



## April 2021

Welcome to the April 2021 edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter. It has continued to be quite a busy spring, especially this week as I participated in our annual credit rating presentations with Wall Street agencies (albeit virtually). The County is preparing to sell bonds in about a month, and should receive our updated credit ratings in mid-May.

This month, everyone 16 and over in the commonwealth of Virginia became eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. While wait times for the vaccine will still vary depending on supply, we are at the point where preregistration is no longer necessary and you can directly schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine. There is information on how to sign up, as well as an update on the latest case rates and numbers, in the COVID-19 section below.

I was pleased to sponsor a resolution for the Freedom High School Girls' Gymnastics Team at the Board's April 6 Business Meeting. In February, the team won the VHSL Class 5A State Championship for the fifth time in the last six years! Several of Freedom's gymnasts also placed high in individual competitions at the State Championship. We've all gotten used to seeing the team, along with parents and coaches, in the Board Room this time of year to celebrate their competitive successes and commitment to excellence. Unfortunately, that wasn't possible this year due to the pandemic, but congratulations are in order to

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Coach Laura Wrighte and the entire team. Great job ladies!

May 2-8 is Small Business Week in Loudoun County. Each year, our Department of Economic Development sponsors Small Business Week to raise awareness and encourage community support for small businesses in the County. 86% of Loudoun's businesses have less than 20 employees. This year, Small Business Week will begin with the Innovation Challenge, which will support entrepreneurship by seeking out businesses that are providing truly innovative products and services in Loudoun. Throughout Small Business Week, members of the Board of Supervisors will be participating in scheduled meetings with small business owners and employees. I will also be presenting a resolution to recognize and support Small Business Week at the May 4 Business Meeting. For resources and information on how to get involved, visit the Economic Development website [here](#).

This week, a major structure fire took place at a home on Feldspar Place in Stone Ridge. Loudoun County Fire Rescue units responded quickly but the home was still destroyed. Fortunately, damage to adjacent homes was limited to warped siding. The good news is that everyone, including the fire crews, were safe. The Fire Marshal's Office determined that the cause of the fire was spontaneous combustion of mulch. I will include guidance from the Fire Marshal on how to prevent fires caused by organic planting materials in the announcements section below. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family affected by the fire.

### **An Update on My Health**

I continue to receive questions about my recovery from my injury. It has been several months since I have updated you on my health. On the positive side, my post-concussion symptoms have improved to the point where I have resumed driving, at least locally, and I am able to do normal activities like grocery shopping. I'm also back on the baseball field coaching my son's team - albeit in the dugout as an assistant

Kincora Village Center

Announcements

### **Matthew F. Letourneau**

Dulles District Supervisor,  
Loudoun County Board of  
Supervisors

Chairman

[Finance, Government  
Operations and Economic  
Development Committee](#)

Principal Director

[Washington Metropolitan  
Area Transit Authority Board  
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[Rt. 28 Transportation  
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this season. I am still receiving therapy for both my balance, which hasn't fully recovered, and the nerve damage in my face. There has been some slight improvement, but there is still a "dead spot" around where the baseball hit.

There has not been any progress on the eye injury. I have learned to do all the tasks I mentioned with one eye, and I try to be very careful. Based on how I responded to surgery in December, doctors believe that the eye alignment was significantly altered when I was struck by the ball, and the only option for improvement is strabismus surgery. This will likely involve operating on both eyes, as the "good eye" will need to be altered to match the restricted movement of the bad one. Obviously this gives me some anxiety, and I've been told that this particular surgery often isn't successful on the first try. At this point, the surgery is not yet scheduled, but I'll see the strabismus surgeon again in mid-May and I'm hoping to have all this done in early summer.

Beyond that, when I was in the hospital back in September I had difficulties with IVs, and a blood clot formed in my wrist. This is fairly common (superficial thrombosis) and not particularly dangerous, but it usually resolves itself. In my case it did not, and the clot is still there. Every few weeks it swells up and becomes quite painful, so the vascular surgeon has recommended surgery to remove it along with the piece of blood vessel that has basically died as a result. I will be having that surgery in a few weeks. I appreciate everyone's well wishes.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### Latest Numbers and Updates

According to the official numbers released today by the Virginia Department of Health, there have been 27,309 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Loudoun County. 274 individuals have died from the virus in Loudoun. Virginia now has 659,590 confirmed cases

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with 10,770 deaths. You can see these numbers yourself at the Loudoun County COVID-19 [GeoHub](#).

Things continue to improve, with both case and death rates slowing down significantly since the advent of vaccine administration. The positive PCR test rate has declined over time from double digits to 6.4%. That being said, please continue to follow proper mitigation practices such as washing your hands, wearing a mask, keeping six feet apart, staying home when sick, and limiting social gatherings.

The Loudoun County Health Department continues to discourage non-essential travel at this time, to slow the spread of COVID-19 and limit the potential of bringing variant forms of the coronavirus back into the community. The more Loudoun residents travel to [areas where variant COVID-19 cases are spreading](#), the greater the potential of returning with a variant of the virus that causes COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that variants seem to spread more easily and quickly than other coronaviruses. The virus mutates as more people are infected. In order to slow the number of cases of COVID-19 and ensure that the County has the opportunity to vaccinate enough people to help bring an end to the pandemic, the Health Department encourages each member of the community to take steps to avoid risk.

### **Latest News on Vaccination Efforts**

I have now received both shots of the COVID-19 vaccine, and I encourage others to do so as well. We are clearly seeing that the more folks are vaccinated, the less virus we have in the community, and in turn the sooner things can return to normal! I did have some symptoms, particularly on the second shot, which held me back for about a day and a half. As I mentioned in the introduction, Phase 2 has begun: all adults (16+) who live or work in Virginia are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine; wait times will continue to vary depending on how much vaccine supply localities get and how much demand there is,

COVID-19

but the waiting list has been fully exhausted in Loudoun County.

As of yesterday, Loudoun residents 16 and over can directly schedule an appointment online to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine at the Loudoun County Health Department vaccination clinic located at Dulles Town Center in Sterling. The Health Department encourages all unvaccinated people age 16 and older who live or work in the county to schedule an appointment as soon as possible by visiting [loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine](https://loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine). The website includes a link to the online form where individuals can request an account to schedule an appointment. An email address or cell phone number may only be used once to create an account. If an email address or cell phone number was used during the pre-registration phase, that contact information cannot be used again. After completing the form, individuals will automatically receive an email or text message from the CDC with a link to create an account in the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) and schedule an appointment at the Loudoun County Health Department vaccination clinic. **With this change, individuals no longer need to pre-register.**

Individuals who have already pre-registered should have received an invitation to schedule a vaccine appointment. Anyone who has not received an invitation to schedule should check their email spam folder or go online to schedule an appointment now. The vaccination site continues to be by appointment only. Anyone who needs assistance scheduling an appointment, including individuals who do not have internet access, can contact the Health Department at 703-737-8300, Monday-Sunday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Individuals under 18 must choose an appointment where Pfizer is offered and must have a parent or guardian present at the appointment. Vaccine types available will be noted during the scheduling process. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be available at the Loudoun vaccination site beginning Saturday, May 1, 2021.

You can now also visit [vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org) to find other locations nearby that are offering the vaccine such as local pharmacies and grocery stores. You can make a vaccination appointment at one of the pharmacies taking part in the federally partnered program if that is more convenient for you than visiting the clinic at the Dulles Town Center.

Loudoun County's online [COVID-19 Vaccine Data Dashboard](#) is intended to help residents follow the County's progress in the ongoing vaccination efforts. The dashboard highlights key indicators of progress and status including:

- Date of pre-registration for which the Health Department is currently scheduling appointments
- Number of individuals remaining on the waitlist
- Vaccine doses received by Virginia and Loudoun County
- Vaccine doses administered in Loudoun County

The pre-registration date for which appointments are being scheduled and waitlist information will be updated weekly. The vaccine doses received and administered will be updated daily with data from the [Virginia Department of Health \(VDH\) Vaccine Summary](#).

As of today, 116,321 (28.1%) Loudoun residents are now fully vaccinated and 193,615 (46.8%) have received at least one shot. More retail partners are coming online as well in the federally partnered program. For more information about COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Loudoun County, visit [loudoun.gov/COVID19vaccine](https://loudoun.gov/COVID19vaccine).

The CDC has released updated guidance that individuals who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a face covering when outside in small groups. For more information, you can visit the CDC's recommendation page [here](#).

## DULLES UPDATES



## **SCC Greenway Toll Rate Case**

On April 26, the State Corporation Commission [issued a decision](#) denying the request by Greenway operator Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II) to increase toll rates on the Dulles Greenway by about 35% over a 5-year period. TRIP II, the company which owns the Greenway, had sought a 6 - 6.8% toll rate increase each year over the next five years for both peak and non-peak tolls.

The SCC stated that TRIP II failed to meet the criteria to increase any peak tolls, or to increase off-peak tolls for the five-year period. The SCC did allow limited increases to the off-peak toll rates of \$0.25 per year for 2021 and 2022, bringing such tolls to \$5.00 and \$5.25 respectively. This would lessen the toll differential between peak and off-peak tolls.

This SCC decision was the first time that TRIP II has been denied a toll increase on the Greenway. Copies of the documents related to the proceedings are available [on the SCC's website](#).

## **Governor Signs Greenway Legislation**

I have one final good piece of news to share on Greenway Bills HB 1832 and SB 1259: Governor Northam has officially signed them into law, and they go into effect on July 1. These bills come at the end of a years long fight to curb toll increases on the Greenway and level the playing field for commuters. I shared the details of the bills in past [newsletters](#), but they set in place much firmer rules for when the State Corporation Commission can allow toll increases and will result in real, material benefits to frequent Greenway commuters.

## **Elk Lick Road & Route 50 Intersection Improvements**

As you may recall, the County and VDOT implemented an interim closure of the median at Elk Lick Road and Route 50 and access at Elk Lick was converted to right-in/right-out. The County received

final design approval and issued a contract in early spring to complete the permanent improvements so that the concrete barriers can be removed.

Construction is beginning and we currently expect completion this fall. I will share information on any construction impacts to Route 50 as the project progresses.

### **Loudoun County Parkway Widening**

The Board's approval of the Silver District West rezoning included a proffer by the developer to widen Loudoun County Parkway to six lanes between Ryan Road to Shellhorn Road. They recently received design approval for the project and are currently working through the VDOT permitting process. Depending on the time required to get those final approvals, we expect construction to begin by the end of this year. The developer will have 24 months from permit approval to complete the project and open it to traffic.

## **DULLES LAND USE UPDATES**

### **Avonlea**

You may have heard by now that Peterson announced their decision to pivot away from a full mixed use retail project and instead seek 339 apartments and 335,000 sq. ft. of commercial space on the Avonlea site. An assisted living facility, medical offices, and automotive uses are now proposed for the commercial aspect of the site. There may be some first floor retail in their proposal depending on the market for that type of development. Peterson and Toll Brothers' agreement to partner together and expand the site by nearly 50 acres has also fallen through, meaning that they are now working on separate components.

This announcement is the latest in a string of disappointing developments for Avonlea. I knew something like this may be coming, but I was under the impression that they were still trying to work out a



deal for the Toll property and develop the site on a larger scale with more of the elements that we as a community would like to see. But at the end of the day, the market for retail and restaurants is just not there for this site. The pandemic's effects on restaurants, the movie theater industry, hospitality, and more can't be overstated. It was always going to be hard to attract retail tenants on this site for a variety of reasons, but COVID-19 has provided a significant setback.

While we are seeing some sectors of the economy begin to bounce back, new construction and investment is going to be slow for retail, dining and entertainment for quite a while. Peterson has spent over \$20 million already on the Avonlea site and they want to see some return. As disappointed as I am about the direction of this project, I do know that they have tried to attract virtually every user that anyone could identify and there simply wasn't interest in this location for a variety of reasons. I have participated in some of those recruitment efforts and have stayed in close touch with Peterson over the years about the users they were pursuing. It is not a matter of them needing more input on what the community wants - they know - there just hasn't been interest from those users.

I've heard some suggest that the County "buy back" the parcel or that it be turned into a park. That is not a possibility. The site already has extensive infrastructure right below the surface inconsistent with passive development. Of course, the County never owned the parcel - it has always been owned privately. The County can't simply buy it without a specific public purpose, which has to be identified ahead of time in our extensive planning process, including the Capital Needs Assessment. So the site will remain in private hands.

The new proposal for Avonlea will require approval by the Board of Supervisors and will also be reviewed by County staff and the Planning Commission. Since I don't know all the details of the new proposal yet, I can't judge its consistency with the 2019 General

Plan's vision for this land (which has been designated Suburban Mixed Use). That being said, I have a lot of concerns with the current proposal and it does not sound consistent with our vision for this property. I will keep you informed as it moves through the process and when there are opportunities for public input to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. I have also engaged with the Department of Economic Development to discuss potential alternatives and I'm sure we will be having discussions with Peterson.

**SVK SAI Child Care**  
*SPEX-2019-0043*

At our April 14 Public Hearing, the Board voted unanimously to forward the SVK SAI Child Care Center application to our May 18 Business Meeting for action. The application is for a special exception to permit a 9,500 sq. ft. facility south of Braddock Road and east of Gum Spring Road. The center would service up to 157 children at any given time. In addition to the 9,500 sq. ft. indoor facility, the application includes a 5,500 sq. ft. outdoor play area and associated parking. Overall, the project would occupy a 4.32-acre portion of an undeveloped parcel in the Transition Policy Area. On a separate piece of the parcel, six single-family residential units are permitted by-right. Overall, the site would retain more than 50% open space/undeveloped which is one of the goals for this location.

At both the Planning Commission and Board Public Hearing, a major point of discussion was staff's determination that the child care is not consistent with the 2019 General Plan's vision for the Transition Large Lot Neighborhood Place Type. The place type envisions detached single-family homes, low-density communities, or agricultural uses. The proposed child care is a commercial use, and staff has stated that it would be better suited for a suburban location. However, there was a great deal of debate about consistency because of other similar places that have been established nearby – including Paul VI High School and other schools and child care

centers. Staff's interpretation is that a high school was permitted, but a childcare is not because the latter is a commercial enterprise. I'm not sure how logical that is because the real goal in this location was to limit intense development.

I did make the motion to send the item to a Business Meeting so the applicant and staff could address a couple other issues. Upon meeting with the applicant and seeing their estimated numbers, traffic patterns were really my only concern with the application. The applicant is proposing a right in/right out only on Braddock, which I support, but I want to understand the plan regarding traffic that needs to head in the other direction. We are waiting to see analysis from the applicant and the transportation staff.

I also requested clarification on a couple other conditions of approval, including one related to the Tree Conservation Area on the property. Once I have answers to these questions and the item comes back at the May 18 meeting, I'll update you on the Board's further discussion.

**Milestone Tower – Rock Ridge High School**  
*CMPT-2021-0001*

Milestone Communications has filed a commission permit application for a telecommunications tower at Rock Ridge High School that will host private providers and bolster the area's radio network. The applicant has scheduled an informational community meeting on Tuesday, May 11. The virtual meeting will take place at 6:30 PM. To join the meeting and visit the project page, please click [here](#).

On Saturday, March 8, Milestone is coordinating a balloon fly to simulate the tower's height and visibility from 8 AM – noon (the makeup date in case of inclement weather is Saturday, May 15).

## **LOUDOUN UPDATES**

## **Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan**

It is no secret that affordable housing in Loudoun County continues to be a struggle for many of our residents. We have been working to address housing needs and proffer affordable units in residential and commercial applications for the last several years and, more recently, have utilized the Housing Trust Fund to provide loans to affordable housing developers in the County. In our area, the Stone Springs Apartments across from the hospital were a recipient of that loan program and another affordable housing complex for seniors is planned at the Poland Hill site east of South Riding.

In September 2019, the Board of Supervisors initiated an official process to define how the County will address unmet housing needs over the short and long-term. At our April 6 Business Meeting, staff presented the draft Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan to the Board.

The UHNSP is intended to be implemented over a five-year period in keeping with five specific goals:

1. Establish a coordinated, collaborative, and integrated housing network
2. Secure land resources needed to address unmet housing needs
3. Obtain viable funding sources
4. Reduce barriers to the development and preservation of affordable housing
5. Implement policy changes to support affordable housing production and preservation

I think unmet housing is a large macro issue that local governments have difficulty addressing because so much is based on the market and geography. Loudoun isn't unique – most (if not all) metropolitan areas see more expensive housing the closer you get to major cities. In comparison to Washington DC, Loudoun housing *is* affordable – that's why many have moved here. There is only so much government can do to address that. I think we have made progress on the topic of affordable housing in recent years by

encouraging affordable developments, both commercial and residential, through zoning and the use of our Housing Trust Fund. I'm looking forward to taking a closer look at the proposals in the draft UHNSP and taking what practical steps we can to help alleviate this issue. There are some ideas in the plan - like a focus on redeveloping older retail areas with housing - that are intriguing, and others - such as putting housing on existing public use sites - that I'm not enthusiastic about.

Before the plan is adopted, staff will bring it to the May 12 Public Hearing where members of the community can review the plan, ask questions, and make comments. Feedback from the Board and the public will be taken into consideration and incorporated into the final UHNSP before it is approved. To sign up to speak at the Public Hearing, click [here](#). You can review the draft plan [here](#).

### **Middleburg Preserve and Aldie Assemblage Properties**

The Board voted unanimously at its April 20 Business Meeting to end negotiations with Mojax over a proposed deal to swap the Aldie Assemblage in the Village of Aldie to the developer in exchange for the Middleburg Preserve property in the Village of St. Louis. If you recall from past newsletters, the County owns the three parcels that comprise the Aldie Assemblage. These parcels were acquired in 2015 for the purpose of constructing a new fire station to replace the existing Aldie station that is passed its useful life and not adequate for housing the personnel and equipment needed to service the community. Following community input on the plans that had been developed for these parcels and potential impact on historic structures in the village, the Board moved forward on securing another site closer to Gilberts Corner at the intersection of Route 50 and Route 15. An opportunity presented itself to swap this land, which was now surplus, for land in St. Louis that is the site of a controversial by-right development.

I personally thought that the Aldie plans - to build an inn/tavern in the mold of the Inn at Little Washington - had merit, but there was a lot of community opposition. Beyond that, circumstances with the developer on the St. Louis side changed and they did not qualify for certain tax credits that they had factored in to their plans. Therefore, the Board has terminated that discussion and is now moving forward with publicly advertising the sale of the Aldie Assemblage properties, with one additional offer already received. There is little the Board can legally do in St. Louis, having exhausted most options already. Chair Randall and Supervisor Buffington are doing what they can to improve the situation there and the Board is looking into some potential zoning changes in the Village that could help long-term.

### **Collective Bargaining for Public Employees**

If you recall, the County set aside about \$1 million in the FY22 budget to stand up a collective bargaining program for public employees in Loudoun County. I've written extensively about how I consider public sector collective bargaining to be a solution in search of a problem in Loudoun. I've also shared my concerns about the long term costs, the elimination of our current merit based compensation system, and the potential for conflict. I won't go into detail again here, but it is quite clear that the Board majority is going to move ahead despite these concerns. The Board has implemented both new compensation scales and new benefits packages, and I will always support doing what we can for our employees, who do a great job. However, I don't think we need to have collective bargaining for that to occur, and in fact, I think we've proven that we don't.

In any event, the National Labor Relations Act guarantees collective bargaining for private sector employees on a federal level (although it is regulated by the states and collective bargaining protections vary widely depending on where you are in the country). However, collective bargaining for public employees is a state-by-state decision and only exists comprehensively in about half the states. Until last

year, public employee collective bargaining was expressly prohibited in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Last spring, the General Assembly passed a law that allows collective bargaining if localities choose to implement it - allowing Counties to pass their own ordinances or regulations regarding collective bargaining. That law goes into effect on May 1.

At our April 20 Business Meeting, the Board held an initial conversation about collective bargaining with County staff. The Board voted 6-3 to move forward with traditional collective bargaining, with further consideration of an ordinance to occur on May 18; I voted against the motion. It remains to be seen what the new ordinance will look like, but my colleagues indicated they will be using an ordinance adopted by the City of Alexandria as a model and will be weighing input from several of the unions.

#### **Kincora Village Center**

*ZMAP-2018-0014, ZCPA-2018-0013, ZRTD-2020-0005, SPEX-2020-0013, ZMOD-2018-0035, ZMOD-2020-0029, & ZMOD-2020-0032*

At our April 20 Business Meeting, the Board voted 6-3 to approve the Kincora Village Center rezoning application. I supported the application. Kincora is a previously approved residential and commercial application that is located west of Route 28 in the Broad Run District. The original application was approved for 1,400 residential units. Of those units, 781 have not been built yet.

At our March Public Hearing, the applicant returned to the Board with a request for 1,200 more multifamily residential units and an increase in retail/commercial space of 575,000 sq. ft. – in return for donating a desirable parcel on which to construct the Northern Virginia Science Center (turning over the Landbay for construction of the Science Center will eliminate about 250 planned residential units from the development). Most of the supervisors, myself included, weren't comfortable with 1,200 additional units. I felt it was a big ask, especially in



this location, where we are hearing from current residents that there are already severe parking problems. I was also concerned with the effects of that much increased density on the area's road network. At the March meeting of the Transportation and Land Use Committee, these issues and others were discussed. The applicant was open to hearing the requests of the various Supervisors, and worked to make the application a more attractive package to the County.

At our April 20 meeting, the applicant agreed to lower the number of residential units to 1,000. When the Board agreed to move forward with the Children's Science Center, it was with an understanding that they would receive 800 additional units, so the 1,000 request is still more. However, the applicant committed to keeping the original number of affordable units in the development (thereby increasing the percentage of ADUs since the total number of units went down), added significant parking to address current and future issues, and increased their transit contribution. Taken together, I felt it was a fair compromise in an area that the Comprehensive Plan calls for having more dense development.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Fire Prevention Guidance**

Decomposing organic material can sometimes generate enough heat to ignite without coming in contact with an external source of fire. It is more likely to combust in dry, hot weather. The Fire Marshal's Office has released safety tips on how to prevent fires caused by mulch and other planting materials at your home and business:

- Maintain at least 18 inches of clearance between the edge of the mulch bed and combustible building materials, such as exterior vinyl siding and decks.

- Keep landscaped mulch beds moist if possible.
- Recognize that hot and dry spells, along with windy conditions allow mulch fires to start more readily.
- Ensure proper clearance to electric devices, such as lights, by following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use non-combustible materials such as river rock, pea gravel or crushed rock for the first 18" around the base of a building with combustible siding and around gas and electrical meters.
- Consider using brick or non-combustible exterior siding when building or renovating a structure.
- Use only approved receptacles to dispose of matches, cigarettes, and cigars such as sturdy metal or ceramic containers filled with sand, located away from the structure.
- Immediately report any smoke or fire by calling 9-1-1.

For more information on fire prevention, click [here](#).

### **New Loudoun County Transit App**

Loudoun County Transit has launched a new mobile app called "Transit." Loudoun County will provide all updates regarding any impacts to bus service through the Transit app. The app replaces the county's previous text service - LC Alerts and SV Alerts - which has been discontinued. Loudoun County encourages all subscribers to the former service alerts to download the Transit app to continue receiving accurate, real-time service updates from Loudoun County transit.

The Transit app improves how the county communicates with bus riders by adding new and improved capabilities. The app allows bus riders to easily navigate the region, aided by nearby bus options, departure times, accurate real-time information, trip planning and step-by-step

navigation. The app will simplify commuting for the county's bus and Metrorail riders, providing a single source of information.

Upon launching the app, Loudoun County Transit riders will see nearby options and departure times for local, commuter and Metro connection bus services. App users will have the ability to receive important service alerts and breaking news information directly on the Transit app's home screen. Users of the app can customize how they receive service alerts through their mobile phone's notifications by signing up for push notifications for specific routes.

Helpful features of the Transit app will allow users to :

- Check nearby departures
- Track their ride
- Plan a trip
- Get step-by-step directions
- Identify favorite bus routes
- Connect with the Regional Transit Network

The Transit app is available for free download to iPhone and Android phones. For instructions on downloading the app, frequently asked questions and to learn about the App's functionality, visit [loudoun.gov/transitapp](https://loudoun.gov/transitapp).

### **Dulles South Neighborhood Closet Clothing Event**

The nonprofit Dulles South Neighborhood Closet is hosting a community clothing event on Saturday, May 1 from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Lightridge Highschool, 41025 Collaboration Drive, Aldie, VA 20105. See <https://dullescloset.org/> for information on clothing donation dates and volunteer opportunities. Upcoming events in 2021 are planned for August 21, November 13, and December 4.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule**

Loudoun has released its schedule of household hazardous waste collection events for spring 2021. All events run from 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM.

- Saturday, May 22: Ashburn North Park and Ride, 45151 Russell Branch Parkway, Ashburn, VA 20147
- **Saturday, June 26: Freedom High School, 25450 Riding Center Drive, South Riding, VA 20152**

The household hazardous waste program provides a safe and free way for residents to get rid of hazardous material that may have accumulated in their homes. Household hazardous waste is any waste produced in the home that is dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment. Please don't bring ammunition, propane tanks, motor oil and car batteries, electronics, medical waste, or paint. The limit per household is 15 gallons of liquid waste and 40 pounds of solid waste with a maximum container size of 5 gallons.

For more information about the Household Hazardous Waste Program, call 703-771-5500 or visit the [website](#).

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

Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry can be made in person at their temporary location at the Arcola Volunteer Fire Department Annex, 24300 Stone Springs Boulevard, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM, or [online](#). Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry, Inc. are tax deductible. The Dulles South Food Pantry provides food assistance up to twice a month to any person who resides in the attendance zones for the following high schools: Freedom, John Champe, Lightridge, Independence, Rock Ridge and Briar Woods. Call 703-507-2795 or email <mailto:info@dsfp.org> to schedule an appointment. See the Pantry's [website](#) for information on how you can help fight local hunger.

Donations to Loudoun Hunger Relief can be made in person at 750 Miller Drive SE in Leesburg or via their [website](#).

### **Blood Donation**

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

Inova Blood Services has blood drives scheduled and takes donors by appointment. Visit <https://www.inovablood.org/> to schedule an appointment.

### **Medical Reserve Corps Volunteering**

The Health Department continues to seek volunteers for the Loudoun Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). With the COVID-19 pandemic a reality, the need for Loudoun Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers - both medical and nonmedical personnel - is greater than ever. The MRC is asking medical doctors, nurses, physician assistants, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, dentists, veterinarians, and other medical professionals to consider volunteering their time to help protect the community's health during the pandemic and beyond. Nonmedical professionals can operate the Loudoun County Health Department's information line or help support testing activities, contact-tracing efforts, logistics support, and other nonmedical functions. For more information, visit [loudoun.gov/mrc](https://loudoun.gov/mrc). Register through the [Virginia Volunteer Health System](#).

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