



CHAIR PHYLLIS J. RANDALL NEWSLETTER



Hello, Loudoun

Loudoun, after two years as your County Chair I continue to feel awed, humbled and blessed to be allowed to serve in this capacity. I wish to thank our amazing County staff who work harder than most realize. To my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, I respect and value your opinions and your commitment. To the citizens of the most wonderful County in the world, although not perfect, please know that every day I wake up and do my very best to make decisions to serve your best interest and move us forward.

In 2018, I will serve on the following Regional and County Boards: Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) where I am Vice Chair, Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) where I Chair the Human Services and Public Safety Committee, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), National Association of Counties (NACo), Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA), Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the Route 28 Transportation Improvement District Commission.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some key initiatives and accomplishments in 2017.

Environment

The Board voted to implement a [Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program \(C-PACE\)](#). Under the proposed program, no County funds would be used, and the County would have no responsibility or obligation for loan repayment, even in the event of default by a property owner. Staff will develop a draft C-PACE ordinance for the Board's consideration at a future business meeting and public hearing. I have been a strong advocate of C-PACE because it will promote economic development and green infrastructure. As Metro comes to Loudoun, it will be an option for new commercial property owners to finance clean energy improvements. Thank you to Girard Gurgick and staff for your hard work and persistence.

I supported the partnership between Loudoun County and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the Local Energy Alliance Program to promote the use of solar power in homes and businesses called Solarize Loudoun. In 2017, the Solarize Loudoun campaign featured Loudoun County based solar installers.

I did not support the commission permits for Columbia Gas and Dominion for the expansion of existing natural gas compressor facilities. I believe removal of the safety odorant, mercaptan, during planned venting is a safety concern and could not vote for the commission permits.

Community

Sixteen nonprofit organizations were featured in my "Voice for a Cause" section of the newsletter in 2017. These nonprofits serve the citizens of Loudoun County and deserve our support and recognition. My office participated in town halls and community meetings across the County. Loudoun County's second State of the County Address was a success and was attended by many officials across the region including the Mayor of Washington DC, Muriel Bowser. This year, my third State of the County Address is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, 2018.

Your voice is very important to me and will always be a priority in my decision making. I voted against the True North Data Center because 680 residents submitted e-mails, and this does not include the post cards and face to face conversations. I am a citizen representative and will always vote my constituency or my conscious.

The first meeting for the Loudoun Commission on Women and Girls (LCWAG) was April 19, 2017. I founded the LCWAG to develop programs to help women and girls overcome the many risks and challenges they face. I want to thank the Chair, Christine DeWitt, and all the incredible women who are serving on this commission. On November 13th, LCWAG made its first public appearance in support of BRAWS, a nonprofit organization that provides homeless and low-income women and girls in shelters and schools with undergarments and feminine hygiene products.



Transparency

I sponsored a Board Member Initiative to post the agenda summaries of Board business meetings and public hearings at all Loudoun County Public Libraries as soon as they become available to the public. This system will allow residents, who do not have sufficient internet and technology access, to view the proposed items in a timely manner. Ultimately, it will enable more residents to be informed about items that they may find important.

In keeping with my promise to be open and transparent, I did not vote to limit public input during Board business meetings. I am here for the people and want to allow people the opportunity to speak to me. The Board majority voted to limit public input to 60 minutes and asked staff to research best practices from other counties.

Budget

At the January 3, 2018 Board business meeting, the Commissioner of the Revenue projected that the equalized tax rate will be \$1.09, which is 3.5 cents lower than the current tax rate of \$1.125. The Board majority directed the County Administrator to prepare the FY19 proposed budget at the estimated equalized real property tax rate of \$1.09, while providing options to increase the rate to \$1.10, and decrease the rate to \$1.08. As in 2017, I will continue to push for adequate funding of the School Board's proposed budget to avoid a large deficit. Loudoun County Public Schools projects a 1,483-student increase in the next fiscal year and 339 full-time positions are needed to keep up with enrollment growth and the opening of 3 schools in the fall of 2018.

In December, the Board voted to pursue direct funding arrangements in FY 2019 with six nonprofits that provide core safety net services to County residents at a cost of \$502,519, allowing the full \$1,090,700 existing nonprofit budget to be available for the competitive portion of the nonprofit grant awards. Our nonprofit community will continue to be an invaluable resource assisting some of our more at-risk citizens. For our nonprofits, please see information about the grant funding application process at the bottom of this newsletter.

In December, the Board expanded the program for the real estate tax relief for the elderly or permanently disabled to be effective on January 1, 2019. All applicants who are currently benefiting from the program will not be affected.

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 2017:

- Route 7/Belmont Ridge Road Interchange
- Waxpool Road expansion
- Opening of Tall Cedars Parkway between Pinebrook Road and Gum Spring Road
- Route 28 South expansion from Sterling Blvd to Dulles Toll Road
- Route 7/Ashburn Village Blvd Interchange
- Route 15 North improvements
- Opening of Loudoun County Parkway and Route 606
- Opening of Shreveport Drive from Belmont Ridge Road to Loudoun County Parkway
- Route 7 Interchange at Battlefield Parkway
- Mooreview Parkway between Croson Lane and Old Ryan Road
- Paving of Lockridge Road between Moran Road and Prentice Drive
- Opening of Innovation Avenue and Innovation Avenue Interchange
- Completion of Belmont Ridge Road improvements between Broadlands Blvd to Truro Parish Drive.

Staff submitted applications for nine County projects to NVTA's Six Year Regional Funding Program in the amount of \$365,702,000 and the Town of Leesburg's Route 7 at Battlefield Parkway Interchange project totaling \$25,000,000. The Evergreen Mills Road at Watson Road and Reservoir Road safety improvement project was added to the list of nine projects.

In 2017, the Board held a Transportation and Transit Summit which had specific action items to improve safety and reduce congestion on our roads and provide a more efficient and cost-effective transit service pre- and post-Metro.

Land Use

Envision Loudoun, the process to create a new Comprehensive Plan, held 5 public outreach meetings and an online input opportunity for Round II: Envision the Future Workshops during the first two weeks of June 2017. The project team is now writing the components of a new Comprehensive Plan and Countywide Transportation Plan for Round III public outreach meetings tentatively scheduled for spring 2018. The input received from residents in Rounds I and II is being used to develop the various components of the plan.

In the fall 2017, the Board held a Housing Summit to discuss topics related to housing affordability in Loudoun County. The Board's discussion focused on incentivizing the housing market; evaluating existing public land inventory; identifying best locations for affordable housing with access to infrastructure and community amenities; and building upon the existing housing trust fund for use as a revolving loan program.

Economic Development

To promote rural economic development, I brought an item forward to expand the scope for a Loudoun Agriculture and Rural Business Accelerator. By focusing on the role business incubation plays in the economic development of rural areas, we will better understand how accomplished programs achieve financial sustainability, fulfill their mission to graduate successful clients, and create community wealth. Implementation of this strategy will help support the rural economy and preserve farm land.

On January 18th, Amazon announced that a development straddling Loudoun and Fairfax counties has been selected for further consideration as the location for the company's second headquarters. I was pleased to learn that out of 238 proposals from across North America, Amazon decided that our site is one of only 20 that merits serious consideration for HQ2. Congratulations to Buddy Rizer and his economic development team!

The Board voted to lease approximately 54 acres of land within Bolen Park to DC United pursuant to terms and conditions outlined in the [Memorandum of Agreement \(MOA\)](#). This is an amazing opportunity for our young soccer players and the facilities will put Loudoun on the map internationally. I heard the Leesburg residents who have traffic concerns with the stadium and will work with the Leesburg Town Council and staff to address these issues. Because the proposed facilities require land use approvals by the Board, a traffic impact study is required to identify deficiencies in the transportation network and to outline recommended improvements that would be needed to mitigate the traffic impacts resulting from the development.

Thank you for successful 2017 and I look forward to an exciting 2018 full of opportunities and challenges. The budget season begins with the County Administrator's budget presentation scheduled Wednesday, February 14th at 5:00 pm in the Board Room of the Government Center prior to the 6:00 pm public hearing.

Best Regards,

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Voice for a Cause **YMCA Loudoun** **County**



YMCA Loudoun County's mission is to foster the spiritual, mental and physical development of individuals, families and communities according to the ideals of inclusiveness, equality and mutual respect for all.

YMCA Loudoun County recently opened the [YMCA Loudoun County Youth Development Center](#) to better serve Loudoun's growing population. The new center at 624 West Church Road in Sterling provides academic enrichment year-round to infants, preschool-aged children and school-aged children. The organization serves 400 kids during the week throughout Loudoun. Families are charged for the services on a sliding scale based on their income, and no child is turned away. The majority of its funds are raised through two large fundraising events: Chocolates Galore and the Belfort Furniture sponsored Golf Classic. The [31st Annual YMCA Chocolates Galore & More](#) is Friday, February 23rd from 7:00 to 11:00 pm at the Lansdowne Resort and Spa. Tickets are \$50 per person.

Community Events and Information

Loudoun Nonprofit Grant Funding Application: The online grant application and related documents are posted, and applications must be submitted by February 22nd. Loudoun County is holding two training sessions for prospective applicants called "Grants 101 and Outcomes Evaluation" on the following dates:

- Friday, January 26th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Loudoun County Government Center, Dulles Room, 1 Harrison Street, SE, Leesburg
- Monday, January 29th, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Cascades Library, Meeting Room A, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls.

Training is highly recommended for any organizations seeking grant funding. There is no need to pre-register for either session. For those who are unable to attend either of the training sessions, a link to a training video will be posted on this [webpage](#).

Fourth Annual Chilly Days Chili Fundraiser: Saturday, January 27th from noon to 4:00 pm at the Old Ox Brewery, 44652 Guilford Road in Ashburn. Enjoy unlimited tastings of chili graciously provided by Ashburn restaurants to support the Ashburn Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department. Old Ox has brewed a special batch of 'War Wagon Pilsner' for the event! We'll have great raffle prizes and other fun throughout the event.

YMCA Loudoun County Chocolates Galore & More: Friday, February 23rd from 7:00 to 11:00 pm at the Lansdowne Resort and Spa. The signature portion of the evening is the Best Taste and Best Presentation competition between some of our finest local restaurants. At the event, five professional food critics, along with our guests, sample and judge the sweet and savory culinary creations presented in the dessert and hors d'oeuvre categories. Winners are announced towards the end of the evening as the Critic's Choice and People's Choice for best taste and best presentation.



the **YMCA**

LANSDOWNE
RESORT AND SPA

THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE WINTER SEASON

31st Annual
**CHOCOLATES GALORE
& MORE**

Friday, February 23rd, 2018
Lansdowne Resort and Spa

Open House at Morven Park: February 11th, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at 17195 Southern Planter Lane in Leesburg. We are excited to offer our first wedding Open House at the Park. Future brides, grooms, and their families are welcome to join us for wedding tours of our grounds. A selection of our Preferred Wedding Vendors will also be on-site to display their services and other offerings. During the open house, we will offer rotating wedding tours from 11 am until 4 pm. In between the tours, we invite you to meet some of our wedding vendors that will be set-up in the Coach House. Space for each tour is limited so please [register](#).

Ashburn Volunteer Fire & Rescue Pancake Breakfast: February 11th, 8:00 to 11:00 am at Founders Hall, Station 6, Ashburn Road. Bring family and friends and enjoy our great eggs, cheesy eggs, pancakes, sausage gravy & biscuits, hash browns, bacon, juices and coffee. \$10 adults, \$7 seniors, \$5 children (3-8), children under 3 free. Craft table for kiddies.

STAY CONNECTED:



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