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Weekly Newsflash

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Virginia Association of Counties Annual Meeting



I just concluded a productive weekend at the Virginia Association of Counties (<u>VACo</u>) Annual Conference, where I had the privilege of representing Loudoun County. We gathered with officials from across the commonwealth to discuss key priorities such as public education funding, the upcoming state budget, and the 2024 legislative session.

Tuesday morning, at the VACo Board of Directors Business Meeting, we took a decisive step by voting to approve <u>VACo's 2024 Legislative Agenda</u>. I am proud to share that I successfully passed an amendment to the agenda which advocates for Virginia to rejoin the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), which is a nationwide network of states devoted to protecting our electoral systems and keeping voter registration records accurate. Rejoining ERIC is a crucial step in enhancing the integrity and accuracy of our electoral systems in Loudoun County and beyond.

It is always a privilege to represent Loudoun County and ensure county voices are heard by our state government leaders. I am committed to elevating Loudoun County's voice in our state government and ensuring our community's needs and perspectives are always at the forefront. Recognizing Transgender Day of Remembrance

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE VIGIL

A Vigil in Memory and Honor of the Victims of Violence Against the Transgender Community

November 20 | 6PM | Crossroads UMC, Ashburn



In Loudoun County, we pride ourselves on our inclusivity and our shared commitment to ensuring that every individual's right to live authentically without fear of bigotry or repercussion is safeguarded.

At last week's Board of Supervisors Business Meeting, my colleagues and I approved a historic proclamation recognizing November 20th, 2023, as Transgender Day of Remembrance for the first time ever in Loudoun County! Founded in 1999 in the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998, Transgender Day of Remembrance has been commemorated annually on November 20th to honor the lives of all transgender people who have been lost to bigotry and violence.

I look forward to presenting the proclamation to Equality Loudoun at the Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil on November 20th at 6 pm. Equality Loudoun has worked for over 20 years to provide inclusion, education, community, and defense for Loudoun's LGBTQ+ community and I am proud to stand with them in observing Transgender Day of Remembrance.

All members of the community are invited to attend this important event. Find more information about the vigil <u>here</u>.

Action on Cascades Marketplace and Dogwood Farm Station

The Board of Supervisors considered two Algonkian District land use applications at last night's Public Hearing.

Cascades Marketplace

The Board of Supervisors heard presentations from county staff and the applicant. I am proud of the extensive work I have dedicated to this application over the last four years to revitalize the Cascades Marketplace! The Board of Supervisors forwarded the application to the December 13th Public Hearing for action.





Dogwood Farm Station

The Board of Supervisors voted 5-3-1 to approve the Dogwood Farm Station application. Thank you to the many residents that spoke at the meeting last night and have contacted my office in the past to share your feedback on the application. This project will provide diverse affordable housing options for our residents!

Loudoun Symphony Orchestra Presents "Joy!" Holiday Concerts on December 2 and 3 Dr. Hayden Denesha, LSO Associate Conductor

7:30 PM, December 2, 2023 St. David's Episcopal Church, Ashburn, VA

3:00 PM, December 3, 2023 Lightridge High School, Aldie, VA

www.loudounsymphony.org

The Loudoun Symphony Orchestra invites you to experience their holiday concerts!

Schedule:

- Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 7:30 PM, at <u>St. David's Episcopal Church</u> in Ashburn
- Sunday, Dec. 3rd at 3 PM, at Lightridge High School in Aldie

This one-hour concert features something for everyone from selections from The Nutcracker by both Duke Ellington and Tchaikovsky to Snowy Day by Boys II Men and Festive Sounds of Hanukkah. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and

FREE for children 12 and under. WIC cardholders may also attend concerts for FREE.

Visit <u>www.loudounsymphony.org</u> for all the details.

Hypothermia Prevention Shelter Now Open

LOUDOUN COUNTY HYPOTHERMIA PREVENTION SHELTER

November 15, 2023 - March 31, 2024

Check in: Loudoun Homeless Services Center 19520 Meadowview Court, Leesburg



For adults age 18 or older

Loudoun County

loudoun.gov/HomelessServices

The Loudoun County Hypothermia Prevention Shelter is now open for single adults aged 18 and older in the community who are experiencing a housing crisis resulting in homelessness.

The shelter, which provides a warm indoor sleeping environment and meals, is located at 16450 Meadowview Court in Leesburg and will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 a.m., seven nights a week through March 31, 2024.

Free bus transportation to the shelter will be provided daily at the times and locations listed below:

- <u>Sterling</u>: Loudoun County Transit Bus Route 82 bus stop across the street from the William Watters House, 22365 Enterprise St. in Sterling. Pickup time is 5:00 p.m.
- Leesburg: The front of the Shenandoah Office Building, 102 Heritage Way NE in Leesburg. Pickup time is between 5:30 6:00 p.m.

More information about transportation is available by calling the Loudoun Homeless Services Center at 703-771-5429.

More information about the Hypothermia Prevention Shelter is available at: https://www.loudoun.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=8763

NOVA Loudoun Campus Hosting Special Programs Open House











PATHWAYS TO CAREERS: Nova's special programs

Discover the perfect program that aligns with your goals and interests.

NOVEMBER 16, 2023 | 6:00PM - 8:00PM NOVA LOUDOUN CAMPUS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT BIT.LY/NOVAPROGRAMS

<u>Pathways to Careers: NOVA's Special Programs Open House</u> Discover the perfect program that aligns with your goals and interests.

Join the NOVA Loudoun Campus in Sterling, VA for an exciting event **tonight**, **November 16th from 6 to 8 pm** that will open new doors to your future! Whether you're interested in geographic information systems, graphic design, veterinary technology, or historical preservation programs, NOVA has got you covered. NOVA Loudoun's special programs offer unique opportunities to gain hands-on experience and valuable skills that will set you apart in the job market.

Programs Featured: Computer Science, Data Center Operations, Early Childhood Education, Fine Arts, Geographic Information Systems, Graphic Design, Graphic Design, Interactive Design, Horticulture Technology, Information Technology, Interior Design, Landscape Design, Music, Music Recording Technology, Public History and Historic Preservation, and Veterinary Technology. Program directors will be available to answer all your questions, show the dedicated classroom spaces, showcase state-of-the art technologies and software, and talk about the program and career advances. NOVA Loudoun counselors and advisors will assist with application questions and financial aid preparation. Campus tours will also be available.

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (EDT) Location: Reynolds Building (LR), Northern Virginia Community College, Loudoun Campus Address: 21200 Campus Drive, Sterling, VA 20146

This event is free admission, everyone is welcome. Free parking in all parking lots.

Recommendations for FY23 Fund Balance

At Tuesday's Finance, Government Operations, and Economic Development Committee (FGOEDC) meeting, the Board of Supervisors reviewed requests for uses of approximately \$159,168,860 of FY 2023 "Fund Balance". Fund Balance refers to unused funding left in the General Fund at the conclusion of each fiscal year. The Board of Supervisors evaluates opportunities for one-time uses of these unused funds for key county projects and programs.

I am excited to report that my two top priorities were recommended by the committee as part this year's fund balance spending:

- **\$7,940,000 for LCPS Capital Projects** to fund weight room expansion, press boxes, and tennis court lighting at Dominion HS and Heritage HS, as well as construction of press boxes and tennis court lighting at Potomac Falls HS. This allocation would put these projects back on track after being delayed due to inflation and other factors. Our student athletes deserve these upgraded facilities!
- \$200,000 to replenish the ARPA Child Care Fee Reduction Program. This will replenish the funding for this important program after the Board re-allocated funding in July to help families affected by the closure of INMED. The Child Care Fee Reduction Program will support qualifying Loudoun families to paying for 50% of childcare costs. I am excited for this program to get underway to provide essential cost savings for our families.

To read more about the recommendations made by the Finance Committee, read the item <u>here</u>.



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