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1979 • 2019

LOUDOUN VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Annual Report FY19

(July 2018 - June 2019)

Celebrating 40 Years of #LoudounPossible Success

with Executive Director Buddy Rizer

The year was 1979. "Ain't No Stopping Us Now" was one of the biggest hits on the radio, and in few places was that truer than Loudoun County, Virginia. To attract opportunities for a rapidly growing workforce, the Loudoun Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a Department of Economic Development.

In the 40 years since, Loudoun County has welcomed thousands of businesses to the community, from farm businesses and home-grown startups to multinational corporations. Loudoun Economic Development has played a leading role in those efforts, attracting tens of thousands of jobs and tens of billions of dollars in commercial investment.

In the last year alone, our team worked with 680 companies, announced projects totaling $6.5 billion dollars in new capital investment and 3,905 jobs. During this Board's term in office, we've welcomed $17.6 billion dollars in investment, nearly 17,000 jobs and more than 28 million square feet of new commercial space.

Since 2016, Loudoun's unemployment rate has dropped from 3.4% to 2.4%. This success has highlighted the importance of workforce in sustaining the economic diversity and resiliency in Loudoun. That's why we welcomed a workforce analyst role to our team in FY 2019, one of the first of its kind in the region. The goal is to coordinate public, private and higher education partners to enhance Loudoun's talent attraction, retention and retooling, to address the needs of our growing businesses.

The USDA Ag Census brought positive news for Loudoun's rural economy, as the County continues to lead Virginia in grapes and wineries, hops and breweries, llamas and alpacas, honey production, and farmers who are women, Latino, Hispanic or Asian, as well as farmers with military experience. Our long-standing commitment to supporting rural business owners makes it easier for them to do business in Loudoun and keep our farmland farming.

As part of that commitment, we continue to build the capabilities of our department's Agricultural and Business Services, providing more business resources than ever. That includes new plain language guides to starting 18 rural business types permitted in the county. It also includes working with elected officials and community partners to protect farmland in the county's new Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, the "Take Loudoun Home" marketing campaign in conjunction with Visit Loudoun, reached more than a half million consumers.

Businesses play a key role in shaping the community's identity, from the Dulles Technology Corridor to the fertile farmlands in the West, and we're very proud of the quality of life that businesses help provide. Loudoun still leads the U.S. in happiness, data centers, and median household income. Loudoun is still the healthiest, safest and fastest-growing county in Virginia. It's no wonder that Loudoun is considered a top community in which to live, work, play, learn and visit.

By strategically diversifying our industries, we've grown an economy that best serves our residents. When it comes to #LoudounPossible success, we believe what's past is prologue. On behalf of our award-winning staff, here's to 40 years of achievement and a future that's brighter than ever.

Sincerely,

Buddy Rizer, CEcD
Executive Director

LOUDOUN VIRGINIA
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USDA Ag Census Measures Loudoun's Success

Loudoun farms produce everything from hay to hogs and goats to grapes, as well as value-added products like beer, wine and artisan crafts.

Collins Aerospace Expands Loudoun Footprint

The defense company invested $3.5 million to build a 30,000 SF addition to their simulation and training facility in Sterling, VA.

Airbus Expands SatAir Facilities

The international aviation company invested $10 million to move into a new, 250,000 SF Customer Service Logistics Center in Loudoun.

Little Austria Opens Commercial Kitchen

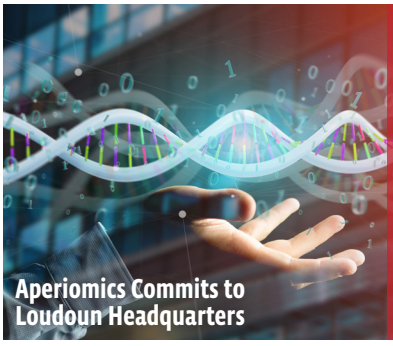
Growing out of the food incubator at Chefscape, Little Austria invested nearly $400,000 in a standalone Loudoun bakery to expand operations.

First Loudoun Buyer-Producer Marketplace

A series of events that connect Loudoun's farmers with restaurants and other bulk consumers interested in sourcing products locally.

Data Center Alley Grows to 13.5 Million SF

Some of the biggest names in technology and computing continue to grow in Loudoun County.



Aperiomics Commits to Loudoun Headquarters

The fast-growing biotech company is changing the way healthcare providers identify the causes of infection, from their Loudoun headquarters.

New Agricultural Business Resources

Ag businesses benefit from plain-language guides and a new marketing strategy that helps farms connect with consumers.

Loudoun Welcomes Workforce Analyst Role

The position will work with public, private and education partners to help attract, retain and retool the workforce for Loudoun businesses.

Loudoun United FC Opens Segra Field

Loudoun's publicly-owned stadium opened with a sellout crowd for the county's new professional soccer team.

Loudoun By the Numbers

LOUDOUN VIRGINIA
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3,905
jobs were announced in FY19, with 16,972 occurring over the past four years

$6.5 BILLION
of new commercial investment was announced, $17.6 billion total over the past four years

32%
of the county's tax revenue was generated by businesses. This increased from 26% in 2016 and 19% in 2007

680
companies worked with in FY19, for a total of 2,762 over the last four years

53%
growth in business tax revenue since 2016, which helps Loudoun build roads, schools and more

24.1 MILLION
travelers through Dulles International Airport, an 11% increase since 2016

7%
growth in average income for people employed in Loudoun

2.4%
unemployment, down from 3.4% in 2016. The number of jobs in Loudoun County grew by 10.5% over that span

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