



Leesburg District News

Kristen C. Umstattd
Leesburg District Supervisor

Dear Leesburg Resident,

In this newsletter, I've included the most recent updates on the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for continuing to practice social distancing in Loudoun County. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with your concerns and questions.

Governor's Order

On March 23rd, Governor Northam issued an Executive Order and announced K-12 school closure for the remainder of the school year and new business restrictions for at least 30 days. Recreational and entertainment businesses, like gyms, must close; restaurants, breweries and distilleries can operate only for carry-out or delivery, and non-essential brick and mortar stores can remain open, but only if they can maintain social distancing and limit crowds to 10 patrons at a time. You can find more information about his order in the press release.

[Governor's press release](#)

Board of Supervisors Emergency Meeting

The Board held an emergency business meeting on Wednesday, March 25th to adopt an emergency ordinance for the conduct of public meetings and public hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic. This allows public meetings or activities to be held through real time electronic means (including audio, telephonic, video or other practical electronic medium) without a quorum physically present in one location. The Leesburg Town Council can adopt our resolution to have remote meetings as well.

For public hearings, public comment will be solicited by electronic means in advance and solicited through telephonic or other electronic means during the course of the electronic meeting. All public comments will be provided to the Board at or before the electronic meeting and made part of the record.

At this meeting, we also approved adjustments to transit services and a waiver of fares starting March 30th. The changes to transit services are featured later in this newsletter.

Dr. David Goodfriend, Director Loudoun County Health Department, and other subject matter experts gave a COVID-19 update. Loudoun County is now accepting donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) and distributing the supplies to Loudoun-based health care providers and facilities in need. Personal protective equipment may include: surgical masks, N95 respirators, disposable gowns, face shields, coveralls, gloves, and hand sanitizer. Any donated supplies may be opened, but must be unused.

Individuals and organizations with personal protective equipment to donate should submit an online form by visiting the website. You will be contacted by a County representative to coordinate the donation. The County is also fielding requests from Loudoun-based health care providers and facilities in need of PPE.



Residents, businesses and organizations who want to help fill community needs are encouraged to make donations to local community-based organizations. Also, on an individual basis, residents are encouraged to touch base with their neighbors, particularly those who are older, and offer to lend a hand with gathering necessities. Learn more about helping the community at this County website.

How you can help

You can watch the emergency meeting by visiting the County's webcast archive.

County's webcast

COVID-19 Testing

As availability of testing for coronavirus begins to improve, Loudoun County health officials say it is important that these tests be available to those at highest risk of complications from infection and those essential to maintaining health care delivery and services and public safety.

The CDC recommends that the following people who have symptoms consistent with coronavirus be prioritized for testing:

- Health care workers.
- Patients in long-term care facilities.
- Patients 65 years of age and older.
- Patients with underlying high risk medical conditions.
- First responders.

It is important to note that individual doctors' offices and the operators of drive-thru testing services may use varying criteria. Therefore, before visiting any testing site, the health department recommends that patients have a doctor's order for COVID-19 testing and to contact the service provider prior to visiting the site for instructions.

Inova's Response to COVID-19

Inova's team of clinical experts is up-to-date on developments and CDC guidelines, and has developed a comprehensive response plan to maintain the safety and well-being of our community. You can find up to date information about Inova's response to COVID-19 on the website.

[Inova's COVID-19 website](#)

Inova Loudoun Hospital has extended the Emergency Department - Lansdowne Campus by adding a temporary auxiliary screening unit (ASU) near the entrance to provide an additional layer of safety for our team members and community. All people coming to the Inova Loudoun Hospital Emergency Department – Lansdowne Campus will first go to an outside checkpoint for a brief preliminary symptom screen. Based on the results of the brief screening, our team will be able to quickly guide those with respiratory symptoms to the ASU for further evaluation by our clinical team. The temporary ASU is not a COVID-19 testing area, it is an extension of the hospital and services provided will be considered an emergency department visit. Only those people who are having difficulty breathing or have flu-like symptoms that are not improving should come to the hospital. Please call your health care provider before coming to the hospital for guidance on what you should do next.

Starting Wednesday, March 25th, Inova Urgent Care (UCC) locations at Dulles South, North Arlington and Tysons will staff Respiratory Illness Clinics to evaluate all patients with respiratory illness symptoms. The clinics will also be able to collect via physician ordered vehicle-side appointments samples for COVID-19 testing. These clinics will be open seven days a week, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Before visiting any Inova Respiratory Illness Clinic, take the following steps:

1. Contact your regular physician for evaluation. For assistance with recommendations, to arrange for a physician appointment, or if you do not have a primary care physician, call 1-855-IMG-DOCS.
2. Your regular physician can evaluate your symptoms to determine if testing is indicated based on COVID-19 testing criteria and provide a testing order, or refer you to the Inova Respiratory Illness Clinic for evaluation.
3. Upon arrival at the Inova Respiratory Illness Clinic, a clinician will greet the patient at their vehicle to collect samples for a physician-ordered test, or escort the patient into the respiratory clinic for evaluation.
4. For patients who undergo COVID-19 testing, a UCC nurse will contact those whose results are negative. For patients with positive results, a UCC nurse will coordinate with the patient's regular physician for notification and further instructions. Patients who are tested can expect results in roughly 4-7 days.

[Inova's Urgent Care website](#)

How can you help Inova? Inova is currently experiencing a shortage of blood supply and inventory is expected to continue to drop with the shortage of donors due to COVID-19. Inova Blood Donor Services has implemented extra precautions to protect donors - it is safe to give blood, and your donation will save a life. Make an appointment by visiting the website.

[Inova Blood Donor Services website](#)

Transit System Changes

At the emergency business meeting on March 25th, we approved the following changes to our transit system starting on Monday, March 30th.

- **Commuter Bus Service:** Temporarily suspend all commuter bus routes to and from Washington DC, Rosslyn, Crystal City and the Pentagon.
- **Metro-Connection:** Reduce or suspend service on all routes.
- **Metro Connection and Local Fixed Routes:** Waive fare collection for up to 60 days with the ability for an extension.
- **Metro Connection:** Passenger loading through the rear door, where available, to meet social distancing protocols.

At this time, there are no service changes recommended for the Local Fixed Route service. The Metro Connection Routes, which provide service to and from Metrorail stations, will continue to operate with the following service changes:

- Reduction in morning and afternoon trips for:
 - Routes 901 and 902, serving Potomac Falls to Ballston Metrorail Station;
 - Routes 923 and 924, serving Goose Creek Village/Broadlands to Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station;
 - Routes 925 and 926, serving Loudoun Station to Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station;

- Route 88X, serving Dulles South/East Gate to Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station.
- Suspension of service for Routes 921 and 922, serving Harmony/Leesburg to Wiehle-Reston East.

Over the coming weeks, Loudoun County Transit will continue to monitor ridership and services for possible additional changes. Stay up to date about any service changes or modified schedules by visiting the website.

[Transit website](#)

SBA Disaster Loans

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak and public health emergency, the U.S. Small Business Administration has approved disaster loans as a financing option for small businesses. Loudoun County businesses are eligible for these low-interest, long-term SBA disaster loans, which offer an affordable way for businesses to recover from declared disasters. This program provides low-interest loans up to \$2 million in order to help businesses overcome the temporary loss of revenue during the state of emergency. The criteria for loan approval is the following:

- Applicants must have a credit history acceptable to SBA.
- SBA must determine that the applicant business has the ability to repay the SBA loan.
- The applicant business must be physically located in a declared county and suffered working capital losses due to the declared disaster, not due to a downturn in the economy or other reasons.

Please visit the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development website for more information about the loan process.

[SBA loan process](#)

How to help our small businesses

There are many ways to help the industry recover: To Leesburg residents, make future reservations at your favorite restaurant and don't cancel. Buy gift cards and shop local. If you get carryout, and I ask that you do this frequently, tip generously. Remember that these are your neighbors and our businesses make Loudoun a great place to live, work or visit. Now more than ever, the industry needs your support.

There are many Leesburg restaurants offering curb side and delivery options. Check out the "Leesburg To Go" website today.

Leesburg To Go website

How to Support Local Businesses



Remember that these businesses make
Loudoun a great place to live, work and visit.
Now more than ever, we need your support.

Park Amenities Closed

Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Loudoun County Public Schools and the Town of Leesburg closed all amenities within parks and placed notice signs. No unauthorized group or individual shall enter upon any part of any park which has been closed by the Department of Parks and Recreation in the interest of public safety, health or welfare. The parks remain open for walking and hiking only.

With the relatively warm weather, children out of school, and many of us at home, it is tempting to want to spend time outside and gather outdoors in open spaces, such as playgrounds. Loudoun County encourages everyone in the community to refrain from gathering in groups and encourages everyone to practice social distancing, which generally means maintaining 6 feet between you and others at all times.

I encourage residents to get the latest information about COVID-19 by visiting the County's website and read the article about how to "flatten the curve."

[County's coronavirus website](#)

[How to "flatten the curve"](#)

Personal Property Taxes

At the March 17th Board business meeting, we voted to approve the resolution to extend the deadline to pay the 2020 first installment of personal property taxes from May 5th to June 5th. Due to unique circumstances surrounding the coronavirus disease, the Treasurer indicates that enough cause exists to extend the time for payment of the first installment of 2020 personal property taxes for thirty-one days.

FY 2021 Budget

March 19th was our last budget work session. At this meeting, we moved to direct staff to prepare the FY 2021 proposed budget as amended through straw votes taken on March 2nd, March 5th, March 9th, March 12th and March 19th and with a tax year 2020 real property tax rate of \$1.035 per \$100 of assessed value.

We will adopt the FY 2021 budget and real property tax rate at the Board's business meeting on April 7th. More information about the budget can be found at the Loudoun County website.

At the April 7th Board business meeting, staff plans to bring a comprehensive update to the Board related to the projected budgetary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, staff is not able to fully quantify or project with specificity impacts to revenue and expenditures. By April 7th, staff believes there will be a better understanding of the duration of the event and impacts to County operations.

[Budget website](#)

Courthouse Construction Update

Construction on the new Loudoun County District Courthouse in downtown Leesburg is scheduled to begin Monday, April 6th.

From March 30th through April 3rd, drivers should expect intermittent single-lane closures on East Market Street between the hours of 7:00 am and 3:30 pm. Drivers should use

extra caution when traveling through this area within the Town of Leesburg and follow all directions from road crews.

There will be changes to the current parking areas utilized by those who work and do business at the courthouse. The last day that parking will be available in the Church Street Lot and Semones Lot is Friday, April 3rd. Those lots will be used for the staging of equipment and the construction of the new building. Beginning on Monday, April 6th, all parking for the courthouse will be directed to the Pennington Garage and Pennington Lot, which are located approximately two blocks away off Church Street NE in Leesburg.

A shuttle service from the Pennington Garage and Pennington Lot to the courthouse will begin April 6th. It will run approximately every ten minutes, Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. A walking path will also be available during the construction period, which is estimated to be about 2.5 years.

For more information and to sign up for e-mail and text updates on the project, please visit the County's website.

[Courts expansion website](#)

2020 Census Deadline Extended

The deadline to complete the 2020 Census has been extended to August 14th to slow the spread of coronavirus among workers and the public. Census field operations are suspended until April 1st.

Keep your community healthy! You may not realize it, but responding to the 2020 Census today is one way to make sure communities are prepared for healthcare events like the COVID-19 pandemic. It takes just 10 minutes, your answers are confidential, and for every person not counted Loudoun loses out on \$2,000 a year in federal funding that funds healthcare services including Medicaid, school meals, and other key programs. Respond today and learn more about how the Census supports a healthier Loudoun County.

[2020 Census website](#)

I hope you stay well during this challenging time. Thank you.

Warm Regards,

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Business of the Month

Potomac Coffee Company



Potomac Coffee Company offers the highest level of service response times for the Metro DC and Baltimore areas. It offers next-day deliveries of coffee distribution Monday-Friday as well as weekend service.

Potomac Coffee Company has shifted to adapt to the current COVID-19 situation. Since most of the food establishments we sell to are no longer open, or are only offering take out, we have decided to provide HOME DELIVERY service in the DC area which is free for orders over \$45. Please order from our [online store](#).



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

COVID-19 has turned our world upside down. But, together, we will get through this difficult time. Not only are we following Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's direction, but the Town Council and I are working closely with Loudoun County and Town of Leesburg staff to make sure everyone stays safe and follows all procedures that have been put in place. On March 18th, the council consented to a declaration of local emergency by Town Manager Kaj Dentler. The declaration will be in effect until May 2nd.

In order to support the downtown businesses for curbside pickup and delivery, all downtown parking will be free as long as the emergency declaration remains in effect. This also helps residents avoid touching parking meters and payment kiosks. Parking at the Town Hall parking garage, the Church Street parking lot, and all on-street meters is free of charge. The two-hour limit at parking meters will still apply.

Other updates regarding the Town of Leesburg are as follows:

- All Town Council meetings, including Planning Commission and the Board of Architectural Review, will be broadcast on the Town's local government access cable channels and streamed live on the website. The public is encouraged to watch these meetings remotely.
- The Ida Lee Recreation Center and tennis center are closed until further notice. The Thomas Balch Library is also closed, however reference services are available via email, phone, and social media. Town Hall remains open every Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm however staff will be limited.
- The Leesburg Police Department facilities will be closed to the public until further notice. Critical staff, however, remains on duty 24/7. If you need assistance at HQ, please utilize the intercom to the right of the doors to speak with a dispatcher. If there is an emergency, please Dial 911. For routine and non-emergency requests for services, please call 703-771-4500.
- Bulk item collection is suspended until further notice. This suspension applies only to collection of oversized items such as furniture and appliances, normally collected by request only. Regular household trash and recycling collection is not affected. Town officials are in discussion with Patriot regarding possible future changes to solid waste collections and contingency plans to ensure that essential services continue.

- All town-sponsored special events are cancelled until May 19th.

For a complete list of Town program and facility closures, visit our website. For updates on the virus, and how it affects our Town, visit our website.

[Town program and facility closures](#)

[Town coronavirus website](#)



Update from Beth Barts

The Governor announced our schools are closed for the remainder of the academic year. While it will be very difficult for our children to understand why this is happening, it is more difficult to live with uncertainty. LCPS is committed to providing community care during this stressful and challenging time. The Virginia Education Department will issue guidance on how to complete education. Options will include distance learning, extending next school year, incorporating some of this year's curriculum into next year, and bringing some students back into school to complete requirements.

LCPS is focused on the safety of staff and our families as we make sure students get materials left in the buildings and feed students who rely on school meals to meet their nutritional needs. Students are offered bagged meals at schools and buses with food are going into all our Leesburg neighborhoods.

On March 18th, over ten thousand teachers took part in virtual training to learn more about how to deliver online learning. LCPS is providing continuity of education through the development of learning experiences that are consistent with the curriculum. Teachers are familiarizing themselves with digital tools that can be used to deliver instruction, considering how those tools can support student learning, and developing their understanding of new distance-learning lesson plan formats. Digital distance learning

engages students in learning experiences made available through Google Classroom. Non-digital distance learning opportunities also are being developed.

I would like to thank the many parent organizations who are stepping up to support their school communities during this time of uncertainty. I also want to thank Loudoun Hunger Relief, the Backpack Buddies Foundation, Mobile Hope, and the Community Foundation of Loudoun for their incredible outreach and generosity during these challenging times. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at Beth.Barts@lcps.org to share your thoughts and concerns.

Community Information



Tax Relief Deadline for Elderly and Disabled Extended:

Loudoun County Commissioner of the Revenue Robert S. Wertz Jr. has extended the deadline for filing 2020 Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled renewal forms to June 1st. Local ordinance provides authorization for the Commissioner of the Revenue to allow applicants to file after the regular filing date. This extension is in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. Applicants are encouraged to mail in their forms in the pre-addressed envelope that was included with the renewal forms.

Applications for first-time applicants, and more information about the program, may be found at the tax relief website. Residents may also call 703-737-8557 to have a form mailed to them.

[Tax relief website](#)

Interactive Grocery Store and Pharmacy Map:

The County has launched an interactive map to help residents find grocery stores and pharmacies with designated hours for vulnerable individuals. These shopping hours are designated for older adults, as well as individuals with underlying health issues or compromised immune systems, who are at greater risk of complications from COVID-19. The searchable map also links to webpages with contact information for the various stores. You can search by a street address and view which stores have modified hours. The Loudoun County map will be updated as store hours change or as we identify resources that are not currently listed. If you are aware of a grocery store or pharmacy that is not included, please email shalom.black@loudoun.gov.

[Interactive map](#)

Loudoun Hunger Relief:

Effective on March 23rd, Loudoun Hunger Relief is by appointment only for all service periods. You must make an appointment and you must arrive at your appointment time. For everyone's safety, we cannot serve unless you have an appointment and come at your appointment time. This allows us to maintain a safe number of people and safe distancing. If you are ill, please send someone who is well to pick up your food, and please tell us that when you make your appointment. Appointment hours are Tuesday 8:30 am – 11:15 am, Tuesday & Thursday 5:45 pm – 7:15 pm, and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10 am-12:45 pm. Please call for an appointment at 703-777-5911 or visit our website.

There is no appointment needed to drop off food donations. Please place your donation in the bin located in the rear parking lot, or for fragile items, on the table. For everyone's safety, staff cannot help unload your vehicle. We're not being rude and we are very grateful, but we must maintain proper social distance. Donation days and times are Monday-Thursday 9 am to 4 pm, Friday 9 am to 3 pm, and Saturday 9 am to 1 pm.

[Loudoun Hunger Relief website](#)

Regional Dashboard:

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission created a dashboard which tracks real-time coronavirus cases in the region. This dashboard contains up-to-the-minute, real-time coronavirus case summary information for the region and its counties and cities. The coronavirus information comes from the renowned John Hopkins University COVID-19 GIS database. The dashboard also contains numerous demographics for assessing potentially vulnerable populations in Northern Virginia.

[Dashboard website](#)

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[About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov in collaboration with



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