



Jan. 23, 2019

West Springfield Students Host Potluck & Food Drive for Federal Workers - Wed, 5-7PM

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Board of Supervisors Responds to Federal Shutdown

The County is stepping up to help families of federal workers. Some of the measures the County has taken to help these families include offering free connector bus rides, providing assistance with childcare, and connecting residents with nonprofits also offering services. The County is also promoting "Stuff the Bus" events over the next several weeks to collect food at local grocery stores and restock local food pantries.

West Springfield Students Host Potluck & Food Drive for Federal Workers - TONIGHT

As we approach over a month of the federal government shutdown, I recognize that many in our community are hurting. As the Chief Financial Officer of a government contracting firm, I know first-hand the challenges federal employees and contractors face in the midst of a shutdown.

Due to the shutdown, employees have gone weeks without pay, families are missing meals, and employees of federal contractors are unsure if they will ever recover lost wages. Family members of my office staff are among those affected and have shared just how close this shutdown hits home.

The impact of this shutdown goes beyond those directly affected, it hits our restaurants, retail and other businesses. Last week I visited one of our elementary schools and heard first-hand the impact on some of our children.

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Constituents affected by the shutdown are encouraged to attend the event, eat dinner, and learn about local resources that are available to help provide financial relief during the shutdown. Members of the community are encouraged to stop by the event, or West Springfield High School at a later date, to donate non-perishable food items to the school's food pantry.

I'm honored to represent a district with such outstanding young people who have demonstrated leadership in our community, and our County, as they have come together to serve those around them during this difficult time.

Board of Supervisors Responds to Federal Government Shutdown

In addition to lost wages, I'm very aware of how the shutdown is affecting our community at large. Children in our schools have shared fears that their families may not be able to afford food and rent. Businesses in the area are feeling the impact of lost wages. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority recently reported they are losing \$400,000 each weekday during the shutdown.

Our entire community is bearing the burden of this shutdown. It is critical for our county that members of Congress and the White House work together to reopen the government. **For that reason, I've asked the Board of Supervisors to write a letter to Congress and the White House, detailing the impacts on the community and urging them to do what we do every day in Fairfax County: work together for the greater good of our community.**

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At yesterday's meeting, the Board of Supervisors directed the County Executive prepare a resolution to extend the deadline for personal property tax bills, which are due on February 15, should the shutdown continue. I also supported an additional motion to have the County Executive write to all local utility providers asking leniency for County residents struggling to pay their bills because of the shutdown. The Board of Supervisors recognizes the increasingly difficult circumstances for many federal workers as they try to pay their bills and continues to try to provide relief. For more information on resources the county is offering during the shutdown or how you can help, visit the [Fairfax County Government website](#)

I also want to commend the many private companies who have stepped up to serve the hurting community. To name a few: Wells Fargo has offered zero percent interest loans, Whole Foods has provided free meals for families, our own West Springfield Shell Gas Station has offered discounts on vehicle maintenance and gas for federal employees, and Cox Communications is extending payments. Additional information can be found at the link above.