



# Chair **Phyllis J. Randall**

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## Newsletter



## Hello, Loudoun

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, happy holiday and a healthy New Year! And please remember to shop local to support Loudoun's economy. Supervisor Turner, Maggie the dog, Supervisor Glass and I enjoyed the holiday tree lighting event at One Loudoun.



## Loudoun Awarded Broadband Grant

I am pleased to announce that Loudoun County was just awarded a grant of more than \$17.5 million from the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) to support construction of fiber-to-the-home broadband network to bring internet access to approximately 8,600 unserved residents and businesses in western Loudoun.

What we have learned during COVID is broadband is no longer a luxury but a required utility. Telework, telemedicine, and tele-education are all now practices standard to our County, Commonwealth and country. Virginia is on track to be one of the first states to achieve universal broadband access by awarding grants to close the digital divide by 2024.

The graphic features a green header with the text "Loudoun Receives Grant to Support Broadband Expansion". Below this, on the left, is a light green box containing the text "Project will expand service to 8,600 unserved addresses." In the center is a photograph of two people sitting on the floor, one using a laptop and the other a tablet. On the right side of the photo is a green speech bubble that says "Look up your address to see if it's in the project area!". At the bottom left is the Loudoun County Virginia logo, and at the bottom right is the website address "loudoun.gov/broadbandexpansion".

## COVID-19 Booster for 16- and 17-Year-Olds

Booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine for 16- and 17-year-olds are now available at the **Dulles Town Center clinic** and in the community from many providers. Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find a vaccination site near you. Individuals who are 16 and 17 years old and who received their second dose in the two-dose series of the Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago are eligible for the booster. The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine currently approved for ages 17 and under.

The Loudoun Health Department, in partnership with Loudoun County Public Schools and Giant Pharmacy, has scheduled free community-based walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all residents from December 20th to January 11, 2022. Please see the information about the Sterling Elementary School event on December 20th. Thank you!

# Free COVID-19 Vaccine Event




First and Second Doses for anyone age 5 and older.  
Pfizer Boosters available for those 16+.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 20**  
**4:00 - 7:00 PM**

**WALK-IN ONLY!**

**Sterling Elementary School**  
**200 W Church Road**  
**Sterling, VA 20164**

**No Moderna or Janssen vaccine available at this event.**  
Pfizer can be used as a booster for any of the vaccine types.

Complete a vaccine form in advance to reduce  
your wait time: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)   
Complete one form per person.

**LOUDOUN  
COUNTY**  
VIRGINIA

Health  
Department

**VDH** VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH  
*To protect the health and promote the  
well-being of all people in Virginia.*

## Goose Creek Association Award

I am honored to share that the Goose Creek Association awarded me the Golden Goose Award for my voting record on environmental issues and protection of Loudoun's natural resources. I believe it is all of our responsibility to be good stewards of the one earth that we have. I'm so grateful for the Goose Creek Association and other organizations that address environmental and water quality issues. Below I am pictured with Paul Lawrence and Marvin Watts from the Goose Creek Association.



## Sweats for Vets

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to foster camaraderie among veterans of overseas conflicts. For over 15 years, the annual Northern Virginia Sweats for Vets program has collected thousands of new sweat suits for homeless veterans and patients at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Thank you to current Commander of VFW 1177, Ray Delpesche and Past Commander of VFW 1177, Phil Rusciolelli for leading this worthy cause.

Sweats will be collected until Wednesday, December 22nd at the Loudoun County Government Center and other locations throughout the community. All sizes will be accepted, but there is a greater need for sizes L, XL, and XXL. Sweats should be new and unwrapped. VFW hopes to collect 800 sets of sweats this year. Thank you!



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Contact Us

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Sincerely,

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## Board Business

**Collective Bargaining Ordinance:** At the December 7th Board business meeting, we approved an ordinance that establishes the authority for Loudoun County to recognize, bargain with, or enter into a collective bargaining agreement with a labor union or employee association as a bargaining agent for eligible Loudoun County government employees. The change in the structure of Loudoun County's employer-employee relationship is not expected to alter the County's programs and services used by Loudoun residents.

I am immensely proud of the hard work by the Board and County staff over the last several months to pass a meaningful collective bargaining ordinance. As a former public employee, and as Chair, it's been a priority of mine to improve the working conditions for our employees. This ordinance allows Loudoun County employees to choose—or to not choose—to collectively bargain for better wages, benefits, working conditions, and grievance processes. I also appreciate the input from the unions who are seeking to represent the best County staff in the country.

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**FY 2023 Budget Guidance:** At the December 7th Board business meeting, we voted to prepare the FY 2023 proposed budget at a real property tax rate of \$0.94 per \$100 of assessed value and the personal property tax rate of \$4.20 per \$100 of assessed value for tax year 2022 and \$4.15 for tax year 2023. We further moved to program one half cent of the real property tax rate as a dedicated revenue source to affordable housing needs, prior to splitting new local tax funding between the County government and school budgets.

Over the past decade, the Board's tax policy has been to equalize the real property tax rate while funding an aggressive capital budget and increasing the County government and school division operating budgets from only growth in both the real property and personal property portfolios. This tax policy has provided consistent real property tax bills for real property taxpayers, but the County's budget has not benefitted from the strong revaluation of its real property portfolio. As new residential development begins to slow – due to constraints in available land zoned for residential development – growth will not be a sufficient factor to fund new programs and program expansions.

My goal is to have a tax rate as low as possible, while still providing needed County services. I encourage you to follow the open, transparent budget process. The County Administrator will develop a FY 2023 proposed budget, which will be presented in February 2022. We will then carefully analyze the proposed budget and the available options, as well as receive input from the public throughout March 2022. The FY 2023 budget will be adopted in April 2022.

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**Renaming Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) and John Mosby Highway (Route 50):** At the December 7th Board business meeting, we approved changing the names of Harry Byrd Highway and John Mosby Highway back to their original names of Leesburg Pike and Little River Turnpike. These designations honor the names traditionally used for these roads, which were developed as major transportation and trade routes between Alexandria and the Shenandoah Valley in the early 1800s.

We conducted a thorough public process for identifying and recommending new names. A task force, comprised of community representatives and members of the County's Heritage Commission, was created to conduct research, engage the public, review public name submissions and recommend alternative road names to the Board. Thank you to everyone who participated in the process.

## Community Information

**Empty the Shelters – Home for the Holidays:** Saturday, December 18th from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm at the new Loudoun County Animal Shelter (LCAS), 42225 Adoption Drive in Leesburg. Adoption fees will be waived for all available pets, including cats, kittens, dogs, small pets and livestock. (Please note that Kincaid Boulevard is closed from the direction of Battlefield Parkway and that motorists must take Sycolin Road to Crosstrail Boulevard to access the shelter.)

In an effort to help as many pets as possible, LCAS is transferring in dogs and cats from overcrowded and under-resourced partner shelters throughout the region before the event. The event will be full of holiday cheer with goodie bags for adopters and more. Santa himself will even stop by for a visit. Prospective adopters can view available pets online. All dogs, cats and rabbits adopted from LCAS are spayed or neutered and receive a microchip which is registered to their adopter. Dogs and cats also receive age-appropriate vaccinations.



**Empty the Shelter!**

**Saturday**  
**Dec. 18**  
**11:00am - 6:00pm**

**Loudoun County**  
**Animal Shelter**

**Fee-Waived Adoptions**

**Saturday 12/18/21**

**LOUDOUN COUNTY VIRGINIA**

**loudoun.gov/animals**

The poster features a blue header with the title 'Empty the Shelter!'. Below the title, on a light blue background, are the event details: 'Saturday Dec. 18' and '11:00am - 6:00pm'. A horizontal line separates this from the location: 'Loudoun County Animal Shelter'. To the right of the text is a photograph of a ginger tabby cat and a brown and white dog. A yellow circular badge with a white border is placed over the cat, containing the text 'Fee-Waived Adoptions'. A red circular badge with a white border is placed over the dog, containing the text 'Saturday 12/18/21'. The bottom of the poster has a dark blue background with the Loudoun County Virginia logo on the left and the website 'loudoun.gov/animals' in white text on the right.

Contact Us

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