

Mayor Duman, Councilmembers, Suffolk Citizens

Several neighbors reported Bald Eagle activity, including a nest, on the VDOT owned property on Main Street. That information was shared with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and has since been geo-tagged in the Nest Mapper maintained by the Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary, which is used by state and federal officials.

I want to thank the neighbors from Nansemond Garden who took the time to make sure this was officially documented. There is also some indication there may be a second nest that still needs to be mapped.

Protection isn't just about the tree itself — it's about the buffer around the nest and minimizing disturbance from construction. Eagles return to the same nesting territories year after year, and once a disruption happens, it can be very difficult to reverse.

Mr. Jeff Cooper, a biologist with DWR, shared the following: the documented nest is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The nest appears to be occupied based on public observations. Ideally, any land development or management activities should be reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and DWR. DWR can help coordinate that process and provide technical guidance.

With any development in the present and future. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act simply means we need to be fully aligned with federal protections, permitting requirements, and best practices before any land disturbance begins.

The bald eagle is very much a conservation success story.

And for residents — if you see a nest, take a photo and pin the location so it can be officially mapped and protected on the William and Mary CCB Nest Mapper website.

For me, this is about something deeper — it's about the quality of life in Suffolk, not just for us as citizens, but for the wildlife that shares this land with us.

In a time when our nation feels divided and uncertain, Suffolk has been given something rare and powerful — a living symbol of hope soaring above us. The bald eagle, at the heart of the Great Seal of the United States, represents both strength and peace. And here in our own backyard, that symbol isn't just history — it's alive.

What a profound blessing it is to witness these majestic creatures nesting, hunting, and raising their young among us. They are more than wildlife; they are a reminder of resilience, unity, and the promise of renewal.

Suffolk deserves hope. Our citizens deserve it. And the presence of these eagles feels like a quiet but powerful sign that hope still lives here.

Thank You for your Time