



May 2022

Welcome to the May 2022 edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter. I have been particularly busy over the last few weeks in my capacity as a member of the Metro Board of Directors. As you may have seen in the news, Metro had some safety failings, and there have been several significant personnel changes including the hiring of a new General Manager. I have been involved in many additional meetings and discussions as the Board works to address these issues. More information is below.

Last week, I sent out an email about the rise in COVID-19 cases in Loudoun. I know everyone has COVID fatigue, but the CDC has returned us to the “medium” level on the community impact level. Several of my colleagues on the Board have publicly disclosed that they have tested positive in the last week, and I’ve heard from others in the community experiencing the same thing. Health professionals recommend that those who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease should consider wearing a mask when in public and social distancing. In addition, if you have not gotten your booster shot, now would be a good time to do so. Vaccine boosters are available for the 5-11 age group: more information on that in the announcements section at the end of the newsletter. There are also other viruses going around; I’ve had a nasty one that I can’t quite seem to identify myself

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(but have tested negative for COVID several times). Like other professions, the medical community is stretched thin, so we'll continue to keep a close eye to make sure that residents are able to access care.

Earlier this month, the Board recognized Small Business Week in Loudoun. Small Business Week is a fantastic annual opportunity to promote local small businesses in the County and highlight the excellent work they are doing. Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy and actively give back to the community. During Small Business Week, members of the Board try to visit our Loudoun small businesses, and this year I had the pleasure of visiting Frontier Kitchen on Pleasant Valley Road. Frontier Kitchen is an incubator for culinary businesses, which means that not only are they a small business themselves, but they also are helping many other small businesses get off the ground. Startup food businesses such as restaurants, caterers, food trucks, and farmers market providers rent space at Frontier to utilize commercial kitchen and food storage areas. Frontier provides mentorship and business training, and eventually "graduates" their clients to their own spaces. I got to witness one such graduation when I visited Frontier's open house. Congratulations to Frontier's CEO Brenda Cromer, who is doing great work right here in our neighborhood, and we look forward to continuing to provide them with support.

Metro Update

Hal & Berni Hanson
Regional Park Project
Update

Announcements

Matthew F. Letourneau

Dulles District Supervisor,
Loudoun County Board of
Supervisors

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

Principal Director
[Washington Metropolitan
Area Transit Authority
Board of Directors](#)

Member
[Rt. 28 Transportation
Improvement District
Commission](#)

Member
[Northern Virginia
Transportation Commission](#)

Member
[Transportation Planning
Board](#)

Member
[Dulles Area Transportation
Association](#)

Contact Me



May was Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month nationwide, and I was pleased to co-sponsor a resolution at the Board of Supervisors proclaiming AANHPI Heritage Month in Loudoun. Loudoun's AANHPI community has grown to 23.59% of the total population, and the community is very involved in non-profits, schools, businesses, healthcare, law enforcement, transportation, and more. From the Dulles South area, we were joined at the presentation by Kali Vasanthan from the Dulles South Soup Kitchen. Kali is a wonderful example of the contributions that the AAHPI community is making to the County - in the last year his organization has served 20,000 meals to underprivileged Loudoun residents.

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**Quick Links**

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[Loudoun County Road Maintenance Information](#)



Speaking of the Dulles South Soup Kitchen, I was proud to nominate their leadership as our 2022 Loudoun Cares Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients for the Dulles District. Founder Devina Mahapatra and her team worked tirelessly to get the kitchen off the ground and continue to run daily operations. The kitchen serves hot meals every week at several distribution sites around the County. Devina and Board member Kali Vasanthan accepted the award on behalf of the organization. Thank you for all that you are doing to help those in need in our community. For ways you can aid the kitchen in their mission, please see the announcements section at the end of the newsletter.

[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](#)



May 4 was Youth in Government Day, and I got the chance to meet several students from Dulles District schools. I was joined on the dais at the Business Meeting by a student from Rock Ridge High School, who made motions and asked questions on my behalf as part of a presentation by our Advisory Commission on Youth. I was also able to visit with the students during our dinner break. I always enjoy meeting students interested in government, and I never cease to be impressed with the young people I meet from this program.

It was good to see constituents in person at the South Riding Spring Expo & Derby Day this month. Congratulations to South Riding Proprietary for a successful event, and I enjoyed meeting folks and seeing some familiar faces.



Also this month, I spoke at the Loudoun Valley Estates annual meeting at Stone Hill Middle School. I discussed the latest on the FY23 budget, area infrastructure projects, and the redistricting map that we will vote to approve in June. Redistricting is a big topic for the LVE folks, since almost all of them will be in the Sterling District after the new districts are

adopted. I was pleased to be joined at the meeting by my friend and Sterling District Supervisor Koran Saines, and the two of us were able to answer many questions. Having another representative with constituents in southern Loudoun is a good thing for all of us, as it increases the stakeholders and attention that our issues receive on the Board. I will continue to represent the LVE community through the 2023 elections, and will also be working with Supervisor Saines on specific issues in this area.

I plan to host a Dulles Direct Town Hall meeting on **Wednesday, June 8** beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at John Champe High School (41535 Sacred Mountain Street). This will be my first town hall in-person since the pandemic. For those that are comfortable attending in person, it will be great to see you – but if not, the meeting will also be livestreamed on Facebook. I will be hosting representatives from the Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure to give an update on the Northstar Boulevard project. I will also share other updates on ongoing land use and transportation issues. The livestream will be on my Facebook page [here](#). The video will be posted to the page after the meeting is over if you can't watch it live. You don't need a Facebook account to follow the link and watch the video, but you will need an account if you'd like to leave a comment. I will be giving preference to questions in the room first. I look forward to seeing you all on June 8.

Finally, I am planning once again to send my annual report to every home in the Dulles District this summer. The report contains comprehensive updates on road and infrastructure projects, as well as updates on other important County business. Be on the lookout for the report to land in your mailboxes sometime this July.

DULLES LAND USE UPDATES

Virginia Tire and Auto Sign Plan

[SIDP-2021-0004](#)

At our May 11 Public Hearing, the Board discussed an application from Virginia Tire and Auto to increase the number and size of signs at their automobile service station in the Whitman Commercial Center. The application includes 22 signs (building-mounted with logos to identify the various land bay uses) with a total square footage of 590 sq. ft. The application is 450 sq. ft. over what is currently permitted by the Zoning Ordinance.

I found the applicant's request to be excessive. For context, the application is requesting individual signs between 54 and 108 sq. ft. – a comparable Virginia Tire and Auto approval from 2009 in South Riding limits the sizes to 36-50 sq. ft. per sign. We have heard concerns from the Dulles Farms HOA about the amount of signage given the fact that this property is in the transition area.

The applicant has submitted a revised application that reduces the signage. I am in the process of evaluating these changes.

Mountain View Residential

[ZMAP-2020-0012](#) & [SPEX-2021-0020](#)

At the Board's June Public Hearing, we will hear an application to develop up to 41 single-family attached residential units (townhomes) on about 6.33 acres located on Mountain View Drive north of Tall Cedars Parkway and west of Poland Road. Some residents along Mountain View Drive have expressed concerns related to increased traffic, lack of parking, land preservation, and safety, so I expect those issues to come up at the Public Hearing. The project was recommended for approval 8-0-1 by the Planning Commission and the staff report is generally positive.

Prior to the hearing on June 15, I will be meeting with both the area residents and the applicant. Additionally, I do not expect a final vote at the June 15 meeting, so there will be time for additional input and discussions.

JK Technology Park #3

[ZMAP-2019-0016](#)

At the Board's June Public Hearing, we will hear an application to rezone approximately 21.23 acres from Rural Commercial to Planned Development-Industrial Park for the purpose developing permitted PD-IP uses such as office space or a data center in the Blue Ridge District. Realistically, the developer will be looking to build a data center.

I am very concerned about another data center developing so close to residential units. While the Board has approved two previous similar JK Technology Park applications in the area, we have heard from residents (particularly from the community on Hiddenwood Lane that is near the second JK approval) that the data centers will change the character of their neighborhood, affect home values, and be an eyesore. I voted against JK Technology Park #2, and I am skeptical of this new application as well. In fact, I think that this could be the most impactful of the three JK Technology Park applications. The data center industry is a valuable partner in Loudoun, but we must do a better job of keeping development away from neighborhoods and in more appropriate industrial-oriented areas. The data center study [that I've written about before](#) that is currently making its way through our Transportation and Land Use Committee intends to do just that, so I'd hate to see us approving applications now that will conflict with our goals later. I will keep you posted on the discussion at the hearing.

DULLES UPDATES

VDOT Resurfacing Projects

The repaving of Loudoun County Parkway between Braddock Road and Route 50 is now complete. Repaving on Overland Drive and Pebble Run Place and resurfacing of Evergreen Ridge Drive is underway. VDOT will also be paving Ticonderoga Road this year with a start date to be determined.

For an interactive statewide map of which roads VDOT will be paving or resurfacing in 2022, please click [here](#).

VDOT Maintenance of Medians and Roads

My office has been in regular contact with VDOT about mowing and other maintenance issues in the Dulles District. The VDOT Arcola Area HQ is currently understaffed and there have been issues with mowing contractor support as well. That is resulting in some delays to service delivery. We are trying to work with them to make sure the most pressing safety issues are addressed the soonest. Grass seems to be growing at an even faster rate than normal this year thanks to lots of rain and relatively modest temperatures (until the last few days anyway), so that is contributing to some of the issues.

VDOT also conducts street sweeping, although it is very limited. We were able to work with them to get the Route 50 multimodal trail cleaned up last week (there were a lot of issues there). They are planning to work on curbs and gutters along Route 50 in the next few weeks. The buildup of sand and debris on 50 is creating some drainage issues, which is evident when there is a lot of rain.

South Riding Boulevard/Defender Drive Intersection

At our May 17 Business Meeting, the Board approved my Board Member Initiative (BMI) to

reevaluate the Defender Drive/South Riding Boulevard intersection. The County's 2020 Intersection Improvement Program includes an inventory of 892 signalized and non-signalized intersections in the County and ranks them according to accidents and operational issues. This program ranks Defender/South Riding as "low priority" for improvements. However, I think that ranking is because the data supporting the study is from 2018, and circumstances on the ground have changed considerably since then. Only nine crashes were recorded from 2014-2018. In 2021 alone, there were ten crashes. The average daily traffic measured over the course of a year has also increased from 2400 vehicle trips per day to 3400 in that time period. Commercial growth has also expanded – a large hotel, fitness facility, and restaurant have gone in nearby since the traffic study was conducted. My BMI requests that the County's Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure use more recent data to determine if the intersection can be moved up in the priority ranking, making it eligible for improvement sooner than it would have been otherwise. DTCI is already working on an update to the Intersection Improvement Program, so the timing could work out.

The intersection is close to Route 50 – which is the source of many of the problems and probably means there is no easy fix – but there is more by-right commercial development permitted on Defender Drive in the near future, and I am worried about safety at the intersection degrading even further. We are currently aware of a by-right site plan approval for a 10,000 sq. ft. inline retail center, a 24,000 sq. ft. granite and marble showroom/manufacturing business, and a 233 student childcare center. There is one other pad site left with no activity yet, and another 10-acre site that is zoned for commercial use.

Now that my BMI has been approved, DTCI will return to the Board with updated metrics on the intersection and we can determine how to proceed.

Dulles Airport Runway Maintenance

I have received several emails in the last few weeks complaining about increased airplane noise from Dulles Airport. I reached out to the Noise Manager at the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, and I want to brief you on what I learned. Runway 12/30, which runs east to west, is closed for maintenance until June 17. Runway 30 is frequently used for departures. Aircraft that would normally depart Runway 30 to the west are now departing to the north or south depending on wind direction and wind speed and then turning west, which is creating noise levels that some communities are not used to. Normal flight patterns are expected to be restored following completion of the maintenance work.

Solar Project at Dulles Airport

At our May 17 Business Meeting, the Board approved a Resolution of Intent to Amend the County Zoning Map to remap the Dulles Airport property from Residential Single Family (R-2) to Planned Development-General Industry. The R-2 designation is a holdover from decades ago and obviously makes no sense for airport property.

In addition, the Board voted to amend the PD-GI regulations to add “utility generating plant and transmission facility, ground-mounted solar energy generation facility only” to the list of allowed uses. All that is to say that the Board is initiating a process to permit Dominion Energy to establish a large-scale solar and storage project at Dulles Airport. County staff has proposed an “aggressive” timeline for the amendments, with the Planning Commission Public Hearing to be held on June 28 and the Board of Supervisors Public Hearing to be held on July 12. After those required hearings, the amendments would continue moving through the approval process.

The project will be taking place exclusively on 835 acres of unused land at the airport that has no future

plans for development. The Solar + Storage Project, as it is being called, will allow Dominion to install thousands of acres of solar panels in the next 37 years. In return, Dominion will build and operate a two megawatt solar carport at the airport and provide a fleet of electric vehicles for airport operations.

There is some legal discussion between the County and MWAA about whether the County has zoning authority over non-aviation uses on Airport property. The County Attorney believes we do, and this approval is necessary. In the meantime, besides this zoning action, the solar project will need approvals from the FAA, Department of Transportation, and State Corporation Commission.

Northstar Boulevard - Tall Cedars Parkway to Route 50

Construction is progressing on our project to complete the missing link of Northstar Boulevard between Tall Cedars Parkway and Route 50. Concrete foundations for the bridge over the Broad Run have been poured and a box culvert has been installed to maintain the flow of water underneath the roadway. Crews have also begun installing the first stormwater pond and modifying the median at the intersection of Northstar and 50. The stormwater pipe is being installed, and utilities and earthwork are underway in the immediate vicinity. Estimated completion for the project is currently late 2023 or early 2024.



LOUDOUN UPDATES

Feasibility of Commuter Bus Service to Loudoun

At our May 17 Business Meeting, the full Board of Supervisors approved my Board Member Initiative (BMI) to study the feasibility of providing commuter bus service to points north and west such as

Frederick, MD and Winchester, VA. To date, our commuter bus services have been intended to help County residents leave Loudoun for employment. I'd like to focus on bringing more employees into the County given workforce, affordable housing, and cost of living concerns. There are many employees at Loudoun-based businesses and local government facilities that commute from jurisdictions along routes 7, 9, and 15. Providing commuter bus service to such localities will reduce vehicle trips and support employers that are seeking more workers.

Commuter bus ridership was between 3,300 and 4,650 riders per day on 53 buses serving over 115 routes before the pandemic. Post-COVID ridership is only at 9% of that: we are currently running 49 routes with 31 buses. I think it could make sense to look at better utilization of our buses to provide traffic release and assist economic development.

Staff will now conduct a feasibility study and return to the Board with more information, at which point I'll provide an update.

Redistricting

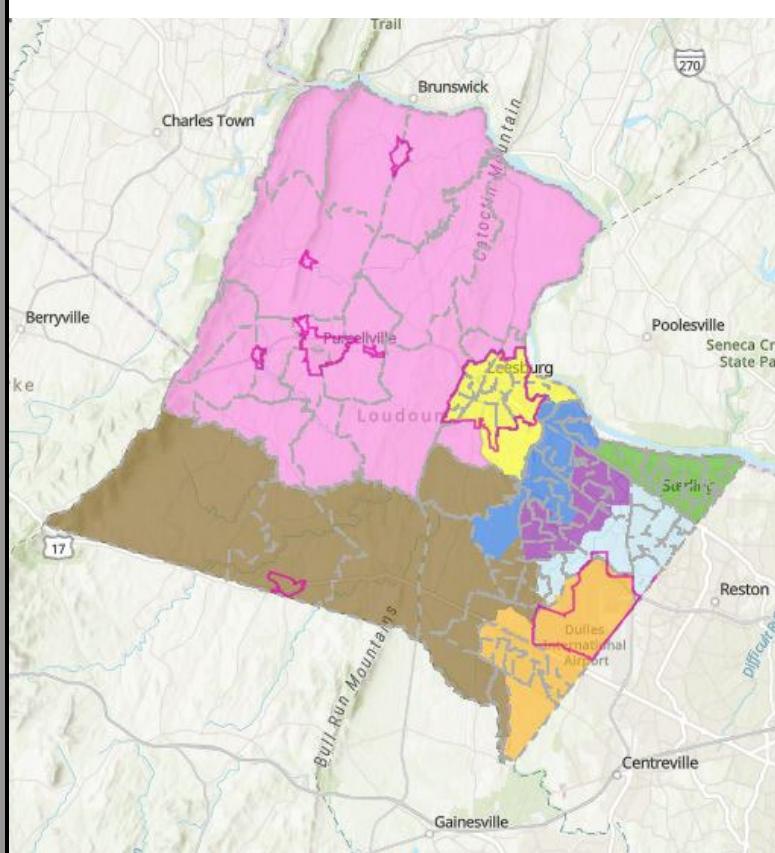
The County's redistricting plan was on the agenda at the May 11 Public Hearing. There were no substantial changes from the last update I provided, and we heard from two members of the public at the hearing. One of the questions that was raised is about what the districts mean for services, so to clarify: our County district lines do not impact school districts or Sheriff's Office enforcement areas – those are separate processes that are determined by the individual entities. The County districts determine your elected representative on the Board of Supervisors and School Board. Furthermore, there is no data to suggest that what district you are in affects the value of your home. While I certainly hope that folks in the Dulles District are happy with my representation, I doubt it is much of a factor either way in their decisions about where to buy or sell a

home. The district that a property is in will not impact its property value.

As a reminder, the revised Letourneau-Turner plan creates a large western district that encompasses everything north and west of Leesburg. The town of Leesburg will be a district by itself, with a district south of Leesburg covering Middleburg, Aldie, Brambleton, and most of the Transition Policy Area. There will also be a district east of Leesburg and an Ashburn area district south of Route 7 stretching from Moorefield Station to One Loudoun, and east to Kincora. The new Sterling area district under our plan will include Dulles Town Center and the Loudoun Valley Estates communities. Our (southeastern) district will include the airport as well as South Riding, Stone Ridge, and communities east of Gum Spring Road and south of Route 50. The area north of 50 (Arcola Center, Dulles Landing, StoneSprings Hospital, etc.) will be included in our new Dulles district. Supervisor Turner and I sought to keep HOAs and other communities together as much as possible.

We will officially be keeping the name Dulles for our district. In fact, all the districts will retain their current names except Blue Ridge – which will become the Little River District.

The Board will vote to approve the plan in June, and it will then go to the Virginia Attorney General for final approval, which we expect sometime in September. We have followed all legal requirements for drawing the new districts, so I don't anticipate any issues during review by the Commonwealth.



Metro Update

As I mentioned before, I am one of the two Virginia representatives on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors (Metro Board). I have several things to update you on related to Metro. Here are some common questions I receive:

What's happening with the Silver Line and when will it open? I still can't give you a precise date, but the answer is that we are getting close and I fully expect Phase 2 to be open this year. The construction of Phase 2 has been managed by the Airports Authority, and Metro has been very public about issues that needed to be resolved in order for the project to be completed and accepted by WMATA. Obviously, the delays have been very frustrating. Over the last several weeks, progress has been made on the outstanding issues and I expect further updates on timing soon. There remains a

negotiation between WMATA and MWAA about an escrow fund for known defects with the project, which is important for Metro so that we don't bear the burden of additional maintenance due to issues during the construction process.

What about the safety issues that have been in the news? The Board was notified by our Chief Safety Officer about two concerning issues: the practice of granting waivers to rail operators instead of completing training according to policy, and the lack of execution on the newly formed Power Desk. The certification issue started during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the practice was continued and in our judgement should not have been. While there are no federal regulations in this area, WMATA policy is that rail operators go through a one-week recertification process annually. It is understandable that during the peak pandemic period, it was difficult to do that because it requires in-person training. But there was a lack of focus in getting back to an acceptable schedule. The Interim General Manager and Safety Officer immediately took 72 operators off the line and developed a plan to have all the operators with expired certificates retrained quickly. Fortunately, there was only a minor impact to our operations which lasted less than a week.

The Power Desk issue reflects a failure to enact the intent of the Safety Officer in establishing a dedicated desk dealing with electrification. The desk was established but not properly staffed, and the personnel were not focused solely on what their roles were supposed to be.

Following a Board executive session regarding these issues, General Manager Paul Wiedefeld announced his retirement effective immediately, and Chief Operating Officer Joe Leader resigned effective immediately.

Finally, about half of the WMATA rail fleet is out of service due to a derailment that occurred. It is important to note that the investigation into the cause

of this derailment is being led by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), not WMATA. To date, there have been no identified failures attributed to WMATA that led to the derailment. WMATA has developed plans to inspect and return 7000 series trains to service throughout the summer, as we await the report from the NTSB on the root cause of the derailment, and potential mitigation.

So who is in charge? The Board appointed Andy Off as Interim General Manager. Andy is a long time WMATA executive who was serving as VP of Capital Delivery, which included working on Silver Line Phase II. I know Andy well and I'm impressed with his approach. In the two weeks that he has been in charge, he's taken decisive actions to improve safety and reliability.

What about long term? This is the good news that I'm pleased to share. The Board has hired Randy Clarke, CEO of CapMetro in Austin, Texas, as our next General Manager and CEO. Randy has also served as an executive for the American Public Transit Association, and held a variety of operational and safety positions for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) in Boston. The Board had many well qualified candidates to choose from. Randy stood out because of his incredible energy, enthusiasm, track record of success, and detailed plan for how to improve WMATA. I believe that Randy is the right person for the job, and I enthusiastically voted to hire him. I am looking forward to introducing him to our Virginia Metro stakeholders.

Bond Ratings

Once again, Loudoun County has retained its AAA General Obligation Bond ratings from Fitch, Moody's, and Standard & Poor's. AAA is the highest bond rating available, and it allows us to borrow money to finance capital infrastructure projects at the

lowest possible interest rates. Receiving such high marks is crucial to getting the projects in our six-year CIP built efficiently and cost effectively. Loudoun has an excellent track record of attaining AAA ratings, but the revenue impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been fiscally challenging over the last few years. The credit rating agencies, when analyzing the County's finances, noted our resilient response to the pandemic, the diversity of our commercial sector, our diverse and sizeable tax base, our strong economic prospects, and our excellent fiscal track record. Thanks to our team for their hard work, and congratulations on retaining the highest possible bond ratings for another year!

Hal & Berni Hanson Regional Park Project Update

Work on various structures throughout the Hal and Berni Hanson Region Park continues, including at the onsite storefronts. Crews are continuing to build the turn lane entrances on Evergreen Mills Road, including construction of traffic signals and the concrete sidewalk. Underground utilities and electrical systems are still being installed parkwide. Construction is expected to be complete sometime in June.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrate South Riding

Celebrate South Riding will be held on Friday, June 3 from 5:00 - 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 4 from 12:00 - 10:00 p.m. at the Dulles South Recreation and Community Center (24950 Riding Center Drive). This year's festivities will include a full array of carnival rides, games, cotton candy, funnel cakes, food vendors, a kids stage, live music on the main stage, and a beer and wine garden. For more information and to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

Dulles South Soup Kitchen Summer Benefit Event

The Dulles South Soup Kitchen will hold its Summer Benefit Event on Saturday, June 11, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Conche in Leesburg. The event will feature a signature chocolate making class by chocolatier Sara Dobson and executive pastry chef Kathleen Faliskie, as well as an exclusive lunch with a customized menu designed by celebrity chef Santosh Tiptur. The event is a great way to support the work of the kitchen while enjoying good food and an engaging class. To sign up, click [here](#).

More information on how you can get involved with the Dulles South Soup Kitchen is below.

Workforce Resource Center Job Fair Tailgate

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center will host a Loudoun Job Fair Tailgate with local employers Thursday, June 9, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Franklin Park, located at 17501 Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville, in the parking lots by the baseball fields.

The Loudoun Job Fair Tailgate will feature local employers with full-time, part-time, and temporary job openings in Loudoun County and the region. Hiring employers will be on-site alongside their vehicles, where they will meet with job

candidates. Job seekers will be provided parking near the venue and will be encouraged to enter the tailgate lot to share resumes with employers.

Employers attending include Amazon, Anthony's Italian, Books International, Capital City Nurses, Home Helpers of Leesburg, Loudoun County Government (including the following departments: Juvenile Court Service Unit, Fire & Rescue, Fire & Rescue – Volunteers, Parks, Recreation, and Community Services), Loudoun County Public Schools, Plexus Scientific, Primrose Schools of Ashburn and Broadlands, and Reston Limousine. Some of the industries represented include government, protective services, healthcare, recreation, education, warehouse and professional/technical.

Individuals planning to attend the job fair are [encouraged to register](#) to receive updates and reminders, details on participating employers and possible rain dates.

To help job seekers get the most out of the job fair, the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center is hosting a virtual preparatory workshop entitled “Ready, Set, Go to the Job Fair” on Thursday, June 2, 2022, from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Register at loudoun.gov/wrcworkshops. Additionally, the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center is providing free copies of the publication “Turn a Job Fair Into a Job Offer.” Contact the center at wrc@loudoun.gov or 703-771-5132 to request a copy.

Anyone who requires a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability in order to participate in the event may call 703-777-0150. Three days' notice is requested.

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center, a [Virginia Career Works](#) affiliate, helps businesses identify well-qualified applicants and helps those looking for work find the right fit. For more information, contact the center at 703-777-0150 or visit loudoun.gov/wrc.

Linear Parks and Trails Ribbon Cutting

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services is hosting a ribbon cutting for the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy segment of the Linear Parks and Trails System. It will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at 45299 Research Place in Ashburn. Parking is available onsite, with the event happening nearby. A short trail walk will follow the ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of the first portion of the Linear Parks and Trails Program. For more information on the LPAT program, click [here](#).

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event at Freedom High School

Loudoun is continuing its Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program with periodic collection events throughout the year. This 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. Most of these items are recyclable or accepted at other disposal events throughout the year.

The Dulles area collection will take place on Saturday, June 25 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Freedom High School (25450 Riding Center Drive in South Riding). More information, including a semi-comprehensive list of what does and doesn't constitute household hazardous waste and a full schedule of times and locations for collection events, can be obtained by visiting this [site](#). For information on recycling, please click [here](#).

COVID-19 Information

The CDC has [expanded the eligibility of COVID-19 vaccine booster doses to everyone 5 years of age and older](#). The CDC now recommends that children ages 5 through 11 years should receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series. This follows the [recommendation of the Food and Drug Administration issued earlier this month](#).

[The Virginia Department of Health has adopted the CDC guidance](#) and authorizes providers in Virginia to begin administering the booster dose immediately to eligible children.

In addition, in the wake of rising COVID-19 cases, the CDC has strengthened its recommendation that [everyone who is eligible should receive a second booster dose at least 4 months after their first dose](#). This includes those 12 and older who are immunocompromised and anyone 50 and older.

With the new CDC guidance for booster doses, it's important for people to know when they completed their initial series so that they can appropriately time a booster. The dates of the initial series and boosters are on your vaccination card issued at the time of the shots. If you received your shots in Virginia and have misplaced the card, you can find the date by [searching for your vaccine record online](#). If you need assistance over the phone, call 866-375-9795. Assistance is available Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Virginia Department of Health has included a [scannable QR code on vaccination records](#). The technology allows anyone vaccinated in Virginia to show proof of vaccination with a digital or printed QR code instead of a paper card.

COVID-19 vaccines are widely available at pharmacies in Loudoun County, including CVS, Walgreens, Giant, Wegmans, Harris Teeter, and others. Call your local pharmacy or visit their website to make an appointment. You may also search for

available COVID-19 vaccines at [vaccines.gov](#). The County is no longer operating a distribution pod site. If you have questions or need assistance finding a COVID-19 vaccination location near you, you may call the COVID-19 information line at 703-737-8300, Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Information is also available at [loudoun.gov/coronavirus](#).

Every home in the United States is eligible to order a third round of free at-home COVID-19 tests courtesy of the federal government. To order yours today, please click [here](#). If you need help placing your order, call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).

Loudoun County encourages everyone to stay informed about COVID-19:

- Sign up for email and text updates about Loudoun's response to COVID19 at [loudoun.gov/coronavirus](#).
- Opt in to receive text message updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic:
English: Text LCCOVID19 to 888777
Spanish: Text LCCOVIDESP to 888777
- Follow the [Loudoun County Government Facebook page](#) and [@LoudounCoGovt on Twitter](#)

For additional information about COVID-19, visit [loudoun.gov/coronavirus](#), call the Health Department's information line at 703-737-8300, or [email the Health Department](#).

Donations to Local Food Banks

Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry (DSFP) can be made in person at the pantry at 24757 Arcola Mills Drive on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or Mondays from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., or [online](#). DSFP 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 info@dsfp.org to schedule an appointment. See the pantry's [website](#) for information on how you can help fight local hunger.

Donations to the Dulles South Soup Kitchen can be made on their [website](#) or at their location by appointment. Call (202) 930-3775 or [email](#) to make an appointment. The Dulles South Soup Kitchen distributes fresh and nutritious hot meals to anyone in need within Loudoun County every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the StoneSprings Hospital Center parking lot by Route 50. [Registration](#) is required on their website.

Blood Donation

To schedule an appointment to donate blood or platelets with the American Red Cross, please visit redcross.org/give-blood.

Inova Blood Services also takes donors by appointment. Visit <https://www.inovablood.org/> to schedule an appointment.

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