



# CHAIR PHYLLIS J. RANDALL NEWSLETTER



## Hello, Loudoun

Happy New Year and welcome to 2017!

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some key initiatives and accomplishments for my first year in office.

### Transparency

As promised during my campaign, I led a collaborative process for a Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct that all Board members signed. It is very important to me that this Board has a forward-facing document that shows our commitment to the citizens of Loudoun County. The ethics pledge reflects what this Board stands for going forward and I am proud of the integrity this Board has shown so far.

Recently, I requested that items not be included in the agenda packet if they are added less than a week in advance of Board meetings. This is intended to increase transparency and give supervisors enough time to deliberate their decisions. Currently, changes made after the packet deadline are often not available to the public until the time of the meeting. My request will ensure the public is informed about the new items in advance of Board meetings.

### Community

Twelve nonprofit organizations were featured in my "Voice for a Cause" section of the newsletter. These nonprofits serve the citizens of Loudoun County and deserve our support and recognition. My office hosted two town halls in Arcola and Hamilton and participated in two community meetings in Bluemont and Waterford. Please know that it's my intention to continue town halls and community meetings throughout the County. In the summer, I supported the 1st Annual Community Meet & Greet Info and Expo held by the Citizen's Committee Against Domestic Violence - It Takes Our Village. The purpose was to start a conversation about domestic violence and share the resources that exist in the Loudoun community. In the fall, I hosted my first Community Forum, the topic was teen suicide prevention. My office

will be working with the Loudoun County Community Services Board (CSB) to identify gaps in approaches to prevention and help fill them.

Loudoun County's first State of the County Address was a success. This year, my State of the County Address is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, 2017. I will offer a State of the County address every year during my term because I believe government at all levels belongs to the people.

Your voice is very important to me and will always be a priority in my decision making. I voted to not affirm the Commission Permit for the AT&T facility on Short Hill because the residents in western Loudoun County voiced their strong concerns. Regarding the Kirkpatrick West Commercial Center, I was ready to deny the application after the public hearing based on the issues and concerns raised by the public and the 300-signature petition in opposition. The Catesby Farm vote was a difficult one because I promised to protect western Loudoun County. However, I cannot protect western Loudoun County and allow a by-right use that is more intense than the special exception for an event center.

#### **Commission on Women and Girls**

At the January 3 business meeting, I proposed establishing a Commission on Women and Girls. I proposed this commission because citizens and nonprofit organizations asked for it to address important issues facing women and young girls including but not limited to domestic violence, internet and social media safety, bullying and human trafficking and encourage young girls to enter STEM fields and become leaders. Unfortunately, my colleagues did not support this initiative but it is so important to me that I will move forward with the commission from my office. The Chair and each Supervisor has the latitude to use our district budget as we deem appropriate if it meets specific criteria. It is my preference to use only privately raised funds in lieu of my district budget. After my term, my hope is to pass this initiative to a private entity. A special thank you to the many residents who spoke or e-mailed in support of the commission. Please stayed tuned for further information.

#### **Budget**

As I stated last year, I support fully funding LCPS and keeping property taxes as low as possible. My 2016 poll showed that the majority of Loudoun County residents support fully funding the LCPS and County budget. This budget cycle will be challenging given the state budget deficit and the population growth of Loudoun County. I look forward to working with my colleagues on a tax rate that meets the needs of LCPS and the County.

#### **Transportation**

Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure and VDOT are working hard on your behalf. The following lists some key projects that were started or completed in 2016:

- Gloucester Parkway between Loudoun County Parkway and Pacific Boulevard

- Loudoun County Parkway from Evergreen Ridge Road south to Creighton Road
- Interchange at Loudoun County Parkway and Route 50
- Russell Branch Parkway between Ashburn Road and Ashburn Village Blvd
- Belmont Ridge Road, Gloucester Parkway to Hay Road
- Tall Cedars Parkway between Pinebrook Road and Gum Spring Road
- The Woods Road between Gleedsville Road and Evergreen Mills Road
- Route 50 (Washington Street) traffic calming project in Middleburg
- Route 7/George Washington Boulevard Overpass
- Northern extension and paving of Fleetwood Road
- Pacific Blvd Extension
- Route 606 Loudoun County Parkway /Old Ox Road widening

Last year, I was unanimously elected Vice Chairwoman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) by my fellow members. I look forward to representing Loudoun in this leadership role and working with all NVTA members to find regionally significant solutions for Northern Virginia. In FY2017, NVTA voted to fund \$20 million toward the construction of a new interchange at Battlefield Parkway and Route 7. This brings the total funding up to \$33 million of the \$58 million needed for the interchange.

In December, I sent a letter to the Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne, Members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) staff on behalf of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to request fully funding the construction of Northstar Blvd from Shreveport Drive to Braddock Road. This project would be included in the FY2017 - FY2022 Six-Year Improvement Plan.



### **Land Use**

Envision Loudoun Listening & Learning workshops in November and December had 900 citizens participate and an additional 900 citizens used the online engagement tool. This includes several hundred high school students that participated with guidance from their teachers and school administrators. Thank you for participating in this process. Your input is critical and will guide future development in Loudoun County for the next 10 to 15 years. The first round of public outreach is now

complete and the second round of public outreach is tentatively scheduled July 2017. I will keep you updated on the date and time of these meetings.

In November, the Board of Supervisors held a special meeting to discuss the Silver Line Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM). The Board voted to reaffirm the County's Policy and Zoning Ordinance requirements to not allow residential uses inside the Ldn 65 noise contours of the Airport Impact Overlay District. I supported the position to limit residential development around Dulles International Airport to reduce noise complaints and promote economic development at the airport. The Silver Line Comprehensive Plan Amendment will be presented at the Planning Commission public hearing on January 24 at 6:00 pm in the Board Room of the Loudoun County Government Center in Leesburg.

### **Economic Development**

In 2016, I attended a Loudoun County Department of Economic Development trip to Asia. Meetings were held with more than 20 business prospects in South Korea and China. This trip resulted in commitments from IT businesses and a Memorandum of Understanding between Dulles Airport and the Beijing Capital Airport. I will continue to work with economic development to bring investment and business opportunities to Loudoun County.

Thank you for being engaged in your local government and for allowing me to be your Chair.

Best Regards,

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## Voice for a Cause It Takes A Village, Baby

It Takes A Village, Baby provides essential baby gear, supplies and resources to families in need while nurturing a spirit of kindness, empathy and respect. It is a Loudoun based nonprofit started by a mom who saw an unmet need and felt compelled to help struggling families with gently used baby items. Expecting families are encouraged to apply for services before the baby comes to pick up their initial supplies in time for their due date. Following that initial pick-up, It Takes A Village, Baby continues to offer assistance because the needs of a six-month-old baby or a toddler are different from the needs of a newborn. Donations are a combination of new items (there is an Amazon wish list, which makes it easy for people to donate and send new items like baby wash, lotion, and diapers) and gently used items (like baby clothing and gear). Volunteers throughout the community serve as Drop-Off Coordinators, carving out space in their basements or garages to collect donated items from their neighbors. Those Drop-Off Coordinators then bring those items to storage units to be distributed to families. Please visit the [It Takes a Village, Baby website](http://www.itavb.org) to volunteer and donate new or used items. The next volunteer opportunity is this Saturday, January 21 at the Cascades Library from 10 am to 12 pm or 12 pm to 2 pm.



## Floodplain Community Meeting

At the January 11 Public Hearing, Chair Randall requested that staff set up a community meeting to brief the impacted residents regarding the FEMA Floodplain Maps and the process to follow for amendments to their properties. The meetings will be Tuesday, January 24 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and Thursday, February 2 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Both meetings will be held in the Dulles Room on the 1st floor of the Loudoun County Government Center in Leesburg. To see if your property is in the floodplain or if there was a change since it was last mapped, please visit the [interactive mapping program](#),



The County is revising its Floodplain Overlay District to conform to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS). The last countywide update of this map occurred approximately 15 years ago. The County adopts FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Map and enforces a floodplain management ordinance that meets National Flood Insurance Program requirements so citizens in Loudoun County can purchase federally backed flood insurance. Please visit the [floodplain mapping project webpage](#) for more information.





## 25th annual MLK Day Program

Hundreds of residents turned out for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade in downtown Leesburg Monday. Chair Randall attended this event and encourages all of us to not only listen to his "I Have a

Dream" speech but also read one of his most inspired writings, "A letter from a Birmingham jail." In this letter, Dr. King spoke at length about the "Fierce Urgency of Now," where he discusses the moral obligation to speak out when we see or know another's rights are being infringed upon. The question is not if we speak but how we speak.

## Community Events and Announcements

[Virginia Cooperative Extension \(VCE\) Community Survey](#): The objective is to increase the number of programs presented to Loudoun County residents who will benefit from starting and maintaining food gardens. The models can be community gardens or individual gardens at home in the backyard or on the balcony. VCE is also interested in Spanish programs that focus on vegetables/fruits residents knew from their original home outside of the US.

[Loudoun County Water and Wastewater Program Assistance](#): The Water and Wastewater Program is designed to assist Loudoun County communities experiencing issues with deficient or non-existent water and/or wastewater systems. Communities that need assistance are encouraged to apply after reading more about the program. Applications will be accepted from January 1 through March 31.

[Suicide Prevention Parent Seminar](#): Dr. Applegate and Esposito-Smythers will share research based principles of suicide prevention, outline LCPS policies and procedures and provide guidance for parents. The discussion will include the identification of common myths, risk factors and warning signs as well as highlight protective factors, primary prevention, early identification, referral and resources. Register by calling 571-252-6540 or [register online](#).

[Loudoun Symphony Orchestra: Winter Respite](#) on Saturday, February 4 at 4:00 pm at the Middleburg Community Center, 300 West Washington Street. This lively program features delightful compositions that will raise your spirits and chase away the winter gloom. The concert will be presented in an intimate salon format with the orchestra in the midst of the audience to provide a birds-eye view of the musicians. Wine and other refreshments will be offered throughout the concert.

[Every Citizen Has Opportunities, Inc \(ECHO\)](#) is looking for ECHO Ambassadors or passionate members of the community to volunteer their time for event planning and execution. ECHO needs representatives from all parts of the Loudoun community - small businesses, retirees, corporate entities and anyone else interested. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Erica at [erical@echoworks.org](mailto:erical@echoworks.org) or (571) 707-8248.

STAY CONNECTED:



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