



Weekly Newsflash MARCH 31, 2023

Loudoun County Hosts Northern Virginia Housing Expo April 1

Loudoun County is hosting the 13th annual Northern Virginia Housing Expo on **Saturday, April 1, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at Dominion High School, 21326 Augusta Drive in Sterling.

Anyone looking for an affordable place to live in

Northern Virginia is encouraged to visit the expo, which will showcase both homeownership and rental opportunities and resources throughout the region.

The event will feature workshops, an exhibit hall and free one-on-one financial coaching sessions. Staff from the Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development will participate in two panels to share information on Loudoun County programs for renters and homebuyers. Other workshop topics include credit scores, fair housing, household budgeting and a home sale market overview.

Free Resources for Renters & Homebuyers

Northern Virginia Housing Expo

Saturday, April 1, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Dominion High School

21326 Augusta Drive

Sterling



Details: loudoun.gov/housing

The expo is a cooperative effort of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties; the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Manassas Park; Virginia Housing; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (District of Columbia/National Capital Area Office); Northern Virginia Association of Realtors®; and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Details about the event as well as a year-round virtual exhibit hall are available at novahousingexpo.org. Additional resources for homebuyers and renters in Loudoun County are available at loudoun.gov/housing.

Loudoun Offers Educational Webinars on Parenting Strategies to Support Teens

FREE Webinars

PARENTING STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT TEENS
Presented by: Aaron Weiner, Ph.D., Board-certified psychologist and addiction specialist

How to Talk About the Portrayal of Drug Use in Popular Media
Thursday, April 13, 2023, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Supporting Adolescent Mental Health
Thursday, April 20, 2023, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

REGISTER TODAY:
loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention

The Prevention Alliance of Loudoun (PAL) will host two free educational webinars in April on parenting strategies to support teens.

Visit loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention for detailed information about each event and to register.

The scheduled webinars are:

- **Thursday, April 13, 2023, 6:30-8:00 p.m., How to Talk About the Portrayal of Drug Use in Popular Media:** Learn how parents and caregivers can help teenagers navigate the social and cultural impacts of drug use as portrayed in popular media.
- **Thursday, April 20, 2023, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Supporting Adolescent Mental Health:** Learn how parents and caregivers can support teens' mental health and well-being.

Early registration is encouraged as space is limited.

Anyone who requires an accommodation for any disability in order to participate, including language assistance, should contact the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services at [703-771-5155](tel:703-771-5155). Three days' notice is requested.

[View, print or download a flyer about the webinars \(PDF\)](#)

PAL is a coalition of youth, parents, Loudoun County agencies, nonprofit organizations and other community stakeholders dedicated to behavioral health awareness and substance use prevention efforts. PAL is coordinated by the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services.

More information about PAL and Loudoun County's behavioral health wellness programs may be found at loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention.

Loudoun Offers Data Management Training Series for Nonprofits

Loudoun County is offering new professional development opportunities for local nonprofit organizations on multiple dates in April and May 2023. The free training, titled Data Management Best Practices Series, aims to help nonprofits collect, manage and present data to successfully apply for and implement grants.



The flyer features a background image of a woman working at a desk with a laptop. The text on the flyer reads: "Data Management Best Practices Series", "Training Opportunities for Nonprofits April & May 2023", the Loudoun County Virginia logo, and "Register today: loudoun.gov/GrantTraining". A "Grants" folder is visible on the desk in the background image.

This informational and educational series of in-person and online training is designed to assist nonprofits in exploring a data-driven approach to program design and outreach. The purpose of this series is to inform best practices at the organization and programmatic level to bolster capacity in grant seeking and management efforts. Interested nonprofits will hear from Loudoun County staff, peer organizations and other data professionals throughout the series.

Training Descriptions & Registration

To find detailed information about each training and to register in advance, visit loudoun.gov/GrantTraining. The schedule for the training series includes the following in-person and virtual sessions:

- **Data 101: Data Required for Grant Seeking and Management**, Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Virtual
- **Making Sense of the American Community Survey**, Thursday, April 13, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Virtual
- **Data 102: Data Collection and Confidentiality Best Practices**, Thursday, April 20, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Virtual
- **Data and Grant Seeking: Exploring Loudoun County Data**, Monday, April 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Virtual
- **BYOD: “Bring Your Own Data” Workshop**, Thursday, May 4, 2023, 10:00 a. m. – 12:00 p.m., Loudoun County Government Center (1 Harrison St. SE, Leesburg- Dulles Room)
- **Data Workshop 2: Crafting a Data Management Plan**, Thursday, May 18, 2023, 12 – 2:00 p.m., Loudoun County Government Center (1 Harrison St. SE, Leesburg- Dulles Room)

More Information

The sessions listed above are the second in a series of professional development opportunities that will continue to be offered by the county in the coming months. The in-person and virtual training opportunities last between 90 minutes and two hours. They focus on helping nonprofits and their staff to develop stronger grant applications; hone the skills and knowledge needed to find, apply for and receive grants; learn from subject matter experts and their peers; and receive technical assistance on a broad range of topics.

To sign up for email and text messages from the county regarding information of interest to local nonprofit organizations, including county grant and professional development opportunities, visit loudoun.gov/GrantOpportunities.

Opportunities to Serve: Loudoun Seeks Applicants for Board of Zoning Appeals, Other Boards



Loudoun County offers residents opportunities to get involved in local government by serving on a variety of boards, committees and commissions.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Loudoun County is seeking applicants to serve on the

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). There is one opening for an alternate member whose term would begin immediately upon appointment by the Loudoun County Circuit Court.

The duties of the BZA include hearing and deciding:

- Appeals of administrative decisions and notices of violations made in accordance with the zoning ordinance.
- Applications for variances as authorized by the zoning ordinance.
- Appeals from the decisions of the Loudoun County Zoning Administrator regarding interpretation of the zoning map where there is uncertainty as to the location of a zoning district boundary.
- Applications for special exceptions when buildings or structures have inadvertently encroached into a yard or setback.

The BZA has five members and two alternates who are appointed by the chief judge of the Loudoun County Circuit Court for staggered terms of five years. BZA members must be residents of Loudoun County. This opening is due to a resignation. The term expires on December 2, 2026.

The BZA meets approximately once a month for a public hearing.

The deadline to apply is April 24, 2023. More information, including a link to the online application form, is available at loudoun.gov/bza.

Advisory Boards, Commissions & Committees

There are also opportunities to serve on boards, commissions and committees that advise the Board of Supervisors on a wide variety of topics. Find out more at loudoun.gov/advisoryvacancies.

2023 McGruff Safety Camp Application Opens Monday, April 3rd

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) and the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System (LC-CFRS) are proud to announce the 35th Annual McGruff Safety Camps.

This year the McGruff Safety Camp will be held at three locations.

- **June 26 – 29 Countryside Elementary School, Sterling**

- July 10 – 13 Pinebrook Elementary School, Aldie
- July 17 – 20 Evergreen Mill Elementary School, Leesburg

The camp continues to offer morning and afternoon sessions. All camps run Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. A graduation event for all campers will be held on July 21, 2023, at Bolen Park in Leesburg.

The annual McGruff Safety Camp began in the summer of 1988 and has continued every year through a joint effort between the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System. The camps allow children who are entering kindergarten or first grade to learn about various topics on safety including fire safety, bicycle safety, and 911 emergencies.

Throughout the week, children in the camp have the opportunity to meet law enforcement officers and firefighters, plus a chance to see law enforcement and fire/rescue vehicles firsthand.



Applications for the 35th Annual McGruff Safety Camps will be made available at <https://bit.ly/LCMcGruffCamp2023> on **Monday, April 3, 2023, at 9 a.m.**

Next Session of Online Initiative to Develop Fatherhood Skills Begins April 11

NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE™



A free 12-week program
VIRTUAL Meetings
Tuesdays | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Starting April 11, 2023

Build your skills to become an even stronger dad.



Register now at loudoun.gov/fatherhood
Questions? Contact Luther Miller:
luther.miller@loudoun.gov or 703-737-8188

**LOUDOUN
COUNTY
VIRGINIA**

Overview

Fatherhood Engagement Services strengthen families by effectively engaging fathers and involving them in decision making and service planning for their children.

Fatherhood Engagement Services are based on the National Fatherhood Initiative's® flagship curriculum – the 24/7 Dad® program. The 24/7 Dad® program is a 12-week curriculum that covers the key concepts of self-awareness, self-care, fathering and parenting skills, and relationship skills. Participants meet as a group, once a week, for 12 weeks. Each meeting is two hours.

Weekly topics include men's health, communication, discipline, getting involved, working with mom, co-parenting, dads and work, and children's growth and development. The Fatherhood Engagement Services team also provides case management support to all fathers participating in 24/7® Dad.

Session Dates & How to Register

Fatherhood Engagement Services offers three-four sessions of the 24/7 Dad® program per year. Register early, space is limited. Details on the next session:

- Starting April 11, 2023
- Virtual meetings
- Tuesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Register at bit.ly/loudounfathers
- View the flyer for details: [English \(PDF\)](#) | [Spanish \(PDF\)](#)

For More Information

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Luther Miller at luther.miller@loudoun.gov or 707-737-8188.

Loudoun Economic Development Small Business Summit

In honor of Loudoun's 10th Small Business Week Celebration, the Department of Economic Development is hosting an educational summit on Tuesday, May 2nd from 8am-3pm at the Claude Moore Recreation Center in Sterling.



The goal of the summit is to connect to and provide resources for small business from all industries who are looking to start or scale their concept or current plan. The day will include a keynote speaker (stay tuned for an exciting announcement on this soon!) and two facilitated workshops: one on finance and one on sales & marketing.

About the Program

Entrepreneurs who lead businesses of all sizes, at all stages of development, and in all industries, encounter common issues that can stall or kill progress. Whether a business is at the Start or Scale phase of growth, this Small Business Summit will kickstart a program designed to be a trusted resource partner for Loudoun entrepreneurs.

A full team of professionals at your service: Businesses of all sizes will benefit from each level of comprehensive programming & value-added services provided by the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development and partners. Join the Small Business Summit to gain inspiration from a keynote speaker and learn essential business concepts directly from industry leaders.

[Reserve Your Free Spot Today!](#)

Low Cost Rabies Vaccination & Microchip Clinic April 18th



Keep your pets healthy and safe by joining Loudoun County Animal Services (LCAS) at one of their low-cost rabies vaccine and microchip clinics.

Dogs and cats as young as 12 weeks may participate in the clinic. Pet owners should bring their cats in carriers. Dogs must remain on a leash of six feet or less. No

flexi-leads, please. LCAS recommends bringing any prior vaccination records, but records are not required. Have questions? [Email LCAS!](#)

Low-Cost Rabies Vaccination & Microchip Clinic - Loudoun County Animal Services (LCAS), 42225 Adoption Drive, Leesburg, VA

- Tuesday, April 18, 2023 - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, May 25, 2023 - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

These are a walk-in, low-cost rabies vaccination and microchip clinics. No appointments needed. Cats and dogs over 12 weeks of age are welcome to attend. Please bring cats in carriers and dogs on secure collars/harnesses and non-retractable leashes.

Please stay in your vehicle and follow staff directions for parking.

To receive the 3-year rabies vaccine, you must bring proof of prior vaccination.

Cash or check only.

- Microchips: \$15 (free for Loudoun County residents)
- Rabies vaccine: \$10 (1 and 3 year vaccine)
- Dog license: \$10/year (runs concurrently with your dog's rabies vaccination)

Loudoun Tops County Health Rankings in Virginia

Loudoun County tops the list of counties in Virginia in the 2023 County Health Rankings, released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The County Health Rankings rank the overall health of nearly every city and county in all 50 states and provide county-to-county comparisons within a state.



The rankings allow cities and counties to see how well they are doing on more than 90 factors that influence health, including housing, education, jobs, transportation, access to mental health providers and more.

They also look at a variety of measures that provide opportunities to affect the future health of communities, such as high school completion and child poverty rates, access to healthy foods, teen births and more.

The rankings are available at countyhealthrankings.org.

More information about the services and programs of the Loudoun County Health Department may be found online at loudoun.gov/health.

LC-CFRS Kicking Off Annual Smoke Alarm Program to Protect Loudoun Residents



The Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System's (LC-CFRS) annual smoke alarm program kicks off this Saturday, April 1, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in neighborhoods across Loudoun County.

"During a house fire, you have an average of THREE minutes to escape your home," said Fire Chief Keith Johnson. "Smoke Alarms provide you precious time to escape and reduce the risk of dying in a fire by half!"

As part of the annual smoke alarm program, firefighters from stations across Loudoun County are taking a hands-on approach to fire safety by canvassing neighborhoods one weekend a month from April to October. First responders will go door to door between 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. offering free smoke alarm assessments and valuable information about fire safety and home escape planning. During the assessment, firefighters will test existing smoke alarms, assist with battery replacement, and replace the smoke alarms at no cost if they are not working properly or exceed the ten-year recommended lifespan.

In addition to the scheduled smoke alarm canvasses through October, Loudoun residents can request a free smoke alarm assessment at any time by completing the online form at loudoun.gov/smokealarms or by calling the smoke alarm program hotline at 703-737-8093.

Loudoun Hunger Relief and VCE Loudoun Present: Cooking on a Budget

Interested in improving your skills in the kitchen? Want to get more creative with your meals? Learn tips and tricks to help you plan, cook, and prepare nutritious meals with VCE Loudoun's Master Food Volunteers and Loudoun Hunger Relief.



This four-part cooking series will have everyone whipping up quick, delicious, nutritious family meals on a budget. VCE Loudoun Master Food Volunteers will teach the basics of knife skills, menu planning, make-ahead strategies, and cooking techniques. Best of all, you will get to taste everything you make in the class.

To register, contact Loudoun Hunger Relief at [703-777-5911](tel:703-777-5911) or by [email](#).

Cooking on a Budget

with Loudoun Hunger Relief

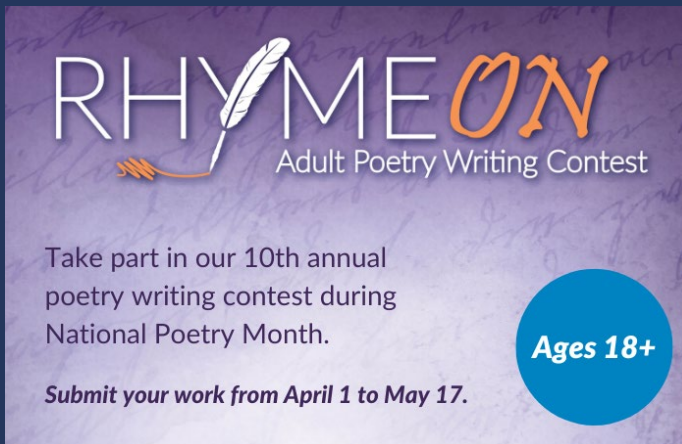
Thursdays, April 6 – April 27 at 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Sterling Community Center – 120 Enterprise St.

Ages 18 & up

[Cooking on a Budget \(PDF\)](#)

**LCPL Announces 10th Annual Rhyme On!
Poetry Writing Contest**



The 2023 contest begins April 1

It's almost time to share your poetic masterpieces. Submit your entry in one of four categories (Best Love Poem, Best Poem About Loudoun, Funniest Poem and Free Verse) between April 1 and May 17. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners and runners up

in each category.

All Loudoun residents and our friends from the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria and Winchester; the District of Columbia; Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Prince William, Clarke and Frederick counties in Virginia; Jefferson County, West Virginia; and Montgomery, Washington, Prince George's, Frederick and Charles counties in Maryland are eligible to enter. All contestants must be 18 or older.

Contest Rules

Submissions will be accepted April 1 through May 17. Prizes will be awarded in each of the following four categories:

- Best Love Poem
- Best "Loudoun" Poem
- Funniest Poem
- Free Verse

Eligibility

- Poems may or may not rhyme.
- Poets entering this contest must be 18 or older.
- Only one poem per poet may be submitted.
- Your work must be in English, original and previously unpublished (including on the Internet) and not scheduled for publication anywhere before May 17, 2023.
- Unpublished poems that have won a monetary award in any other contest are ineligible.

[Learn More about Submitting Your Piece](#)

Supervisor Koran T. Saines

Sterling District Supervisor
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
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STAY CONNECTED



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