



Weekly Newsflash

JULY 7, 2023

BUSINESSES/NONPROFITS: 2023 Sterling District Back-to-School Supply Drive

In preparation for the 2023 Sterling District Back-to-School Supply Drive, my office is seeking out businesses, nonprofits, and community groups that would be interested in serving as either a drop-off site for supply donations from community members OR hosting an internal supply drive to collect donations among your employees, customers, and professional networks as part of this year's Back-to-School initiative.

**LOUDOUN
COUNTY**
VIRGINIA

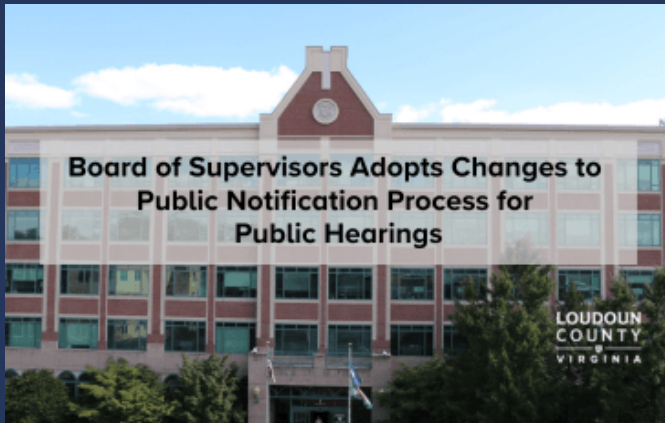
Board of
Supervisors
Sterling District

The Sterling District Back-to-School Supply Drive is an annual initiative hosted by the Sterling District Office of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to support students and educators in the community with much needed tools and supplies as they gear up for the new school year.

The Supply Drive will run during the month of August as students and educators will return to school on Thursday, August 24th. More information on donation collection will be released to the community in the coming weeks; however, please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

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 or call 703-737-8089.

Loudoun County Updates Public Notification Process for Public Hearings



During its July 5, 2023, meeting, the Loudoun Board of Supervisors approved an update to its Rules of Order, which changes the notice requirements related to approval of land use applications and amendments to county ordinances. The update is necessary due to changes to the Code of Virginia [§ [15.2-](#)

[1427\(F\)](#) and [15.2-2204\(A\)](#)] that were adopted by the Virginia General Assembly and became effective July 1.

State Code Changes

The changes in the state code require that notice of ordinance amendments or land use applications be published no more than 14 days before the intended passage or adoption of such items. As a practical matter, this means the Board of Supervisors must either take a final vote on agenda items for ordinances and land use applications immediately following the required public hearing or advertise the item for another public hearing at which time action may be taken. Advertisement of such public hearing items must be published no more than 14 days prior to the planned vote in two consecutive weeks.

Public Hearing Notices and Documents

To comply with the updated state code, Loudoun County will advertise ordinance amendments or land use applications no more than 14 days before the intended passage or adoption of such items in a local newspaper of record.

Additionally, all of the Board of Supervisors public meetings and meeting documents are posted on the county's website at least three days prior to a meeting in accordance with Virginia law.

The Board's meeting schedule is posted at loudoun.gov/calendar and the Board's meeting documents are posted at loudoun.gov/bosdocuments.

More Information

To learn more about the recent change in the Board of Supervisors' Rules of Order, including the changes to the Code of Virginia and to review the text edits, read the [July 5, 2023 staff report, Proposed Amendments to the Board of Supervisors Rules of Order – Hearing of New Items and Returning Items Ready for Action \(PDF\)](#).

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

APPLY TODAY: Loudoun County Advisory Boards, Commissions, and Committees

The Sterling District Office is seeking Sterling District residents to fill several openings on Loudoun County Government advisory boards, commissions, and committees.

These entities provide opportunities for direct involvement in local government and the Board of Supervisors encourages all individuals to apply to serve.

There are several vacancies open to Sterling residents, as well as at-large seats, for groups such as the Advisory Commission on Youth, Animal Advisory Committee, Family Services Advisory Board, Transit Advisory Board, Housing Advisory and Housing Choice Voucher Resident advisory boards, and many more.



Additional information and a complete list of Loudoun County advisory boards, commissions, and committees can be found at loudoun.gov/advisory.

For anyone interested in being considered for a position on any commission, committee, or board with a vacancy, please visit the [vacancies page](#) to complete an application online.

If you have any additional questions, please contact my office at Koran.Saines@loudoun.gov.

Solarize NOVA Offers Loudoun Homeowners Free Solar Assessments, Discounted Prices on Solar Systems



The [Solarize NOVA](#) program has returned to Loudoun County. Now through August 31, 2023, Loudoun County homeowners have the opportunity to sign up to learn more about solar power options specific to their property and take advantage of streamlined installation and financing processes.

In addition to free satellite solar assessments, the program offers discounted pricing on solar systems from vetted installers and connects participants with information on the current 30% federal solar tax credit and other incentives, including the Solar Renewable Energy Credit market. Property owners in Loudoun also may be eligible for [Loudoun County's Solar Energy Tax Exemption](#).

Anyone interested in learning more about solar power is encouraged to attend an upcoming [virtual information session](#) about the Solarize NOVA program.

- Wednesday, July 19, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 1, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 17, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Solarize NOVA is sponsored by the Local Energy Alliance Program in partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and participating municipal governments, including Loudoun County.

More information about the Solarize NOVA program in Loudoun is online at solarizenova.org/loudoun.

Information about obtaining the proper permits for installing either a residential or commercial solar photovoltaic system in Loudoun County is available at loudoun.gov/solarpermits.

REMINDER: Loudoun County Public Schools to Provide Free Meals This Summer

Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) will be providing free meals this summer for students ages 18 and younger at eight locations throughout Loudoun County.

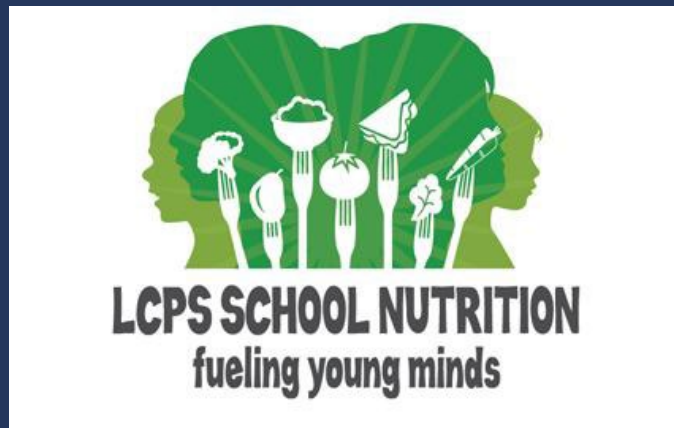
Important information about the summer meals program for this year:

- All meals must be consumed at the school or site location.
- Food cannot be taken off site.
- Meals cannot be picked up by a parent or guardian to bring home.

A list of all summer meal service locations and times Monday through Friday is available [online](#). Meals will be provided, on a first come, first serve basis.

Families interested in additional food assistance over summer break can go to the [Loudoun Feeds website](https://loudounfeeds.org) and click on the "Find Food" button to find a list of community partners who will have adequate food supplies on hand. [Loudounfeeds.org](https://loudounfeeds.org) provides a calendar that shows the date, time, location and requirements of open food pantries.

LCPS understands that this is a change from the past two summers when additional federal funding allowed for expanded LCPS meal services.



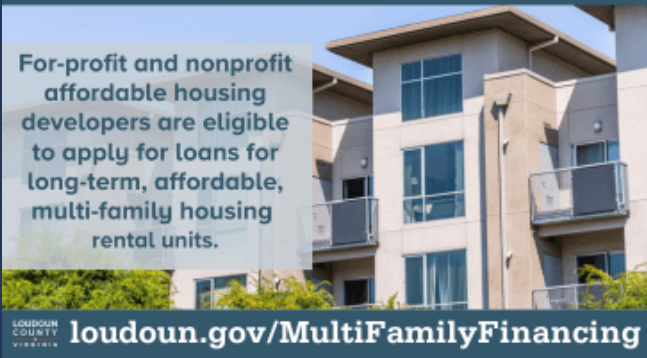
Please note: LCPS' Summer Meals Program differs from summer school meals. The Summer Meals Program is a free meal program that helps families needing extra assistance during the summer. Locations must be applied for/approved by VDOE. Summer school meals are an extension of the regular school year. Summer school meals have a fee and are an option for all students attending LCPS summer school. Application for assistance can be submitted any time.

If you have any questions, please reach out to School Nutrition Services at cafe@lcps.org.

Loudoun Accepting Loan Applications for Development of Affordable Multi-Family Rental Housing

Affordable Multi-Family Housing Loan Program

For-profit and nonprofit affordable housing developers are eligible to apply for loans for long-term, affordable, multi-family housing rental units.



loudoun.gov/MultiFamilyFinancing

Loudoun County's application process for the Affordable Multi-Family Housing Loan Program for developers has opened with the release of the [2023 Notice of Funding Availability](#).

For-profit and nonprofit affordable housing developers are eligible to apply for loans for the development of long-

term, affordable multi-family rental housing units in Loudoun. The loans are to be used in conjunction with the [Virginia Housing Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program](#) and/or the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Federal Housing Administration 221\(D\)\(4\) mortgage insurance program](#).

The application process is competitive. Project applications will receive points in the following categories:

- Consistency with Countywide Housing Needs: Scoring will be higher for projects serving a mix of incomes below 60% Area Median Income, providing longer affordability periods and in close proximity to transportation and jobs.

- Project Design: Scoring will be higher for projects that have universal design, innovative features, services, and project amenities.
- Project Readiness: Scoring will be higher for projects with construction plans that are permit ready, have a public participation process, and where project feasibility is clear.
- Experience: Scoring will be higher for projects with a design team, general contractor, developer and property manager with relevant project experience who have a track record of project completion, strong organizational capacity and success at building partnerships.
- Budget and Leverage: Scoring will be higher for projects that have a sound financing plan, clear budget documents, multiple funding sources, developer participation, meet leverage requirements and have reasonable operating costs.

Loudoun County will hold a pre-application meeting Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. To register for a pre-application meeting or for more information about the application process, contact the Department of Housing and Community Development [by email](#) or call [703-737-8323](tel:703-737-8323). Complete applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 2, 2023.

The Affordable Multi-Family Housing Loan Program is one of several initiatives created by the Board of Supervisors to increase the supply and retention of affordable multi-family rental housing units in Loudoun County. The program encourages private investment by providing gap financing to address unmet housing needs.

Loudoun County has a number of programs aimed at helping families achieve safe and affordable housing. More information about Loudoun County's housing programs may be found at loudoun.gov/housing.

Loudoun Awarded Federal Grant for Low-Emission, Compressed Natural Gas Buses

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has awarded Loudoun County \$13.8 million to purchase 37 compressed natural gas buses, construct a fueling station and update its maintenance facility. The purchase of buses for [Loudoun County Transit](#), the county's bus system, is a key step in the county's efforts to achieve the goals of the [Loudoun County Energy Strategy](#), which include reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in transportation and leading by example in county government operations.

Loudoun Receives Federal Grant for Low-Emission Buses & Fueling Station



The purchase of 37 compressed natural gas buses is a key step in achieving goals of the Loudoun County Energy Strategy.

Learn more about Loudoun's Energy Strategy: loudoun.gov/energy.

The new buses will replace the current buses in the county's fixed-route, local bus service, which are nearing the end of their useful life. These buses provide vital transportation services to many low-income residents who depend on public transportation in order to work, go to school, medical appointments, grocery shopping and accomplish many other activities of daily life.

Officials estimate that the new buses will lead to an annual reduction of 447.55 metric tons of greenhouse gases, which, in terms of emissions benefits, equates to:

- 98 gasoline vehicles taken off the road.
- 180 tons of waste recycled.
- 3.1 acres of US forest preserved.
- 7,459 trees planted.

The new buses and fueling station are expected to be operational by the end of 2024.

The grant awarded to Loudoun County is through the FTA's [Low- and No-Emission \(Low-No\) Vehicle Program](#), which is designed to put cleaner buses on the road by supporting the transition of the nation's transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy-efficient transit vehicles. The program makes funding available to help transit agencies buy or lease American-built low- or zero-emission vehicles, including buses and vans and make facility and station upgrades to accommodate low- or zero-emission vehicles.

Loudoun County's grant application was one of 130 selected by the FTA for funding out of a total of 475 eligible projects. In all, the FTA awarded \$1.69 billion in Fiscal Year 2023 funding for projects in 46 states and territories.

More information about Loudoun County's efforts to increase energy sustainability, as well as other environmental initiatives, is online at loudoun.gov/environment.

Call for Art for Pet Portraiture Art Exhibition at Loudoun County Government Center



All artists who live in Loudoun County are eligible to enter an exhibition titled Pet Portraits to showcase local artists who enjoy painting, photographing, drawing, sculpture or creating family pet portraits in other media, whether they be dogs, cats, horse, fish, etc.

The exhibition will take place in the Loudoun County Government Center Gallery at 1 Harrison Street, S.E. in Leesburg, and will be available for public viewing from July 31 through September 8, 2023.

Works in any media will be accepted. Two-dimensional media includes drawings, paintings, photographs, prints (mono-prints, etchings, and woodblock prints), fiber art, mixed media, and reliefs. Three-dimensional artwork includes pottery/ceramic, mixed media, metal, bronze, wood or other media with the largest dimension of 24" H x 24" W x 12" D or a stand-alone piece for floor display with a maximum 36" base diameter.

Each artist may submit one entry and must submit a digital photo of their submission by [email](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 24, 2023. Artwork must be ready for display; hanging artwork must be framed with hanging wire securely attached to eyehooks on the back of each piece and must be appropriate for exhibit in public locations.

Artwork and loan entry forms will be accepted at the art gallery on the first floor of the Loudoun County Government Center on July 31, 2023, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. The Art Exhibition Entry Form is available online at loudoun.gov/advisory-art.

This exhibit is coordinated by members of the Loudoun County Art Advisory Committee, who are appointed by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. The committee is responsible for exhibiting work by Loudoun artists and maintaining and exhibiting the county's permanent art collection.

Loudoun County Surplus Auction Features Bargains on Furniture and More

The current Loudoun County surplus auction offers bargains on a variety of items. Featured items this month include a large reception desk, stacking chairs with a dolly and Motorola IMPRES adaptive multi-unit chargers. Other items include vehicles, fire extinguishers, children's furniture, carts, laptops, office furniture and many other miscellaneous items. The auction will close at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, July 13, 2023.



Detailed information and photographs of the items for sale are online [here](#).

Loudoun County sells selected items online through Public Surplus, which was created specifically for public agencies. Anyone interested in bidding on the items must be registered with publicsurplus.com. Registration is free; however, a 9.75% buyer's premium is charged to all purchases. Loudoun County government employees are subject to bidding limitations under the auction terms and conditions, which are available on the Public Surplus site.

Loudoun County has specific hours for buyers to pick up their items at 14 Cardinal Park Drive, Suite 106, in Leesburg. Items must be picked up by appointment, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. The dates for items to

be picked up are noted on each auction item listed on the Loudoun County auction site.

The Loudoun County surplus auction helps keep items out of the Loudoun County landfill by repurposing them. More information about the sale of Loudoun County government surplus items is online at loudoun.gov/surplus.

Pavilion Reservations Now Available Online through Loudoun County PRCS



Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Service (PRCS) is pleased to announce pavilion rentals are now reservable online. There are over 30 pavilions for rent in PRCS parks and part of community center sites across the county.

The pavilions are available for a fee for the half-day or full-day and can be reserved by visiting loudoun.gov/pavilions. The website provides detailed information on the pavilion rental process, links to pavilion amenities and available rental times, the maximum occupancy for each pavilion, and photos and locations of the pavilions.

The pavilions are available for a fee for the half-day or

Loudoun PRCS offers small, medium, and large pavilions to hold your next birthday party or other celebrations. PRCS continues to offer several pavilions available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Reservations may still be made in person at one of our staffed sites, including the [PRCS Administrative Office](#), [Recreation and Community Centers](#), [Community Centers](#), the [Claude Moore Park Visitors Center](#), the [Franklin Park Office](#), and the [Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park Administration Building](#), Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays.

For more information on reserving pavilions online go to loudoun.gov/pavilions or visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#), email PRCS for general questions, or call [703-777-0343](tel:703-777-0343).

Supervisor Koran T. Saines

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