



## Weekly Newsflash AUGUST 3, 2022

### Donation Drop Off Sites for the 2022 Sterling District Back-to-School Supply Drive



**SUPPLIES CAN BE DONATED AT THE  
DROP-OFF SITES BELOW:**

- **Sterling Library:** 22330 S. Sterling Blvd, Suite #a117
- **Sterling Community Center:** 120 Enterprise Street
- **SOLDIERFIT Sterling:** 21592 Atlantic Blvd, Suite #130a
- **New Virginia Majority:** 21515 Ridgetop Circle, Suite #240



Contact Sterling Supervisor Koran Saines for more information at

703-737-8089 | [tianni.ivey@loudoun.gov](mailto:tianni.ivey@loudoun.gov)

August is here and students will be back in school in just a few short weeks!

A new school year involves back-to-school costs, which can be challenging for so many families. During the month of August, Sterling District Supervisor Koran Saines of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors will host another Back-to-School Supply Drive to assist students, families, and educators in the Sterling District alleviate the burden of back-to-school shopping as much as possible.

High-need items include:

- Dry erase markers
- Cleaning and COVID supplies (masks, hand sanitizer, tissues, sanitizing wipes, etc.)
- Colored folders with pockets and prongs
- Backpacks and lunch boxes
- Ear buds and headphones
- Hard pencil boxes/cases
- Writing utensils (pre-sharpened #2 pencils, multicolor highlighters, markers, crayons, etc.)
- Glue, glue sticks, and tape
- Paper items (packs of loose-leaf paper, spiral & composition notebooks, index cards, etc.)
- Three-ring binders (between 1"-3")

Collection boxes for community members to donate school supply items are currently available at:

**Sterling Library**

22330 S. Sterling Blvd., Suite A117, Sterling, VA

**Sterling Community Center**

120 Enterprise Street, Sterling, VA

**Soldierfit Gym - Sterling**

21592 Atlantic Blvd., Suite 130a, Sterling, VA

**New Virginia Majority**

21515 Ridgetop Circle, Suite 240, Sterling, VA

The community's support in this effort is truly appreciated and the Sterling District Office looks forward to having another successful school supply drive!

If your business or organization is interested in serving as a drop-off site or hosting a donation drive in support of the Back-to-School Supply Drive, please email my office at [Tianni.Ivey@loudoun.gov](mailto:Tianni.Ivey@loudoun.gov) or call 703-737-8089.

## Virginia's 3-Day Sales Tax Holiday August 5 - 7, 2022

### When is it?

August 5-7, 2022. The 3-day sales tax holiday starts the first Friday in August at 12:01 am and ends the following Sunday at 11:59 pm.

### What is it?

During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear, hurricane and emergency preparedness items, and Energy Star™ and WaterSense™ products without paying sales tax.



### What items are eligible?

- School supplies, clothing, and footwear
  - Qualified school supplies - \$20 or less per item
  - Qualified clothing and footwear - \$100 or less per item
- Hurricane and emergency preparedness products
  - Portable generators - \$1,000 or less per item
  - Gas-powered chainsaws - \$350 or less per item
  - Chainsaw accessories - \$60 or less per item
  - Other specified hurricane preparedness items - \$60 or less per item
- Energy Star™ and WaterSense™ products

- Qualifying Energy Star™ or WaterSense™ products purchased for noncommercial home or personal use - \$2,500 or less per item

Detailed lists of qualifying items and more information for retailers can be found in the [Sales Tax Holiday Guidelines](#).

## Loudoun Board of Supervisors Adopts Environmental and Energy Work Plan



The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has approved an Environmental and Energy Work Plan to guide policies and practices related to the environment, sustainability and energy management.

The work plan was approved during the [Board's Environmental](#)

[Summit July 27](#) and comes after the first full year of work by the 17-member, Board-appointed Environmental Commission. The work plan will be implemented using funds previously appropriated in the county's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Adopted Budget; any proposals for additional funding would be part of future budget negotiations.

The plan focuses on the following initiatives:

- **Energy sustainability**, including programs that promote and incentivize clean and renewable energy sources such as solar energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from both county operations and other community sectors.
- **Enhancing natural resources**, such as trees, wildlife, watershed and land conservation through programs aimed at tree preservation, the creation of wildlife corridors and implementation of projects from watershed management plans.

- **Environmental justice**, which examines the impact of environmental issues on underserved populations. Programs such as energy equity work to ensure the fair distribution of costs, benefits and accessibility to affordable energy by all.
- **“Government by example,”** which includes programs to enhance the sustainability of Loudoun County government operations. These programs may include greater use of renewable energy sources such as solar in county government operations, enhanced energy standards for new county government building construction and older county government building rehabilitation, enhanced sustainable energy operations at the county landfill, increasing the use of electric vehicles in the county fleet and adding electric vehicle charging stations in county facilities.
- **Increasing public engagement** in environmental and sustainability initiatives through annual events such as an environmental awards program and a public forum on environment and energy.

Environmental issues are among the [Board’s strategic focus areas](#). The creation of the [Environmental Commission in December 2020](#) was followed by public input sessions in November 2021 and June 2022 to learn more about the community’s priorities and interests in the environmental arena. The work plan approved July 27 included recommendations informed by the commission’s work as well as public input.

For more information about Loudoun’s efforts on the environment and the work of the commission, visit [loudoun.gov/environment](https://loudoun.gov/environment).

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**Free Smoke Alarm Assessments This Weekend**

Loudoun County Fire and Rescue will be out providing free smoke alarm assessments in neighborhoods across Loudoun County on Saturday, August 6th.

As part of their annual smoke alarm program, firefighters from stations across Loudoun County are taking a hands-on approach to fire safety by canvassing neighborhoods one weekend a month from April to October.

First responders will go door to door between 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. offering free smoke alarm assessments and valuable information about fire safety and home escape planning.

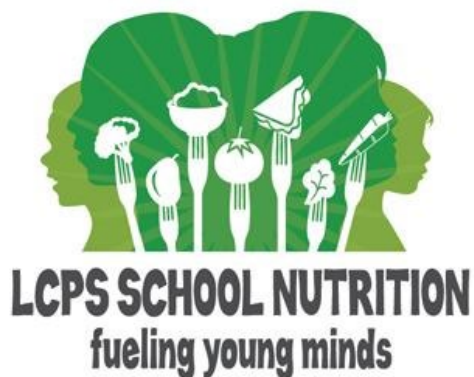
During the assessment, firefighters will test existing smoke alarms, assist with battery replacement, and replace the smoke alarms at no cost if they are not working properly or exceed the ten-year recommended lifespan.

In addition to the scheduled smoke alarm canvasses through October, Loudoun residents can request a free smoke alarm assessment at any time by completing the online form at [loudoun.gov/smokealarms](https://loudoun.gov/smokealarms) or by calling the smoke alarm program hotline at 703-737-8093.



[Learn More](https://loudoun.gov/smokealarms)

**LCPS Summer Meal Program Will Provide Additional Meal Kits on August 8**



*Please see the latest news release from Loudoun County Public Schools regarding the Summer Meals Program:*

"As we continue to see high volume at our summer meal distribution sites, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) is happy to provide additional meal kits at all locations to

cover the days before the first day of school on Thursday, August 25.

Our summer meal program ends on Monday, August 8, but we will hand out 17 days of meal kits that day instead of the usual seven. As always, meal kits include breakfast and lunch.

As a reminder, the following schools serve as meal kit distribution sites:

Banneker Elementary, Briar Woods High, Broad Run High, Dominion High, Farmwell Station Middle, Freedom High, Independence High, John Champe High, Leesburg Elementary, Lightridge High, Loudoun County High, Loudoun Valley High, Park View High, Potomac Falls High, Riverside High, Rock Ridge High, Rolling Ridge Elementary, Sterling Elementary, Stone Bridge High, Sugarland Elementary, Tuscarora High and Woodgrove High.

These additional meal kits may be picked up on Monday, August 8, between 9:30 and 11 a.m. (while supplies last). Meal kits, distributed for children ages 18 and younger, will include breakfast and lunch.

There is no requirement that the food be consumed on-site - it is for pick-up only.

***Please note:*** Because we are providing 17 meal kits – more than double the amount of food – please make plans to carry it home."

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**More Trains, Shorter Waits Coming to Blue, Orange and Silver Line Customers Beginning August 1st**

Welcome news for customers who ride the Blue, Orange and Silver lines. As of Aug 1, trains will arrive every 15 minutes on weekdays, matching service on the Green and Yellow lines. For most customers, the wait for a train will be no longer than 5-8 minutes, as most stations are served by at least two if not all three lines.

In September, Metro expects to expand the service improvements on the Blue, Orange and Silver lines to weekends providing the same level of service, every 15 minutes, on Saturdays and Sundays. This will give workers and visitors or others attending events and activities throughout the region

an even more convenient way to get around – all at the weekend fare of just \$2 one-way anywhere you travel.

The increased availability of railcars will also allow Metro to continue running additional trains as needed to reduce crowding and keep trains on standby throughout the system in the event a train is taken out of service due to unexpected maintenance issues.

In addition, Metro has restored more 6000-series railcars, increasing the overall number of cars available for service. Repairs to the coupler – which connects railcars – have been completed on most of the 6000-series fleet.

Metro is working to return more 7000-series trains to service as part of a phased approach. A key component of the plan includes the use of an automatic wheel measurement system on all six lines. The system uses laser technology and imaging to measure the wheelsets in real-time as trains pass over it. The first system is in place on the Green and Yellow lines and is currently undergoing testing and validation.

The timeline for restoring more 7000-series trains through Phase 2 and 3 of Metro's return to service plan is dependent on when the automatic wheel measurements are incorporated into the inspection process. Based on the system's performance, Metro will develop the next phases of the plan in consultation with critical stakeholders, including the WMSC which must approve the plan.





Additional information is available in Metro's 7000-series return to service plan, including the steps Metro has taken since last year's Blue Line derailment to determine the cause and develop inspection procedures. To date, the investigation has found no evidence of failures related to maintenance or manufacturing of the equipment.

## Loudoun Workforce September 2022 Workshop Registration



The workshop and career development offerings for next month (September) will open for registration on **Wednesday, August 10, 2022**. Be sure to register early as space is limited!

Currently, workshops are offered via the GoToMeeting virtual platform and on-site at the Center. **Pre-registration is required.** When registering, be sure to take note of which type of workshop you will be attending. The workshop title will indicate "VIRTUAL" or "ON-SITE." Pre-registration is REQUIRED.

To register for workshops or to view full descriptions of workshop content, go to: [www.loudoun.gov/wrcworkshops](http://www.loudoun.gov/wrcworkshops).

### **Schedule of Events**

#### **ON-SITE WORKSHOPS held in-person at the Center:**

##### Computer Skills

- MS Word Basic Thurs, Sept 8 9:00 - 4:00
- MS Excel - Level 1 Mon, Sept 19 9:00 - 4:00
- MS Excel - Level 2 Mon, Sept 26 9:00 - 4:00

##### Interviewing Skills

- Your Transferable Skills Wed, Sept 28 10:00 - 12:00

## Resume Writing Skills

- Resume Writing Lab 101 Tues, Sept 13 9:00 - 12:00

## **VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS:**

### Workplace Skills

- Take Ownership of Your Time Thurs, Sept 1 12:00 - 1:00
- The ABC's of Workplace Collaboration Wed, Sept 7 10:00 - 11:00

### Interviewing Skills

- 10 Top Reasons You Didn't Get Hired Thurs, Sept 15 10:00 - 11:30

### Job Search Skills

- Changing Careers Fri, Sept 9 10:00 - 11:00
- Social Media & Job Search Thurs, Sept 29 12:00 - 1:00

## **Workforce Development Month Special Events!**

### Resumes & Cover Letters: Make Your Stand Out

- Wed, Sept 14 11:00 - 1:00 on-site at Sterling Library
- Tues, Sept 20 10:00 - 12:00 on-site at Rust Library
- Tues Sept 27 1:00 - 3:00 on-site at Gum Springs Library

### LinkedIn Profile Photo Shoot (On-Site) To reserve your slot click [here](#).

- Mon, Sept 19 9:00 - 1:00
- Tues, Sept 20 9:00 - 1:00

### Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (On-Site)

- Wed, Sept 21 9:00 - 12:00

### How to Job Search for Remote Work (Virtual)

- Mon, Sept 12 10:00 - 11:30

### Remote Work Data for Northern VA (Virtual)

- Thurs, Sept 22 10:00 - 10:45

### Avoiding Remote Work Scams (Virtual)

- Mon, Sept 26 10:00 - 11:00

### Transition Mindset (Virtual)

- Wed, Sept 28 4:00 - 5:00
-

## Let Your Voice Be Heard: NVTA Seeks Long-Term Transportation Plan Comments

The [Northern Virginia Transportation Authority](#) (NVTA) is seeking public input on Northern Virginia's long-range transportation plan, TransAction, with goals to enhance mobility, increase accessibility and improve resiliency by planning for an equitable, sustainable and safe multimodal transportation network.



The draft TransAction Plan addresses regional transportation needs through 2045 and is comprised of 429 candidate transportation projects totaling more than \$75 billion. The plan identifies potential investments to meet the growing needs for travel throughout the region, expanding beyond Northern Virginia.

### Public Comment Period

**WHAT:** The TransAction Update happens once every five years. Now is the time to provide NVTA with feedback on the region's transportation future, including a proposed regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network, a range of technologies including progress towards vehicle electrification, and programs to encourage alternative modes of transportation, to name a few.

The [draft TransAction Plan document](#) summarizing travel conditions, challenges and opportunities through 2045, and a [draft TransAction Project List](#), are available for public comment, along with an [Interactive Mapping Tool](#) and [Sortable Project List](#) that can be filtered by various categories such as transportation mode and location. View all four materials [here](#).

To view materials in person, please contact NVTA at [703-642-4652](tel:703-642-4652) or [TransAction@thenovaauthority.org](mailto:TransAction@thenovaauthority.org) to set up an appointment with NVTA staff. The TransAction draft plan and online comment form are available in three languages: English, Spanish and Korean.

**WHEN:** Public Comment Period: August 1 – September 18, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. ET

**HOW:** Provide one comment submission per person via one of the following mediums:

- Online forms: [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Korean](#)
- Voicemail: [571-354-0065](tel:571-354-0065)
- Mail: Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, 3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22031
- Public Hearing: Remote via Zoom, or NVTAs Offices, 3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22031, on September 8, 2022 at 7 p.m. ET

*\*When providing comment, the public is asked to provide their first and last name, email address, zip code and feedback on the TransAction Plan. If also commenting on the project list, please provide the project ID and/or project name.*

[Learn More](#)

## Spotted Lanternfly Found in Loudoun; Residents Encouraged to Help Slow Its Spread



Loudoun County officials say the invasive species of insect known as the spotted lanternfly has been found in Loudoun County, signaling a new stage in efforts to slow the spread of the pest that can damage agricultural crops and more than 100 other plants and trees.

Over the past few years, the invasive insect has been detected in Pennsylvania and in parts of Virginia, including Winchester, Charlottesville and Prince William

County. Virginia officials who have been tracking the spotted lanternfly for more than four years anticipated the pest would spread into other communities, including Loudoun.

### **How to Help Slow the Spread**

Slowing the spread of the insect in Loudoun will require the efforts of everyone in the community. Anyone who sees spotted lanternflies in Loudoun is encouraged to take the following actions to help slow their spread in the county:

- Educate yourself about the spotted lanternfly so that you know how to recognize the insect throughout its life cycle.
- Inspect your surroundings; look for spotted lanternfly egg masses and insects by checking tree trunks, wheel wells, under and around vehicles, lawn furniture, fences, storage sheds, rocks, metal surfaces (especially if they are rusty) and other smooth surfaces.
- Kill live insects on sight and squash/scrape off their egg masses.
- Take a photo of the bugs and/or egg masses and report the finding through an online form that is posted on the county's website at [loudoun.gov/spottedlanternfly](https://loudoun.gov/spottedlanternfly). Reporting findings of the spotted lanternfly will help track the spread of the invasive insect in Loudoun.

"Increased public awareness and vigilance is a critical tool in slowing the spread of this damaging insect," said Beth Sastre, a horticulturist with the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE Loudoun). "Because the spotted lanternfly's appearance changes dramatically throughout its life cycle, we encourage residents to take the time to learn how to recognize the different stages and to take steps to remove the insect from their property."

[Read the Full Press Release for More Information](#)

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**Loudoun Offers Mental Health Education & Substance Abuse Prevention Programs in August**

Loudoun County offers ongoing mental health education and substance abuse prevention programs. All programs are free, but registration is required, and seats are limited. The schedule of upcoming classes for August 2022 is as follows:

## Mental Health Education & Substance Abuse Prevention Programs

### Free Classes in August 2022

- Mental Health First Aid
- Opioid Overdose Reversal
- Suicide Prevention

LOUDOUN  
COUNTY  
VIRGINIA

Details: [loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention](https://loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention)

### Mental Health First Aid

[Mental Health First Aid](#) offers training that teaches people how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. The training also teaches the skills that someone needs to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis. There are two versions of the program, a general adult program and a program for adults who interact with youth. The trainings are usually held over a two-day period, with the class lasting for about three hours each day. The next training is:

- Youth Mental Health First Aid: August 30 & 31: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. each day. In-person training; for adults who interact with young people.

For details about the training and to register, visit [loudoun.gov/mhfirstaid](https://loudoun.gov/mhfirstaid).

### REVIVE!: Opioid Overdose Reversal

Loudoun County offers local training sessions of [REVIVE!](#), the opioid overdose and naloxone education program for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Anyone who uses opioids or knows someone who is using opioids is encouraged to attend. The virtual sessions last about one hour. Upcoming classes are scheduled:

- August 12: 12:00 -1:00 p.m.
- August 15: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- August 26: 12:00 -1:00 p.m.
- August 29: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

For details about the training and to register, visit [loudoun.gov/revive](https://loudoun.gov/revive).

## **Suicide Prevention Training**

The [Question Persuade Refer](#) program offers training to help people recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to refer someone for professional help. The suicide prevention training teaches three simple steps that anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide; question, persuade and refer. The virtual training presentation lasts about one hour. Discussion and practice opportunities will follow the presentation. The next class will be held:

- August 25: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

For details about the training and to register, visit [loudoun.gov/suicidepreventiontraining](http://loudoun.gov/suicidepreventiontraining).

## **For More Information**

For more information on the prevention and intervention services offered by the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services, visit [loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention](http://loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention) or [send an email](#).

### **Supervisor Koran T. Saines**

Sterling District Supervisor  
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors  
[703-777-0204](tel:703-777-0204)

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