

Hello, Loudoun

I was honored to attend the unveiling of the "Gold Star Family Memorial" in Lovesttsville. Hershal "Woody" Williams is not just a hero, he is a visionary. Please read <u>his story</u> and visit the memorial. Thank you to the families whose loved one paid the ultimate sacrifice. They are always in our hearts.



Child Care Program

At the September 15th Board business meeting, we voted to revise the county's K-6 distance learning Child Care Program. The program was reevaluated after it launched with lower enrollment than expected. The program was developed to support working parents who have an unexpected need for child care this fall due to the LCPS decision to begin the 2020-2021 school year with all distance learning. The original scope of the County's plan was based on surveys of parents in the community who expressed a significant need for the service.

Below are the details of the revised program:

- Cap the number of children in the program at 600, which eliminates the need for libraries and community and recreation center locations for the program. The service will continue to be offered at 11 elementary schools and two leased buildings.
- Reduce program fees. The new monthly rate for the five-day, full-day program is \$690, which is 70% of the original rate. The new monthly rate for the five-day, school day program is \$345, which is 50% of the original rate. LCPS Free and Reduced Lunch Program participants receive a 50% discount; and employees of Loudoun County government and LCPS receive a 10% discount.
- Increase the flexibility of the program by offering it for two or three days a week in addition to the current five-day program at commensurate rates.

We were able to lower the cost of the program by reducing total enrollment and adjusting the program's funding that comes from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and fees from participants. Funding details are outlined in the **staff report**.

Registration for the K-6 distance learning Child Care Program continues on a rolling basis. Parents who are interested in the service may find program details and registration information at the link below.

Child Care Program Registration

Emergency Broadband Implementation Plan

With my western colleagues, I submitted an initiative to expand the deployment of broadband to underserved areas of Loudoun County as identified in the 2014 Wireless Gap Analysis. Increased telecommuting and 100% distance learning has highlighted the urgent need to deploy broadband to underserved areas in western Loudoun County. Approximately 21% of LCPS students attending elementary, middle and high schools in the western LCPS planning district and in parts of the central LCPS planning district are potentially impacted by inadequate broadband connectivity or lack of broadband altogether.

I'm committed to the students in western Loudoun to ensure they have an equal education. Staff will come back to the Board at the October 20th business meeting with

the costs, funding sources, timelines, and options to prioritize and accelerate the expansion of broadband services in a timely manner. Please see <u>the map</u> with the critical Proposed Communications Tower Development Areas (PCTDA's) needed to fill the wireless coverage gaps in western Loudoun.

Firearms Ban at Public Buildings and Parks

On September 1st, the Board majority (6-2-1) voted to develop a draft ordinance that regulates firearms in buildings owned or used by the County, public parks owned or operated by the County and in recreation or community centers operated by the County as authorized by the Code of Virginia. The 2020 General Assembly gave localities the authority to control firearms and you can get an overview of each piece of State legislation that went into effect on July 1, 2020 here.

I believe in common sense gun laws. Just as there are no firearms allowed in Federal and State government buildings, I support a firearms ban at County owned buildings. Staff will develop a draft ordinance with options for enforcement at parks for Board consideration. Residents will have an opportunity to comment on the draft at a public hearing which will most likely be scheduled in 2021.

Census 2020

The administration of the President of the United States has made the decision to end the 2020 Census at the end of September, normally the ten year census continues until the end of October. I want to encourage one last push for everyone in Loudoun to complete their 2020 Census form. It really does take only 10 minutes and getting an accurate count is so important. PLEASE!!!

Take the 2020 Census

Climate Action Webinar

Climate related disasters (wildfires, melting icecaps, several hurricanes at one time, sea level rise, etc) are happening more than three times as often as they did forty years ago. This massive increase is due to human-caused climate change. I believe in the science. Please join me and Supervisor Mike Turner for a Climate Action Webinar on October 8th at noon to discuss environmental policies to move Loudoun forward on climate and energy issues. Thank you.

Visit the Webex **event link** to participate and use the following login information (no RSVP is necessary):

Event number (access code): 173 188 3652

Event Password: 100820

Chair Phyllis Randall & Supervisor Mike Turner host a

Climate Action Webinar

Thursday, October 8, 2020 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.





Join the discussion to shape the direction of potential environmental policy & provide practical steps to move Loudoun forward on climate & energy issues.

Speakers:

- Steve Walz, Director, Environmental Programs, MWCOG
- Jay Fisette, former Chair of Arlington County Board & Managing Principal, DMVStrategic Advisors
- Robert Lazaro, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Digital Budget Story

The Loudoun County Department of Finance and Budget published a <u>digital FY 2021</u> **Budget Story** that highlights County programs and how our tax dollars are put to work.

In adopting the FY 2021 budget that went into effect July 1st, the Board recognized the uncertain financial future due to the COVID-19 pandemic and took action to give the County government flexibility in managing the unknown economic impacts. Staff is monitoring the personal property and real property tax collections, as these are major indicators in determining whether or not to release all or part of the \$100 million in frozen expenditures from the FY 2021 adopted budget.

Business Interruption Fund: 5th Round

Applications for the 5th round of the Business Interruption Fund are being accepted and will close at noon on September 30th. The Board unanimously approved \$3 million in additional CARES Act funding for the 5th round of the COVID-19 Business Interruption Fund. It will fully fund the 249 businesses certified during the fourth round that were not chosen in the random drawing to receive the grant funds. All qualifying Loudoun businesses who have not received prior grant funds from the County are eligible to receive funds. The Loudoun Department of Economic Development is placing an emphasis on community outreach to minority owned businesses. Please visit the website for the criteria and the application.

Round 5 Details website

Thank you and remember you can vote early now (more information about early voting is featured in the community information section).

Sincerely,
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Investing in Transportation

Route 15 North from Battlefield Parkway to Montresor Road:

A virtual public input meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 29th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm about the Route 15 North widening project from Battlefield Parkway to Montresor Road. Login information and materials to review will be available in early October on the project website link.

Route 15 North website

Evergreen Mills Road Realignment at Watson and Reservoir Road:

This project provides for the planning, design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of the realignment of Evergreen Mills Road at the intersections of Watson and Reservoir Road. The improvements propose a new four-way signalized intersection. A virtual public information meeting was held on September 22nd. Members of the public are invited to provide comments through October 23rd. Please visit the project website for the meeting materials and comment form.

Evergreen Mills Road Realignment website

Community Information

<u>Girl emPower Summit:</u> Loudoun Commission on Women and Girls is organizing this new initiative that is free to all young women ages 12-18 and takes place this Saturday, September 26th from 10 am to noon. It is sponsored by Amazon Web Services, Inc. and features expert-led breakout sessions focused on mental health and wellness, networking, leadership, and entrepreneurship. The Girl emPower Summit was conceptualized and organized by Ashburn eighth grader Mahsa Riar. Register <u>here</u>.



<u>Make a plan and vote:</u> Early in-person voting started on September 18th at the Loudoun County Elections Office, 750 Miller Drive, SE in Leesburg. The last day to vote early inperson is Saturday, October 31st. If you <u>vote at home</u>, the deadline to request a ballot is October 23rd at 5:00 pm. You can drop it off at the Office of Elections, 750 Miller Drive, SE in Leesburg or at any of the early voting sites during their operating hours. If you mail your ballot, make sure it is postmarked by November 3rd and received by November 6th at noon.



VOTE BY MAIL

Stay safe and vote at home! All registered voters in Virginia are now eligible to vote by mail, no excuse required. Request your ballot today at vote.elections.virginia.gov

VOTE EARLY IN-PERSON

Early In-person voting, no excuse required, will be available at the following locations, dates and times:

Office of Elections, Leesburg, VA

Beginning Friday, September 18:

Monday through Friday — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 17 through Saturday, October 31:

- Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Ridgetop Office Building, Sterling, VA & Dulles South Senior Center, South Riding, VA:

Saturday, October 17 through Saturday, October 31:

- Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Tuesday, Thursday Noon to 8 p.m.

Carver Senior Center, Purcellville, VA:

Saturdays ONLY:

October 17, October 24, October 31 – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Virtual Public Meeting on Aldie Fire & Rescue Station:

Loudoun County is hosting an online public meeting to share information about the Aldie Fire and Rescue station project Monday, October 5th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Members of the public are invited to join the virtual meeting to learn and ask questions about the project.

Login information and links to meeting materials are available for review at the project website. Meeting materials include detailed site layout plans, a speaker sign-up form and a comment form. Members of the public must sign up in advance to ask questions during the event by 12:00 pm, Friday, October 2nd. Online participants may also send questions to the project team as chat messages, which will be answered during the meeting as time allows.



County Parks and Recreation to Reopen Adult Day Centers:

Adult day centers will reopen Monday, September 28th to serve existing clients. No visitors will be allowed. Hours will be reduced from 8:30 am to 4 pm and programmed as two separate, 3.5 hour sessions to ensure adequate staff-to-client ratios and adherence to social distancing and other safety guidelines. Families are encouraged to call the centers for more details. Senior centers began offering limited outdoor programming for current members Monday, September 21st. Members should call the nearest center for class options and schedules.

<u>Loudoun Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Seeks Medical and Nonmedical Volunteers:</u>

MRC is issuing a renewed call for volunteers to help in protecting the community's health during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. It serves a key role in the county's fall influenza vaccination campaigns and, should the time come, MRC members will be a critical component for coronavirus vaccination campaigns.

Medical professionals of all types are needed, including doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, emergency medical technicians, dentists, veterinarians and others. Nonmedical volunteers are used in a number of ways, including as translators, logistics support, staffing the information line, performing key clinic roles and other nonmedical functions. More information about the MRC, including an online registration form, can be found **here**.

Denise's Corner



First, I want to thank all of our teachers, staff, and the administration for all the hard work they have done in implementing distance learning throughout every grade level. The commitment to the students and families is much appreciated and the school year has been largely successful because of your efforts.

This week, I was able to virtually join high school classes throughout the County and experience the classroom firsthand. It's important to me to have these shared experiences to be able to address issues that come in front of the School Board. Many students asked me what the time frame was for them to return to school. The School Board voted to begin a hybrid model for the following students.

September 8th

 MATA students at the Academies of Loudoun started the in-person hybrid model on the first day of school

October 13th

- Students with disabilities who receive instruction through ASOL (Pre-K Age 22)
- Students with disabilities in self-contained programs (Pre-K Age 22)

October 27th

- English Learners, proficiency levels 1.0 1.9
- Pre-school and Pre-K students
- All K-2 students whose parents selected the hybrid model

The School Board will continue to work with staff to see how we can meet the needs of students, teachers, and faculty during this virtual learning model and transition towards a hybrid model. My contact information is dcorbo@lcps.org or visit my Facebook page for updates. Please feel free to continue to reach out if you would like me to virtually attend your classroom as I enjoy learning what is important to students, teachers, administrators, parents and families. Be safe and wear your mask!

About our service provider

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