



Leesburg District News



Kristen C. Umstatt
Leesburg District Supervisor



Dear Leesburg Resident,

We reduced the capacity of the Board Room at the Loudoun County Government Center to 25 members following Governor Ralph Northam's announcement (details are featured in the next article). You are strongly encouraged to view and participate in the Board's business meetings and public hearings remotely. The meetings are televised on Comcast Government Channel 23, Open Band Channel 40 and Verizon FiOS Channel 40 and [livestreamed](#). The Board Room remains open for members of the public who wish to provide their comments in person. Thank you.

Governor Northam's Executive Order

Governor Northam announced new statewide mitigation measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 that went into effect at midnight on Sunday, November 15th. The key changes are:

- The maximum number of persons at an indoor and outdoor public or private gathering will be reduced from 250 to 25.
- All Virginians age 5 and up will be required to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces (reduced from age 10 and up).
- The on-site sale, consumption, and possession of alcohol is prohibited after 10:00 pm in any restaurant, dining establishment, brewery, microbrewery, distillery, winery, or tasting room.
- All restaurants, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, and tasting rooms must close by midnight.
- All essential retail businesses, including grocery stores and pharmacies, are required to follow statewide guidelines for physical distancing, wearing face coverings, and enhanced cleaning. Previously a best practice, now violations will be enforceable by the Virginia Department of Health as a Class One misdemeanor.

Please watch Governor Northam's video to update Virginians on the additional steps the Commonwealth is taking to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.



COVID-19 Vaccine

I am sure you have heard the positive news about COVID-19 vaccines. Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc. recently announced preliminary results showing their vaccines appear more than 90% effective. Distribution of the Pfizer vaccine could be slowed down because it requires refrigeration at minus 70 degrees Celsius, which is [colder than Antarctica](#). The Moderna vaccine can be stored at minus 20 Celsius, which is minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit. Most of our home refrigerators can store food at minus 18 degrees Celsius.

Across the country, most hospitals and county health departments do not have refrigerators that can meet the minus-70 Pfizer requirement. At this week's Board meeting, I asked Dr. Goodfriend, our County Health Director, about Virginia's and Loudoun's lack of adequately cold refrigerated storage. He informed the Board that his department has placed orders for the type of low-temperature storage units that the Pfizer vaccine requires. We will likely be in competition for these kinds of refrigerated units with the rest of the country, similar to what we saw with competition for masks and personal protective equipment throughout the pandemic, and we don't yet know how soon the manufacturers can ramp up refrigerator production. We also don't know if the President will invoke his authority under the Defense Production Act to mandate such a ramp-up. Until the County and our hospitals have access to sufficient refrigeration capacity, we should expect the roll-out of the Pfizer vaccine to be gradual, with our frontline hospital staff and first responders given the earliest access and those with special vulnerabilities given access after that. The rest of us will have to wait. Some experts estimate more widespread vaccinations could start in the spring of 2021. [Some warn that life will not get back to normal until the end of 2021.](#)

The federal government controls the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and provides allocations to individual states. The CDC and the federal government have asked that each state create a draft vaccine plan that talks about how they will allocate the vaccine. Here is [Virginia's draft vaccination plan](#). Though the CDC provides guidance, jurisdictions will have some authority to decide how to distribute the vaccine to populations.

Four Phases for vaccine distribution:

- Phase 1 A: High risk health care workers and first responders. (Winter)

- Phase 1 B: Individuals with comorbidities and underlying conditions; individuals in congregate care facilities (Winter)
- Phase 2: Critical workers, older adults, educators (Winter)
- Phase 3: Young adults, children, other critical workers who were not included in phase 2 (Spring)
- Phase 4: Everyone else (Spring)

Jurisdictions are looking at a variety of options for distributing the vaccine to individuals:

- Partnering with the private sector through existing health care channels
- The use of pharmacies to dispense medications
- Open public vaccination points

The creation of effective vaccines is good news for the health of all Americans, people across the world, and for our economy. Until there is large scale distribution, we should remain vigilant and practice physical distancing, consistent and correct mask usage, testing when needed, and good public health behaviors.

Free COVID-19 Testing

If you missed the COVID-19 testing events at Leesburg's Tuscarora High School and Simpson Middle School, there are two free [drive-thru testing events](#) for COVID-19 this Saturday, November 21st from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The testing events will take place at two locations simultaneously:

- Franklin Park: 17501, Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville
- Freedom High School: 25450 Riding Center Drive, Chantilly (South Riding)

The November 21st testing events are open to all. There are no age or residency requirements. No prescriptions or appointments are necessary. A person does not have to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 in order to be tested. A PCR test (nasal swab) will be administered at these testing events, which tests for the novel coronavirus. Results will be available within a week. No antibody or rapid tests will be offered.

To help reduce wait times, people who plan to attend the testing event are strongly encouraged to complete a [registration form](#) for each person who will be receiving a test prior to arriving at the testing site. The registration form is required and asks for general demographics and contact information, including name, date of birth, address, phone number and current symptoms, if any. Forms will also be available at the testing site for individuals who do not have access to a printer or are unable to complete the forms in advance.

Celebrating the Holidays

As the holidays approach, please visit [CDC's website](#) to learn more about how to safely host holiday gatherings. The [Loudoun County Health Department](#) says the potential for

the virus to spread through traditional holiday activities is high and urges caution to keep your families safe over Thanksgiving and throughout this holiday season.



The [Virginia Department of Health](#) outlines useful information for college students and staff who are returning home for holidays or extended breaks. The flyer provides three steps, each with a recommended series of actions and behaviors. Step 1 focuses on minimizing risk before individuals depart school and while traveling. Step 2 addresses actions for minimizing risk to family and friends at home; and Step 3 speaks to returning back to school.

Outdoor Seating Grant

To help our business community through the pandemic, we have created a \$250,000 fund to support restaurants, wineries, breweries, distilleries and others who are permitted for outdoor seating. The new [Loudoun Is Ready Outdoor Seating Grant](#) program, which will open at 10 am on Tuesday, November 24th, is designed to provide up to \$5,000 in funding to approximately 50 businesses. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and the application window will close once it becomes apparent that the funds have been awarded. To learn more and apply, please visit the [website](#).

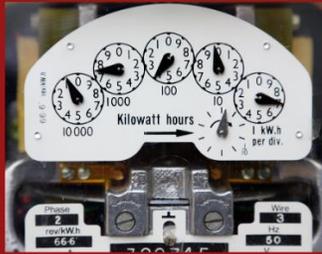


Utility Payment Assistance

Utility payment assistance is now available to Loudoun County residents who have experienced economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Residential customers can request assistance to pay their electric, water, and gas bills and receive assistance for propane, oil or wood, if those are used for heating or cooking.

Residents are urged to apply now to ensure that applications are completed by the deadline of December 15th. You must meet income guidelines and show proof that you've been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as job loss, lowered income, or medical or child-care expenses. There is a maximum \$1,750 payment per qualifying household, which can be used to pay past-due or current-month utility bills.

To apply, please call the helpline at 703-669-5040 and leave a message to request utility assistance. Speak clearly and be ready to provide a phone number for staff to return your call. The assistance program is administered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington and Loudoun Cares, and supported by a CARES Act grant from Loudoun County.



Apply now!

Utility Assistance For Loudoun Residents

To help households
impacted by COVID-19

Call the COVID-19
Emergency Fund
and Helpline:
703-669-5040

Possession of Firearms on County Property

At the November 17th Board business meeting, we voted to advertise a public hearing to consider [amendments](#) to Chapter 684 of the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County, Weapons and Explosives, by adding a new section 684.04 Possession of Firearms on County Property and a definition for “ammunition” to section 684.001.

During its 2020 session, the General Assembly passed legislation SB 35 and HB 421 (identical bills) that amended § 15.2-915 of the Code of Virginia to authorize any locality to prohibit the possession, carrying or transportation of firearms, ammunition, or components or any combination thereof in (i) any building, or part thereof, owned (ii) any public park owned or operated by the locality; (iii) any recreation or community center facility; or (iv) any public street, road, alley, sidewalk or public right-of-way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit.

I am generally in support of the draft ordinance, however I have two areas of concern: (1) I made a motion to amend the draft ordinance to exempt those who have been granted concealed carry permits by the Circuit Court. The amendment I submitted had been requested by the leadership of two minority religious communities that have historically faced discrimination and violence due to their faith. It failed to move forward. (2) I have previously stated my belief that an individual, who has safely locked his or her firearm in the trunk of the car, should be able to drive that car along a public street, even if there is an event underway at an adjacent parcel of County property.

The public hearing to comment on the draft ordinance will be scheduled in January or February 2021.

Thank you and have a blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

Warm Regards,

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Business of the Month **Cowbell Kitchen**



Cowbell Kitchen is a female led and operated team that works together to bake, sell, and promote their locally-sourced delights. In November, Cowbell Kitchen moved its location to 26 North King Street in Leesburg. The bakery is nestled behind a historic building with cozy porch seating and a hidden patio.

In addition to their delicious raved-about pastries and classic menu items such as smoothie bowls and breakfast sandwiches, the new menu will include vegan gluten free pancakes, a whole wheat BBQ chicken flatbread, and the return of the grilled cheese

sandwich. Beautiful pastries will line the display case, including favorites such as pound cake and homemade pop tarts. The new opening is perfectly timed for the holiday season - they will have full-sized pies for Thanksgiving dinner and holiday cookie boxes. [Order online](#) for curbside pickup or visit the new shop.



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

With the November 2020 election behind us, I would like to take this time to thank everyone who came out to vote on November 3rd. We saw record numbers and voices were heard on the local and national level. Closer to home, I am overjoyed to have been awarded another two years serving as the mayor of Leesburg. There is always work to be done, and I will continue to work towards the betterment of our town, its citizens, business owners, and guests. This last year has been a challenge for everyone. But we will continue moving forward while capitalizing on new opportunities. Let's work together to keep Leesburg one of the best places to live.

Due to popular demand, the Town's outdoor dining program has been extended through Sunday, December 20th. Outdoor dining hours are Friday and Saturday from 4 pm to 10 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, weather permitting. The street will shut down 30 minutes prior to the event. Customers will not be allowed to congregate in the street and must maintain proper social distancing at all times. There will be no live performances or other outdoor entertainment, however, customers are encouraged to visit downtown shops while waiting to dine.

Leesburg's annual fall bulk leaf collection will run through the week of December 28th. After this date, leaves must be set out in yard waste cans or paper yard waste bags to be collected as trash. Because leaf volume varies significantly throughout the season there is no set schedule for leaf collection. Town crews will attempt to collect leaves from every street once per week but routes may take up to 10 business days. Inclement weather or a heavy fall of leaves may delay collection. For more information, please visit this [website](#).

The Salvation Army kicked off its Red Kettle campaign on Thursday, November 12th. I challenge everyone to make this year's collection one of their largest. Funds raised will

help sustain local programming that serves Loudoun County communities throughout the year. To learn more about the history of the program, visit the Salvation Army's [website](#).



In previous years, the Town of Leesburg has partnered with the Loudoun County Marine Corps League Detachment 1205 to sponsor the Toys for Tots Campaign by placing toy donation boxes at Town facilities. However, due to COVID-19, the league will be purchasing toys, thus minimizing handling. Monetary donations can be made at the [Loudoun County Toys for Tots website](#).



Update from Beth Barts

In this newsletter, please notice that I have included updates from the Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC) and the Special Education Advisory

Committee (SEAC). I feel it is especially important to keep the work of these groups in our view during these turbulent times to ensure equity in education for all our children.

The School Board voted unanimously to approve a hybrid/concurrent learning plan for all students. The plan adds to current hybrid classes offered to K-2 students, includes hybrid instruction for grades 3-5 beginning December 1st, health conditions allowing. Concurrent teaching for grades 6-12 will start January 21st, health conditions allowing. All families were asked to choose all distance learning or hybrid for next semester by November 20th.

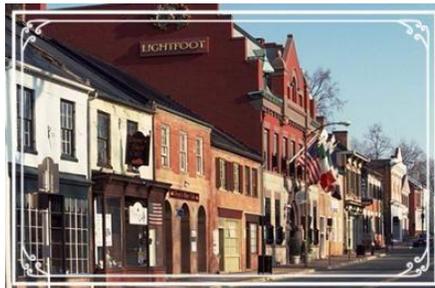
The School Board penned a letter to the community following the announcement of Dr. Williams intention to resign as Superintendent of LCPS and accept a position in Clear Creek Texas. In it, we reassured the community that LCPS will continue to deliver equitable, caring, and engaging learning experiences for our students. The School Board has already begun the effort to appoint an Interim Superintendent, to be followed by a national search for a permanent replacement.

Wishing everyone a safe and well Thanksgiving!

MSAAC began the 2020-2021 school year by introducing its new theme: Advancing Equity through Action. Our theme is directly tied to the Loudoun County Public Schools Equity Plan and is reflected in our monthly meeting topics. New this year is a MSAAC handbook that highlights the mission, focal areas, tasks, Executive Board, Delegate and Alternate responsibilities, benefits, basic policies/considerations, rules of engagement, and resources.

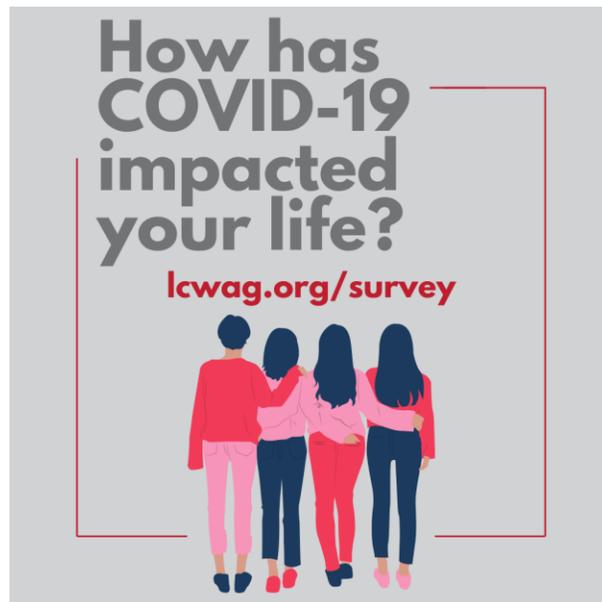
SEAC strives to keep the school board informed of the unmet educational needs of students with disabilities. Presentations and Business meetings are typically live streamed and recorded the 1st Wednesday of every month. December's presentation will focus on Transition Services for Developing Workplace and Independent Living Skills, presented by Marianne Moore, VDOE partnered with DARS and DBVI. January's presentation is focused on School Anxiety, presented by Dr. Jonathan Dalton, Director of the Center for Anxiety and Behavioral Change.

Community Information



The [Re-Employing Virginians \(REV\) Initiative](#) helps current and future students cover the cost of tuition and fees in fields that will lead to careers. Governor Northam directed \$30 million to support workforce training for unemployed Virginians. If you are unemployed or underemployed due to COVID-19 you can receive up to \$3,000 for short-term training or certification programs at NOVA. The registration deadline is December 14th. Visit this [website](#) to review the eligibility requirements and then complete the [REV Self-Certification Form](#). A Navigator will contact you and assist you with the process, making sure you have everything you need to make the most of this opportunity.

[COVID-19 Impact on Loudoun Women Survey](#): The Loudoun Commission on Women and Girls (LCWAG) is conducting a survey to understand the impacts of COVID-19. All women living in Loudoun County are invited to take this survey, in order to identify issues and unmet needs in our community. Your feedback will help inform new programming for LCWAG and local leaders! Please take 5-10 minutes and complete the survey before December 9th at 5:00 pm.



[Thanksgiving Dinner Bag Distribution Information](#): Loudoun Hunger Relief will be distributing Thanksgiving Bags on a first come, first served basis until supplies are gone with NO appointment required on Saturday, November 21st from 9:00 am until noon. There will NOT be regular food distribution on the 21st, only Thanksgiving distribution. You will line up in your vehicle and follow all signs and staff/volunteer directions. Loudoun Hunger Relief will be completely closed on Thursday, November 26th, Friday, November 27th, and Saturday, November 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no food distribution at the Leesburg location and we will not be open for donations.

[2020 Holiday Giving Program](#): The Arc of Loudoun's Holiday Giving Program allows people in the community to receive gifts during the holiday season that they would otherwise not receive. Groups of givers, Elves, give gifts to The Arc families who have children and adults with disabilities, and group homes. If you are interested in participating, please complete our [Elf Form](#) and we'll match you with a family or group

home. Please complete the form no later than November 23rd. All gifts must be labeled and dropped off at The Arc of Loudoun in ALLY Advocacy Center between the hours of 9 am to 6 pm on December 11th or December 14th-15th.

Nonprofit Grant Funding Application Now Available: Applications must be submitted by 4:00 pm, December 21st. The amount of funding for FY 2022 will be determined as part of the county's adopted FY 2022 budget. In FY 2021, the budget for human service nonprofit grant funding was \$1.1 million. Tax-exempt, private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations that provide human services to Loudoun County residents in the areas of need identified and approved by the Board of Supervisors for FY 2022 are eligible to apply for grants. For more information, visit the nonprofit grant funding [website](#) or send an email to nonprofits@loudoun.gov.

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