

Dulles Direct Newsletter October 2019

Welcome to the October edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter! Fall is here and since we're in Virginia, that means elections are right around the corner. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th, and you'll be voting for candidates for State Senate, House of Delegates, the Board of Supervisors and other County offices. You can confirm your polling place [here](#). There are also four bond referendum questions on the ballot this year, and I've included an explanation of them below. There's also information on how to vote absentee if you don't think you'll make it to the polls on election day.

I've enjoyed the opportunity this month to speak with some young people about civic engagement and my role on the Board of Supervisors. In the past few weeks, I have visited with groups from the Young Men's Service League and a local Cub Scout Pack to discuss the importance of being engaged in government and the community. It's always great to have a conversation on these critical issues with the leaders of tomorrow.

At the October 17 Board Business Meeting, I was proud to present a resolution commending Indian Americans for their contributions to our communities and to wish them a festive and happy Diwali season. I

In This Issue

[Arcola Boulevard Update](#)

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

[Tall Cedars / Stone Springs Signal Update](#)

[Intelligent Transportation System](#)

[Bond Referendums](#)

[FY21 Preliminary Budget Guidance / Employee Pay Update](#)

[Announcements](#)

first introduced this resolution 8 years ago and have done so ever since in recognition of the large Indian American population we have here in southern Loudoun County. I was also honored to attend BAPS and the Vedic Temple this past weekend to take part in their celebrations.



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

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Operations and Economic
Development Committee](#)

Chairman
[Northern Virginia
Transportation
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Member
[Rt. 28 Transportation
Improvement District
Commission](#)

Member
[Region Forward Coalition](#)

Contact Me

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Little River Elementary School in South Riding recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. I presented the Little River community with a Board of Supervisors Resolution recognizing this important milestone and LRES' status as the first elementary school in the Dulles area. Little River has played an important function not just during the school day, but as a community gathering place. Just in my time on the Board, I remember holding important public meetings about power lines and the Braddock-Pleasant Valley roundabout in the Little River gym. My oldest son played his first rec league basketball game there as well, and one of the original teachers, Paul Pack, is now the principal at Liberty Elementary and was recognized as the Washington Post Principal of the Year. In the 20 years since its opening, the school has served over 10,000 families and over 16,000 students. It is great to see our schools thriving and maintaining high standards of academic excellence. Congratulations Little River!

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I enjoyed speaking to the Dulles Rotary Club this month. I was able to share many transportation updates that the Board has been working on and an update on our plans for Metro area development. Patrons at the breakfast were especially interested to hear about my plans for the Route 50 Northern Collector Road and Shellhorn, which will serve as a major alternative to the Dulles Greenway.

[Loudoun County Traffic Incident Map](#)

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Finally, I attended the South Riding Business Expo and the Dulles Farms Fall Festival. I always enjoy visiting with residents in a more casual setting, and both HOAs do a great job bringing the community together.

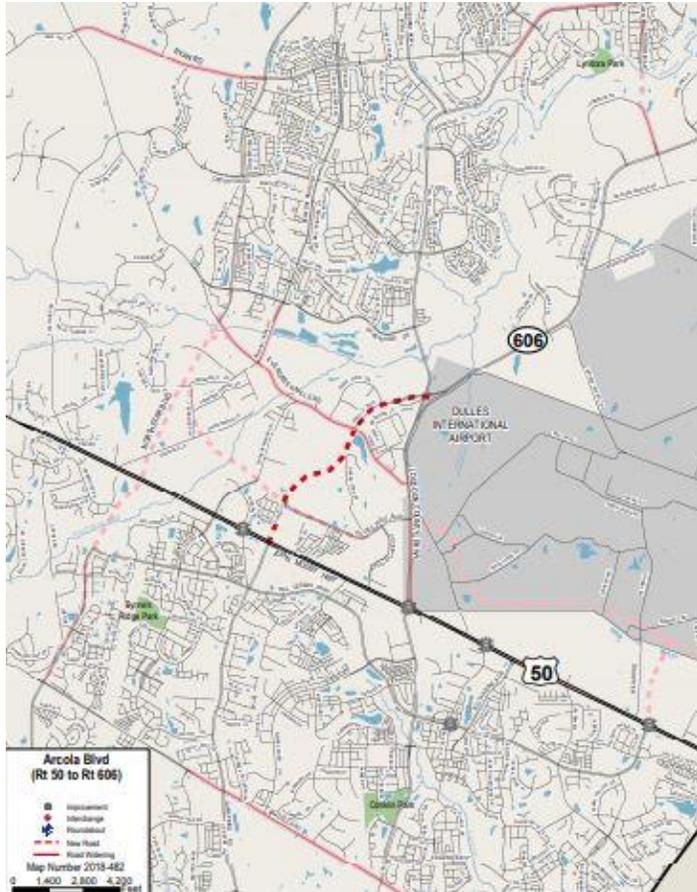
DULLES UPDATES

Arcola Boulevard Update

If you use Gum Spring Road to access Route 50, you have likely noticed that the relocated gas station recently opened on the north side of the intersection. The station was moved through a proffer with Van Metre to make room for the future Arcola Boulevard.

Arcola Boulevard is planned as a four lane roadway to connect from Route 50 across Evergreen Mills Road to the existing intersection of Loudoun County Parkway

and 606. This is being constructed in phases and is proffered by the developer of Arcola Center.



Construction has already begun on the portion between Route 50 and Evergreen Mills Road. The site work is visible from the Evergreen Mills Road side. Closer to Route 50, the process of turning the land over to the County for construction is underway. Arcola Center has told us that they expect to have this portion completed by mid-2021. Running on the same timeline is the completion of the Dulles West Boulevard connection to Arcola Boulevard.

The portion of Arcola Boulevard between Evergreen Mills Road and the Loudoun County Parkway/Route 606 intersection is not expected to be triggered until later in the Arcola Center development timeline. The County is currently pursuing an agreement with the

developer to see if we can construct it in advance while crews are already mobilized. I don't have an exact date on the timeline for that portion yet and discussions with Arcola Center are still ongoing, but I will update you after an agreement has been reached.

Tall Cedars / Riding Center Signal Update

As you know by now, the signal at Riding Center Drive and Tall Cedars Parkway is finally fully operational! As always, we will be monitoring the intersection changes for safety and smoothness of operation. I want to address why it took so long for the final stages to be completed, and some of the outstanding work that will be done in the future.

You may have noticed that the project seemed to stall out for a couple weeks mid-October. This delay was due to the uneven pavement grooves caused by removing existing striping and new restriping work - resulting in the need for milling and paving at the entire intersection. Milling and paving is almost always done prior to signal operation, but the timelines I received from VDOT and Toll Brothers under that scenario were not optimal to say the least. Fortunately, I was able to work with the Loudoun VDOT liaison to adjust the project schedule and move forward with operating the signal with the existing pavement configuration.

Going forward, the pavement will have some grooves in it until it is repaved - likely in mid-November. I have a feeling that people will find this a small price to pay for having a working signal at the intersection. I appreciate Toll Brothers' willingness to work with us here since they will essentially have to restripe twice and it will cost them more money in the end.

As always, please exercise caution when driving through the Tall Cedars / Riding Center area - it will take some time for people to get used to the new signal. Thanks for your patience during this long and difficult process. On the bright side, the County has made some progress with VDOT about changes to policies and

procedures for future traffic signals. It will be too late to help us with active projects, but given Loudoun's growth, we will be dealing with these kinds of issues for a long time. Hopefully I will be able to share more specifics in the future.

Tall Cedars / Stone Springs Signal Update

I also want to provide an update on this much needed intersection improvement. As you may have noticed, VDOT has installed interim flashing beacons to serve as an extra awareness tool to drivers that may not notice the signs at certain times of day (especially at night). Foundation design of the signal is still underway. There are some adjustments being made to account for rock and the water main proximity on one of the intersection's corners. The next major milestone is advertisement for bidding on signal construction, which is expected to be posted November 15. I'm still hoping to have the signal fully operational by next summer if not sooner.

Intelligent Transportation System

At our October 2 Business Meeting, the Board approved \$1.05 million for the implementation of an "Intelligent Transportation System" for Route 50 and a section of Loudoun County Parkway. ITS is a display and information system intended to allow for better traffic management. The County is purchasing the ITS system that was used on I-66 prior to tolling. ITS involves display boards with information for drivers, as well as cameras and sensors in the system that allow for monitoring traffic and making adjustments from VDOT. ITS is one of those interim improvements that will be helpful as we work on the larger goal - building the Route 50 Northern Collector Road bypass. ITS will allow real time data to flow to VDOT, who can in turn make changes at signalized intersections and respond quicker to crashes. It'll also allow for more efficient integration with programs like Waze. I'll keep you up to speed when VDOT decides where it will be putting the signs. This project will be the first of its kind on a non-interstate highway, which speaks to the significance of Route 50 and the challenges we are

having on traffic there. I realize it won't solve our bigger problems, but I'm pushing for everything I think will help. I'm particularly interested in greater engagement with VDOT on real time traffic management such as signal adjustments.

Cedar Ridge Through Truck Restriction

At our October 10 Public Hearing, the Board voted unanimously to request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board evaluate restricting or prohibiting through truck traffic on sections of Cedar Ridge Boulevard, Bull Run Post Office Road, and Ticonderoga Road. The exact delineations are as follows: the restriction would apply on Cedar Ridge Boulevard from Gum Spring Road to 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. I sometimes get requests to restrict through truck traffic on certain roads, and VDOT has very specific criteria for where this is appropriate and requirements for the identification of an alternate route. I will make you aware of the outcome of the CTB's deliberations, and any updates that come from VDOT in the meantime.

LOUDOUN UPDATES

Bond Referendums

On November 5, there will be four bond referendum questions on the ballot related to using a total of \$215 million to fund certain projects. The Board of Supervisors has placed these questions on the ballot with unanimous support. When it comes to bond questions, I say the same thing every year. You are voting solely on the method of financing, not whether or not we should undertake the projects themselves. The Board of Supervisors and School Board have decided the projects are necessary, fit within our capital budget, and will be constructing them sometime in the future. If the bond referendum fails, we would have to consider whether or not to move forward with these items using an alternative financing with higher interest

rates, costing more money. I strongly encourage you to support the ballot questions.

As it relates to the Dulles District, I want to call specific attention to a few items. The school bond question is related to using funds to build MS-14, the Dulles North Middle School, which will provide relief at both Brambleton Middle School and Stone Hill. The transportation question includes building a roundabout at the Route 50 and Trailhead intersection and funding construction of Westwind Drive. Route 50/Trailhead has been studied for some time and a roundabout has been determined to be the best option. Westwind is a connection between Loudoun County Parkway and Route 606 for which the County has received \$19 million in state funding; the bond will cover the rest.

The other questions don't specifically impact the Dulles District, but they are important projects for our fellow citizens. The Fire & Rescue Recruit Training Center will enable us to meet the needs of our growing department, and the new fire station will be strategically located in an area that needs improved service. On the parks side, the County has been planning these projects for some time, which is also the case for the road projects listed.

Here is the specific language of the four referendum questions:

Schools: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$93,940,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs to design, construct, and equip Middle School Classroom Additions; the costs to design, construct, and equip MS-14 Dulles North Middle School; and the costs of other public school facilities as requested by the Loudoun County School Board?

Public Safety: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$22,870,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs

to design, construct, and equip a Fire and Rescue Recruit Training Facility; the costs to design, construct, and equip Leesburg South Fire Station Renovations; and the costs of other public safety facilities approved in the County's Capital Improvement Program?

Parks and Recreation: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$41,795,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs to design, construct, and equip Fields Farm Park; the costs to design, construct, and equip Lovettsville District Park Phase II; the costs to design, construct, and equip Philip A. Bolen Park Phase II; the costs to design, construct, and equip Scott Jenkins Park Phase III; and the costs of other public park, recreational and community center facilities projects approved in the County's Capital Improvement Program?

Transportation: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$56,885,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs to design and construct an interchange at Route 7 and Hillsboro Road; the costs to design and construct a roundabout at Route 50 and Trailhead Boulevard; the costs to design and construct improvements to Westwind Drive; the costs to design and construct a Sterling Boulevard and W&OD Overpass; the costs to design and construct Route 7 Pedestrian Crossings; and the costs of other public road and transportation projects approved in the County's Capital Improvement Program?

FY21 Preliminary Budget Guidance / Employee Pay Update

Each year the Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee (which I chair) and the full Board of Supervisors gives preliminary budget guidance to our County Administrator, Tim Hemstreet. It's hard to believe we are already discussing next year's budget, but it's a long process and it's important

to get this preliminary work done before the holidays. It ensures that the Department of Management and Budget will have policy parameters to work with for next year. County staff provided revenue and expenditure estimates for FY21, and that's reflected in the budget guidelines. The Board directed the County Administrator this year to prepare the FY21 Proposed Budget at the equalized real property tax rate (estimated at \$1.02/\$100 of assessed value) and provide options to either increase to the current real property tax rate (\$1.045/\$100 of assessed value) or decrease the rate by two cents below the equalized real property tax rate (\$1.00/\$100 of assessed value). I proposed that approach because it gives the Board flexibility to add or subtract things depending on our exact revenue picture. I'll continue providing updates as the FY21 budget process moves along. The budget guidance parameters will be updated again in January after the new members of the Board of Supervisors take office.

We continue to work on implementing our new Classification and Compensation system for County employees. When we first began work on this we found that employees were paid about 86% of what comparable positions were making in other jurisdictions. With increases provided over the last two budget years, that amount is now closer to 95%. As I have written before in this newsletter, turnover of County staff due to under-compensation was too high in Loudoun. It's a competitive field, especially for highly technical positions, and to attract the best individuals for the job we must pay a wage that reflects or exceeds that paid by surrounding jurisdictions. Employees will be placed in new categories and pay bands will be adjusted to ensure market competitiveness with our peers. This new piece of the puzzle will bring the most systematic and comprehensive advances - including a substantial boost for our first responders. The final report on employee classification and compensation is expected in March. The Finance Committee has been working to ensure that the quality of service from County staff remains high as a result of proper compensation. Being

competitive with the jurisdictions around us is an important milestone for Loudoun.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Absentee Voting

As I mentioned before, 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.

Absentee balloting for the November 5, 2019 General Election has already begun.

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
- Cascades Senior Center, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling
 - Wednesday, October 30-Friday, November 1, 2019, 4:00-8:00 PM
 - Saturday, November 2, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
- Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration, 750 Miller Drive SE, Suite C in Leesburg
 - Wednesday, October 30-Friday, November 1, 2019, 8:30 AM-8:00 PM,
 - Saturday, November 2, 2019, 8:30 AM-5:00 PM

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

2020 Census Jobs Recruitment Sessions

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center is hosting a series of information sessions with the U.S. Census

Bureau in November 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. Multiple sessions will be offered on each of the following days: November 1, 5, and 16, 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](#).

Inova Loudoun Blood Pressure Screenings

Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Health Services will provide blood pressure screenings at the Dulles South Multipurpose Center (24950 Riding Center Drive in South Riding) on Tuesday, November 5 from 9 AM to noon. For more information, visit Inova's [website](#).

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.

Loudoun Nonprofit Grant Funding Application

Loudoun County's grant application process for human service nonprofit organizations kicks off Wednesday, November 13, 2019, with the posting of the FY21 Human Service Nonprofit Grant Application at loudoun.gov/NonProfitGrants. Tax-exempt, private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations that provide human services to Loudoun County residents in the areas of need identified and approved by the Board of Supervisors for FY21 are eligible to apply for grants. The areas of need are:

- Prevention and Self-Sufficiency
- Crisis Intervention and Diversion
- Long-Term Support
- Improved Quality of Human Services

Prospective applicants are encouraged to attend one of two separate workshops about the application process scheduled for Friday, November 15, 2019, at Cascades Library and Rust Library. Details about the workshops and more information about the grant program may be found at loudoun.gov/NonProfitGrants.

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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