



Chair **Phyllis J. Randall**

Newsletter



Hello, Loudoun

You are cordially invited to watch my State of the County Address on Wednesday, May 26th, at 6:00 pm. Please see your invitation below. Thank you!

**Loudoun County**
VIRGINIA



Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Chair Phyllis J. Randall

Cordially invites you to view the

STATE Of The COUNTY ADDRESS

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 | 6:00 P.M.

Watch Online:

- loudoun.gov/meetings
- facebook.com/LoudounCountyVa

Watch on TV:

- Comcast Government Channel 23
- Verizon FIOS Channel 40

Members of the public are invited to view the 2021 State of the County address on TV or online. Seating inside the Board Room will not be open due to COVID-19-related limitations.

Expanded Capacity and Social Gathering Limits

Governor Ralph Northam announced on April 22nd that sports and entertainment venues in Virginia may begin to operate with expanded capacity, and social gathering limits will increase beginning Saturday, May 15th. The announcement comes as vaccinations continue to rise in the Commonwealth, and more than half of all adults have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Key changes include:

- **Social gatherings:** The maximum number of individuals permitted in a social gathering will increase to 100 people for indoor settings and 250 people for outdoor settings. Social gatherings are currently limited to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.
- **Entertainment venues:** Indoor entertainment and public amusement venues will be able to operate at 50 percent capacity or 1,000 people, up from 30 percent capacity or 500 people. Outdoor venues will be able to operate at 50 percent capacity—up from 30 percent—with no specific cap on the number of attendees.
- **Recreational sporting events:** The number of spectators allowed at indoor recreational sporting events will increase from 100 to 250 spectators or 50 percent capacity, whichever is less. Outdoor recreational sporting events will increase from 500 to 1,000 people or 50 percent capacity, whichever is less.
- **Alcohol sales:** Restaurants may return to selling alcohol after midnight, and dining room closures will no longer be required between midnight and 5:00 a.m.

Guidelines for all business sectors can be found [here](#).

Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

The Loudoun County Health Department resumed using the single-dose Johnson and Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine following a [joint announcement](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) indicating the pause in the use of the J&J vaccine should be lifted. I received the J&J vaccine in early April and experienced only mild side effects.

No Pre-Registration Required for Vaccine

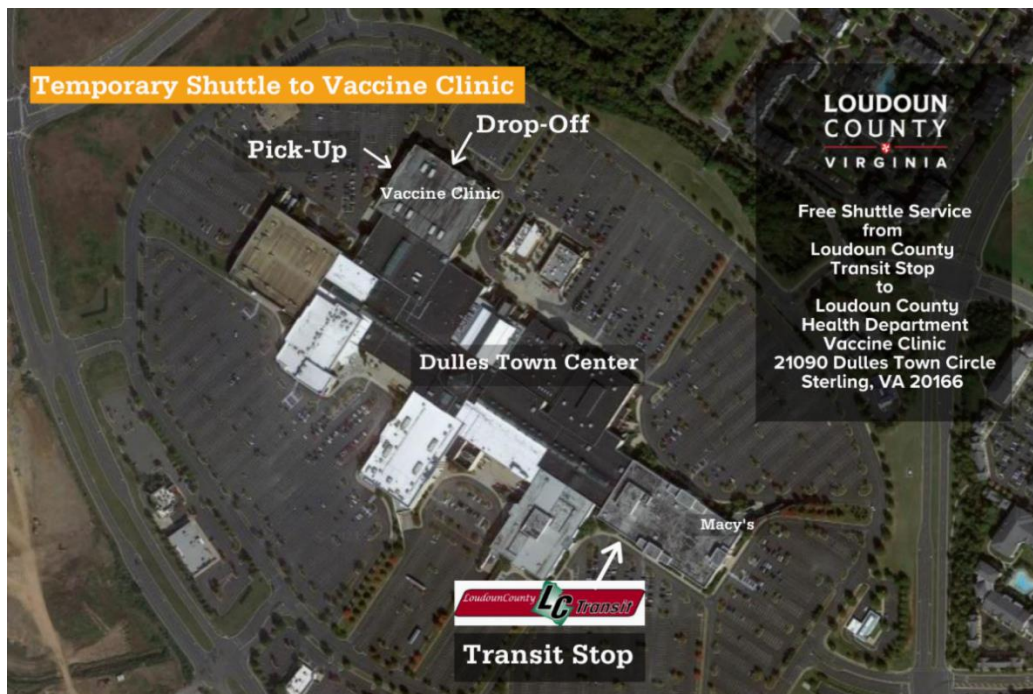
Individuals 16 and over can [directly schedule an appointment online](#) to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine at the Loudoun County Health Department vaccination clinic located at Dulles Town Center in Sterling. We have exhausted the waitlist for those who have pre-registered in Loudoun County and this is an important step in streamlining vaccination and lowering barriers to appointments.

Individuals under 18 must choose an appointment where Pfizer is offered and must have a parent or guardian present at the appointment. Vaccine types available will be noted during the scheduling process.

Free Shuttle Service to Vaccination Site

In an effort to increase access to COVID-19 vaccinations and eliminate mobility barriers, the County has launched a free shuttle service between the Loudoun County Transit bus stop at Dulles Town Center and the County's vaccination site located at the other end of the shopping mall. The shuttle runs continuously from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day the vaccination site is open.

To get to the vaccination site on a **Loudoun County Transit Local Bus**, riders may choose from Routes 62, 70, 81, 82 or 84, which serve the Dulles Town Center. Fares for the local bus are \$1 each way.



COVID-19 Testing

Loudoun County will continue to hold free, drive thru **COVID-19 testing events** through May. The events are scheduled for Tuesdays, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, at the following locations:

- May 11: Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park, 42405 Claudia Drive, Leesburg (enter the park on Crosstrail Boulevard from Sycolin Road)
- May 18: Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls (access the testing location in the back parking lot, near the senior center)
- May 25: Dulles South Recreation & Community Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding

To help reduce wait times, people who plan to attend the testing events are strongly encouraged to complete a required **registration form** for each person who will be receiving a test prior to arriving at the testing site.

COVID-19 TESTING

May 2021

Multiple
Locations

Tuesdays
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Drive-thru only. Free & open to everyone.

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loudoun.gov/COVID19testing

Small Business Week

Loudoun's 10th annual "Loudoun Small Business Week" is scheduled this week until May 7th. This year's focus is on telling the stories of Loudoun's small businesses and highlighting those companies who have made an impact on our community during the pandemic.

On May 3rd, the application for the **Loudoun Innovation Challenge** opened. The goal of the Innovation Challenge is to promote entrepreneurship and business growth by identifying and supporting companies that are developing truly innovative products and services in Loudoun County. Loudoun Economic Development Authority has dedicated \$150,000 in funding, divided into six total grants the winning businesses. The application deadline is May 17th at 12:00 pm.

Loudoun Small Business Week also launched the updated **website**, which will showcase a variety of new resources for those starting or running a Loudoun small business.

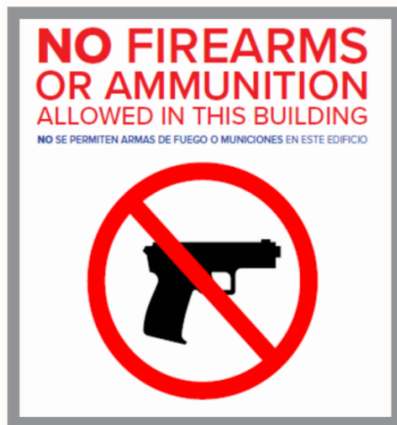
Signage Banning Firearms in County Facilities

Loudoun County is taking steps to enforce the recently amended Chapter 684 of the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County – Weapons and Explosives. The ordinance now prohibits the possession, carrying or transportation of any firearm or ammunition in:

- Buildings owned or used by Loudoun County;

- Any part of a building used by Loudoun County for public purposes even if not owned by the county; and
- Parks owned and operated by Loudoun County.

Exceptions to the new ordinance include concealed handgun carry permit holders visiting County parks. Signage explaining the new rules is being placed at the entrances to Loudoun County facilities. Security screening stations will be installed at the Loudoun County Government Center, the Shenandoah Building in Leesburg, and at the County government's service center located on Ridgetop Circle in Sterling.



Enforcement of New Loudoun County Ordinance

Firearms Prohibited in County Facilities

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loudoun.gov/firearmsordinance

Earth Day was April 22nd and we finally formed Loudoun's Environmental Commission. We approved a slate of environmental subject matter experts who will start meeting in June. Thank you to all who applied and are serving on this new Board commission.

I'd like to introduce my interim Chief of Staff, Matt Rogers. He worked in Richmond for the General Assembly since 2017. He has a new baby boy named Mandela and a beautiful wife named Jasmine. Please feel free to reach out to him at matt.rogers@loudoun.gov.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Randall
Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
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Matt Rogers
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Board Business

FY 2022 Budget: On April 6th, we adopted the County's Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) budget, which begins on July 1st. The adopted budget includes a real property tax rate of \$0.980 per \$100 in assessed value, which is 5.5 cents lower than the current tax rate. The complete adopted budget document will be posted on the County's **website** once available.

Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan (UHNSP): In September 2019, we initiated the UHNSP, which began with the adoption of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the UHNSP is to define how the County will address unmet housing needs in a strategic and systematic way over the short and long-term. The UHNSP has the following five objectives:

1. Establish a coordinated, collaborative, and integrated housing network.
2. Secure land resources needed to address unmet housing needs.
3. Obtain viable funding sources.
4. Reduce barriers to the development and preservation of affordable housing.
5. Implement policy changes to support affordable housing production and preservation.

These five objectives and their associated key actions provide a comprehensive approach, based on research, best practice, and Loudoun County's specific housing needs and housing market, to start addressing the affordability gaps that exist in the County. A public hearing is scheduled on Wednesday, May 12th at 6:00 pm for the public to comment on the draft UHNSP. To provide electronic or in-person public input, please call (703) 777-0200 no later than noon the day of the public hearing.

This draft is a great start but I think we need more specifics on how to get where we need to go. Because homeownership builds generational wealth, I would like to see a robust closing cost and down payment program. Many residents can afford a monthly mortgage because they are already paying that amount in rent, but they cannot afford closing and down payment costs.

Middleburg Preserve II: On Tuesday, April 27th, I hosted a community meeting to discuss the future of the 16.38 acre development called Middleburg Preserve II located in the rural historic village of St. Louis. As one of the first African American townships in Loudoun County, generations of families have lived in this community which has been largely underserved.

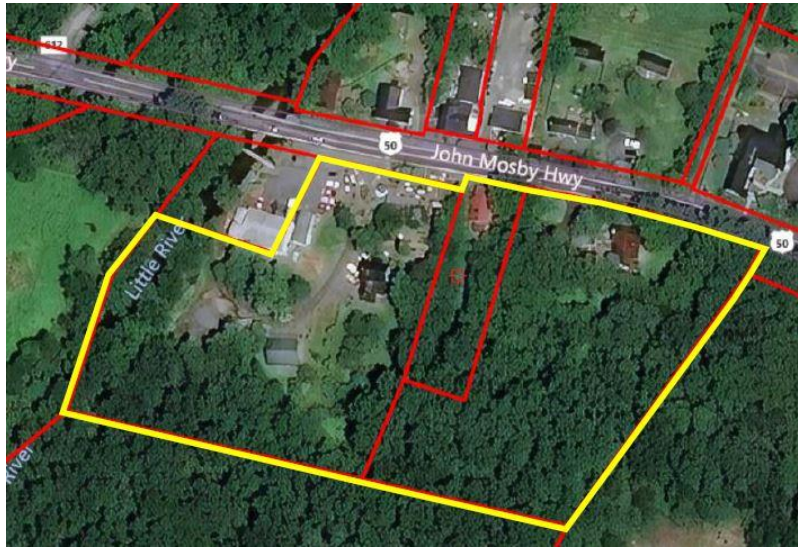
There are three main reasons why I am concerned about this residential development in St. Louis:

1. Water supply and quality
2. Gentrification
3. Preservation of the historic cemetery and the character of the historic village

At the April 20th Board business meeting, we unanimously voted to cease negotiations for the acquisition of the Middleburg Preserve II property and initiate a public input process with the residents of St. Louis to determine community interest in possible Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance amendments affecting the planned or permitted use and density. At the community meeting, we discussed scheduling a June public input session and I will follow-up with the community once this date is determined.

Aldie Assemblage: At the April 20th Board business meeting, we voted to consider offers on the Aldie Assemblage property, which consists of property identification numbers 361-45-5744, 361-45-8246 and 361-45-9838. We further moved to forward the potential sale of the Aldie Assemblage property including the Gerachis Construction Group LLC offer and other offers to the June 9th Board of Supervisors public hearing.

The properties are located at 39469, 39483 and 39491 John Mosby Highway, and were purchased in 2015 as a possible option for the relocation of the existing Aldie Fire Station; however, this site is no longer under consideration. We are seeking purchasers with an interest in preserving several existing historic structures, including a former tavern. Interested parties should submit a letter of intent and offer by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 26th to Karen Lanham, Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure, at karen.lanham@loudoun.gov or by phone at 571-233-0778.



Collective Bargaining: Effective May 1st, changes to the Code of Virginia will remove the collective bargaining prohibition and allow localities to adopt a local ordinance or resolution authorizing the locality to recognize, bargain with, and/or enter into collective bargaining agreements. At the April 20th Board business meeting, I moved that staff return to the Board on May 18th with options for a local ordinance authorizing the traditional model of collective bargaining and recognizing labor unions or other employee associations as bargaining agents for eligible County employees.

I support collective bargaining because it provides a structured way of communicating with County employees. For decades, the County did not do what it needed to do to take care of our hard working employees. This is why the Classification and Compensation Study was needed. Our employees want to be part of the discussion for their careers, professions and lives.

Form of Government: At the April 20th Board business meeting, staff provided research on forms of government available to Loudoun County, the process by which the County could change its form of government, and a preliminary analysis of what organizational and fiscal impacts could occur from such a change. We agreed to keep our traditional form of government for now, which provides for an elected Board of Supervisors, a County Administrator and Attorney appointed by the Board, and the election of all five constitutional officers.

We also discussed consultant services to make professional and impartial recommendations associated with the governance and delivery of law enforcement in the County. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) was selected by the three person panel, which included Deputy County Administrator, Charles Yudd, Sheriff Mike Chapman and myself, as the best qualified vendor to provide the requested study.

IACP will provide a preliminary report to the County in November 2021 and a final report to the Board in February 2022.

Investing in Transportation

Route 15 South Safety and Operational Study: The project consists of a safety and operational study of approximately 12 miles of Route 15 from the south corporate limit of the Town of Leesburg to the Prince William County line. On April 22nd, the County hosted a virtual public input meeting to review concept alternatives for the corridor.

The Route 15 South study team wants to hear from you on concept proposals along the corridor. Please review the concepts and meeting materials on the [project website](#) and take the [Concepts Alternatives Preference Survey](#) through May 21st.



Dulles West Boulevard - Northstar Boulevard to Arcola Boulevard: The project provides for the planning, design, right of way acquisition, and construction of a four-lane median divided roadway between Northstar Boulevard and Arcola Boulevard. The roadway is a continuation of Dulles West Boulevard from Dulles Landing Drive (under construction by others) up to the intersection of Northstar Boulevard, north of Route 50.

A public meeting for the project was held virtually on April 29th. Please review the [meeting materials](#) and provide comments using the [online form](#), e-mail or mail by May 14th.



New Law Limiting Greenway Toll Increases: Loudoun County officials are celebrating the culmination of years of effort to curb toll increases on the Dulles Greenway. Governor Northam has signed legislation passed by the General Assembly during the 2021 special session that will take effect on July 1st and establishes firm rules for when toll increases will be allowed on the roadway.

Some key points of the new law include:

- Proposed Greenway toll rates must be “reasonable” to users in relation to the benefit they are deriving from using the road, should not “materially discourage” use of the road and should provide the operator no more than a reasonable return.
- Toll increase requests are limited to one year at a time.
- The Virginia Department of Transportation will have the authority to independently review all traffic-related analyses submitted by the Greenway operator in support of higher tolls.
- Basic evidence of financial fitness (including creditworthiness) will be required when applying for permission to transfer, extend or amend the certificate of authority to operate the Greenway.
- Requires the operator of the Greenway to obtain approval from the State Corporation Commission (SCC) before refinancing any debt and establishes specific criteria that the operator must meet for approval.

New Segment of Riverside Parkway: Loudoun County is shifting traffic to a new 0.4-mile segment of Riverside Parkway from the intersection of Silvery Blue Terrace to Smith Circle (east), until early fall 2021. The temporary traffic pattern allows motorists to travel from Smith Circle (east) directly to this new section of Riverside Parkway, recently constructed as part of an ongoing roadway project.

For the duration of the temporary traffic pattern, only one eastbound and westbound lane of the new four-lane, median-separated segment of Riverside Parkway will be open to traffic. Drivers can anticipate turns onto and from connecting roadways to be restricted to one direction and a four-way stop at the intersection of Riverside Parkway, Smith Circle (west) and Garden Center Court. More information about this project and the Riverside Parkway temporary traffic plan can be found [here](#).

Community Information

Chemo Care Bag: The Step Sisters will be distributing 500 Chemo Care Bags to our partner hospitals on May 24th. What's in a Chemo Care Bag? Everything needed to provide comfort and support to a breast cancer patient going through chemotherapy. With the pandemic's impact to our budget, we need help purchasing some of the items. Check out our [Amazon Charity Wishlist](#). For companies wishing to donate branded items for our chemo care bags, please contact us at Admin@StepSisters.org. Here is a video that further explains our Chemo Care Bag program.

Chemo Care Bag Video

Assistance Available for Loudoun Residents Impacted by COVID-19: If you or someone you know has been economically affected, Loudoun's Information and Referral Program can connect you with a variety of services such as:

- Child Care Assistance
- Employment Services
- Food Resources
- Health and Dental Care
- Housing and Homeless Services
- Legal Services
- Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services
- Older Adult Services
- Public Benefits
- Utility Assistance

Contact an Information and Referral Line specialist at 703-777-0420 or [online](#), Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. After hours and on the weekend, complete an [online form](#) or send an e-mail to dfs@loudoun.gov and a specialist will respond the next business day.

Public Input Needed for Countywide Parks and Trails System: In 2019, the Board directed the Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board to develop a detailed implementation plan for an interconnected, countywide linear parks and trails

system. Public input and engagement is a vital part of the planning initiative. Residents are encouraged to participate in the online survey, submit comments and find more information about the Linear Parks and Trails system project [here](#). The deadline to complete the survey is May 20th. Inquiries and comments can be sent by e-mail to lp@loudoun.gov.



Joint Study to Restore Potomac River Ferry Service: The joint study will be led by the Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. The study's scope will include:

- Roadway access and ferry use along with any other pertinent transportation issues;
- Identifying legal and regulatory requirements associated with ferry operations;
- Landing site improvements and landing location options; and
- Operating alternatives that may include a public/private partnership.

Prior to closing on December 28, 2020, White's Ferry transported approximately 600 to 800 vehicles per day across the river and connected bicyclists and pedestrians between the two counties. The joint study will help evaluate the long-term feasibility and reliability of Potomac River ferry service between Loudoun and Montgomery Counties and help identify alternatives for ferry operations with a common goal of re-establishing daily ferry service that benefits the greater community. The study is expected to begin within the next 30 days and be completed within 90 days of the start date.

Transit Fare Collection Resumes: Loudoun County Transit will resume fare collection on all bus routes. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, bus fares were waived. SmartTrip cards and/or cash will be accepted for all Commuter Bus, Metro Connection Bus and Local Bus routes. Riders of the Route 40 Purcellville Connector will still use cash only or the Virginia Regional Transit punch pass.



loudoun.gov/buschanges

Loudoun County Launches New Transit App: The transit app is available for free download to iPhone and Android phones. For instructions on downloading the app, frequently asked questions and to learn about the App's functionality, visit [here](#).

Upon launching the app, Loudoun County transit riders will see nearby options and departure times for local, commuter and Metro connection bus services. App users will have the ability to receive important service alerts and breaking news information directly on the transit app's home screen. Users of the app can customize how they receive service alerts through their mobile phone's notifications by signing up for push notifications for specific routes. Helpful features of the transit app will allow users to :

- Check Nearby Departures.
- Track Their Ride.
- Plan a Trip.
- Get Step-by-Step Directions.
- Identify Favorite Bus Routes.
- Connect with the Regional Transit Network.

Early In-Person Voting for June Democratic Primary: Early voting is available through June 5th, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm at 750 Miller Drive SE in Leesburg (closed May 31st for Memorial Day). Extended hours begin May 29th to include Saturdays in Leesburg and additional early voting sites throughout the County. Exact dates, times and locations are posted on the [early voting website](#).

Any registered voter may request an absentee ballot by mail. The deadline to request a ballot by mail for the June primary is Friday, May 28th, at 5:00 pm. Voters who cannot safely have a witness present while completing the absentee ballot for the primary election are not required to have a witness present. Information on how to request a ballot is [online](#). Anyone who has not registered to vote in Loudoun has until May 17th to register to vote in the June 8th election. More information about the upcoming primary election is [online](#).

2021 Virginia GOP Convention: Saturday, May 8th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, 20098 Ashbrook Place, Suite 150 in Ashburn.

SolarizeNOVA: A program that reduces the cost and complexity of going solar by providing a one-stop shop for education and installation. This grassroots, community-based outreach initiative is managed by the nonprofit, **Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP)**. Through June 30th, you can utilize SolarizeNOVA to access discounted prices and vetted installers through a competitive bidding process, and experts at LEAP will be by your side to provide ongoing customer support and education to make the experience as streamlined as possible. Join now by visiting the **website** and help make Loudoun solar.



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Constant Contact Data Notice

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