



Weekly Newsflash
SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

**SAVE THE DATE: SterlingFest Saturday,
October 8**



Loudoun Celebrate everything Sterling at this year's SterlingFest hosted by the Sterling Foundation!

The event will be held on Saturday, October 8th from 11:00 am-5:00 pm at 120 Enterprise Street, and will feature live music, food & drinks, a car show, petting zoo and reptile exhibit, scavenger hunt, business expo, crafters and much more!

What is SterlingFest?

Every October, The Sterling Foundation throws a massive block party, celebrating the best of our hometown! Bring the whole family, explore booths offering the best of local businesses and artisans. Sample fine food from a wide variety of local restaurants. While the kids enjoy games, obstacle

courses, and crafts, parents can sit down in the Beer Garden for a pint of locally brewed beer or a lovely glass of Virginia's finest wine.

SterlingFest takes over multiple streets surrounding the Sterling Community Center, turning it into one giant party celebrating the best that Sterling has to offer. Get to know your neighbors, learn about local businesses, buy unique gifts from local artists, and have a great time! Best of all, the entire event helps raise funds to benefit The Sterling Foundation, ensuring we can continue our work to strengthen and beautify our hometown.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *In the morning, parts of Sterling Blvd will be inaccessible. Between 10am & 11am, large portions of Sterling Blvd will be closed off for our community parade on the morning of SterlingFest. Using GPS could take you through the parade route and into stopped traffic, so please follow the directions provided by the Foundation [online](#).*

Habitat for Humanity Homeownership Program

Everyone should have a safe, affordable place to call home. To carry out that vision, Habitat for Humanity partners with individuals and families from application through construction to when the keys are handed over.

Applications for Habitat for Humanity's Homeownership Program will be available October 3-31, 2022. The Homebuyer Information Online Course will be available October 3-31, 2022.


A Completed Application Includes:

- The application, fully filled out,
- All required documentation,
- A Homebuyer Information Online Course certificate for each applicant.

Applications can be completed online at loudounhabitat.org/homeownership or in-person at the Loudoun Habitat for Humanity office located at 700 Fieldstone Dr., Suite 128, Leesburg VA 20176.





[Click here](#) to download an informational flyer about Loudoun Habitat for Humanity's Homeownership Program.

Please review the Homeownership Program qualifications and process information on [Loudoun Habitat for Humanity's website](https://loudounhabitat.org). If you have specific questions after reviewing this information, please email their Homeowner Services Manager, Edwina Jackson via [this link](#).



HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED OCTOBER 3, 2022 TO OCTOBER 31, 2022.

Applicant qualifications are based on the four categories listed in the image below. A full description of these requirements are available at: loudounhabitat.org/homeownership.

 Residency Requirements	 Need for Decent, Affordable Housing	 Willingness to Partner	 Ability to Pay
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1.) **Pick up an application.** Applications are available October 3-31, 2022:
• Online: loudounhabitat.org/homeownership
• In Person: Loudoun Habitat for Humanity office 700 Fieldstone Dr., Suite 128, Leesburg VA 20176

2.) **Complete the Homebuyer Information Online Course.** Learn about Habitat for Humanity and the Habitat homebuyer process.

The Homebuyer Information Course is available from October 3 through October 31, 2022.

- Set up your course account at: loudounhabitat.org/homeownership
- Submit the certificate for course completion with the application.

3.) **Submit a complete application.** A complete application includes:
• the application fully filled out,
• all required documentation, and
• a Homebuyer Information Online Course certificate for each applicant.

Fundraiser for Jeff Martinez



Rita Poston is a decades-long resident of Sterling, who has made her mark as an activist through her volunteering efforts. Rita has truly dedicated her time towards bettering the lives of those in the Northern Virginia community and is known for lending a

helping hand wherever she may be needed.

I would like to lend Rita a helping hand by sharing the information below regarding a fundraiser she has established for her son, Jeff, who is battling several life-threatening medical conditions:

"My name is Jeffrey Martinez, and I would like to share a portion of my life's Hero's Journey thus far. (for we are all on a super heroic adventure) For the past several decades, I have been battling a plethora of serious -often soul crushing and some life threatening- physical maladies; all foundationally based on a faulty autoimmune system.

Currently, this list includes:

- *Severe Crohn's disease*
- *Aynklosing Spondylitis*
- *Heart Aneurysm*
- *Bronchiectasis*

Although I have been facing these ailments for quite a while, the past 5 years have been excruciating and taken quite a physical, emotional and spiritual toll; including several ER visits and stays in the hospital. In fact, I just spent several weeks in the hospital. Unfortunately, my body continues to reject (through the creation of antibodies) the infused biologics I receive to keep these diseases in remission.

Thankfully, I believe I have found a potential remedy that will allow me to forgo these medicines; at times effective, unjustifiably expensive, but also causing long term side effects. I have decided to complete a revolutionary stem cell therapy program next January!! After 15 years of practice, it has an 85% success rate for severely autoimmune compromised patients. Hopefully allowing me to

wean off the majority of the 15 medications I currently take; concurrently keeping me in a remissive state!

In addition, Entyvio, the latest biologic I had been on since last December, has also stopped working; thus the several recent long hospital stays.

Unfortunately, over the past 12 years, I have burned through nearly all the biologics currently on the market for FDA approved for both Crohn's disease and Aynklosing Spondilitis; the only one left is called Stelara and it is NOT covered by most health insurances, including mine. One year of infusions costs \$125,000. (God willing, I will negate the need for any further biologics within one year of stem cell therapy treatments!)"

To read the full post and make a donation toward Jeff's care, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jeff-martinez-fundraiser>.

Loudoun Offers Mental Health Education & Substance Abuse Prevention Programs in October

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 October 2022 is as follows:

Mental Health Education & Substance Abuse Prevention Programs

Free Classes in October 2022

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences**
- **Mental Health First Aid**
- **Opioid Overdose Reversal**
- **Suicide Prevention**

Register: loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention

Adverse Childhood Experiences Training

The [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#) training is a one-hour educational program that aims to raise awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs. ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. ACEs are linked to

chronic health problems, mental illness and substance use problems in adulthood.

The next class will be held October 19, 2022, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. For details about the training and to register, visit loudoun.gov/childhoodadversitytraining.

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 trainings are usually held over a two-day period, with the class lasting for about three hours each day.

The next training of Adult Mental Health First Aid will be held October 12 & 13, 2022, 9:00 am. – 1:30 p.m. each day. The in-person training will be at the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services office at 906 Trailview Blvd. SE, Leesburg. For details about the training and to register, visit loudoun.gov/mhfirstaid.

Opioid Overdose Reversal

[REVIVE!](#) is the opioid overdose and naloxone education program for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The training is free and anyone who uses opioids or knows someone who is using opioids is encouraged to attend a training. Loudoun County offers two versions of the program - Rapid REVIVE! and Virtual REVIVE!

The next scheduled training will be held October 7, 2022, 12:00 -1:00 p.m. REVIVE! trainings can also be scheduled upon request. For details about the training and to register, visit 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 October class will be held October 20, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. For details about the training and to register, visit 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 or [send an email](#).

Free Smoke Alarm Assessments This Weekend



Free Smoke Alarm Assessments Saturday, October 1! System members will be in neighborhoods across Loudoun County for our annual smoke alarm program this Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

As part of the 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 or by calling the smoke alarm program hotline at 703-737-8093.

American Rescue Plan Act Grant Funding Available to Loudoun Nonprofits

Nonprofits and faith-based organizations serving Loudoun County residents are encouraged to apply for financial assistance available through the county's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.



American Rescue Plan Act

NONPROFIT & FAITH-BASED FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Funds are available to support eligible nonprofit & faith-based organizations working to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applications available: **September 23, 2022**

Apply by: **October 14, 2022**

loudoun.gov/grantopportunities



A total of \$2.5 million is available for distribution

in this round of grant applications. This funding, allocated by the Board of Supervisors in April 2022, will support organizations working to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through immediate relief to low-income residents while also addressing pre-existing health, economic and social disparities.

The application is now available at loudoun.gov/grantopportunities.

An informational webinar will be recorded and archived for viewing, and made available at loudoun.gov/grantopportunities.

The application process is open to tax exempt, private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations that provide human services to low-income Loudoun County residents to mitigate the negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in areas that include:

- **Food Assistance:** Providing nutritious and culturally appropriate emergency food services as part of a comprehensive strategy for individuals and families to regain self-sufficiency.
- **Mental Health:** Providing support to affected residents in meeting their mental and behavioral health needs, with a focus on populations that have limited access to mental health services due to income or other factors.
- **Rental Assistance:** Emergency short-term rental support that provides tools, skills, strategies and resources to help individuals and families become housing secure.

- **Utility Assistance:** Providing emergency utility assistance as part of a comprehensive strategy for individuals and families to regain self-sufficiency.

The deadline to apply is 4:00 p.m., Friday, October 14, 2022. The grant award covers activities from July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2024; funding will be retroactive to July 1, 2022.

For questions about the application process, [email ARPA Coordinator Kristine Powers](#).

LC-CFRS Annual Coat and Food Drive



The Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System, along with the Loudoun Career Firefighters Association Local 3756, have once again partnered with One Warm Coat and Mobile Hope Loudoun to collect winter apparel for local residents in need. New this year, they have also partnered with Loudoun

Hunger Relief to collect non-perishable unopened food and unopened pet food for local residents in need.

The process is simple!

- Collect your donations.
- Drop off your items from October 1, 2022 – November 6, 2022
- All donated clothing items will be given to Mobile Hope Loudoun and all donated food items will be given to Loudoun Hunger Relief for distribution to local people in need.

Those looking to make a monetary donation instead may do so online directly with [Mobile Hope Loudoun](#) or with [Loudoun Hunger Relief](#). Loudoun Hunger Relief also has an [Amazon Wishlist for needed items](#), which will be sent directly to Loudoun Hunger Relief when purchased.

Clothing Donation Guidelines

All clothing donations must be clean and new or gently used. Accepted clothing includes coats, jackets, scarves, winter hats, gloves and mittens.

Food Donation Guidelines

All food donations must be unopened non-perishable food items that have NOT expired. Unopened non-perishable pet food will also be accepted. The following items are particularly needed:

- Cereal
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Canned fruits
- Canned vegetables
- Macaroni and cheese
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- 3-10 pound bags of dry dog food
- Canned dog food
- 3-10 pound bags of dry cat food
- Canned cat food
- Whole grain pastas
- Rice
- Cooking oil
- Low sodium soups

Drop-Off Locations

Locations in Sterling include:

Sterling Park Station 11 and 15

- 104 Commerce Street
- Sterling, VA 20164
- Company 11 Phone: 703-430-7010
- Company 15 Phone: 703-430-1780
- Drop-Off Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sterling-Cascades Station 18 and 25

- 46700 Middlefield Drive
- Sterling, VA 20165
- Company 18 Phone: 703-430-4013

- Company 25 Phone: 703-430-2539
- Drop-Off Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For a comprehensive list of drop-off sites in other locations, please visit <https://www.loudoun.gov/5624/LC-CFRS-Annual-Coat-and-Food-Drive>.

U.S. Government Ends Use of Facility in Loudoun as Safe Haven for Afghan Nationals

The use of the National Conference Center (NCC) in Lansdowne as a “safe haven” facility for Afghan nationals has come to an end. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has [announced the departure of all Afghan nationals from the NCC](#).

Currently, federal officials are working to demobilize the site and will vacate the property by September 30, 2022. This week, residents who live near the NCC may notice the removal of barriers and other visible signs of the operation. The NCC reports that it will return to normal business operations effective October 1, 2022.

The federal government entered into a contractual agreement with the NCC to use the center to temporarily house Afghan nationals as part of [Operation Allies Welcome](#). Beginning in March 2022, the site functioned as a brief stop for more than 4,500 Afghan nationals on their way to join other communities and resettle into their new homes across the United States.

Federal officials say that while at the NCC, Afghan nationals prepared for resettlement through a number of activities, including:

- Applying for work authorization.
- Attending English language classes.
- Being matched with their new U.S. communities.
- Learning about the U.S. legal and immigration systems.
- Participating in cultural orientation classes



Many federal agencies and their community partner organizations contributed to the “safe haven” operation in Loudoun, helping Afghan nationals through the process and preparing them for their new homes in communities around the country.

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

Second-Half Personal Property Tax Deadline is October 5, 2022



The graphic features a dark teal header with the text "Personal Property Tax Deadline" in white. Below the header, on the left, is an icon of a tax bill with a clock overlaid on it. To the right of the icon is a yellow banner with the text "October 5" in white. Below the banner, the text reads "For payment options, visit: loudoun.gov/taxes". At the bottom left is the Loudoun County Virginia logo, and at the bottom right is the contact information: "Treasurer's Office: 703-777-0280" and "Email: taxes@loudoun.gov".

Loudoun County Treasurer H. Roger Zurn Jr. reminds taxpayers that the deadline for payment of the second-half personal property tax is Wednesday, October 5, 2022.

Payments received or postmarked after October 5, 2022, will incur a 10% penalty and interest. Any

such penalty, when assessed, will become part of the tax with interest accruing on both the tax and penalty at a rate of 10% annually. Personal property taxes remaining unpaid after 60 calendar days from the original due date will incur an additional 15% penalty. The due date will not be extended for bills where assessment questions have been filed with the Board of Equalization.

Taxpayers who are having financial difficulties should contact the Office of the Treasurer's Collections Team at [703-771-5656](tel:703-771-5656) for assistance.

[For More Information](#)

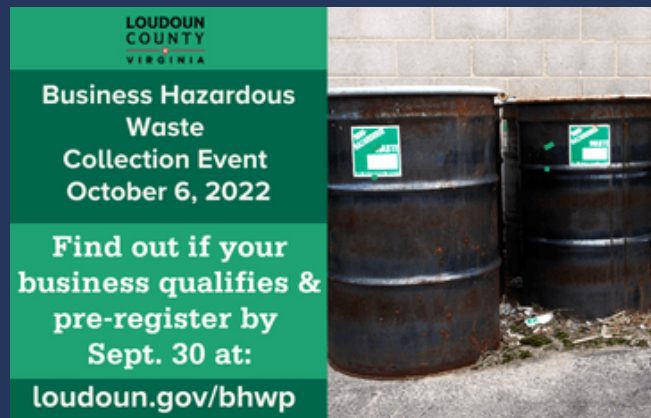
Contact the Loudoun County Treasurer's Office at [703-777-0280](tel:703-777-0280) or by [email](#) if you have not received your bill or if there are any questions. Stay up to date on tax information by subscribing to the Tax Notices category of Alert Loudoun at loudoun.gov/alert. You can also text the word "TAXES" to [888777](tel:888777) to receive text messages about tax-related information, including upcoming deadlines.

For information regarding Real Property Tax Relief for the Elderly or for Disabled Persons, contact the Tax Exemption and Deferrals Division of the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office by [email](#), by phone at [703-737-8557](tel:703-737-8557) or visit loudoun.gov/taxrelief.

Business Hazardous Waste Collection Event Set for Oct. 6

Loudoun County will host a hazardous waste collection event for businesses or otherwise non-residential generators on Thursday, October 6, 2022.

Pre-registration is required to participate, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 30.



The program consists of two collection events per year where eligible hazardous waste generators may deliver toxic, reactive, ignitable and/or corrosive materials for proper disposal.

The Loudoun County Business Hazardous Waste Program is offered for businesses and organizations located in Loudoun County that are considered "Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs)" or that do not exceed the following thresholds:

- Less than 220 pounds of hazardous wastes are generated per calendar month;
- Less than 2.2 pounds of acutely hazardous wastes are generated per calendar month;
- Not more than 2,220 pounds (roughly five 55-gallon drums) of hazardous wastes are accumulated on-site at any time.

Hazardous waste disposal through this program typically results in reduced costs for participants as compared to establishing collection service directly with a

hazardous waste management company. The business or organization pays for disposal of the material but does not pay for the waste collection or mobilization.

Visit loudoun.gov/bhwp for registration forms and event information or call 571-233-1937.

New Silver Line Stations Coming Soon With a New Metrorail Map



Metrorail's iconic map is getting an update with the addition of the six new Silver Line stations. You will start to see new maps rolling out in stations, trains and transit centers, featuring Reston Town Center, Herndon, Innovation Center, Washington Dulles International Airport, Loudoun Gateway and Ashburn. Also on the new map, Potomac Yard Station is shown as a future station.

Metro is in the final stages of preparation for the opening of the Silver Line extension,

which will link the rail system to Washington Dulles International Airport and Loudoun County for the first time. Simulated service will begin next month, and this week Metro's Board of Directors gave General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke the authority to accept the project upon completion of certain conditions that must be met by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, and safety certification that includes concurrence from the Federal Transit Administration and the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission. Metro management, working closely together with local bus operators who will provide local connections and other partners, will then set a date to begin service.

To learn more about Metro's newest stations go to wmata.com/silverline and sign up for the Silver Bulletin Newsletter to get all the latest information.

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

Interest Meeting for Potential Adaptive Recreation Parent Support Group September 29

The Loudoun County Adaptive Recreation Program is hosting a meeting to evaluate the interest in creating a Parents of Children with Disabilities Support Group.

Many parents of children with disabilities feel overwhelmed and isolated and this group will give parents the opportunity to connect, support and share with one another.



The interest meeting will be held **Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.** at the administrative offices of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, 742 Miller Drive SE, Leesburg, VA 20175. Light refreshments will be provided to attendees for this free information session.

Sign up to attend with [this RSVP form link](#).

For information about Adaptive Recreation programs, visit the [Adaptive Recreation webpage](#), [email Adaptive Recreation](#) or call 703-777-0343.

Supervisor Koran T. Saines

Sterling District Supervisor
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
703-777-0204

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