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# All About Algonkian



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## Weekly Newsflash

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## Gun Violence Awareness Day Proclamation



The Board of Supervisors proclaimed Friday, June 2, 2023 as Gun Violence Awareness Day, based on a [Proclamation](#) I sponsored with Supervisor Umstatt. I was honored to be joined by community leaders from the Loudoun Chapter of Moms Demand Action. We presented the proclamation during the May 16 Business Meeting, with ten community activists present. At every Business Meeting, I report gun violence statistics from the dais to emphasize the unacceptable number of lives lost and impacted by gun violence. I will never stop fighting to end gun violence through policy action and support all efforts for education and prevention. It is long past time to bring sensible gun laws to our country.



I encourage everyone to Wear Orange on June 2nd to honor the lives we have lost the epidemic of gun violence and work towards a future where everyone is safe from gun violence. Learn more at [WearOrange.org](#)

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## Loudoun Farm Tour with MWCOG

Last week I joined the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments for a Farm Tour of Loudoun County! In my role on the MWCOG Board of Directors, I thought it was critical that elected leaders and ag organizations from across the region visit Loudoun County as part of our work with the new FARM Committee dedicated to regional sustainability. We were able to see all that our rural businesses have to offer, learn the challenges of operating a rural business and partake of locally-made cheeses and other goods! This included visits to Long Stone Farm, Georges Mill Farm, Potomac Vegetable Farms, and finishing off the day at the Wheatland Spring Farm and Brewery.

Thank you to the work of our incredible Loudoun County Economic Development team for organizing the beautiful and educational tour!



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**Bike to Work Day Tomorrow**

Register now and join us at our pit stops!



[Bike to Work Day](#) is almost here! Join the fun at one of Loudoun's Pit Stops tomorrow morning on your way to work along the Washington and Old Dominion Trail, in Sterling or Leesburg. Bike to Work Day celebrates and encourages bicycle commuting as an active alternative to car commuting. Loudoun County has partnered with the Washington Area Bicyclists Association and Commuter Connections to support the event. The two pit stops in Loudoun are:

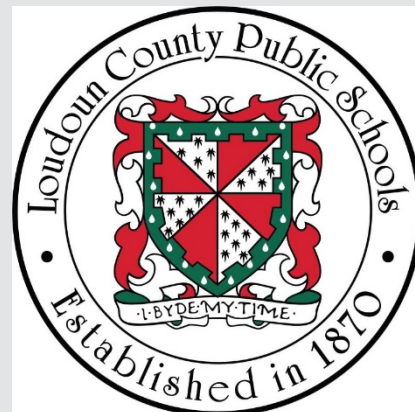
- Leesburg at Raflo Park, 345 Harrison St. SE, 6:00 - 9:00 a.m.
- Sterling, just east of Route 28, at 183 Ruritan Road behind Northrop Grumman, 6:30 - 9:00 a.m.

I was honored to sponsor a [Proclamation for Bike to Work Day](#) with Supervisor Turner! I will be at the Sterling Pit Stop around 8am tomorrow morning to present the Proclamation to our incredible county staff in Loudoun Commuter Services and organizations such as Friends of the W&OD Trail and Bike Loudoun for their work to support this event and bicycling in our county.

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## BOS Covers Virginia School Funding Shortfall

On Tuesday night our board voted to increase the allocation to Loudoun County Public Schools by \$13 million to close the 2024 state funding gap. We expect this will be funded by a combination of county end-of-year balance and state funds. Should Richmond choose to fix the calculation mistake and lack of transfer of surplus sales tax revenue as has been common practice for decades, the entire gap could be covered. If they do nothing, we will have to use county fund balance that could be leveraged for other county projects. This action ensures that LCPS is properly funded and will not have to resort to budget cuts that hurt our students and teachers.



The state has a \$3 billion surplus but certain politicians believe corporations should get a tax break instead of investing in our kids and public education. This is wrong and the majority of our board agreed last night when I made the motion to increase the allocation as recommended by the Finance Government Operations Committee.

Read more about the BOS's action [here](#).

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We want to hear from you! Share your concerns, questions, or events that you would like to see featured in upcoming newsletters.  
[Email Ethan Gardner](#)

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