



Town of Leesburg

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING ZONE ON THE 400 BLOCK OF BELMONT DRIVE S.W.

The Town Manager will hold a public hearing during the Town Council Meeting in the Council Chambers, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia on **TUESDAY, April 22, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.** on a Proposed Residential Permit Parking Zone designation on the 400 block of Belmont Drive S.W.

Additional information concerning this Proposed Residential Permit Parking Zone is available by contacting Calvin K. Grow, P.E., Transportation Engineer at 703-771-2791 or email at cgrow@leesburgva.gov.

At this hearing, all persons desiring to express their views regarding this matter will be heard. Person requiring special accommodations should contact the Clerk of Council at 703-772-2733, one day in advance (TTD 703-771-4560).



Date of Council Meeting: April 22, 2014

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Subject: Residential Permit Parking on the 400 Block of Belmont Drive SW

Staff Contact: Calvin K. Grow, P.E., Transportation Engineer

Recommendation: The Department of Public Works recommends that a Public Hearing be held per Section 32-240(b) of the Town Code, which requires a Public Hearing prior to designating any residential permit parking zone.

Fiscal Analysis: This item does not impact the Department of Public Works operating budget.

Background: Six of the seven residents of the 400 block of Belmont Drive SW have requested the designation of a residential permit parking zone by means of a signed petition. Residents have expressed concern regarding the lack of available on-street parking and would prefer that residential permit parking be in effect only during the school day but understand that this request is not feasible based on the Ordinance. One of the seven residents at 401 Belmont Drive SW has sent a letter to the Town Manager requesting that the street not be posted as a residential permit zone. The residents of this street do not have a Homeowner's Association, which might be able to help resolve parking issues. The Department of Public Works conducted preliminary surveys on September 6, 2013, September 9, 2013 and March 10, 2014. The results are tabulated in the attached Parking Survey which reveals that this street meets the following sections of the Town Code:

1. Section 32-240(d)(1)a of the Town Code is met since the total number of curbside parking spaces occupied by vehicles during the survey equaled or exceeded seventy-five percent (75%) of the number of curbside parking spaces.
2. Section 32-240(d)(1)b of the Town Code is met since the total number of curbside parking spaces occupied by vehicles whose operators do not reside within the proposed residential permit parking zone equaled or exceeded twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of occupied curbside parking spaces.

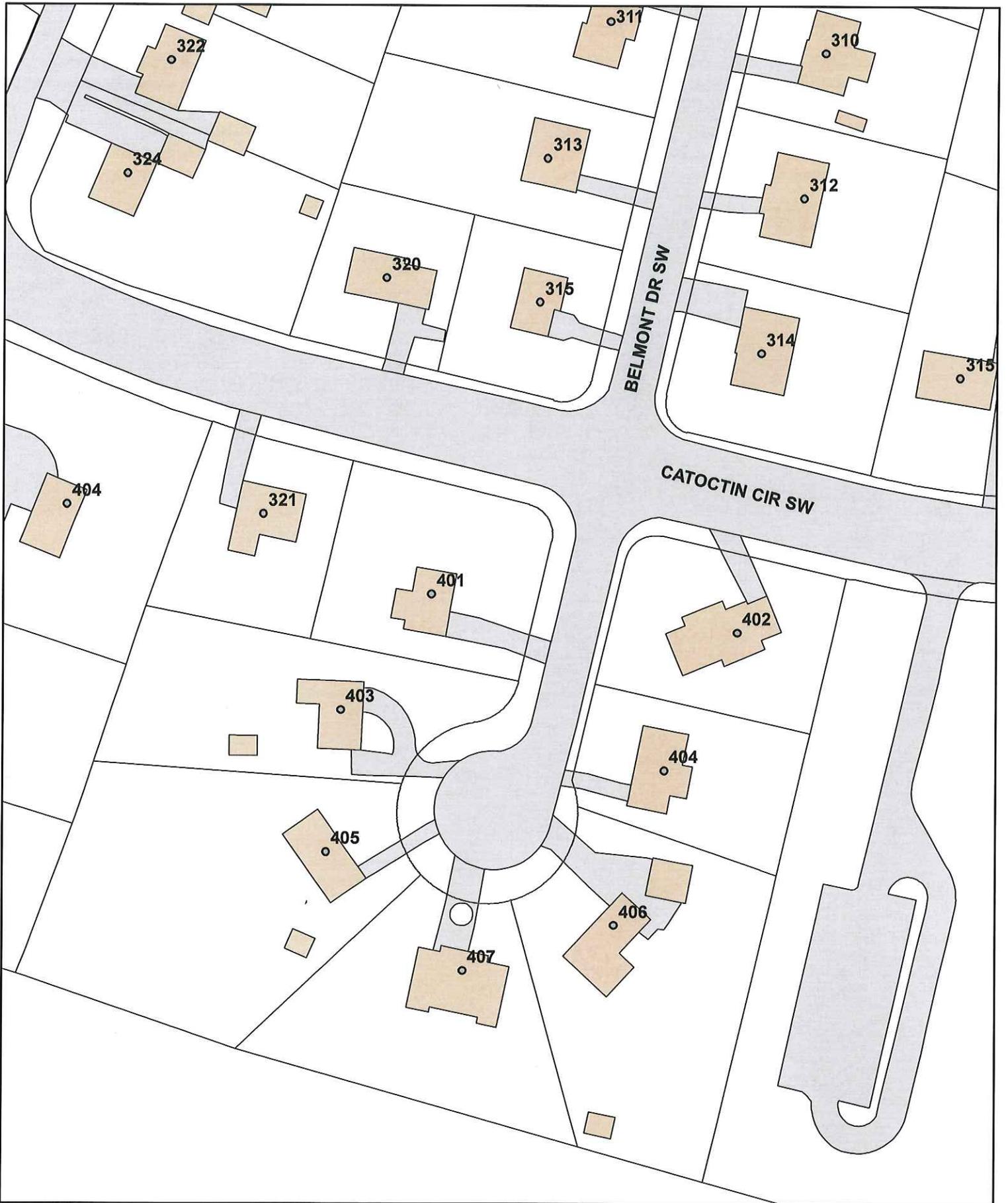
After the Public Hearing, Town staff will review all comments and send a recommendation to the Town Manager. A block-by-block study of the proposed permit parking area will be conducted within 20 days to confirm that the community's parking situation meets legal thresholds. The study is conducted during the time that permit parking is proposed in order to gauge the actual parking situation. The surveys for Belmont Drive SW will be conducted between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If the legal requirements are met, the Town Manager may designate the residential permit parking zone under consideration. The community will then be notified. Permit parking materials will be distributed by the Finance Department. This requires sending notices, processing applications from each household and verifying terms such as vehicle registration and residency, as well as payment of fees for all permits. Each household is eligible to apply for a permit for each appropriately registered vehicle at each home address. Each household is also eligible to receive two (2) visitor passes and can make arrangements for special passes from the Town Manager for temporary, limited, one-time events. A vehicle parked in

designated permit parking areas without a permit or related pass is subject to ticketing, fines, and towing.

Communities that have completed this process and have assigned residential permit parking include:

1. Appletree Drive from Birch Street to Plaza Street
2. Birch Street from Cherry Lane to Appletree Drive
3. Cherry Lane from Edwards Ferry Road to Birch Street
4. Church Street from Cornwall Street to North Street
5. North Street from North King Street to Wirt Street
6. Cornwall Street from Liberty Street to Memorial Drive
7. Mayfair Drive from Edwards Ferry Road to North Street
8. Edwards Ferry Road from Mayfair Drive to Washington Street
9. Royal Street from Wirt Street to Liberty Street (partial)
10. Cornwall Street NE from Church Street to Slacks Lane

- Attachments:** (1) Map – Permit Parking Zone, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, M-F
(2) Parking Counts
(3) Signed Petition, dated September 10, 2013
(4) Letter dated September 13, 2013 from resident at 401 Belmont Drive SW
(5) Public Notice



Residential Permit Parking

Source: Town of Leesburg
County of Loudoun

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM; M-F

Belmont Drive Cul-de-Sac
to Catoctin Circle



Sept 25, 2013

PARKING SURVEY ON BELMONT DRIVE SW

Date	Time	Number of Existing On-Street Parking Places	Total Spaces Occupied	% of Spaces Occupied	Number of Spaces Occupied by Vehicles Whose Operator <u>DOES NOT</u> Reside Within the Proposed Limits	Number of Spaces Occupied by Vehicles Whose Operator <u>DOES</u> Reside Within the Proposed Limits	Percentage of Spaces Occupied by Non-Residents
9/6/13	2:15 p.m.	14	12	86%	4	8	33%
9/9/13	2:00 p.m.	14	11	79%	5	6	45%
3/10/14	12:30 p.m.	14	14	100%	7	7	50%

1. Robert and Agnes Hough
401 Belmont Drive SW
Leesburg, VA 20175
2. Ann Royston
402 Belmont Drive SW
Leesburg, VA 20175
3. Richard A. Stone & Kathi L. Stone
403 Belmont Drive SW
Leesburg, VA 20175
4. Mary Weiskircher
404 Belmont Drive SW
Leesburg, VA 20175
5. William Johnston
405 Belmont Drive SW
Leesburg, VA 20175
6. Oleen Johnson
406 Belmont Drive SW
Leesburg, VA 20175
7. Luke Schierer
407 Belmont Drive SW
Leesburg, VA 20175

(C) C. Grow
T. Mason (S)
RECEIVED

SEP 13 2013

September 10, 2013

Town of Leesburg
Town Manager

Mr. John Wells, Town Manager

As concerned citizens residing in the 400 block of Belmont Dr., SW, we request that you establish a special parking zone on the 400 block cul-de-sac that permits only residents of the 400 block to park along the street in the cul-de-sac during daylight hours. We are requesting this because the heavy use of our cul-de-sac by the students attending Loudoun County High School has made it nearly impossible to find street parking in our cul-de-sac during weekday daylight hours.

Very sincerely yours,

- Aleen Johnson
- Wm A. Gilt
- Richard A. Stone & Kathi L. Stone
- Luke Quin
- Mary Weiskircher
- Ann Roush
- _____

- 406 Belmont Dr SW, Leesburg 20175
- 405 Belmont Dr. SW, Leesburg 20175
- 403 Belmont Dr., SW, Leesburg 20175
- 407 Belmont DR. SW LEESBURG
- 404 Belmont Dr. SW Leesburg 20175
- 402 Belmont Dr SW Leesburg
- _____

Richard & Kathi Stone
& residents of Belmont Dr.
403 Belmont Dr. SW
Leesburg, VA 20175



NO VA 220

12 SEP 2013 PM 2 L

John Wells, Town Manager
Town of Leesburg
25 W. Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

20176290125



RECEIVED

(c) C. Crow
T. Mason

(5)

SEP 13 2013

Town of Leesburg
Town Manager

401 Belmont Drive, SW
Leesburg, Va. 20175
September 9, 2013

John Wells, Town Manager
Town of Leesburg
25 W. Market Street
Leesburg, Va. 20176

Subj: Special parking zone on the 400 block cul-de-sac of Belmont Drive, SW

Sir:

Here we go again. Why? A request for a special parking zone on the 400 block cul-de-sac is ridiculous. As a resident for over forty years, I (we) request that you DO NOT establish a special parking zone that permits only residents of this block to park along the street during daylight hours or any other time. Use of our cul-de-sac by students during school hours has NOT made it impossible for anyone, our neighbors to find street parking if they should choose. That is a fabrication, simply not true. It's hate toward students who have parents permission to drive their vehicles, legal right to park on Town of Leesburg streets because there is not enough parking on school property. Some students work after school, some participate in sports and other after school activities for which bus schedules don't work for them and they must drive their cars. They are seeking their education, and personally, we would choose this over seeing them on streets, getting in trouble and not going to school. Adults sometimes make it hard for young people forgetting they were young once. In a perfect world there would not be as much traffic and as many young people driving, but that is a USED TO BE.

If we had any idea any of this was happening, we would probably complain also. We just can't stand lies just to get ones way for something fabricated. This was attempted 10 -12 years ago when Mr. Clem was mayor. At that time the reason given was trash being thrown on our street. Didn't happen! Mr. Johnson, resident at 406, was the main complainer and convinced some others to pursue action along with him. We were not interested then either and our friendship suffered. Just consider where we live, 401, and one should know that we would have gotten the most trash. How about a pencil and a gum wrapper, should that count toward the town making such a rash decision? Don't think so.

This time, in 2013, saying street parking is not available due to students is crazy. We have lived at 401 longer than anyone on the cul-de-sac except Mrs. Weiskircher at 404. Johnson at 406 came later. Resident, owner Whitehurst, at 407 was out of country (military), but returned home shortly after we moved in. Unfortunately, he died recently and his home was sold less than a year ago. Whitehurst did not agree with Mr. Johnson at that time and did not want permit parking. Of course, we don't know how the new owners feel, but they knew when they bought here that it was in school zone. We have never seen them have a problem parking or getting in or out of their driveway.

A fact to note, on Sunday, September 8, no cars were on the street, students or otherwise, they parked a third car (visitor) in their front yard, not on the street. They normally park one family car on the street nights and one in the garage. The car on the street leaves well before school hours and returns after school hours. Students do not interfere with their coming and going.

Gaskill lived at 405 but died some years ago. His home was sold probably two years ago. It is our understanding, through the grape-vine, that the man who bought there is the one who made his complaint known. This same man worked for the Town of Leesburg for a short time, but that is no reason to side with his complaint even if he is known by the mayor and others. This resident owns one vehicle, a Subaru. He lives alone except with his two dogs. He has no problem getting in or out and would rarely have reason for street parking. He is gone quite often, sometimes for a week or so at a time. Stone at 403 takes care of his dogs while he is gone. There was one time last year he couldn't get in his driveway, not because of student parking but because Whitehurst was having their driveway paved and trucks blocked the whole cul-de-sac. He parked in front of 404 and walked home. Check-out his driveway, a car (student) would need to park completely across his driveway in order to block it. DOES NOT HAPPEN! Who would do that?

Stone at 403 always has his spot on the street. His jeep never moves and takes up a couple of spots. His van is in the driveway and rarely leaves during the day, not even for work. His wife parks in front of the van and leaves long before any students arrive and comes home after school is out. Stone is a good buddy to Johnson @ 406 and new resident @ 405. Unfortunately, what one wants, the others go along with. GOSSIP IS FREE. An incident got our attention last school year. Stone was seen approaching a student who was trying to leave the cul-de-sac. This student had been parked in front of 404. Stone came in, stopped beside of the student and wouldn't let him leave. He accused the boy of throwing trash in the street (trash from the night before) and tried to force the boy to pick it up, but the boy finally got away and Stone backed up and picked up a small piece of trash. SHOULD NOT HAPPEN! Another time Stone was mowing and picked up a soda can and put it on a student's car, not knowing where it came from. Stone has no right to do those things. These are someone-else's children.

Johnson @ 406 is like a volunteer community watch. He is a friend of Mayor Umstattd. He is a complainer quite often. He complains about the vacuum truck (not often enough), about snow removal (not done right), about trash trucks, recycling trucks, town chipper, etc., what next? Children playing at Catoctin Elementary? We remember when Johnson came to 406. His younger son rode his small motorcycle on school property and did some other wrong deeds; and he can now complain about school students? He has an older son who lives at home, works at Toy's R Us, drives a Cadillac truck and has a car that never leaves the garage. Johnson's Cadillac car never leaves the garage (he drives his Nissan). Point is that they would never have a problem getting in or out of their driveway and should never have a legitimate reason to park on the street. They have a double/triple driveway and have never parked on the street in all of the years of living at 406 Belmont, be it weekday, weekend, holiday, etc., they never park on the street. Where is the reason to have students kicked off of the street?

Mrs. Weiskircher owns her home at 404 Belmont. She is an older lady who lives alone and owns one vehicle. She always parks in her garage and can always get in or out at leisure. Can't think of a reason why she would want to park on the street and doesn't.

Yates lives at 402 Belmont. We can't think of a reason why her parking would be at issue where students are concerned. Her driveway enters from Catoctin Circle and yellow curbs mark her property.

We live and own 401 Belmont Drive, SW. We have no problem getting in or out of our driveway even though parking by students makes it tighter for us than any where else on the cul-de-sac. We have no complaints. LIVE AND LET LIVE. We have four grown sons, four daughter-in-laws, and eight grand children. WE DO NOT WANT PARKING PERMITS, WE DO NOT WANT ANYMORE UGLY SIGNS IN OUR YARD.

We went to the meeting years ago. We listened to grown men tell lies and don't want to hear more. Some neighbors have chosen not to talk to us since. They didn't get their way. No change was approved, no permits were issued and no signs were installed.

Ask the town police how much trouble they have had, how many tickets they have written against students parked on the cul-de-sac. They patrol this street quite often. Believe me, if a student blocks, overhangs a driveway or parks too far from the curb (for instance), some complainer will call police. Don't the police have more important work to do?

Do you really believe that if a student had completely blocked 405 that he wouldn't have called police? Where is the police record? It didn't happen. If that situation happened last school year, why wasn't it handled before the first day of school this year? Being friends of Mayor Umstattd or anyone else with the Town of Leesburg should not affect any decision made in this case. We must admit we were totally surprised that our letter was delivered by the mayor and not mailed. This makes us feel like we may be fighting a losing battle. Somebody should stand up for students and not let lies prevail.

Honestly, a bigger concern should be the traffic we endure from the many vehicles who use our cul-de-sac to make "U" turns around the complete circle to head back to Catoctin Elementary or wherever. These include parents picking up students, vans from private schools picking up students, vans for karate and other activities, cars from dealerships making road tests, etc., but how can that be stopped on a public street?

If permit parking for residents only is enforced, what will be next? They won't want parking at any time for school activities at Catoctin Elementary or Loudoun County High. That would mean no parking for sports, graduation, homecoming parade, etc..

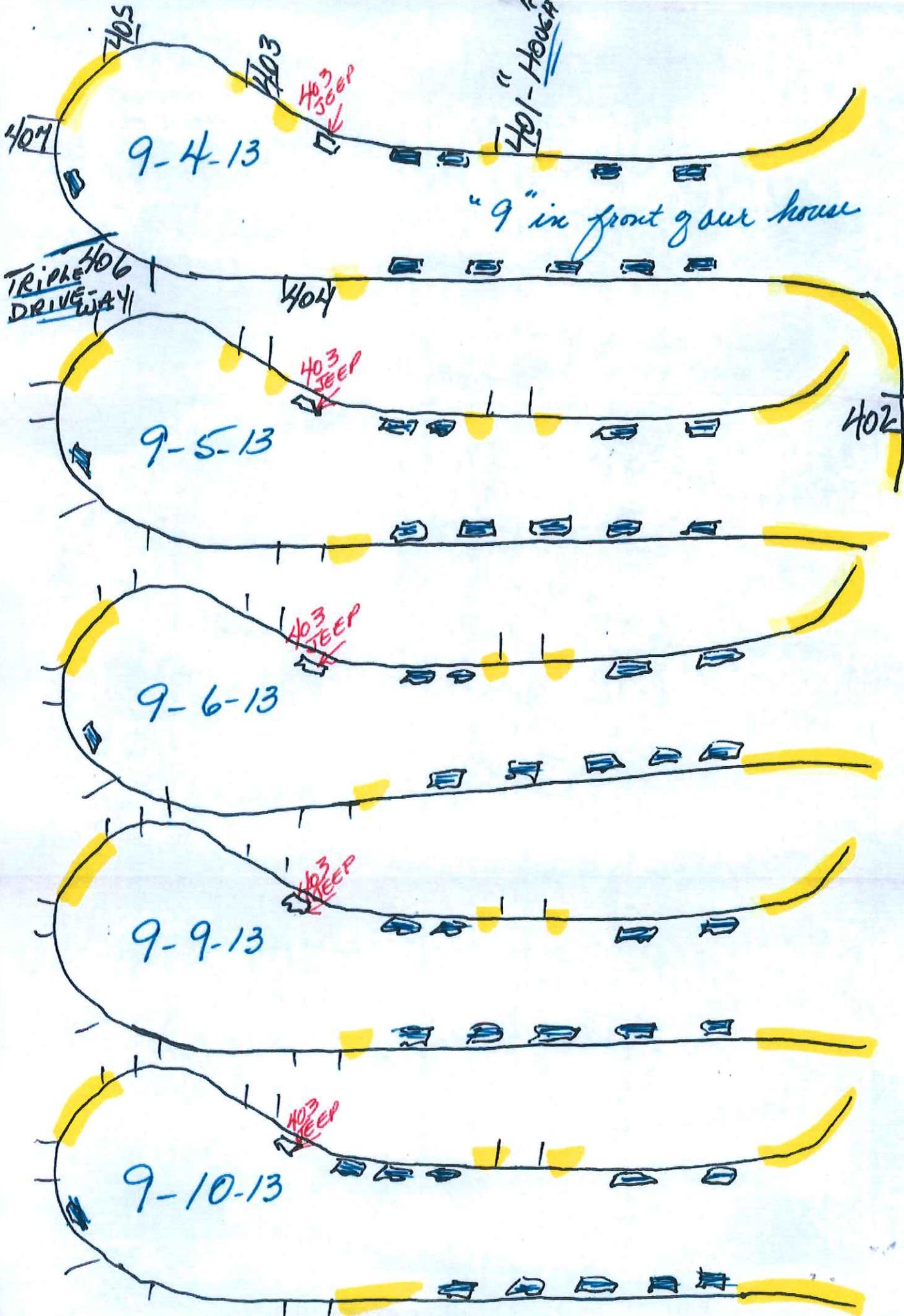
Enclosed please find a sample, rough drawing, of our cul-de-sac. Note where we live and how many cars park in front of our residence compared

to those who complain. Make the right decision and don't be swayed by lies and fabrication. Thanks for your time and understanding.

We will be out of town for a few days starting Thursday, Sept. 12, but upon returning we will continue to notice parking situation to prove our point.

Sincerely

Robert and Agnes Hough
401 Belmont Dr., SW
Leesburg, Va. 20175
703-777-5380



9-4-13

"9" in front of your house

9-5-13

9-6-13

9-9-13

9-10-13

406
TRIPLE
DRIVEWAY

401-House

403
STEEP

403
STEEP

403
STEEP

403
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Leesburg, Va. 20175

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