



Supervisor

Caleb A. Kershner

Catoctin District



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA



The Loudoun Fair Returns!

Dear Catoctin Residents,

This is the part of the year where many of us wonder, "Where did the summer go?" This year, though, I'm glad to add the thought, "But the Loudoun County Fair is back."

The Loudoun Fair has been running continuously [since 1936](#). Last year, COVID-19 forced them to take the event online, but now they are back in person. I can personally confirm that this year's Fair has been a blast. I've added a full article on it below, complete with plenty of photos. (And I'm telling you now, if you haven't seen [the Pig Scramble](#) yet, you're missing out.)

Also, I just learned about another Loudoun history moment that is connected to July. This one took place during the French and Indian War, and I thought I'd share the story here.

On July 9, 1755, British Major General Edward Braddock led a force of British regulars and American militia to be [defeated by French forces](#) near what is now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Things went so poorly that the incident is still commonly referred to as [Braddock's Defeat](#). George Washington and Daniel Boone were both part of Braddock's force; both men survived the battle, and joined the rest of the force in swiftly departing back down [the road they had built](#) through the Appalachian Mountains.

Here's the Loudoun connection: On its way to this famous military debacle, part of Braddock's force [marched right through Loudoun County](#), using roads that are still more or less in use today. Eugene Scheel, a [Waterford historian and mapmaker](#), has laid out the exact directions that this part of the force took through Loudoun. For simplicity's sake I'm going to use the current names of any streets.

- **Force 10 From Fairfax:** In April 1755, the force marched in along Route 7 from Tysons Corner, then jumped south and followed Sugarland Road for about 12 miles, stopping for the night at an inn called Coleman's Ordinary.
- **Made It to Leesburg:** The force headed west through Sterling Park on Sugarland Road and Juniper Avenue, then through Claude Moore Park

along one of three parts of “Braddock Road” in Loudoun. It was then decided they should cut back toward Route 7, likely west of the Belmont manor house. They finally made it into what is now Leesburg, stopping for the night at Nicholas Minor’s inn on East Market Street.

- **Trekking Through Western Loudoun:** From Leesburg, the force split up and took two routes west. One part marched along Dry Mill Road and Route 9, while the other part went along Old Waterford Road and Old Wheatland Road.
- **A Creek, A Mountain Range, and a River:** Eventually the force made it to the North Fork of Catoctin Creek, which they crossed, and then started making their way through the Blue Ridge, which one source described as “one continual mountain for 3 Miles.” At last they crossed the Shenandoah River, using [a ferry operated by John Vestal](#).

More than two centuries later, we are still trying to improve those same roads, but it's nice to know that the current commute is a little tamer than it was in 1755.

Finally, this month has seen progress on important items of County business. The Lovettsville Community Park has made significant strides toward completion in the past few weeks. The Board also passed an historic broadband item, which will help connect 8,800 homes to high speed broadband through a public-private partnership. You can read my articles on those items and more 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



Join us on Facebook!

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 [the Thomas Balch Library's new guide to online ancestry research](#), drop by my Facebook page and give it a like.

Go to Facebook

CURRENT EVENTS



Image Credit: [Cover Photo](#) for the 2021 Loudoun County Fair / Loudoun County Fair

The Loudoun County Fair Returns!

July 28 - Aug 1

The Loudoun County Fair returned in-person this year. They kicked things off on Wednesday, July 28, and will stay open through Sunday, August 1. I got the chance to say a few words at their opening ceremony, and to thank the amazing group of volunteers who pulled everything together to run this four-day event.



Image Credit: Photo of the Loudoun County Fair grounds / Jonathan Bales

Where to begin? Well, I suppose I'd better start with ...

Why 4-H Is So Important

The national 4-H program has a special significance for me, because that's how my parents met each other: they both won a trip to the National 4-H Congress. You really can't get more significant than that!

Growing up on our farm in Maryland, I stayed involved in 4-H throughout my childhood. It was a great experience for me. You pick up a lot of useful life skills on a farm, and 4-H did a great job of reinforcing and building those skills for me.

That's why 4-H is such an important program for our young people. It gives them an opportunity to learn about agriculture, how to tackle farming projects, personal responsibility, and a sense of community. That was a great thing even when I lived on a farm and had plenty of access to agricultural experiences; for kids who don't live within easy reach of a farm, it is even more vital. And 4-H builds on those experiences, helping these kids grow up into outstanding people and into great citizens.

That's how you wind up with the remarkable crew of 4-H students that I got to meet at the Fair. Students like Eleni Kasianides, Abby Landes, and Annie Weber, who won [this year's Miss Loudoun County Fair competition](#) in their age brackets. Students like Nicholas Jackson, the [young bull rider](#) who's been [participating in \(and winning\)](#) national championships. When I interacted with them, and with the many other 4-H students throughout the Fair, it was clear that every one of them has learned to work hard, tackle difficult challenges, and develop their own talents.

We are so lucky to have people like Arlee Harris and everyone else who pitches in to run Loudoun 4-H. They are doing a great deal of good, both for our children and for our whole community.



Image Credit: (From left to right) [Photo](#) of Abby Landes, Eleni Kasianides, and Annie Weber / Loudoun County Fair



Image Credit: Photo of Nicholas Jackson (left) / Stacy Carey

They also know how to have fun. Which is why I should definitely tell you about ...

What The Fair Brought This Year

The first thing you're likely to see at the Fair are the carnival rides. The organizers have brought in a wide selection of rides, from merry-go-rounds and rides you can sit in and spin in circles to roller coasters and at least one thrill-seeker-friendly "drop you from very high up and watch you scream most of the way down" ride.

If you wander into the main area, you'll also find all sorts of food stands. If you've never had funnel cake at a county fair, this is your chance. And since this is a 4-H production, four different 4-H clubs also assemble homestyle meals that you can buy.

And then there are the livestock. The Fair has a well-stocked petting zoo, which includes classic farm animals like a rabbit, sheep, and goats. It also has some less common creatures, such as gazelles, two kangaroos, and one remarkably mellow [dromedary camel](#). (Fun fact: [Bar C Ranch](#), which provided the petting zoo, actually own six dromedaries - but no [Bactrian camels](#), which are rarer and apparently harder to source.)

You'll also find a whole herd of livestock in the larger tents. 4-H students have brought their cows, pigs, goats, rabbits, and other farm animals together to compete and win awards. In some of the tents, students lead goats around a ring, explain how to milk cows, and showcase a whole set of farm and agriculture skills.

And if that wasn't enough for you, the Fair has also brought in live shows and entertainers. This week's schedule of events included the True Grit Rodeo, the [Pig Scramble](#), a demolition derby, bicycle stunts done on a halfpipe, and a firefighter competition. There was even a magic and stage hypnotism show, courtesy of Corrie J.



Image Credit: Photo of bull riding during Rodeo Night / Whitney Kershner

Having said all that, if I could tell you one more thing about the Fair, it would be that ...

The Fair Isn't Over Yet!

The Loudoun County Fair will be open on **Sunday, August 1**, from **12:00 - 6:00 PM!** If you haven't gone yet, I highly encourage you to swing by for this last day. It's a lot of fun, and the proceeds support Loudoun 4-H, which does a lot of good for our children and for our community. This is what we call a win-win situation.

One-day tickets are \$15 and \$5 for kids over age 5. (Kids 5 and under attend for free.) Your admission ticket lets you into the Fair grounds. Some of the events and activities are free, like the petting zoo; the rest will cost extra. There is also a one-time \$5 parking fee, which gets you a parking pass that's good for the entire Fair.

[Learn More](#)



Image Credit: [Thumbnail image](#) from "Maryland Teen Wins Bull Riding Championship" / Fox News, Fox 5 DC

Meet Nicholas Jackson, Champion Bull Rider

On Thursday night, I had the opportunity to meet Nicholas and his father, Corey, during the rodeo competition at the Loudoun County Fair. Nicholas is from Prince George's County, and last year he became the 2020 Junior World Bull Riding Champion.

At age 14, Nicholas is an impressive young man with a lot of guts. It goes without saying that bull riding is *not* for the faint of heart. But Nicholas clearly loves his craft, and he makes it look easy. It was a joy to watch him ride.



Video Credit: "[13-year-old becomes 1st Junior World Bull Riding champion from Maryland](#)" / WUSA9

That ability was cultivated by a lot of hard work. Nicholas usually makes a weekly trip to Pennsylvania and back, where he practices and competes in bull riding events. Bull riding is also a family tradition for him; he is [a fifth generation cowboy](#) on his mother's side.

I wish Nicholas and his family all the best! This young man is going places, and you'll want to remember his name in the years to come. If you'd like to read more about him, [this Washington Post article](#) gives a detailed overview of his story, here's [a Fox News segment](#) about his 2020 championship win, and you should check out his [Instagram account](#) for more videos of him riding those bulls.

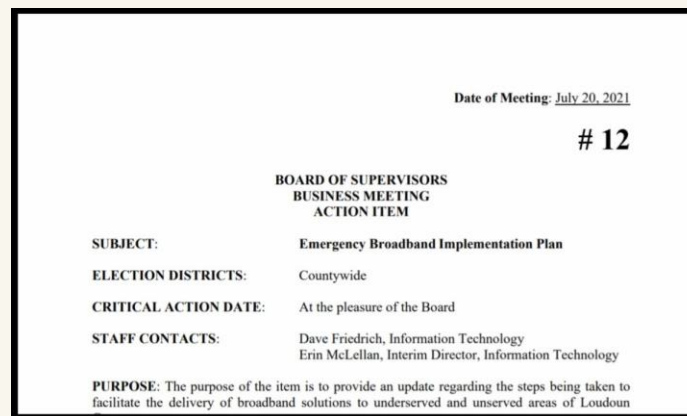


Image Credit: [Screenshot](#) of staff's report on the broadband item / Loudoun County Government

Board Passes Historic Broadband Item

On July 20, the Board voted 9-0 to commit \$12.4 million of our federal American Rescue Plan Act funding to a \$72 million public-private project, [which will extend real broadband coverage to parts of Loudoun](#) (especially Western Loudoun) for the first time.

This project will run fiberoptic cable along power lines into un- and underserved parts of the County. It will provide real last-mile fiber-to-the-home connections for 8,800 homes and businesses. Customers will pay \$199 to install broadband up to 500 feet away, with an upload monthly fee of \$79.99 for 100 Mbps upload and download speed. We should hear back on our VATI application in December. If all goes well, the project will start in summer 2022, and should take another two years to fully build out.

We are using the Rescue Plan Act money as matching funds for our VATI grant application, which Loudoun is pursuing in partnership with All Points Broadband, Dominion Energy Virginia, and the Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative. Over half of the project's funding is being provided by the private sector - those three companies have put \$41.8 million into the project. By using Loudoun's federal funds as matching funds for the VATI grant, we will make our application even more competitive without affecting local tax levels, and if the grant is approved, it will bring in another \$17.7 million in state funding for the project.

Here's a breakdown of the funding:

- **County:** \$12.4 million (17.3%)
- **VATI Grant:** \$17.7 million (24.6%)
- **All Points, Dominion, and NOVEC:** \$41.8 mill (58.1%)
- **TOTAL:** \$72 million

Loudoun has needed real broadband access for a long time now. COVID-19 Broadband is no longer a luxury here; it has become a necessity. Everyone who suddenly found themselves in virtual learning or remote work understands that. This vote by the Board has moved us another step closer to that true broadband access.

If you'd like to read the full item, I've linked to it below. There's other great stuff in it, such as franchise agreement negotiations, [a buildout to the remaining 6 county buildings](#), and updates on other grant opportunities.

Read the Full Item

Progress on Lovettsville Community Park



Image Credit: [Photo](#) of construction progress on the Lovettsville Community Park / Loudoun County Government

In more good news, the Lovettsville Community Park has [moved a lot closer to being finished](#). As of mid-June, Dustin Construction crews had installed the ballfield pavilion,

prefab restroom and concession buildings, and other structures for the park grounds. They've since put in fencing, added surfacing to the equine arena, finished up the irrigation pond and well, and built the parking lot and roadway lighting. And they have set up permanent power for the whole park grounds.

The next step is to test the park's lighting. During the week of August 16 (weather permitting), Loudoun will [perform light level testing](#) in the evening hours at the park's ballfields. There will be increased activity at the park before the testing starts. During the testing itself, the ballfield lights will be turned on, turned off, and dimmed.

We're looking forward to the day when construction ends and the park is ready for visitors. The completed Lovettsville Community Park will have a wide range of offerings, including equestrian trails, walking trails, a dog park, community gardens, a pond, an amphitheater, softball fields, soccer fields, and a 90-acre equestrian arena across Broad Way.

[View Project Website](#)



Image Credit: [Screenshot](#) of Catoctin District Survey / Supervisor Caleb Kershner

Take Our Survey: AT&T's Monopole for Short Hill

As many of you know, AT&T has applied to [build a 125-foot telecommunications monopole](#) on Short Hill Mountain. The application actually comes in three parts: a Commission Permit, a Special Exception (SPEX), and a Minor Special Exception (SPMI).

The Commission Permit reached the Board first on July 20. The Planning Commission had voted 6-3 to deny the permit and asked us to affirm their decision. After a serious discussion, the Board chose to [forward this to the business meeting on September 14](#), for the purpose of considering the whole application (including the SPEX and SPMI) and judging whether it is consistent with Loudoun's 2019 Comprehensive Plan.

Before we hear this item on September 14, I want to hear the best arguments for and against it. To help do that, my office built this short survey. I'd appreciate it if you'd fill it out. Let me know what you think about AT&T's application, and why.

Take the Survey



Image Credit: [Photo](#) of the Morven Park grounds, morvenpark.org / Trimmed from the original

Morven Park Events - August 2021

Many of you are already familiar with Morven Park. For those who haven't had a chance to visit yet, this park is [a 1,000 acre historic estate in Leesburg](#) that is operated by the nonprofit Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation. The park includes an equestrian center, sports fields, hiking trails, boxwood gardens, and the Davis Mansion.

Here is a list of their upcoming events for August:

Morven Park Summer Hunter Show Series 2021

This is the second-to-last show in this series, which are held in the new outdoor arenas with Attwood Eurotek footing. Each show will feature a 2' 6" and 3' hunter derby, as well as a 2' hunter derby limited to junior and amateurs. To provide photography for these shows, Morven Park has partnered with Erin Gilmore of [Erin Gilmore Photography](#).

The top twelve horses or ponies will also be invited to compete in the Derby Finals at the final show of the season on September 4. Championship awards and prizes will be presented at that show to the winners for every division.

When: August 1, at 8:00 AM

You can learn more about this event [here](#).

Tours of Davis Mansion

The Davis Mansion is open again for tours! If you'd like to visit, just make your reservation ahead of time. The tour includes stories about the lives of former Governor Westmoreland Davis and his wife, Marguerite, as well as access to the Winmill Carriage Museum and the Museum of Hounds & Hunting.

Private 45-minute Group Tours: Fridays, scheduled in advance. The private tour is \$40 per group of up to 6 visitors, with discounts available to Morven Park members.

Weekend Tours: Saturdays & Sundays from 12:00 – 5:00 PM (the last tour starts at 4:00). Tickets are \$10 per person, but children 11 and under are free.

Masks: The mansion does require visitors to wear face masks.

You can learn more about this recurring event [here](#).

Polo in the Park

The 2021 Polo in the Park season opened in July, and will run every Saturday night through August 21.

When: Saturdays. Gates open at 6:00 PM, first match is at 7:00 PM.

Cost: General Admission car passes are \$40. A car pass lets one vehicle and all of its occupants into the event. Car passes must be bought in advance; there will be no cash sales at the gate. Those passes can be purchased online [here](#).

You can learn more about this recurring event [here](#).

Loudoun Hunt Pony Club Camp

Founded in 1958, the Loudoun Hunt Pony Club is based in Leesburg, and has an active membership of more than 30 young horse enthusiasts. The club teaches riding, mounted sports, and how to care for horses and ponies, and is part of the Virginia Region Pony Clubs, as well as the United States Pony Clubs (USPC), Inc.

This camp is an annual weeklong summer camp organized by the club, and is part of the group lessons that they organize. In addition to the camp, they hold six Spring and six Fall group mounted lessons, as well as Winter unmounted lessons.

When: August 16–20

More About the Club: <https://loudounhunt.ponyclub.org/>

You can learn more about this weeklong event [here](#).

VADA/Nova Summer Wind Down I Licensed Show

When: August 28–29

More About VADA/Nova: <https://vadanova.org/>

You can learn more about this event [here](#).

View Calendar



Image Credit: Photo of the LCSO members who received a 2021 Valor Award / Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, used with permission

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Members Honored At 2021 Annual Valor Awards

On July 26, the Loudoun County Valor Awards program held its [2021 award ceremony](#) in Lansdowne, Virginia. This program was created in partnership between local public safety agencies and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce, as a way to honor first responders and civilians who have courageously gone into harm's way to help and rescue others.

Sixty-five first responders and nine civilians received an award this year. Of those, [twenty-six were members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office](#).

"Today's ceremony was another reminder of the heroic actions first responders often take to help save lives," said Loudoun County Sheriff Chapman. "I am proud of the work the men and women of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office do every day."



Image Credit: Senior Deputy Nathan House / Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, used with permission



Image Credit: (From left to right) Master Deputy Jennifer Wetzel, DFC Sean Trautner, Sgt. Melissa Tenant, Lt. Doug Snell, DFC Stanly Miller, DFC Kirk Graham / Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, used with permission



Image Credit: Deputy First Class Joseph Garone (4th from left), Deputy First Class Mitchell Costic (5th from left) / Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, used with permission



Image Credit: (From left to right) Deputy First Class James Sullivan, Sgt. Lewis McClenahan, Deputy First Class Jacob Karrasch, Deputy First Class Colborn, Sgt. Jeffrey Cichocki, Sgt. Chad Braun, Deputy First Class Derek Ater / Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, used with permission



Image Credit: (From left to right) Deputy Megan Wealand, Deputy Zach Gardner, Master Deputy Mike Hall / Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, used with permission



Image Credit: Senior Deputy Robert Flood (Retired) / Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, used with permission



Image Credit: Deputy First Class Joseph Whitehead / Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, used with permission



Image Credit: Deputy First Class Joshua Edney / Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, used with permission



Image Credit: Chaplain Charles Grant / Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, used with permission

Here are the LSCO members who received an award at the ceremony:

The Lifesaving Award from the LCSO

- Senior Deputy Nathan House
- Deputy First Class Kirk Graham
- Deputy First Class Stanly Miller
- Lt. Doug Snell
- Sgt. Melissa Tenant
- Deputy First Class Sean Trautner
- Master Deputy Jennifer Wetzel

- Senior Deputy Robert Flood (Retired)
- Deputy First Class Cody Hoffmaster
- Deputy First Class John Giangola
- Deputy First Class Joseph Whitehead
- Deputy First Class Joshua Edney

The Unit Citation from the LCSO

- Deputy First Class Mitchell Costic
- Deputy First Class Joseph Garone
- Sgt. Jeffrey Hunt

The Certificate of Valor from the LCSO

- Deputy First Class Derek Ater
- Sgt. Chad Braun
- Sgt. Jeffrey Cichocki
- Deputy First Class Colborn
- Deputy First Class Jacob Karrasch
- Sgt. Lewis McClenahan
- Deputy First Class James Sullivan
- Master Deputy Mike Hall
- Deputy Megan Wealand

The Bronze Medal of Honor

- Deputy First Class Brandon Noland
- Deputy Zach Gardner

The Stu Plitman First Responder Community Service Award

Chaplain Charles Grant was awarded the Stu Plitman First Responder Community Service Award, which recognizes emergency first responders who demonstrate the highest commitment to fostering positive relationships with the Loudoun County community in ways that positively enhance the safety and security of our citizens.

Charles "Charlie" Grant became involved as an Emergency Services Chaplain working with the LCSO in 1979. He then joined the Sterling Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad in 1980 as company Chaplain. He later founded the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue's Chaplain program and throughout the years has shaped Loudoun's sense of volunteerism and charity.

MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS

Important Upcoming Project Meetings

**Save the Dates
Check the Project Websites Below
for Updates**

Route 15 South Safety and Operational Study

**Focus Group will be held on
Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.**

Spinks Ferry Roundabout

**Public Information Meeting
hosted by Loudoun County DTCl on
Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 6:00 pm**



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.

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.

Latest Updates

Loudoun County [submitted its 60% design plans](#) to the Building & Development and to VDOT on June 23. Right-of-way (ROW) acquisition is expected to begin in summer 2022.

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.

Ongoing Evaluation

No change since the last update. Loudoun County held its most recent virtual public input meeting on April 22, and published a public survey afterwards to collect more thoughts on their proposed road designs and on the current conditions at these key intersections. That survey ended on May 21.

The whole study is expected to wrap up this summer. 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 project item was approved at the Board Business Meeting on December 3, 2019.

Latest Update

Concrete deck pours have started for the bridges over Tuscarora Creek and the W&OD and [should be finished by September](#), weather permitting. Two concrete pours for the bridge decks are scheduled for 3:00 AM to minimize their impact to W&OD trail access – if work has to extend into the daylight hours, temporary closures of no more than 10 minutes may be required for public safety.

Since the construction activity for deck pours will start outside of the contractor's current allowable work hours, Loudoun County has secured the required approvals for that change in their work hours.

Over the next several weeks, work on shared use paths and the roadway between Kincaid Boulevard and the W&OD will include asphalt placement and handrail installation.

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

This Quarter: At the February 16 business meeting, the Board voted 9-0 to award the design contract to Dewberry. A design kickoff meeting was held in March.

Next Quarter: Field investigations will begin and work will start on developing a design schedule.

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

This project is managed by the Town of Leesburg.

This Quarter: The 30% Preliminary Design Plans were reviewed by the Town, VDOT and Loudoun County and a meeting was held to discuss the closing of scoping. VDOT suggested revising the design schedule to take into account the need for additional surveys, VDOT approval for land acquisition, and beginning of utility relocation. As a result, the completion of the design phase has been delayed from fall 2022 to summer 2023.

Next Quarter: Additional survey and the environmental assessment will continue. Also, pavement testing will be conducted and an initial public outreach will be held.

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

This Quarter: Since this project was not selected to receive SMARTSCALE funding, DTCI and DFB staff are re-evaluating design procurement strategy.

Next Quarter: DFB and DTCI will implement the updated design procurement strategy in order to get design initiated.

Town of Hamilton Pedestrian Improvements

Summary of the Project

This project provides drainage improvements and repair to the existing pedestrian sidewalks along Route 7 – Colonial Highway adjacent to the Town’s western limits.

Latest Update

This project is being managed by the Town of Hamilton.

This Quarter: The Town issued the Notice to Proceed (NTP) and construction work is underway.

Next Quarter: The construction work will continue, and it is expected to be completed by summer 2021

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

This Quarter: The design consultant, Volkert, submitted 30% plans to Building and Development and to VDOT. VDOT approved the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) concurrence form, and Volkert is preparing the NEPA document.

Next Quarter: Volkert will address the 30% design comments, will finalize the NEPA document, and DTCI staff will schedule a public information meeting.

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

Staff has submitted a [limited access control change](#) along Route 7 to VDOT for review. DTCI's design consultant will continue preparing the design plans and plats and coordinating with utility providers.

Plats denoting the proposed easements and right-of-way dedication have been submitted to Loudoun County and to the Town of Purcellville. The land acquisition process should wrap up by summer 2022, and is about 15% complete so far.

The revised Environmental Assessment has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and by VDOT. In fall 2022, based on the appropriation timing, VDOT Smart Scale funding for the project and utility relocation should begin.

Looking a bit further down the road (sorry, couldn't help myself), construction on this proposed interchange is [expected to start in 2023](#) and will take 36–48 months to complete.

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. VDOT estimates that this project will be completed by November 2021.

However, while I don't have an update, I did find a [short but impressive video](#) of the work VDOT did back in April. In the video, we see VDOT's crews using construction cranes to [lift the whole John G. Lewis bridge off the ground](#), carry it some distance to the side, and gingerly set it onto temporary supports.

The video was narrated by Raymond Kollock, a VDOT construction manager, who explained why they undertook this feat of bridge Jenga. VDOT's crews needed to work on the bridge's permanent abutments. Removing the bridge allowed them to reach those abutments, where they would install [drilled shafts](#) and [caissons](#), add [glulam \(glued-laminated\) decking](#), and repair some of the [truss members](#) on the existing historic bridge. Once all that was done, the bridge would be moved back into position and put back onto its newly refurbished abutments.

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

At this point, [the Route 7/Battlefield Parkway interchange is open to traffic](#) and the traffic signal at the Route 7/Cardinal Park Drive intersection has been removed, with Cardinal Park Drive permanently right-in/right-out only at Route 7.

This means a person can now [drive from Berryville to Sterling without hitting a single traffic light](#). It is officially the future, folks.

There is some final work to do on this project. VDOT expects that work will be finished in fall 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

No change since last time.

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

No change since last time. The consultant is still investigating potential ways to phase this project.

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

This project is managed by the Town of Lovettsville.

This Quarter: The 30% modified plans were revised based on comments received from VDOT, ROW, temporary and permanent easements were identified and plans for holding public hearing (online meeting) on April 15, 2021 are underway.

Next Quarter: The design work will continue and preparation for ROW acquisition will begin. The last quarterly report noted design phase completion as 60% in error and it is corrected in this report to show the actual design phase progress.

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.

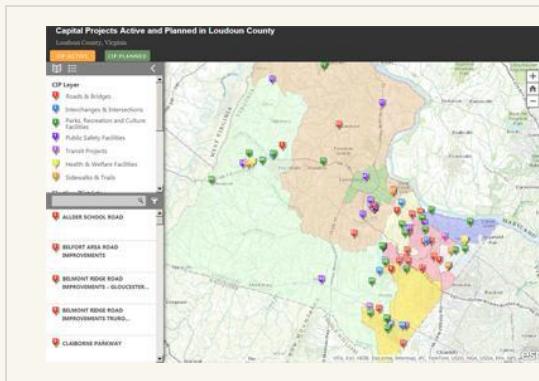
Latest Update

This project is managed by the [Town of Lovettsville](#).

This Quarter: The 30% modified plans were still under review by VDOT. The 30% modified plans were revised based on comments received from VDOT on 30% plans and identified Right-of-Way, temporary and permanent easements. The plans for holding public hearing (online meeting) on April 15, 2021 are underway.

Next Quarter: Design work will continue, along with Right-of-Way acquisition.

ROAD RESOURCES



Loudoun's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

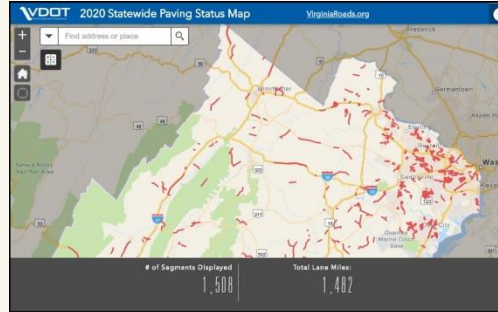
Use the county's interactive map to track capital improvement projects in Loudoun. It will show you active projects (currently funded) and planned projects (part of a later budget plan).

[View the map](#)

VDOT's Road Paving Projects

Use VDOT's 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](#)



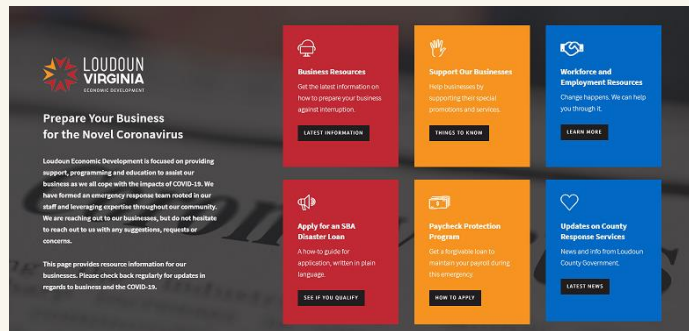
BUSINESS RESOURCES



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](#)



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](#)

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 Catoctin 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

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