

June 9, 2020



Dear Neighbors,

At this week's Board of Supervisors meeting, my colleagues and I took **three important steps to address the systemic inequalities** in our society. These inequalities have only been **heightened due to COVID-19**. We are all navigating through an **extraordinary time** and people are looking for **leaders who are listening and responding**.



Yesterday, the Board unanimously approved a **statement about racial injustices** occurring both nationally and here at home. We also endorsed **Chairman McKay's Task Force on Equity & Opportunity** to advance **racial equity** and **promote the changes necessary** to create a County that works for everyone. This group will bring together **diverse community stakeholders** to help us with our work. The recommendations of the Task Force will be presented through a **preliminary report in December 2020** and **final recommendations by the end of June 2021**, with regular updates in the interim.

Third, the Board unanimously directed staff to **identify options to fund Phase 2 of the body-worn camera program**, with a timeline and implementation plan by June 30. Phase 1 has been fully implemented and **Fairfax currently has 416 cameras issued** across the County, including at the **Mount Vernon District Station**; but the program has not yet been expanded to the whole County. While I initially supported **delaying the funding for Phase 2** due to the financial uncertainties created by COVID-19, recent events have shown **how important full implementation** of this program is.

The Board also approved **one of my environmental initiatives**. At my urging (and that of my environmental champions **Glenda Booth, Cathy Ledec and Betsy Martin**), the County has now incorporated **natural landscaping into its comprehensive plan** so that it is part of the planning process and taken into **consideration for all public facilities**. Natural landscaping **improves the aesthetic and environmental functions** of landscapes installed in the built environment and restores natural areas by **preserving and recreating land features and native plant communities**. Sustainable landscapes are formed which seek to **protect and restore natural ecosystem components**, maximize the **use of native plants**, remove invasive plant species, **reduce turf grass** and chemical inputs, improve soils and **retain rainwater on-site**. I am pleased the County has taken this step forward to **improve our shared environment**.

You can read **more about these items** and the **latest COVID-19 information** below, including moving to **Phase 2**, initial guidelines for **reopening schools** and applying for **Fairfax RISE grants** for small businesses and non-profits. **Applications are open and you must apply by June 15**. I know this has been a **challenging time for all** and more information for residents and businesses can be found below.

The Board's highest priority remains to **support ALL our residents, non-profits and local businesses in this challenging time**.

Respectfully yours in public service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Martin".

The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors June 9, 2020 meeting**, including items of particular interest to Mount Vernon residents. For additional information, please go to the [County's Board Agenda and Meeting Schedule](#). You may listen to highlights from the Board meeting on your computer or listen directly on iTunes. Subscribe to the podcast, or choose a program and listen in.

All presentations, recognitions and Board Matters were postponed.

To view the June 9, 2020 Board Package [click here](#).

Administrative Items

Item 7: Approved a public hearing to consider adopting a **reduction in the late payment penalty** ordinances for **real estate and personal property taxes** for Tax Year 2020. *The full item can be read on pages 46 - 50 of the Board Package.*

Action Items

Item 6: Authorized an agreement with the **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority** for the first amendment to the **WMATA Fiscal Year 2020 Capital Funding Agreement**. *The full item can be read on pages 136 - 203 of the Board Package.*

Public Hearings

Amendments to County Code, Motor Vehicles and Traffic

Approved plan amendments to update County Code to reflect **changes made to the Code of Virginia by the 2020 Assembly**. Notable changes include:

- Local regulation of certain transportation companies for **scooters, bikes and electric powered bikes**. Localities are authorized to **create or amend ordinances or actions** even after any such business is operating in the locality.
- **Definition of electric powered bikes** is changed to include three classes of such bikes based upon the **type of motor and maximum speed**. Operators of these electric bikes are offered the **same rights as regular bikes** and they can access the same trails, sidewalks and paths. Class three electric bikes **must wear a helmet**.
- Expands the laws on cell phones, including **handheld devices that are being held and used**, not just for texting and emailing anymore.
- Threshold for **reckless driving is raised from 80 mph to 85 mph**.

The full item can be read on pages 333 - 343 of the Board Package.

Natural Landscaping at County Facilities Proposed Plan Amendment

Approved a plan amendment that public facilities and sites be **designed, retrofitted and maintained** in an environmentally sensitive manner with a **focus on natural landscaping**. Although the county has **pursued natural landscaping for years**, and continues to do so, this plan amendment formalizes our **expectations for the natural landscaping of public facilities**. Each site has a role to play in the **creation of a healthy environment** for both people and wildlife; it celebrates our local flora and fauna; and it helps **create diverse and resilient sites**, ones that are better able to handle disturbance. Overall, the plan amendment **encourages intentionally-designed spaces** that meet our needs while **accommodating other species**, in addition to meeting **several other environmental objectives**. I look forward to seeing Natural Landscaping at County Facilities **integrated into both new projects and retrofits**. *The full item can be read on pages 289 - 296 of the Board Package.*

COVID-19 Updates

5 Tips to Promote Positive Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Health Department Rapid Response Teams: Stopping the Spread in Our Most Vulnerable Communities

Beware of COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Government Employee Impersonation Scams

Four More Fairfax County Farmers Markets to Open Beginning Next Week

Director of Epidemiology Explains What's Next in COVID-19 Response

Forward Virginia: Phase 2

Governor Northam announced Northern Virginia will be joining the rest of the state in **Phase 2 of reopening**. While this is good news, please continue to **take precautions to protect yourself and others**.

Phase 2 Changes:

- The **maximum number** of people allowed in **social gatherings** will increase from **10 to 50**.
- **Restaurants:** Can serve diners **indoors and outdoors at 50%** of their lowest allowed occupancy.
- **Exercise Facilities:** Gyms, recreation centers, and sports centers may **open indoor areas at 30%** of their lowest allowed occupancy.
- **Pools:** Indoor and outdoor pools may **reopen for lap swimming, exercise, diving and instruction**.
- **Entertainment:** Outdoor theaters, concert venues, outdoor and drive-in movie theaters, zoos and botanical gardens may **reopen at 50%** of their lowest capacity or a **maximum of 50 people**.
- **Personal Care:** Beauty salons, barbers, spas, massage centers, tanning salons and tattoo shops continue to **remain limited to 50%** of their normal capacity as specified under Phase 1. Customers **must make appointments** to come in, and both customers and employees are **required to wear face coverings**.

Guidelines for businesses can be found [here](#) and the County will update our [reopening website](#) with the **latest guidance**.

Schools

Governor Northam announced **initial guidelines for reopening schools**. Local school divisions **will have discretion** on how to operationalize within each phase and **may choose to offer more limited in-person options**. Entry into each phase is dependent on public health criteria.

The **opportunities for in-person instruction** in each phase are as follows:

- **Phase One: Special education** programs and **child care** for working families.
- **Phase Two:** Phase One plus **preschool through third grade students, English learners**, and **summer camps** in school buildings.
- **Phase Three: All students** may receive **in-person instruction** that can be accommodated with **strict social distancing measures** in place.
- **Beyond Phase Three:** Divisions will **resume "new-normal" operations** under future guidance.

While FCPS manages school operations, the I am committed to helping ensure the **reopening of schools safely**.

Evictions

The Virginia Supreme Court has **suspended all eviction proceedings** through **June 28**.

- Tenants are encouraged to know their **rights and responsibilities** and pay their rent on time if they are able.
- Visit StayHomeVirginia.com for more information and resources.

CVS COVID-19 Testing

CVS Health is offering COVID-19 testing at [7 Fairfax County locations](#) for those who meet the CDC criteria and state guidelines. A physician's referral is not required. Patients will be required to pre-register on-line and have an appointment. Insurance will be accepted at test sites, however patients should not have any out of pocket costs. Uninsured patients will be covered. Sites in or close to the District:

- 9009 Silverbrook Road, Fairfax Station

- 6400 Landsdowne Center, Alexandria
[Learn more...](#)

Resources from Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)

[NCS Connects](#) for youth and teens between **grades 1-12** emulates the experience of **visiting a community or teen center**. The site features **original programming and on-demand resources** for youth and parents.

Adults can **stay connected** through the [Virtual Center for Active Adults \(VCAA\)](#). The VCAA was created with the goal of **enriching the lives of adults** in Fairfax County while **combating isolation**. Adults can visit the site to **connect with their peers**, engage in a variety of activities and discover useful resources.

American Red Cross

The Red Cross is holding **two area blood drives**:

- Thurs. June 11 from 9 a.m. -7 p.m. at Mount Vernon Stake Center, 6219 Villa St. Franconia.
- Thurs. June 25 from 9 a.m. -7 p.m. at Mount Vernon Chapel, 2000 George Washington Pkwy. Alexandria

You must [schedule an appointment in advance...](#)

Other News

- The **Workhouse Arts Center's Drive-In Movies series** begins this weekend.
- The **Workhouse** is also launching an **Outdoor Community Market** starting June 26 and looking for vendors. [More information...](#)

REDUCING RISK OF CORONAVIRUS TRANSMISSION



@JuliaLMarcus, @EpiEllie, + Jonah Saffran

Credit: Tweet from Julia Marcus, PhD, MPH @JuliaLMarcus

For Businesses

Fairfax RISE Grant Program Accepting Applications

The Fairfax RISE (**RISE – Relief Initiative to Support Employers**) grant program provides **immediate relief to small businesses and nonprofits** impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Supervisors wants to assist small businesses and nonprofit organizations to **remain in business through the COVID-19** emergency and address gaps that may exist among complementary programs. **The grant will not have to be repaid.** Applications are

being **accepted now through June 15**. [Learn more...](#)

The grant program also establishes a **minimum allocation of 30%** of total funding toward awards for **women-owned, minority-owned, and/or veteran-owned businesses**. It is funded through an allocation of the **Coronavirus Relief Funds** provided through the federal CARES Act.



From Fairfax Water - Flush Your Pipes!

Is your **facility reopening** soon? Flush the pipes to **ensure optimal water quality**. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, some **commercial or residential properties** may have been left **empty or were not at full occupancy** for an extended period. As stay-at-home orders are lifted and plans are made to reoccupy these buildings, **owners are encouraged to address the water quality** of these locations. [Water System Flushing Guidance...](#)

Paycheck Protection Program Still Available

The Small Business Development Center reports that the **Paycheck Protection Program funds are still available**. If you know a business who is interested, **they can still apply!** Also, [guidance is being posted daily](#) regarding how to **have your PPP forgiven**.



Back to Work Survey

Did your business **apply for a federal or local grant or loan program** because of the COVID-19 pandemic? Are you planning to **return employees to work in stages**? What **safety protocols are planned** as you transition some or all your employees back into the office? Please fill out our ["Returning to the Workplace" survey](#). The results will be compiled to **help us understand how County companies** are planning to return their employees to the workplace.

2020 U.S. Census

The 2020 U.S. Census is still open! You have or will receive your invitation to respond any day now. **Please take the time to complete the census**. Future federal funding is determined by the census and it is very important everyone living in your home on April 1 is counted. For every person not counted, the County **could lose \$12,000 in potential funding** over the next 10 years. [Learn more...](#)



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