequency of accidents has accelerated since that last study (I have reviewed updated data provided by LCSO). The study also concluded that warrants are not met for a traffic signal. Specifically, there isn't enough volume on Nations Street. It is also fairly close to two other signalized intersections, which is also a factor. For a low volume intersection, the crash statistics are really concerning however.

Since we are lacking a signal warrant, the County's consultant has been working with VDOT on a proposal to restrict left turns from Nations onto Tall Cedars and block Nations traffic from crossing at the intersection - similar to Center Street / Loudoun County Parkway and Tall Cedars / Elk Lick. We will need to hear feedback from those of you that utilize the intersection and / or live close by before moving forward with this

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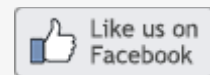
#### Legislative Aide:

[Tom Parker](#)

#### Staff Aide:

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or any similar proposal. Keep an eye out for information on my next Dulles Direct Town Hall Meeting, where I plan to have staff discuss the issues and the proposal that is being developed.

One thing we must figure out is timeline and whether this warrants acceleration. Currently, the Intersection Improvement Program begins receiving funding in FY22. Given the timeline that these would normally take, that would mean it wouldn't be completed until FY24. However with an increasing level of accidents, I am concerned that this won't be soon enough for a fix to come. On the other side of the coin, I also know that our capital budget is really constrained due to cost escalations on current projects, so this is going to be a challenge. Once we have the details scoped out and I have a cost estimate, I will do my best to get money to implement changes sooner.

#### **Tall Cedars / Stone Springs Signal Update**

I am in regular contact with project management to ensure that work on this intersection continues moving towards completion. On November 12, the construction project was posted on the procurement website for advertisement. We expect bids to start coming in soon, and procurement staff will be evaluating them in preparation for contract award. Foundation designs were submitted to VDOT this week for review.

#### **Eminent Domain for Final Piece of Belmont Ridge Widening Project**

If you've been paying attention to the widening of Belmont Ridge Road, you'll know it has been split into several smaller pieces and that the total project is almost complete. All we have left now is the section from Truro Parish Drive to Croson Lane. The problem we have encountered for the last several years is that we need a small amount of private right of way to complete the project. The contractor and our Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure could not reach a reasonable agreement with a few holdout property owners. One of the biggest

[Loudoun County Traffic Incident Map](#)

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[Loudoun Express Request \(LEx\) Citizen Request System](#)

[Loudoun County Government Master Calendar](#)

problems is that these landowners have simply been non-responsive to the County's offers.

At our November 13 Public Hearing, the Board approved the use of eminent domain to secure the rest of the needed right of way to complete the widening. In this case, the only property required is strip land by the road, some of which belongs to the utility and construction companies. There are no impacted homes.

Having the entirety of Belmont Ridge widened has been a long time coming, and I'm excited to see it finally complete. Right of way acquisition and utility relocation work are expected to continue until next summer and construction is expected to begin in 2021.

### **Whitman South**

I have been talking about the Whitman South commercial application over the last few months. I wanted to give a brief overview since it was on our agenda at the November Public Hearing. The property is located at the southeast quadrant of Braddock and Gum Spring, west of Paul VI High School. At the Public Hearing, the Board voted unanimously to approve the zoning modifications, allowing an increase in project size to 57,000 square feet as well as an automotive service station and a small drive through restaurant (the item also reduced required buffer yard plantings adjacent to Braddock Road and reduced parking and building setbacks along Gum Spring Road). There was quite a bit of involvement from the Dulles Farms HOA in this case and I appreciate their work to help bring forward a better product from the applicant. This application ultimately did not change the basic plan or character of this property; it was already approved for a commercial site. The application does allow for some flexibility for end users that Van Metre has tentative agreements with in order to actually bring it to fruition. We did spend a lot of time looking at the traffic flow in and out of this project and staff ultimately had no concerns given the improvements underway at the intersection and the way the project has been aligned.

## **LOUDOUN UPDATES**

### **Segra Field / Washington Spirit**

Now that Loudoun United have concluded their inaugural season at Segra Field (and ended on a very high note, I might add!), we are looking ahead to the future of the complex and what we can do to utilize the facilities in addition to playing Loudoun United games there. For many months, I have been engaged in further discussions with DC United about bringing the Washington Spirit into the fold, who play in the National Women's Soccer League - the world's top women's soccer league. I am excited to announce that the DC United complex at Bolen Park will be the team's home for all their training. The Spirit will also be playing nine games at Segra Field there over the next couple seasons. Having these high skilled players - including some of the stars from the Women's World Cup Championship team - at Segra Field will be a great opportunity for the community and for this project. The Board is working on modifications to our agreement with DC United to reflect the need for increased training space and some site issues that were uncovered once the project was underway; those will be coming to a future Board meeting for discussion.

### **Firearms Discharge Update**

On our November 7 Business Meeting agenda, the Board moved forward a proposal to address repeated incidents with firearms discharge during target shooting. The Transportation and Land Use Committee had discussed updating our County ordinance to include language on backstop requirements when target shooting. As you'll recall, the difficulty in the past has been in the ability of law enforcement to prosecute an individual or individuals when stray gunfire strikes property or people (we have had more than ten of these incidents recently). This item has gotten caught up in the politics of the overall gun issues, but it really relates to public safety and private property rights as well.

At the December 11 Public Hearing, the Board will be discussing language that right now reads: "The discharge of firearms for recreational or target shooting purposes shall be conducted in such a manner as to ensure that projectiles do not leave the boundaries of the property or parcel upon which the shooting is occurring, unless permission to do so has been granted by the adjacent landowner. A projectile leaving the boundaries of the property or parcel shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section." The Board did leave open further changes pending additional discussions with the Commonwealth Attorney and staff. We want to make sure the language we pass actually can be prosecuted. The advantage of this approach is that prosecutors would not have to prove exactly who fired which bullet; simply firing a weapon at all without an adequate backstop would be sufficient and that's a lot easier to prove. Hopefully we can get this resolved soon.

### **Loudoun Made / Loudoun Grown Initiative**

Economic Development is sponsoring an initiative to promote the success of products and goods that are grown and made right here in Loudoun. The program highlights locally sourced food items such as farm-raised meats, local dairy cheeses, baked goods, local wine, beer, cider, and more. It also highlights goods made from local wool and fleece, horticultural products, and artwork produced by Loudoun artists. Participants in the program receive promotion from DED, but the important job is up to you as consumers to support these locally created goods. With the holidays coming up, now is a good time to look out for these products. More information is available [here](#) and you can easily find them by looking for the logo below:





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### VDOT Snow Update

Experts aren't expecting this winter to be particularly severe, but VDOT will be ready to alleviate issues caused by snowfall just in case. They hosted their annual winter weather briefing on November 15. VDOT's fleet of snow removal equipment clocks in at 3,500 pieces this year. They are responsible for clearing 14,000 miles of road, and have a \$53.4 million budget to do so. VDOT is encouraging folks not to drive if it is snowing, and to be safe in the case of a winter weather event. If we do get snow, VDOT's goal is to have one passable lane on every road within 24 hours when snowfall is 2-4" and within 48 hours for 4-6". Over 6" is expected to take at least 72 hours. If you feel that your street is missed after these time frames have passed, you can use the resources below to get more information on plowing status and/or report your issue directly to VDOT:



- [http://www.virginiadot.org/about/emer\\_response.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/about/emer_response.asp) for news releases, important messages, frequently asked questions and links to many other resources, including:  
- [@VaDOTNOVA](#) on Twitter - [www.511virginia.org](http://www.511virginia.org) for road conditions and traffic cameras - [www.vdotplows.org](http://www.vdotplows.org) for neighborhood status and locations of plows - <http://www.virginiadot.org> or 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623) to report issues

### **Loudoun Workforce Resource Center Job Fair**

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center will host its second Loudoun job fair this fall on Friday, December 6, from 10 AM - 1 PM at the Shenandoah Office Building (102 Heritage Way NE in Leesburg, second floor). The fair will feature local employers with full time, part time, and seasonal openings. It's a great way to get connected with work in the area. For more information, please visit <http://loudoun.gov/wrc>.

### **Dulles South Recreation Center Membership Discount**

The Dulles South Recreation Center is offering a 15% discount on all six month and annual membership packages. The offer is good from November 29 - January 11, so it makes a great gift for the holidays. For more information, please call the Rec Center at 571-258-3456 or visit them online [here](#).

### **Youth Mental Health First Aid Class**

Loudoun will be hosting Mental Health First Aid classes, where attendants can learn risk factors and warning signs and learn how to develop a plan of action for dealing with individuals with mental health issues. All the classes will be at the Aspen Room (906 Trailview Boulevard SE in Leesburg).

December 5 & 6, 9 AM - 1 PM (for adults who interact with youth)

December 11 & 12, 9 AM - 1:30 PM (for adults)

For more information and to register for courses, click [here](#).

### **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](mailto: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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