

Leesburg District News

Kristen C. Umstattd
Leesburg District Supervisor

It was a real delight to attend the USSSA Girls Softball Tournament at Bolen Park this month. Loudoun County is renowned throughout the east coast for having some of the best maintained fields for tournaments. According to Visit Loudoun, the players, coaches and parents filled 1,000 hotel rooms in the County for the four days they were here. Thank you to Parks and Recreation for the good work maintaining our fields and to Visit Loudoun for recruiting teams from as far away as Connecticut and Ohio.

Collective Bargaining

At the July 20th Board business meeting we passed the following motions regarding [collective bargaining](#) for County employees.

- Support adoption of a local ordinance authorizing the County to recognize, bargain with, and enter into a collective bargaining contract with a labor union or employee association as a bargaining agent for its eligible employees (motion passed 6-3).
- Return to the Board for a closed session at the September 21st business meeting to discuss legal issues surrounding the draft local ordinance authorizing collective bargaining and recognizing labor unions or other employee associations as bargaining agents for eligible County employees (motion passed 9-0).
- Advertise and schedule a public hearing on October 13th for the draft ordinance authorizing collective bargaining and recognizing labor unions or other employee associations as bargaining agents for eligible County employees (motion passed 6-3).
- Include in the draft ordinance a provision that certification of a labor union as the exclusive bargaining representative of the bargaining unit requires the majority (50% + one eligible employee) of those eligible employees casting a vote in an election to choose the exclusive bargaining representative for the bargaining unit (motion passed 6-3).

Here are four of the major areas that have been discussed by the Board when it comes to allowing County employees to engage in collective bargaining (have a union represent them) and why I support passing a collective bargaining ordinance:

1. The ongoing costs of collective bargaining are a small fraction of the ongoing costs to the taxpayers of new residential upzonings that Board majorities have approved over the last few months.
2. The right to join a union is the right to associate with other like-minded people and have the union speak for you. I view this as a First Amendment right.
3. County employees cannot be forced to join a union or pay union dues.
4. Under Virginia law, County employees are not permitted to go on strike, so County services will not be disrupted by collective bargaining.

Board Strategic Initiatives

At the July 20th Board business meeting, we received a bi-annual update of the strategic initiatives completed to date and an implementation plan for those initiatives not yet completed. Our strategic focus areas are:

- Open Spaces and Environment
- Connecting Loudoun
- Collective Bargaining
- Equitable Communities
- Economic Development

We've completed a few strategic initiatives in these focus areas such as the establishment of an Environmental Commission, the approval of a Linear Parks and Trails (LPAT) plan and support for the adoption of a local ordinance authorizing the County to recognize and enter into a collective bargaining contract with a labor union.

Regarding equitable communities, a draft [Equity Position Statement](#) was presented (Attachment 1). Loudoun County values being a community that is inclusive and thriving, as reflected in the Vision Statement adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2020: "While appreciating and acknowledging our rich history, Loudoun County strives to be a prosperous, inclusive, equitable and sustainable community where residents feel free to live, work, learn and play." Equity considerations have been incorporated into the draft Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan (UHNSP) to allow as many residents as possible to access housing they can afford. At the June 16th TLUC meeting, the Committee forwarded the UHNSP to the September 8th Board business meeting for action.

Tax Relief Program for the Elderly and Disabled

At the July 14th Board public hearing, we unanimously approved Amendments to Chapter 872 of the Codified Ordinance of Loudoun County - Real Estate Tax Relief for Elderly or Totally and Permanently Disabled effective January 1, 2022. These amendments increase the annual qualifying household income, exclude disability income of relatives residing in the dwelling and establish a review of the program's income criteria by the Board every four years.

Linear Parks and Trails

At the July 6th Board business meeting, we approved the [Countywide Linear Parks and Trails System Plan](#).

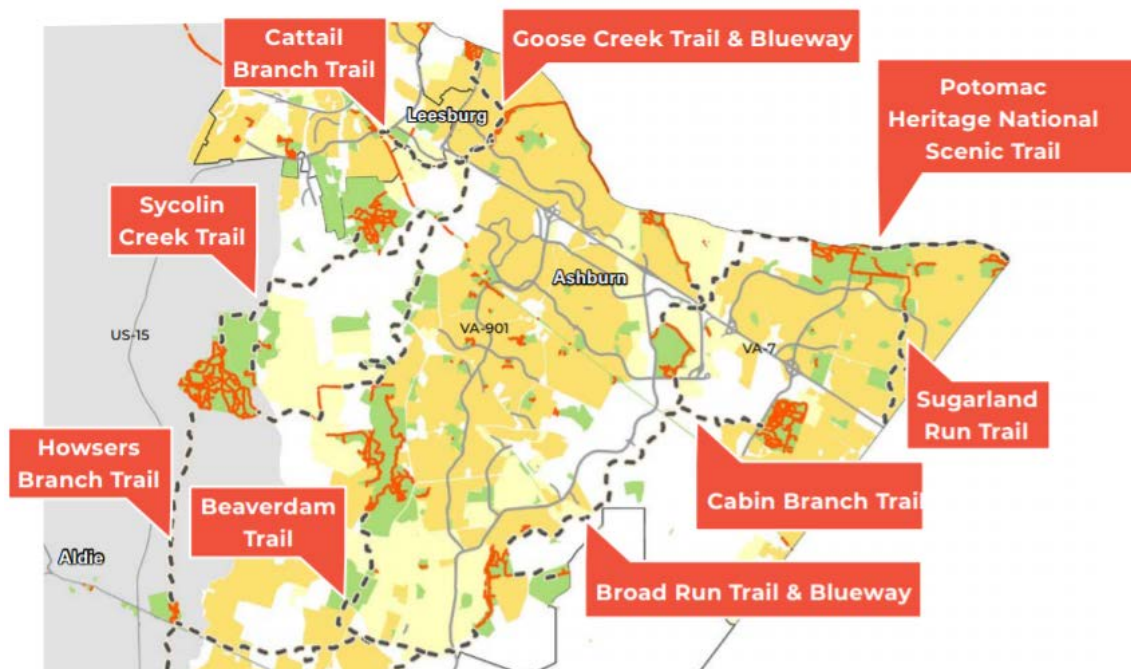
The plan vision is an interconnected system of multiuse passive recreation linear parks and trails that connect communities across Loudoun County's 500 square miles. Passive recreation users may include walkers, hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, nature enthusiasts, and other user groups. The service-level goal is that residents will have access to a trail that permits public use located within 1/8-mile for areas with residential unit density greater than 3 units per acre, and within 1/2-mile for areas with residential unit density of 3 units or fewer per acre.

The Ten-Year Plan uses a prioritization model to rank the linear park and trail projects based on the short-term likelihood of securing necessary trail alignments and funding and divides them into tiers. The tiered categories are

- Connectivity to fill trail gaps and improve weak links in communities and regionally
- Equity to improve the level of service in underserved communities
- Public interest to protect natural and cultural resources

The Framework Plan corridors are the backbone of the linear park and trail system. Wherever possible, it follows open space corridors in stream valleys, along ridges, or through rural farmland and prioritizes land that is easiest to implement. The Framework Plan level of service is 1.2 miles per 1,000 residents with 509 miles of trails. Please see the Framework Plan map for Leesburg and eastern Loudoun below.

MAP 2: LINEAR PARKS & TRAILS FRAMEWORK PLAN – EASTERN LOUDOUN



Confederate and Segregationist Symbols

At the July 6th Board business meeting, staff presented an [inventory of Confederate and segregationist symbols](#) located on public property or within the public right of way in Loudoun County for review and action. The list of items included in the inventory were developed with assistance from the public via: (1) submissions through a map-based public submission tool on the Loudoun County website, and (2) assistance from subject matter experts. The results of staff's review were combined with the public submissions to create the inventory table below.

The Board majority directed staff to: 1) develop a work plan, to include: a timeline, public engagement process and cost estimates to implement changes to the Confederate and Segregationist symbols items already submitted by the public, names of public roads within Loudoun County, and Loudoun County facilities and report back to the Board with this information by September; 2) remove the name of Kephart Landing and direct staff from Parks, Recreation, and Community Services to submit a new name for the landing; and 3) direct staff to obtain cost estimates from consultants to conduct further research on any building and street names that may not have been included in the inventory of Confederate and Segregationist symbols. Two cost estimates will be brought to the Board in September: 1) a thorough review of all sites in the County and 2) review of items included on staff's list that require more research.

Why should we do this? Because Virginians are better than we used to be and the continued honoring of Confederate and Segregationist names and symbols is deeply hurtful to many of our County residents. It always has been and it is up to us to make all of our residents feel welcome.

I support the name changes and suggested a County grant system to compensate businesses and residents who will have to spend a good deal of money to accommodate the name change. As I have noted before, Loudoun County has no authority to change the name of roads inside the Town of Leesburg.

Inventory of Confederate and Segregationist Symbols in Loudoun County		
Street or Facility Name	Location	Description
Confederate Court	Southeast of Lucketts	Unbuilt road on an approved subdivision plat
Early Avenue	Northwest of Round Hill	Named for Confederate General Jubal Early
Fort Johnson Road	Northwest of Leesburg	Named for a Confederate fort
Hampton Road	Northwest of Round Hill	Named for Confederate General Wade Hampton
Harry Byrd Highway	All districts except Dulles	Named for a Senator Harry Byrd, a leader of the Massive Resistance to desegregation
Jackson Avenue	Northwest of Round Hill	Named for Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson
Jeb Stuart Road	Philomont area	Named for Confederate General James Ewell Brown "J.E.B." Stuart
John Mosby Highway	Blue Ridge and Dulles Districts	Named for Confederate Colonel John S. Mosby
Lee Drive	Northwest of Round Hill	Named for Confederate General Robert E. Lee
Longstreet Avenue	Northwest of Round Hill	Named for Confederate General James Longstreet
Mosby Heritage Area signage	Countywide	N/A
Pickett Road	Northwest of Round Hill	Named for Confederate General George Pickett
Kephart Bridge Landing	Canoe and kayak launch facility located within Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park in the Lansdowne community	Named for George Kephart who was an agent for the largest slave trading enterprise in the nation

For the renaming of Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) and John Mosby Highway (Route 50), there is a [County website](#) for the public to submit a name for consideration by Friday, July 30th. A public meeting will take place in September 2021, where the project team will discuss the name gathering process and receive comments on the top name choices. Details about the public meeting will be posted on the [website](#) once available.

Prevailing Wage

At the July 6th Board business meeting, I co-sponsored a [Board Member Initiative](#) to prepare an information item about a potential prevailing wage ordinance. During the 2020 General Assembly session, legislation passed (SB 8 and HB 833) to provide localities with the option of adopting a prevailing wage ordinance for work performed on public works contracts to include transportation infrastructure projects (effective July 1, 2021). Such an ordinance would require all construction contractors on public works projects over \$250,000 to pay workers the prevailing rate as determined by the US Department of Labor, per the federal Davis-Bacon Act. It would mirror the Virginia Prevailing Wage Act, which requires prevailing wages be paid to all construction workers on state contracts. Thirty-two states have prevailing wage laws.

Transportation Summit

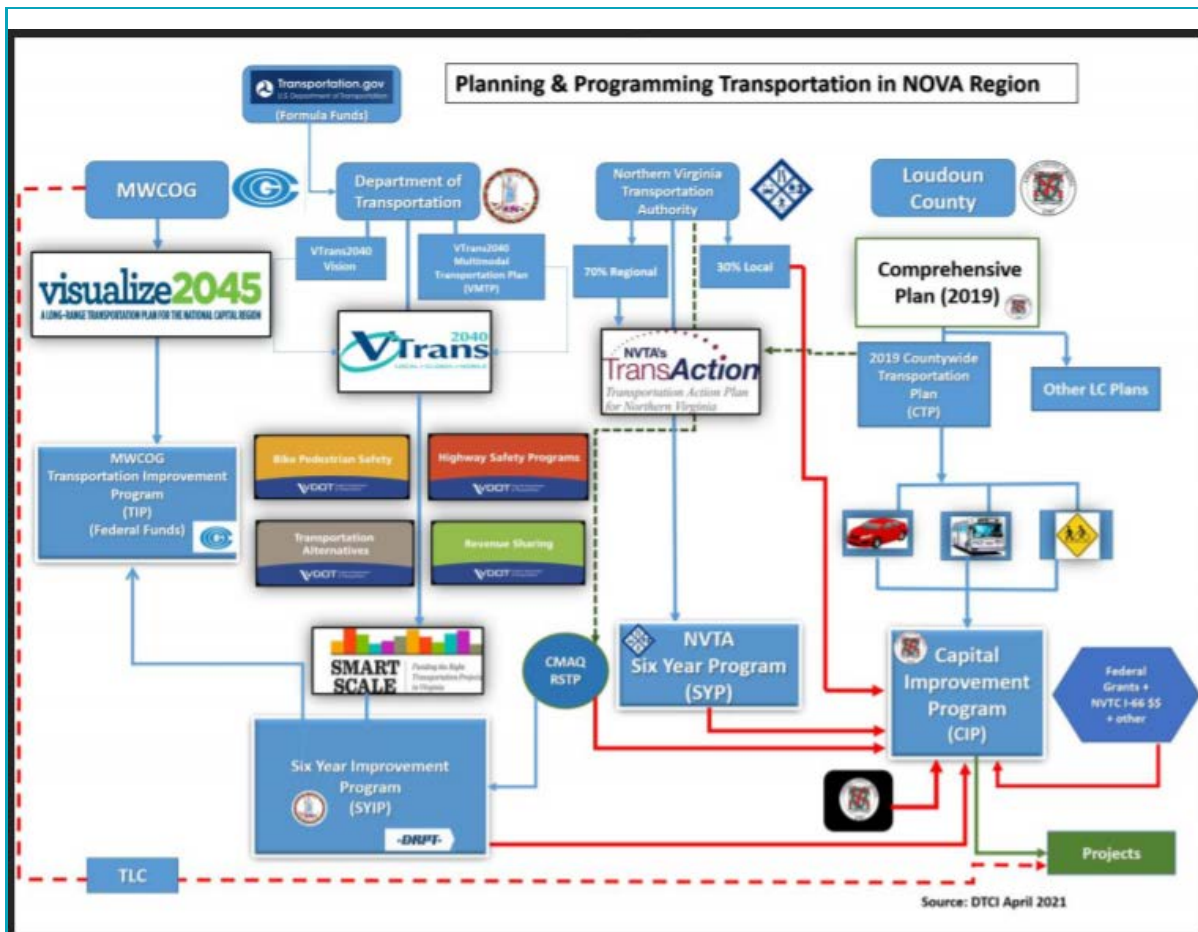
On June 29th, we held a [Transportation Summit](#) to discuss transportation issues and get an update from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure on several topics, including:

- An overview of how VDOT works with the County on transportation projects.
- An overview of the Countywide Transportation Plan.
- A summary of the transportation project development process.

- An in-depth review of the traffic signal project development process and the County's efforts to streamline the process.
- A status report on implementation of county-led data collection and signal warrant analysis for development applications.

We are seeing a diversion at the regional level with the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa). TPB endorses projects that reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gases and NVTa focuses on congestion mitigation as one of the key drivers to approve projects. These are not the same goals and we used to have one mind in the region. Since many of us serve on regional transportation bodies, we need to start thinking about strategies going forward. At the Transportation Summit, I requested that staff provide information regarding the different criteria used to evaluate transportation project funding between federal, state, and regional agencies. Below is a chart of the local, regional, state, federal, and public-private funding sources (including proffers) that are available to the County.

Why should we, in Leesburg, care what the regional transportation agencies do or what criteria they use to evaluate projects for funding? If you read anything recently about the Transportation Planning Board's decision in June to effectively defund the American Legion Bridge/I-495 and I-270 improvement projects, you have an inkling of the disruption this caused to regional transportation planning. Fortunately, at the July meeting, the TPB reversed course and added the American Legion Bridge and connecting projects back into the program.



New Animal Services Facility

You are invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, July 30th at 11:00 am for the new Loudoun County Animal Services (LCAS) facility located at 42225 Adoption Drive, in Leesburg, adjacent to Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park. Tours of the new facility will be offered to the public following the ribbon cutting beginning at 1:00 pm, and continuing at the top of each hour with the last tour beginning at 5:00 pm. No pre-registration for a tour is required. The animal shelter will be open for regular business hours July 31 – August 1. Adoption hours will be 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

In addition, throughout the weekend, LCAS will host a series of grand opening events that are free and open to the public. Some events require pre-registration.

- 11:00 am to Noon, Touch-a-Truck: Meet a Humane Law Enforcement Officer, learn about their vehicle, equipment and how they help animals in Loudoun County.
- 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, Guided Tours: Guided tours of the new facility on the hour.

- 12:00 pm, Busy Buddies: Join LCAS staff for animal enrichment activities and learn about the importance of keeping pets' minds busy! Volunteers of all ages are welcome.
- 4:00 pm, Critters & Crafts: Kids of all ages are invited to the community room for a fun craft and animal activity!

For more information about the grand opening events and to pre-register for activities, visit [here](#). Thank you.



COVID-19 Cases Increasing in Loudoun County

Health officials report that over the past month, the number of new cases of COVID-19 have increased significantly in Loudoun County, in Virginia and throughout the United States, fueled by the coronavirus Delta variant. Please see the [Q & A published by the University of Virginia](#) about the Delta variant and current vaccines.

Loudoun County is now averaging about 30 cases per day, up from about four cases per day in June. At the same time, Loudoun's percent positivity rate has increased from less than 1% to over 3% over the past few weeks. The vast majority of newly infected people are unvaccinated and include individuals in all age groups.

The Health Department strongly recommends that everyone age 12 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. Visit [here](#) to make a vaccination appointment.

Dulles Town Center Clinic to Close August 24th

As demand for the COVID-19 vaccine continues to decrease and as more providers in the community offer the COVID-19 vaccine, Loudoun County adjusted the hours of operation at its Dulles Town Center clinic. In addition, the clinic will close permanently on the evening of Tuesday, August 24th.

The clinic will continue to be open three days per week for walk-in vaccinations; however, the clinic will open one hour later on Tuesdays and close three hours earlier on Fridays. Please note that the clinic will be closed to the general public Saturday, August 14th, for a closed vaccination event. Visit the [County's website](#) for more information.

Hours of Operation

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 4:00 – 6:30 pm
- Wednesday: Closed
- Thursday: Closed
- Friday: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
- Saturday: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm (closed August 14th)
- Sunday: Closed

The County will continue to provide first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine through the regularly scheduled hours on Tuesday, August 24th; however, individuals who receive their first dose within 21 days (Pfizer) or 28 days (Moderna) of the clinic's closure must receive their second dose from another COVID-19 vaccine provider. To find a vaccine provider near you, visit [vaccines.gov](#).

Although the Board takes an August recess, please feel free to reach out to me or Val with questions or concerns. Thank you and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Warm Regards,

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Business of the Month

SimbaCom



SimbaCom
Global SatCOM & IT Solutions

Simba Enterprises LLC (SimbaCom) was established in 2005 to provide government and commercial customers with satellite engineering, global telecommunications, Internet Protocol (IP) expertise, and “outside the wire” operations and field maintenance and support services. Headquartered in Leesburg, this SBA certified HUBZone company has become a trusted and reliable SATCOM provider of professional services integrated satellite communications and information technology solutions globally. SimbaCom is known in the Department of Defense and partnering community for the ability to rapidly deploy Field Service Representatives (FSRs) anywhere in the world. SimbaCom’s highly skilled cleared Veterans have been on the ground in Afghanistan and other global hot spots for more than a decade. SimbaCom’s FSRs are backed by an experienced team of subject matter experts, engineers, scientists, technicians, and program managers.



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

4TH OF JULY PARADE AND CELEBRATION

This year's Independence Day celebration was truly fantastic. It was so nice seeing everyone together again. A big thank you to Town staff and our police department for all they did to make the parade and fireworks a success. The county even had a vaccination site set up on the fireworks grounds.

HOMESTAY RENTAL ORDINANCE

Homestay Home Occupation Permits are now available to Town of Leesburg residents who wish to make their homes short-term rental properties. In October 2020, the Leesburg Town Council adopted its homestay rental ordinance. The Code of Virginia § 15.2-983 defines a short-term rental as “the provision of a room or space that is suitable or intended for occupancy for dwelling, sleeping, or lodging purposes for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days, in exchange for a charge for the occupancy.” This allowed use is not the same as a bed and breakfast, commercial inn, dormitory, hotel/motel, or tourist home. To learn more, or to apply for a Homestay Home Occupation Permit, visit [here](#) or contact the Zoning Division staff at 703-771-2765 or permitting@leesburgva.gov.

LOVEWORK SCULPTURE AND STANLEY CAULKINS STATUE

Two public art installations, in Leesburg, have received the 2021 Signatures of Loudoun Design Excellence Award. The LOVEwork sculpture, located at the corner of Harrison Street and the W&OD Trail, was honored in the “Details” category. The statue of the late Stanley Caulkins, located on South King Street in the historic downtown, was recognized in the “Familiar Details” category. We are so pleased to have both the LOVEwork sculpture and the Stanley Caulkins statue receive these awards for their contributions to Leesburg’s and Loudoun’s unique character. The Leesburg Commission on Public Art deserves a tremendous amount of recognition for their hard work in developing our robust public art program and making installations like these a reality. The annual Signatures of Loudoun Design Excellence Awards recognize quality design projects throughout the county that visually enhance and reinforce Loudoun County’s identity.



The Commission on Public Art (COPA) held a soft launch of Leesburg’s Arts & Cultural District on Saturday, July 3rd. An unveiling of new banners, which will help identify the district, took place in addition to a two-day visit from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts’ (VMFA) traveling museum and art studio, which was free to tour. More art projects are in the works and will be coming soon!



CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT

A Civil War exhibit is currently on display at the Thomas Balch Library with more than 300 artifacts collected by local resident John Creamer. Items include belt buckles, rifles, artillery, and currency, most of which have been found throughout Leesburg and Loudoun County. A number of the items are associated with the Battle of Balls Bluff. The exhibit will be on display in the Margaret Mercer Room through August. For more information, call the Thomas Balch Library at 703-737-7195 or e-mail balchlib@leesburgva.gov.

Community Information



Legalization of Marijuana: Adults in Virginia who are 21 and older are allowed to possess a small amount of recreational marijuana, or cannabis, and to cultivate a small number of marijuana plants in their home. The Virginia General Assembly approved a bill in February 2021, which was signed into law by the governor in April 2021, that legalizes

adult possession of up to one ounce of marijuana. The measure also provides for the sale of recreational marijuana, but retail sales are not scheduled to begin until 2024. For residents who plan to use marijuana, please visit the County's [website](#) to learn about the details of the new law, which will help residents avoid inadvertently breaking the law.

Things to Know About Recreational Marijuana Legalization in Virginia

Effective July 1, 2021

LEGAL

Adults 21 and older may:

- ✓ Possess up to one ounce of marijuana for personal use and smoke it in their homes.
- ✓ Grow up to 4 cannabis plants per household as long as the plants are not visible from the street, accessible to anyone under 21, and have tags attached with the owner's name, drivers license or ID number & a note that the marijuana plant is being grown for personal use as authorized by law.
- ✓ Share up to one ounce of marijuana with another adult.

ILLEGAL

- ✗ Smoking marijuana in public, including in a vehicle.
- ✗ Possessing more than one ounce of marijuana.
- ✗ No one under the age of 21 can consume, buy, or possess marijuana.
- ✗ Possessing marijuana on the grounds of a public school.
- ✗ Selling any amount of marijuana. Retail sales of cannabis is not scheduled to begin until 2024.



loudoun.gov/marijuana

A Place to Be: This nonprofit, based in Middleburg, works everyday to help people face, navigate, and overcome life's challenges using clinically based practices of music therapy. From individual sessions, to community groups, to medical music therapy, our certified music-therapists tailor programs to fit the needs of individual participants. We have offerings for middle school and high school age students and young adults. "A Will to Survive" is a 55-minute music driven high school production that focuses on depression, suicide prevention, and accepting others and yourself no matter what life challenges you might face. Other suicide prevention programs available to County residents are the [Ryan Bartel Foundation](#) and the [County's suicide prevention resources](#).

This fall, A Place To Be returns to the stage with Bigfoot. Our clients will take to the stage to unravel the mystery of America's most reclusive creature. Please visit [here](#) to learn more.



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