



Supervisor

Caleb A. Kershner

Catoctin District



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA



County Tax Rate At \$0.98!

Dear Catoctin Residents,

Spring is here! March brought us our first down payment on spring, with some truly gorgeous weather especially this past week and a half. It felt like we got more than our share of sunny days, and I was glad to spend a lot of time outdoors with my family.

St. Patrick's Day came less than two weeks ago, and I'd be remiss if I didn't share some interesting historical facts about it. Here are three facts about the holiday, and while I knew two of these, the third one caught me by surprise:

- **St. Patrick's original name was Maewyn Succat.** And he was born not in Ireland, but in Britain - possibly [in Wales or Scotland](#), depending on which theory you subscribe to.
- **At 16, he was kidnapped by pirates and sold in Ireland as a slave.** He spent six years there [before eventually escaping](#). Afterwards he pursued an ecclesiastical education and became a bishop. Then he returned to Ireland, where he shared Christianity with the society that had once enslaved him.
- **The First St. Patrick's Day Parade was held in North America.** While the holiday has been celebrated in Ireland since the 1600s, the first actual parade was held [on March 17, 1601](#), in the Spanish colony of what is now St. Augustine, Florida. It was organized by the colony's Irish vicar, Ricardo Artur.

This month also touched my family personally, because March is Trisomy 18 Awareness Month. Trisomy 18 is a genetic condition that occurs randomly in 1 out of 5,000 pregnancies. And my daughter, Adriana, was born with it last year. We cherished every day that we got to spend with her. Losing her was, and is, hard. But her tiny life left a huge impact on us. She changed the way we look at life, and has us looking forward to when we will be with her again.

Turning to county business, our biggest update is that the Board has voted to set Loudoun's property tax rate at \$0.98 per \$100 of assessed value. That's actually lower than the equalized tax rate! I'm less thrilled about the Board's decision to approve *all* of

the departmental requests, even the one marked "priority 9." It was an unnecessary expansion of government that we didn't need to make. You'll find my full article on our tax rate below.

Please keep sending us your thoughts. We will be posting regular updates for the Catoctin District on [my Facebook page](#), and will be adding more information and resources to [my webpage](#).

Sincerely,

Caleb Kershner



If I tried to put all the interesting news from the Catoctin District into one monthly email, you'd be scrolling the rest of the month before you hit the bottom.

Which is why I also have a Facebook page.

So stay tuned to these newsletters for the big-picture news from the Catoctin District. But for the other day-to-day stories and updates, including [LCPS expanding its in-person days for current hybrid students](#), drop by my Facebook page and give it a like.

[Go to Facebook](#)

Current Events

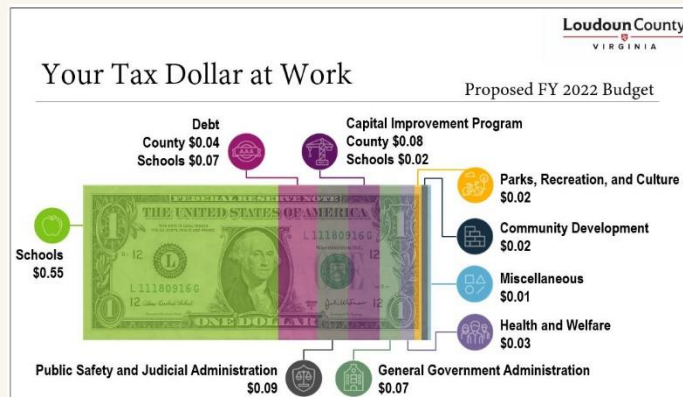


Image Credit: [Graphic](#) of Proposed F2022 budget breakdown, Loudoun County Government

Loudoun County Sets Its Tax Rate At \$0.98

The Board unanimously set Loudoun County's real property tax rate this year at \$0.98 per \$100 of assessed value. That is an historic achievement - we haven't had a tax rate under \$1.00 [since 2008](#)! It's lower than our \$1.00 equalized tax rate this year, and will go a long way toward easing the financial burdens of our taxpayers as we all continue to slog through this COVID-19 mess.

We got that tax rate mostly because we received over \$15 million in extra state funding for LCPS, which replaced part of our payment to them - and because we then made some additional, significant cuts to LCPS's funding request. All told, the Board voted to cut over \$17 million from our local tax transfer to the schools.

The simple, hard truth is that the School Board asked for a sizable budget increase during a pandemic, and then did not give us enough information to justify their request. We used the information that we had at hand and made our best estimate as to how much they actually needed. We still gave LCPS enough funding to give our teachers a 4% raise this year, and to allow them to keep qualifying for matching funds from the state. But we trimmed their overall request back to a more realistic figure.

The one real budgetary setback came at the end of our last work session. That was when the Board voted 5-4 to add over \$2 million to the budget to fund *all* the remaining 19 full-time employee positions that we hadn't specifically removed or approved yet. I joined

Supervisors Buffington, Letourneau, and Umstattd in voting against this proposal, but sadly, we were outvoted by the remaining Supervisors.

Our County budget will survive this fiscal misstep. But it was a needless expansion of government, at a time when we want to reduce the tax burden on our residents as much as we can. Some of those budget requests were worth funding. But cutting a blanket \$2 million dollar check to fund all of them - even the one that was marked as priority 9? That was not a prudent use of our tax dollars.

So that's where things stand. We have an excellent tax rate and a generally good budget, marred by some overenthusiastic spending. The Board will meet on April 6 to vote on a FY 2022 Appropriations Resolution, which will codify and formally approve this budget and tax rate for the County.

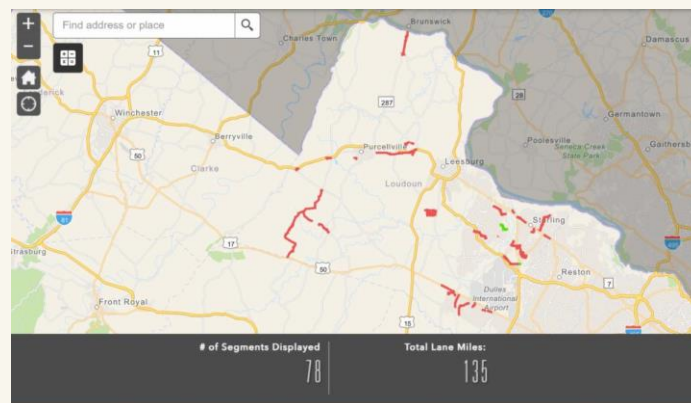


Image Credit: [Screenshot](#) of 2021 Statewide Paving Status Map, VDOT

Map of VDOT's 2021 Paving Projects

VDOT has begun its 2021 paving season, and they will be resurfacing roads in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William. They've put their full 2021 paving schedule into a neat interactive map, which you can access [here](#).

The interactive map includes roads that receive any type of surfacing treatment, including plant mix, latex, and slurry. Most of the plant mix repaving projects haven't begun yet, but for slurry and latex projects, work crews may already be removing worn-out road markings and patching over potholes.

[View the Map](#)



Image Credit: [John Beatty](#), School Board Member for the Catoctin District / LCPS

March Update from John Beatty, Catoctin's School Board Rep

I hope this spring is better than last! The flowers are starting to peek through the ground, and it feels wonderful that the birds are returning.

It's very exciting that we're coming back for four days in the fourth quarter. I wish we could have resurveyed parents to allow for more students. However, hopefully, this will go well, and we can provide in person education 5 days a week next year without any problems.

If you're a homeschooling family, or know someone who homeschools, the Pupil Services Committee is looking at the LCPS home schooling policy. I'm hopeful we can use this as an opportunity to allow our tax paying home school families to take part in some extracurriculars, like science fairs. Please reach out to me if these changes interest you at john.beatty@lcps.org.

The search for a new superintendent continues. We'll begin interviewing candidates in the next month, and I encourage you to let me know what qualities you'd look for in someone who needs to promote the education of our children and to manage the tax dollars we all put into the school system.

There is a Loudoun Broadband Association Survey that I would recommend you fill out. It will help provide guidance to all the internet operators who are trying to provide fast, reliable internet service for our communities. You can find the survey [here](#).

Thank you to everyone for your continual messages. I'm honored to serve everyone, and I will keep listening and try to balance the needs of all of our students, parents, and residents.

Sincerely,

John Beatty
John.Beatty@lcps.org
[Website](#)



Image Credit: Conceptual storefront of the grocery store, Lovettsville Cooperative Market / Used with permission

Community-Owned Grocery Store Comes to Lovettsville

Thanks to the [Lovettsville Cooperative Market](#), Lovettsville may get a community-owned grocery store by the fall of 2022.

The Cooperative Market has been working steadily toward this goal over the past ten years. And after careful planning, they have finally [secured a lease agreement](#) for a 7,000 square foot building being developed in downtown Lovettsville, which they will turn into a full-service, member-owned grocery store.

The new grocery store will be open seven days a week for members and non-members alike (with special perks for members). It will focus on natural and organic products,

sourced from local growers whenever possible. The store will also have a deli, “grab-n-go” meals for lunch and dinner, and a selection of local wines and beers.



Image Credit: Proposed layout for the grocery store, Lovettsville Cooperative Market / Used with permission

On top of that, the Cooperative Market is also positioned to be the largest private sector employer in Lovettsville, with a workforce of about 25 staff. And it will be a regular supplier of local produce and farm goods from Loudoun farmers. Based on those two factors, they estimate that when the store opens, it will return over \$1 million annually to the local economy.

To fund the new construction, the Cooperative Market has [rolled out a capital campaign](#) to their member base, where they invite members to invest in the coming construction. (They are only soliciting investments from members of the co-op.) Their goal is to raise 60% of the construction costs that way. The remainder will be covered by a bank note.

If you'd like to learn more about the Cooperative Market, their membership offering, and their capital campaign, I'd encourage you to check out their [website](#). You can also follow them on [Facebook](#), and on their lovely [Instagram page](#).

Learn More



Image Credit: Screenshot from [County Staff Report](#) on Goose Creek Application, Loudoun County Government

Why I Reconsidered My Goose Creek Vote

Thank you to all of you who have shared your thoughts with me on the Goose Creek application. A lot has happened on this application this month. On March 16, on a motion to reconsider, the Board finally [rejected the application](#), which sought to rezone this suburban policy area property in the Ashburn and Blue Ridge districts.

This was probably the most difficult vote I have had to take as a member of the Board of Supervisors to date. I explained my thinking on the initial “yes” vote in a [previous Facebook post](#). Those of you who know me know just how much I love the outdoors and our natural resources. The Goose Creek is very important to me. When this application came before us, I spent a tremendous amount of time researching its positive and negative impacts, asking questions of the developer, and consulting with our County staff and with my fellow Supervisors.

Four weeks ago, I voted yes and allowed this rezoning to go forward. But on this recent motion to reconsider, I abstained from the vote. And I wanted to explain why I did that.

I abstained because I came to realize that a yes vote and a no vote were both equally problematic choices. It boiled down to this: a vote against the rezoning application was a vote against extra protections for the Goose Creek, while a vote for the rezoning application was a vote for more protections but for too many homes.

Despite what some of the papers and pundits have claimed, this property is going to be developed anyway. That’s because it is zoned for by-right development—which means that even though the Board rejected this application, the property owners still have the legal right to build a certain number of homes on it, without needing the Board’s permission. I have it on good authority that that is now about to happen.

And when this property is developed by-right (which the Board has no say over), over 40 multimillion-dollar homes will tower over Goose Creek. They will be built without any of the added protections or benefits that this application would have given us. That area will get none of the proffered indigenous tree protections, additional storm water management, or open space.

The good news: the number of homes they can build by right is a more appropriate number of homes than the 200+ units that the applicant proposed for this location on the Goose.

The bad news: a similar amount of blasting and land and surface area will be disturbed as a part of the by-right construction process. And all the extra amenities, protections, and transportation proffers being offered in the rezoning application will now not be there. Here's a list of just some of the proffers that we gave up by rejecting this application:

Comparison of Goose Creek Overlook Proposal versus By-Right Development

3/10/21

	PROPOSAL	BY-RIGHT
Open Space	62% proffered	No minimum required; typical approximately 35%.
Affordable Housing	32% or 75 units	NONE (north and south separate projects)
New Public Park (per CIP)	16.4 acres protected by VOF Easement	NONE
Access to existing 18-acre Loudoun County Open Space	New public access provided by VOF easement amendment.	NO easement amendment – NO public access.
Linear Trails	Over 1 mile of publicly accessible Emerald Ribbon Trail	NONE
Limits of Clearing & Disturbance	Development set-back limited to 350' from Creek	Clearing to within 300' of Goose Creek (per Reservoir Protection Area)
Environmental Protection	Protections beyond FSM Standards: • Adds 50' to River Stream Corridor Resource (RSCR) Buffer • SWM – Min. 3 LID (underground retention) • Remove 24,773 SF existing impervious within 300' No Build and Floodplain • Minimum 80% Phosphorus removal (on site) • Tree Reforestation (100% VA Native Species) • Tree Preservation • Habitat Studies/Management • Steep Slope protection-double layer super silt fence	FSM Standards Only • No added RSCR Buffer • NO LID required by FSM • NO Impervious Surfaces Removed • 75% Phosphorus Removal (on site) • NO native species required. • NO Tree Preservation required • NO Habitat Studies/Management required • Double layer standard silt fence; no additional requirement adjacent to steep slopes
Total Units	238 (includes 75 AHUs)	Approximately 48 maximum.
Market Density	2.95 units/acre	1 unit/acre
Capital Facilities	\$2,962,374 cash to County	NONE
Transportation	\$4,000,000 to widen Sycolin (4-lanes with turn lanes) \$1,000,000 cash for Regional Roads	Site Entrance Improvements only
Transit	\$163,000 – 2 bus shelter easements at no cost to County	NONE
Sewage	Central Utilities/New Permanent Pump Station	Individual grinder pumps with low pressure force main system to existing temporary pump station
Kayak/Canoe Landing	Yes	NONE
Setback from Goose Creek	Between 300 and 600 feet	300' MIN development setback from Goose Creek
Historic Preservation	• Hennessy Garage and artwork • 3 Commemorative Markers • Abandoned Foxcroft School Hound Facility	• NONE • NONE • NONE

In the end, I decided that a vote either way was really a no-win vote. I did not want to vote for more homes in this location, and I did not want to vote for fewer protections. Therefore, I abstained.



Image Credit: [Flying Ace Distillery & Brewery logo](#), FlyingAceFarm.com

SAVE THE DATE – Flying Ace Distillery's Grand Opening on April 15!

[Flying Ace Farm](#) is about to unveil Loudoun County's newest (and possibly its first) limited farm brewery and distillery. They have teamed up with Monk's BBQ from Purcellville to open a brewery, distillery, and restaurant on the old Simpson Farm in Lovettsville. (It's also going to serve as [a second location for Monk's BBQ](#).) Their grand opening is planned for April 15.

As they prepare to open, the team has brought the old farm back to life, planting over 30 acres of heirloom corn and restoring and adding buildings to the property. Their name, Flying Aces, [is a tribute to US pilots who became fighter aces](#) - a group that includes co-founder Hadi Akkad's grandfather, who earned that distinction in World War II, and then earned it a second time in the Korean War.

Here are some photos of what Flying Aces has been up to, taken by my chief of staff, Stacy Carey, when we stopped by last week for a visit:





This is one grand opening you won't want to miss. Flying Aces and Monk's BBQ have pulled out all the stops, and what they've built here looks amazing. So mark your calendars for April 15, and prepare to welcome a new brewery and distillery that makes top-notch bourbon and beer (and comes with its own on-site Monk's BBQ!).

Visit the Flying Ace Website



Image Credit: [Photo of Waterford](#), Loudoun County Government

Virtual Public Input Meeting – Village of Waterford Traffic Calming Study

The Village of Waterford Traffic Calming project team will hold a [virtual public input meeting](#) on **Thursday, April 15, from 6:00 – 7:00 PM**. You can read the full project documents (plus notes from any of the meetings they've held so far) at the [project website](#).

How to Attend

The meeting will be held on WebEx. You can join the meeting online or by phone.

- **To Join Online:** Go to the [WebEx Login Page](#), type in your information, and click "Join Now." If it asks you for a password and that field isn't already filled in, type in "dtci" (all lowercase).
- **To Join By Phone:** Call 1-844-992-4726. Your access code will be 129 755 2102.

Sign Up To Speak

You can sign up ahead of time to ask a question during the Q&A part of this meeting. Just go to the project's [online signup form](#), fill in your information, and click Submit. The deadline to sign up is **April 14, 2021 at noon**. During the Q&A, you will be called on the order that you signed up, and you will get **2 minutes** to ask your question.

Even if you don't sign up, you can ask questions during the meeting by typing them into the chat function. The project team will answer as many of those additional questions as they can before the meeting ends.

Submit A Comment

You can also share your comments or questions by filling out the project's [online comment form](#). The deadline for sending in comments this way is **April 30, 2021**.



Image Credit: [Loudoun Farms Logo](https://loudounfarms.org), LoudounFarms.org

Sign Up for the Loudoun Spring Farm Tour

The 2021 Loudoun Spring Farm Tour is being held virtually this year, and it's looking for Loudoun farms who'd like to take part in it! If you'd like to participate, head over to the [Spring Farm Tour Sign-up Page](#) and fill out their online form with your farm's information. Once you submit it, you'll receive a confirmation email that includes a link to upload your farm's videos and product photos.

The deadline for uploading your videos and other content is **April 12**, so make sure to sign up and have all your materials uploaded by then.

Here's what the online form will ask you for:

- Farm Name
- Website
- Email Address
- Farm Street Address, State, Zip
- Description of Your Farm (*150 character limit*)
- Did you participate in the Spring or Fall Virtual Farm Tours in 2020? (Yes/No)
- Each farm will have an educational activity ([here's an example](#)). Will you be able to create an educational activity like this? Or would you prefer to have Loudoun Economic Development's marketing team create one for you? (*I'll do it/Please have Economic Development do it*)
- In addition to your virtual participation, will you offer any in-person activities on Farm Tour weekend (May 15-16)? (Yes/No)

If you have questions about filling out the form, or anything else, please feel free to email [Chris Blosser](#). He is the Rural Business Development Manager at Economic Development and will be glad to help you.

Sign Up



Image Credit: [Photo](#) of Branson Gray Everette, Tight Lines Charity

Tight Lines Charity

Tight Lines is a charity that was started this year by Jennifer Breaux, in memory of her son, Branson Gray Everette, who [passed away from an opioid overdose](#) in February.

“Anyone that truly knew Gray knew that he was a genuine guy who cared for his friends and family,” Jennifer wrote about her son on the charity’s [GoFundMe page](#). “He always had a listening ear and would do anything to be there for people in need, even helping others to a fault at times.... He could talk to anyone, even strangers on the beach, while he was fishing and hoping for his line to go tight with a catch.”

She named the charity Tight Lines, which is a phrase that fishermen use to wish each other good luck. It also gets across the charity’s goal. “Tight Lines will cast for the lost and help to fight for them not to get off that line until they are strong enough to be released,” she wrote. She plans for the charity to help others who struggle with addiction to get the help they need.

Jennifer says all donations to the charity will be transferred to the Bank of Charles Town, which holds the account for the charity.

Visit the GoFundMe Page

Major Road Projects



The Route 15 North Widening Project

Summary of the Project

The Route 15 North Widening project involves expanding Route 15 from two to four lanes between Battlefield Parkway and Montresor Road. This will involve a slew of road design, land acquisition, and construction tasks, all while following the Journey Through Hallowed Ground guidelines wherever possible.

Among other things, the widening project will include:

- A signalized Continuous Green "T" (CGT) intersection at North King Street to allow through traffic to continue north on Route 15 without stopping,
- An updated signalized intersection at Whites Ferry Road,
- A two-lane hybrid roundabout at Montresor Road,
- A realigned section of Limestone School Road to connect with the Montresor Road roundabout,
- A shared use path on the west side of Route 15 from Tuscarora High School to Montresor Road, *and*
- A shared use path along the entire length of Whites Ferry Road

Staff Working on 60% Design Plans, Notification Letters

Notification letters are being prepared for supplemental survey, environmental, geophysical and geotechnical investigations. Staff is still working on the 60% design plans.

[Visit Project Website](#)



Safety and Operational Study West Virginia to Route 7

The Route 9 Safety & Operational Study

The Route 9 Safety and Operational Study (SOS) is reviewing Route 9 from the West Virginia border to Route 7 to identify safety and traffic operational issues along the corridor. As with the Route 15 South Safety and Operations Study, public and focus group meeting will be held.

Ongoing Evaluation

No change since the last update. Work is still underway to evaluate existing conditions along Route 9, including roadway and intersection safety, roadway design and traffic.

Focus Group Meetings

The [first Route 9 focus group meeting](#) was held on February 13, 2020. More meetings were held virtually on July 16 and September 30. There will be up to five such meetings throughout this study, which will wrap up in the summer of 2021.

These focus group meetings are intended to allow discussion with property owners whose use or activity generates significant traffic, business owners, and representatives of civic organizations located in the area.

You can check the [project website](#) for further information. Please feel free to [email me](#) with your thoughts about the project.

[Visit Project Website](#)



Safety and Operational Study Leesburg to Prince William County

The Route 15 Safety & Operational Study

The purpose of the Route 15 South Safety and Operational Study (SOS) is to identify safety and traffic operational issues along the corridor. The goal of the proposed improvements is to ensure that this segment of Route 15 continues to carry local and commuter traffic safely and efficiently while still preserving the unique context of the historical roadway.

From October 2020 - January 2021, the study team worked on preliminary concept designs, incorporating [feedback that the focus group offered](#) at the October 1 meeting. Now the team has made enough progress on those preliminary draft alternatives to start collecting more feedback.

UPDATE: Public Input Meeting on April 22

Loudoun County will host a virtual public input meeting on **April 22, 2021, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM**. Further instructions on how to join the meeting will be published on the [project's website](#) - we'll let you know when that information is available.

There will be up to five focus group meetings throughout the study. The study is expected to wrap up in summer 2021.

The [project website](#) includes all the documents from the focus group and public input meetings. Please take a look at it for further information, and feel free to [email me](#) with your thoughts about the project.

See Project Website

Other Key Road Projects

The latest on County and VDOT projects that impact Catoclin District residents

Crosstrail Boulevard - Segment B

Summary of the Project

The design and construction from Kincaid Boulevard to Russell Branch Parkway. A contract award for construction of this proffer item was approved at the Board Business Meeting on December 3, 2019.

Latest Update

The contractor experienced typical winter weather delays, but they were able to keep the project on track. Right now they are coordinating FAA access, doing prep work for the bridge girders, and building a reuse waterline.

Crosstrail Boulevard - Segment C

Summary of the Project

This project provides for the planning, design, ROW acquisition, and the construction of a four lane median divided road as a Major Collector between Sycolin Road and the Dulles Greenway on a 120 ft. wide ROW. The project also includes shared use paths on both sides of Crosstrail Boulevard and a bridge over Sycolin Creek.

Latest Update

No change since last time. In this quarter of 2021, a design fee will be negotiated, and items will be prepared for a future FGOEDC and Board of Supervisors meeting so a design contract can be awarded.

Evergreen Mill Road Widening – Town of Leesburg

Summary of the Project

This project adds two lanes to the two existing lanes on Evergreen Mill Road from South King Street to the eastern entrance of Heritage High School. This project is managed by the Town of Leesburg.

Latest Update

No change since last time. In this quarter, the 30% Preliminary Design Plans were submitted and reviewed by the Town. Plans are still under review with VDOT and Loudoun County. The Town has met with the engineer to clarify questions on Town comments and is waiting on comments from VDOT and Loudoun County before finalizing a new schedule and cost estimate to submit to VDOT. Once those items are completed, the scoping phase will close. In the next quarter, work will continue on the 60% design documents and will also include additional surveying and utility location work. It is projected that initial public outreach will occur during next quarter.

Route 7 Improvements, Phase 3

Summary of the Project

This project provides for the planning, design, Right-of-Way acquisition, and construction to widen Route 7 eastbound from two lanes to three lanes between Route 9 and the Dulles Greenway (267), and Westbound from two lanes to three lanes from South King Street to West Market Street. It includes reconstructing/widening the following bridges: West Market Street over Route 7, Dry Mill Road over West Market Street, Children's Center Road over Route 7, W&OD Trail over Route 7, and Route 7 over Route 15.

Latest Update

No change since last time. In this quarter, DFB continued to seek VDOT's input on a suitable Disadvantaged Enterprise Business (DBE) goal for the design RFP. In the next quarter, DFB will work with DTCL to finalize the design RFP based on VDOT's input.

Route 7 & Route 287

Summary of the Project

This project provides for the planning, design, and construction of improvements for the Route 7 and Berlin Turnpike (Route 287) interchange. The project is funded using local tax funding and VDOT Smart Scale funding.

Latest Update

The final Interchange Modification Report and 30% design plans have been submitted to VDOT for review. The county's design consultant has finished the geotechnical investigation and is finishing up the environmental documents required for Smart Scale funding.

This project is currently in its design phase. It should be completed in fall 2022.

Route 7 & Route 690

Summary of the Project

This project funds the design, right-of-way acquisition and construction of an interchange at Route 7 and Route 690 in Purcellville.

Latest Update

The Limited Access Control Change (LAAC) package was submitted to VDOT, and is currently being reviewed by their Northern Virginia District Office and their Central Office. The plans are being updated to address comments from the Town of Purcellville.

John G. Lewis Memorial (Featherbed Lane) Bridge over Catoctin Creek

Summary of the Project

The purpose of this project is to develop conceptual bridge alternatives to address the existing historic truss bridge. VDOT presented three options to the State Department of Historic Resources. The DHS chose option 2A: building a new structure from the deck down, allowing the trusses to remain as ornamental.

John G. Lewis Memorial Bridge (Route 673 - Featherbed Lane) over Catoctin Creek is a single span steel pin connected Pratt through truss with a timber deck and asphalt overlay, supported on stringers and floor beams. The bridge was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 25, 1974. It is 157 feet long, has an overall width of about 14 feet and clear roadway width of 11.16 feet. It carries one alternating traffic lane. The bridge was originally erected in 1889 on the Leesburg & Alexandria Turnpike (Route 7) over Goose Creek, to replace a bridge destroyed by flooding. In 1932 the bridge was dismantled and moved to its current location. The bridge was posted 15 tons in 2004 and reduced to 3 tons in 2013 due to insufficient capacity. The existing bridge has an average traffic count of 57 vehicles per day with daily truck traffic less than 3 trucks.

Latest Update

No change since last time. The detour is still in place, and construction is still underway.

Route 7 & Battlefield Parkway

Summary of the Project

This project will replace the traffic signal at Route 7 (East Market Street) and Battlefield Parkway with a grade-separated interchange, and remove or modify the signalized intersection at Route 7 and Cardinal Park Drive to reduce congestion and improve traffic operations. Other improvements include accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians, and new interchange lighting. The Town of Leesburg has executed an agreement with VDOT to administer this project on the Town's behalf. The Town has also executed a reimbursement agreement with NVTA.

Latest Update

The project is 70% complete. The right-of-way acquisition is complete. Utility relocation is currently ongoing, and should be finished by June 2021.

Route 9 & Route 287 Roundabout

Summary of the Project

This project includes design and construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Charles Town Pike (Route 9) and Berlin Turnpike (Route 287).

Latest Update

The plats were submitted to Building and Development in late February. Comments are pending on the 100% design plans from Building and Development and from VDOT.

Route 15 - Route 15 Interchange at Edwards Ferry/Fort Evans Road

Summary of the Project

This project includes the design and construction of grade separated interchanges at Route 15/Edwards Ferry Road and Route 15/Fort Evans Road.

Latest Update

The consultant has resumed work to advance this project to the field investigation (FI) stage.

Town of Lovettsville Broadway Streetscape, Phase 2A

Summary of the Project

This project provides for the design, ROW, and construction of sidewalk improvements along Broadway Street from Park Place to Light Street. This project is managed by the Town of Lovettsville.

Latest Update

No change since last time. In this quarter, the 30% modified plans are still under review by VDOT. The 30% modified plans are revised based on comments received from VDOT on 30% plans. In the next quarter, it is anticipated that a public hearing will be held and preparation for ROW acquisition will begin. The reported delay is due to the extended VDOT review timeframe. The environmental documents for the project have been modified to include East Broad Street Phase 2B and awaiting VDOT's finding of Categorical Exclusion for the project.

Town of Lovettsville, Church Street & Pennsylvania Avenue Sidewalk Improvements

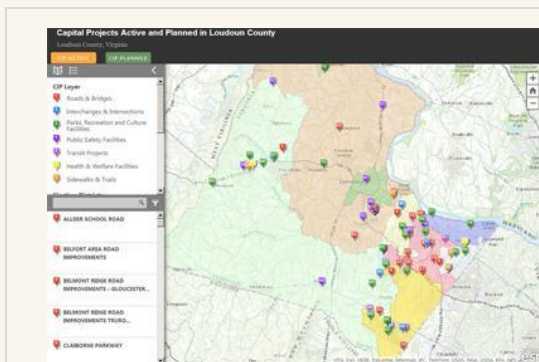
Summary of the Project

This project provides for improvements to the sidewalk at South Church Street and East Pennsylvania Avenue. In addition to sidewalks, improvements include roadway widening, storm water management, and street lights.

Latest Update

No change since last time. This project is managed by the [Town of Lovettsville](#). In this quarter, the 30% modified plans are still under review by VDOT. The 30% modified plans are revised based on comments received from VDOT on 30% plans. In the next quarter, it is anticipated that a public hearing will be held and preparation for ROW acquisition will begin. The reported delay is due to the extended VDOT review timeframe.

More Road Resources



Loudoun's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

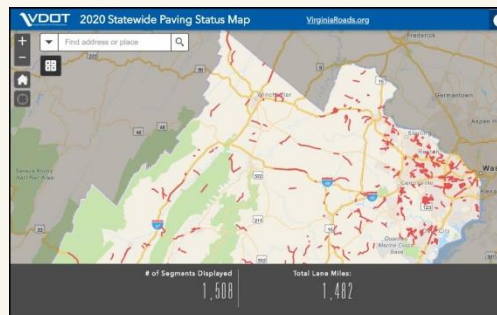
Use the county's interactive map to track capital improvement projects in Loudoun. It will show you active projects (currently funded) and planned projects (part of a later budget plan).

[View the map](#)

VDOT's Road Paving Projects

Use VDOT's new interactive map to track the status of all road paving projects in Loudoun. The map includes roads that are getting all types of treatments, including plant mix, latex, and slurry.

[View the map](#)



Business Resources



The Official Guide To Starting Your Rural Business In Loudoun

Are you thinking of starting a rural business in Loudoun County? Our Department of Economic Development has put together this guide just for you. It gives an overview of important information for rural businesses, from farm and breweries to restaurants and bed & breakfasts, and helps you figure out if your specific use is permitted on your property.

[Read Now](#)



Image Credit: [USDA Grant Workshops for Value Added Producers \(2017\)](#), USDA

Extended Deadline & More Funding for USDA's Value-Added Product Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has put up an extra \$35 million this year for its [Value-Added Producer Grant Program \(VAPG\)](#) to support agricultural producers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Combined with the funds they'd already dedicated to the program, they have a total of \$76 million available for these grants.

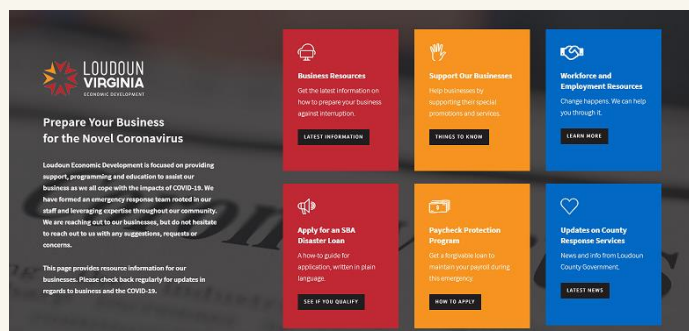
This year's application deadline has been extended to May 4, 2021. Veterans, socially disadvantaged groups, beginning farmers and ranchers, operators of small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches, and farmer and rancher cooperatives will get special priority.

The VAPG program is designed to support value-added agricultural products, where someone takes raw foodstuffs, like strawberries, and turns them into a more processed product, like jam. Those value-added products sell for a better price than the original raw foodstuffs (hence "value-added"), which is good for the farmer. It also often means that the farmer hires people to help process the raw foodstuffs, package the new product, and so on, which helps the whole rural economy.

To help this process along, the VAPG program gives competitive grants to agricultural producers (or groups of producers) who are creating or developing value-added, producer-controlled businesses. They generally offer two types of grants: planning grants, to pay for things like marketing plans and feasibility studies, and working capital grants, to cover a business's eligible expenses as it processes and markets its value-added product.

This is a great opportunity for Loudoun growers and agribusinesses. If you're interested, I'd encourage you to head over to the Value-Added Producer Grant Program website and start your application.

Go to VAPG Website



Business Guides & Resources

Whether you're anticipating interruptions in your supply chain and/or customer sales, there are resources that can help bolster your business. Learn more about financing, education and training opportunities, and what data centers are doing to fuel digital tools.

Here are the top online resources offered by the Department of Economic Development:

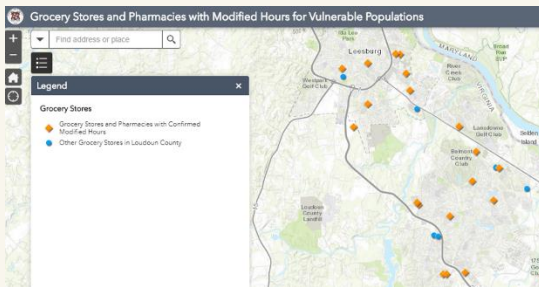
COVID-19 Resources

- [Join The Take Loudoun Home Campaign](#)
- [Workforce Resources for Businesses](#)
- [Workforce Resources for Employees & Job Seekers](#)

General Business Resources

- [Rural Business Educational Resources](#)
- [Financing and Loans](#)
- [Business Training & Education](#)
- [Digital Business Resources](#)

COVID-19 Resources



Grocery Stores With Designated Hours for Seniors

Loudoun County has launched an interactive map to help residents find grocery stores and pharmacies with designated hours for vulnerable individuals. These shopping hours are designated for older adults, as well as individuals with underlying health issues or compromised immune systems, who are at greater risk of complications from COVID-19.

[View the map](#)

Food Banks, Community Meals, And Other Food Help

Loudoun County has launched an interactive map to help residents find food assistance sites, including food banks, pantries and non-school meal distribution sites.

The searchable map also links to webpages for the various sites. It will be updated as food assistance sites make service changes.

[View the map](#)



Behavioral Health Resources

- [Coping with Stress During COVID-19 Outbreak \(PDF\)](#)
- [Helping Children Cope with Stress During COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health \(PDF\)](#)
- [Mental Health and Coping During COVID-19](#)

If you are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, Emergency Services are available 24 hours daily, seven days per week at 703-777-0320. For general information questions, email or call 703-771-5155.

Avoiding COVID Scams

Beware of COVID-19 scammers trying to use your compassion or fear of the virus against you. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has [created a list](#) of the most common scam techniques so you can recognize and avoid them.

Read The List

Stay Informed

- **Sign up for email and text updates** about Loudoun's response to COVID-19 at loudoun.gov/coronavirus
- **Text LCCOVID19 to 888777** to receive text alerts from Loudoun County about COVID-19
- Follow the [Loudoun County Government Facebook Page](#) and [@LoudounCoGovt](#) on Twitter

Neat County Resources



Loudoun Express Request

Loudoun Express Request is a helpful tool for contacting county staff regarding a wide spectrum of issues. Internet service, property use, environmental health, and much more can be entered on LEX. Enter your question or concern and LEX will contact appropriate county staff! Learn more [here](#).

[Ask A Question](#)



Volunteer with Loudoun Cares

It's always a good time to think about volunteering. Check out volunteer opportunities with Loudoun Cares Volunteer Center. The Volunteer Center is the one-stop resource connecting nonprofit organizations in Loudoun County to individuals in the community looking for a place to volunteer their time and resources.

[Volunteer Now](#)



Share This Newsletter!

Do you have a friend or a neighbor who would benefit from the information in this newsletter? Go ahead and forward this newsletter to them!

My office is working to ensure as many Catoclin residents as possible are being informed about important issues - whether those are public hearing notices, road closure announcements, inclement weather advisories, or other updates on issues of importance to the district and to the county.

If you're the friend who got this newsletter, and you're interesting in getting more of them, click the button to subscribe.

Subscribe

Sincerely,

Caleb Kershner

Catoctin District | 1 Harrison St. SE, Leesburg, VA 20175

[Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

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