



## August 2020

Welcome to the August edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter. While the Board didn't formally meet in August, it has still been a busy month. Decisions had to be made related to the creation of a new County daycare program in order to meet needs due to all-virtual schooling (details below). In addition, I've been busy in my Metro Board capacity dealing with the increasing reality that additional federal assistance for transit is not coming, which will mean big changes for the entire system.

The Board of Supervisors will be back in session tomorrow, September 1. Modifications have been made to the Board room to make it possible for the entire Board to be seated at the dais while maintaining proper social distancing. I expect our workload to continue to be busy this fall.

### COVID-19 UPDATE

#### Latest Numbers

According to the official numbers released today by the Virginia Department of Health, there are 5,945 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Loudoun County.

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118 individuals have died from the virus in Loudoun. Virginia now has 120,594 confirmed cases with 2,580 deaths. The number of hospitalized patients in Loudoun remains steady. You can see these numbers yourself at the Loudoun County COVID-19 [GeoHub](#). At this point, we are not seeing evidence of a spike in Northern Virginia, but we will continue to watch those numbers carefully.

Stone Springs Hospital and HCA Virginia Health System are coordinating a Northern Virginia campaign to encourage residents to wear a face mask while in public. This campaign is part of a bigger statewide "wear a mask" effort. The messaging launched August 12 and features print, digital, and social media efforts in English and Spanish. Loudoun residents have done a great job wearing masks and practicing social distancing, and as a result our numbers have remained low compared to neighboring jurisdictions. However, with cooler weather coming, and more people returning to work, we are on guard for a resurgence. Early data from Europe, where cases are beginning to rise again, backs this up. Recent medical studies in reputable publications enforce the consensus that wearing a mask does indeed slow the spread of the virus. While we can never stop the spread of COVID-19 outright by using face masks in public, I would encourage us all to be good neighbors and do our part.



**WEAR YOUR MASK**

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**Matthew F. Letourneau**

Dulles District Supervisor,  
Loudoun County Board of  
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## Round Two CARES Act Allocations

On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors will vote on a second distribution of \$36 million of CARES Act funding. These funds are in addition to the \$36 million already allocated by the County. This money was provided to the Commonwealth and then passed on from the state to localities; it must be used by December 31 for eligible expenses. The items being proposed for expenditures are:

- \$500,000 for emergency food assistance
- \$2.0 million for emergency housing assistance
- \$1.75 million for non-profit support
- \$747,000 for facility and workspace modifications
- \$6.5 million to establish a PRCS Child Care program for K-6th grade students
- \$200,000 for COVID-19 testing and outreach
- \$1.3 million for the County Business Interruption Fund, Round 4 (would be granted to 250 applicants from the previous round that did not receive funding)
- \$3.0 million for BIR Round 5
- \$3.5 million for LCPS PPE
- \$2.5 million for LCPS workspace modifications
- \$6.0 million for LCPS overtime, temporary staffing and other compensation
- \$2.5 million for County overtime, temporary staffing and other compensation
- \$6.08 million to the towns in Loudoun County (as required by the Commonwealth)

I do have some questions about several of these proposed allocations, especially the \$6 million for LCPS overtime. I have submitted those and expect to have answers by the time the Board votes on this item.

### PRCS Child Care Program

As indicated above, the County will be utilizing \$6.5 million of CARES Act funding to establish a new PRCS Child Care program. Surveys by the County and LCPS indicate that there is a deficit of as many as 6,000 child care seats during school hours. On the

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County side, a significant number of employees have not returned to work due to lack of child care, which is impacting the County's ability to run the government, a situation that may worsen with a COVID resurgence. On the LCPS side, teachers are now returning to work, and some will need to have child care during the day. And in the private sector, the same things are occurring.

In an effort to meet some of that need, the Board of Supervisors asked staff to develop a child care program. PRCS already runs preschools and other developmental programming, including the popular CASA and YAS after-school programs, which will continue this fall. County staff first met with LCPS officials to determine if schools could be utilized for child care. LCPS is still planning for potential hybrid in-person instruction at some point during the school year, which will still require child care. Therefore, not every school could be utilized for child care.

Ultimately, LCPS and County staff determined that there would be space in 11 schools for child care even when hybrid instruction occurs, so those schools will be utilized as part of the plan. In addition, as of now, CASA will be operating in 45 locations, and YAS in the normal middle school locations. Some other providers, like YMCA, will also be operating programs.

Next, County staff conducted an analysis of every County-owned facility to see what would be feasible to use for child care. PRCS community centers will be converted to child care centers for this process, and 2 libraries (Ashburn and Rust) were also found to be feasible. (Dulles South is not affected; this location already provides preschool, which will continue.) In addition, the County will be leasing three private child care facilities that have gone out of business, and using them as our own PRCS daycares with a 10 month lease.

Finally, finance staff worked to determine the cost of operating child care beyond the CARES Act funding. A fee structure was developed, with slight discounts

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for County and LCPS employees (and for Free and Reduced Lunch students) that are competitive with the private sector but will allow for cost recovery. The County will not be making a profit on child care, but does need to cover costs because of General Fund revenue concerns.

Over the last 2 weeks, each member of the Board of Supervisors received a briefing on the program, and a straw poll vote was conducted, which resulted in support for a staff plan that would provide 1,000 child care seats.

Immediately following the Board's input, staff engaged the Library Board of Trustees (LBOT). While some may not realize it, the LBOT governs the library system. Unfortunately, the leadership of the LBOT reacted very negatively to the County staff's work to include two libraries in the plan. The LBOT is understandably concerned about the need to close those two libraries for the school year, but circulation will be able to continue from those libraries in a curbside mode, and staff has committed to working with the library system to provide other services and accommodations as needed.

However, it should be noted that the LBOT waited a week after their initial briefing to discuss this proposal, which has contributed to the perception that this was a "last minute" decision. The LBOT was brought into the discussion by County staff as soon as the Board of Supervisors had been briefed and indicated a desire to move forward with a program. In my view, the communication from the library system was also very sparse and didn't provide much context. I expect that the Board of Supervisors will discuss the overall governance issues related to the library system at a later date. In the meantime, I would like to see the library system work to try to keep the two impacted branches open on weekends, which I believe would be possible if they choose.

Now, to answer some questions that may logically be raised about this program:

*If children can attend daycare, why can't they be in school?*

As you know, the decision to conduct schools with distance learning was initially made by the School Board. However, the child care program has protocols and policies that would be impossible for LCPS to implement on a wide scale. For PRCS childcare, children will be 8 feet apart from each other, and be kept in cohorts of just 10 children for the entire school year. This significantly reduces the risk of COVID transmission compared to a classroom setting, which would have needed to have more students with less social distancing even in a hybrid approach. Furthermore, upper school grades (which are actually at higher risk for transmission) mix classes and students based on electives and levels, making the cohort approach almost impossible.

*Who will be able to utilize PRCS childcare?*

Enrollment will first be open to County and LCPS employees. It is very unpredictable how many families will enroll, but survey responses indicated that there will be additional seats for members of the public available. If that is the case, first priority will be given to Free and Reduced Lunch families, and then the program would be opened up to the general public, likely on a lottery basis.

*My job is just as essential as a County employee, but nobody is providing daycare for my child. How is that fair?*

I completely understand the frustration that some parents are feeling right now, and some do feel that it is unfair that the County is providing this service for our employees and for LCPS employees. However, we believe that each employer should be taking into consideration child care to the greatest extent possible, and we should lead by example. Many private employers are in fact making accommodations. It is ultimately the employer's responsibility to keep their

workforce functioning, and the County is taking these steps to ensure that the essential services that we provide to citizens can continue on a daily basis. The County is also providing multiple layers of assistance to individuals in need. Ultimately, the program has been set up so that taxpayer funds, other than federal CARES Act funding (which is limited in scope), should not be used to provide these services.

*Why can't more schools be used? Aren't they sitting vacant?*

We anticipate the need for childcare to last throughout the school year, and thus we have to plan that the schools will not be vacant at some point. The 11 schools being provided by LCPS was a negotiation based on space availability and location within the County, to ensure that all areas were served.

*Why do libraries have to be used?*

The County simply doesn't have enough buildings suitable for child care. Staff looked for commercial buildings and ultimately found three that were available for us to lease on a short term basis, which we are doing. These buildings were already set up for child care. Other vacant buildings were analyzed - even the vacant Food Lion in South Riding - but the costs to convert them were excessive, and more importantly, it would take too long given the immediate need. It is absolutely nobody's choice to have to use library buildings for child care, but the Board of Supervisors is attempting to balance a lot of different community needs. It is important to me and other Board members to ensure that circulation of materials is still available at those libraries.

Should space become available in this program, I will make sure that notices are sent out to Dulles District residents.

## **A MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER JEFF MORSE REGARDING CHANGES AT THE ACADEMIES OF LOUDOUN**

*Note: I have received a number of inquiries from the community about admissions policy changes at the Academies of Loudoun. The Board of Supervisors is not involved in that process. However, given his strong views on the subject, I asked Dulles District School Board Representative Jeff Morse to provide information in this newsletter. Mr. Morse writes the following:*

Recently the School Board voted to make broad sweeping changes to the admissions policy for the Academies of Loudoun. The changes were intended to enhance the representation of minority students accepted into the Academy of Science (AoS) and the Academy of Engineering & Technology (AET).

Before the vote was taken, Mr. Serotkin (Blue Ridge District Representative) made an alternate motion to refer the recommended policy changes to committee for further review before allowing the full Board to vote on them. I fully supported his motion. It is impossible to perform real-time thoughtful analysis in a virtual school Board meeting, where staff engagement is sparse, and decisions are frequently made after midnight. The Board did not support his motion and it failed by a vote of 4-5. Mr. Harris and Mr. Beatty joined Mr. Serotkin and me in favor of referring to committee.

Aside from a lack of Committee review, there were many other concerns. I spelled them out during our debate:

1. The obvious and overwhelming community support for not pushing the changes through: We had over 70 speakers who spoke on the subject, and each of those speakers were against the changes. Unanimously.



Given clear feedback, such a vote by the Board was premature.

2. Changing the math requirement from Geometry to Algebra and eliminating the grade restriction for first semester 8th grade math: This will certainly increase the pool of eligible students, but I'd like to see evidence that shows current AoS and AET students who entered with B's and C's in math are proving successful in the rigorous content. The objective must be to raise subgroup representation through performance and level the playing field, not reduce the standards.

3. Eliminating the CCTDI, and CCTST-N: To date, no evidence has been presented that shows a score bias against any subgroups. In fact, the two tests were added several years ago to replace the SAT specifically because the SAT showed bias.

4. Changing the standards a month before the start of the admissions process: Families have been mentally preparing for this rigorous process, and such an abrupt change (in an already disrupted educational year) is disastrous for self-confidence.

5. Ranking by middle school and middle school quotas: Each middle school is to be guaranteed a minimum number of seats, equivalent to at least 75% of their "share of seats" based on dividing the seats available at the academy by the schools' enrollment populations. The effect of this means that two students with the exact same personal circumstances (economically disadvantaged, minority, academic record, and writing prompt) will be offered entry based on their zip code. So impoverished minorities in Dulles and Ashburn district middle schools will compete against potentially 20-30 other students for 8 slots, while students in other geographies may compete against potentially 4 other students for 6 slots: that's right, they could be guaranteed admission merely by meeting the new minimum requirements and living in a school's footprint. This is inequitable by any standard and yet may have no impact on improving the

representation of minority subgroups for which these changes are intended.

6. We did not hear the thoughts of the Academies administrators.

7. We had no discussion on any changes that may improve the representation of twice gifted or special education students

8. We should be working to encourage under-represented populations to apply and focus resources on ensuring they can reach their potential BEFORE applying for admissions. Such programs as Edge, Propel, and Level-up are efforts currently focused on such support. This is where our focus and resources should be. Removing barriers and letting students achieve on their own should be our ultimate goal.

There are several changes in which I find merit:

1. The idea of a phased admission process: This reduced the number of tests overall and eliminated a second day of testing, which is a mental health concern and logistic challenge for students who do not have access to transportation.

2. Assessment focusing on motivation, persistence, problem-solving and creativity: This concept appears to allow writing to compliment the academic rigor evaluation provided through testing and grades.

3. The use of a diverse panel of educators for the evaluation process: This allows for greater diversity in the lens through which each student is evaluated. Making our Academies more diverse benefits everyone. There are no "better" schools, only differing populations with differing needs. There are pros and cons to each of the changes presented. I am certain some changes will help create a more diverse student population at AoL. And there were segments of the community who did not sign up to speak to the Board and present their perspectives.

But what the Board did hear was a single, unanimous voice from our community members: IT experts, university educators, scientist, engineers, and most of all, students. All speakers asked for the Board to refer the changes back to committee for community, Board member, and staff analysis and review. By rushing into changes without factual based analysis and community input, I believe the Board missed the mark on this decision.

## **DULLES DISTRICT UPDATES**

### **Tall Cedars Parkway / Stone Springs Boulevard Signal**

Unfortunately, I received some bad news about the progress with this signal.

In early August, Virginia Sign and Lighting completed installation of the electrical service pole, as well as trenching and placing electrical conduit. The conduit inspection was passed. The NOVEC transformer pad was also installed, as was the signal cabinet. VSL received the Millstream Pedestrian Lighting land use permit from VDOT. Next, the asphalt milling and paving will need to be scheduled, existing curb ramps will be demolished, new curb ramps installed, and multi-use path tie-ins completed. Pedestrian pulls and pole wire will also be installed.

The bad news is this: the delivery date for the poles and mast arms has, unfortunately, been pushed back to early November. From what I have been able to piece together, the contractor failed to place the fabrication order in a timely manner, leading to the delay. I am incredibly frustrated by this because I have been repeatedly asking County staff about this exact issue, including at public meetings, and I have been assured things were on track. Ultimately it is the contractor's responsibility to order all of the parts needed for the signal, and County staff themselves did not know of this delay. The contract calls for the signal to be

installed in a certain timeline, but it is likely that the contract provisions will be met even with this delay.

### **Tall Cedars Parkway / Nations Street Intersection & VDOT Paving Projects**

The implementation of restricted left turns at Tall Cedars and Nations Street are being implemented as part of VDOT's Tall Cedars repaving project that is in progress. Pavement marking at the intersection will take place on the evening of September 1, and flex post installation will take place on September 2. This work is weather dependent, so I will update you if there is any delay.

Milling and paving on Tall Cedars Parkway between Poland Road and Loudoun County Parkway has been completed. Markings and flex posts at Elk Lick will also be reinstalled as part of this project. The latex sealing on Ryan Road between Northstar Boulevard and Loudoun County Parkway, Claiborne Parkway, and Mooreview Parkway has also been completed.

Finally, milling and overlay at Tall Cedars and Riding Center has been completed; the bumpy stretch of the road should now be fixed.

### **Fairfax Bull Run Post Office Road Through Truck Restriction**

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is considering a through truck restriction on Bull Run Post Office Road between Lee Highway (Route 29) and Braddock Road. The Fairfax Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 15 at 4:00 PM at 1200 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax to discuss the proposed restriction. Typically, I wouldn't report on something from another County altogether, but this restriction will include a section of the road within Loudoun. A possible alternate route has been identified for Bull Run Post Office Road starting at the intersection of BRPO and Lee Highway and using Lee Highway (Route 29), Sudley Road (Route 234), and Gum Spring Road to access Braddock. If you wish to speak at the

public hearing, you can call 703-324-3151 to be placed on the speaker list. You can mail written comments to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 533, Fairfax, Virginia 22035-0072.

I have spoken to staff from Loudoun's own Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure about this proposed restriction. DTCI is supportive of prohibiting through truck traffic on this stretch of Bull Run Post Office Road due to its narrowness and sharp curves along both Loudoun and Fairfax's portions. This proposed restriction will work well with our own proposed restriction of trucks on Cedar Ridge Boulevard, Bull Run Post Office Road, and Ticonderoga Road that is currently working through the VDOT approval process. I will keep you updated after the public hearing as Fairfax decides whether to move forward with the request to VDOT.

## **DULLES LAND USE UPDATES**

To view application materials, visit [www.loudoun.gov/lola](http://www.loudoun.gov/lola) and enter the application number.

### **Rollins Property Data Center** *SPEX 2019-0028*

At our July 15 Public Hearing, the Board of Supervisors heard a special exception request to allow a data center use on a 9.5-acre property on the south side of Route 50. The property, which is currently zoned Commercial Light Industrial (CLI), is located between the Eastgate shopping center and existing data centers on the north side of Eastgate View Drive.

As I reported in past newsletters, this has been a difficult application. The site in question is between all the existing data centers and the Eastgate Shopping Center. The parcel of land is an orphan, and it is basically across from the soccer field and well shielded. The point of contention is that the application

is for a 55-foot, two story building, which is higher than the surrounding data centers and slightly higher than the King Spa building under construction. The application seems to have a great deal of support from my colleagues.

I have had multiple meetings with the applicant and the user of the site (which is covered by a Non-Disclosure Agreement, but is the same as the adjacent data center complex). My goal has been to see what could be done to improve the entire site. As you may recall, the other buildings were built "by-right" without Board approval and quite frankly it shows, as there was not much effort put into how the campus looks. In some cases, that may not be a big deal, but given the prominent location of this property adjacent to residential homes, I've never been happy.

The current state of the discussion is this: in return for approval of the new data center at the height requested by the applicant (55 feet), at my request, the applicant will provide significantly enhanced landscaping and buffering for the entire property, and change the facade of those buildings to make them more attractive and be consistent with the new building. In addition, the applicant will complete construction of a missing sidewalk link at Poland Road. I have also asked the applicant for improvements to the area around the substation which faces Route 50 with relatively minimal buffering, and I'm awaiting their response on what they will agree to there. I am also attempting to put language into the findings for approval that will ensure this 55-foot height does not set a precedent for new data centers around the County. The Rollins application is unique in its location and property features, but not every data center will merit the increased height that is requested in the application.

At the Public Hearing, the Board ultimately voted 8-0-1 to send the item to the September 1 Business Meeting for action. I expect that this application will be approved at the meeting tomorrow. My office recently met with the East Gate HOA to make sure they are aware of the details of this application and to

solicit input on the various components. The discussion focused primarily on the impacts of construction near their community and what improvements can be made to the existing data center campus. I think the benefit of this agreement is a matter of debate, but my inclination is that if it can improve the entire area around the data center and the existing buildings themselves, it may be worth allowing the data center. The last parcel left is well shielded and will really never have another viable use. The new data center has major design enhancements and looks a lot better than the standard warehouse look. Below are some visuals. The first picture shows the design of the new data center, next to the existing campus with no changes. The second picture shows additional plantings along the entire data center campus, along with the new facade of the existing data centers. I do think it is an improvement for those residents living across the street.

View looking west along Route 50



Neighboring Data Center Site



**Conklin Community Park Bike Trail***SPEX-2019-0047*

At the Planning Commission's July Public Hearing, the Commission voted 9-0 to recommend approval of the Conklin Community Park special exception to the Board of Supervisors. The application is to permit construction of a bike trail (including incidental structures) in a portion of the park that is in the Floodplain Overlay District. The creation of the trail requires a special exception due to its inclusion in the FOD, but commitments to tree conservation and/or replacement should ease environmental impact. Those commitments are still being finalized.

This project has been a long time coming. The County had to complete an extensive environmental assessment with the Army Corps of Engineers in order to complete the bike trail, which was conceived in partnership between the South Riding Proprietary and Loudoun PRCS. The Conklin Park special exception will come before the Board of Supervisors at our September Public Hearing. If you'd like to share your thoughts on the application, please [email](#) me.

**H&M Property Data Center***ZMAP 2019-0017 & SPEX 2020-0022*

At the Planning Commission's July Public Hearing, the Commission also voted to recommend approval of the H&M Property zoning modification and special exception to the Board of Supervisors. The application is for 1.75 million square feet of data center uses, including a utility substation, in the Suburban Industrial / Mineral Extraction Place Type. The current zoning would allow 3.2 million square feet of by-right mineral extraction, processing, and industrial uses.

This is the data center project that garnered some attention in the media. The most important thing to know is that the location is on the north side of Route 50, abutting Dulles Airport. This area is heavily industrial, and the data center uses are, quite frankly, an improvement over some of the surrounding



buildings. This is also a big project. I know that at this point there is a lot of data center fatigue, but the demand for these facilities continues to grow. I would much rather they be built in an area like this, with no residential in sight, than get intermingled with residential neighborhoods, as the Poland Road data centers were.

Also of importance, the County has been negotiating for right of way for the future Route 50 northern collector road - the connection between Tall Cedars and Route 28. This application will save us time and money down the road by giving us a stretch of land we'll need to build it.

The application will next come to the Board of Supervisors at the September Public Hearing. The biggest question for me is about power. I want to know details about how exactly the applicant plans on getting power to the site. I don't want to see an extension of the large transmission lines on Route 50. The applicant will need to have answers for me on that question when we get to the Public Hearing. If you'd like to provide input on the H&M property ZMAP and SPEX, please [email](#) me or [sign up](#) to speak at the Public Hearing.

## **LOUDOUN UPDATES**

### **Lightridge Farm Road Closure**

Lightridge Farm Road in Aldie, from Gardenia Drive to south of Lightridge High School, has been closed since August 26. Through traffic will be redirected so that VDOT can conduct paving operations in the area. Those with properties along Lightridge Farm Road will have access. Drivers can use Northstar Boulevard and Braddock Road to reach the high school and other relevant destinations.

The closure is expected to last about a month.

## **Metro Restoration of Service**

Metro has restored most rail and bus service to pre-pandemic levels, in what amounts to the largest ramp-up ever. 87 of 91 Metro stations are now open to customers, including a restoration of Silver Line service for the first time since Memorial Day. Trains are running every 8 minutes on each line during rush hours and every 12 minutes during off-peak times, which mirrors pre-COVID schedules. Metrobus schedules have also been restored to normal.

Metro has returned to regular opening times (5 AM weekdays, 7 AM Saturdays, 8 AM Sundays) and is closing two hours later (11 PM) each night, resulting in 15 additional hours of service per week.

Metrobus service is operating beginning at 4 AM and ending at midnight daily. (Schedule varies by route. View [timetables](#) for details.)

Metro has also been stockpiling sanitary and disinfectant supplies to ensure safe travel for customers. They have nearly 30,000 gallons of disinfectant, 75,000 gallons of hand sanitizer, nearly 2 million pairs of gloves, and nearly 3 million face masks to keep employees and customers safe.

Masks or other face coverings are required when riding Metro, although social distancing may not be possible at all times - especially at peak hours.

Metro's service enhancements have come as the agency has had access to CARES Act funding. By the end of the year, that money will run out, and very difficult choices will have to be made. The Board of Directors is engaged in regular meetings on this issue, and will provide a public update at our September 10 meeting.

## **Hanson Park Construction Update**

Crews have been making progress on many features of the Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park. They

completed demolition of the Lee-Hanson House and have begun building restoration. Crews are currently installing sanitary, storm, and water pipes as well as working on utilities and gas lines. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work continues ahead of the concrete slabs being poured. Hanson Park Drive, the main access point for the park, is being paved. Earthwork is occurring to bring athletic fields to grade.

I will continue to update you on progress made at the park site. Expected completion is currently spring 2022. For more information, visit the project page [here](#).



### **Inc. 5000 List**

Loudoun County has 28 slots on Inc. 5000's 2020 list of fastest growing companies. The rankings are determined based on percentage revenue growth over a period of three years. Four Loudoun companies ranked in the DC region's 10 fastest growing companies, and seven Loudoun companies made the more exclusive top 500 list. The highest-ranking Loudoun company was Gravy Analytics (number 93), which was also the fastest-growing business in the DC region. Gravy Analytics has experienced 3,623% growth over the last three years. Congratulations to all the businesses on the list!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Absentee Voter Application Update**

There has been a lot of discussion about voting this fall. I want to ensure that elections in Loudoun County are conducted fairly and with great competence by the Registrar's Office. The Board of Supervisors will be receiving a full briefing on Tuesday, but the bottom line is that you may be request an absentee voter application by email, and return it by mail or in person to the Registrar's Office. Early, in person voting will be offered once again in South Riding and other locations, and we will be sharing information about that. Stay tuned. Head [here](#) to apply for a mail-in ballot, update your voter information, or register to vote for the first time.

### **U.S. Census**

If you have not already done so, please complete the Census survey online. It only takes a few minutes. Over 78% of Loudoun households have responded, but Census employees have begun going door-to-door to those who have not yet completed the survey. These workers are using social distancing measures. Responding to the census is important; an accurate count impacts the allocation of federal funding to Loudoun County and affects how legislative districts are drawn. To complete the census and for more information, visit this link.

### **Public Input Needed for PRCS Master Plan**

Loudoun's Department of Parks and Recreation (PRCS) is developing a master plan with the goal of "creating an environment for providing exceptional facilities, recreational opportunities, and community services that enhance the health and well-being of Loudoun's residents." PRCS is seeking resident input when crafting this plan. A series of virtual public meetings will allow you to provide this input. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 29

from 7 - 8:30 PM. Details about the project and how to join virtual meetings are available at [www.loudoun.gov/prcsmasterplan](http://www.loudoun.gov/prcsmasterplan). Loudoun residents can provide input by emailing [prcsmasterplan@loudoun.gov](mailto:prcsmasterplan@loudoun.gov) beginning September 10.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Events**

The next Loudoun County Household Hazardous Waste collection events are scheduled for Saturday, September 19 at Harmony Park and Ride (39464 East Colonial Highway in Hamilton); Saturday, October 10 at 751 Miller Drive SE in Leesburg; and Saturday, November 21 at Claude Moore Park (46150 Loudoun Park Lane in Sterling). Stay tuned for event times as the dates get closer. The household hazardous waste program provides a safe and free way for residents to get rid of hazardous material that may have accumulated in their homes. Household hazardous waste is any waste produced in the home that is dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment. Please don't bring ammunition, propane tanks, motor oil and car batteries, electronics, medical waste, or paint. Most of these items are recyclable or accepted at other disposal events throughout the year. You can call the County's Waste Management Division at (703) 771-5500 to see if your item can be accepted or if you should seek out an alternate disposal method. The collection will employ all relevant social distancing protocols.

### **Donations to Local Food Banks**

Food banks need help now more than ever!

Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry can be made in person at 24757 Arcola Mills Drive on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM or online at [dsfp.org/donate-money](https://dsfp.org/donate-money). The Dulles South Food Pantry provides food assistance up to twice a month to any person who resides in the school attendance zones for Freedom High School, John Champe High School, Independence High School,

Rock Ridge High School and Briar Woods High School. Call 703-507-2795 or email [info@dsfp.org](mailto:info@dsfp.org) to schedule an appointment. See the Dulles South Food Pantry's website at <http://www.dsfp.org/> for information on how you can help the food pantry fight local hunger. Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry, Inc. are tax deductible.

Donations to Loudoun Hunger Relief can be made in person at 750 Miller Drive SE in Leesburg or via [loudounhunger.org/donate-now](http://loudounhunger.org/donate-now).

### **Blood Donation**

The American Red Cross continues to have an urgent need for blood and platelet donations. Donation sites follow the required social distancing during the collection events at this extremely critical time. No drop-in donations are allowed. To schedule an appointment, please visit [redcross.org/give-blood](http://redcross.org/give-blood).

Inova Blood Services has blood drives scheduled and take donors by appointment. Visit <https://www.inovablood.org/> to schedule and appointments. Residents who have had a positive COVID-19 test and are symptom-free for 14 days may be able to donate plasma. The plasma should be rich in immunoglobulins that may be helpful to patients who are actively fighting a COVID-19 infection. Visit <https://www.inovablood.org/covid19plasma/> for more information.

### **Loudoun Medical Reserve Corps Volunteering**

The Health Department continues to seek volunteers for the Loudoun Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). With the COVID-19 pandemic a reality, the need for Loudoun Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers - both medical and nonmedical personnel - is greater than ever. The MRC is asking medical doctors, nurses, physician assistants, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, dentists, veterinarians, and other medical professionals to consider volunteering their time to help protect the community's health during the

pandemic and beyond. For example, medical professionals may be needed to help with influenza vaccination events as flu season approaches and with COVID-19 vaccinations when there is a vaccine, as well as potential testing and other events. Nonmedical professionals can help support testing activities, contact-tracing efforts, operating the Loudoun County Health Department's information line, logistics support, and other nonmedical functions. For more information, visit [loudoun.gov/mrc](https://loudoun.gov/mrc). [Register through the Virginia Volunteer Health System.](#)

### **Rebuild VA Economic Recovery Fund**

Governor Ralph Northam announced \$70 million for small businesses and nonprofit organizations whose normal operations were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will be made available through Rebuild VA, a new economic recovery fund, and grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to approximately 7,000 applicants to cover eligible expenses.

Rebuild VA will be administered by the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (SBSD).

Businesses must certify that they have not received federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) funds or other funding from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

For more information about Rebuild VA, eligibility criteria, covered expenses, and how to submit an application, please visit this [site](#).

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