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Subject: Potomac District News: April 2010  
To: [ctaylorp@yahoo.com](mailto:ctaylorp@yahoo.com)  
Date: Friday, April 16, 2010, 12:13 PM

## Potomac District Newsletter

*From Supervisor Andrea McGimsey*  
*E-mail: [Andrea.McGimsey@loudoun.gov](mailto:Andrea.McGimsey@loudoun.gov) Phone: 703-777-0105*



Dear Neighbor,  
Congratulations to the Potomac Falls Panthers for winning the boys state basketball championship!

We also have more great news on economic development in our district, tax savings thanks to Loudoun's strong fiscal management, and national recognition for our county energy strategy.

Many of you have written and spoken to me about making our community safer for walking and riding bicycles. We are taking some important steps forward on this important public safety issue, and I hope you will join us in making these efforts a great success. The first community meeting will be on May 11. Please invite your neighbors to attend.

The Board of Supervisors is updating the County's Transportation Plan, which includes important updates for public transit (Metro is scheduled to be here by 2016!) and bicycle and pedestrian access, along with our usual strong focus on roads. I hope all of you will take a look at this very important document and give us your feedback. We all know the challenges of getting around Loudoun and the region.

We are also working to protect water quality and preserve the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay through a proposed ordinance; there will be an important public hearing on May 24. Several citizens have already written to me with concerns; county staff will address each issue raised by the public with the Board of Supervisors before we take a final vote later this year.

Finally, I have started a new blog where I hope to gather good ideas about how we can make Loudoun's government more efficient and deliver excellent service to the community. We have faced tough economic times in the last few years, and it is more important than ever to make every dollar count.

I look forward to hearing from you, and I hope you are enjoying our beautiful spring in Virginia.

Best,  
Andrea

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**Community Meeting on Pedestrian / Bicycle Access and Safety**

Please join us for a community meeting on Pedestrian / Bicycle Access and Safety on Tuesday, May 11, at 6:00 PM. County staff will provide an update on county initiatives to bring safer and improved bicycle and pedestrian access to the Potomac District.

Loudoun County needs your feedback about where and how you think the county can improve pedestrian and bicycle access and safety. The meeting will include an overview of present and past initiatives, including the proposed Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements for Atlantic Boulevard Corridor and the proposed rezoning of Dulles Town Center. Staff from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Loudoun County will be available to answer your questions.

- **Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2010
- **Time:** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- **Location:** 21641 Ridgetop Circle, Suite 100, Sterling, VA 20166

Directions to the Sterling office are available at [www.loudoun.gov/directions/](http://www.loudoun.gov/directions/).

Staff will present a [report](#) on the Atlantic Corridor Initiative to the Transportation and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, April 21, at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the [Government Center](#). You are welcome to come and listen to the presentation, or you can watch it via the live [webcast](#).

You can also send your ideas and support for bicycle and pedestrian safety to the Board of Supervisors at [bos@loudoun.gov](mailto:bos@loudoun.gov) and to me at [Andrea.McGimsey@loudoun.gov](mailto:Andrea.McGimsey@loudoun.gov).

**County Saves Taxpayers \$4 Million – AAA Ratings Affirmed**

Loudoun County took advantage of favorable market conditions to refinance over 89 million dollars of bonds issued between 1998 and 2007. This refinancing will save Loudoun taxpayers 4 million dollars.

In recognition of Loudoun's excellent fiscal management, all three rating agencies reaffirmed the county's AAA bond rating. This top rating allows us to borrow money to build our schools, libraries, etc., at the most favorable rates, saving Loudoun taxpayers many millions of dollars.

My congratulations go out to the Loudoun County Administration, Finance and Budget staff for their excellent work and diligence. Further details are available in the online [news release](#).

### **Potomac Falls Panthers win Virginia Boys Basketball State Championship**

On Saturday, March 13, 2010, the Potomac Falls High School Panthers won the Virginia Boys Basketball State Championship at the VCU Siegel Center, in Richmond, Virginia. This momentous accomplishment marks the first boys basketball state title ever captured by a Loudoun County school. I am very proud of each of the players, Coach Hawes, and the team staff.

The Panthers finished the regular season with an impressive 16-2 record and went on to win seven consecutive victories in the playoffs. During the state championship game, the Panthers defeated Broadway High School after a thrilling double-overtime victory by a score of 69-64.

On April 5, the Board of Supervisors honored the players, coaches, and school staff with a Resolution of Commendation. You can read the resolution [online](#), along with the team roster.



### **Countywide Transportation Plan Update**

Loudoun County is revising the [Countywide Transportation Plan](#) which establishes the county's vision for auto, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation needs. The Board is scheduled to adopt the plan this summer.

Please visit the plan's [website](#) to read the County Transportation Plan and for schedule updates. Project documents such as newsletters, issue papers and technical reports are available along with the [Frequently Asked Questions](#), which include responses to the public's comments so far. You can submit your comments online using the [public comment page](#), or email them to Board of Supervisors at [bos@loudoun.gov](mailto:bos@loudoun.gov) and to me at [Andrea.McGimsey@loudoun.gov](mailto:Andrea.McGimsey@loudoun.gov).

### **Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act**

In 1988, the Virginia General Assembly adopted the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (Bay Act) in order to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries such as the Potomac River. The Bay Act allows communities such as Loudoun County to put in place water quality protection measures to improve the declining health of this unique natural resource.

Here in Loudoun, we have tried to do our fair share in combating the problem of pollution in the bay as well as address water quality protection in the county. On April 7, 2009, as part of that effort, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to prepare a [Work Program](#) of revisions to county regulations which would incorporate the Bay Act.

Currently, the Planning Commission is reviewing the program in their work sessions. The Board of Supervisors will take up citizen concerns and vote on the program's recommendations after the Planning Commission has finished its work.

A Board of Supervisors public hearing on the proposed recommendations is scheduled for May 24:

- **Date:** Monday, May 24, 2010
- **Time:** 6:00 PM
- **Location:** Board Room, County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, SE, in Leesburg

To speak at the public hearings, call 703-771-5072 to sign up; you can also sign up at the hearing. Directions to the [Government Center](#) are available online.

A joint Board of Supervisors/Planning Commission meeting is also scheduled for May 5 at 6:00 p.m., in the Government Center. You are welcome to come and listen to the discussion, or you can watch it via the live [webcast](#).

You can email your thoughts and concerns to our Planning Commissioner, Valdis Ronis ([valdis.ronis@loudoun.gov](mailto:valdis.ronis@loudoun.gov)), the Board of Supervisors ([bos@loudoun.gov](mailto:bos@loudoun.gov)), and to me ([Andrea.McGimsey@loudoun.gov](mailto:Andrea.McGimsey@loudoun.gov)).

### **EarthDay@Loudoun Family Festival 2010**

This year's EarthDay@Loudoun Family Festival will take place Sunday, April 25. The festival promotes and celebrates environmental stewardship among county residents and businesses. Activities will include entertainment, exhibits, and workshops that engage and inspire the entire community, especially the next generation of environmental stewards. County staff will also be on hand to share resources and tips for recycling in our community.

- **Date:** Sunday, April 25, 2010
- **Time:** 11 AM - 4 PM
- **Location:** Willow Creek Farm, 42920 Broadlands Blvd, Ashburn, VA

Directions to Willow Creek Farm are available [online](#).

Last year, I had the honor to co-chair this event, and I brought forward an [Earth Day Resolution](#) to recognize and pledge the county's support for Earthday@Loudoun. This year, Chairman York has the honor to do so. For more information on Earthday@Loudoun and to learn about how this project enhances our community's natural environment, please visit their [website](#).

### **Loudoun County Receives National Recognition for Energy Strategy**

The National Association of Counties (NACo), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Program, has recognized Loudoun County's energy strategy as a national model. NACo will utilize Loudoun's energy strategy and our experience implementing it as a teaching tool for other counties across the country. NACo and EPA Energy Star staff will also provide education and technical assistance to help the county implement its plan. The work will culminate in the creation of the "County Community-wide Energy Management Guide."

Loudoun County is now recognized as a national leader in addressing some of the most challenging issues of our time, including energy independence, environmental protection, and national security.

You can download the county energy strategy at [www.loudoun.gov/energy](http://www.loudoun.gov/energy). Please let me know if you would like to get more

involved as the county moves forward on this important work.

### **Loudoun Company Announces Headquarters Expansion**

Neustar, Inc., an international telecommunications company, has signed a 10-year lease to occupy the entire Ridgetop III at Loudoun Tech Center office building, located on Ridgetop Circle in Sterling, Virginia. This significant expansion of Neustar's headquarters facility in Loudoun is great news for our local economy.

Loudoun County's Technology Corridor boasts the largest number of satellite, internet, and defense companies in the United States. For more information on Neustar's expansion, please see the online [press release](#).

### **April is "Donate Life Month" in Loudoun County**

The Board of Supervisors adopted a proclamation declaring April as "Donate Life Month" in Loudoun County. During "Donate Life Month," we honor the county's organ, eye and tissue donors and their families, whose decision to share the gift of life through America's donor programs serves as a positive example for all our citizens.

The Proclamation also recognizes the Washington Regional Transplant Community which is celebrating more than 20 years educating Loudoun County citizens about saving lives through organ, eye and tissue recovery. With several thousand people living in the metro area who are waiting for a life-saving organ or tissue transplant, there is a vital need for increased awareness.

You can learn more at [www.save7lives.org](http://www.save7lives.org).

### **Searching for Good Ideas**

Loudoun County is a wonderful place to live, work, and play, and because of that great quality of life, we attract many new residents and businesses every year. Our growing community means our local government provides more services every year, from Fire and Rescue to teaching our children.

[Streamline Loudoun](#) is a new blog I have started to give people an open forum to share ideas about how best to utilize our tax dollars to provide those valuable local services.

I want to look for ideas together for where we can find efficiencies, reduce waste, and do things in a smarter way. We have a highly educated community, and I am hoping that together, we can make Loudoun an even better place to live.

### **Public Safety Online**

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office is now on Facebook and Twitter. Members of the Facebook community can become a fan of the Sheriff's Office by searching for "Loudoun County Sheriff's Office." If you prefer to receive tweets, you can follow the agency at [www.twitter.com/loudounsheriff](http://www.twitter.com/loudounsheriff).

For other services available online, such as the online non-emergency traffic complaint form and department contact information, please visit [www.loudoun.gov/sheriff](http://www.loudoun.gov/sheriff).

## **Staying in Touch**

Electronic communication like this newsletter is the most affordable way for us to get the word out about critical county issues.

Can you help me get in touch with our community by encouraging your neighbors to sign up for this newsletter? They can contact me at [Andrea.McGimsey@loudoun.gov](mailto:Andrea.McGimsey@loudoun.gov) or sign up at [www.loudoun.gov/PotomacNewsletter](http://www.loudoun.gov/PotomacNewsletter).

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