



Supervisor

Caleb A. Kershner

Catoctin Distr



Loudoun
VIRG



Loudoun
County

Agriculture
Development

Rural Economic
Development

Small Business
Development

Fighting
Lyme Disease

Community
Services



In This Issue:

Join Us On Facebook

What We
Accomplished This
Year

How Loudoun Will
Distribute Its COVID-
19 Vaccine

Route 15 North Update

Route 9 Safety Study
Update

Route 15 Safety Study
Update

Catoctin Road Project
Updates

Capital Improvement
Project Map

Road Paving Projects
Map

Starting a Rural
Business

Coronavirus Resources

December 2020

Dear Catoctin Residents,

Happy New Year's Eve to all of you! 2020 has been a wild ride, and brought more than its fair share of hardships, but we have come at last to the end of it. And amidst all that chaos and hardship, it also showed us the remarkable nature of Loudouners, who [turned their distilleries into hand sanitizer factories](#), [rescued the Loudoun County Fair by taking it online](#), [encouraged their students with YouTube videos](#), [ran food pantries](#), and did all the other the hard, precious work of taking care of each other.

Loudouners are a remarkable group of people.

Incidentally, the FDA just [dropped a \\$14,000 fee onto our hand sanitizer crew](#). No, I am not amused. And yes, I am going to help Supervisor Buffington reach out to our Congressional representatives and put pressure on the FDA until they reverse their boneheaded decision.

In better news, after nine and a half months of pandemic, Loudoun has gotten its first doses of COVID-19 vaccine. That was an amazing feat of creativity, organization, and hard scientific work. I'm

Business Resources

VDOT Projects

Loudoun Express
Request (LEX)

Volunteer with
Loudoun Cares

Get Your Friends in the
Loop

Proudly Serving Loudoun County

- **Hamilton**
- **Lincoln**
- **Lovettsville**
- **Lucketts**
- **Taylorstown**
- **Waterford**



**Map of Catocin
District**

Get to Know Your County

[Loudoun B&B](#)
[Loudoun Chamber](#)
[Loudoun Equine
Alliance](#)
[Loudoun Farms](#)
[Loudoun Wine
Growers](#)
[Loudoun Youth](#)
[Virginia Equestrian](#)
[Virginia is for Lovers](#)
[Visit Loudoun](#)
[Volunteer Loudoun](#)

grateful to everyone who worked so hard to turn the vaccine into a reality.

Since it's 2020, of course, there's now growing confusion over who gets access to the vaccine first, and what phase are we in, and what's the plan here, really? But one of my staff aides bit the bullet, slugged down three cups of coffee, and churned through the CDC's website, the draft Virginia vaccination plan, and Loudoun's public guidance, until he was able to boil it down into a readable summary. We've included that summary for you in this newsletter.

As we look back on this rollercoaster of a year, it has been encouraging to see how much got done in spite of all the craziness. My team has been relentlessly busy. During the rougher weeks it sometimes felt like we were shoveling smoke with a strainer. But we made important gains on broadband, road projects, thwarting a surprise attempt to raise Greenway tolls, and more. I've included a full article on this below.

And with that, I wish you all a very uneventful remainder of 2020. Please keep sending us your thoughts. We will be posting regular updates for the Catocin District on [my Facebook page](#), and will be adding more information and resources to [my webpage](#).

Sincerely,

Caleb Kershner

My Committees and Commissions

The Finance /
Government
Operations and
Economic
Development
Committee

The Northern
Virginia Regional
Commission
(NVRC)

The Loudoun County
Agricultural District
Advisory Committee

The Coalition of
Loudoun Towns
(COLT)

The Annexation
Area Development
Policies Committee
(AADP)



**View Current
Calendar of Public
Meetings**



**View Live
Webcasts of Public
Meetings**

Contact Me

Mailing Address:

1 Harrison Street, S.E.
P.O. Box 7000
Leesburg, VA 20177

Office Phone:

(703) 771-5028



Image Credit: Catoctin District Office

If I tried to put all the interesting news from the Catoctin District into one monthly email, you'd be scrolling the rest of the month before you hit the bottom.

Which is why I also have a Facebook page.

So stay tuned to these newsletters for the big-picture news from the Catoctin District. But for the other day-to-day stories and updates, including [a video of me dressed as Santa riding an antique fire truck](#), drop by my Facebook page and give it a like.

Go to Facebook

What We Accomplished This Year

Fax:
(703) 777-0421

Email:
Caleb.Kershner@loudoun.gov

Meet My Staff Aides:
[Stacy Carey](#)
[Jonathan Bales](#)
[Arlee Harris](#)

**LEX
Loudoun
Express
Request**



Send your complaints and requests right to county staff! **LEX** is designed to be an online system where you can contact the appropriate county staff for all of your needs.

**Stay
Connected!**



Sign Up for County Alerts

Need a Traffic Update?



Dial VDOT at
511

I'd like to talk about some of the major things that we achieved for the residents in Catoctin this year. On a day-to-day basis, it often feels like we're just rushing around putting out fires and responding to that week's urgent problems. But when we looked back on 2020, we realized just how quickly the year went by, and were encouraged to see how much we managed to accomplish.

Our Key Successes



Image Credit: Screenshot of our Item #16 from the Board business meeting on Sep. 15, 2020 / Clipped and modified

Emergency Broadband Implementation Plan

My staff and I put together a five point Emergency Broadband Implementation Plan. We built it on the foundation laid by previous Boards and by the Communications Commission, which allowed us to craft a strategy to get real broadband access for Western Loudoun. The resulting plan was designed to speed up broadband deployment to the underserved (or just plain un-served) areas of Western Loudoun County.

Supervisor Buffington and Chair Randall joined me in bringing this emergency plan to the Board on September 15, and the Board voted 8-1 to approve it.

Here are the 5 points of our plan:

*Need to Report
a Road Problem
to VDOT?*



Dial
**1(800)FOR-
ROAD**



Visit My Website!

Forward to a Friend

Join Our Mailing List

1. Implement the recommendations from the Board's own 2019 Critical Communications Infrastructure Improvement Item and 2018 Broadband Strategic Plan. This will involve decreasing the cost and processing time for crucial communications infrastructure, including fast-tracking monopole applications and reducing or eliminating the SPEX fees for those applications.

This is hugely important, because *as of July 2019, no new towers had been built in Western Loudoun in the past 5 years.* Our County is still missing at least 17 towers that were identified as needed in our 2014 Wireless Gap Analysis. We finally got more tower applications this year (in Morven Park and Taylorstown), but the high fees and processing times are still a massive barrier to new monopole development. If we want real broadband out here, we've got to fix that.

2. Expedite the Dark Fiber Wide Area Network contract that the Board approved in 2019. This involves extending a dark fiber network to County facilities (which we very much needed), then using the spare fiber to attract internet service providers, who would be willing to lease it for middle mile fiber access to extend broadband to rural residences and businesses.

Middle mile fiber availability has been a persistent problem in Western Loudoun. Creating and leasing this spare fiber can solve that difficulty for service providers who would otherwise be interested in connecting our residents with real broadband access.

3. Overlay Loudoun County's Wireless Gap Analysis with the SEGRA Dark Fiber Wide Area Network to create an active tracking document of telecommunications projects that have been completed, are in process, or are planned for the future.

This one is sheer common sense. Let's map our broadband needs against our new dark fiber network and projects, and then let's make it publicly accessible, so everyone can see what connectivity will be coming to their area.

4. Identify funding to complete the Dark Fiber Wide Area Network buildout for the Bluemont

Community Center, Philmont Community Center, Philmont Fire and Rescue, Loudoun Heights Fire and Rescue and Loudoun Height Public Safety Radio Tower.

This is an essential part of speeding up our dark fiber network construction (Point 2 of the plan). Funding for this could potentially include additional CARES Act funds.

5. Identify additional solutions to deploy critical broadband to underserved areas of Loudoun County as identified in the 2014 Wireless Gap Analysis, and any other impactful solutions that would merit further consideration by the Board.

This would look at a buildout of the remaining towers that were identified in the 2014 Wireless Gap Analysis to provide an expedited, comprehensive solution.

These five points are designed to cut through the complex, multi-layered mess that has bogged down our broadband infrastructure. Previous Boards have lined up the research, identified the problems, and given us the pieces we needed; this plan assembles those pieces into a real-world broadband solution.



Image Credit: Loudoun County Government

Route 15 North Widening Project

This is a much-needed widening of Route 15 north of Leesburg, from Battlefield Parkway to Montessor Road. We've been tracking (and pushing) this project for the whole year, and it successfully hit a number of key milestones:

- **Design Process at 30%.**

- **The project is being expedited in the following ways:**

- Task order consultants were used for the project instead of procuring one prime consultant. This cut 9-12 months off of the procurement process.
- Upon my motion, the Board split the project into two phases so Phase 2 (White's Ferry to Montresor) Right-of-Way challenges wouldn't hold up progress on Phase 1 (Leesburg to White's Ferry).
- Property owner input/discussion was prioritized early in the design process, which will smooth the way for future Right-of-Way discussions.
- Staff anticipated and will prepare separate plan packages for bike and pedestrian trails additions/supplements that aren't adjacent to Route 15, but where we will want that additional connectivity.
- Staff will proceed directly by sending the 60% plan submission (when complete) to Building & Development and VDOT.
- Staff will begin designations and contact utilities while developing the 60% plans, and added utility design as a part of their regular design coordination meetings.

- **Public and Individual Input Meetings**

- The originally scheduled public meetings were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown order. But DTCI staff responded flexibly by switching to a virtual meeting model.
- They held virtual meetings in May with the residents of the Little Springs

Community and with the members of the Raspberry Falls HOA.

- They also held a meeting with Journey Through Hallowed Ground on June 2 to discuss context-sensitive aspects of the design.

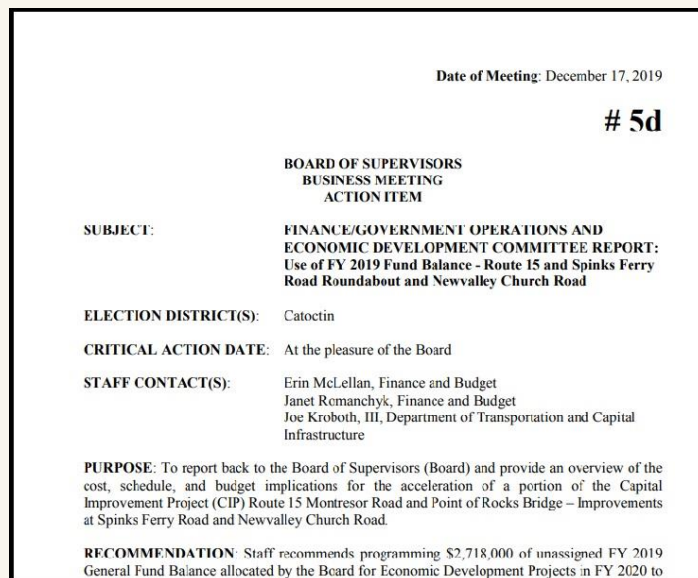


Image Credit: Screenshot of Item #5 from the Board business meeting on Dec. 17, 2019 / trimmed from original image

Route 15 - the Spinks Ferry/New Valley Church Road Roundabout

The intersection of Spinks Ferry Road and Route 15 is a notoriously dangerous intersection in Lucketts. Motorists often use the shoulder as a passing lane, and treat the median at this intersection as a turn lane.

Thankfully, on December 17, 2019, the Board approved the use of \$2.7 million of unassigned FY 2019 General Fund Balance from the allocation for Economic Development Projects to be used for the roundabout at the intersection of Route 15 Spinks Ferry Road and the realignment of New Valley Church Road to advance the design.

I have requested that this project be included in the FY 2022 CIP, and that funds be identified for completing the roundabout.

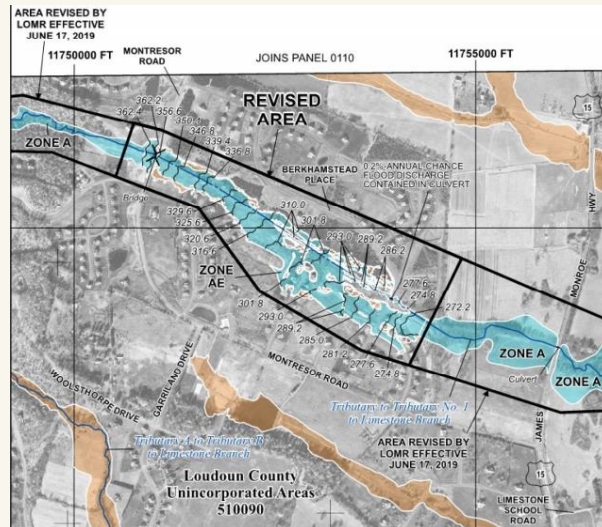


Image Credit: Draft revised floodplain map issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on August 10, 2020.

Flooding Relief Obtained For Selma Estates

The Board voted with me on October 20 to approve the Selma Estates Flood Mitigation Project! It was my pleasure to move this through FGOEDC on October 13 (the committee approved it 5-0) and then to vote for it again with the full Board.

Loudoun County has now committed \$3.4 million in matching funding for this project. That will allow us to pursue a Flood Mitigation Assistance grant from FEMA and offer a voluntary buyout for most of the affected homes. The County will also separately evaluate six homes that couldn't be included in the grant application. We will look for ways to minimize potential flooding impacts on those homes, come up with a project scope and cost to accomplish that, and bring that forward during the FY 2022 budget deliberations.



Image Credit: Loudoun County Department of Economic Development

Hosted A Rural Business Forum

On April 28, Supervisor Tony Buffington and I teamed up with Loudoun County's Department of Economic Development to host a teleconference forum of rural business experts, who shared their knowledge and guidance with over 100 of our local businesses.

Our panelists included federal, state, and local government officials, along with some well-known members of the private sector:

- **Buddy Rizer** - Executive Director, Loudoun County Department of Economic Development
- **Beth Erickson** - President and CEO, Visit Loudoun
- **Eric Byrd** - Small Business Development Center
- **Alice Frazier** - President and CEO, Bank of Charles Town
- **Pete Snyder** - CEO, Disruptor Capital & Founder of the Virginia 30 Day Fund

The forum was 80 minutes long, packed with practical information about loan and grant opportunities, how to

apply for the then-quite-new Business Interruption Fund, and more. You can listen to the entire event [here](#).

Afterwards, Buddy and his team pulled out some key takeaways and turned them into a 15 minute podcast, which you can listen to [here on the LoudounPossible podcast website](#).



Image Credit: [Photo](#) of Lovettsville Community Park construction, Loudoun Times-Mirror/Karen Graham

Lovettsville Community Park

The Lovettsville Community Park project is located near East Broadway, Lovettsville Road and Milltown Road in Lovettsville. It involves the construction of 90 acres of park facilities and amenities, including:

- Equestrian trails, walking trails, off-leash areas, a pond and amphitheater, as well as four softball/baseball fields, three soccer fields, and an equestrian area,
- Improvements to the southern entrance and a new asphalt play area at Lovettsville Elementary School, and
- Site lighting, athletic field lighting, athletic field irrigation systems, fencing, retaining walls, athletic field accessories, flag poles, utility

infrastructure, storm water grading, piping, and landscaping.

Here's where the project had gotten to as of October 2020:

- Earthwork for park features including parking lots and ball fields are underway.
- Utility infrastructure is being installed throughout the entire park, including storm water piping and water and sewer lines.
- Work on Lovettsville Elementary School property has been complete. This includes utility infrastructure that services the park.
- Excavation of temporary sediment basins and all other Erosion and Sediment control measures has been completed.
- Site clearing work has been completed.
- The contract was awarded to Dustin Construction Inc. in July 2020.
- Notice to proceed with construction was issued on June 25, 2020.
- VDOT and county grading permits have all been obtained.
- Areas of Limits of Disturbance have been marked on the property.
- Erosion and sediment control measures have been installed around the elementary school.
- Demolition has begun on the south side of the school to make way for utility infrastructure which services the park. Crews have mobilized to install water and sewer lines in that area.

Construction on the remainder of the property will begin in fall 2020, and will not impact the school property.



Image Credit: [Photo](#) of Lovettsville Community Center, Loudoun Now/Patrick Szabo

Lovettsville Community Center

This project ran into delays and problems with the first contractor, but it finally got underway. The new construction contract was issued at last on November 17.

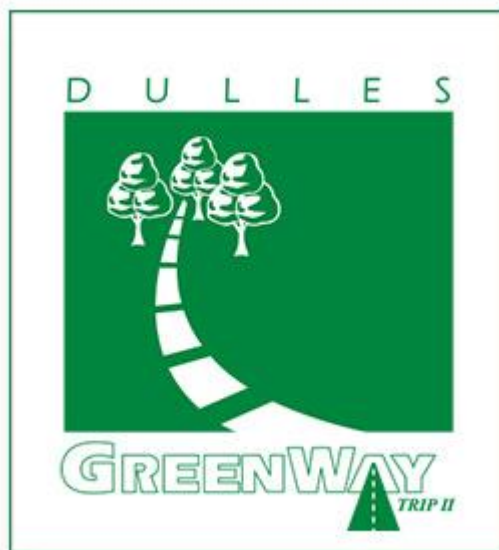


Image Credit: DullesGreenway.com

Fought Greenway Toll Hikes (And We Won!)

On January 23, TRIP II asked the SCC for an increase in the maximum level of tolls pursuant to the Virginia Highway Corporation Act of 1988. This was exactly as unreasonable an idea as it sounds.

I testified before the SCC on June 30 to oppose these hikes, as did a number of my colleagues on the Board. And I'm glad to say the SCC saw things our way. They sided with our argument and refused to raise the tolls.

Cut Controversial Resolutions From Our Rules Of Order

At our first business meeting on January 7, the Board voted on its new Rules of Order. I noticed that we had cut out some language, which said that Board resolutions should be non-controversial in nature. Cutting that out didn't make sense. So I proposed a friendly amendment to bring that language back in. And I'm glad to say that Chair Randall and Vice Chair Saines unanimously accepted my amendment.

Some Disappointments

Not everything went our way this year. At our first business meeting of the year on January 7, we made some progress. But a lot of what I did was to speak up against some bad proposals - and to stand honestly on the losing side of those votes. This too is an important part of the job.

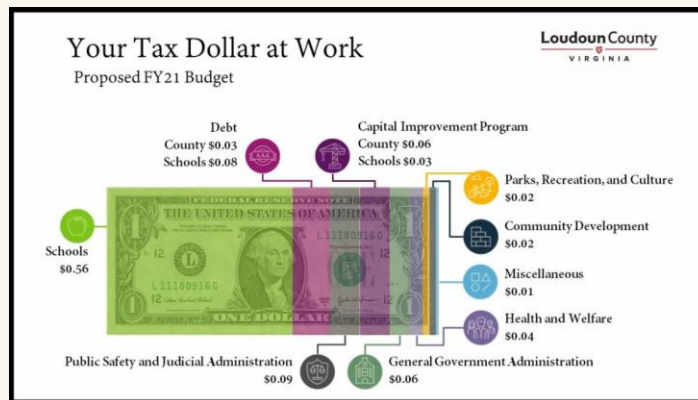


Image Credit: [Your Tax Dollar At Work](#) (Proposed FY 2021 Budget), Loudoun County Government

Opposed A Tax Rate Hike

In October 2019, the Board unanimously voted for a budget based on the equalized tax rate of \$1.02 per \$100 of assessed value. That rate that would keep the average homeowner's real estate tax bill the same as last year.

At our January 7 business meeting, however, County Administrator Tim Hemstreet advised us to scrap this plan. He said we should consider a tax rate no lower than \$1.035, and as high as \$1.055. That would potentially raise the average homeowner's tax bill by \$177 in a single year.

I opposed this proposal. It's not right to raise our residents' tax burden by that much in a single year, and I argued that we need a more rigorous budget process, where we start budgeting at a lower level and add funding if justified. Our last two Boards managed to bring down the tax rate by 24 cents, from \$1.285 in FY 2013 to \$1.045 in FY 2020; I would hate to see us incrementally wipe out those eight years of tax reductions.

I voted against it, as did Supervisors Buffington and Letourneau, but we lost that vote 6-3.

Date of Meeting: January 7, 2020

3

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING
ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: Legislative Report- 2020 General Assembly Session

ELECTION DISTRICTS: Countywide

CRITICAL ACTION DATE: January 7, 2020

STAFF CONTACTS: Gwen Kennedy, County Administration
Tim Hemstreet, County Administration

PURPOSE: The purpose of this item is for the Board of Supervisors (Board) to reaffirm the 2020 Legislative Program (Attachment 1), propose modifications, and receive updates on Board priorities and the state budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors (Board) take action to keep, remove, add to, and/or modify positions previously taken by the Board with respect to the

Image Credit: Screenshot of Item #3 from the Board business meeting on Jan. 7, 2020 / trimmed from original image

Opposed Driver Privilege Cards, Equal Rights Act, and War Memorials

At the January 7, meeting the Board also voted on our legislative agenda. This agenda directs our county's lobbyist to support or oppose specific types of legislation in the General Assembly during the 2020 session. There were three items that concerned me and that I voted against.

First, I voted against supporting legislation that would give Driver Privilege Cards to undocumented individuals, who reside here in violation of federal law. That was not an initiative I could support. As a prosecutor, I have seen the unintended results of programs like this, and I don't believe the residents of Loudoun County would be supportive of the impact it would have here.

Second, I voted against supporting legislation that would ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The ERA is not necessary. At this point, its original intent has already been codified into our laws and is supported by Supreme Court precedent. Directing our county's lobbyist to concentrate on this issue dilutes our effectiveness to get other crucial things from Richmond, such as VDOT funding.

Finally, I voted against supporting legislation that would give localities the authority to remove war or veterans monuments and memorials on their property.

Loudoun County already has the authority to erect new monuments on its property; this legislation would only have given it the new power to tear monuments down. And frankly, I didn't (and don't) believe we need that power. Our unique history is our strength, not our weakness, and we can't learn from that history if we censor it. Here's the [full statement I made](#) about this issue.

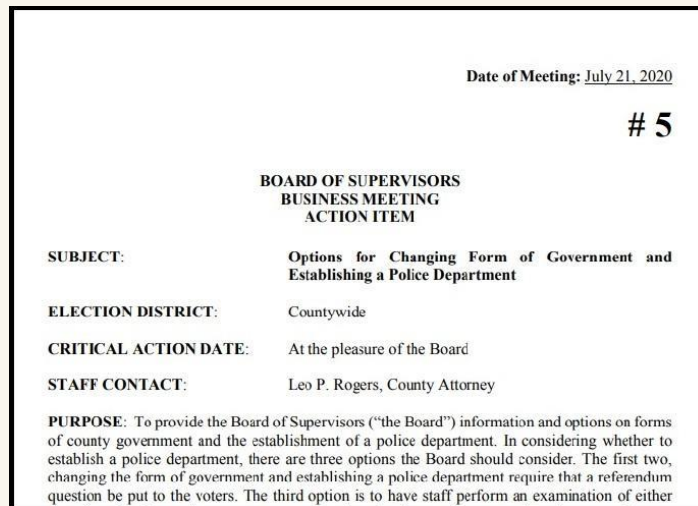


Image Credit: Screenshot of Item #5 from the Board business meeting on Jul. 21, 2020 / trimmed from original image

Fought To Keep Our Sheriff's Office

In July, I fought against a plan to take away most of the law enforcement duties from our Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and hand them over to a newly-created Loudoun County police department.

This was a bad idea, and I opposed it from the start. It asked us to start an expensive, complicated project when COVID-19 was already hammering our taxpayers and cutting into our revenues. On top of that, it asked us to take law enforcement out of the hands of our elected Sheriff and put it into the hands of an unelected police department, which would not answer directly to the voters of Loudoun County the way that our Sheriff does.

But the worst part about this proposal is that it was really a vote of no confidence in our voters. It didn't

trust you, Catoclin's voters, to make decisions that affect your own safety and security. It placed its faith in bureaucracy, not in democracy.

Not surprisingly, most of you didn't like this plan either. As soon as Chair Randall announced she would bring this item to the Board, your emails flooded into the Board's official email address. I counted 497 emails by the time the July 21 meeting started - and 81% of them agreed that we should keep our Sheriff's office.

On July 21, when the Board was going to consider this plan, [over 100 people held a Back the Blue rally on the Government Center grounds](#), turning out to show their support for the Sheriff's office.

I was honored to participate in that rally with them. Then I went right back into the building and fought for our Sheriff's office at the business meeting.

We successfully pushed back on this initiative. The original plan got split into two separate motions. One motion would have added a referendum about creating a Loudoun County police department to next year's General Election ballot. That motion was ultimately withdrawn.

I also voted against the other motion, as did Tony Buffington and Kristen Umstattd. Unfortunately, our three votes weren't enough to stop the motion. As a result, County staff was ordered to study how Loudoun County could change its form of government, come up with multiple options for governing and law enforcement (which all involve creating a Loudoun County police department), and present those options to the Board.

Date of Meeting: November 17, 2020

#4

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING
ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to Chapter 684 of the
Codified Ordinances, Weapons and Explosives

ELECTION DISTRICT: Countywide

CRITICAL ACTION DATE: At the pleasure of the Board

STAFF CONTACTS: Jim Reid, General Services
Ernest Brown, General Services
Milissa Spring, County Attorney's Office

PURPOSE: To have the Board of Supervisors (Board) 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.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Board authorize the advertisement of

Image Credit: Screenshot of Item #4 from the Board business meeting on Nov. 17, 2020 / trimmed from original image

Fought Against Terrible Gun Ordinances

On November 18, the Board considered a proposal to ban guns in County-owned or operated buildings, recreation and community centers, and public parks. It would do this by adding a new section to the County's ordinances on weapons and explosives, and also adding a definition of the term "ammunition" (which would also be banned).

This new ordinance would need to be enforced with new security features. At County buildings, that would likely involve buying and installing x-ray machines and magnetometers, which would be operated by law enforcement officers or a contracted security firm.

There would be exemptions for certain people, such as sworn law enforcement officers and private security personnel employed by the County, who would be allowed to have a gun and/or ammunition at these places. The ordinance would also let people store their lawfully possessed guns and ammunition in a locked private vehicle parked on County property.

This proposal was all kinds of a bad idea.

My inbox quickly filled with emails from residents who opposed this gun ban. Many came to the Board meeting to speak against it. They stood up to support their ability to protect themselves because, like me, they didn't want Loudoun County to follow the same tragic path as Virginia Beach.

I shared this article from 2019 with the Board at that meeting: ["Gun-Free Zone Law Disarmed Virginia Beach Shooting Victim."](#) The opening paragraph says it all: "The night before Kate Nixon and 11 others were murdered by a disgruntled co-worker, the decade-long Virginia Beach city employee talked with her husband about bringing a gun to work for self-defense -- a decision that was taken out of her hands by the city's ban on employees carrying firearms at work, a Nixon family lawyer said."

Virginia Beach chose to do the exact thing that our Board was now proposing. They banned guns for their employees - even those who had a concealed carry permit. Now twelve Virginia Beach employees are dead, with the Nixon family calling for an independent investigation into the events leading up to that shooting.

The picture of Kate Nixon's coffin is a sobering sight.

Why did she and her colleagues die? Because when their disgruntled co-worker ignored the law and attacked them, no one could shoot back. And no one could fight back.

That's exactly what every single person who stood at the podium at that meeting was talking about. They weren't talking about abstract rights, or arguing the fine nuances of *District of Columbia v. Heller*. They were talking about their ability to protect themselves and their families in basic places like a park. And this proposal would prevent them from doing that.

Supervisor Buffington and I voted against this terrible proposal, but we lost in a 6-2-1 vote. (Supervisor Letourneau was still recovering from his eye injury and was absent for the vote.)

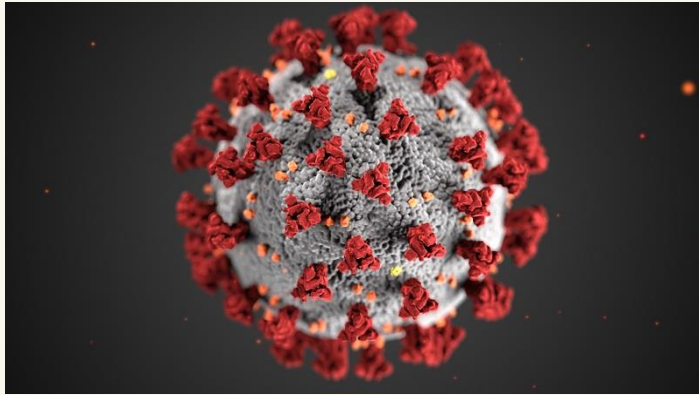


Image Credit: Ultrastructural morphology exhibited by coronaviruses, CDC/ Alissa Eckert, MSMI; Dan Higgins, MAMS

What The Vaccine "Phases" Mean For Catoctin

In some of the best news this year, we now have multiple successful vaccines for COVID-19. The FDA has approved Pfizer's and Moderna's vaccines, and both pharmaceutical companies are working with the federal government to produce and distribute their vaccines to every state in the US. For simplicity, I'm just going to refer to both vaccines together as "the vaccine."

"That's great!" you say. "So how's the vaccine going to be distributed?"

And there the communication has ... broken down somewhat.

Everyone seems to agree that the vaccine will be distributed in "phases." But some people talked about three phases, others discussed a Phase 1-A and 1-B, at least one person mentioned a Phase 4. And if you tried to figure out what any of those "phases" mean, you probably wound up down a rabbit hole of interlocking webpages and press releases, filled with paragraphs of jargon that made your eyes glaze over.

My team had the same experience. But we managed to power through it. And after reading and digesting the [CDC's guidance](#), the [draft Virginia vaccination plan](#), and [Loudoun's official COVID vaccination webpage](#), we realized that these "phases" are actually trying to explain two separate ideas:

1. **How much vaccine we have,** and
2. **Who we should give the vaccine to first.**

How Much Vaccine We Have

Right now, the federal government is distributing COVID vaccine to all 50 states. Virginia is getting its share of the vaccine, which it is sending out to the local jurisdictions, including Loudoun County.

At first we will have a very limited supply of vaccine. Production will keep ramping up, and our vaccine supply will grow, until we have enough to vaccine everyone who asks for it on any given day. And at some point we will have more than enough vaccine to cover Loudoun's entire population.

The Virginia vaccination plan is built around this idea:

- **Phase 1:** We don't have enough vaccine for everyone. So we will triage - we'll start giving the vaccine to the groups at the top of our triage list (such as doctors and the medically vulnerable) and work our way down. Our vaccinations events will be targeted to those groups (i.e. sending doses of vaccine to our hospitals so they can vaccinate their staff).
- **Phase 2:** We have just enough vaccine to meet the current demand. Now we can offer the vaccine to the general public. Our vaccination events will now be set up at public locations and will offer the vaccine to a much broader group of people. We will also hold some special events for our underserved and hard-to-reach populations, to make sure they can get the vaccine.
- **Phase 3:** We have enough vaccine to cover the entire population. At this point we can start ramping down our public health vaccination efforts. COVID vaccine will become one of the

vaccines that people routinely get, just like a flu shot or a tetanus booster shot.

Who We Should Give The Vaccine To First

Right now we are in Phase 1. We have a limited supply of COVID vaccine. As production ramps up, we will get larger shipments of the vaccine, until we hit the point where we have enough doses for everyone. But we don't have enough to go around yet. For now, we want to use our limited supply of vaccine in the best way that we can.

So who should we give the vaccine to first? The Virginia vaccination plan says we should start with people who provide the vaccinations, are vulnerable to a severe COVID infection, or keep our infrastructure running.

This makes sense. We want to protect the people who are doing the vaccinating - if they get sick, that stalls the vaccination process for everyone. We also want to vaccinate people who are most likely to get seriously ill or die if they catch COVID. And we want to take care of our firefighters, police officers, grocery workers, and everyone else who does the jobs we can't live without and can't do their job via a socially distanced Zoom call.

The Virginia vaccination plan also mentions two more groups: people who are at higher risk of catching or transmitting COVID, or who have limited access to routine vaccinations.

This is an important reminder for our public health efforts. It's not so much a question of "should they get the vaccine first," but rather "these people need help and are more likely to fall through the cracks in our system, so make sure that our public health efforts find them and help them."

I'm glad that guidance is there, because I want to live in a society where we take care of our more vulnerable neighbors. It's also a practical public health decision. We want as many Virginians as possible to get the vaccine. That includes people who don't have easy access to regular vaccines - and it definitely includes

people who are more likely to catch COVID and/or pass it along to others. This is one of those occasions where we get to do well by doing good.

Why There's A "Phase 1-A", "Phase 1-B", etc.

It's 2020. Nothing has gone according to plan, not even the toilet paper. So if something goes wrong, and we wind up with less vaccine than we'd planned (even for Phase 1), which of our triage groups should get the vaccine first?

We absolutely have to vaccinate our healthcare workers and vaccine providers first. If they collapse, no one else gets vaccinated. But after that, if we don't have enough doses to cover everyone on our priority list, which group should get the next doses? And if we can cover everyone in that group, who gets the next doses after that?

That's what the Virginia vaccination plan is trying to resolve here. They recommend taking the people who we want to give the vaccine to first - our healthcare workers, our medically vulnerable, etc. - and put them onto a more detailed triage list. That will help us juggle our limited vaccine doses to people in the right order, so we can protect our medically vulnerable neighbors, keep our hospitals and vaccination program running, and make sure our critical infrastructure doesn't fall over.

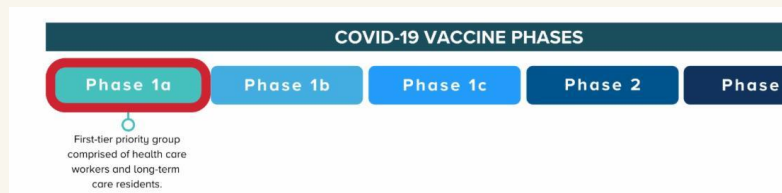
The vaccination plan recommends doing this by dividing Phase 1 into Phase 1-A and Phase 1-B. We should assign everyone we wanted to vaccinate in Phase 1 to one of these two sub-phases. If there isn't enough vaccine, we start by vaccinating the groups in Phase 1-A. Once they're covered, we offer the vaccine to the groups in Phase 1-B.

Important Note: The plan also admits that we may need to divide Phase 1 into even smaller sub-phases. Loudoun has already done that. It looks like we've broken Phase 1 into Phases 1-A, 1-B, and 1-C. But the same idea still applies: we're taking our priority groups and assigning them to a more detailed triage list, so we know exactly who gets the vaccine first.

What We Know About Loudoun's Plan

Virginia's vaccination plan acknowledges that - surprise! - every locality is different, and will have its own specific vaccination needs. So they built that idea right into the plan. Each locality is expected to create its own customized vaccination plan, based on the Virginia plan's general guidance.

Loudoun has actually broken up Phase 1 into Phases 1-A, 1-B, and 1-C. We are in Phase 1-A right now, and the county's official COVID-19 vaccine webpage confirms that we're giving the vaccine to our healthcare workers and long-term care residents.



That looks like the start of a good triage list. There's not a lot of detail yet, but what we're seeing so far makes sense: we start with healthcare workers (who are likely to be exposed to COVID) and long-term care residents (who are vulnerable to severe COVID infections). As soon as they're vaccinated, you can expect us to move on to the other groups we talked about above, and eventually (once there's enough vaccine for everyone in Loudoun) to offer it broadly to the general public.



Image Credit: [Photo](#) by Qbek, used under [Creative Commons BY-SA 3.0](#) / Trimmed from original

Disappointment: White's Ferry Shuts Down

I am extremely disappointed in [the shutdown of White's Ferry](#) as a result of the court decision in [Rockland Farm, LLC, et al. v. White's Ferry, Inc.](#), which found that White's Ferry is trespassing on Rockland Farm's property.

The County was not a party to this case between two private entities, Rockland and White's Ferry, and has no standing in the current situation. However, I am exploring actions between the parties that can be taken to restore this vital regional transportation link between Montgomery and Loudoun counties. This historic landmark has been home to a ferry service since 1786 and should continue to serve Virginia and Maryland citizens.

The closure of White's Ferry, which serves 600 cars per day, due to a lawsuit also illustrates the critical need to pursue a future bridge crossing between Virginia and Maryland. Regional connections between Maryland and Virginia are extremely susceptible to issues such as the closure of White's Ferry and the American Legion Bridge.

I call on our regional transportation leaders to see the benefits of what can be achieved by addressing long

overdue regional transportation needs by building an additional bridge crossing between Virginia and Maryland. Less congestion will deliver job opportunities, quality of life for our residents, and economic development to our region. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors acted in September of 2018 and chose Route 7/Route 28 and Route 7/Loudoun County Parkway as potential bridge crossings from Virginia to Maryland.

We will not be in COVID lockdown forever, and the region's transportation volumes will return at some level to pre-COVID volumes. With the susceptibility of the Whites Ferry crossing and shut down of the American Legion Bridge, there is no better time than the present to get serious about regional transportation needs between Virginia and Maryland.

Let's not wait until post-COVID congestion returns to tackle this problem. In the meantime, please know that I will be working to restore White's Ferry service as soon as possible.

ROUTE 15



Main Updates

- **Public Comments:** Public comments from the October 29 public information meeting were received and reviewed.
- **Discussions with VDOT:** Discussions with VDOT took place on November 19 to review alternate access arrangements for the Little Springs community.

You can also check the [Route 15 North project webpage](#) for more information. We will continue to follow this project closely and keep you informed of any changes. Please [email me](#) with your thoughts and views.



The Route 9 Safety and Operational Study (SOS) is reviewing Route 9 from the West Virginia border to Route 7 to identify safety and traffic operational issues along the corridor. As with the Route 15 South Safety and Operations Study, public and focus group meeting will be held.

Work is currently underway to evaluate existing conditions along Route 9, including roadway and intersection safety, roadway design and traffic.

The [first Route 9 focus group meeting](#) was held on February 13. The most recent focus group meeting was held virtually on September 30. These focus groups are intended to allow discussion with property owners whose use or activity generates significant traffic, business owners, and representatives of civic organizations located in the area.

There will be up to five focus group meetings throughout this study, which is expected to conclude in the summer of 2021.

The [project website](#) was updated in September. Please check there for further information, and feel free to [email me](#) with your thoughts about the project.

ROUTE 15 SOUTH

Safety and Operational Study Leesburg to Prince William County

The purpose of the Route 15 South Safety and Operational Study (SOS) is to identify safety and traffic operational issues along the corridor. The goal of the proposed improvements is to ensure that this segment of Route 15 continues to carry local and commuter traffic safely and efficiently while still preserving the unique context of the historical roadway.

Work is underway to evaluate existing conditions along Route 15 South, including roadway and intersection safety, as well as roadway design and traffic.

The latest Route 15 South virtual public input meeting was held on July 30. And the most recent focus group meeting was held via Webex on October 1. The focus groups are intended to allow discussion with property owners whose use or activity generates significant traffic, business owners, and representatives of civic organizations located in the area.

There will be up to five focus group meetings throughout the study. The study is expected to wrap up in summer 2021.

The [project website](#) was last updated in September, and it now includes all the documents from the focus group and public input meetings. Please take a look at it for further information, and feel free to [email me](#) with your thoughts about the project.

Road Project Updates

The latest on County and VDOT projects that impact Catoctin District residents

Crosstrail Boulevard

Segment B - the design and construction from Kincaid Boulevard to Russell Branch Parkway. A contract award

for construction of this proffer item was approved at the Board Business Meeting on December 3, 2019.

Blasting is now complete. Work is still going on the earthwork, bridge work, and installation of the storm pipe. The steel girders are scheduled for late January.

Route 7 & Route 287

This project provides for the planning, design, and construction of improvements for the Route 7 and Berlin Turnpike (Route 287) interchange. The project is funded using local tax funding and VDOT Smart Scale funding.

No change since last time. As of May 2020, the revised Environmental Assessment had been approved, and work had begun on the final design plans, which are expected to be complete in fall 2020. Land acquisition is ongoing and is expected to be complete by spring 2021. Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2022.

Route 7 & Route 690

This project funds the design, right-of-way acquisition and construction of an interchange at Route 7 and Route 690 in Purcellville.

The Right-of-Way (ROW) and easement plats are still being reviewed, and utility coordination is continuing. The Limited Access Control Change (LACC) is also under review; LACC Willingness for Public Comment is required prior to VDOT approval. Posting of the public notice for LACC Willingness is pending.

John G. Lewis Memorial (Featherbed Lane) Bridge over Catoctin Creek

The purpose of this project is to develop conceptual bridge alternatives to address the existing historic truss bridge. VDOT presented three options to the State Department of Historic Resources. The DHS chose option 2A: building a new structure from the deck down, allowing the trusses to remain as ornamental.

John G. Lewis Memorial Bridge (Route 673 - Featherbed Lane) over Catoctin Creek is a single span steel pin connected Pratt through truss with a timber deck and asphalt overlay, supported on stringers and floor beams. The bridge was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 25, 1974. It is 157 feet long, has an overall width of about 14 feet and clear roadway width of 11.16 feet. It carries one

alternating traffic lane. The bridge was originally erected in 1889 on the Leesburg & Alexandria Turnpike (Route 7) over Goose Creek, to replace a bridge destroyed by flooding. In 1932 the bridge was dismantled and moved to its current location. The bridge was posted 15 tons in 2004 and reduced to 3 tons in 2013 due to insufficient capacity. The existing bridge has an average traffic count of 57 vehicles per day with daily truck traffic less than 3 trucks.

The notice to proceed is scheduled to be issued in January.

Route 7 & Battlefield Parkway

This project will replace the traffic signal at Route 7 (East Market Street) and Battlefield Parkway with a grade-separated interchange, and remove or modify the signalized intersection at Route 7 and Cardinal Park Drive to reduce congestion and improve traffic operations. Other improvements include accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians, and new interchange lighting. The Town of Leesburg has executed an agreement with VDOT to administer this project on the Town's behalf. The Town has also executed a reimbursement agreement with NVTa.

No change since last time. Work is still being done on road construction, right of way acquisition, and utility relocations.

Route 9 & Route 287 Roundabout

This project includes design and construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Charles Town Pike (Route 9) and Berlin Turnpike (Route 287).

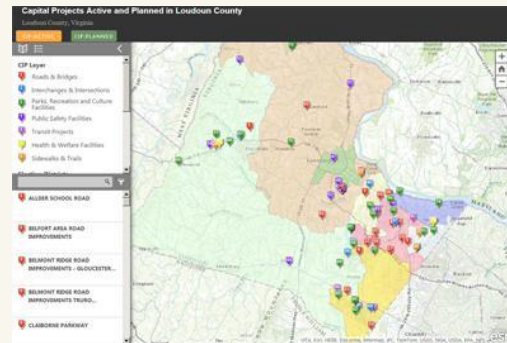
The 100% design plans will be submitted in December 2020; there was a slight delay in the receipt of the 60% comments. The revised design waiver was submitted to VDOT on November 17 for final approval. A Request For Quote (RFQ) for the purchase of nutrient credits was expected to be advertised in early December.

Route 15 - Route 15 Interchange at Edwards Ferry/Fort Evans Road

This project includes the design and construction of grade separated interchanges at Route 15/Edwards Ferry Road and Route 15/Fort Evans Road.

Revenue share funds were received to advance this project to field investigation.

Loudoun County Capital



Improvement Projects

Use the county's [interactive map](#) to track capital improvement projects in Loudoun. The map provides tabs for 'active projects', which will provide a list of capital projects currently funded and in a stage of design or construction development, and 'planned projects,' which are the capital projects planned for funding in Fiscal Year 2016-Fiscal Year 2020 as part of the Board of Supervisors's Adopted Capital Improvement Program.



2020 Road Paving Projects Map

Use VDOT's new [interactive map](#) to track the status of all road paving projects in Loudoun. The map includes roads that are getting all types of treatments, including plant mix, latex, and slurry. Just go to the map and click on a road to see its project status and learn who its point of contact is.

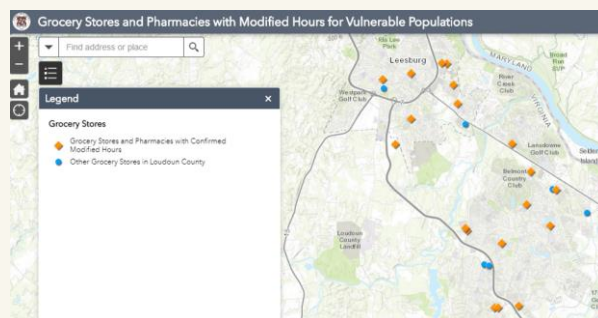


The Official Guide To Starting A Rural Business In Loudoun County

Are you thinking of starting a rural business in Loudoun County? Our Department of Economic Development has put together this guide just for you. It gives an overview of important information for rural businesses, from farm and breweries to restaurants and bed & breakfasts, and helps you figure out if your specific use is permitted on your property.

[Read the full guide here](#)

Coronavirus Resources

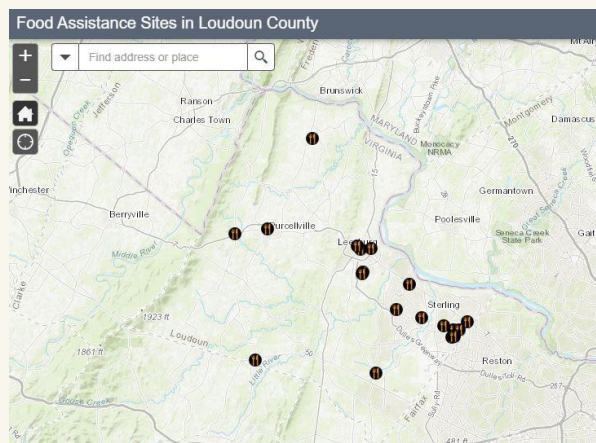


Grocery Stores With Designated

Hours For Senior Residents

Loudoun County has launched an interactive map to help residents find grocery stores and pharmacies with designated hours for vulnerable individuals. These shopping hours are designated for older adults, as well as individuals with underlying health issues or compromised immune systems, who are at greater risk of complications from COVID-19.

[View the map](#)



Food Banks, Community Meals, And Other Food Assistance

Loudoun County has launched an interactive map to help residents find food assistance sites, including food banks, pantries and non-school meal distribution sites.

The searchable map also links to webpages for the various sites. It will be updated as food assistance sites make service changes.

[View the map](#)

Behavioral Health Resources

- [Coping with Stress During COVID-19 Outbreak \(PDF\)](#)
- [Helping Children Cope with Stress During COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health \(PDF\)](#)
- [Mental Health and Coping During COVID-19](#)

If you are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, Emergency Services are available 24 hours daily, seven days per week at 703-777-0320. For general information questions, email or call 703-771-5155.

Avoiding COVID-19 Scams

Beware of COVID-19 scammers trying to use your compassion or fear of the virus against you. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has created a list of the most common scam techniques so you can recognize and avoid them.

[See the list of typical COVID-19 scams](#)

Stay Informed!

- **Sign up for email and text updates** about Loudoun's response to COVID-19 at loudoun.gov/coronavirus
- **Text LCCOVID19 to 888777** to receive text alerts from Loudoun County about COVID-19
- **Follow** the [Loudoun County Government Facebook Page](#) and [@LoudounCoGovt](#) on Twitter



**LOUDOUN
VIRGINIA**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Resources For Loudoun's Local Businesses

We've put together this list of resources for local businesses to help them through the COVID-19 pandemic. As always, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development (DED), who found them, explained them, or in some cases built them from scratch.



The Virginia 30 Day Fund

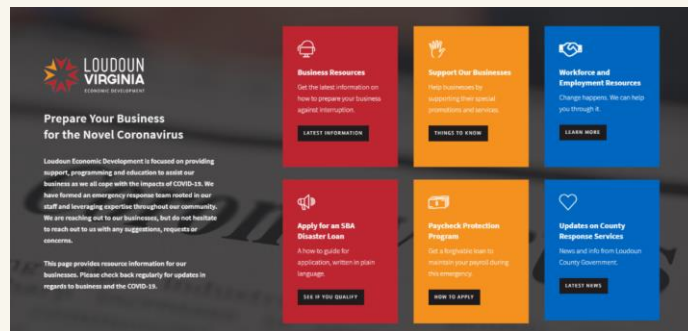
The Virginia 30 Day Fund has [given forgivable loans to over 700 businesses](#) to help them through this pandemic. If you own a small business in Virginia, I recommend that you check them out - they are a nonprofit, founded when COVID-19 first struck, and their goal is to help 1,000 businesses by the end of 2020.

To qualify for one of these forgivable loans, a business must be:

- A small businesses that employs 3 to 30 people,
- Based in Virginia and have been operating for at least one year, and
- Owned and operated by a Virginia resident.

The funds from these loans don't need to be repaid. But if businesses who receive the Fund's assistance do, later on, want to "pay it forward" to another Virginia small business that needs the help, they can do so by directing those dollars back to the Fund, which will disburse the funding to another Virginia business in need.

[Visit the Website](#)



Protecting Your Business Against The Coronavirus

Whether you're anticipating interruptions in your supply chain and/or customer sales, there are resources that can help bolster your business. Learn more about financing, education and training opportunities, and what data centers are doing to fuel digital tools.

Here are the top online resources offered by the Department of Economic Development:

- [**How to Apply for an SBA Loan**](#)
- [**How to Apply for the Paycheck Protection Program**](#)
- [**How to Support Our Local Businesses**](#)
- [**Workforce Resources for Businesses**](#)
- [**Workforce Resources for Employees and Job Seekers**](#)
- [**Rural Business Educational Resources**](#)
- [**Financing and Loans**](#)
- [**Business Training and Education**](#)
- [**Digital Business Resources**](#)

Visit the Website

More Online Resources



If you'd like to keep up or find out more about ongoing or upcoming VDOT projects that affect you, you can check out [the VDOT website](#).

You may be interested in VDOT's [Paving Conditions and Schedule](#).



Loudoun Express Request

Loudoun Express Request is a helpful tool for contacting county staff regarding a wide spectrum of issues. Internet service, property use, environmental health, and much more can be entered on LEX. Enter your question or concern and LEX will contact appropriate county staff! Learn more [here](#).



Volunteer with Loudoun Cares

It's always a good time to think about volunteering. Check out volunteer opportunities with [Loudoun Cares Volunteer Center](#). The Volunteer Center is the one-stop resource connecting nonprofit organizations in Loudoun County to individuals in the community looking for a place to volunteer their time and resources.

Let Your Friends in on the Latest!

Do you have a friend or a neighbor who would benefit from the information in this newsletter? Then, forward this on!

My office is working to ensure as many Catocin residents as possible are being informed about important issues - whether those are public hearing notices, road closure announcements, inclement weather advisories, or other updates on issues of importance to the district and to the county.

Click to Sign Up

Sincerely,

Supervisor Caleb Kershner

Board of Supervisors - Catocin District
Loudoun County, Virginia

Supervisor Caleb Kershner, 1 Harrison St. SE, Leesburg, VA 20175

[About our service provider](#)

Sent by caleb.kershner@loudoun.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!