



Chair **Phyllis J. Randall**

Newsletter



Hello, Loudoun

Governor Northam announced a Sister City pilot exchange program between Loudoun County and Danville, which is located in the south-central area of Virginia. The goal of this program is to reach out to other areas of Virginia and learn about them and then bring these ideas and experiences to Richmond to enact policy that benefits all of Virginia.

We are looking forward to sharing our story and successes with Danville and we are pleased to participate in the Commonwealth's effort to advance local government exchange opportunities.

FY 2021 Budget

On February 12th, County Administrator Tim Hemstreet presented the proposed fiscal year 2021 budget for the Loudoun County government to the Board. The budget totals \$3.024 billion in appropriations for the County government and Loudoun County Public Schools.

The proposed budget has been prepared at a real property tax rate of \$1.035 per \$100 of assessed value, one cent below the current real property tax rate of \$1.045 per \$100 of assessed value. At this tax rate, the County's needs are addressed and there is a \$2.5 million gap between the School Board's adopted budget and the proposed budget. We continue to add 11,000 new residents each year with 425,000 residents projected in 2020. The population growth brings new demands on County services and programs and increases enrollment in our schools.

We have the most remarkable staff in the region. County staff continues to provide high quality services to residents and address Board strategic goals, despite increasing workloads. Our County employees have been underfunded for years. We are committed to the implementation of classification and compensation to increase our employees pay so it is competitive.

We will determine the final real property tax rate and related budget policy decisions during our March budget work sessions with adoption of the FY 2021 budget expected at the Board's business meeting on April 7th.

You can find Mr. Hemstreet's presentation to the Board and the proposed operating budget and Capital Improvement Program documents on the budget website.

[Visit the Budget Website](#)

The Board will hold three public hearings on the proposed FY 2021 budget:

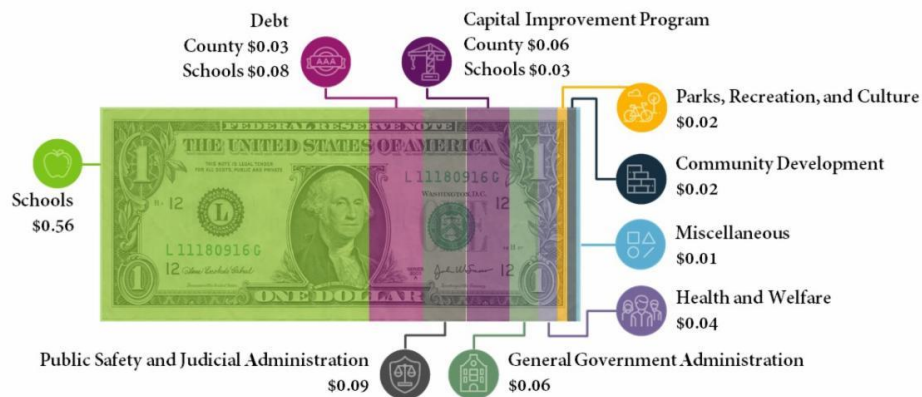
- **Tuesday, February 25th, 3:00 pm, Board Room, Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street SE in Leesburg.**
- **Tuesday, February 25th, 6:00 pm, Board Room, Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street SE in Leesburg.**
- **Saturday, February 29th, 9:00 am, Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building, 21000 Education Court in Ashburn.**

Anyone who wishes to speak at the public hearings may sign up in advance for one speaking slot by calling 703-777-0204.

Your Tax Dollar at Work

Proposed FY21 Budget

Loudoun County
VIRGINIA



2020 Census is in March

Every ten years, the Constitution requires a count of everyone in our nation, and the next Census opens in mid-March 2020.

Every resident in Loudoun County counts, regardless of age, relation, or immigration status. If multiple families are in a home, everyone in the home should either be listed on one form or respond individually online. Everyone counts in Loudoun to ensure we receive our fair share of funding for our schools, healthcare, roads, affordable housing, and more. Mark your calendar and make sure you and your neighbors are ready to respond!

[Visit the 2020 Census Website](#)

Black History Month

I initiated a proclamation with Supervisor Saines and Supervisor Glass to recognize February 2020 as Black History Month in Loudoun County. Throughout Loudoun's history, Americans of African descent have substantially and significantly contributed to the educational, economic, social, and spiritual well being of Loudoun County.



Courthouse Grounds and Memorials

At the January 21st Board business meeting, we voted on the following four motions based on the recommendations from the **Heritage Commission's Report** for the Loudoun County Courthouse grounds and its memorials.

1. Allocate \$30,000 to pursue National Historic Landmark designation for the historic Courthouse and grounds.
2. Consider naming the historic Courthouse after Charles Hamilton Houston, pursuant to the County's adopted naming policy, and form a committee to include the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Judiciary members, and Heritage Commission members.
3. Reserve space for a future interpretive "Path to Freedom" trail using interpretive markers, art, and memorials.
4. Facilitate a community dialogue regarding the design and placement of memorials including those which will commemorate the reading of the Declaration of Independence, Loudoun's Union Soldiers, and the enslaved. Staff will need to return to the Board with a scope and cost estimate for this dialogue.

Courthouse Grounds Research Project

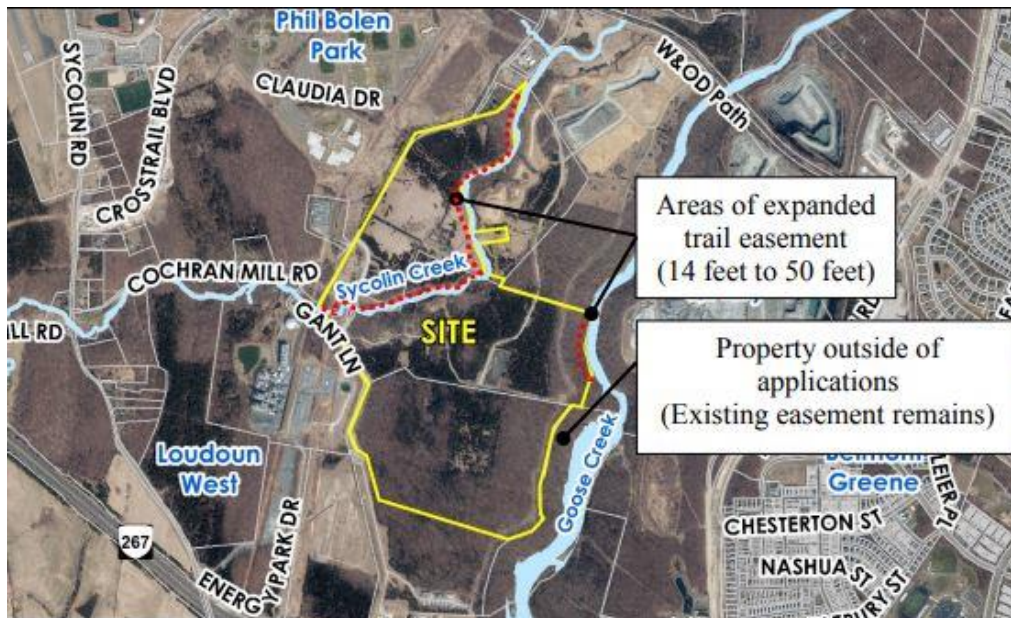
Sterling Community Center

I attended the groundbreaking for the Sterling Community Center renovation on February 8th. Sterling is one of Loudoun's oldest and beloved communities. I'm so pleased that much deserved renovations are coming to the Sterling Area.



Luck Stone Quarry and Emerald Ribbons

At the public hearing on February 12th, Luck Stone was willing to extend the width of an easement for our signature linear park initiative called Emerald Ribbons from 14 feet to 50 feet along the Sycolin and Goose Creek. This area is located north of the Dulles Greenway and east of Bolen Park off Sycolin Road. I want to thank the public for speaking and causing us to question the proposed trail easement and the applicant for being amenable to increase the width. We are serious about having a linear park system along our stream valleys. I am hopeful this applicant will be a template for future applications to help us achieve our vision.



Herbicide and Pesticide Use

Last year, a group of young people asked me to investigate the County's use of herbicides and pesticides including glyphosate and neonicotinoids to determine if safer alternatives can be used for weed and pest control. The use of herbicides and pesticides are often questioned due to their potentially negative or perceived impacts on humans and other species. In addition, public concern has specifically been raised about neonicotinoids, a class of pesticide, and their effects on critical pollinator species.

Maintenance of County facilities involving weed and pest controls is performed by the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and General Services. Staff uses an Integrated Pest Management strategy, which is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach that focuses on long-term prevention of weeds and pests through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant plant varieties. The County's landscape management program primarily focuses on strategies without the use of herbicides and pesticides. I plan to research this issue further to determine if an action item is needed that encourages the use of other options as requested by our youth.

I want to share this special picture of my mother who is my inspiration. She is putting on my County lapel pin during the installation ceremony. As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chair. (Photo credit: Valerie Cury).



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Voice for a Cause

Junior Draft Picks

The Junior Draft Picks non-profit organization was founded by a group of professional athletes to help children and young adults on the autism spectrum. Junior Draft Pick does health education and mental and physical stimulation to individuals with disabilities and differing abilities. They do this via exercise programs, health classes and a host of community events that bring about awareness and inclusion here in Loudoun County.



Community Events and Information

Real Estate Tax Relief Seminars:

Loudoun County Commissioner of the Revenue Robert S. Wertz Jr. has scheduled free information sessions to familiarize residents with the eligibility criteria for the county's generous real estate tax relief program and new eligibility thresholds for 2020.

Loudoun County homeowners age 65 or older or with disabilities may benefit from a reduction in the amount of property taxes they pay. Qualified applicants for real estate relief must have a gross combined income less than \$72,000, and net worth less than \$920,000. Up to \$10,000 in income of a spouse or relative residing in the home is excluded from the income calculation. Program participants saved almost \$8 million in real estate taxes in tax year 2019. Additional information about the program is online.

[Tax Relief Website](#)

No appointment or RSVP is required to attend these free sessions. All sessions begin at 10:30 am on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, February 26th**, Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place in Potomac Falls
 - **Thursday, February 27th**, Gum Spring Library, 24600 Millstream Drive in Stone Ridge
 - **Tuesday, March 3rd**, Purcellville Library, 220 East Main Street in Purcellville
 - **Wednesday, March 4th**, Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road in Ashburn
 - **Tuesday, March 10th**, Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road NW in Leesburg
-

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LOUDOUN
commission
WOMEN AND GIRLS



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A SURVIVOR SPEAKS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 • 6PM - 8PM
THE NATIONAL 18980 UPPER BELMONT PLACE LEESBURG, VA 20176

Join us for a very important session exposing the snares of Human Trafficking and what you need to know to prevent you or someone you know from becoming a victim. A victim of sex trafficking will also share her story of how she fell into the trafficker's traps.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

REGISTER HERE

[HTTPS://CUTT.LY/TROX8N5](https://cutt.ly/trox8n5)

GUESTS INCLUDE

- BARBARA JEAN WILSON - Author & Sex Trafficking Survivor
- KAREN HARROP - NOVA HTI
- BUTA BIBERAJ - Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney
- BILL WOOLF - Department of Justice
- ERIN FISHER - Just Ask Prevention Project
- CONNIE CZEKAJ - Loudoun County Sheriff's Office
- KATHERINE P. DEYE, MD FAAP - INOVA

EVENT SPONSOR



FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:
commissionchair@lcwag.org

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Training on Reversing Opioid Overdoses:

The next Revive! session is scheduled for Thursday, February 27th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the offices of the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and

Developmental Services (MHSADS), 906 Trailview Boulevard in Leesburg. Anyone who uses opioids or knows someone who is using opioids is encouraged to attend. The free training covers:

- Signs of opioid overdose
- How to respond to an opioid overdose emergency with the administration of naloxone, a drug that can be used to treat narcotic overdoses in emergency situations.
- Any participant completing the training will be eligible to receive free naloxone nasal spray

The training is open to the public; however, classroom space is limited and advanced registration is required. Pre-registration is first come, first served. Those interested in attending may register online.

[Register Here](#)

2020 Loudoun Youth Leadership Program:

Applications are being accepted for Loudoun Youth, Inc.'s 2020 Loudoun Youth Leadership Program until Wednesday, March 4th. Loudoun Youth Leadership Program sessions take place on July 6 - 10 and July 27 - July 31. A week-long program designed to introduce youth to leadership concepts and to provide exposure and interaction with local business, government and community leaders. The program is open to all high school students, public or private, who live in Loudoun County. Youth participating in the week-long sessions will spend time in a variety of locations - learning leadership skills in a classroom-type setting, observing leadership in action with business and civic leaders from around the county, as well as taking part in active, hands-on team building experiences. Tuition is \$495/student. Financial aid is available to qualifying students.

[Loudoun Youth Leadership Application](#)

Tax Considerations for New and Small-Scale Farmers:

Making Informed Filing Decisions

**March 5, 2020
7:00PM – 8:30PM**

**Loudoun Extension
Training Room
750 Miller Dr. SE, Suite F-3
Leesburg, VA 20175
Snacks Provided**



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This is an education forum open to the public. At the invitation of VCE-Loudoun, Chris Pearson, CPA will speak with producers about tax law revisions and resulting changes to tax record keeping and reporting. Chris understands the questions and concerns of new and small-scale producers and can guide them away from tax errors that erode enterprise and operations profits.

SPONSORED BY:

VCE, Loudoun County Farm Bureau, Loudoun Department of Economic Development, and YHB CPAs & Consultants



Please register by March 2nd
Call Sue at 703-777-0373 or email snaille@vt.edu

Employers Needed for Leesburg's ECHO:

ECHO has been serving Loudoun County residents with disabilities since 1975. Our mission is to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve their optimal level of personal, social and economic success. We are currently looking for job sites and employers to hire our trained, dependable workers. We can solve problems facing all industries including high turnover rates, frequent absences and call outs, and issues specific to your business. Please contact Jenifer Liberi, Director of Employment and Advocacy at 571-707-8271 or jeniferl@echoworks.org, to discuss how ECHO can meet your needs.

Tools for Life



Habitat for Humanity®



Tools for Life workshops are designed for those who are interested in learning more about home maintenance and financial literacy to achieve the independence needed to build a better life for themselves and their families. Upcoming workshops include “How to Read and Use a Home Inspection”, “Home Weatherization”, and “Making Nutritious Meals on a Limited Budget”. To learn more and save your seat, please visit this website. .

[Tools for Life Registration](#)

A PATRIOTIC & CELTIC MUSIC EVENT



Networking Event: 5:30 p.m. | Show Start Time: 6:30 p.m.

TICKET PRICES
\$30/\$50/\$75

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See our
promo video!!



For tickets visit:
www.ionitc.com/events/



Presented by:



SATURDAY
03.21, 2020

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www.TheWashingtonTattoo.com

Denise's Corner



I am including a section called Denise's Corner to share information about the schools. Denise Corbo is the newly elected School Board At-Large representative. School Board members do not have staff aides. Therefore, I am happy to provide information from Denise to our residents.

From Denise:

It's been quite the journey. When I became a teacher, I never expected to be where I am today. I've had the pleasure of working with students from across the County and now thanks to your support, I am grateful to be serving as the new School Board At-Large representative. I look forward to working with a Board of Supervisors led by Chair Randall who supports holistically strengthening our education system.

The School Board has handed out committee assignments, approved the budget, and ensured all students in Loudoun have the transportation option to Thomas Jefferson High School. My committee assignments are as follows: Curriculum and Instruction, Communication and Outreach, Legislation and Policy, serving as the Head Start School Board Liaison, and finally I'll be Co-Chairing the Joint Board of Supervisors and School Board Committee with Supervisor Umstattd.

I've had the opportunity to visit 14 schools and hear from students and teachers around issues ranging from technology, literacy, substitutes, Project Based Learning, program funding, equity and special education needs. I plan to continue visiting schools throughout the County. Please let me know if you would like me to visit your school to hear what's important to students, teachers, administrators, parents and families. You can reach out to me at dcorbo@lcps.org or visit my Facebook page.

[Denise's Facebook Page](#)

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About Constant Contact

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