



Chair **Phyllis J. Randall** Newsletter



Hello Loudoun:

Happy Fall, everyone! As to be expected, things have been busy this month. The Board of Supervisors and County Staff are continuing to work on the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite while listening to community input.

Early voting has also started in Virginia. Polling locations and other information may have changed since last election. Be sure to check out your updated voting information at the Loudoun County Office of Elections [HERE](#).

Keep in mind, you can always tune in to our Board of Supervisors meetings, Public Hearings, and Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Work Sessions [HERE](#).

3rd Annual Loudoun Recovery Fest

Last month, Loudoun County, along with Prevention Alliance Loudoun and Loudoun Serenity House, held its 3rd annual Recovery Fest. This was a great event for people of all ages to come together and celebrate sobriety and connect with different service organizations

throughout the region. With music, food, and raffle prizes, the vibes were great. I was honored to present a Resolution during the event. Learn more about the event [HERE](#).





Asianfest in Lovettsville

Loudoun's Southeast Asian population is one of the fastest growing populations in the county, so I was excited to attend this year's Asianfest celebration. The event was held in Lovettsville and saw Asian business leaders, entrepreneurs, musicians, and performers from across the region gather to recognize the positive impact of the growing Asian population throughout northern Virginia. Through food, music, and other cultural traditions, Asianfest shined a light on northern Virginia's vibrant Asian community. I'm happy that I was able to attend, talk with so many community members, and celebrate all of the many diverse cultures displayed by those who spoke and performed at the event.



Early Voting Has Begun!

The graphic features a green header with the title "November Election Important Dates". Below this, on a light blue background, is the text "Early voting for November election begins September 22 in Loudoun". To the right of this text are two calendar icons: one for September 22 and one for October 16. Below the September 22 icon, the text "Deadline to register to vote a non-provisional ballot is October 16" is written in red. At the bottom left is the Loudoun County Virginia logo. At the bottom center is the text "More information: loudoun.gov/NovemberElection". At the bottom right is an illustration of a hand putting a ballot into a box.

November Election Important Dates

Early voting for November election begins September 22 in Loudoun

Deadline to register to vote a non-provisional ballot is October 16

LOUDOUN COUNTY VIRGINIA

More information: loudoun.gov/NovemberElection

Early Voting for November Election Begins September 22; Deadline to Register to Vote is October 16

Loudoun County election officials remind voters of important dates and deadlines for the upcoming general election on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

- Friday, September 22: First day of early voting at the Office of Elections and Voter Registration, 750 Miller Dr. SE, Suite 150, Leesburg, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. (Note: The office will be closed October 9 for Indigenous Peoples Day.)
- Monday, October 16: Last day to register to vote a non-provisional ballot.
- Monday, October 23: In-person early voting expands to additional locations.
- Friday, October 27: Last day to request a ballot by mail.

- Saturday, November 4: Last day for early voting.
- Tuesday, November 7: Election Day; In-person voting, 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

What's on the Ballot

Offices on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot in Loudoun County include the Board of Supervisors, School Board, Virginia House and Senate, Constitutional Officers, Mayor and Town Council in Middleburg and Round Hill, Town Council seats in Hamilton, Lovettsville and Purcellville, and Soil and Water Conservation Director-Loudoun District. There are also three ballot questions involving the issuing of bonds for parks and recreation, public safety, school and transportation projects. Links to sample ballots are online at loudoun.gov/sampleballots.

Stay Informed

- Text LCVOTES to 888777 to receive text alerts from the Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration or sign up for the Election Update category through Alert Loudoun, the county's email and text notification system.
- Follow the Office of Elections and Voter Registration on Facebook and Twitter. Loudoun County Government also posts general information on Facebook and Twitter.

More information about the November 7, 2023, general election is online at loudoun.gov/novemberelection.

Fire Prevention Month



Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System



Loudoun County
Fire and Rescue



@Loudounfire



@LCCFRS



Loudoun County Combined
Fire and Rescue System

Fire Prevention & Life Safety Resources

SMOKE ALARM SAFETY

Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. You have an average of three minutes to escape your home in the event of a fire. Smoke alarms alert you to smoke and fire and provide those precious minutes to escape.

- ✓ **Test** the smoke alarm each month by pressing and holding the test button.
- ✓ **Change** replaceable batteries once a year. **Replace** smoke alarms after 10 years. Replace any alarms with a manufacture date on the back of the alarm older than 10 years.
- ✓ For the best protection, smoke alarms should be located on the ceiling on every level, outside sleeping areas and inside each bedroom.
- ✓ It is recommended that smoke alarms are hardwired and interconnected when possible. Hard-wired alarms with battery backup must be installed by a qualified electrician.

LITHIUM BATTERY SAFETY

There are primarily two types of rechargeable lithium batteries, lithium polymer and lithium ion batteries that consumers purchase. Lithium polymer (LiPo) batteries are common in the remote-control hobby industry and are used in things like drones and remote control cars. Lithium ion batteries are common in things like laptops, smart phones, e-cigarettes and scooters. Enjoy this innovative technology, but do it safely!

- ✓ Always monitor batteries while charging. **Be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for charging.**
- ✓ Ensure all cords and wires are not damaged or worn.
- ✓ Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- ✓ Do NOT charge a device or battery under your pillow, on your bed, on a couch, or on/near combustible materials.
- ✓ Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

CLOSE BEFORE YOU DOZE

Fire moves fast! 50% of house fires happen between 11pm and 7am, while most families sleep. Closed doors can reduce fire growth, limit damage, keep temperatures down, and increase survivability in the event of a fire.

- ✓ **Make a 900 Degree Difference** - A closed door can mean reducing heat in a 1,000 degree room down to 100 degrees.
- ✓ **Take it down a Notch** - During a fire, a closed door can keep carbon monoxide (CO) levels at 1,000 ppm versus 10,000 ppm if the door remained open.
- ✓ **Take a breather** - Fire needs oxygen to burn. A closed door keeps oxygen in the room, and away from the fire. When you exit in the event of a fire, always close the door behind you to slow fire spread.
- ✓ **Pro parent tip** - If a child is scared to sleep with the door closed, crack the door and close it once the child has fallen asleep.

COOKING SAFETY

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), cooking was the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries in 2015-2019. The majority of these fires were caused by unattended cooking and involved the stovetop.

- ✓ **Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended,** and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- ✓ Remove anything that can catch fire – oven mitts, dish towels, or food packaging – away from your stovetop.
- ✓ If you have a small (grease) cooking fire on the stove, you can smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Keep pan covered until completely cooled. For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If in doubt, just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire, and call 9-1-1 from outside the home.

Visit our website for more Fire Prevention and Life Safety information: loudoun.gov/fireprevention

NVTA Celebrates \$1 Billion Local Distribution Fund Milestone



In one decade, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) has distributed \$1 billion to its nine member jurisdictions and five towns, supplying the region's localities with critical funding to address their unique transportation needs. To celebrate this milestone, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held during the September Authority meeting.

"We are delighted to celebrate this milestone as it affirms NVTA's commitment to promoting regional connectivity by giving localities necessary resources to address specific local concerns, enabling them to transform transportation challenges into opportunities for growth." – Jeanette Rishell, Mayor, City of Manassas Park and NVTA Finance Committee Chair

The \$1 billion milestone, made possible through NVTA's Local Distribution Fund, is a testament to NVTA's dedication of investing in safe, equitable and sustainable transportation projects that reduce congestion, enhance quality of life and strengthen the economy.

To date, nearly half of the reported Local Distribution Funds have been allocated to transit projects, including investments in bus, rail,

and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), reinforcing the region's commitment to improving accessibility for all modes of transportation.

In 2013, NVTA received a revenue stream following the approval of House Bill 2313 by the Virginia General Assembly, marking the beginning of NVTA's dedicated effort to enhance transportation infrastructure throughout Northern Virginia. Per HB 2313, NVTA allocates 30% of revenue to the Local Distribution Fund, which is distributed monthly to NVTA's member jurisdictions to be utilized for transportation purposes of their choice. 70% of the revenue is allocated to the Regional Revenue Fund to support regional transportation projects focused on congestion reduction. NVTA selects these projects through eligibility review, qualitative and quantitative process, and public comment.

Through the Regional Revenue and Local Distribution Funds, NVTA has allocated more than \$4.1 billion toward improving the region's transportation network. NVTA's allocations are expected to create 42,000 new jobs, save 400 million hours of travel time by 2035, and provide \$6 billion in monetary savings for Northern Virginia taxpayers.

NVTA's member jurisdictions include Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County, and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park. Additionally, the towns of Dumfries, Herndon, Leesburg, Purcellville, and Vienna receive Local Distribution Funds through their respective counties.

Loudoun County Landfill Now Offers Free Compost

The Loudoun County Solid Waste Management Facility is now offering free compost that will enhance soil and promote healthy plant growth for local gardeners. This is in addition to the free mulch at the landfill that the county has offered to residents for many years.

The landfill annually processes more than 7,000 tons of vegetative material received from the public into landscape grade mulch. Through recent

program enhancements, the landfill is now able to create a finished compost product from yard waste, such as grass clippings, hedge clippings and leaves.

Stockpiles of the free mulch and compost are limited. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are located on the right side of the main entrance of the landfill, located at 21101 Evergreen Mills Road in Leesburg. Only hand tools are allowed when loading; no powered equipment.

The upgraded composting operation is the result of a Board of Supervisors initiative to increase composting in the county through advancements in the processing of vegetative material at the landfill. The Loudoun County Energy Strategy, approved by the Board in February 2023, calls for the county to expand the yard waste composting and recycling program to divert solid waste from the landfill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Landfill operating hours are Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. More information about services provided at the landfill is available online at loudoun.gov/landfill.



Upcoming Events

- National 4-H Week – Sunday, October 1 – Saturday, October 7, 2023
- Farm to School: Connecting School Gardens and Farms to Students and Cafeterias – Tuesday, October 3, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.

- An Evening at Yankey Farm – Event for Regional Farmers – Wednesday, October 4 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Cemeteries as Gardens – Thursday, October 5 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Plant, Nurture, Grow: 13th Annual Gardening Symposium – Saturday, October 14 @ 9:00 a.m.

National 4-H Week

During National 4-H Week, October 1 -7, 2023, we shine a spotlight on VCE Loudoun 4-H. Our dedicated members and volunteers, with their hands-on projects and commitment to making a difference, embody the 4-H spirit of 'learning by doing' and 'making the best better'. From agricultural endeavors to STEM initiatives, these passionate youth are developing critical life skills, fostering leadership qualities, and giving back to their community. Join us in celebrating VCE Loudoun 4-H and the positive impact it's creating during National 4-H Week.

Interested in learning more about our programs or joining one of our more than 15 clubs? Now's a great time to get started.
Enrollment for the upcoming year begins on October 1.

Farm to School: Connecting School Gardens and Farms to Students and Cafeterias

School gardens and farms are where food comes to life for many students. Learn how being involved in the growing process not only heightens students' interest in nutrition but can also bring in garden-based lessons in math, science and many other SOL subjects.

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 • 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. • Register for Virtual Event

An Evening at Yankey Farms – Event for Regional Farmers

Network with regional farmers as we learn about best practices for pumpkin patch production, harvest management, and marketing.

Additionally, we will examine post planting strawberry management strategies.

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 • 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. •
Yankey Farms – 11812 Bristow Rd., Bristow, VA • [Register](#)
[for Event](#)

Cemeteries as Gardens

Discover how cemeteries first welcomed the dead and grieving, and later developed into garden refuges full of life. Born out of necessity, cemeteries were among the first green spaces in cities. Now, some serve as backdrops to community events and even as habitats for cherished plants and animals. Join Master Gardener Maria Stewart for this insightful talk.

Thursday, October 5, 2023 • 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. • [Learn](#)
[More](#) • [Sign up for Event Announcements](#) • [Log on \(Password: LCPL\)](#)

Plant, Nurture, Grow: 13th Annual Gardening Symposium

Join VCE Loudoun Master Gardeners on Saturday, October 14, 2023 for a full day Gardening Symposium. Expert speakers will provide inspiration, ideas, and information on garden basics that will appeal to all gardeners.

Saturday, October 14, 2023 • 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. •
Academies of Loudoun: 42075 Loudoun Academy Dr,
Leesburg, VA 20175 • \$65 • [Learn More](#) • [Register Online](#)

Loudoun leads tourism revenue for the Commonwealth

Loudoun's tourism revenue topped \$4 billion in 2022, with Washington Dulles International Airport being a major contributor to the local economy, according to the latest data released by Virginia Tourism.

Overall visitor spending in Loudoun was up 32 percent from 2021, with \$2.3 billion of that coming from transportation, according to the data, which is collected by Tourism Economics.

Loudoun is the largest tourism revenue generator in the Commonwealth, contributing 13.2 percent to the overall visitor spending in the state.

“While Dulles Airport is clearly an economic engine for the region, we continue to see an uptick across the board with a 29 percent growth in spending in our lodging, restaurants and craft beverage segments while our recreation and retail segments saw a 28.8 percent and 15.7 percent increase over 2021 respectively,” Visit Loudoun President & CEO Beth Erickson said. “The growth at Dulles Airport, along with Metro's extension into the county, has provided greater opportunities for Loudoun as a destination and benefits Loudoun's robust visitor economy as a whole.”

According to the economic impact report, in 2022 tourism supported 17,134 jobs, up 26.6 percent, which generated \$988 million in salaries and wages in Loudoun. It generated \$136 million in local taxes as well as \$72.6 million in state taxes, increases of 24.8 percent and 31.9 percent over 2021 respectively.

“Dulles International Airport is proud to welcome passengers from across the nation and around the world who support the businesses and attractions of Loudoun County,” said Chryssa Westerlund, executive vice president and chief revenue officer of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. “Dulles has added more international flights since 2019 than any other airport in the U.S., making it America’s fastest growing international gateway. Key drivers for the airport’s growth include excellent partnerships with the region’s tourism, economic development and transportation organizations.”

Across the state, Virginia’s tourism revenue reached \$30.3 billion in 2022. This spending supported 210,721 jobs, an increase of more than 25,000 jobs relative to 2021, but still down

about 30,000 jobs relative to 2019. The leading tourism sectors in Virginia are recreation and food & beverage, which have exceeded 2019 levels by 10 percent. Transportation, specifically air travel, has had a slower rebound but was the fastest growing tourism sector in 2022, aiding the Commonwealth's regions that are more dependent on air travel. With the additional marketing dollars that came through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Virginia and its localities continued to see growth in visitor spending.

[Contact Us](#)

Sincerely,

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