Dear Friends,

Snow Storm Jonas definitely created difficulties for each and every one of us in Loudoun County. I want to thank all of you for your patience as VDOT struggled through this historic storm to clear roads. I also am humbled by the generosity of our neighbors, who reached out to seniors to offer assistance. As we each experienced, various streets and neighborhoods literally came together and dug themselves out.

Each of us owes a debt of gratitude to our public safety personnel (many of whom are volunteers), who endured unending hours of unparalleled circumstances during the storm and its aftermath. As a community, we are truly blessed to have these incredible men and women, who are willing to serve us. Please thank them when you have the opportunity!
This newsletter includes updates on several projects and the budget. I encourage you to learn about the budget process, ask questions and provide input on your priorities. You may contact my office regarding the budget or other items at Suzanne.Volpe@loudoun.gov or call my office at 703-771-5033.

Most sincerely,

Suzanne Volpe

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**Hot Topics**

**Annual County Budget Public Hearings Scheduled**

Tim Hemstreet, the County Administrator, presented the Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Budget yesterday evening, February 10, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the County Government Center to the Board of Supervisors. You may view it online at [www.loudoun.gov/webcast](http://www.loudoun.gov/webcast). Following the presentation, the proposed FY 2017 budget and other budget-related documents will be posted at [https://www.loudoun.gov/budget](https://www.loudoun.gov/budget).

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors will hold several Budget Public Hearings for the budget to be adopted in early April for the period of July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017. The dates are as follows:

February 25th – 3:00 p.m., Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, SE, Leesburg
February 27th – 9:00 a.m., LCPS Administration Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn

February 29th – 6:00 p.m., Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, SE, Leesburg

All the budget public hearings will be televised on the public access channels. This is channel 23 on Comcast and channel 40 on Verizon. If you would like to sign up to speak at one of the budget public hearings, please call 703-777-0200. You may also provide comments via email at bos@loudoun.gov, which will be forwarded to all nine members of the Board of Supervisors.

University Center “Road Diet” Update

The pedestrian and vehicular volume for the George Washington Boulevard Road Diet project were collected in October 2015. The Signing and Pavement Marking Plans were submitted to VDOT on January 27, 2016 (1st submission). With this submission, it includes the pedestrian crosswalk justification study. On GW Blvd at Presidential Drive/University Drive intersection (east side), we are proposing to install a crosswalk.

For each plan submission to VDOT, the turnaround time for review is 45-60 days. We anticipate review comments with the 1st submission, which will require the County to revise and resubmit the plans. At the 2nd plan submission, we anticipate minimal to no review comments from VDOT. By Spring 2016, we anticipate receiving VDOT’s approval. There are no easements or right-of-way dedication needed to complete this project --- all work will be done within the existing right-of-way. So after receiving plan approval and procuring a contractor, the striping and signage work is anticipated to commence, which will be this summer.

Seneca Ridge Community Traffic Calming & Improvements Study

The County approved a Board Member Item in September 2015 to direct staff and authorize funds for traffic calming and improvements at Augusta Drive, both portions of Seneca Ridge Drive, and the entrance to Seneca Ridge Middle
School. The County Department of Transportation & Capital Infrastructure (DTCI) has contracted with a traffic consultant. The consultant has performed data collection, performed analysis of the data and developed several options for improvements to the community’s traffic situation. Representatives of DTCI will be meeting with VDOT, LCPS staff and the Sheriff’s Office to review the materials in early March. We are hopeful that a final report will be ready for the Board of Supervisors and the community in early spring.

Transportation Updates

Riverside Parkway Extension (Loudoun County Parkway to Lexington Drive)

County staff presented the Board with an alignment recommendation at the December 3, 2014 business meeting. The Board of Supervisors approved the staff recommendation to move forward with Alternative 1 alignment. Thirty percent design plans were submitted to VDOT. A public hearing was held on April 16, 2015 at George Washington University. Sixty percent plans were submitted to VDOT in September 2015 for the road project. Consultant is currently addressing 60% comments from VDOT and Building & Development. Final submission should be made in early 2016. The wetlands permit was issued on November 6, 2015.

Riverside Parkway Extension (Ashburn Village Boulevard to Lexington Drive)

The Board approved an agreement with the Meladon Park representatives to acquire the approved design plans. County staff has contracted for a signal warrant analysis and design of a signal. Signal plans were submitted for final approval on September 25, 2015 to VDOT. A purchase order has been issued to Christopher Consultants for
design of the trail and preparation of right of way plats. Final plans with the trail went to VDOT on August 26, 2015. A wetlands permit (JPA) was submitted on August 31, 2015. Staff is working with One Loudoun to have this project constructed by Shirley Contracting under the “in furtherance of a proffer” option. The Board approved a reimbursement agreement for this project with One Loudoun at its December 2, 2015 meeting. A copy of the executed agreement has been sent to One Loudoun for signature. The signal plans are approved as are the road plans. Staff is working on obtaining the right of way from Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Route 7/Ashburn Village Boulevard Interchange

VDOT approved the design plans on October 5, 2015. The County approved the Construction Plans and Profiles (CPAP). Discussions on the bond amount are underway between the County, VDOT and the developer. One Loudoun has contracted with Shirley Contracting to construct the interchange. Shirley Contracting has the final utility easement plan. A groundbreaking was held on October 22, 2015. Right of way is cleared. Staff is working with One Loudoun on bonding issues. Silt fencing has been installed on the northwest quadrant of the interchange site.

Route 7/Route 659 Interchange

The Board awarded the construction contract to Shirley Contracting at its May 20, 2015 business meeting. Utility work continues. A notice to proceed was issued to Shirley in September 2015 and construction is underway. A groundbreaking was held October 13, 2015. Clearing is nearing completion. The contractor has been placing barriers in January and February and will begin work on the box culvert shortly.

Reporting Potholes
With Snow Storm Jonas, we will likely see a great deal of potholes forming. Potholes occur when there are cracks in the road and water refreezes in the cracks. Water expands when it freezes, which creates potholes. You can report potholes on your street as well as other problems, such as a missing/damaged road signs, by visiting https://my.vdot.virginia.gov/. You may also contact my office at 703-771-5033 or via email at Suzanne.Volpe@loudoun.gov to report a problem.

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**Community Updates/Get Involved**

**INOVA Mobile Health Services**

INOVA Mobile Health Services will be providing countywide blood pressure screenings at a variety of locations during the month of February. Mobile Health Services follows the Loudoun County Public School (LCPS) cancellation schedule, if LCPS are delayed or cancelled, the Mobile Health event will be cancelled. For further information call the Mobile Health hotline at 703-858-8818 or visit at www.inova.org/mobilehealth.

In our area, the next event will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Cascades Senior Center, located at 21060 Whitfield Place in Sterling. INOVA Mobil Health Services will offer Blood Pressure Screenings at no charge to the community.

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**“Pancakes to the Rescue” Event**
The Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad is hosting their “Pancake to the Rescue” event on Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Cascades Fire Safety Center Patton Hall. The station is located at 46700 Middlefield Drive in Sterling. The event will include a hearty breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, coffee and juices. Adult tickets are $7, children ages 3 to 13 are $5 and children under 3 are free. To RSVP, you can visit the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad Facebook Page. For more information, please call Liz Campbell at 703-203-1000.

Loudoun Symphony Youth Orchestra E4E Concert

The Loudoun Symphony Youth Orchestra will host their annual E4E Concert for persons with special needs, featuring an interactive ability to enjoy the music of Elgar, Mancini, Glinka and Shostakovich. The concert will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn. For more information and to order tickets to this concert, please visit www.loudounsymphony.org.

Neighborhood Watch Program

The Neighborhood Watch Program is intended to effect and deter crime in a designated area. The goal is to effectively diminish the possibility of criminal activity by engaging citizens in a partnership and as such act as additional eyes and ears in the communities where they live, work, or frequent in their free time. By working in partnership, not only can members of the Loudon County Sheriff’s Office provide more effective public safety services but it also fosters a strong community relationship between law enforcement, citizens, and the community as a whole. If your neighborhood is not a part of the Neighborhood Watch Program and you would like more information, please contact Deputy Spurlock at James.Spurlock@loudoun.gov.

HOA Forum: Common Space for the Greater Good

The Piedmont Environmental Council, in partnership with Loudoun County, will be hosting “HOA Forum: Common Space for the Greater Good” on Thursday, March 10, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Algonkian Regional Park’s
Woodlands Conference Center, located at 47001 Fairway Drive in Sterling. Homeowner association board members, property managers, landscape contractors and interested residents are encouraged to attend the event. The program will include case studies and examples from regional and local HOAs will be shared, outlining ways to reduce stormwater runoff and improve stormwater management, integrating native perennials, shrubs and trees to improve habitat, sustain biodiversity and support threatened pollinators.

This event is open to the community at large, however space is limited. To sign up, please [Click here for more information and to register](#).

You may also email Gem Bingol for more information at gbingol@pecva.org.

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**North Face Endurance Challenge**

The 2016 North Face Endurance Challenge is coming to Algonkian Regional Park on April 9, and April 10, 2016. On Saturday, there are a series of trail runs from Algonkian Regional Park to Great Falls Park and back. First to start is the 50 mile, then the 50 K, next up the marathon, and then a team marathon. Sunday starts with the 1/2 marathon from Great Falls Park to Algonkian Regional Park, also a 10K, a 5K and a kids fun run all inside the park. We are looking volunteers to hand out water, energy drinks, and snacks at the Potomac Falls aid station. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Potomac Falls coordinator, Ralph J. Fontaine, at 703-406-2925 or via email at clumberlandwd@aol.com.

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**Tax-Aide Program**

The volunteer Tax-Aide Program, sponsored by the AARP Foundation in cooperation with Loudoun County government, is underway, providing free tax services to families in need. The program, which targets low-to-moderate-income families and seniors, provides one-on-one assistance to customers on a walk-in basis. Free tax services will continue through April 18, 2016, at sites in Loudoun and additional sites throughout Northern Virginia.
For those in need of help, this is an opportunity to save an average of $200 in tax preparation fees by coming to one of the free tax preparation sites. Additionally, certified IRS volunteers will make sure that families receive the maximum tax refund to which they are entitled and will help determine if they are eligible for the earned income tax credit (EITC) or other tax credit programs. All returns are filed electronically. If married and filing a joint return, both spouses must be present. Here are the sites in the Sterling area with dates and times of operation:

Cascades Library: Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Monday and Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. through April 18, 2016. The Cascades Library is located at 21030 Whitfield Place in Sterling. No appointments needed.

Falcons Landing: Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. through April 18, 2016. Appointments are needed. To schedule an appointment, please call 703-404-5216. Falcons Landing is located at the corner of Algonkian Parkway and Potomac View Road in Sterling.

Additional sites in Northern Virginia are listed at www.nvacash.org or on the AARP website here. For additional information, contact AARP’s Tax Aide Information Line at 1-888-227-7669.