# All About Algonkian



Juli E. Briskman | Algonkian District Supervisor



# **COVID-19 Update**



### Town Elections Moved to May 19

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam has pushed back the date of municipal elections in the state by two weeks, from May 5, 2020, to May 19, 2020, and is encouraging voters to cast absentee

ballots by mail. In Loudoun County, the towns of Hamilton, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville and Round Hill will hold elections May 19, 2020, for the offices of mayor and town council members.

The Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration also encourages voters to cast absentee ballots in the upcoming elections. Anyone seeking to vote absentee in the May 2020 elections may choose the reason "2A-My disability or illness" for absentee voting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Voters who choose the absentee option should do so as soon as possible so they can get their ballots in time to return them by mail by election day. Voters may apply for an absentee ballot online. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, social distancing measures are in place for in-person absentee voting at the Office of Elections and Voter Registration, 750 Miller Drive SE, Suite C in Leesburg, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Only curbside absentee voting is offered. There are signs directing voters to contact election officials upon their arrival. Voters will not be permitted in the office to vote.

The final day to vote an absentee ballot in person is Saturday, May 16, 2020. The Office of Elections and Voter Registration will be open May 16 for curbside absentee voting, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Voters do not have to apply in advance to vote absentee in person. Also as part of the response to COVID-19, election officials ask voters to call ahead for an appointment if they need to conduct any business other than absentee voting or voter registration. Call 703-777-0380. You may also email the office.

## Loudoun Museum Collecting COVID-19 Memories



The Loudoun Museum is working to create a community archive to document how Loudoun residents are experiencing life during the COVID-19 pandemic. The museum is asking for digital submissions of photos, personal narratives and scanned documents. The museum is not accepting

physical objects but encourages photographs of meaningful objects. Submissions should be specific to the experience in Loudoun County.

The archive is inspired in part by initiatives like the New York Historical Society's "Historical Responds" project, launched in the immediate aftermath of 9/11 to collect artifacts documenting the historic tragedy. Loudoun Museum's new blog also features letters written in 1901 from a young Ashburn woman under quarantine for smallpox exposure while attending Vassar College in New York.

Check out the blog and details on how to submit your digital artifacts here.



# Protecting Animals from COVID-19

The CDC <u>announced</u> last week the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in two pet cats in New York State. Public health officials are still learning about COVID-19, but there is no

evidence that pets play a role in spreading the virus in the United States.

Keep the following in mind to keep your animals and yourself well:

- Wash your hands before and after handling pets, even your own.
- Avoid sneezing or coughing on your pet.

- Keep your distance from other pets and animals. Don't allow people outside
  of your household to pet your animals. Don't touch animals that are not your
  own.
- Keep cats indoors when possible to prevent them from interacting with other animals or people.
- Avoid dog parks or public places where a large number of people and dogs gather.
- Always avoid interacting with or feeding wild animals.



## Governor's Updates

At today's press conference, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam provided an update on the Commonwealth's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Testing throughout the Commonwealth has increased by 41 percent and priority is given to public housing areas, prisons, and long-term care facilities.

Governor Northam also raised concerns over data indicating a rising number of cases in Virginia's 10 poultry processing facilities. Such facilities are integral to the food supply chain. With this in mind, Governor Northam asked the federal government for help with protecting poultry workers. In addition to issuing new <u>quidance</u>, the CDC has sent a team to Virginia to assist with mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in poultry processing facilities.

Furthermore, Virginia has received a \$2 million grant from the federal government to address COVID-19's impact on behavioral health problems. These funds will be going toward various Community Services Boards and hospital associations throughout the Commonwealth.

Recognizing the heroes of Falcon's Landing. We are with you.



If you are having trouble paying your utilities because of COVID-19, visit the County's webpage on COVID-19 Utilities. You will find program information on:

Columbia Gas
Dominion Power
Loudoun Water
NOVEC
Washington Gas
Wi-fi Connectivity

#### For More Current COVID-19 Information

Visit: <a href="mailto:www.loudoun.gov/CoronaVirus">www.loudoun.gov/CoronaVirus</a>
Call: (703) 737-8300
Email: <a href="mailto:Health@Loudoun.gov">Health@Loudoun.gov</a>

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