



Supervisor

Matt Letourneau

Dulles Direct Newsletter



November 2023

Welcome to the November 2023 edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter. I hope you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and were able to spend time with family and friends.

November 7 was Election Day in Loudoun County, and I am honored that voters selected me to continue serving you as the Dulles District Supervisor. It was a hard-fought campaign and my family and I are very appreciative of the strong show of support I received. Congratulations to all the victorious candidates, and a thank you to everyone who put themselves forward and were willing to serve the community.

The Board of Supervisors will remain the same, with the exception of the new Little River District, which will be served by Laura Tekrony. At our December 19 meeting, the Board will hold an end of term ceremony and share our appreciation for retiring Supervisor Tony Buffington, who served the Little River District (formerly Blue Ridge) for the past 8 years.

There are two changes to Loudoun's constitutional officers, as Bob Anderson was elected Commonwealth Attorney (prosecutor) and Henry Eickleberg was elected Treasurer.

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You can see all the election results [here](#).

Earlier this month, I was incredibly honored to receive the “Tower of Dulles” Award from the Committee for Dulles, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting Dulles International Airport and the Dulles corridor. The “Tower of Dulles” is the highest honor given by the organization, and previous recipients include Tim Kaine, Mark Warner, Frank Wolf, and Terry McAuliffe. The Committee recognized my work to bring the Silver Line to fruition and to update Loudoun’s noise contours to prevent residential development close to the airport. Many thanks to the Committee for this meaningful recognition.



We shared the Board’s recognition of Diwali in last month’s [newsletter](#), but I hope those that celebrated enjoyed the holiday and all the festivities.

We also observed Veteran’s Day this month. We have many veterans who live in the Dulles District, and it is always an honor to meet them and hear about their service. Thank you! If you would like to learn more about services and programs that the County offers for veterans, please click [here](#).

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**Matthew F.
Letourneau**

Dulles District
Supervisor,
Loudoun County Board
of Supervisors

Member
[Finance, Government
Operations and
Economic Development
Committee](#)

Principal Director
[Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority Board
of Directors](#)

Chairman

DULLES UPDATES

Human Bean Coming to Stone Ridge

I am pleased to share news about a new business that will be coming to our area. The Human Bean will be opening a new location in the front of Stone Ridge, next to the Arby's that is currently under construction at the Route 50 and Gateway Village Place intersection. The Human Bean is a drive-through coffee and specialty beverage provider that recently opened a location in the Sterling area, and it will be a great addition to our community. I don't have any information about the timeline yet, but I look forward to welcoming them to the neighborhood and will let you know as we are approaching an opening date.

Arcola Boulevard Project Updates

The Arcola Center developer is constructing Arcola Boulevard between Route 50 and Route 606/Loudoun County Parkway in accordance with their proffers. I was pleased to cut the ribbon to open the segment between Route 50 and Dulles West and the segment of Dulles West to Loudoun County Parkway earlier this year. Having that additional access point to Dulles Landing has been a huge improvement and the new connection has already tangibly reduced traffic volume at the Route 50 and Loudoun County Parkway intersection.

The segment between Dulles West Boulevard and Arcola Mills Drive is mostly complete with final paving done and is ready to open pending completion of the intersection expansion and signal installation at Arcola Mills Drive. Unfortunately, the right of way acquisition process for the land near the intersection took an extended amount of time and almost required the County to initiate condemnation. Eventually we were able to secure ROW, and work is underway to clear the area for the expanded intersection, signal poles, and widening of Arcola Mills Drive to the southeast. There

[Rt. 28 Transportation Improvement District Commission](#)

Member
[Northern Virginia Transportation Commission](#)

Member
[Transportation Planning Board](#)

Member
[Dulles Area Transportation Association](#)

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is also a significant stormwater crossing that needs to be rebuilt, which will add some time to the project.

The final segment between Arcola Mills Drive and Loudoun County Parkway/Old Ox Road has been base paved, and we are awaiting completion of the signal and buildout of the intersection at Arcola Mills Drive to open it to traffic.

The widening of Arcola Mills and installation of the signal at the intersection is critical to opening the full length of Arcola Boulevard safely, given the significant traffic volume that will utilize this route. Given the work required, we expect completion of these elements by late summer 2024. Westbrook is working with VDOT on ways to accelerate construction, which may involve interruptions to the current flow of traffic. We'll share plans once they are finalized.

Northstar Boulevard: Route 50 to Evergreen Mills Road

Northstar from 50 to Evergreen Mills will be a four-lane, median-divided roadway with a new bridge over the north fork of the Broad Run. Work continues on the project and it is on track for completion in 2025. Crews have placed a base layer of asphalt from the future Dulles West Boulevard and Northstar Boulevard intersection to near the future Arcola Mills Drive and Northstar Boulevard intersection. The first bridge abutment and shaft wall have been completed, and the team is currently working on the second bridge abutment. Earthwork, ductbank, stormwater, and water line installations are ongoing at the south and north ends of the project. Now that the segment of Northstar from 50 to Tall Cedars is open, the segment from 50 to Evergreen Mills is the next big step in connecting the corridor and providing an alternative route to 50.



Quick Links

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State Corporation Commission Seeks Public Comment on Greenway Rate Hike Request

As you know, I have been a vocal opponent of the Dulles Greenway's high tolls and continued push to extend their franchise agreement to raise tolls on residents. The Greenway is back again with another major toll rate increase request, and the Board of Supervisors has authorized the Loudoun County Attorney to fight this increase with the full resources of the County. The County is preparing a technical response to the Greenway's filing.

Another component of the rate increase process is public input. We will have the opportunity to register our opposition in person right here in South Riding in January. The County issued this alert this week with all the details:

Loudoun County residents and businesses who wish to offer comment on the Dulles Greenway's proposed rate hike may do so during a State Corporation Commission (SCC) public hearing on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. at Freedom High School, located at 25450 Riding Center Drive in South Riding.

Toll Road Investors Partnership II, LP ("TRIP II"), the company that owns the Greenway, is asking the SCC to

approve a request ([Case # PUR-2023-00089](#)) to increase the maximum tolls for most drivers to \$8.10 during peak hours, up from the current \$5.80; and to \$6.40 during off-peak hours, up from \$5.25.

In July, Loudoun County [announced its opposition to the proposed rate hike](#). In September, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to [file a “notice of participation”](#) with the SCC in the case. The notice of participation ensures that Loudoun’s Board will have access to all information provided to the SCC as it considers the application for a 40% increase in the maximum toll for passenger vehicles on the Greenway. It also allows the Board to provide the SCC with testimony and analysis independent of that offered by the owner of the toll road.

The SCC asks that any member of the public who wishes to provide comment at the January 9 hearing in South Riding arrive at 5:45 p.m. and register to speak. Additional details are published online by the SCC:

- [SCC Schedules Local Hearing to Consider Proposed Dulles Greenway Toll Increase](#)

In addition to the January 9 hearing in South Riding, the SCC is holding a telephonic hearing to receive testimony from members of the public on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at 1300 East Main Street in Richmond. Members of the public who wish to provide testimony by telephone must pre-register by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 24, 2024, in one of three ways:

- Complete a [public witness form](#) for case number PUR-2023-00089 on the SCC’s website.
- [Email the SCC](#) a [PDF version of the form](#).
- Call the SCC at 804-371-9141 during normal business hours (8:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) and provide your name and a phone

number where you can be reached during the hearing.

The SCC allots each witness five minutes to provide testimony.

A separate public evidentiary hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, to receive testimony and evidence from the company, any respondents and the SCC staff. Although testimony from members of the public will not be accepted on January 31, 2024, the hearing will be open to the public.

Members of the public may submit written comments at any time through January 24, 2024. Written comments regarding the Greenway's request for increased toll rates can be provided [through the SCC's online form](#). Written comments can also be submitted by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments must refer to case #PUR-2023-00089.

More information about the proposed rate hike, including links to documents associated with the case, may be found on the [SCC's website](#).

Loudoun County has opposed toll rate increases requested by the operators of the Dulles Greenway, Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II), which filed its application for the authorization for an increase in the maximum level of tolls last month. The SCC is the entity that considers such requests.

TRIP II has requested a toll increase of 22% during off-peak hours (from \$5.25 to \$6.40) and a 40% increase during peak morning and afternoon hours (from \$5.80 to \$8.10). TRIP II claims the increases are necessary to meet its debt obligation; however, data shows that use of the Greenway is down because of its already high toll rate. Traffic on the Greenway decreased substantially

during the COVID-19 pandemic and has not returned to pre-COVID levels.

To promote use of the Greenway by more motorists, Loudoun County has consistently supported changing the Greenway's toll structure to distance-based tolling while also lowering toll rates. The Greenway operator has the lawful ability to implement both changes now.

Virginia law enacted in 2021 provides objective criteria for evaluating toll increase proposals, including a requirement that proposed Greenway toll rates are "reasonable" to users in relation to the benefit they are deriving from using the road so that the rates do not "materially discourage" use of the road. Loudoun County believes TRIP II's proposed rates will further discourage the use of the Greenway. The SCC uses the objective criteria to evaluate toll rate increase proposals and Loudoun County supports the SCC review process.

In addition, Loudoun County has opposed any legislation that would potentially permit automatic toll rate increases each year of an unknown amount and an extension of the Greenway's operator's license for an unlimited period of time, which is not good for Loudoun residents. The county's opposition to automatic toll rate increase legislation and continued support of the SCC review process is intended to protect Loudoun residents who may choose to use the Greenway from arbitrary toll rate increases. Legislation supported by TRIP II pertaining to this matter was previously defeated by the Virginia State Senate twice on bipartisan votes.

VDOT Paving Projects

All VDOT paving projects that began this summer in our area are now complete:

- Belmont Ridge Road from Creighton Road to Northstar Boulevard

- Creighton from Northstar to Loudoun County Parkway
- Tall Cedars Parkway from Northstar Boulevard to Gum Spring Road
- Loudoun County Parkway from Evergreen Ridge Road to Ryan Road
- Braddock Road from just past Donerails Chase Place to the Fairfax County line
- Loudoun County Parkway from Route 50 to the Dulles West Boulevard and Gum Spring Road

Braddock Road Project Updates

Work progresses on the developer-helmed project at Braddock and Gum Spring. Crews have been taking a break from drilling near Gum Spring to allow for offsite dirt movement, but the drilling will resume in several weeks.

At the Braddock/Supreme/Summerall intersection, the contractor will be base paving two new lanes west of Supreme as weather allows. The contractor is continuing work on cleanup and restoration of finish work on the section already paved. Work on the traffic signal will begin in the new year. I'll continue providing updates as both of these projects advance.

East Gate Hotel Demolition Progress

The East Gate hotel has been completely demolished, and crews are working to remove piles of rubble from the site. I am pleased that the structure has come down at long last, and I'll keep an eye on cleanup as it progresses. Thanks for your patience as we worked through our legal options for forcing demolition. It is great to get this eyesore and safety hazard removed from our community.

DULLES LAND USE UPDATES

Defender Drive West

[LEGI-2023-0039](#)

The Board of Supervisors voted 8-1 to approve the Defender Drive West application at our November 15 Public Hearing. The application will rezone almost 21 acres of undeveloped property on the south side of Defender Drive between South Riding Boulevard and Elk Lick Road. The land is currently zoned for commercial use from the original South Riding zoning in the early 90s. The primary entrance to this development will be directly across from Virginia Tire and Auto.

As originally proposed, the developer sought 262 apartments within four buildings constructed on about half the property. The other half, about 10 acres, would be dedicated as open space and recreation area to the South Riding Proprietary. Between the Planning Commission meeting and the Board's Public Hearing, the applicant discovered a covenant issue that rendered 1.5 acres of land unusable for their purpose. This required them to reduce the number of units to 230 and would have eliminated the entry/exit on Elk Lick. While I welcomed the reduction in the number of units (the units will still be predominantly one-bedrooms, which was my main concern), I was worried about Defender Drive being the only way to access the property. I was able to work with the applicant to restore the entry/exit on Elk Lick, which had to be done by slightly reducing the length of the turn lane from Elk Lick to Defender Drive. The biggest issue in this area is the Defender Drive/South Riding Boulevard intersection. However, we determined that a traffic signal in this location can be built much sooner by the developer than it would be if the County were to undertake it. That is because the intersection is part of the County intersection improvement program, and the evaluation has not yet been completed for all the projects in that program. Once it is, staff will recommend a solution (in this case, it will be a signal), and then the Board will have to fund

the project. Based on the number of projects in need of funding, it could take years to obtain what we need.

However, the applicant agreed to fund the signal project, and as a condition for my support, also agreed to do the design for the signal at the Defender Drive and South Riding Boulevard intersection prior to receiving VDOT approval for a signal. This is not the normal process, but it will shave months off the timeline. As it is, the best case for installation of the signal is probably late 2025/early 2026, but that is actually over a year earlier than it would otherwise be under the very slow County/VDOT process, and that will line up with most of the residents moving into this new development. Unfortunately, the process of building a signal from start to finish takes at least 3 years, and often more, due to the myriad of requirements and regulations that must be completed and complied with, and the need to acquire right of way, relocate utilities, and actually do construction. Thanks to the applicant's willingness to work with me on a host of issues, most importantly the signal and the entry/exit on Elk Lick, and the fact that 10 acres of high profile frontage on South Riding Boulevard will now be preserved and is under HOA control, I was able to support the application.



Dulles Logistics Rezoning
[LEGI-2023-0043](#)

At our November 15 Public Hearing, the Board voted 9-0 to approve an application to rezone about 9 acres on Pleasant Valley Road, on the north side of Route 50 from Mineral Resource-Heavy Industry and Commercial Light Industrial zoning to Planned Development-General Industry zoning for the purpose of constructing warehouse uses (not a data center).

This parcel is on the north side of 50 and set back significantly from the roadway – and is not near any residential uses. Warehousing uses are acceptable in this location since site access is from Pleasant Valley Road and not from 50 directly. I will be keeping an eye out on how the signal at 50 and Pleasant Valley Road is operating once the warehouse use is constructed. If the signal requires any modifications or timing adjustments at that point, I'll work with VDOT to make those changes.

LOUDOUN UPDATES

Fleetwood Road Daytime Closures

Fleetwood Road (Route 616) between Route 50 (Little River Turnpike) and the Revival Drive (Route 3452) / Nicholson Meadows Place (Route 3705) intersection will be closed to through traffic, weather permitting, this week and again from Monday, December 4 through Thursday, December 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day to complete roadway repairs, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Those needing to reach properties along Fleetwood Road will have access. Through traffic will be detoured via Route 50, Lenah Ridge Place, Meadow Wheel Drive, and Nicholson Meadows Place back to Fleetwood Road. Drivers are asked to follow posted detour signs.

You can get real-time traffic, work zone, and incident information online at 511virginia.org, via the free mobile 511Virginia app, or by calling 511 in Virginia anywhere anytime. Follow VDOT Northern Virginia on Twitter @vadotnova.

 **Fleetwood Road (Rt 616)**
Effective 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 27 – Friday, Dec. 1 and
Monday, Dec. 4 – Friday, Dec. 8



LEGEND

- Closed segment of Fleetwood Road
- Detour
- Road Closures

VDOT

Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Public Hearing Scheduled for December

The Board has completed its rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance. We will hold a final public hearing on Wednesday, December 13 to give the public a chance to comment and provide feedback on the plan. I will have a more detailed breakdown of the new ZO in next month's newsletter, but if you'd like to sign up to speak at the December 13 hearing you can do so [here](#). To read the draft ordinance and submit comments online, please click [here](#). This is the first time we've updated the Zoning Ordinance in 30 years, and it will serve to complement our 2019 General Plan when we are

determining where various types of development should go in the County. It has been a long and sometimes difficult process, but I'm thrilled to have it complete and I believe it will be crucial as Loudoun develops into the future.

Data Center Locations CPAM Project Plan

If you recall from earlier discussions, the Board will take up a Comprehensive Plan Amendment on data center locations separately from our Zoning Ordinance rewrite process. The CPAM will seek to identify what remaining land we have in the County that is appropriate for data center development and serviced by fiber or accessible by power. The data center industry is a great partner to us in Loudoun, providing around \$600 million in revenue annually and shaving thousands of dollars off the average homeowner's tax bill. However, we have to prioritize responsible development that keeps data centers far away from residential homes, and our options to do so are becoming limited by the increasing number of by-right data centers we see springing up. When developers come to us with applications, we have an added responsibility to ensure that their proposals are not interfering with other types of development (primarily preexisting and approved residential homes). The CPAM will map out the entire County and we can determine what land is and isn't appropriate for data centers. This process will also require a concurrent Zoning Ordinance amendment.

At the Board's November 9 Business Meeting, we approved a project plan for the CPAM. Within 60 days of the Zoning Ordinance rewrite's completion (currently set for December 13), staff will return to the Board with a project plan for the data center design standards and location CPAM and ZOAM. We are waiting until after ZOR so that we have enforcement capabilities and a clearer picture of our high-level goals for the County. The CPAM will consider amendments to the place type maps within the 2019 General Plan for the Urban, Suburban, Transition, and Joint Land Management

Policy Areas that designate where data center uses are appropriate. Once we hear back from staff after the Zoning Ordinance rewrite is complete, I will provide more information on the process and timeline.

There has been renewed discussion of the “Dulles Cloud South” proposal during local elections, which would construct data centers south of Braddock Road on both sides of Gum Spring Road all the way to the County line, adjacent to where the power lines currently run. Dulles Cloud South first came up in 2019 when the Board of Supervisors updated the County's Comprehensive Plan, which sets high level land use policy. At the time, some property owners came to the Board and asked them to consider changing the allowed uses on parcels south of Braddock Road on both sides of Gum Spring to allow data centers. I held a town hall meeting on the Comprehensive Plan at Freedom High School to help generate some discussion and there was not support among residents for the change. I then worked with the Blue Ridge District Supervisor Tony Buffington, Chair Randall, and a few other colleagues to keep the concept out of the Comprehensive Plan. During this past four-year term, Loudoun Economic Development conducted an analysis of available parcels for data centers in the County. In that analysis, Dulles Cloud South was again floated as a concept, and the Board took several votes around it. Initially, the Transportation and Land Use Committee voted to keep it on the table, but then the full Board voted to stop consideration ... for now. However, the concept is still being discussed as an alternative to other data center locations. I will continue to oppose it and will share any information I receive on its consideration.

Feasibility Study for Commuter Bus Service into Loudoun County

At our November 9 Business Meeting, the Board approved a work plan as a result of my initiative to analyze the feasibility of providing commuter bus service into Loudoun County from neighboring

jurisdictions to the west and north such as West Virginia and Frederick and Montgomery Counties in Maryland, as well as Virginia Counties south of Loudoun such as Fauquier, Prince William, and more.

I introduced this item in May 2022 with the goal of looking for ways to reduce car trips in and out of the County to the west and north, since most of our focus is currently on the east. Many employees at Loudoun-based businesses and the County government commute from such jurisdictions. Due to the cost of living in Loudoun, these employees sometimes can't afford to live here but are instrumental in creating and maintaining the services and business community that we provide. While we work on increasing access to affordable and attainable housing in the County, providing commuter bus service to residents not currently living here will help incentivize working in the County – in addition to reducing vehicle trips, congestion, and emissions. It is my hope that by providing commuter bus service, we will also help our local businesses with their recruiting efforts.

The study will include identifying service needs and existing conditions, development and implementation of a survey for Loudoun-based businesses to determine where their workforce is commuting from, the level of interest in utilizing the service, and desired drop-off destinations in Loudoun County. Our analysis will include inflow/outflow trends of persons from the surrounding Counties into Loudoun County for employment, operating costs, potential ridership analysis including ridership forecasts, availability of park and ride lots from originating locations, key performance measures, recommendations for a marketing and outreach, fare elasticity analysis, and unmet ridership demand.

I thank the rest of the Board for supporting my initiative and voting to move forward with the study, and I am hopeful it will uncover some great opportunities for commuter bus services into the County. The study will

cost about \$106,621 and be complete by September 2024, at which point I'll provide another update.

LCPS Supplemental Appropriation

At the Board's November 9 Business Meeting, we voted to approve a \$12 million funding increase to LCPS' FY24 School Operating Fund by recognizing \$12 million in additional state revenue. During budget discussions earlier this year, we increased our appropriation to LCPS by \$13 million to cover a revenue shortfall that resulted from a calculation error by the state. The additional amount appropriated to LCPS would be funded by additional state revenue and up to \$13 million of FY23 year-end funds from the County side, with the final amount being the difference between the existing \$13 million state revenue shortfall in existence as of May 2023, and the state revenue that would exist when the final state budget was adopted. The final FY24 state budget was signed by the Governor on September 14, 2023 and includes \$12 million in additional state revenue for LCPS. By voting to recognize this additional state revenue, LCPS will be able to provide a 2% pay increase for eligible full-time employees – on top of the 5% increase already planned in the state budget, totaling a 7% pay increase this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Weather Watch

Loudoun briefly instituted a burn ban during the month of November due to favorable weather and environmental conditions for rapidly spreading wildfires. While the burn ban has now been lifted, Fire-Rescue is reminding citizens that conditions are still favorable for fires to spread. For more information on fire prevention and how to burn responsibly, please click [here](#).

Permitting Delay Update

Building & Development is now processing permit applications submitted on or after October 13. For updates and more information, please click [here](#).

LCSO Quarterly Meetings

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) is inviting county residents to attend its quarterly public information safety meetings at each of the agency's four service areas next month.

Topics will include recent crimes and trends in the area, traffic safety, and other public safety-related concerns. In partnership with The Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Developmental Services (MHSADS), REVIVE! Opioid Overdose Reversal Training will be provided to attendees.

The meetings will be led by a Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Captain who represents the service area. Sheriff Mike Chapman or a member of the LCSO leadership team will also be present.

The dates are as follows:

- Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. - Eastern Loudoun Station, 46620 E. Frederick Drive, Sterling
- Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. - Ashburn Station, 20272 Savin Hill Drive, Ashburn
- **Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. - Dulles South Station, 25216 Loudoun County Parkway, Chantilly**
- Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. - Western Loudoun Station, 47 W. Loudoun Street, Round Hill

To determine which station serves your home or business, please visit

<http://sheriff.loudoun.gov/findmystation>.

Composting Center at Landfill

Loudoun County has begun a one-year pilot program for accepting food waste at its new Food Waste Composting Drop-Off Center located at the Loudoun County landfill. The program is intended for residents who are interested in composting their household food scraps such as fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy products, pasta, eggshells, and coffee grounds. Quantities accepted are limited to one 5-gallon container or an equivalent amount, per customer, per week.

Under the pilot program, Key Compost will collect the material for processing at its composting facility in Frederick, Maryland.

The program was recently initiated by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in an effort to create local composting opportunities for the community. Results of the pilot program, including the level of public interest, will be evaluated for possible program expansion to additional locations.

Diverting food waste from disposal for composting benefits the environment in several ways, including providing nutrient-rich material to improve soil health, reducing waste and reducing methane emissions from landfills.

The [Loudoun County Energy Strategy](#), approved by the Board in February 2023, calls for the County to expand the yard waste composting and recycling program to divert solid waste from the landfill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In September 2023, the landfill began offering free compost to residents made from yard waste, such as grass clippings, hedge clippings, and leaves.

The food waste composting drop-off center is located at the Landfill Recycling Center at the Loudoun County Solid Waste Management Facility, located at 21101 Evergreen Mills Road in Leesburg. Operating hours are Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. More information about the services available at the landfill may be found at loudoun.gov/landfill.

Visit loudoun.gov/recycle for more information about the food waste composting program or call 703-771-5500.

ACOY Survey

The Loudoun County Advisory Commission on Youth (ACOY) is conducting a survey to gather information that will help inform county leaders when making decisions about services and programs designed to meet the needs of young people in the community.

The survey is intended for parents of elementary, middle and high-school-aged students, and youth in middle and high school. The survey is expected to take about ten minutes to complete. The survey covers four topic areas:

- Activities and interests
- Drug and alcohol use
- Mental health and stress management
- Online access and activity

Responses are anonymous. Participants are not required to provide any individually identifying information such as their name, home address, birth date, IP address, etc.

- [Take the survey in English](#)
- [Take the survey in Spanish](#)

The survey is open through Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Information gathered from the survey will be used to inform ACOY's "State of Loudoun Youth"

annual report to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

More information about the current youth survey is online at loudoun.gov/youthsurvey. More information about ACOY, including a link to the commission's "[State of Loudoun Youth – 2023](#)" report (PDF), is online at loudoun.gov/acoy. More information about existing youth services offered by Loudoun County is [online](#).

Loudoun Symphony Orchestra

The Loudoun Symphony Orchestra invites you to experience their holiday concerts - 7:30 p.m. on December 2 at St. David's Episcopal Church in Ashburn, and at 3:00 p.m. on December 3 at Lightridge High School in Aldie. This one-hour concert features something for everyone from selections from *The Nutcracker* by both Duke Ellington and Tchaikovsky to *Snowy Day* by Boys II Men and *Festive Sounds of Hanukkah*. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and free for children 12 and under. WIC cardholders may also attend concerts for free. Visit www.loudounsymphony.org for all the details.

VCE December Programs

The Loudoun chapter of the Virginia Cooperative Extension has several programs upcoming that may be of interest to you. For more information on any of these programs, or to register to attend, please email jess.yon@loudoun.gov.

- Sparking a love of local food and farming: afterschool programs – Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.
- 2023 Virginia Farm to Table Conference – Tuesday & Wednesday, December 12-13, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m.

- Save the date: Private pesticide applicator recertification training – December 14, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.
- ServSafe para Gerentes/ServSafe for managers – Monday, January 22, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.

VDOT Winter Weather Information

The Virginia Department of Transportation held their annual winter weather briefing this month. We are expecting slightly warmer-than-average temperatures, but it is an El Niño winter which means heavier storm counts near the coasts, and if the storms line up with colder weather we could get a fair amount of snow. VDOT is responsible for clearing over 14,000 miles of road during winter weather events in the Commonwealth of Virginia. VDOT encourages folks not to drive if it is snowing, and to be safe in the case of a storm. If we do get snow, VDOT's goal is to have one passable lane on every road within 24 hours when snowfall is 2-4" and within 48 hours for 4-6". Over 6" is expected to take at least 72 hours. VDOT will prioritize getting the roadways as safe as possible before moving on to shoulders, ramps, turn lanes, intersections, park and ride lots, and more. If you feel that your street is missed after these time frames have passed, you can use the resources below to get more information on plowing status and/or report your issue directly to VDOT:

- https://www.virginiadot.org/about/emergency_response.asp for news releases, important messages, frequently asked questions and links to many other resources, including:
 - @VaDOTNOVA on Twitter
 - <http://www.511virginia.org> for road conditions and traffic cameras
 - <http://www.vdotplows.org> for neighborhood status and locations of plows
 - <http://www.virginiadot.org> or 800-FORROAD (367- 7623) to report issues

Donations to Local Food Banks

Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry (DSFP) can be made in person at the pantry at 24757 Arcola Mills Drive on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or on Mondays from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., or [online](#). DSFP provides food assistance up to twice a month to any person who resides in the attendance zones for the following high schools: Freedom, John Champe, Lightridge, Independence, Rock Ridge, and Briar Woods. Call 703-507-2795 or email info@dsfp.org to schedule an appointment. See the pantry's [website](#) for information on how you can help fight local hunger. The pantry is currently looking for plastic bag donations as well.

Donations to the Dulles South Soup Kitchen can be made on their [website](#) or at their location by appointment. Call (202) 930-3775 or [email](#) to make an appointment. The Dulles South Soup Kitchen distributes fresh and nutritious hot meals to anyone in need within Loudoun County every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the StoneSprings Hospital Center parking lot by Route 50. [Registration](#) is required on their website.

Blood Donation

To schedule an appointment to donate blood or platelets with the American Red Cross, please visit [redcross.org/give-blood](https://www.redcross.org/give-blood).

Inova Blood Services also takes donors by appointment. Visit <https://www.inovablood.org/> to schedule an appointment.

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