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All About Algonkian



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Weekly Newsflash

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**Loudoun County Recognizes
Breast Cancer Awareness Month**



At the Board of Supervisors Business Meeting this week, I presented a proclamation recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

This year's recognition is personal as I was diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year. Thankfully, I have an excellent prognosis and am continuing my active representation of the Algonkian District on the Board of Supervisors.

During the proclamation presentation, Chair Randall and I discussed the importance for women, especially those above 40, to conduct regular self-exams and get annual mammograms. Additionally, I highlighted several local organizations committed to women's health, including Step Sisters, Walk 4 Mountains, and the Loudoun Breast Health Network. I also recognized my medical team, including the Inova Loudoun Hospital and Loudoun Medical Group Comprehensive Breast Center. The outpouring of support from my friends and colleagues since I shared my diagnosis means so much to me.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), the five-year survival rate for localized breast cancer is 90% and for regional, it is 86%. The type of cancer that I have is regional because microscopic amounts were detected in my lymph node. However, the good news is that the Oncotype indicates a 99% survival rate after treatment.

Still, breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosis for women and the second leading cause of death, according to the ACS. Further, a 2021 study by the Susan G. Komen Foundation indicated that only 50% of women aged 45-54

had received a mammogram in the past year. Of course, disparities in screenings increase risk for people of color and those who are uninsured.

Read the proclamation [here](#).

Read my official statement announcing my diagnosis and the proclamation [here](#).

New Route 7 Overpass Connects Russell Branch Pkwy & George Washington Blvd



I joined Supervisor Glass, the Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure, and the Virginia Department of Transportation to cut the ribbon yesterday on a new Route 7 overpass which will open at the end of this month! **This project is completed and opening about 7 months ahead of schedule.** I am thankful to our county and state transportation staff that contributed to this effort, and especially for the union contractor that built this bridge!

The new bridge connects George Washington Boulevard and Russell Branch Parkway. It provides safe and convenient access, through the inclusion of a shared-use path, for cyclists, drivers, and pedestrians who now can bypass the congested interchange at Loudoun County Parkway in favor of a safer multimodal connection.

George Washington University's Virginia Science and Technology Campus is located adjacent to the new overpass, and I am excited that this gem of a community resource has been made more accessible!

My office will continue monitoring developments as the bridge approaches opening. More information about the project can be found at the [VDOT project page](#).

\$1.7 Million in Proffer Funds Secured for Algonkian District Schools



Earlier this week, the Loudoun County School Board Finance & Operations Committee began the process to appropriate \$1.7 million in proffer funds that I secured from the developer of the [Sterling Meadow](#) project!

This much-needed funding is planned to be used for improvements to Algonkian District schools:

- **River Bend Middle School – \$223,600** will provide for much-needed drama storage and the construction of a pavilion on the campus.
- **Countryside Elementary School – \$279,500** will allow for the construction of a walking track, provide an additional component

to the existing playground and afford play structure enhancements for the enclosed kindergarten play area.

- **Sugarland Elementary School – \$111,800** will provide for an exterior digital marquee/sign, LED hallway lighting enhancements and murals/paintings around the school.
- **Potomac Falls High School – \$1.1 million** has been secured to “improve and augment recreation facilities.” Projects considered include new scoreboards for the stadium, baseball/softball fields and main gymnasium; stadium enhancements (including winterizing the outdoor concession/restroom building); batting cage improvements, athletic equipment storage and additional bicycle racks.

This funding was reviewed as an information item at the October 4th meeting of the Finance and Operations Committee. I am hopeful that the funding will be formally approved by the Committee on October 17th, and then by the full School Board in a future meeting.

Loudoun County Seeks Community Input for Countywide Linear Parks and Trails

LINEAR PARKS & TRAILS SYSTEM

A COUNTYWIDE PLAN

Loudoun County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) is seeking input from county residents regarding naming and branding for the [planned countywide Linear Parks and Trails \(LPAT\) system](#)!

[Take the Survey](#)

LPAT offers a roadmap for the County and its partners to build out an interconnected system that protects natural and cultural resources, honors Loudoun County's unique sense of place, and connects residents to each other and to the County's natural and cultural landscapes, community nodes and destinations.

The plan seeks to provide multi-use experiences for a variety of users along its corridors — hikers, walkers, nature enthusiasts, runners, equestrians, cyclists and canoe and kayak paddlers. Trails typically are natural surface and traverse a variety of natural and cultural resource corridors such as stream valleys, ridges, scenic byways and gravel roads.

Fall Community Events

PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (PRCS)

"From Haunted Playgrounds to Puppies and Pumpkins, there is something for everyone in October from Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services!"

[Click here to see the Halloween Event Calendar.](#)

STERLINGFEST

Saturday, October 7th - 11 am to 5 pm

Sterling Community Center ([120 Enterprise St., Sterling](#))

"Every October, The Sterling Foundation throws a massive block party, celebrating the best of our hometown! Bring the whole family, explore booths offering the best of local businesses and artisans. Sample fine food from a wide variety of local restaurants. While the kids enjoy games, obstacle courses, and crafts, parents can sit down in the Beer Garden for a pint of locally brewed beer or a lovely glass of Virginia's finest wine."

Follow us on social media!



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We want to hear from you! Share your concerns, questions, or events that you would like to see featured in upcoming newsletters.

[Email Ethan Gardner](#)

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