

Loudoun County, Virginia

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NEWS RELEASE

Office of the County Administrator, Public Affairs and Communications 1 Harrison Street SE, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000 703-777-0113 • Fax 703-771-5841

For Immediate Release August 31, 2021 Media Contact: Glen Barbour, Public Affairs and Communications Officer 703-771-5086, Glen.Barbour@loudoun.gov

Loudoun County to Present Feasibility Study on Philomont Fire Station Sept. 9

Loudoun County has completed a study regarding the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue facility in the Village of Philomont that will be presented to the public on September 9, 2021. The purpose of the study is to determine whether the county's needs can be met on the current site of the Philomont Fire Station, which was constructed in 1956 and expanded in 1975 and again in 1994.

Study Scope and Public Meeting

The study reviewed three possibilities for the future of the facility at its current location: (1) Renovation/addition to the existing fire station on the existing site; (2) Demolition of the existing station and replacement with a new station on the existing site; and (3) Consolidation with an adjoining county-owned parcel and demolition and replacement of the existing station with a new station on the consolidated site.

Loudoun County Fire and Rescue and the Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure will present the study during a public meeting on Thursday, September 9, 2021, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., at Woodgrove High School in Purcellville (36811 Allder School Road).

• Review the Feasibility Study for the Philomont Fire and Rescue Station (PDF)

Meeting materials, including a speaker sign-up and comment form, are available at loudoun.gov/philomontstation. Additional meeting material will be posted for the September 9 meeting. Members of the public who would like to provide public input and ask questions during the meeting must sign up in advance by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

About the Feasibility Study

At the September 9 public meeting, county staff will discuss the current needs for fire & rescue facilities in the village, provide an overview of the study and site constraints, and discuss the options contained in the study. The feasibility study on the Philomont Fire Station:

- Outlines the current needs for fire and rescue facilities, including staffing, spacing and layout of station, and existing facility deficiencies.
- Evaluates utilizing the current site of the existing fire and rescue station for a new or updated 18,500-square-foot fire and rescue facility.
- Reviews the site constraints, including maintaining community services, such as community center parking and recycling center, parcel size (2.28 acres versus 5 acres preferred), and the need for a temporary facility during construction.

Alternative Option

The county has considered constructing a new fire station on a seven-acre parcel previously used as horse show grounds, which is owned by the Philomont Volunteer Fire Company. The county subsequently conducted the feasibility study to identify other options for meeting the county's public safety needs at the site of the existing fire station. The Board of Supervisors is currently scheduled to consider all the research and planning information compiled on the possible ways to address Loudoun County Fire and Rescue's current needs at the October 5, 2021, Board of Supervisors business meeting.

Next Steps

The Board of Supervisors will determine the future location of fire and rescue facilities in Philomont. The Board is scheduled to receive the study and discuss the options during their October 5 meeting. The Board's meeting schedule is posted at loudoun.gov/calendar and meeting documents, such as agendas and staff reports, are posted at loudoun.gov/bosdocuments.

The following are some of the steps that must be accomplished in the development of the new fire and rescue facility in Philomont:

- The feasibility study for the Philomont Fire and Rescue Station will be presented to the Board of Supervisors.
- Members of the public will provide input to the Board of Supervisors.
- The Board of Supervisors will vote to provide direction on the location of the fire station.
- The county will contract with an architectural engineering firm to begin design of the station; during design development, applications will be made for relevant permits and approvals.
- A public meeting will be held to seek public comment on the preliminary architectural concept options.

The Board of Supervisors may make a decision about the location of the future fire and rescue facility in Philomont as early as October 5. Once the Board votes on the preferred option, the design process is expected to last approximately two years.

Public Input

Members of the public may provide input on the future fire and rescue facilities in Philomont in a number of ways.

- Attend the September 9, 2021, public meeting. Attendees must sign up to speak in advance by visiting <u>loudoun.gov/philomontstation</u>.
- Submit a comment form in person at the public meeting or at loudoun.gov/philomontstation.
- Provide input to Board of Supervisors during one if its meetings. Details on how to provide input during a meeting are <u>posted on the county's website</u>.
- Email the Board of Supervisors at <u>bos@loudoun.gov</u>. Visit <u>loudoun.gov/bos</u> for more information about the Board members.

• Email county staff at dtci@loudoun.gov.

More Information

For more information about the Philomont Fire and Rescue Station project, including a link to sign up for email and text updates on the project, visit <u>loudoun.gov/philomontstation</u>.

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