



CHAIR PHYLLIS J. RANDALL NEWSLETTER



Hello, Loudoun

Starting in the New Year, I'm proud to represent you as a Vice President on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Corporate Board. I look forward to working with Prince George's County Executive, Angela Alsobrooks, Mayor, Muriel Bowser and COG Secretary-Treasurer, Kate Stewart. This is a historic year because for the first time all Corporate Officers are women. I'm very excited to serve with my colleagues on the panel, making for easier communication, collaboration and decision-making. As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chair.



Rural Summit

Thank you for attending my Rural Summit on Friday, November 16th at the Salamander Resort and Spa. And thank you to our emcee, moderators and panelists. With over 300 attendees, the summit was informative, timely and produced specific recommendations and solutions.



At the morning session "View from the Inside: Tools Available for the Rural Economy," Robert Bonnie discussed conservation easement funding at the federal level, Cassidy Rasnick discussed the Purchase of Development Rights cost share program with the state and Buddy Rizer and Jim Hilleary described how economic development and the Virginia Cooperative Extension can help with grants, technical assistance and education.

At the afternoon breakout session "Supporting and Growing the Next Generation," Matt Mulder discussed farming programs for veterans, Doug Fabboli discussed expanding the New Agricultural School to Loudoun County Public Schools, and there was a discussion about the most effective tools to keep farms and how to support new farmers and the equine industry.

At the other afternoon breakout session "Preserving and Maintaining Rural Loudoun," Jeremy Criss described the transfer of development rights program in Montgomery County and Alison Teetor introduced Clarke County's conservation easement authority that purchases development rights. Lastly, Mike Kane and Jennifer Moore appealed to the need for more conservation easements in the northern part of rural Loudoun and the resources available to protect historic properties.

We also had a tribute to Malcolm Baldwin, a longtime rural conservationist and a special friend who passed away in mid-November. This is a tough loss for western Loudoun and I give my condolences to his family. Daughters Rebecca and Alice Baldwin (pictured below) spoke on behalf of their father.



Photo Credit: Times-Mirror/Nathaniel Cline

At the December 4th Board business meeting, the establishment of a potential transfer of development rights program was discussed. Having as many tools in the toolbox as possible to preserve western Loudoun is important to me. Equally important is not to overwhelm eastern Loudoun with more housing. There is a balance. The Board voted unanimously to develop an information item explaining the practical and legal parameters of a transfer of development rights program at the February 21st Board business meeting.

The Board also voted to implement a conservation easement assistance program starting January 2019. County funds will cover no more than 50 percent of upfront costs for placing land under conservation easement, capped at \$15,000 per landowner. At my Rural Summit, Robert Bonnie discussed the conservation easement program available at the federal level. There are monies available at the state and federal level to help landowners. I want to amend our program should state and federal monies become available that do not have strict stipulations. The County's program will be a pilot the first year and changes can be incorporated in the second year.

Based on the participant comments at the Rural Summit, I will be sponsoring another potential tool to preserve farmland in the New Year. Again, thank you to all the residents who attended the summit and are committed to this cause.

Distance Based Tolling on Dulles Greenway

Big news! I'm excited to announce that together with Delegates John Bell and David Reid, and the Dulles Greenway, we have a tentative agreement to implement distance based pricing on the Dulles Greenway, which has been a goal for elected officials and residents of Loudoun County for over a decade.

Reducing tolls and easing commute times for Loudoun County residents will always be a top priority for me. Distance based pricing is the type of solution we need. I want to give credit to Delegate John Bell who was the catalyst for many months of meetings and discussions. Working on this plan with Delegates Bell and Reid has been my pleasure.

The distance-based pricing deal, which is still being finalized, would include:

- Off-peak distance-based pricing of \$1 per mile, with a maximum toll not to exceed the full-length off-peak toll;
- No users will pay more under this pay structure than they would under the current pay structure;
- Distance-based pricing will be in effect for non-peak hours (21 hours/day) and 24-hours/day on weekends and holidays, which equates to potential significant toll savings during more than 90% of the operating hours;
- The current toll escalation structure that was put in place in 2008 to reduce the rate at which tolls escalated relative to those being awarded by the State Corporation Commission will continue until the road is turned over to the state;
- Creates flexible options for commuters, reducing costs for businesses, and significantly increasing traffic options along the east-west corridor;
- It will cost the Greenway approximately \$30 million in upfront infrastructure to implement this solution. This cost will not be passed to Greenway users.

Discharge of Firearms

In the past six months, we have had 6 shooting incidents and 8 homes shot. We talk about voluntarily doing education and outreach but there is no requirement or guidance. For example, most residents do not know the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office recently released a video on how and where to shoot safely. The video can be viewed below or via this [link](#).



Firearms Safety- Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

At the December 4th business meeting, I supported a motion to develop a specific plan, including recommended funding for a public information and education campaign on the topic of the safe discharge of firearms. An interactive map will be disseminated to the public that shows the prohibited area for discharge of firearms. The other motions I supported are the following potential amendments to Section 684.03 of the codified ordinances of Loudoun County:

- Consider additional boundary revisions to the prohibited area in a manner that most closely aligns with the current boundaries of the Suburban Policy Area.
- Consider increasing the prohibited distance for discharge of firearms from 50 yards to 100 yards from roadways in the primary and secondary system.
- Consider adding safety standards regarding the utilization of berming and/or downhill shooting in conjunction with prolonged target shooting.

And a potential legislative agenda initiative:

- Regarding the enforceability of Virginia Code Sections 18.2-56.1, reckless handling of firearms; reckless handling while hunting and 18.2-279, discharging firearms or missiles within or at building or dwelling house.

This is not a Second Amendment issue but a County boundary line issue. The prohibited area for discharge of firearms was put in place in 2001, years before the homes were built. This is why we should not wait 16 years

to revise our comprehensive plan. It makes common sense to adjust the boundary lines for further protection. The potential amendments were forwarded for discussion and possible action to the February 2019 Transportation and Land Use Committee meeting.

Drug Court

Upon taking Office, I started the process to reinstate a Drug Court with improved criteria for participation. Drug Courts save lives and money and are a tacit recognition that Substance Dependence is not a character flaw, but a clinical condition that requires treatment.

The Board voted to reestablish the drug court program at the December 11th Finance Committee. The committee recommended spending \$372,000 to start the drug court for up to 25 participants. That is supplemented by a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to help cover the program's startup costs and first four years of operation. The full Board will vote on the drug court item at its January 2nd meeting. If approved, staff can begin assembling the program immediately, rather than waiting for the new fiscal year in July. I want to give special thanks to Loudoun's bench, because they have been very supportive and forward leaning as it relates to "specialty courts."

Brambleton Library Ribbon Cutting

The grand opening of the Brambleton Library on December 1st was a huge success! That weekend, more than 10,000 people came through the door. The Brambleton Library will become the 10th Loudoun County Public Library branch and is projected to be the busiest branch in the system. Thank you to everyone for making this wonderful community resource a reality!



Due to the holiday, the Board cancelled its second business meeting on Thursday, December 20th. The Board's next business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 2, 2019, beginning at 5:00 pm in the Board Room of the Loudoun County Government Center in Leesburg. Thank you and have a wonderful holiday and a happy New Year!

Best Regards,

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Investing in Transportation

Belmont Ridge Road Widening

The ribbon cutting for the reconstruction and widening of existing Belmont Ridge Road, between Gloucester Parkway and Hay Road was celebrated on December 5th. The project widened and reconstructed approximately 1.9 miles of Belmont Ridge Road from a two-lane roadway to a four-lane, median-divided facility with shared use paths on both sides of the roadway, and traffic signal modifications. The project also constructed a new bridge over the W&OD Trail which greatly improved safety for the bicyclists, pedestrians and equestrians who use the trail, a new parking lot for users of the W&OD Trail, and noise barriers for the Belmont Ridge and Belmont Forest communities.



Goshen Road Closed to Through Truck Traffic

The Board of Supervisor's request to restrict through truck traffic on Route 3172 (Sacred Mountain Street) and Route 616 (Goshen Road/Marrwood Drive/Lenah Mill Boulevard) between Route 3171 (Northstar Boulevard) and Route 50 (John Mosby Highway) in Loudoun County was approved by VDOT. Such closure shall apply only to through traffic of trucks and not vehicles with points of origin or destination along the affected routes. VDOT will erect the proper signs to notify the traveling public of these closures.

Evergreen Mills Road Closed Between Shreveport Drive and Belmont Ridge Road

Evergreen Mills Road between Shreveport Drive and Belmont Ridge Road is closed to through traffic until early March 2019 for road realignment work being completed by the Brambleton developer. Residents within the closure area, emergency vehicles, school

buses and those needing to access the Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative substation are still able to access the closed portion of Evergreen Mills Road. Traffic is being detoured via Belmont Ridge Road and Shreveport Drive back to Evergreen Mills Road (see detour map below).



Voice for a Cause Sweats for Vets

The Sweats for Vets program is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus of Loudoun County and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1177 located in Leesburg. Please support the Knights of Columbus and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1177 for the 11th year, and provide sweat suits as gifts for hospitalized veterans. New sweat suits only and sets are preferred in sizes XL, 2XL, 3XL, and 4XL. Drop sweat suits in collection boxes in Leesburg and Purcellville government centers including the County government center or bring them to the packaging event on Saturday, December 29th at VFW Post 1177, 401 Old Waterford Road, NW in Leesburg from 9:00 am to noon.



Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2019

I am honored to be a member of the Class of 2019 Women in Government Leadership Program with the amazing group of women leaders who are pictured below. The program was created to provide leadership development and pay it forward by mentoring women to run for office.



Community Events and Information

Loudoun Nonprofit Grant Funding Application: The County is now accepting applications from community nonprofits and the online grant application and related documents is available at this [website](#). Tax-exempt, nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations are eligible and funding is focused on services in the following areas of need:

- Prevention and Self-sufficiency
- Crisis Intervention and Diversion
- Long-term Support
- Improved Quality of Human Services

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm, January 18, 2019. The amount of funding will be determined during the FY 2020 budget discussions. In FY 2019, the budget for human service nonprofit grant funding was \$1.09 million. Adoption of the budget is expected in April 2019, with funding for successful applicants to begin July 1, 2019.

Loudoun Surveys Cable Subscribers: The County is gathering information from cable television subscribers in the county related to the quality of service they receive from their cable TV provider pertaining to outages, response time, value and service calls. The results of the subscriber survey will be shared with the Loudoun County Communications Commission and will help form recommendations to the Board of Supervisors as the county prepares for franchise renewal negotiations that are expected to occur within the next three years. A link to the survey is available at [here](#). The survey will remain open through January 31, 2019.

A public input meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, December 19th at 7:00 pm in the Dulles Room of the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street SE in Leesburg to further solicit feedback from cable TV subscribers.

Step Up Loudoun Youth Competition 2019: Registration for Step Up Loudoun Youth Competition (SULYC) is open through December 21st and the main competition will take place March 28, 2019. SULYC is a program of Loudoun Youth, Inc. in partnership with Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services. It empowers middle and high school students in Loudoun County to identify an issue in their school, neighborhood or community, research the problem, create and implement an action plan, then evaluate the community impact. Students work individually or in teams to make a difference. Positively improving others' lives gives youth purpose and helps them realize the big impact they can have in our community. SULYC encourages, supports and rewards those students who rise to the challenge, with the top ten teams winning monetary prizes between \$250 and \$1000.

Commissioner of the Revenue to Hold Real Estate Tax Relief Seminar: Loudoun County homeowners age 65 or older or with disabilities who are below established income and wealth limits may benefit from a reduction in the amount of property taxes they pay. Qualified applicants for real estate relief must have a gross combined income less than \$72,000, and net worth less than \$920,000. Find out about the county's tax relief program and have your questions answered at this free session on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, SE in Leesburg. No appointment or RSVP is necessary.

Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, January 13th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at Founders Hall, Station 6, Ashburn Road. Bring family and friends and enjoy our great breakfast and no dishes! \$10 Adults, \$7 Seniors, \$5 children 3-8, Children under 3 free. Craft table for kiddies.

Mason Observatory Open to the Public: Mason's astronomical observatory, located atop Research Hall on Mason's Fairfax Campus, houses one of the largest diameter telescopes among college campuses in the mid-Atlantic region. Night sky observing sessions led by faculty and graduate students are preceded by informative talks. Sessions open to the general public are held during the fall and spring semesters, weather permitting. Please check the website for the observing schedule and/or cancellation information. Observing sessions typically last approximately 1.5 hours. Phone: 703-993-9558 and [website](#).

STAY CONNECTED:



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