



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TOWN MANAGER ISSUES DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**

**PURCELLVILLE, Va. March 16, 2020** — In response to the current public health crisis, a Declaration of Local Emergency has been issued by the Purcellville Town Manager, David A. Mekarski. This follows the declaration of a statewide emergency from Virginia Governor Ralph Northam last week and the declaration of local emergency today by Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet.

Staff continues to monitor and follow both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Loudoun County Health Department guidelines and recommendations to prevent further spread of COVID-19. Town protocols, related to the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases, have been placed into action. This includes the reassessment of general practices, such as public accessibility to Town facilities.

The Town of Purcellville's top priority is the health and wellness of the citizens and staff. In an effort to maintain consistency with the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the Virginia Department of Health regarding social distancing, the Town Manager **will be closing the Purcellville Town Hall to visitors, effective tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17. Town Hall will remain staffed during the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Employees will be available via phone and email to provide assistance.** If a need arises, on a case-by-case basis, staff will work with citizens to make arrangements to accommodate requests for in-person service.

Contact information for each of the [Town Departments](#), is available at [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov). The main phone line for Town Hall is (540) 338-7421. General inquiries and issues may be submitted via the Town's [Online Citizen Issue Form](#) or by emailing [info@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:info@purcellvilleva.gov).

The Finance office will be available to assist customers by phone, (540) 338-7093 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. For water/sewer utility service inquiries you may email [revenue@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:revenue@purcellvilleva.gov). In lieu of making payments in person, the Finance office the Town offers multiple other payment options:

- **US Mail:** 221 South Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, VA 20132
- **Secure 24-Hour Drop Box:** A payment drop box is located on the south side of the Town Office adjacent to the J Street side parking lot.
- **Additional Payment Options:** including electronic payment options, can be found at [www.purcellvilleva.gov/payments](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov/payments).

As this health crisis continues to evolve, the Town will continue to make ongoing adjustments to our emergency plans, general operations, protocols and response strategy. As these changes occur, we will continue to provide updates to the community.

The Town encourages everyone to continue to stay up to date on current information, via the resources below, and to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19:

- ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ✓ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ✓ Stay home when you are sick.
- ✓ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- ✓ Avoid non-essential travel.

#### **Resources:**

The Loudoun County Health Department is the primary agency responsible for local response to public health concerns. To review the latest information about the current status and ongoing efforts, as well as sign up to receive updates, you may visit the Loudoun County Health Department website: [www.loudoun.gov/Coronavirus](http://www.loudoun.gov/Coronavirus). If you have specific questions about COVID-19, you may call the Loudoun County Health Department's information line, (703) 737-8300 or email [health@loudoun.gov](mailto:health@loudoun.gov).

Additional information is also available through the websites of the [Virginia Department of Health](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

#### **The Town of Purcellville, Virginia**

"Purcellville-your small Town, where history and progress intersect and people prosper," is an award-winning town of over 10,000 residents located in Loudoun County, approximately 50 miles west of Washington, DC. Having received the prestigious Siemens Sustainability Award for Small Communities, Purcellville continues to be honored for its green initiatives with most recently being the Tree City USA recipient for the 12<sup>th</sup> year. The Town was reaffirmed as a AAA rated community by S&P Global Ratings, the highest credit rating possible, and is recognized as one of the safest towns in Virginia. Once a stop along the W&OD rail line, which has been converted to a multi-use trail from Alexandria, VA to Purcellville, the Town has maintained its historic old-town feel through the restoration and maintenance of its many downtown structures, reflecting the Victorian architecture popular during the early 1900s. Today, Purcellville is the economic hub of western Loudoun County and a popular weekend destination for antiquing, equestrian activities, farmer's markets, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. More info at [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov).