Special Edition | Thursday, October 8, 2020

All About Algonkian

Juli E. Briskman | Algonkian District Supervisor

COVID-19 Update



Local and State COVID-19 Trends

A model used by the Loudoun County estimates that cases are expected to increase an average of 18 cases per day over the next six days. Statewide, Virginia continues to experience a steady decline in its seven-day moving average of cases.



County Elections Office Establishes Drop Box Locations

For the convenience of Loudoun County voters, the Loudoun County Board of Elections has placed supervised drop boxes at the locations listed below. Marked ballots can be dropped off at these drop boxes **ONLY** during the libraries' hours of operation, which are provided below. The drop boxes will be available until Saturday, October 31, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm Friday and Saturday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Locations:

- Ashburn Library: 43316 Hay Rd, Ashburn, VA 20147
- Brambleton Library: 22850 Brambleton Plaza, Brambleton, VA 20148
- Cascades Library: 21030 Whitfield Pl, Potomac Falls, VA 20165
- Gum Spring Library: 24600 Millstream Dr, Stone Ridge, VA 20105
- Lovettsville Library: 12 N Light St, Lovettsville, VA 20180
- Middleburg Library: 101 Reed St, Middleburg, VA 20117
- Purcellville Library: 220 E Main St, Purcellville, VA 20132
- Rust Library: 380 Old Waterford Rd NW, Leesburg, VA 20176
- Sterling Library: 22330 S Sterling Blvd 117, Sterling, VA 20164

Please visit <u>www.loudoun.gov/voteearly</u> for the hours of operation for all early voting locations.



Spots Still Available for K-6 Childcare Program

There are still spots available for the K-6 Distance Learning Childcare Program and the Board has taken the following steps to encourage County residents to use this service:

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. (Loudoun County Public Schools 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.
- 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 a link to register at <u>loudoun.gov/DLchildcare</u>.

The Board was able to lower the cost of the program by reducing total enrollment, temporarily diverting staff resources within the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, which operates the child care program, and adjusting the program's funding formula that includes federal dollars from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, fees from participants, and local dollars from the county's general fund. Funding details are outlined in the <u>staff</u> report that was presented to the Board.

The Board <u>asked county staff to reevaluate the program</u> 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.



Rebuild VA and Loudoun Business Interruption Fund Updates

<u>Rebuild VA</u>, the \$70 million economic recovery fund launched in August, is expanding its eligibility criteria to allow more small businesses to apply.

Businesses that received funding from

the federal CARES Act and supply chain partners of businesses whose normal operations were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are now eligible to receive grants of up to \$10,000. Businesses that have received federal funds must certify that they will only use the Rebuild VA grant for recurring expenses and that the grant will not be used to cover the same expenses as the other CARES Act funds.

Rebuild VA still requires that businesses and nonprofit organizations must be in good standing, have annual gross revenues of no more than \$1.5 million, and have no more than 25 employees.

Rebuild VA funding may be utilized for the following eligible expenses:

- Payroll support, including paid sick, medical, or family leave, and costs related to the continuation of group health care benefits during those periods of leave;
- Employee salaries;
- Mortgage payments, rent, and utilities;
- Principal and interest payments for any business loans from national or statechartered banking, savings and loan institutions, or credit unions, that were incurred before or during the emergency;
- Eligible personal protective equipment, cleaning and disinfecting materials, or other working capital needed to address COVID-19 response.

The Loudoun County Department of Economic Development is currently reviewing applications received during Round 5 of the Business Interruption Fund. Loudoun County has enough funding available to issue grants to 619 businesses. In this round, Loudoun County did extensive outreach to minority business leaders and provided language translation services throughout the process. Businesses that were identified include:

- 355 identified as Woman-Owned Business
- 239 identified as Minority-Owned Business
- 235 identified as Asian-Owned Business
- 93 identified as Black-Owned Business
- 60 identified as Hispanic-Owned Business
- 44 as Veteran-Owned Business
- 24 identified as Disability-Owned Business
- 5 identified as LGBTQ-Owned business
- 4 identified as Native American-Owned Business



Virtual Coffee with a Career Counselor

Keep up your job search during the coronavirus pandemic! Join the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center for an overview of the current job market, resume tips and a Q&A discussion.

October 14, 2020, 9:30 a.m. Register: <u>loudoun.gov/virtualcoffee</u>

Virtual Coffee with a Career Counselor

If you're wondering whether you should continue or even begin your job search during the COVID-19 pandemic, the answer is YES! <u>Join our Coffee with a</u> Career Counselor session via

GoToMeeting for an overview of the current job market, resume tips and a Q&A discussion. Having both camera and microphone capabilities on your device is strongly recommended to ensure the best experience. The GoToMeeting invite/link will be emailed to you approximately 48 hours before your session.

Date: 10/14/2020 (Wed.)

Time: 9:30am - 10:15am EDT



Governor's Updates

Governor Ralph Northam announced a new allocation of more than \$220 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars to help K-12 public schools in Virginia. The funding will support COVID-19 preparedness and response measures for the 2020–2021 school year, including testing supplies, personal protective equipment, and technology for distance sanitization, learning. Funding will be distributed to all 132

public school districts using an allocation formula of \$175 per pupil based on fall enrollment, with a minimum of \$100,000 for each school division.

Furthermore, Governor Northam directed \$12 million in additional funding from the CARES Act to Virginia's Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP), due to high demand for financial assistance. The program assists households and landlords with rent and mortagae payments to avoid eviction or foreclosure due to COVID-19. The additional funding will enable the Department of Housing and Community Development to continue the program until it is able to transition to a Community Development Block Grant funding stream, also provided through the CARES Act. This action is a financially prudent way to maximize the value of different federal funding sources and deliver the most benefit to households across the Commonwealth. To submit landlord-initiated application, visit virginiahousing.com/RMRP. Tenants interested in applying should visit <u>dhcd.virginia.gov/eligibility</u> to conduct a self-assessment for eligibility or call 211 VIRGINIA by dialing 2-1-1 from your phone. Additional information and resources are available at StayHomeVirginia.com.

Lastly, Governor Northam allocated \$30 million in funding from the federal CARES Act to improve broadband access in underserved localities. Localities must apply for the funding, and eligible projects are those able to be completed within the time constraints on spending federal dollars, which means more Virginians could get connected to high-speed, broadband internet by the end of the year.



Household Hazardous Waste Event

The next Loudoun County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at 751 Miller Drive SE in Leesburg. Loudoun residents are welcome to bring HHW from their homes to the event, free of charge.

What's Accepted

- Typical HHW includes: fluorescent light bulbs, dry-cell batteries, such as alkaline, Ni-Cad, Lithium, rechargeable, etc. (but no automobile batteries), oil-based paints and stains, varnish, paint thinner, mineral spirits, metal polish, rust remover, wood strippers and preservatives, furniture polish, waxes, sealants and solvents, bleach, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fertilizer, pool chemicals, muriatic acid, sulfuric acid, ammonia, mercury, mercury thermometers and thermostats, gasoline, expired fuel, auto cleaners and flushes, brake and transmission fluid, windshield washer fluid, fire extinguishers, moth balls, flea and tick products, photographic chemicals and other hobby chemicals.
- Anyone who has an item that is not on this list is encouraged to call the county's Waste Management Division at 703-771-5500 to see if the item is accepted or if an alternate disposal option is needed.
- HHW should only be brought to this location on the scheduled date and event time. Please do not drop off material at any unattended site.
- The limit per household is 15 gallons of liquid HHW (container size not to exceed 5-gallon), and 40 pounds of solid HHW (container size not to exceed 5-gallon).
- Participants should be able to provide proof of Loudoun County residency such as a driver's license or utility bill.

Social Distancing and Other Procedures

• The HHW events include social distancing measures that help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with Governor Northam's Executive Order 63 (PDF), members of the public will be required to wear face coverings at the point of service. Because of safety concerns related to various types of hazardous materials, the events feature a drive-through process in which residents are instructed to remain in their vehicles and allow event staff to unload any items accepted for disposal. In order to achieve adequate social distancing between event staff and customers, items must be placed in the rear of the vehicle, such as the trunk of a car, the bed of a pickup truck or the very back of an SUV. Items will not be accepted if in the front seat, back seat or if the driver attempts to hand an item to staff. In order to ensure everyone remains in their vehicle while at the point of service, items must not be in sealed or tied plastic bags. Staff are not allowed to open any plastic bag containing HHW.

Seen any message of hope and inspiration? Do you know someone making a difference in your community? Share with us at at <u>second provide someone</u> and we'll put them in our updates and newsletter.



If you are having trouble paying your utilities because of COVID-19, visit the County's webpage on <u>COVID-19 Utilities.</u> You will find program information on:

Columbia Gas Dominion Power Loudoun Water NOVEC Washington Gas Wi-fi Connectivity

For More Current COVID-19 Information

Visit: <u>www.loudoun.gov/CoronaVirus</u> Call: (703) 737-8300 Email: <u>Health@Loudoun.gov</u>

Like us on Facebook

f

Juli E. Briskman, Algonkian District Supervisor Zachary Harris, Legislative Aide <u>Rey Cheatham-Banks</u>, Chief of Staff

> Algonkian District Supervisor Page Email Supervisor Briskman

Have an interesting comment you'd like to share? Want to see someone you know from Algonkian featured? <u>Email Rey Cheatham-Banks</u>

Supervisor Juli E. Briskman | 1 Harrison Street, S.E.,, 5th Floor, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

About our service provider

Sent by juli.briskman@loudoun.gov powered by

