

# All About Algonkian



Juli E. Briskman | Algonkian District Supervisor



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Dear Neighbors,

March was loaded with budget work and we are nearly finished after last night's work session. The board voted for an average 4% pay raise for teachers and funded nearly the entire school budget and all county departmental resource requests, while cutting the tax rate by 5 1/2 cents.

The board did vote remove about \$4 million in funding for LCPS' Virtual Loudoun, with the understanding that LCPS will be able to fund this pandemic response initiative with federal American Rescue Plan funding. If the schools are not able to use ARP funding for virtual options, the board is committed to funding the initiative through other means.

I am also happy to report that two of my motions passed to send \$5 million to the county's Housing Trust Fund from the 2021 fund balance and to increase the LCPS funding by \$810,000 to finally eliminate student athletic fees.

I believe every public school student should have equal access to athletics, band, arts, theater and music

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programs regardless of their family's ability to pay a fee. No student should be denied these opportunities that could change their lives and give them the confidence and additional experience that will elevate their chances of success. The board indicated to the School Board last night that it would support eliminating fees for AP testing and more in the coming years for the same equity reasons. I hope the school board does indeed use the additional funds for the program when they work on reconciliation in the coming weeks as Acting Superintendent Dr. Zeigler said he would make the recommendation in his reconciliation comments.

Also, per my request during budget work sessions, construction funds for the Potomack Lakes Sportsplex field improvements were moved to FY 2022 in the county Capital Improvements Program. This moves cash proffers in the amount of \$291,499 from FY 23 to FY 22 and moves \$1.878 million from the CIP contingency account to FY 22 to begin construction. This is a significant accomplishment because the CIP is reviewed for major changes only every two years. This is one of only a few changes made this year and will complete the upgrades in 2024, a year earlier than originally planned.

The county's tax rate stands at .98 per \$100 residential value, a drop of .055 from the previous fiscal year. We anticipate approving the final budget at our April 6 meeting.

On Tuesday, Governor Ralph S. Northam announced an increase in capacity for certain sports and entertainment venues starting April 1 as a result of rising vaccinations across the Commonwealth. Despite these positive numbers, I encourage everyone to be vigilant about spring break and to consider putting off travel to far-flung locales.

You can read more about updates to the governor's Executive Order and read the entire press release below in the COVID update.

I appreciate when constituents reach out to my office about their concerns. My staff and I work hard to answer each of every one of you or connect you with proper county staff and resources as needed. To address a

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## **BOS Meetings**

November's Board of Supervisors meeting will be held Thursday, November 5th because of Election Day.

Normally, the BOS meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Public

Hearings are held the Wednesday after the 1st Board meeting.

Check out the [BOS Calendar](#) for upcoming meetings

Want to speak? [Visit the county web page for information.](#)

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## QUICK TIPS

Can't find time to get to DMV? No problem. They will come to you with DMV2Go!!!

Apply for or renew your ID or driver's license, take road and knowledge tests and much more.

Check the [DMV2Go calendar](#) for upcoming dates and locations

Loudoun County  
Health  
Department  
hotline  
(703) 737-8300

## SCAMS

[IRS Issues Warning about](#)

recent inquiry about reckless driving and excessive noise on Countryside Blvd, my staff reached out to the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office. In response, LSCO's "Patrol and Traffic Unit" developed a targeted strategy to both deter this dangerous behavior and hold violators accountable. As part of this effort, over the past three months, LCSO conducted 165 traffic stops, issued 569 citations, 106 warnings, made 3 traffic related arrests and impounded 3 vehicles. They have committed to continue to aggressively target this area as can be seen with the new temporary speeding signage recently established on Algonkian Parkway.

If you haven't already, please follow my office on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and share images and positive stories to include on our social media.

Happy Spring,

*Juli*



## Loudoun Holds Courthouse Construction Topping Out Ceremony

Loudoun County has reached a significant milestone in the construction of the new Loudoun County District Courthouse. The county held a Topping Out Ceremony on Monday, March 22, 2021, at the construction site in Leesburg. The ceremony—a tradition in construction—

Coronavirus-Related Scams; Watch Out for Schemes Tied to Economic Impact Payments

The Virginia Coronavirus Fraud Task Force and Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigations are warning taxpayers to be alert about possible scams relating to COVID-19 economic impact payments.

Virginia Coronavirus Fraud Task Force

Eastern Virginia Coronavirus Fraud Coordinator, Assistant U.S. Attorney Email Kaitlin F. Cooke or 804-819-5416.

To report fraudulent activity to the Virginia State Police, Virginians can Email Virginia Fusion Center.

To report a COVID-19 fraud scheme or suspicious activity, contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) by calling the NCDF Hotline at

symbolizes the completion of structural steel installation, which is marked by invited guests signing the final steel beam that is then placed into the structure.

Members of the Board of Supervisors, Leesburg Town Council, and Loudoun County's judges, and Constitutional Officers were among those on hand for the ceremony. The Courts Complex Expansion project includes the design and construction of a new 92,000-square-foot courthouse and renovation of existing courts facilities. The project has also created new parking facilities, such as the Pennington Garage, which has more than 700 parking spaces.

Construction of the new facility is now estimated at 25 percent complete. Future phases of construction include construction of concrete slab decks, electrical pathway installation, exterior wall framing, and building a tunnel under Church Street that connects the existing courthouse to the new building. The project is expected to be complete and open to the public in 2023. For more information and to sign up for email and text updates on the project, visit loudoun.gov/courts-expansion.

**Arbor Day 2021 Photo Contest**

This year's theme:  
**'Trees That Make Me Feel Happy'**

LOUDOUN COUNTY VIRGINIA

[loudoun.gov/trees](https://loudoun.gov/trees)

## Loudoun Arbor Day Photo Contest

The annual Loudoun Arbor Day "Favorite Loudoun Tree" photo contest is underway. Entries are being accepted through Friday, April 27, 2018, in advance of the annual Loudoun Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, May 5,

1-866-720-5721 or  
[send an email](#).



**VIRGINIA'S  
HEALTH  
IS IN YOUR  
HANDS.**  
Do your part,  
stay at home.

2018. Photos, which may be in black and white or color, must be:

- Of a single tree in its entirety or a group of trees.
- The trees must be in Loudoun County.
- The photo must have been taken by the entrant.
- If printed, photo paper is preferred; of a size no larger than 8 ½ x 11 inches.

Photos may be sent, along with the photographer's contact information (name, address, phone number and/or email) as well as the location of the tree and kind of tree, if known, to Loudoun County Urban Forester John Zuiker, Department of Building & Development, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., 3rd floor, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20175. Digital .jpegs may be [emailed](#).

For more information about the photo contest, contact John Zuiker at 703-771-5991 or by [email](#). For more information about the Arbor Day celebration, contact Pat McIlvaine of the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District at 571-918-4530, ext. 104 or by [email](#).



## Here's What's Happening with Traffic Around Algonkian

VDOT has published its 2021 paving schedule, which can be accessed using [this link](#). While a specific timeline has not been finalized, the entirety of Potomac View Road will be paved this year.



## 2021 Loudoun Youth Leadership Program Accepting Applications

Applications are now being accepted for Loudoun Youth, Inc.'s 2021 Loudoun Youth Leadership Program. A virtual week-long program designed to introduce youth to leadership concepts and to provide exposure and interaction with local business, government and community leaders. Participate via Zoom and choose one of two sessions on either July 12 - 16, or August 2 - 6, 2021. The program is open to all rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, public or private, who live in Loudoun County. Youth participating in the week-long sessions will learn leadership skills, observe leadership in action with business and civic leaders from around the county, as well as taking part in interactive team building experiences.

Applications will be accepted until March 31 and can be found at <http://www.loudounyouth.org>. Tuition is \$125/student. Financial aid is available to qualifying students.

### Household Hazardous Waste Event

**Saturday, March 27**

**751 Miller Drive SE**

**Leesburg**

**8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**



LOUDOUN  
COUNTY  
VIRGINIA

[loudoun.gov/hhw](http://loudoun.gov/hhw)

## Next Loudoun Household Hazardous Waste Event is March 27

The next Loudoun County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event will occur Saturday, March 27, 2021, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., at 751 Miller Drive SE in Leesburg. Loudoun residents are welcome to bring HHW from their homes to the event, free of charge.

### Social Distancing and Other Procedures

The HHW events include social distancing measures that help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with Governor Northam's [Executive Order 63 \(PDF\)](#), members of the public will be required to wear face coverings at the point of service. Because of safety concerns related to various types of hazardous materials, the events feature a drive-through process in which residents are instructed to remain in their vehicles and allow event staff to unload any items accepted for disposal. In order to achieve adequate social distancing between event staff and customers, items must be placed in the rear of the vehicle, such as the trunk of a car, the bed of a pickup truck or the very back of an SUV. Items will not be accepted if in the front seat, back seat or if the driver attempts to hand an item to staff. In order to ensure everyone remains in their vehicle while at the point of service, items must not be in sealed or tied plastic bags. Staff are not allowed to open any plastic bag containing HHW.

For more information about the Household Hazardous Waste Program, call 703-771-5500 or visit [loudoun.gov/hhw](http://loudoun.gov/hhw).



## Update from Algonkian Planning Commissioner Jane Kirchner

Neighbors,

At the Planning Commission's April 27th public hearing, we will review a proposal to upgrade two existing soccer fields to synthetic turf and expanded parking at the Potomack Lakes Sportsplex. Supervisor Briskman was able to get funding for the project moved from FY23 to FY22, meaning the work will be completed earlier than previously scheduled.

In other planning news around the county, a proposal is scheduled for consideration at the Board of Supervisor's April 20th meeting for the addition of 1,200 multi-family homes and a Museum of National Intelligence and Special Operations at the "Kincora Village Center", which is located near the Broad Run and the intersection of Routes 28 and 7. Right now in the Loudoun County suburban area - which includes Sterling, Ashburn and neighborhoods south of Dulles Airport - there are currently approximately 8,600 housing units that are approved but not yet built.

I'm happy to hear from you about any land use or development issues or questions you may have! Please reach out to me at [Jane.Kirchner@loudoun.gov](mailto:Jane.Kirchner@loudoun.gov).

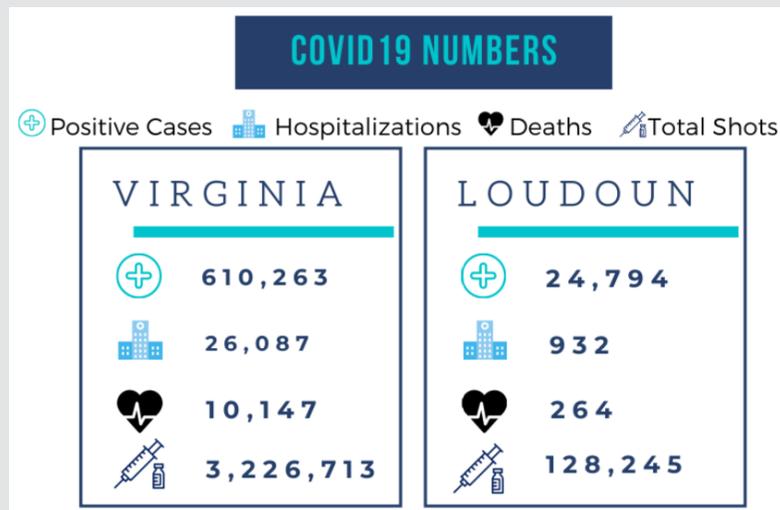


## Update on the Sterling Meadow Development

The Sterling Meadow project has been making steady progress since its approval last year. The developer should receive approval for both their site plan and Boundary Line Adjustment this week. While issues related to easements have delayed the project by a few months, the developer is confident that they can break ground in Q3 of this year.

Since the theater is now permanently closed and is no longer paying rent, we all should be happy we pursued the rezoning when we did. The lag between a derelict property and its exciting future is shorter than it would have otherwise been.

### COVID-19 Update



### State and Local COVID-19 Trends

According to Loudoun's March 24 COVID-19 Summary Report, the County's seven-day test positivity rate is 6.5 percent (up 0.2 percent since last report). At the state level, Virginia has experienced a decrease in its seven-day moving average of cases since March 18 where it

stood at 1,172. More information about COVID-19 from the Virginia Department of Health can be accessed [here](#).

According to LCPS's case data, one of their core indicators remains at an elevated level. Total number of cases per 100,000 people remains at the highest risk level while the test positivity rate has declined to a state of "moderate risk." You can access COVID-19 data from LCPS by clicking [here](#).

The Loudoun County COVID-19 data dashboard can be accessed by clicking this [link](#).

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## **NVRC Sends Letter to Governor Asking for Increased Vaccine Allocation**

Earlier this week, NVRC [sent a letter](#) to Governor Ralph Northam asking for an increased allocation of vaccines to the Northern Virginia health districts. Our Loudoun facility can vaccinate about 25,000 people per week and we are partnering with organizations to reach vulnerable communities. We just need more vaccines to get it done!

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## **Loudoun Officials Recommend Against Spring Break Travel**

The Loudoun County Health Department continues to discourage non-essential travel at this time, particularly for spring break and upcoming holidays, to slow the spread of COVID-19 and limit the potential of bringing variant forms of the coronavirus back into the community.

A recent investigation of a COVID-19 outbreak suggested that news of vaccination efforts and the arrival of warmer weather has resulted in more and more people becoming less concerned about maintaining social distancing, avoiding crowds and complying with quarantine recommendations. The Health Department continues to recommend against carpooling with members of different households and non-essential travel for leisure.

In addition, the more Loudoun residents travel to areas where variant COVID-19 cases are spreading, the potential exists for returning with a variant of the virus that causes COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports variants seem to spread more easily and quickly than other coronaviruses. The virus mutates as more people are infected. In order to slow the number of cases of COVID-19 and ensure the country has an opportunity to vaccinate enough people to help bring an end to the pandemic, the Health Department encourages each member of the community to take steps to avoid risk.

# COVID-19 TESTING

**April 2021**

**Multiple  
Locations**

**Tuesdays  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Drive-thru only. Free & open to everyone.

LOUDOUN  
COUNTY  
VIRGINIA

[loudoun.gov/COVID19testing](https://loudoun.gov/COVID19testing)

## **Loudoun County Schedules Free COVID-19 Testing Events through April**

Loudoun County has scheduled more free, drive thru COVID-19 testing events through April. Beginning March 30, 2021, testing events will be held on Tuesdays only, and end one hour earlier than the testing events held over the past two months. The new COVID-19 testing schedule is now Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- March 30: Franklin Park, 17501 Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville
- April 6: Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park, 42405 Claudia Drive, Leesburg (Enter the park on Crosstrail Boulevard from Sycolin Road.)
- April 13: Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls (Access the testing location in the back parking lot, near the senior center.)
- April 20: Dulles South Recreation & Community Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding
- April 27: Ray Muth Sr. Memorial Park, 20971 Marblehead Drive, Ashburn

In addition, the county is holding the previously scheduled COVID-19 testing events Tuesday, March 23, and Thursday, March 25, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Dulles South Recreation & Community Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding.

## Registration Form

To help reduce wait times, people who plan to attend the testing events are strongly encouraged to complete a registration form for each person who will be receiving a test prior to arriving at the testing site. The registration form is required and asks for general demographics and contact information, including name, date of birth, address, phone number and current symptoms, if any.

- Registration Form: [English \(PDF\)](#) | [Spanish \(PDF\)](#)

The fillable form may be downloaded, filled out, and printed, and completed forms should be brought with you to the testing site. Forms will also be available at the testing site for individuals who do not have access to a printer or otherwise are unable to complete the forms in advance. The forms are also available at [loudoun.gov/COVID19testing](https://loudoun.gov/COVID19testing).



## How to Talk to Family and Friends about COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccines are one of the critical elements in slowing the spread of COVID-19, but some people are reluctant to get vaccinated. There's a lot of misinformation out there, so it's not surprising that some people have concerns that are keeping them from making an

appointment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers advice if you're trying to have a conversation with a friend or family member about their concerns. Things to remember to help open the discussion include:

- Listen to questions with empathy.
  - Ask open-ended questions to explore concerns.
  - Ask permission to share information.
  - Help them find their own reason to get vaccinated.
  - Help make their vaccination happen.
  - [Read more from the CDC about how to talk about the COVID-19 vaccines.](#)
  - Find information about COVID-19 vaccinations in Loudoun at [loudoun.gov/COVID19vaccine](https://loudoun.gov/COVID19vaccine).
- 



## Governor's Update

Governor Northam held a press conference earlier this week on the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response. He announced limited capacity increases for indoor and outdoor gatherings and some entertainment venues and recreational sporting events. The adjustment stems from the rise in vaccinations and since more than two million Virginians, or approximately one in four people, have now received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine [[full release](#)]. You can watch the press

conference on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [YouTube](#). Parks, Recreation & Community Services will be reaching out to all sports leagues and adjusting signage at its parks where necessary.

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Please share any messages of hope you see. Submissions may be sent to Zachary Harris at [zachary.harris@loudoun.gov](mailto:zachary.harris@loudoun.gov) and we'll share them in our updates and newsletter.

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**ATOOSA REASER**

*Paid for by The Committee to Elect Atoosa Reaser*



## School Board Snippets

Last week, the CDC updated K-12 school guidance to recommend that with universal masking, students should maintain a distance of at least 3 feet in classroom settings. Given this information, LCPS will begin offering in-person instruction four days a week on Tuesday, April 20, to students currently enrolled in the hybrid model. Requests to change the method of instruction for a child will be handled on a case-by-case basis by each school principal. In addition, Governor

Northam announced draft plans for safe in-person graduations with finalized plans scheduled to be announced next week. Planning is now underway at each individual LCPS High School with more details to follow.

LCPS will offer a more robust Summer School program for 2021. Programs will be offered for Elementary, Middle and High School students including English Learners and Special Education. Virtual Loudoun classes will be available for the summer at the reduced rate implemented in 2020. Planning is underway for other programs including PAVAN, fine arts and coding at Title I and Title I-eligible schools. LCPS continues to plan for the 2021-2022 school year with the intent to deliver 5 days of in-person instruction.

If you wish to receive my newsletter directly, please sign up at [atoosareaser.com](http://atoosareaser.com). Stay safe and continue to contact me with your feedback, questions, or concerns.



**Atoosa Reaser**  
**Vice Chair and Algonkian District Member**  
**Loudoun County School Board**  
[atoosa.reaser@lcp.org](mailto:atoosa.reaser@lcp.org)

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Want to see someone you know or an Algonkian event featured?  
[Email Rey Cheatham-Banks](#)

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