



Chair Phyllis J. Randall

Newsletter



Hello, Loudoun

I know this has been a difficult time for everyone. To honor the Loudoun residents who have died of COVID-19 and the families who are grieving the loss of a loved one, I ordered all Loudoun County flags to fly at half mast once a week from dawn to dusk. This pandemic has been described as a war, and in war we honor our fallen.



State of the County Address

Please Save the Date for my remote State of the County Address on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:00 pm. An invitation will be sent later this month. At this meeting, I will give out economic information, recognize essential workers and honor our high school seniors. I am proud to represent this great County and I hope you will join me to celebrate our successes, challenges and opportunities.

Emergency Food Assistance Programs

Loudoun County is allocating \$150,000 for emergency food assistance programs in response to the increased need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Local food banks are reporting a significant increase in the numbers of people who are seeking emergency food assistance; in some cases, double or triple the number of people asking for help prior to the outbreak of the new coronavirus.

In order to qualify for this funding, you must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or a religious institution located in Loudoun County. Your agency must provide food assistance on at least a bi-weekly basis to Loudoun residents and must follow established federal food safety protocols. Applicants will be asked to supply documentation of the costs per client in addition to information about their typical service level prior to the pandemic and their current level of service. To apply, food assistance programs should complete and submit the online application.

[Online Application for Food Assistance Programs](#)

Rental Assistance Program

The Loudoun County government has established a limited rental assistance program for Loudoun County households economically impacted by COVID-19. The goal is to help ensure housing stability for low-income workers who have been furloughed, lost jobs or had work hours reduced due to the pandemic. The terms of the program include:

- Income eligibility based on household size for households earning up to 70% of the state median income (\$60,332 for a family of 4).
- Direct payments made to landlords or property management companies on behalf of residents who qualify for the program.
- Assistance may be provided for up to three months' rent.

Residents, who were current in their rent payments as of March 30th and who now need help paying rent may contact the County's Information and Referral program at 703-777-0420. Members of the Department of Family Services' Community Support Services team will verify income eligibility, conduct a case assessment, and verify rent need and job impacts related to COVID-19. Applicants will be asked to submit related documents, such as a current lease and paperwork that shows a job loss or reduced income. The program will continue as long as the local emergency declaration is in effect and funding is available.

Other Assistance

For Assistance with Basic Needs:

Contact Loudoun County Information and Referral (I&R) program at 703-777-0420 Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm to get connected to health and human services information and resources in Loudoun County. Critical services include:

- Child Care Assistance; Employment Services; Food Resources; Legal Services;
- Health and Dental Care; Housing and Homeless Services; Public Benefits
- Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services; Older Adult Services; Utility Assistance

For Assistance with Food:

- Loudoun Hunger Relief-Call (703) 777-5911 or visit: loudounhunger.org/receive-services
- Dulles South Food Pantry-Call (703) 507-2795 or visit: dsfp.org/need-assistance
- Tree of Life Center-Call (540) 441-7920 or visit: tolministries.org
- LINK Against Hunger-Call (703) 437-1776 or visit: linkagainsthunger.org

For Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART):

Loudoun County Domestic Abuse Response Team includes advocates, service providers, law enforcement, and legal professionals who mobilize to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The DART team is still at work to protect survivors as there may be an increase of isolation and danger due to social distancing measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their homes and live a life free of violence. Please call or text 9-1-1 if anyone is in immediate danger.

DART website

Other domestic abuse help in Loudoun County:

- Loudoun County's Domestic and Sexual Violence hotline 24 hours/day, every day: 703-777-6552.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233 or TTY 1-800-787-3224. If you're unable to speak safely, you can log onto www.thehotline.org or text **LOVEIS to 22522**.
- National Sexual Assault Hotline (RAINN) at **800-656-HOPE (4673)**. Survivors can call RAINN or chat on the website www.rainn.org It's free and confidential.
- **Make a plan:** A safety plan is a personalized, practical plan that includes ways to remain safe and that can help a survivor avoid dangerous situations. For help with safety planning, call the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter Hotline at 703-777-6552 and speak to an advocate.

Personal Protective Equipment

The County is fielding requests from Loudoun-based health care providers and facilities in need of personal protective equipment (PPE). Requests can be made through an online form on the County's website link below. Organizations that have previously submitted requests for and received PPE may submit additional request forms if they have additional needs. They will be contacted by a County representative to coordinate the receipt of donated items if resources are available.

The County opened a second location for residents and businesses to drop off donations of PPE for distribution to Loudoun-based health care providers and facilities in need. The second location is at the Dulles South Recreation and Community Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive in South Riding, which will operate Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. A tent will be placed in the front parking lot of the center with a sign identifying the PPE donation site. This is in addition to the Leesburg drop-off location at 751 Miller Drive, which operates Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Blue signs on Miller Drive and in the parking lot will guide individuals to the drop-off location. Since the County began accepting donations of PPE in late March, the amount of equipment distributed includes:

- 4,725 gloves.
- 1,607 N95 respirators.
- 555 surgical masks.
- 202 disposable gowns.



FY 2021 Budget

On April 7th, we approved a budget totaling approximately \$3 billion in total appropriations for the County government and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. The adopted budget includes a real property tax rate of \$1.035 per \$100 in assessed value, one cent lower than the current tax rate.

In adopting the FY 2021 budget, we recognized the uncertain financial future the County faces due to the COVID-19 pandemic and placed \$100 million into a reserve that will be split between County government and LCPS, with \$40 million designated for County government expenditures and \$60 million for LCPS. For the \$40 million in County reserves, this freeze includes most new expenditures in the FY 2021 budget, including: a hiring freeze for vacant positions; a limit to all non-essential operating and maintenance expenditures; the 3.5% merit increase for eligible county employees and step increase for public safety employees; and new departmental resource requests for capital facility openings. We also temporarily paused new capital projects until conditions improve for

the County to issue debt financing. As the financial picture becomes clearer, money could be released from the reserve and these plans can move forward.

This is the fiscally responsible thing to do. We realize that people are having a hard time and there are people out of work and our first goal is to keep our employees in their positions and pay their current salary.

[Budget website](#)

Resources for our Business Community

Economic Development has launched more resources to support businesses during the pandemic. It has reinstated last year's successful "Take Loudoun Home" campaign in conjunction with Visit Loudoun and the Loudoun Chamber. Take Loudoun Home is a call to action—a rallying cry for our community and visitors to support local businesses. Buying local products and utilizing local services is always a priority, but now it is even more important with the unprecedented business interruption caused by the COVID-19. By visiting the Take Loudoun Home website, residents can search interactive maps of participating businesses, take virtual tours, read inspiring business stories, and shop from the new Loudoun Made, Loudoun Grown Marketplace to support our rural businesses. An interactive map of more than 200 retail, restaurant and service businesses was compiled countywide. Any business interested in being listed on this map can fill out a form and join the campaign on a rolling basis.

[Take Loudoun Home website](#)

On Wednesday, April 22nd at 3:00 pm, I will be participating in a Facebook Live Question and Answer Event with Buddy Rizer, Executive Director, Loudoun Economic Development, to discuss the resources available for businesses, especially for small businesses. I hope you will join us on Wednesday at the Facebook link below.

[Facebook Live Event](#)

Stay Informed about COVID-19

To help residents identify the signs of illness and know what to do if they become sick, the County recently published a guide; Steps to Slow the Spread of COVID-19. The guide lists steps that will slow the spread of COVID-19 and will help protect everyone, including seniors and those with underlying medical conditions.

Steps to Slow the Spread of COVID-19

We encourage you to stay informed about COVID-19 by visiting the County's website, signing up for e-mail updates and texting LCCOVID19 to 888777 to receive alerts. Residents with questions about COVID-19 may call the Loudoun County Health Department's information line, 703-737-8300, or send an email to health@loudoun.gov.

[Coronavirus website](#)

2020 Census

Loudoun County households that have not yet responded to the 2020 census will be receiving paper questionnaires April 6th through April 16th. Reply envelopes with paid postage will be included and some households will receive questionnaires in both English and Spanish.

Although the the deadline to complete the 2020 Census has been extended to August 14th due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Loudoun County officials encourage residents to respond now if they have not already done so.

The safest way to respond to the 2020 census is at home, either by mail, online or by phone. Households that have not received mail from the census can respond online in 10 minutes without a census identification number at the website link below. Residents may also call the Census Bureau to provide their responses in English at 1-844-330-2020 or in Spanish at 1-844-468-2020.

[Respond to Census Here](#)

As a reminder, the due date for personal property taxes has been extended by one month to June 5th. If you need assistance with your personal property taxes, please contact the Treasurer's office at (703) 777-0280.

Thank you and stay healthy and well.

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Community Information

Acceleration of Route 9 Road Closure: The Town of Hillsboro and VDOT have agreed to an acceleration of planned full closures of Route 9 to align with Governor Northam's ongoing "stay-at-home" executive order. The response to the order has resulted in a significant reduction in daily traffic on the Route 9 corridor. A full closure of Route 9 within the Town and implementation of local and regional detours will begin on or about May 4th and last into mid- to late June. Hillsboro Mayor and ReThink9 Project Manager Roger Vance said, "During this extraordinary time of sheltering in place, shuttered schools and businesses and a dramatic reduction in traffic on Route 9, taking this action now will lessen the impacts to residents, schools, businesses and motorists later." Visit the ReThink9 website for further information and updates and to sign up for e-mail updates.

[ReThink9 website](#)

A Place to Be Connects: Therapeutic music experiences decrease stress and enhance the immune system. Feelings of isolation require connective, dynamic music experiences now more than ever. A Place to Be is offering Tele – Music Therapy, all sessions are 30 minutes with a board certified Music Therapist. A Place to Be is equipped to serve all ages above 6 years and to do family group sessions.

- Music Meditation - Live Music for 30 minutes with guided imagery to help relax the mind, body and soul.
- Music and Mindfulness - Stretching and breathing with live music to replenish and center the body and mind.
- Music Therapy for Mental Health - Music based interventions to help manage anxiety and stress.
- Individualized Instrument Instruction (Piano, Guitar, Ukulélé) for all ages.
- Children's Music Therapy for calming and expression.
- Music Therapy for processing fear, anger and grief - Utilizing meaningful songs and conversation as a means of support and coping.

FREE to Loudoun County Public School Families

What is a Calming Session?

Each week, a music therapist from A Place to Be will provide a 30-minute, one-on-one session with your student that focuses on relaxation, decreasing anxiety and loneliness, and using music to have a fun, joyful experience.

Activities might include music listening, a guided meditation, or a songwriting activity.

While these services are performed by professional therapists **no promise or guarantee of any specific therapeutic outcome is implied by A Place To Be.**

Who is a Good Fit for this?

Our therapists work with many different types of individuals but we recommend this program especially for students who enjoy playing or listening to music.

Other qualifications may include:

- Student can communicate verbally
- Between 3rd grade to high school senior
- Student's family has access to technology that enables delivery of service
- The family must agree to facilitate each session, if the student requires assistance to participate
- Student is proficient in English



Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/aplacetobeva/

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