

# Hello, Loudoun

This is a reminder that I will be hosting a Rural Town Hall tonight at 6:00 pm at the Round Hill Elementary School multi-purpose room. I hope you can make it. Thank you!



Loudoun County

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Chair Phyllis G. Randall

# Cordially invites you to an IN-PERSON RURAL TOWN HALL

Thursday, June 30, 2022 | 6:00 pm Round Hill Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room 17115 Evening Star Drive in Round Hill

Thank you and I hope you can make it!

### **Airport Impact Overlay District**

The Airport Impact Overlay District (AIOD) indicates anticipated noise levels and related land use regulations. The current overlay district was implemented in the early 1990s to prevent residential development in areas that would be affected by aircraft noise and to mitigate impacts to prospective homebuyers. It is outdated and needs to be amended.

The proposed amendments to the AIOD affect more than 50,000 property owners around and near Dulles Airport. The Department of Planning and Zoning distributed letters to affected property owners earlier this month about the amendments to the County's policies and zoning regulations regarding airport noise impacts.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on Tuesday night. You may <u>e-mail</u> your comments to the Planning Commission. The Board is expected to consider the amendments this September. To learn more about the proposed changes to the AIOD, and sign up for e-mail and text updates on the project, visit <u>here</u>.

### **Operational Readiness Date for Metro**

On June 23rd, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) announced that it is taking control of the Silver Line extension, one of the final steps in the project's completion. This milestone known as the Operational Readiness Date marks the point where control of the extension is formally transferred from Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, which managed construction of the project, to WMATA, which operates metrorail. This means service should begin within 90 to 150 days. I am thrilled Metro will soon be open to the public. We are ready to become connected to the region by Metro and welcome new tourists and visitors from the Washington, D.C. area to Loudoun.

When Silver Line Metrorail passenger service begins, riders will be able to access the stations by bus or car as follows:

- Transit service will begin new and modified bus routes. More information is provided on the <u>Silver Line Bus Routes webpage</u>.
- There will be three garages to serve two metrorail stations one at the Loudoun Gateway Metrorail Station and two at the Ashburn Metrorail Station. More information is provided on the <u>Metrorail Parking Garages</u> <u>webpage</u>.

## **Plastic Bag Tax**



The new disposable plastic bag tax of five cents per plastic bag is effective July 1st. The measure is intended to reduce plastic pollution in the region. Shoppers may avoid the tax by bringing their own bags to stores.

The new tax will be collected on purchases made at grocery stores, convenience stores and drugstores, including those within the County's incorporated towns. The tax **does not** apply to restaurants, food banks, farmers markets or clothing stores. It also **does not** apply to:

- Durable plastic bags that are specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse.
- Plastic bags that are solely used to wrap, contain, or package ice cream, meat, fish, poultry, produce, unwrapped bulk food items, or perishable food items in order to avoid damage or contamination.
- Plastic bags used to carry dry cleaning or prescription drugs.
- Multiple plastic bags sold in packages and intended for use as garbage, pet waste or leaf removal bags.

The Department of Economic Development is **working with local businesses** to help them prepare to collect the tax beginning July 1st.

At my State of the County Address, 250 reusable bags were distributed. Loudoun Hunger Relief will distribute the 150 bags that were left over this week. The County is making plans to distribute free reusable bags to residents later this summer. More information about the initiative will be posted <u>online</u>.

# **Springdale Park**



Tuesday, I joined NOVA Parks as they acquired 128 acres adjacent to 150 acres of parkland known as Springdale. Owned by the Santone family, this 150 acre site is a beautiful, historic piece of land that still has the quarters that housed (at one time) 26 enslaved people from the ages of 5 months to 101 years old.

Thank you Chuck and Stacy Kuhn for donating half the value of the land. The Federal Land & Water Conservation grant provided the value for the other half for a total of 278 acres of land that will be placed in conservation easement. The property will first be a site of stream and forest restoration, and in the future will be a public park with Potomac River access.

# **DP3 Southern Cooking Ribbon Cutting**



On June 26th, I attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for DP3 Southern Cooking for the debut of its Summer Soul Food Pop-Up series. Chef Derrick Pough is a native of Mobile, Alabama. Besides his family, his love is cooking. He grew up learning culinary artistry by joining his mother and grandmother in their respective kitchens and learning everything there was to know. Nearly 30 years later, not only has he maintained those traits, but he has also fused his own flair into each dish. There will be another Pop-Up event on July 31st. Please visit the **DP3 Southern Cooking Facebook page** for the time and location.



My Deputy Chief of Staff, Danielle Campbell, has accepted an offer to work with Vice President Kamala Harris. Although we will miss her, we send Danielle off with our blessings and well wishes. While we rehire, please be patient as e-mails and schedule requests may take a bit longer to answer. Thank you!

Contact Us

Sincerely,

Phyllis Randall Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors phyllis.randall@loudoun.gov

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#### **Board Business**

**Broadband Implementation Plan Update:** On December 13, 2021, we received a VATI grant award of more than \$17.5 million. The VATI grant will support construction of fiber-to-the-home to 8,600 residents and businesses currently not served by a wired provider. Loudoun County will serve as the grant administrator and All Points Broadband will be responsible for constructing the network and providing service to individual addresses.

At the June 7th Board business meeting, we learned that only 1/3rd of the eligible customers have registered on the <u>All Points Broadband website</u>. Residents needing broadband service are encouraged <u>to go online</u> and verify that their address will be served by the more than 600 miles of fiber to be installed in the next 24 to 30 months. Registration will be used to notify residents and businesses and help identify unserved areas.

If your address is not covered by All Points Broadband, please <u>e-mail County staff</u> to be added to the list for possible coverage utilizing a separate \$1 million in federal ARPA funding. Please note, we cannot guarantee that the ARPA dollars will cover all unserved homes not included in the VATI project.

The 2021 General Assembly Session, through its allocation of ARPA funds, devoted \$8 million to the Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP) to support the extension of existing broadband networks to low-to-moderate income residents. Residents who are interested in participating in the program should submit an **application and the required income documentation**. It is important to note that addresses already included in the Loudoun County VATI grant project scope are not eligible for the LECAP program.

## **Investing in Transportation**

**Route 9 Safety and Operational Study:** At the June 21st Board business meeting, we approved short-term, mid-term and long-term recommendations—except those projects adjacent to the Town of Hillsboro—to improve safety and operations along Route 9 between the West Virginia state line and Route 7. These improvements will be considered during the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process for funding.

**Short-term recommendations** include installing warning signs, flashing beacons, sight distance vegetation clearing, chevrons, rumble strips, yield markings and improved signage at the following five locations:

- Clarkes Gap Road
- Curve East of Sagle Road
- Hamilton Station Road
- Harpers Ferry Road
- Sweet Springs Country Store

**Mid-term recommendations** include improving turn lanes at Sweet Springs Country Store, Cider Mill Road and Purcellville Road and adding law enforcement pull-off areas along the corridor.

**Long-term recommendations** include roundabouts at multiple intersections and are prioritized as follows:

- Roundabouts at Harpers Ferry Road, Cider Mill Road and Clarkes Gap Road.
- Lane continuity on a road segment from Clarkes Gap Road to Simpson Circle South and right-in/right-out/left-in turn lanes at Beacon Hill Road.
- Roundabout at Hamilton Station Road and eastbound left turn lane at Old Wheatland Road.

Route 7 and Route 50 are the next Rural Primary Roads Safety and Operational Studies to be completed. Since Route 7 is planned to be improved in the current CIP, the Route 7 Safety and Operational Study will be revised to analyze the segment from the Route 690 interchange to the Clarke County line.

<u>Virtual Public Meeting on Russell Branch Parkway Corridor Study:</u> Members of the community are invited to join the virtual meeting on Monday, July 11th at 6:00 pm to learn, ask questions, and provide feedback on the outcomes of the study.

The Russell Branch Parkway Corridor Study investigated vehicular and pedestrian safety and the need for possible intersection safety improvements, including studying the speed of traffic on a 0.85-mile-long stretch of Russell Branch Parkway that includes five intersections. The intersections are:

- Ashbrook Marketplace Plaza/Waltonwood entrance
- Ashbrook Commons Plaza/Navajo Drive (Route 2978)
- San Joaquin Terrace/Hopi Drive (Route 2979)
- Atwater Drive (Route 3001)/Lumbee Way (Route 2984)
- Ashbrook Place (Route 3002)

Login information, meeting materials and speaker sign-up and comment forms are available for review <u>here</u>. Members of the public must sign up in advance to ask questions during the meeting by July 8th at 12:00 pm. Online participants may also send questions to the project team as Q&A messages, which will be answered as time allows.

#### **Community Information**



**Red Hill Community Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM):** The Department of Planning and Zoning will hold a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, July 6th at 6:00 pm to provide information on a proposed CPAM to bring a portion of the Rural Policy Area located East of Greene Mill Preserve into the Transition Policy Area (TPA). Moving this area to the TPA will not change the base residential density but will allow the extension of central water and wastewater service to individual lots within the Red Hill community as requested by residents. All the properties surrounding the Red Hill Community, including Greene Mill Preserve, are currently served by central utilities.

The meeting will include a presentation by county staff as well as an opportunity for individuals to ask questions and provide comments. To access the virtual meeting, please visit this **Webex link**. To listen by phone call 1-844-992-4726 and use access code 2345 008 6602.



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