



Supervisor

Matt Letourneau

Dulles Direct Newsletter



July 2021

Welcome to the July 2021 edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter. I hope you are all enjoying your summer and staying healthy. We are seeing a sudden but noticeable surge in COVID-19 cases, which is much different than last month's report. I'm concerned about how quickly the numbers are going up. There's more below on COVID-19 and the current situation in Loudoun.

Hopefully you received my Annual Report in the mail in the last week or two. It was mailed to every household in the Dulles District and contains updates on many important projects and topics. We took a break from the report last year due to COVID-19, so this year's is particularly full of information. If you live outside the district, didn't get a hard copy in the mail, or if you'd just prefer to read it online, you can access the interactive PDF [here](#). If you have any questions or comments when you're done with your read through, please email me at matt.letourneau@loudoun.gov.

In July, the Board hosted a Proclamation to Recognize Parks & Recreation Month in Loudoun County. During the pandemic last year, the PRCS division was instrumental in assisting our emergency response. On a regular basis, PRCS employees keep our parks clean and beautiful for all to enjoy, and are always working to improve our many public

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spaces. The Board of Supervisors recently approved a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan and a new Linear Parks and Trails Plan (more on that below) to continue making improvements in these areas. We appreciate the work of our PRCS staff with citizens of all ages.



At the end of last month, the Board hosted its annual Transportation Summit to hear updates from VDOT, County staff, and other agencies on various transportation topics impacting the County. We received an update on our Countywide Transportation Plan, which supplements our General Plan, as well as a discussion on methods to streamline the traffic signal development process, which is something that I have been pushing for. Once again, I raised issues surrounding funding of major projects such as the Route 50 Northern Collector Road and the Route 50 and Loudoun County Parkway interchange. Those two projects combined could cost more than a half a billion dollars to construct and are outside the scope of what we could reasonably complete at the County level without significant assistance. I since have had some follow up discussions with the Deputy Secretary of Transportation, and we brought an item to the July Finance Committee meeting to discuss issues around

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Loudoun County Board of
Supervisors

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[Finance, Government
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Development Committee](#)

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Board of Directors](#)

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Commission](#)

Member
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Transportation Commission](#)

Member

the project appropriations schedule, which has been an area of confusion with the Commonwealth.

This is an exciting week for our Animal Services Department! Over ten years ago, the Board began the process of relocating our animal shelter to a more accessible location within the County. We appropriated funds and selected a site on the Government Support Center off of Sycolin Road in Leesburg (the new address is 42225 Adoption Drive). Members of the public joined County staff and staff from the the new facility at a ribbon cutting ceremony this morning. One of my staffers attended the ceremony and toured the new facility.



The Board of Supervisors will be in recess in August, meaning we will not hold any of our regularly scheduled Business Meetings, Committee meetings, or Public Hearings. However, Board offices remain open and we're still working on a variety of issues and are available for constituent services. In my office we use this time to catch up on some bigger picture items that can be difficult to allocate time to during the course of a normal month, when we have a steady stream of decisions to make at every meeting - all of which require time and attention.

Finally, I had surgery this week with the goal of improving the alignment of my eyes (strabismus). Fortunately, we wrote most of this newsletter before

[Transportation Planning Board](#)

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the surgery because my vision has been severely impacted post-surgery. The surgery was on my good eye in order to bring it into alignment with my injured eye, but the eye that was operated on is very blurry and using it is painful. That leaves me with having to rely on my injured eye, which has poor vision, so I can't really read. I'm sure things will be improve with time and it is too early to tell if the surgery was successful. But for the next few days I'll need to rest my eyes and stay off email. My staff is around and working in case anything needs our immediate attention.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Latest Numbers and Updates

According to the official numbers released today by the Virginia Department of Health, there have been 28,600 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Loudoun County. 283 individuals have died from the virus in Loudoun. Virginia now has 694,384 confirmed cases with 11,532 deaths. You can see these numbers yourself at the Loudoun County COVID-19 [GeoHub](#).

Health officials report that over the past month, the number of new cases of COVID-19 have increased significantly in Loudoun County, in Virginia, and throughout the United States, fueled by the coronavirus Delta variant. Loudoun County is now averaging about 30 cases per day, up from about four cases per day in June. At the same time, Loudoun's percent positivity rate has increased from less than 1% to over 3% in the past few weeks. The vast majority of newly infected people are unvaccinated and includes individuals in all age groups.

Governor Northam announced on Thursday via a series of tweets that in keeping with updated CDC guidelines, all Virginians should once again wear a

[VDOT 511 Traffic Information](#)

[VDOT Snow Plowing Information](#)

[Loudoun County Road Maintenance Information](#)

[Loudoun County Traffic Incident Map](#)

[Sign up for Alert Loudoun](#)

[Loudoun Express Request \(LEx\) Citizen Request System](#)

[Loudoun Online Land Use Applications \(LOLA\) System](#)

[COVID-19](#)

mask in public indoor settings due to an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission. He stated that "this is not a requirement, but a recommendation." While there is not a mask mandate in place right now, I encourage you to consider wearing a mask in public and follow all proper mitigation practices so that we can slow down the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Loudoun's transmission level moved from the CDC's designation of "moderate" to "substantial" this week. We want to avoid getting back to the "high" transmission level we had during the worst of the pandemic.

Loudoun County Health Director Dr. David Goodfriend has also recommended to LCPS that students, teachers, and staff wear masks indoors during the school day once school resumes this August - regardless of whether or not they have been vaccinated. This recommendation comes as a result of the updated CDC guidance I mentioned above.

We are tracking the Delta variant of COVID-19 and its impact on Loudoun. The majority of cases in Northern Virginia are now the Delta variant, which is highly contagious and is also responsible for most current infections and hospitalizations nationwide. The Alpha variant (also highly contagious), which originated in the United Kingdom last year, is also present in Loudoun. It is crucial that everyone follow proper mitigation practices, especially if you haven't received a vaccine or are around those with immune system issues. It is important to note that the vast majority of deaths and serious COVID-19 cases are occurring among individuals who have not received the vaccine. I highly encourage everyone who is able to get the vaccine to do so and help slow and stop the spread in our area. If we are unsuccessful, more restrictions are likely on the way.

Latest News on Vaccination Efforts

As demand for COVID-19 vaccines in Loudoun County continues to decrease and as more providers in the community continue to offer the vaccine,

Loudoun County is adjusting the hours of operation at its Dulles Town Center clinic. These changes became effective Tuesday, July 27. In addition, the clinic will close permanently on the evening of Tuesday, August 24.

The clinic is currently open three days per week for walk-in vaccinations; however, the clinic is open one hour later on Tuesdays and closes three hours earlier on Fridays. The following hours are effective until August 24:

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: Closed
- Thursday: Closed
- Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
(closed Aug. 14)
- Sunday: Closed

Please note that the clinic will be closed to the general public Saturday, August 14, for a closed vaccination event.

To review the current and future hours of operation at the Dulles Town Center vaccination clinic, and to make an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination, visit the County's website at loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine.

Loudoun County's COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Dulles Town Center will close permanently, effective at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

The County will continue to provide first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine through the regularly scheduled hours on Tuesday, August 24; however, individuals who receive their first dose within 21 days (Pfizer) or 28 days (Moderna) of the clinic's closure must receive their second dose from another provider. Loudoun County will provide information to these individuals on where to receive their second dose.

Anyone age 12 and older who has not yet received a COVID-19 vaccine is encouraged to receive one as soon as possible. People may walk into the County's COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Dulles Town Center, 21090 Dulles Town Circle, Sterling, without an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

- [View the hours of operation.](#)
- [Schedule an appointment now.](#)
- [Plan your trip to the clinic.](#)

COVID-19 vaccines also are being offered through various community events in Loudoun County this summer. The next scheduled event is Saturday, August 7, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Bluemont Community Center, 33846 Snickersville Turnpike, Bluemont. More information is posted at loudoun.gov/vaccineevents.

Vaccines are also available from many other providers in the community, such as local pharmacies. To find a COVID-19 vaccine provider near you, visit vaccines.gov.

Anyone with questions about receiving a COVID-19 vaccine may call 703-737-8300 or [send an email to the Health Department](#).

The County's Tuesday testing events at the Dulles South Rec Center ended in June. To find out where to receive a test, please visit www.loudoun.gov/covid19testing.

DULLES UPDATES

Belmont Ridge Road Corridor Safety and Operational Study

At our July 6 Business Meeting, the Board directed staff to conduct a corridor safety and operational study of Belmont Ridge Road from Northstar Boulevard to Evergreen Mills Road. Residents from the Brambleton Community Association requested that the County initiate this study due to concerns regarding the speed limit, vehicle crashes, pedestrian and bicycle safety at the unsignalized intersections, and truck traffic. The study will also analyze future traffic operational conditions (our current projections do show a decrease in volume after the regional roadway network is completed in the Brambleton and Arcola Area, although completion is still many years away). The total study will cost \$419,850, utilizing funds that have been budgeted for Project Management Consulting Services. While most of the study will center in the Blue Ridge District, I wanted to make you aware of the study since Belmont Ridge crosses into the Dulles District and many of us use it to access Brambleton and Ashburn. I'll update you on the results of the study and recommended safety improvements once they are available.

Contract Awarded for Northstar Boulevard from Route 50 to Tall Cedars Parkway

At long last, I am excited to see more tangible signs of progress for the Northstar Boulevard project. A contract has been awarded to Shirley Contracting Company LLC for the construction of Northstar Boulevard from Route 50 to Tall Cedars Parkway in the amount of about \$18.7 million. The improvements will consist of two northbound lanes and two southbound lanes; associated turn lanes at the intersections of Tall Cedars Parkway, Marrwood Drive, and Route 50; and a 40 ft. wide grass median. Shirley Contracting is also constructing the northern segment of Northstar that will connect Route 50 to Evergreen Mills Road in Brambleton. We expect both projects to be completed within close timing to each other in 2024. Northstar Boulevard will be an important north/south connection to serve as an alternative to Loudoun County Parkway, Stone

Springs Boulevard, and Belmont Ridge Road. I'll update you on a more specific timeline as the contract is finalized and the contractor prepares to mobilize onsite.

VDOT Pavement Resurfacing Update

- Paving is complete on the northbound lanes of **Gum Spring Road between Route 50 and Frontier Spring Drive**. Striping is currently underway and should be completed soon, weather permitting.
- The application of latex coating on **Millstream Drive, Riding Center Drive, and Eastgate View Drive** has been completed. The contractor will be returning to apply pavement markings in mid-August after the latex coating has been fully cured.

DULLES LAND USE UPDATES

Dulles Landing Sign Plan Amendment

[SIDP-2015-0008](#)

At our July 6 Business Meeting, the Board voted 8-0-1 to approve an application to allow two entrance signs at Dulles Landing, a previously approved 78 acre shopping center in the Blue Ridge District. One sign will be on Loudoun County Parkway. The center is anchored by Walmart, Dick's Sporting Goods, TJ Maxx, and more. I reported in my last [newsletter](#) that the size of the proposed signs had been an issue throughout the course of the application. At the June Public Hearing, I asked the applicant to commit to a max height of 21 feet in order to be consistent with the highest sign previously approved along the Route 50 corridor. The applicant agreed to this request and reduced the total square footage of each sign to 179.51 square feet, so I supported the application.

Signage at Dulles Landing is long overdue, and we heard from the applicant that they feel adding these signs will help business.

As we've discussed, access remains a major issue at Dulles Landing, but that's unrelated to their signage application.

Milestone Tower - Rock Ridge High School

[CMPT-2021-0001](#)

At our July 20 Business Meeting, the Board unanimously approved the commission permit request for a 142 ft. cellular tower at Rock Ridge High School. The purpose of the tower is to provide upgrades and improvements to the area's network, as well as host private providers. Milestone, who will be developing the project, hosted an informational community meeting and a balloon fly earlier this year. A few residents expressed concerns at the meeting – mainly over 5G and its purported health effects. Currently, experts don't believe that 5G technology has any negative effects on the health of those in proximity. That being said, federal law prevents us from commenting on or taking into consideration the 5G discussion (the health aspect is exclusively handled by the FCC; we as the Board of Supervisors are responsible only for the land use component of the application). The location, extent, and character of the tower are consistent with our 2019 General Plan, which requires proposed telecommunications facilities to be on public use sites and be designed to minimize visual impact. In addition, the Board received a letter of support for the application from the Brambleton Community Association.

Arcola Grove Commercial

[ZMAP-2020-0010](#) & [SPMI-2020-0013](#)

The July Public Hearing also included an application to rezone 23.44 acres from Rural Commercial (RC) zoning to Planned Development – Industrial Park

(PD-IP) in the Arcola area. The property is located just to the north of the future Dulles West Boulevard and west of the future Arcola Boulevard in the Arcola area. The applicant is seeking to develop 600,000 sq. ft. in either warehouse or data center uses.

The proposal is consistent with the 2019 General Plan for employment uses in the area, but I have some concerns over how the applicant would intend to serve the site with power if it were to develop as a data center (they have included the potential of locating a substation onsite). The PD-IP zoning district requires distribution lines to be located underground, but that would not include transmission lines needed to connect a potential substation to the power grid.

I also have concerns about their Zoning Modification request to reduce the required 100 ft. building setback from Arcola Boulevard to 75 ft. Other development along Arcola Boulevard has been allowed to locate at 75 ft. since it was approved prior to that road's designation changing in 2019. However, the other uses that exist or are planned on the western side of Arcola Boulevard are townhome residential and retail, nothing to the size and scale of what is proposed with this application.

The Board voted to send the application to the September 8 Business Meeting for action in order to get additional information and resolution on these issues. Given the consistency with the General Plan and staff's recommendation, I expect this application to move forward, but I'm seeking resolution on the topics I've raised before it does.

LOUDOUN UPDATES

Countywide Linear Parks and Trails Plan

Back in 2019, the Board directed the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Board to develop a Countywide plan for the development and construction of public trails and linear parks. As we continue to build out transportation infrastructure around the County, we are becoming painfully aware of the locations in which missing links exist for trails and road connections. Through our legislative processes and proffer packages we have been able to build out some of this missing infrastructure, but having a comprehensive plan for the future of linear parks and trails in the County has been quite helpful.

At our July 6 Business Meeting, the Board approved the Linear Parks and Trails System Plan as provided in an update from staff. The plan included a scope of the work done so far and the timeline for the future, schedule updates, an insight into the current state of Loudoun's linear parks and trails, community survey results, and next steps (including the 10-year plan and the refining process for design guidelines). The primary tasks that are associated with the overall project and that are driving the work done by PROS include design elements to ensure aesthetic and mechanical integrity of parks and trails, financing to make sure the projects are delivered on time, community engagement to garner public input at every step of the process, and master planning of signature projects. Having this plan in place will serve as a guide for securing future right of way or easements to make connections.

The original drafts of the plan were light on the southern part of Loudoun. The lack of connectivity across Route 50 is a major impediment and will remain so until an overpass/interchange is built. However, there is the potential for connectivity with several other points that we asked PRCS staff to explore. The result is a new planned recreational trail utilizing the Cub Run Trail as an access point to the planned Elk Lick Preserve trail network located in Fairfax County on the south side of Braddock Road. The planned Broad Run Trail would

serve as a north/south corridor beginning in the southern Ashburn Area and running to Dulles South.

Next steps include the planning team reviewing the maps and methodology with the County and stakeholders, and refining data inputs in response to those discussions. This process will ensure that the final methodology included in the parks and trails maps accurately reflects the needs of Loudoun's communities. Staff provided us with a ten-year plan of action for implementing these projects, so the process involves a lot of long-term planning. I'll keep you updated in the future as things move forward. To see the plan documents yourself, please click [here](#).

Real Estate Tax Relief for Elderly or Permanently Disabled Residents

At our July Public Hearing, the Board voted 7-0-2 to increase the maximum annual household income to qualify for real estate tax relief for elderly and permanently disabled residents. This update reflects cost of living increases. The changes will be enshrined in Loudoun's Codified Ordinances to take effect January 1, 2022, and the Board will review the program every four years to ensure future proofing against inflation and other issues. Tax relief was an important part of the County's fiscal response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the more we can codify assistance for residents the better. The current and new annual income brackets are listed below. For more information, click [here](#).

Current Annual Income Brackets	New Annual Income Brackets (Effective January 1, 2022)
\$0 - \$72,000	\$0 - \$77,000
\$0 - \$65,000	\$0 - \$70,000
\$0 - \$59,000	\$0 - \$63,000
\$0 - \$52,000	\$0 - \$56,000
\$0 - \$46,000	\$0 - \$49,000

Local Administration of the Loudoun Health Department

Each year, the Board of Supervisors adopts a Legislative Program that outlines initiatives we would like to see come to fruition with the General Assembly in Richmond. As part of the 2021 Legislative Program, the Board sought authorization from the GA for Loudoun County to enter into a contract with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to operate and locally administer the Loudoun Health Department (LHD). Legislation introduced by Senator Favola at the General Assembly allowed this transition to take place, and the Board voted at our July 20 Business Meeting to begin the steps to locally administer the LHD. Staff will now develop a contract with the VDH to account for financial aspects of the transition, as well as terms and conditions. The contract execution and conversion are expected to take about a year, but I'll keep you updated on the timeline in case we are able to accelerate it. Currently we are expecting to hear more next spring.

Local administration of the Health Department will allow for greater efficiency in day to day operations, as well as better allocation of resources based on the local knowledge of providers and doctors. Local administration will alleviate strain on dual systems being utilized by both the state and the locality and will allow for greater equity among employees. We saw both the VDH and LHD play a crucial role in the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is always better to remove red tape from a process as integral to community wellbeing as public health.

Most health departments are still administered by the state, but County-administered health departments do not eliminate any services required by law or operate below the required level of service. The health department will be run by a locally appointed director of health services who has intimate knowledge of the community they are serving. I was happy to see this change go forward.

Collective Bargaining for Public Employees

At our July 20 Business Meeting, the Board took another step toward implementing a collective bargaining ordinance with a 6-3 vote directing staff to finalize an ordinance authorizing the traditional model of collective bargaining and recognizing labor unions or other employee associations as bargaining agents for eligible County employees. The Board also voted 6-3 that a collective bargaining unit is authorized by a majority of those who vote in an election rather than a majority of those who work in the unit.

I voted against both motions. I have explained at length [my objections to collective bargaining](#) in the past, and I won't reiterate them all here. My major concern is that establishing a third party bargaining unit and codified contracts years in advance eliminates the County's pay for performance system, which has served us well during our period of growth and improved service delivery. It also necessitates millions of dollars in new staffing costs to manage labor relations, and it injects a layer between management and the Board that I think could hurt cohesion, innovation, and productivity.

During the entire debate, my colleagues have never pointed to any particular changes they want to see in the County's wage or benefit scales. Why? Because the Board has already taken steps to improve them, increase pay, and modernize benefits. There have been arguments about the past, specifically during the era of the Great Recession, in which cuts were made and workloads were too high in some areas. The Boards at the time were dealing with a true economic crisis and did their best to keep the lights on and people employed, so I don't think that is a fair example.

It was originally expected that a final ordinance would be presented at the July 20 meeting; however, that ordinance was not ready as the unions and the County are still apart on some terms. The Board

voted to send the ordinance to the October Public Hearing, where the public will have a chance to comment. The Board will also be having a closed session in September to discuss some of the outstanding issues, so I'll have more commentary as the conversation continues.

Proposed Cigarette Tax

At our July Public Hearing, the Board forwarded an ordinance to establish a cigarette tax to the September 8 Business Meeting for action. The General Assembly recently granted localities the authority to increase the cigarette tax rate. The state charges .60 a pack, but counties have not had the ability to tax cigarettes. Interestingly, through the quirk that is Virginia government, cities and towns have had that ability to and have done so for quite some time. In addition, Fairfax County was granted its own special exemption and is allowed to impose a County cigarette tax, which is set at .30 cents per pack.

The General Assembly is now allowing other counties to impose a tax of .40 cents per pack (2 cents per cigarette). Prince William County, Arlington, and Alexandria are moving forward with this tax, while Clarke County is setting their rate at .20 cents.

I am interested to see what Fairfax County decides to do. If they do not raise the rate, I would probably prefer that Loudoun set a rate to match Fairfax's .30. Even at .40, the overall level of taxation in Loudoun would be far less than in West Virginia and Maryland.

Inventory of Confederate and Segregationist Symbols

At our July 6 Business Meeting, the Board heard from staff an inventory of confederate and segregationist symbols located on public property or

within the public right of way in Loudoun County. The Board had previously directed staff to compile the inventory and recommend steps that could be taken to eliminate such symbols. The Board asked staff to pay special attention to monuments that were erected to honor or memorialize confederate or segregationist figures or history. The inventory came back with about a dozen such names identified, around half of which were part of a single development in western Loudoun in which the streets were named after confederate generals.

The Board directed staff to develop a work plan (including a timeline, public engagement process, and cost estimates) to remove or change the identified confederate and segregationist symbols, including names of roads and public facilities. We also voted to remove the name of Kephart Landing in Leesburg (one of the identified locations) and have staff from Parks, Recreation, and Community Services submit new names for the landing. Finally, the Board directed staff to obtain cost estimates from consultants to conduct further research on building names that were not included in the inventory but whose origins are unknown. Two cost estimates will be brought before the Board in September: one based on a thorough review of all sites in the County and one based on the existing inventory of symbols that staff has already compiled. I think it will be very important to obtain public input and cost estimates on these changes. Some names are clearly more egregious than others, which have ambiguous origins or could have multiple meanings.

As a reminder, the process is currently underway to rename Route 7 (Harry Byrd Highway) and Route 50 (John Mosby Highway); there is information below on how to submit a proposal for new names.

Board Denies Sterling Rezoning

The Board of Supervisors voted to deny a request to rezone 4.73 acres in the Sterling area. The application

requested to change the zoning designation from single family residential to multifamily residential to allow 50 single family attached units near the W&OD Trail. I initially voted in favor of the application when it first came before the Board in early June. Although there were some concerns with the applicant not meeting commitments that had been made to other Supervisors, staff felt that the applicant was mitigating impacts. However, that vote failed 3-3 over concerns with proffer commitments and mitigation of impacts from some Board members. The tie vote (in part due to absent Supervisors) meant the application needed to be brought back before the Board in July when everyone was present. When the application came back, the applicant further reduced its proffer commitment, and no longer mitigated the impacts of the new development. The applicant also removed their Fire and Rescue contribution. With those changes, I could no longer support the application and voted to deny the rezoning, which failed 7-0-2. The applicant has now served the County with a lawsuit challenging the denial.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submit New Names for Routes 50 & 7

Loudoun County is seeking public input for the renaming of Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) and John Mosby Highway (Route 50). Members of the public are encouraged to submit names for consideration by the end of the day today, July 30, 2021. Details are available [here](#).

New Loudoun Animal Services Facility

The new animal shelter (42225 Adoption Drive in Leesburg) will be open for regular business hours July 31 – August 1. Adoption hours will be 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

In addition, throughout the weekend, LCAS will host a series of grand opening events that are free and open to the public. Some events require pre-registration.

- 11:00 a.m. - noon, Touch-a-Truck: Meet a Humane Law Enforcement Officer, learn about their vehicle, equipment and how they help animals in Loudoun County
- 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Guided Tours: Guided tours of the new facility on the hour
- 12:00 p.m., Busy Buddies: Join LCAS staff for animal enrichment activities and learn about the importance of keeping pets' minds busy! Volunteers of all ages are welcome.
- 4:00 p.m., Critters & Crafts: Kids of all ages are invited to the community room for a fun craft and animal activity!

For more information about the grand opening events and to pre-register for activities, visit loudoun.gov/animalsgrandopening.

Loudoun County Transit Commuter Bus Service Adjustments

Loudoun County Transit will modify Commuter Bus Service beginning Monday, August 2, 2021. Due to changes in passenger demands, new Commuter Bus routes will be added to increase service at Dulles South (Stone Ridge II) and East Gate Park and Ride lots, and to add new service at Purcellville and Harmony Park and Ride lots. Schedules and stops for existing routes will also be modified. Details on the service adjustments are available online at loudoun.gov/buschanges and below:

New routes

- New Commuter Bus routes stopping at the Dulles South (Stone Ridge II) and

East Gate Park and Ride lots will be added as follows:

- Route 284: two trips in the morning from Loudoun to the Pentagon.
- Route 684: two trips in the afternoon from the Pentagon to Loudoun.
- New Commuter Bus route stopping at Purcellville and Harmony Park and Ride Lots will be added as follows:
 - Route 483: one trip in the morning from Loudoun to Washington, D.C.
 - Route 883: one trip in the afternoon from Washington, D.C. to Loudoun

Route changes

- The Commuter Bus stop at 14th & F Streets NW has been eliminated and a new stop at F & 11 Streets NW (Penn Quarter area) has been added for the following existing routes:
 - Route 281: two trips in the morning from Loudoun to Washington, D.C. at newly scheduled times.
 - Route 481: five trips in the morning from Loudoun to Washington, D.C. at newly scheduled times.
 - Route 681: two trips in the afternoon from Washington, D.C. to Loudoun at newly scheduled times.
 - Route 881: five trips in the afternoon from Washington, D.C. to Loudoun at newly scheduled times.

Schedule changes

- Commuter Bus schedules for most existing morning and afternoon routes will change up to seven minutes. Riders

are encouraged to review the August 2, 2021 Commuter Bus Schedule posted at loudoun.gov/buschanges to prepare for new arrival and departure times.

Loudoun County Transit has made operational changes following the guidance of local, state and national health authorities to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure on the system's buses. Although the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) extended the face mask requirement for individuals across all transportation networks in the United States through September 13, 2021, Virginia lifted mandates for physical distancing on transit buses. For more information, visit loudoun.gov/covid19transit.

Over the coming weeks, Loudoun County Transit will continue to monitor ridership and services for possible additional changes. Details on service changes as well as current schedules may be found at loudoun.gov/buschanges.

Education & Support Program for Caregivers

The Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is offering free, virtual education sessions to help ease the burden and stress of caring for loved ones. The August/September series begins Tuesday, August 3, 2021. All sessions are held from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EST. The series includes the following sessions:

- Tuesday, August 3. "Providing Purpose and Safety for Wandering Behaviors" presented by Sally Gehl with the Eastern Loudoun Adult Day Center and Master Deputy Matthew Devaney with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office
- Tuesday, August 10: "How to Handle Caregiver Stress and Burnout" presented by Rachael Wonderlin, MS, with Dementia by Day

- Tuesday, September 12: "Legal Planning for Caregivers" presented by Rory Clark, Esq., with The Legacy Elder Law Center
- Wednesday, September 29: "When and Why to Consider Memory Care" presented by Rachael Wonderlin, MS, with Dementia by Day

To sign up for these free, virtual sessions, [email aaasupport](#). To learn more about AAA programs and community resources, visit loudoun.gov/aaa or call 703-777-0257 to speak with an aging programs specialist. The Area Agency on Aging is a division of the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

VEC Claimant Opportunities

The Virginia Employment Commission is pleased to offer claimants the option to schedule appointments to speak directly to a representative from the Virginia Employment Commission regarding their claim. Appointments are very limited and are not guaranteed to lead to any resolution or payment of claims. Virginia Career Works Centers are available to provide job seeker assistance on-site but will not be able to provide in-person assistance with your unemployment insurance claim, it will only be provided by phone appointments.

You can schedule an appointment based on your permanent residence at <https://vaunemploymenthelp.as.me/schedule.php>. Please do not schedule more than one appointment and only schedule an appointment that is applicable to your permanent residence.

A VEC representative will be calling based on your appointment time/day. Please be sure to answer your phone, as the number may show up on caller identification as "restricted" or "unknown". Staff will attempt to call one time and if there is no answer, they will try one additional time and then will move

onto other appointments. Alternatively, you may also call the customer contact center at 1 (866) 832-2363. Please note, wait times in the customer contact center may be long due to high call volumes.

Work in Loudoun Summer

Thousands of high-paying seasonal jobs and long-term employment opportunities are currently open with Loudoun businesses, just as COVID-19 mitigation measures have been lifted across the Commonwealth. Search the largest collection of publicly listed positions, today, at biz.loudoun.gov/loudounjobs.

Loudoun Economic Development offers a suite of services through its Work in Loudoun initiative that are designed to connect existing and prospective businesses with the region's workforce. While the summer campaign is focusing on seasonal employment that might be best suited for students, teachers, or someone re-entering the workforce, thousands of opportunities exist for long-term employment as well.

Dulles South Neighborhood Closet

Dulles South Neighborhood Closet is hosting a free community clothing event on Sat., Aug. 14 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Community Baptist Church, located at 43100 Center Street in South Riding. Clean, gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories will be gratefully accepted at Community Baptist Church on Sat., Aug. 7, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; Wed., Aug. 11, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Thurs., Aug. 12, 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.. Contact info@dullescloset.org or 703-957-8044 by Aug. 10 to register to attend the event. Priority to families with a referral from a local school, Dulles South Food Pantry, or a local church or temple. See dullescloset.org for more information or to sign up to volunteer. Look for upcoming events on Nov. 13 and Dec. 4.

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.

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. Register through the [Virginia Volunteer Health System](#).

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