



Dear Leesburg Resident,

The Board of Supervisors ordered the Loudoun County flag lowered to half-staff at County facilities in honor of Loudoun residents who have died of COVID-19 and in recognition of the many essential workers who are responding to the pandemic. The County flag will be flown at half-staff at County facilities every Monday from dawn to dusk until further notice. Mayor Burk is pictured right lowering the Town flag in honor of COVID-19 victims.



FY 2021 Budget

On April 7th, the Board of Supervisors approved a budget totaling approximately \$3 billion for the County government and school system for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, which begins July 1st of this year. The adopted budget includes a real property tax rate of \$1.035 per \$100 in assessed value, one cent lower than the current tax rate. I supported the budget

and the tax rate. I believe that, overall, residents will see their tax bills decrease over the course of the upcoming 2021 fiscal year.

At this meeting, we directed the County Administrator to withhold \$100 million from the FY 2021 budget (\$60 million from LCPS appropriation and \$40 million from County operations) as a reserve while we determine what the pandemic's effects will be on tax revenues. Before we took this action, we received a report that LCPS will have adequate resources for the first half of the fiscal year to hire new staff and go forward with opening new schools. On the non-school side of the County budget, we are freezing new spending such as hiring new employees, opening new facilities and increasing employee salaries. For now, no full-time, part-time or long-term temporary County employees will lose their jobs or see pay cuts. The County will also temporarily pause new capital projects that include debt financing until conditions improve in the debt market.

When we began the budget work sessions, it was before the pandemic closed schools and businesses and the Governor issued a stay at home order for residents. We need a clearer picture of the economic impacts of the pandemic before we move forward with our budget plans and release money from the reserve. In addition, the Governor has indicated that the state budget will need to be revised and this could impact the amount of funding we expected to receive from the state.

[Budget website](#)

Rental Assistance Program

We approved re-allocating \$200,000 from the Eastern Loudoun County Home Revitalization Program to create the rental assistance program. The goal is to help ensure housing stability for low-income workers who have been furloughed, lost jobs or had work hours reduced due to the pandemic.

The terms of the program include:

- Income eligibility based on household size for households earning up to 70% of the state median income (\$60,332 for a family of 4).
- Direct payments made to landlords or property management companies on behalf of residents who qualify for the program.
- Assistance may be provided for up to three months' rent.

Residents, who were current in their rent payments as of March 30th, and who now need help paying rent may contact the county's Information and Referral program at 703-777-0420. Members of the Department of Family Services' Community Support Services team will verify income eligibility, conduct a case assessment, and verify rent need and job impacts related to COVID-19. Applicants will be asked to submit related documents, such as a current lease and paperwork that shows a job loss or reduced income. The program will continue as long as the local emergency declaration is in effect and funding is available.

Emergency Food Assistance Programs

We allocated \$150,000 for emergency food assistance programs in response to the increased need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and to help local food assistance providers that serve Loudoun individuals and families. Local food banks are reporting a significant increase in the numbers of people who are seeking emergency food assistance; in some cases, four times the number of people asking for help prior to the pandemic.

In addition to approving the allocation of funds, the Board established criteria for organizations to be eligible for emergency funding. They must be:

- Located in Loudoun County.
- A 501(c)(3) nonprofit or a religious institution.
- Providing food assistance on at least a bi-weekly basis to Loudoun residents.
- Following established federal food safety protocols.

At present, if you know a resident in the Leesburg area, or in the County, who needs free food, please ask that individual to contact Loudoun Hunger Relief to set up an appointment to receive that food: loudounhunger.org.

Applicants will be asked to supply documentation of the costs per client in addition to information about their typical service level prior to the pandemic and their current level of service. To apply, food assistance programs should complete and submit the online application form.

Emergency Funding Application

Take Loudoun Home to Support Businesses

Before we get to what the County is doing, don't forget Leesburg's homegrown business promotional effort, Leesburg To Go: leesburgtogo.com.

Loudoun Economic Development has joined forces with Visit Loudoun and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce with an important call to action for consumers: Take Loudoun Home. This marketing campaign, initially launched to promote farms and rural businesses in spring 2019, has grown significantly in its second year to include all Loudoun County businesses affected by the COVID-19 health crisis. The campaign will support and promote more than 400 Loudoun businesses countywide, across all industries and geographic locations, supporting thousands of Loudoun jobs.

By visiting the website, consumers can search interactive maps of participating businesses, take virtual tours, read inspiring business stories, and shop from the new Loudoun Made, Loudoun Grown Marketplace.

Take Loudoun Home website

Business Interruption Fund

On April 21st, we approved more than \$1 million in grant funding for the COVID-19 Business Interruption Fund to support Loudoun businesses impacted by the pandemic. The \$1 million grant is divided so that 60 applicants with 3-50 employees will receive a \$7,500 grant, and 55 applicants with 51-100 employees will receive a \$10,000 grant.

The fund will open for applications at noon on April 29th, and remain open for 72 hours, closing at noon on May 2nd. All submissions will be accepted based on the time stamp, verified by county employees, and placed into a pool, where businesses will be randomly selected until the funding has expired.

Eligible businesses must demonstrate all of the following criteria:

- Have between 3-100 employees;
- Have less than \$2.5 million in gross annual receipts;
- Have at least a 25% loss in revenue that can be attributed to COVID-19;
- Be licensed and operational in Loudoun County.

Interested businesses are encouraged to test the form before the application window opens. The purpose of the test form is to show the questions that will be asked and test your ability to submit using your browser. We recommend using the latest version of all browsers and highly recommend Google Chrome. If you have any technical issues with this form, please contact LoudounBiz@loudoun.gov.

Information and Test Form

COVID-19 Update

Loudoun recently published a guide to stop the spread of COVID-19: **Steps to Slow the Spread of COVID-19**. The guide lists steps that will slow the spread of COVID-19 and will help protect everyone, including seniors and those with underlying medical conditions.

Join Chair Phyllis Randall and Loudoun County Health Department Director Dr. David Goodfriend for a Facebook Live Question and Answer Session today, Monday, April 27th at 2:00 pm. Learn about the COVID-19 response in Loudoun County and ask your questions.

Facebook Live Event

Coronavirus website

Personal Protective Equipment

The County is now accepting monetary donations for the bulk purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) that will be made available to organizations in need. Funds

collected will not be distributed to other organizations. Anyone who would like to donate financially may do so by mail or online:

- Online: Electronic donations may be made through the website link below. All major credit cards and PayPal are accepted. The processor will deduct a transaction fee from each online donation.
- By mail: Checks with "COVID-19 Donations" noted in the memo line may be sent to: Loudoun County Treasurer's Office, COVID-19 Donations, PO Box 347, Leesburg, VA 20178.

If you wish to donate PPE, the Leesburg drop-off location operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and is located at 751 Miller Drive. Blue signs on Miller Drive and in the parking lot will guide individuals to the drop-off location. This site will accept the following:

- Surgical masks.
- Disposable gowns.
- Face shields.
- N95 respirators.
- Enclosed goggles.
- Coveralls.
- Gloves.
- Hand sanitizer.

The greatest need is for surgical masks, disposable gowns and face shields. Any donated supplies may be opened, but must be unused. The County is not able to accept homemade equipment, such as homemade masks. Since the County began accepting donations of PPE in late March, the amount of equipment distributed includes:

- 12,375 gloves.
- 2,240 N95 respirators.
- 619 surgical masks.
- 202 disposable gowns.

The County is also fielding online requests from Loudoun-based health care providers and facilities in need of PPE. Organizations that have previously submitted requests for and received PPE may submit additional request forms if they have additional needs.

Personal Protective Equipment



- > Make a donation
- > Make a request

LOUDOUN
COUNTY
VIRGINIA

loudoun.gov/PPE

Prescription Pick-Up and Delivery Service

Members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), in coordination with the resident, or their family, as well as local pharmacies, will pick-up prescription medications from Loudoun pharmacies and deliver the items to private residences. This service is for senior residents and those who are more vulnerable to COVID-19. To participate residents must contact the LCSO at 703-777-1021 and request this service. Residents may call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Deliveries will be made during normal business hours.

Members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office who deliver the medication will wear a sheriff's office uniform, will utilize PPE, and will maintain social distancing based on CDC guidance. The service requires the resident to pre-pay for the prescription and confirm their pharmacy allows third-party pick-up for the medication. For health considerations, the LCSO cannot deliver to assisted living communities, care facilities, senior centers, or group homes. The service will be provided through the duration of Governor Northam's Executive Order which is effective until Wednesday, June 10th.

Joint Letter to the Community

The Board of Supervisors and the mayors of Loudoun County's seven incorporated towns joined together to send words of encouragement and support to our community amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In this letter to the community, we praise Loudoun residents and businesses for their resilience and caring and also encourage them not to "fall into the trap of negativity." We also pledge to "do everything in our power to help us all get through this together."

You can read the letter to our community at the link below. "Be well, be safe, be Loudoun Strong!" is the sign off. I concur and hope you stay well and safe during this challenging time.

Letter to the Community

Val, Laura and I want you to stay safe because, when we all get through this – and we will – we want to personally thank you for everything you've been doing to help keep your family, friends and neighbors safe.

Warm Regards,

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Business of the Month

Fire Works Pizza



Fire Works is a pizzeria and bar serving wood-fired pizzas and craft beer in historic downtown Leesburg. Fire Works Pizza offers curbside pickup, plus 50% off to-go orders of

beer and wine. Our menu is driven by the ingredients grown and raised by local farmers in Loudoun County. Food for Fido is back and with it, a new pups contest! Surprise your furry friend with a to go meal of their own, take a picture of them enjoying their snack and e-mail it to jennifer@fireworkspizza.com to be entered into the Pups on YOUR Patio contest! Follow our Facebook page to see your pups highlighted as the entries come in (entries close on April 30th).



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

While we continue to cope with COVID-19, I would like to reassure everyone that the Town of Leesburg is doing what we can to keep things running as smoothly as possible. While many of our facilities remain closed, essential Town services continue to take place. I invite you to watch "Live in Leesburg" every Friday at 12:30 pm. For the next few weeks, we will highlight some of the Town's essential personnel. You'll get a behind the scenes look at what they do every day to keep our Town up and running. I would like to thank our Town staff for all of their hard work while taking the necessary precautions and practicing social distancing.

Live in Leesburg Facebook Event

The Town Council will continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Meetings will be broadcasted on the Town's local government access cable channels and streamed live on the website. Members of the public can participate remotely in Town Council meetings. Instructions for joining remotely will be published on the meeting agendas, which are posted on the Town website (see link below), and in the lobby of Town Hall by close of business on the Wednesdays preceding the meetings.

At our most recent meeting, the Town Council adopted several measures aimed at providing financial relief for our businesses. We delayed the due date for payment of 1st quarter transient occupancy taxes and meals and beverage taxes, collected by hotels, restaurants, and grocery stores in January through March 2020, by 30 days and allowed

businesses an additional 60 days to pay with no penalty. In addition, the Council pushed the due date for annual business license renewals back from May 1st to July 20th. Businesses must file by May 1st, but will not be charged penalties or interest for 90 days.

Finally, while our Town parks are closed until further notice, I'd like to encourage you to take a walk with your family, explore a new trail, or take a bike ride along the W&OD. Outdoor time can be an extraordinary benefit during these difficult times. I hope everyone is hanging in there and doing the best that they can.

Town program and facility closures

Remote Participation



Update from Beth Barts

LCPS continues to move forward with our distance learning plans. Students in grades K-2 will be mailed learning packets twice a month and all students in grades 3-12 have been issued Chromebooks in order to access the online learning material and connect with their teachers.

Some updates on our community care outreach include a total of 316,000 meals served at bus stops and at various schools in the community. I want to thank Loudoun Hunger Relief for giving out hundreds of additional packs of food to families in need from LCPS. LCPS has purchased 1,500 hot spots in order to make sure all students and families have the capability to engage and collaborate with teachers and staff. Communication and equal access are both top priorities of the LCPS administration and our school board.

In-person graduations will be held when it is safe to do so. Superintendent Williams sent a letter to each senior assuring them of his commitment to an in-person graduation and also said that virtual celebrations are being planned by principals with input from seniors. This is much appreciated by the class of 2020!

Over the next two months, the school board will need to cut \$73 million from our original budget request to account for the significant revenue shortfall as a result of COVID-19. There will be public discussions and I encourage the community to stay engaged and aware.

Community Information



Have you recovered from COVID-19?

Inova Health System is looking for individuals recovered from COVID-19 to donate plasma (colorless fluid part of blood) for a research study. Your donated plasma contains immunoglobulins (immune protection) and this study will use your plasma to help patients currently sick with COVID-19 disease.

To qualify for donation, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Age 18 or older
- Not pregnant
- Documentation of positive test result for COVID-19 (SARS CoV-2)
- Recovered and symptom-free for 14 days
- Must meet all standard criteria for blood donation

To sign up, please email: covid19plasma@inova.org or call 703-776-4899.

Spanish-Language Text Messages on COVID-19:

Loudoun residents can now sign up to receive text messages in Spanish regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). To opt in for this service, text **LCCOVIDESP** to **888777**. The county is launching the new service to provide an additional, easy-to-use way for members of our community who have Spanish as their primary language to receive information. Regular text messages will provide information about COVID-19 prevention and treatment, County programs and services to assist residents during the pandemic, key news updates and other educational messages.

Give Choose 2020: The big day of giving is May 5th but you can also schedule early giving during the two weeks leading up to Give Choose. It won't appear on the leader board until May 5th at midnight. Follow along on May 5th throughout the 24-hours to see

how each charity is doing to meet their goals, win prizes, and raise funds for needs right here at home. Each nonprofit included in Give Choose must apply and meet core criteria of serving Loudoun and/or Northern Fauquier Counties and be in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service.

Virtual Coffee Chat:

Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging has launched a virtual coffee chat program. If you are a caregiver or an adult 60 and older in need of support during these challenging times, you can sign up for a virtual coffee chat with Elder Resources Case Manager Lori Stahl. To sign up, e-mail aaasupport@loudoun.gov or call 571-233-2583.

LOUDOUN COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING PRESENTS

COFFEE CHAT

with Lori



If you are a caregiver for a loved one or if you are an older adult (60+) in need of support during this difficult time, connect virtually (*FaceTime or by phone*) over coffee with Lori.

To be connected with Area Agency on Aging programs and services, and other community resources, please call 703-777-0257 to speak with an Aging Program Specialist.

**To sign-up, send an email to
aaasupport@loudoun.gov or call 571-233-2583**



For more information about the Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, visit www.loudoun.gov/aaa or call 703-777-0257

Recorded Education Programs from Loudoun Extension:

The Department of Extension Services / Virginia Cooperative Extension – Loudoun has recorded 17 education programs. These are available for public viewing on the

[AgroEcology Hub](#), a website that the department maintains. Most were recorded in our offices, and several were recorded in partnership with VA Tech. All have closed captions. The topics vary and are relevant to Loudoun residents regardless of their home location – rural or suburban.

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](#)

Leesburg District | 1 Harrison St, S.E., 5th Floor, Leesburg, VA 20175

[About Constant Contact](#)

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



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