



# CHAIR PHYLLIS J. RANDALL NEWSLETTER



## Hello, Loudoun

Thank you to the many residents who submitted applications to the Commission on Women and Girls. We received more than 100 applications for 16 positions. We are in the process of reviewing the applications and will get back to everyone. Although there are a limited number of seats on the commission, there will be other opportunities to serve.

### **Budget**

On Monday, March 20th, the majority of the Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a \$1.125 tax rate leaving a \$5.5 million deficit to LCPS. I supported the real property tax rate of \$1.135 which would fully fund the schools and many critical needs for the County that have been unfunded for years. At a tax rate of \$1.135, most homeowners would have received a tax cut because the equalized tax rate for homeowners is \$1.140.

During the budget sessions, I believe it is always important to listen to the voice of the people. Most residents have not asked us to set a tax rate of \$1.125. This year we are in a unique position because of the County's economic growth. I wanted to fully fund LCPS so they could catch-up on items cut in years past. I will continue to advocate for full funding of the LCPS budget.

At the March 20th work session, I made a motion to allocate \$1.5 million of FY 2017 Fund Balance for textbooks and digital resources. The last time LCPS purchased new textbooks is in FY 2006. This amount will allow LCPS to catch-up and purchase books as a one-time expense and alleviate the need for our teachers to spend time and sometimes their own money "making" textbooks. Funding books and digital learning out of fund balance would not have increased the tax rate and would have reduced the LCPS deficit to \$4 million instead of \$5.5 million. Unfortunately, the majority of the Board did not support my motion.

The Board voted to allocate \$5.265 million to fund LCPS bus purchases and \$3.8 million to fund turf fields at Heritage and Dominion High Schools this year.

At the March 6th work session, I moved that the Board of Supervisors approve funding for the critical need request of \$1,000,000 to the Employment and Day Support Contract Expansion in the FY 2018 Budget. This motion failed. However, the Board ended up funding \$600,000 for service providers like [Every Citizen Has Opportunities \(ECHO\)](#). ECHO has not received funding increases for 8 years and has a waiting list of 24 adults which does not include the 16 adults expected to graduate from LCPS this year. I believe we have a moral obligation to take care of the Loudoun County citizens least able to take care of themselves. I support keeping up with the waiting list and the need in future budgets.

At the March 9th work session, I moved that the Board of Supervisors approve \$9,800 for Loudoun County Fire and Rescue's FY 2018 budget for volunteer tuition reimbursement. There are 800 active volunteers in the system and I am very aware retention is a problem. The tuition reimbursement for the last 10 years has remained the same at \$20,600 and it has been utilized 29% above this base amount for the last 5 years. My intention is to increase the base amount to \$50,000 by the end of my term or in three years with \$9,800 as the first installment. Education is a great way to incentivize volunteers to remain in the Fire and Rescue system. I am very happy the volunteer tuition reimbursement budget will be increased. I want to thank all the first responders for their service.

### **Cemetery Preservation**

At the March 7th business meeting, Supervisor Umstadd and I submitted a Board Member Initiative to develop a cemetery preservation ordinance for an appropriate perimeter buffer area around existing cemeteries and burial grounds to protect the County's cultural resources. This ordinance is especially needed for enslaved people who do not always have fieldstone markers above ground. These people deserve respect in death that they did not get in life. This issue is very close to my heart. We don't know if cemeteries have been disturbed or built over and this ordinance will protect known and unknown cemeteries with a buffer. I want to thank Pastor Michelle Thomas, the Heritage Commission and the community for their passion on this issue.

### **Land Use**

On March 7th, a majority of the Board of Supervisors voted to reconsider the One Loudoun application. I did not support the motion to reconsider. I will not change my vote on this application because I continue to be concerned about the traffic in this area. There were many behind the scenes conversations and confusion about this application. For transparency, the Board needs to improve its communication so changes do not come up last minute. On March 23rd, the Board approved One Loudoun's application for 200 additional residential units.

Best Regards,

Phyllis Randall

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## **Voice for a Cause** **Dandelion Meadow**

Dandelion Meadow's mission is to provide a sanctuary of healing for women survivors of addiction, abuse and human trafficking. Love is the strongest force for change in the world is the motto for this nonprofit. Dandelion Meadow is a sister organization to Thistle Farms, a residential program that has had 20 years of successful growth in Nashville, TN. Thistle Farms provides housing for up to 32 women and serves hundreds more with advocacy and referral services, including prison programs, medical care, therapy, education and job training. Thistle Farms also employs its residents and graduates in social enterprises. Dandelion Meadow plans to offer a residential program through Safe Haven Recovery with 24 months rent-free housing, treatment, vocational training and employment. They will start the program with one home and 6 women and move to 24 women as funding becomes available. They have plans to open a cafe and a retail storefront by Christmas 2017 to sell honey, hand-made products, artisan pottery and quilted creations made by women survivors. Volunteers are needed to define the vision and work on business and fundraising plans. If you are interested in joining, please send an e-mail or message through their [Facebook page](#).



## **Investing in Transportation**

There will be night closures at Route 7 & Belmont Ridge Road (Route 659) for the interchange construction. The first phase is scheduled to begin the night of Monday, March 27th and end on or about April 10th. During Phase 1, the Route 7 eastbound left turn lanes to Route 659 north and left through lane will be closed, beginning at 10:00 pm. Complete closures of Route 7 and Route 659 will occur at 20-minute intervals between 12:00 am and 5:00 am, Monday through Friday. The second phase is scheduled on or about April 11th to April 20th. During Phase 2, the Route 7

eastbound left turn lanes onto Route 659 north and the Route 7 eastbound left and center through lanes will be closed, beginning at 10:00 pm. Route 7 and Route 659 closures will occur at 20-minute intervals between 12:00 am and 5:00 am, Monday through Friday. Loudoun County officials ask that motorists plan ahead to take alternate routes to avoid this area during the affected times. For more information, visit the [County website](#).

Steel beams will be installed on the future Belmont Ridge Road bridge over the Washington & Old Dominion Trail Thursday, March 23 and Friday, March 24 between 9 am and 3 pm. There will not be any impacts to traffic on Belmont Ridge Road, but there will be intermittent full closures of up to 30 minutes for pedestrians and bicyclists on the Washington & Old Dominion Trail.

The County is seeking community input about bus routes and transit services. Please provide your input by taking the [online survey](#) by March 31st.

## Smarts Mill Middle School College In Six

Chair Randall was a presenter for the "Initiating A Path to Excellence" College in Six at Smarts Mill Middle School. She discussed her professional and educational experience and offered insight about the opportunities available after high school. Please let us know if you would like her to participate in your middle school program. She enjoys spending time with the students of Loudoun County.



## Community Events and Information

**[Loudoun Workforce Resource Center Presents STEM Career Fair:](#)** Tuesday, March 28 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the Higher Education Center on NVCC's Loudoun campus, 21200 Campus Drive in Sterling. More than 20 employers will be attending to recruit for entry-, mid- and senior-level science, technology, engineering and math/banking positions. Anyone interested in a career in the rapidly growing field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is encouraged to attend this free career fair. Those interested in attending the fair are encouraged to register for the "Ready, Set, Go to the Career Fair!" workshop on Tuesday, March 21st and the Mock Interviews workshop on Thursday, March 23rd. Both workshops will be held at the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center, 102 Heritage Way, N.E. in Leesburg. Participants may register online for these and other workshops at the [County website](#).

**[Housing Resources for People with Developmental Disabilities Information Session:](#)**

Thursday, March 30, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Nearly 600 Virginians in the target population rent their own homes. They receive support from different sources to live independently in the community. Learn how they did it and how you or your family can too. Event is hosted by Loudoun ENDependence, RSVP to [traceeg@ecnv.org](mailto:traceeg@ecnv.org).

**[Legacy Farms Breakfast in the Garden:](#)** Saturday, April 1, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, 15855 Limestone School Road, Leesburg. Legacy Farms helps people with autism find competitive employment with a wide array of agrarian based job opportunities. Learn more about the programs and tour the garden and greenhouse. For more information, [visit the event page](#) on Facebook.

**[Spring Native Plant Sale:](#)** Saturday, April 1, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Morven Park, 17195 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. Beautiful spring flowers, shrubs, trees, vines and ferns will be available at the Native Plant Sale. For more information visit, [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org).

**[Ashburn Volunteer Fire & Rescue Pancake Breakfast:](#)** Saturday, April 2, 20688 Ashburn Road. This is a great opportunity for the community to return to this ever-popular event, as well as have a first look at the newly renovated Founders Hall. Price is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$5 for children 3-8 years old, children under 3 are free.

**[Spring Tea at the Salamander Resort and Spa:](#)** Sunday, April 9, 2:00 to 4:30 pm. Chair Randall will be a featured speaker at the annual event honoring local organizations that have dedicated themselves to serving the needs of others in our community. This year's honorees are: The Good Shepard Alliance and the Loudoun Free Clinic. The 2017 Spring Tea is hosted by the Loudoun County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in collaboration with this year's partners: One.Love.Loudoun, Virginia WOMAN magazine, and Reston Limousine. For more information and to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

**[A Bump in the Night, Charity Art Auction:](#)** Sunday, April 9, 2017 from 4 to 8 pm at the Michael Helene Salon Gallery, 23520 Overland Drive, #216, Dulles. Proceeds will go towards the prevention of child abuse via the Child Help Foundation. Event will include art auction, food truck, wine, local celebrity guests, prizes and amazing local and international artists. Donations can be made at the auction or online at <https://gofundme.com/mhsgchildhelp.com>. For further information on the Child Help Foundation or the Michael Helene Salon Gallery, please call 703-661-6898 or visit their [Facebook page](#).

STAY CONNECTED:



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