



CHAIR PHYLLIS J. RANDALL NEWSLETTER



Hello, Loudoun

Did you know February is Black History Month? In celebration of Black History Month, [Loudoun County Public Library](#) is offering programs to commemorate African American achievement and the Civil Rights movement. The [Loudoun Freedom Center](#), my Voice for a Cause on February 6th, is also offering new and exciting programs (please see two upcoming programs in the events section of this newsletter). The Loudoun Freedom Center's mission is to eliminate injustice and engender hope, understanding and reconciliation through STEM research, historical preservation and education as it relates to the lives and contributions of the enslaved and other African Americans who lived in and may be buried throughout Loudoun County and Northern Virginia.

Ten years ago, I came to the Board of Supervisors asking them to recognize Black History Month. Every year since then, I've authored the resolution with Ms. Elaine Thompson's help. This year's resolution is a tribute to Ms. Elaine Thompson's life as one of the most influential voices on black history in Loudoun County.

Budget

The County Administrator, Tim Hemstreet, presented a [proposed budget](#) for the Loudoun County government to the Board of Supervisors for FY 2019 on February 14th. The budget totals \$2.3 billion in appropriations for the county government and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS).

The proposed budget is based on the equalized real property tax rate or \$1.09. The equalized tax rate is 3.5 cents lower than the current tax rate of \$1.125. At the Board's direction, Hemstreet provided two additional tax rate

options, an option at one cent higher than the equalized rate, \$1.10, and an option at one cent lower than the equalized rate, \$1.08.

Three Tax Rate Options



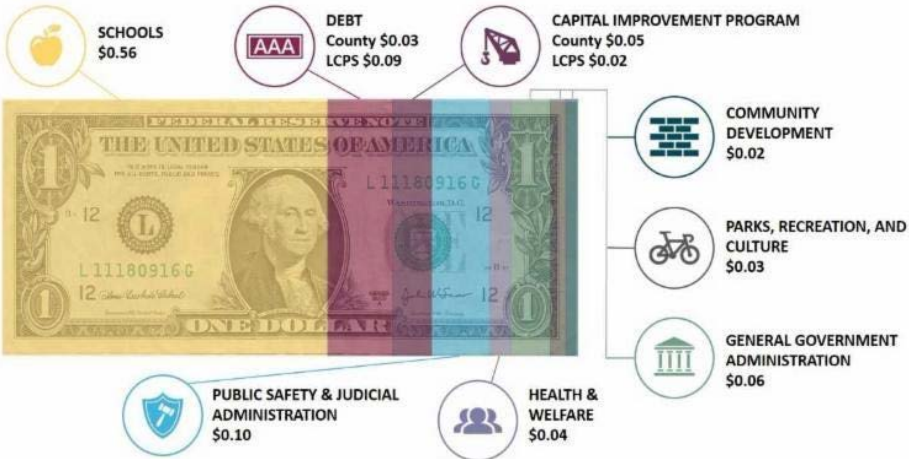
The proposed budget at the equalized tax rate of \$1.09 maintains current County service levels but underfunds LCPS by \$10.8 million. The County continues to add approximately 11,000 residents every year, which brings additional service demands that cannot be absorbed by existing staff and static year-over-year funding. LCPS projects 1,483 additional students with the special needs population growing faster than the rate of total enrollment.

The School Board proposed budget achieves universal full-day kindergarten. I expected LCPS to take seven years to implement universal full-day kindergarten. It is astounding what LCPS and the School Board has done for full-day kindergarten in four years.

The dollar bill graphic is a representation of where tax dollars will be used under the proposed FY 2019 Budget.

Your Tax Dollar at Work

FY 2019 Proposed Budget



We will hold three public hearings on the proposed FY 2019 budget. I hope you will attend one of these sessions to voice your opinions about the budget.

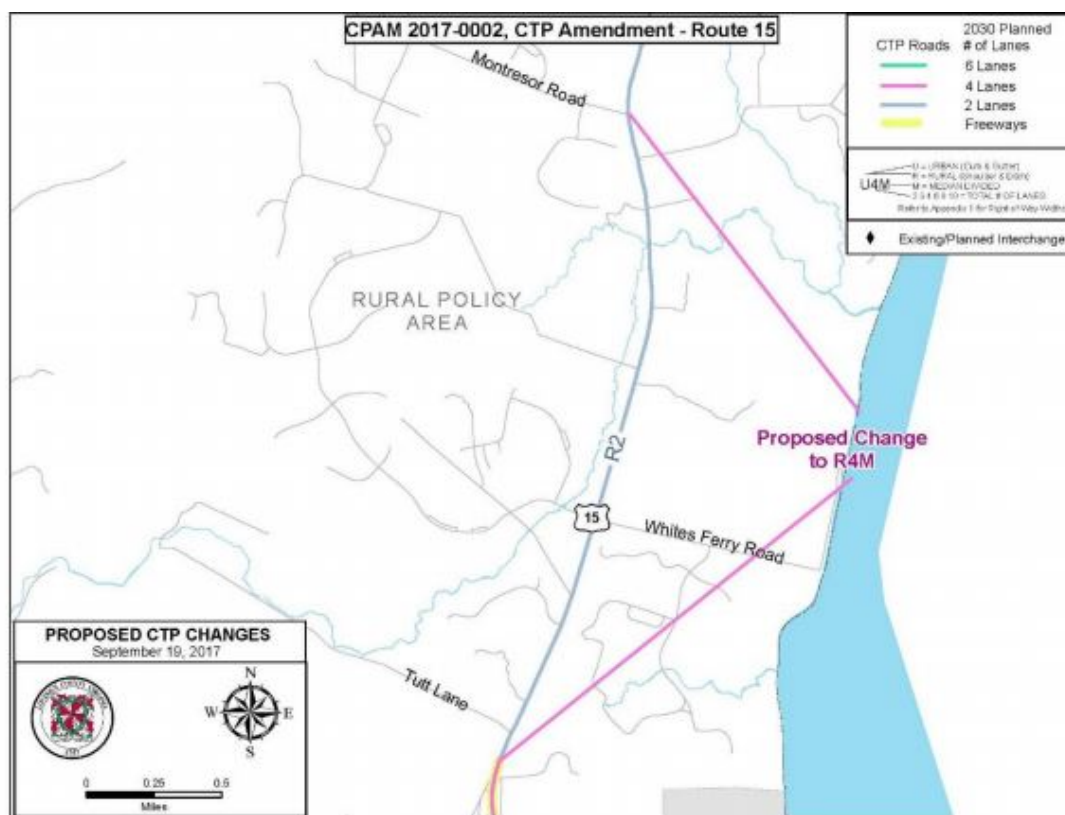
- Tuesday, February 27th, 6:00 pm, Board Room, Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg.
- Thursday, March 1st, 3:00 pm, Board Room, Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg.
- Saturday, March 3rd, 9:00 am, Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn.

Anyone who wishes to speak at the public hearings may sign up in advance by calling 703-777-0204. The public hearings at the government center will be available for viewing on Comcast Government TV Channel 23, Open Band Channel 40, and Verizon FiOS Channel 40. They will also be [webcast](#).

Route 15 North CPAM

An [amendment](#) to the Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) is needed to widen Route 15 North from 2 lanes to 4 lanes between North King Street and Montesor Road. Improvements are to be constructed in conformance with the Heritage Resource Policies of the CTP and the Scenic Areas and Corridor Policies of the Revised General Plan and the Heritage Preservation Plan and

include bicycle and pedestrian trails. To date, there have been 3 public input meetings attended by 239 residents and 2,500 responses to an online survey. I support widening for safety and the environment. During rush hour and special events, it is impossible for emergency vehicles to get to residents in communities like Raspberry Falls. Regarding the environment, idling cars sitting in traffic for 4 hours in the morning and afternoon, 5 days a week increases our carbon footprint. We have spent 25 years studying this corridor and it is time to move forward and do something to improve safety and congestion. This amendment is the first step, not the last, and we will continue to get input from residents. The CPAM was forwarded to the March 6th Board business meeting for a vote.



Substance Abuse Summit

Please save the date for my Substance Abuse Summit on Tuesday, April 17th from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Northern Virginia Community College Loudoun Campus. The focus will be on prevention, treatment, self-help, legal aspects and life after recovery. Loudoun County Government, public safety, nonprofit organizations, faith communities, private industry, health providers, family and recovering addicts have come together to hold breakout sessions

where we talk frankly about this epidemic. I hope you can attend this informative community meeting.

The National Conference Center applicant has requested to defer their land use applications from the Thursday, February 22nd Board business meeting to the Thursday, March 22nd Board business meeting to allow more time to consider the community's concerns. Thank you for attending my community meeting in Lansdowne and for making your voices heard.

Best Regards,

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Voice for a Cause **OAR**

OAR's mission is to rebuild lives and break the cycle of crime with opportunities, alternatives, and resources for offenders and their families to create a safer community. In Loudoun, OAR provides services for the incarcerated, post-release services, and family services. OAR maintains a close working relationship with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and facilitates programs inside the Adult Detention Center and Work Release Center (jail) for the incarcerated. These jail based programs are designed to address specific factors that lead to criminal behavior and build skills that will assist inmates to successfully reintegrate into the community after incarceration. OAR is currently offering Life Skills, Employability Skills, and Fatherhood classes in the Loudoun County Jail. OAR would appreciate your help providing [**post-release support to OAR clients**](#) trying to rebuild their lives. Packing up hygiene kits, snack packs or donating underclothing is an easy and inexpensive way to offer real



support to OAR clients in need. If you are unable to pack up complete kits, we still appreciate donations of the individual items!

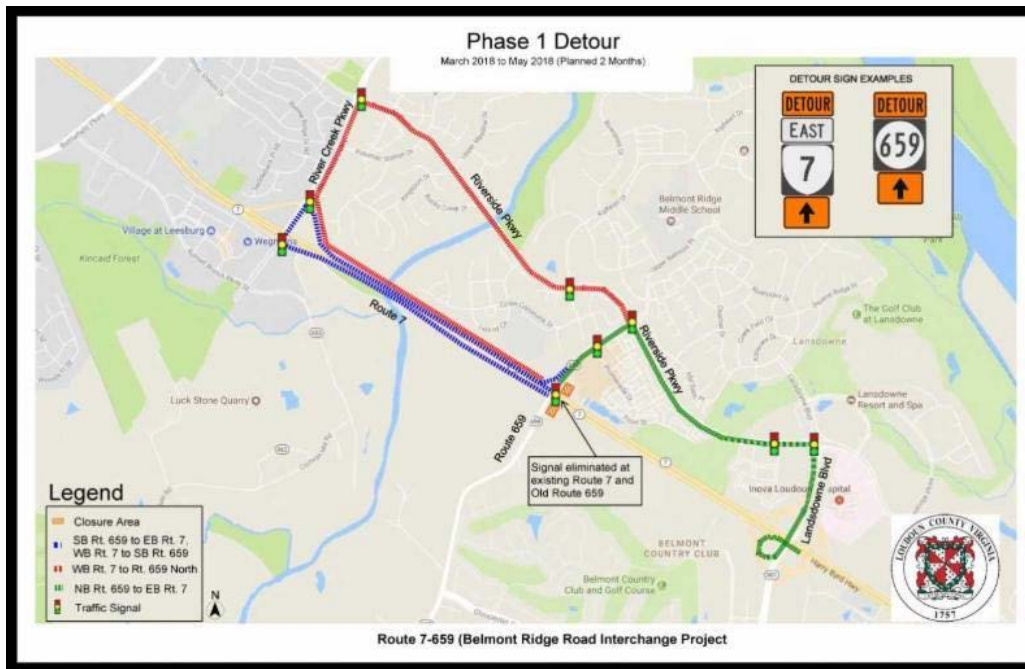
Investing in Transportation

Segments of Loudoun County Parkway (Route 606) and Route 50 will have full closures in both directions during several weekends in February and March in order to allow Dominion Energy crews to place wire on new electric transmission structures. There will be up to two such closures per day lasting up to 15 minutes each. The closures will occur according to the following schedule, weather permitting:

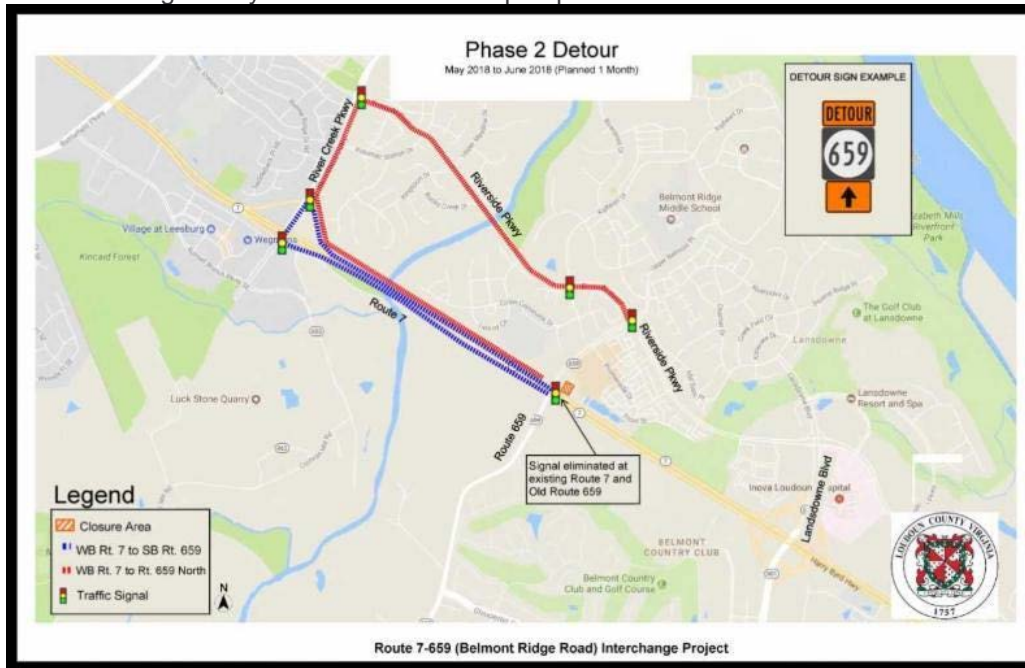
- Sunday, Feb. 25: Loudoun County Parkway from Route 50 to Dulles West Boulevard between 7 am and 10:30 am.
- Saturday, March 3, Saturday, March 10 and Saturday, March 17: Route 50 from Poland Road to Tall Cedars Parkway between 7 am and 9:30 am.
- Sunday, March 4, Sunday, March 11 and Sunday, March 18: Route 50 from Poland Road to Tall Cedars Parkway between 7 am and 10:30 am.

Traffic shifts and detours are scheduled for the [Route 7/659 \(Belmont Ridge Road\) interchange project](#). The work will consist of two phases and the impact of the two phases are as follows:

Phase One: The first phase of the work is scheduled to begin on or about March 20th weather permitting. The first phase opens traffic to the ramps and spurs on the west side of the bridge, eliminates the signal at existing Route 7, and puts Belmont Ridge Road traffic and the signal onto the interchange bridge. The phase one traffic shift will allow the contractor to begin construction of the ramps and spurs on the east side of the bridge concurrently. This phase is expected to take about two months to complete and will require traffic detours onto Route 7 eastbound from Belmont Ridge Road and onto Belmont Ridge Road from Route 7 westbound. Please see the map of phase one detours below.



Phase Two: The second phase will open traffic to the ramp and spur at the southeast corner of the interchange, allowing access onto Route 7 eastbound from Belmont Ridge Road and allowing the contractor to complete construction of the ramp at the northeast corner. The phase two traffic shift is planned to be completed within one month starting in May. Please see the map of phase two detours below.



New Vet Community Access Center

Loudoun, please join me in welcoming the opening of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Vet Community Access Center in Loudoun County. The facility is located at 751 Miller Drive, S.E., Suite E, in Leesburg. It provides mental health services to veterans, active duty military personnel and their



families. Thank you to everyone involved in the process to bring this important center to Loudoun, and of course, thank you to all who served. Appointments at the Vet Center Community Access Center can be made by calling 304-263-6776.

Community Events and Information

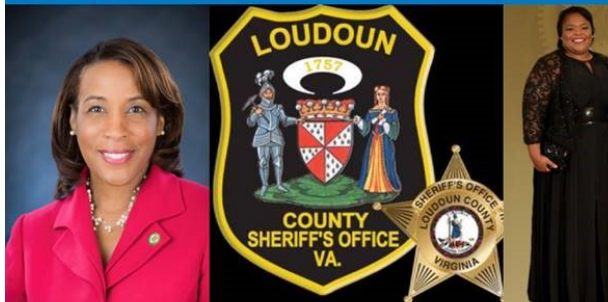
[Open House Invitation from the Black History Committee and Friends of the Thomas Balch Library:](#) Saturday, February 24th from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm at 208 West Market Street in Leesburg. "African-Americans in Times of War" and "African-American Genealogy" will feature a full day of presentations that include local author Kevin Grigsby who will speak about the role of African-Americans in wartime and how to conduct genealogy research. Refreshments will be served.

[Riverside High School Black History Month Celebration:](#) Monday, February 26th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, 19019 Upper Belmont Place in Leesburg. Enjoy a panel discussion with Chair Randall, Pastor Michelle Thomas and Lieutenant Easton McDonald. Celebration includes a free casual catered dinner. Please **[RSVP](#)** by Sunday.

RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS
INAUGURAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2018, 6:00-8:00 PM
RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



Riverside
HIGH SCHOOL



Casual Catered Dinner

NCTE African-American Read-In

Panel Discussion with:

Phyllis J. Randall, Loudoun Board of Supervisors Chair

Pastor Michelle C. Thomas, Founder of Holy & Whole Life Changing Ministries International

Lieutenant Easton McDonald, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office



African American Read-In

George Mason University Offers Free Speakers to Community Organizations: Is your club or organization interested in having a speaker? The George Mason University speakers program is comprised of over 100 faculty and staff who provide lectures and guest presentations on hundreds of topics to organizations and businesses free of charge. Rotary clubs, retirement communities and businesses that offer "lunch and learns" have been using this service for over 20 years. Favorite topics range from "Joint Health: You Rest, You Rust" to "Forty Years of Exploration of the Surface of Mars." Contact Sarah Gallagher at 703-993-8761 or sgallag5@gmu.edu for more information.

Information Sessions about Loudoun's Real Estate Tax Relief Program for the Elderly or Permanently Disabled: Commissioner of the Revenue, Robert Wertz, has scheduled free information sessions to familiarize residents with the eligibility criteria for the county's real estate tax relief program. No appointment or RSVP is required to attend these sessions.

- Purcellville: Monday, February 26th, 10:30 am, Purcellville Library, 220 East Main Street
- Ashburn: Tuesday, February 27th, 10:30 am, Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road

- Potomac Falls: Wednesday, February 28th, 10:30 am, Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls
- Leesburg: Thursday, March 1st, 10:30 am, Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road, NW

Ashburn Volunteer Fire & Rescue Pancake Breakfast: March 11th, 8:00 am to 11:00 am, Founders Hall, Station 6, Ashburn Road. Bring family and friends and enjoy our great breakfast of eggs, cheesy eggs, pancakes, sausage gravy & biscuits, hash browns, bacon, juices, coffee. \$10 adults, \$7 seniors, \$5 children 3-8. Children under 3 are free and there will be a craft table.

YMCA Stravaganza: Saturday, March 24th, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, YMCA Loudoun County Youth Development Center, 624 West Church Road in Sterling. Free egg hunt, crafts, refreshments and games. For ages 2 and up. Please bring your own basket.

STAY CONNECTED:



Loudoun County, VA, 1 Harrison St., S.E., 5th Floor,
P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177

[About our service provider](#)

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