

Inside Sterling Newsletter: December Edition

It is hard to believe but 2018 is almost over! It was another busy, productive year for the Board of Supervisors and my office. Of course, while the holiday season is upon us, there is still work to be done. One issue that was a priority of mine in November is the Richland Acres cut-through traffic problem.

On November 27, I held a community meeting on this. For many years people have been using Thomas Avenue, a local residential street, as a cut-through from Algonkian Parkway, creating a safety issue for residents of the Richland Acres community. A few years ago Loudoun County implemented several traffic calming measures, including multiple speed humps. However, problems continue and at my behest, the Board of Supervisors authorized a study of the issue (the VDOT process requires data collection). On November 27, Loudoun transportation staff shared study results. Their presentation is available on my website (www.loudoun.gov/sterling) and my Facebook page ("[Koran4Sterling](#)"). In summary, while speeds declined traffic volume remained high. Fairfax County, which is where Thomas Avenue and Algonkian Parkway intersect, is proposing to implement a morning turn restriction. Loudoun County, based on study data, will ask Fairfax County for an evening turn restriction. (These restrictions will target the specific time frames where volume is high and not apply all morning or all evening.)

You can share your thoughts on this in two ways. The first is by contacting my office at 703-777-0204 or emailing Koran.Saines@loudoun.gov. The second is by attending VDOT's upcoming public hearing on the proposed morning restriction. That will be held on January 16 at Dranesville Elementary School located at 1515 Powells Tavern Place in Herndon from 6:30-8:30 in the evening.

I hope you all have a great holiday season and wish you a happy new year!



E-Newsletter Subscriber Privacy Procedure

It has been brought to our attention that under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, your contact information is subject to disclosure, unless you specifically request that your information be withheld.

If you would like your information to be withheld from FOIA requests for subscriber lists, please update your profile by clicking on the **Update Profile** link below. (If you are okay with your information being released, no action is necessary.) After clicking **Update Profile**, the following are the next steps:

- At the Update Your (list subscription) Profile window, click the **Submit** button.
- For security purposes, an email will be sent to you. From the email, click on the **Update your profile** link.
- You will then see a screen requiring you to enter your email address and clicking **Update Profile**.

Through this process, any existing subscriber who updates their profile on or after October 15, 2018 is exempt from a FOIA request for the list of subscribers.

George Mason Observatory Open to the Public



George Mason's astronomical observatory, located atop Research Hall on Mason's Fairfax Campus, houses one of the largest diameter telescopes among college campuses in the mid-Atlantic region. Night sky observing sessions led by faculty and graduate students are preceded by informative talks. Sessions open to the general public are held during the fall and spring semesters, weather permitting. Please check the website for the observing schedule and/or cancellation information. Observing sessions typically last approximately 1.5 hours. Phone: 703-993-9558; Web: [link](#).



Sponsor a Loudoun Child

INMED's Opportunity Center, based in Loudoun County, creates pathways for economically disadvantaged children to succeed, with youth programs that directly

improve academic achievement and parent programs that foster healthy child development in a stable home.

This holiday season, INMED invites you to give a truly meaningful gift to a child in need -- a gift that can completely change the outcome of that child's life -- with our ***Sponsor A Child Campaign***. For more information on this and how beneficial it can be for a child click [here](#).

Loudoun Commissioner of Revenue to Hold Real Estate Tax Relief Seminars

Loudoun County Commissioner of the Revenue Robert S. Wertz Jr. has scheduled free information sessions to familiarize residents with the eligibility criteria for the county's generous real estate tax relief program and new eligibility thresholds for 2019.



Loudoun County homeowners age 65 or older or with disabilities who are below established income and wealth limits may benefit from a reduction in the amount of property taxes they pay. Qualified applicants for real estate relief must have a gross combined income less than \$72,000, and net worth less than \$920,000. Up to \$10,000 in income of a spouse or relative residing in the home is excluded from the income calculation. Program participants saved almost \$8 million in real estate taxes in tax year 2018.

Find out about the county's tax relief program and have your questions answered. No appointment or RSVP is required to attend these free sessions, which are being held at the following locations and times:

Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls

Friday, December 7, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Purcellville Library, 220 East Main Street, Purcellville

Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road, NW, Leesburg

Thursday, December 13, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Middleburg Library, 101 Reed Street, Middleburg:

Thursday, January 10, 2019, 6:00 p.m., Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, SE, Leesburg

More information about the Loudoun County Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled program is online at www.loudoun.gov/taxrelief.



Loudoun Surveys Cable Subscribers; Public Input Meeting Set for December 19

The County is gathering information from cable television subscribers related to the quality of service received from their cable TV provider pertaining to outages, response time, value and service calls.

Comcast Communications and Verizon Virginia each hold non-exclusive cable TV franchise agreements with Loudoun County, which grants them the right to use public rights of ways to install their cables and operate their cable TV systems.

Under terms of the franchise agreement with each provider, a subscriber satisfaction survey is to be conducted periodically. The survey results will be shared with the Loudoun Communications Commission and will help form recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for franchise renewal negotiations that are expected to occur within the next three years.

A link to the survey is available at www.loudoun.gov/cable. The survey will remain open through January 31, 2019.

The Loudoun County Communications Commission will hold a public input meeting to further solicit feedback on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dulles Room of the Loudoun County Government Center, at 1 Harrison Street SE in Leesburg.

Anyone who has questions about the survey may contact Loudoun County Administrator of Broadband & Cable TV Services Zenon Dragosz at 703- 771-5966 or Zenon.Dragosz@loudoun.gov.

Governor Announces Application Launch for 2nd Virginia Management Fellows Program Cohort



Governor Northam announced the application launch for the 2nd cohort of the Virginia Management Fellows Program.

The program, which is a partnership between the state and Virginia Tech; is designed as an entry point to state government for recent graduates (2018- May 2019 undergraduate/graduate) who are dedicated to serving the Commonwealth.

The application deadline is December 7, 2018 and the hiring range is \$40K.

You can submit your application [here](#).

You can find the full press release [here](#).

You can find more on the program [here](#).

GET STAY
Covered. Covered.

Need Health Insurance? Enroll in the Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act's open enrollment period runs through December 15. For help in going through the process, call Enroll Virginia's team at 703-647-4748 or call Health Works at 703-840-4692. Both groups provide expert advice and information about the various plans that are available and what possible tax credits you may be eligible for.

Loudoun County Cold Weather Shelter Now Open

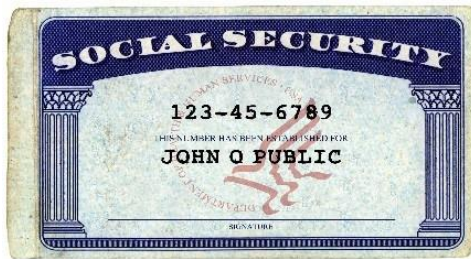


The Loudoun County Cold Weather Shelter opened on Thursday, November 15, 2018, for homeless adults. The

shelter, which provides a warm indoor sleeping environment, will be open from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. seven nights a week. In addition to a place to sleep, the shelter provides case management, mental health services and other resources.

The Cold Weather Shelter is in a new location this year due to renovations at the Loudoun County Homeless Services Center in Leesburg. For the winter of 2018-2019, the shelter will be located at the Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise Street in Sterling. The shelter will be open through March 31, 2019. A photo ID will be required for admittance to the shelter.

More information about services available to those experiencing homelessness in Loudoun County may be found at [this](#) site or by calling 571-258-3033.



Preparing for Social Security Seminar

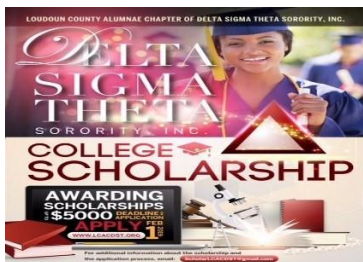
The Sterling Library, located at 22330 S. Sterling Blvd. A117 in Sterling, will be hosting a seminar on Social Security on Wednesday December 5 from 7:00-8:00 in the evening. Learn about the intricacies of social security. Michael Oswald from

Edward Jones will be hosting the seminar, and will be joined by guest speaker, Emily Dupree of MFS. A question and answer session will follow after the presentation.

Loudoun County Library System Wins Star Rating Again

For the third consecutive year, the Loudoun County Public Library system has won a "star library" designation by *Library Journal*. This recognizes Loudoun's libraries as among the best in the country. Loudoun's libraries are a treasure and I commend library staff for their great work, particularly those at the Sterling library!





Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship Opportunity

The Loudoun County Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta is awarding scholarships worth \$5,000. Applications are due by February 1, 2019. For more information email ScholarLCACDST@gmail.com.

Spring Registration for English as a Second Language Classes



Registration for spring English classes in Loudoun County public schools is soon. Registration will be available on January 3 (Tuesday) from 5:30-7:30 pm, January 5 (Saturday) from 9:30-11:30 am and January 12 (Saturday) from 9:30-11:30 am at the LCPS administration building located at 21000 Education Court in Ashburn. You will need to bring a current picture ID, proof of current address, and payment (cash, credit, or money order) for the \$170 fee. For more information go [here](#), [here](#) or call (571) 252-1393.



Loudoun County Launches New User-Focused Website

Loudoun County has unveiled its redesigned, user-focused website, www.loudoun.gov. The new design is geared to better meet the needs of Loudoun County residents and

businesses, enabling visitors to the website to more easily and quickly find the information they need.

Features of the new website include:

A **responsive design**, which enables the site to automatically render content optimally on any device, including smartphones and tablets as well as laptops and desktop computers.

Improved navigation is accomplished by highlighting visitors' "top tasks" throughout the website through easy-to-spot buttons and persistent global navigation.

New **topical landing pages** that allow website visitors to easily find some of the most frequently accessed information across the website—such as information about taxes, permits and licenses—regardless of the department that provides the service.

Several new **microsites**, which are relatively small clusters of webpages that function as separate entities within the county’s website. The microsites highlight important resident-focused information such as programs, amenities and services offered by the [Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services](#) and the county’s [Transit Services](#). A [Health and Human Services](#) microsite helps people more easily navigate the many essential services provided by the Departments of Family Services; Health; and Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Developmental Services.

An [open government](#) portal that takes members of the public to a single starting point for accessing the broad range of information, records and open data held by the county.

Translating the county’s website is easy using Google Translate. From any webpage, select a language in the bottom right corner of your screen. More than 80 languages are available.

The county is committed to continually improving its website to meet the needs of the public. The new site includes a link to a [website feedback survey](#) on every page for users to provide input.

Toys for Tots Drive

The Sterling Foundation and the Marine Corps Reserve are doing a “toys for tots” donation drive to get new or nearly new toys to kids whose parents cannot afford to buy them Christmas gifts. You can donate toys anytime before 3:00 pm on December 9 (Sunday) at the following Sterling locations: the Sterling Library, the Claude Moore Recreation Center, the Sterling Community Center, or Crooked Run Brewing.



December Activities at Claude Moore Park



Lighted Nights at the Park

Saturdays, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22 from 5-7 pm

Holiday in the Park light displays will be available for viewing during a special extended opening of Claude Moore Park. Stop by on a Saturday for a leisurely night stroll (self-guided) down Vestals Gap Rd and into the historic district to enjoy the festive decorations. Take a peek into our Lanesville Ordinary which is decorated in the style of both Colonial and Victorian eras. Park closes promptly at 7pm. Call 571-258-3700 for more

information.

Winter Gift Workshop

Saturday, 12/8 from 2-3:30 pm

Do you have a child who enjoys making crafts? Are you looking for a fun, indoor activity to do together?

Come to Claude Moore Park on December 8 and make a gift for a friend or family member. Materials will be provided. Pre-registration required. Register online at www.loudoun.gov/webtrac for activity number 261722. \$5 per child, adult chaperones free. Call 571-258-3700 for more information.

Marshmallow Madness

Friday, 12/21 from 1-2:30pm

Join us on the shortest day of the year to enjoy marshmallow themed activities around a roaring campfire. Build and roast your own marshmallow creations and enjoy a visit to our Frogshackle Nature Center!

Free Event Call 571-258-3700 for more information.

Winter Story Stroll and Campfire

Thursday, 12/27 from 1-2:30 pm

Come with us on an enchanting story stroll through wooded trails. Stop along the trail to read along, interact, and immerse yourself in the exciting story. After the stroll relax with a cup of hot chocolate at a comfy campfire and roast delicious marshmallows (provided).

Free Event! Call 571-258-3700 for more information.

For general inquiries, please call 571-258-3700 for more information.

Upcoming Events



December 8: Remembering Apollo, NASA's 60th Anniversary 2:00-3:00 pm at the Sterling Library. NASA Ambassador Mary Beth Stoddard will discuss the 60-year history of NASA and the 50th anniversary of the Apollo Program, which landed a dozen Americans on the moon between 1969 and 1972. This program is free and open to the public; registration is not required. Best for ages 12 and older. [Link](#).

December 11: Sterling Foundation Monthly Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm at the Sterling Community Center on 120 Enterprise Street in Sterling. The public is invited to attend and learn about the Sterling Foundation's upcoming efforts and activities.

December 23: Loudoun County Mobile Pet Adoption Event 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Cascades Farmer's Market located at 21060 Whitfield Place in Sterling. For more information on this, and other such events in Loudoun County in December, visit [this](#) page.

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STAY CONNECTED



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[About our service provider](#)

Sent by koran.saines@loudoun.gov in collaboration with

