



# CHAIR PHYLLIS J. RANDALL NEWSLETTER



## Hello, Loudoun

Loudoun, thank you for voting on November 5th! I'm proud to continue to serve as your Chair and I look forward to welcoming four new Supervisors to the Board. Now, it's time for us to put the campaigns behind us and move forward. Thank you.

### [Classification and Compensation Study](#)

In 2016, the Board authorized staff to move forward with a countywide classification and compensation study. It was an eyeopener for all of us to learn that the County's employees make just 86 percent compared to their counterparts in surrounding counties. As a result, the Board adopted a new compensation philosophy that places the County at a range of 95 to 105 percent compared to their counterparts in the City of Alexandria, and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Prince William.

If we are to retain our excellent high quality staff, we have to compensate people for what they are worth. It is the right thing to do and the cost effective thing to do. It costs more to recruit and train new people, especially our first responders. I was proud to lead this effort and cast my vote to raise our employees' salaries. Loudoun County employees will now make between 95-105% of their counterparts in surrounding counties. Please join me in thanking them for their service to Loudoun. Our County employees are the backbone of our strong County government.

### [Discharge of Firearms](#)

At the November 7th Board business meeting, Supervisor Buffington's substitute motion passed by a Board majority (6 to 3 vote) to amend Chapter 684.03 of the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County, Discharge of Firearms

to, "the discharge of firearms for recreational or target shooting purposes shall be conducted in such a manner as to ensure that projectiles do not leave the boundaries of the property or parcel upon which the shooting is occurring, unless permission to do so has been granted by the adjacent landowner. A projectile leaving the boundaries of the property or parcel shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section." A friendly amendment directed staff to consult with the Commonwealth's Attorney as to the language they feel can be prosecuted and request the presence of the Commonwealth's Attorney at the December 11th public hearing.

At this meeting, two different motions were discussed; one that included a method of containment (this did not pass), and the other that focused on the trespass of a bullet on another person's property without their permission with no method of containment. Neither motion is perfect, but I believe that you do the best that you can with what you have. Just because we can't stop every bullet with a backstop does not mean you shouldn't try and stop some bullets. We've had incidents over and over again where a bullet leaves a property and we cannot identify the shooter, thus no one is charged. This issue has been discussed for more than a year and it is time to do something before someone is seriously hurt or worse. I support giving the Commonwealth's Attorney more tools to prosecute which would include a bullet trespass law and an adequate method of containment.

Residents are encouraged to speak to the Board of Supervisors at the December 11th public hearing. Advanced sign-up is available by calling (703) 777-0200 until noon the day of the public hearing.

### **Herbicide and Pesticide Usage**

Herbicide and pesticide usage has raised concerns among the public for their potentially negative impacts on humans and animals. For example, many parents are concerned about glyphosate because of the apparent negative effects associated with this chemical. My initiative will determine where and which Loudoun County departments are using herbicides and pesticides, which ones are being used, and whether they can and should be replaced by alternatives. I want to thank the young people who brought this to my attention. I have learned that there are other cost effective and safer means we can use and am proud to support this initiative. The options will be presented to the Board in February 2020.

### **Cemetery Buffer**

At the November 21st Board business meeting, the Board voted to establish a 50-foot cemetery, burial ground, and grave buffer for the protection and preservation of existing cemeteries, burial grounds, and graves. This

regulation supports the Heritage Commission preference for a 50-foot buffer that comprises a 25-foot protection buffer plus a 25-foot preservation buffer.

### **Recycling**

Staff will be bringing an item to the December 3rd Board business meeting that identifies recycling program issues and unmet needs in Loudoun County. We have received many complaints from residents, HOAs and haulers regarding limited recycling opportunities and failure of compliance with the county recycling ordinance. Complaints range from: 1) recycling collection companies are mixing recyclables with trash at the curb; 2) residents are contaminating the recycling stream rendering the material uneconomical to recycle; 3) opportunities to collect household hazardous waste and recycle electronics is limited to just a few days of service a year; and 4) glass is required to be recycled by ordinance but that it is not economically recycled in a single stream collection system.

The County provides limited recycling at nine recycling drop-off centers. These drop off centers collect glass bottles and jars, plastic beverage containers, metal cans, paper and cardboard via a "single stream" collection where materials are mixed. The County provides eight half day events annually to handle household hazardous waste and two for electronics recycling. Unfortunately, the electronics collection has ceased due to contractor issues and the proposed year round public facility to receive household hazardous waste and electronics to increase the level of service to meet demand was never funded.

### **2019 Achievement Awards**

Loudoun County was recognized for receiving a Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) Achievement Award and ten National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards. The VACo achievement award program was founded 17 years ago to recognize counties that have adopted innovative approaches to providing public services and identifying programs that could serve as models for other counties to emulate. NACo has recognized innovative programs in county government for 50 years to promote successes and share best practices. We've done amazingly well this year on awards and I am pleased that we provide such high quality services and programs to Loudoun County residents.



Thank you and I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Best Regards,

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## **Investing in Transportation**

### **Town of Hillsboro's Traffic Calming Project**

The Board appropriated \$7.5 million of unassigned FY 2019 General Fund balance to fund the Town of Hillsboro's Route 9 Traffic Calming project with appropriate documentation from the Town. The Route 9 Traffic Calming project aims to calm and

reduce traffic congestion through the Town on Route 9, improve pedestrian safety, and provide infrastructure improvements. The Town held meetings with the Hillsboro Business Alliance to address their concerns with potential road closures. The Town agreed to pay for wayfinding signs and negotiated with VDOT to keep a west bound lane open to traffic from 2:00 pm on Friday to 6:00 pm on Sunday to accommodate weekend traffic to local wineries and businesses. On Sunday at 6:00 pm, the traffic will revert to one east bound lane.

#### **Seneca Ridge Drive Improvements**

The Seneca Ridge Drive road improvements will provide traffic calming benefits for area residents and schools, including Meadowland Elementary School, Seneca Ridge Middle School and Dominion High School. Work will take place along Seneca Ridge Drive between South Cottage Road and Augusta Drive to reduce congestion and improve pedestrian safety. The work will include widening the roadway, adding a turn lane and improving drainage. The project also includes the installation of curb ramp upgrades, new pavement markings and signage in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2020.

#### **Route 7 and Battlefield Parkway Interchange**

The County, Town of Leesburg, VDOT and NVTA broke ground on a new interchange and major improvements at Route 7 and Battlefield Parkway. The project includes replacing the traffic signal at East Market Street and Battlefield Parkway in Leesburg with a grade-separated interchange, removing the signal and modifying the intersection just west on Route 7 at Cardinal Park Drive, adding auxiliary lanes on eastbound Route 7 between the Leesburg Bypass and River Creek Parkway, and building a new shared-use path and sidewalk along Battlefield Parkway.

During construction, drivers can expect off-peak lane closures along Route 7. Beginning in fall 2020, Battlefield Parkway will be closed between Russell Branch Parkway and the Marketplace at Potomac Station shopping center entrance for about ten months; traffic will be detoured via Fort Evans Road to the north, and Russell Branch Parkway and Crosstrail Boulevard to the south. The entire project is scheduled for completion in fall 2021.

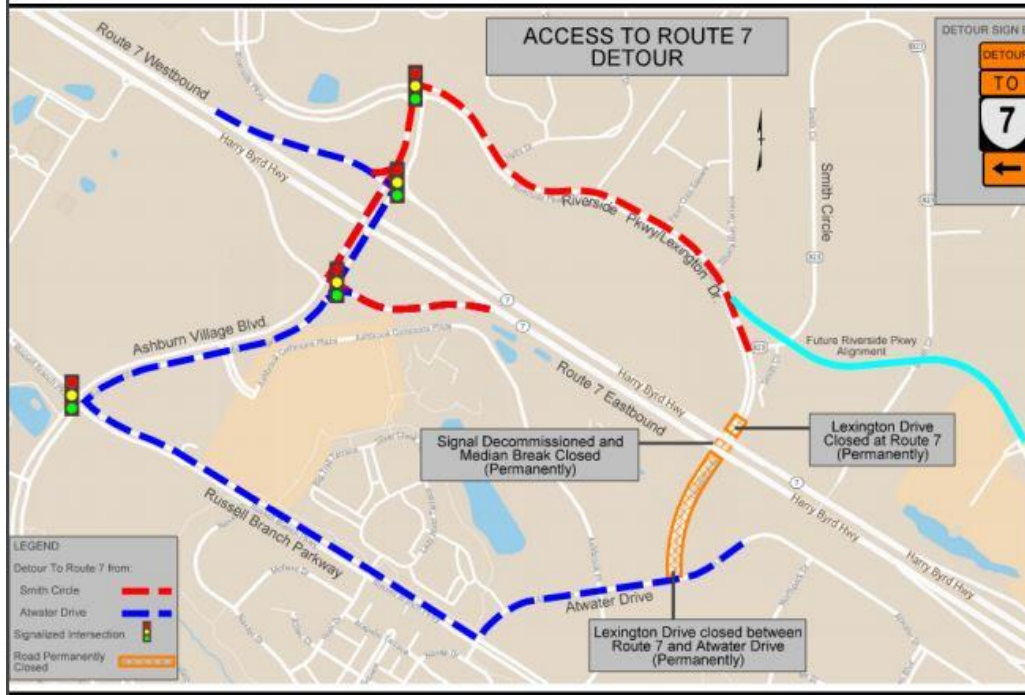




### **Route 7 and Lexington Drive**

The light at Lexington Drive and Route 7 was decommissioned to allow for the unrestricted flow of traffic along Route 7, from Leesburg to Route 28 and beyond. It is also part of the final construction of Riverside Parkway, from Lexington Drive to Loudoun County Parkway, which is scheduled to begin this fall. The intersection changes will result in detours for Lexington Drive traffic accessing Route 7 east and west bound. Motorists will be rerouted to the Ashburn Village Boulevard interchange with Route 7. Access to the Blue Mount Nursery will be via Riverside Parkway/Lexington Drive from Ashburn Village Boulevard.

# Access to Route 7 following decommissioning of traffic signal at Lexington Drive



## Voice for a Cause CPR to Life



The mission of the [CPR to Life](#) is to save and revive life focusing on CPR awareness to prevent death and disability from sudden cardiac arrest. It has reached thousands of

people to increase awareness and provide CPR training. As it is said, "Whoever saves a life, saves the world."

## **Stroke Comeback Center**



The **Stroke Comeback Center's** mission is to provide ongoing and personally meaningful programs within a supportive and peer-driven environment that is affordable for all stroke and brain trauma survivors, enabling them to achieve their maximum potential. It is a non-profit organization located in Leesburg that offers long term support along the slow road to better. Show someone you care this holiday season by giving them a star on our Caring Tree. The gift of a star on the Stroke Comeback Center Caring Tree brings health and hope to people in need. Once you purchase a star, we will hang it with your honoree's name on the Caring Tree at the Stroke Comeback Center. A notification can be sent to the recipient via mail or email, or we can provide a card for you to deliver.

## **Community Events and Information**

**Loudoun Human Service Nonprofit Grant Funding:** The FY 2021 nonprofit grants application is online. The application is due by 12:00 pm on December 20th. The purpose of the county's nonprofit grant program is to strengthen the county's coordination and collaboration with nonprofit partners, and ensure opportunities for local funds to be leveraged in the most effective manner for core safety net services that assist vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and families in meeting a critical need for safety, health, security and independence. Tax-exempt, private, nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations are eligible to apply. Funding will be 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

**2019 FAIME Award Nominations:** Due Friday, November 29th. FAIME stands for Full Accessibility and Inclusion Moving toward Equality Award honors businesses and organizations in Loudoun County that display a strong commitment and deliver demonstrated outcomes toward the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace. Eligibility requirements are:

- Nominees may be a for-profit or non-profit business (but NOT government agencies and non-profits whose mission it is to provide services to people with disabilities) with



a demonstrated commitment to promoting equality and full inclusion of people with disabilities in Loudoun County.

- Businesses must demonstrate a commitment to hiring people with disabilities, to providing accommodations in the workplace, and to offering people with disabilities professional development opportunities so they can grow their job and skills.

**Sweats for Vets:** In its 14th year, this program requests donations of new sweat suits for our veterans at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Martinsburg. There will be a collection box in the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, until mid-December.

**2019 Goal is  
1000 sets of  
sweats!!**

**SWEATS FOR VETS**  
**Sweats4Vets.com**



**You can make a difference.  
Help a Veteran today.  
Provide a new sweat suit as a gift  
for our hospitalized veterans at  
Martinsburg, WV VAMC**

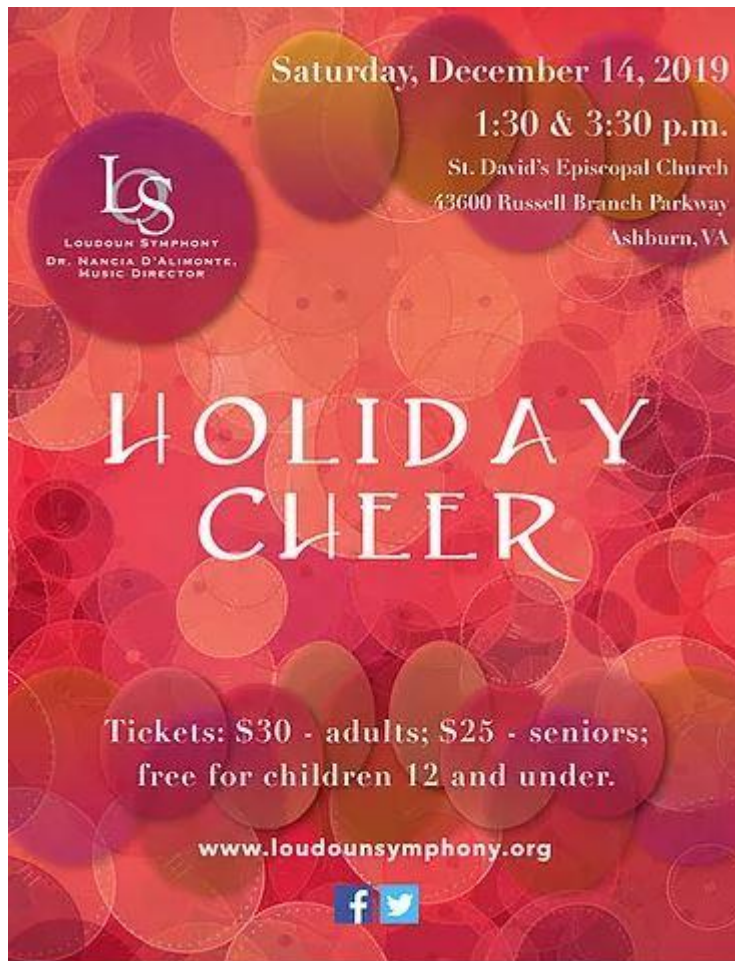


- New sweat suits only (sets preferred)
- All sizes accepted with a focus on XL, 2XL, 3XL and 4XL and colorful Ladies sets, too
- **Do not wrap the sweats** in gift wrap but tie each set with Christmas ribbon
- If possible, please put the name of the donating organization on the label
- Sweats can be dropped here in the box, or if making a donation checks can be written by individuals or organizations to "Martinsburg VAMC"
- Sweats will be packaged at VFW 1177 Post in Leesburg from 9AM-12PM on Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and delivered to Martinsburg VAMC in Martinsburg, WV on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Loudoun Workforce Resource Center to Host Job Fair:** Friday, December 6th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Shenandoah Office Building, 102 Heritage Way NE, second floor, in Leesburg. The Job Fair will feature local employers with full-time, part-time and seasonal job openings in Loudoun County. Job seekers are advised to be prepared to meet with employers by dressing professionally and bringing multiple copies of their resumes to the job fair. Resume critiques are offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:30 am at the Workforce Resource Center. Please pre-register [here](#) to receive reminders and updates. All attendees will receive a complimentary copy of Harry Dahlstrom's "Turn a Job Fair Into a Job Offer" upon arrival.

**Loudoun Symphony Orchestra Holiday Cheer Concert:** Saturday, December 14th at 1:30 and 3:30 pm at St. David's Episcopal Church and School, 43600 Russell Branch Parkway in Ashburn. Experience the glorious sounds of the holiday season at the Loudoun Symphony's holiday concert, Holiday Cheer. The concert is a collaboration with the Loudoun Symphony Youth Orchestra and features music that will get listeners of all ages into the holiday spirit - from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Selections to Anderson's Sleigh Ride and an audience singalong of holiday favorites.



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