



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year.

## Standing Committee Assignments

At the January 4th Board business meeting, I was elected Chair of the Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee. I would like to thank Supervisor Letourneau for his superb work as the Finance Chair for 7 years. It is an honor to follow in his footsteps. He is unfailingly gracious and helpful. I also want to congratulate Supervisor Glass who was elected Co-Chair of the Joint Board and School Board Committee. And congratulations to Supervisor Turner, who continues in his role as Chair of the Transportation & Land Use Committee (TLUC).

## Thanks to our Veterans and Volunteers



Thanks to the members of VFW Post 1177 in Leesburg, their families and friends for getting together the day after Christmas to sort hundreds of pairs of sweat shirts and sweat pants for veterans at the VA Medical Center in Martinsburg, WV, and the Veterans Administration in DC.

## Holiday with the Cops



There was lots of Support Team help before, during, and after the annual Leesburg Police Department Holiday with the Cops event on December 16th. Donations for this event come from the Leesburg Police Citizens Support Team, a 501(c)(3) charity organization.

Eighteen local children who might not have had much under their tree on Christmas morning were invited to dine (free of charge, thanks to owner Michael O'Conner) with police officers at the Leesburg Diner and then hustled off to the Leesburg Target store to shop for up to \$250 each for presents for themselves and family members. At Target, Support Team members Ray Delpesche and Steve Hood worked with cashiers to ring up and pay for the children's purchases. After leaving Target, the kids and cops went to police headquarters where a dozen volunteers wrapped all of the presents. Support Team wrappers were: Chris Miller, Sylvia Feliciano, Jan Hepburn, Deb Walczak, and Michael McDaniel. A well-organized and heartwarming event!

## Annual Toy Drive



Photo: Deputy First Class Jeremy Krapfl, Deputy First Class Eric Proskey, DFC Hao "Eric" Lu, Deputy First Class Aaron Hill, Deputy First Class Brian Plaughter, Deputy First Class Scott Kennedy, and Deputy First Class Patrick Brick, with Sheriff Mike Chapman and Santa.

Each year, members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Motor Unit coordinate the Annual Toy Drive for Cole's Closet, a nonprofit organization that collects donated toys to fill "closets" with toys for children while they are at the hospital.

Through the kindness of the Loudoun community, this year members of the LCSO Motor Unit collected over 2,000 new toys, and a total of over 13,000 toys have been collected since the toy drive began in 2016. Many of the toys are delivered to children hospitalized at Inova Loudoun Hospital during the LCSO's Annual Santa Ride. During this event you see many a smiling face on both the children and deputies alike.

**The MLK March through Leesburg, 1/17/22**





## County Redistricting Plans

At the January 18th Board business meeting, we narrowed down the list of plans for staff to perform additional analysis and evaluation. Each Board member picked up to five plans, and a tally was kept of how many votes each plan got. Only three plans received five or more votes, the COLT Alternative Plan, the Fechter Plan, and the Letourneau-Turner Plan. You can compare the three plans that were selected by visiting the [Redistricting Plan Viewer](#).

Residents are encouraged to view the plans and provide feedback by submitting a [comment form](#). The following is the next steps and community outreach. I will keep you updated as the redistricting process progresses.

- February 15th Board Business Meeting – Continued discussion and refinement of submitted plans.
- March 15th Board Business Meeting – Board chooses which plan to send to Public Hearing.
- May 11th Public Hearing – Board Adopts Redistricting Ordinance and ordinance revising precinct boundaries and polling places (with delayed effective date).
- July 27th – New Election Districts, Precincts and Polling Places go into effect based upon Attorney General of Virginia preclearance review.

## Why I Voted Against the Plastic Bag Tax

A disposable plastic bag tax of five cents per plastic bag was approved by the Board on a 5 to 4 vote that will be effective July 1, 2022. The new tax will be collected on purchases made at grocery stores, convenience stores and drugstores, including those within the County's incorporated towns. The tax does not apply to restaurants, food banks, farmers markets or clothing stores. It also does not apply to:

- Durable plastic bags that are specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse.

- Plastic bags that are solely used to wrap, contain, or package ice cream, meat, fish, poultry, produce, unwrapped bulk food items, or perishable food items in order to avoid damage or contamination.
- Plastic bags used to carry dry cleaning or prescription drugs.
- Multiple plastic bags sold in packages and intended for use as garbage, pet waste or leaf removal bags.

I don't expect this to change any minds, but it explains why I think we'll be doing more environmental damage pushing consumers away from plastic bags toward paper bags. Even pushing consumers away from plastic bags to reusable cloth bags can cause more environmental damage, although that may depend on the type of cloth bag. Manufacturing one paper bag takes four times more energy than manufacturing one single-use plastic bag. Paper bag production creates 50 and 70 percent more water pollution and air pollution than plastic bag production. [There are studies](#) indicating some types of reusable cloth bags consume more energy per bag in their production than 130 single-use plastic bags. Then there is the issue of a tax like this one falling more heavily on the shoulders of the people least able to afford it. Towards the end of this e-mail, I've included one of the reasons why I believe this regressive tax is not easily avoided by our working class residents.

When the General Assembly enabled a [local plastic bag tax](#), but not a local paper bag tax, they made things better for the timber industry but worse for the environment. (Senator Ebbin's 2020 bill to impose a 5-cent tax on both paper and plastic bags appears to have languished or died in committee. It would have added a new section to the Code of Virginia, 58.1-3835. Side note: the timber industry in Virginia is significant - a \$20 billion industry that employs over 100,000 workers.)

According to several environmental studies ([Columbia](#), [Duke](#), [University of Southern Indiana](#), [National Geographic](#), and various environmental groups), incentives that push people away from plastic bags toward paper bags lead to 50 times more water pollution, 70 times more air pollution and over 10 times more deforestation. On the last point, if Loudoun consumers were to switch from plastic to paper, it would result in over a ten-fold increase in tree-cutting from 18,000 trees downed annually to meet current paper bag demand in Loudoun to over 210,000 trees downed if consumers, who are currently using plastic bags, begin using paper bags. These numbers are based on extrapolating national numbers on plastic versus paper bag use. According to the environmental group whose report is linked [here](#), on average, every American uses 365 plastic bags per year. If a plastic bag tax moves consumers away from plastic toward paper bags, then every two residents of Loudoun will need the timber industry to cut down a tree each year. That's 210,000 trees cut down each year for Loudoun's population.

Put another way, how many paper bags can you get from one tree? If you had a 15-year-old tree and made it into paper grocery bags, you'd get about 700 of them. A busy supermarket could use all of them in under an hour (please see article [here](#)).

Do these plastic bag taxes work? Absolutely and Vice-Chair Saines has done a really good job providing studies that show they do. The DC numbers from 2010 are impressive. Another example: in Chicago, the 7 cent plastic bag tax in 2017 resulted in an almost 28% reduction in plastic bag use, but only a 15% increase in reusable cloth bag use. The

[article](#) does not say whether the remaining 13% of the consumers switched to paper bags, but they did not switch to reusable cloth bags.

On [pollution from paper mills](#): As a result of the heavy use of toxic chemicals in the process, paper bag production is responsible for 70 times more air pollution and 50 times more water pollution than plastic bag production, according to a Washington Post analysis, resulting in more toxicity to humans and the environment than HDPE bags. We don't have paper mills in Northern Virginia, but children living south of us, within 30 miles of a paper mill, [suffer from greater rates of asthma](#).

My final point is on the question of whether or not a regressive plastic bag tax has to be borne by the families that can least afford it. Before contacting me, one of my thoughtful constituents spent time watching consumers at Walmart. He noticed that reusable cloth bags tended to be carried in by those who had brought them by personal vehicle. Those who appeared to have fewer financial resources and did not drive a car to Walmart, but had to walk or use a bus, relied on plastic bags. My constituent's conclusion is that working class families, who do not have cars readily available to them, cannot carry reusable bags in a car the way most of us can. For them to make use of reusable bags, they would have to carry these bags to work with them on any day they planned to shop. If you accept the [Loudoun County Chamber's 2016 estimates](#), 4% of our families are living below the poverty line, so we are looking at making life either less affordable for about 13,000 residents using 2016 numbers. Today, 4% would equal almost 17,000 residents.

## Leesburg Bypass Improvement Project

On January 10th, I attended a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion of the Leesburg Bypass Improvement Project with TRIP II CEO Renée Hamilton, Mayor Burk, Chair Randall, Supervisor Turner, Supervisor Kershner, and Town Council Members Neil Steinberg and Zach Cummings.

Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II), owner of the Dulles Greenway, announced the Leesburg Bypass Improvement Project reached substantial completion on December 17th. TRIP II joined a tri-party agreement with Loudoun County and the Town of Leesburg to approve the project designed to relieve congestion at the west end of the Greenway. The approximately \$4.4 million project was funded by Loudoun County and TRIP II. Estimated final completion will be April 2022.



## FY 2023 Budget

The County Administrator will present the proposed FY 2023 budget on Wednesday, February 9th at 5:00 pm in the Board Room of the Government Center, 1 Harrison Street SE in Leesburg. The public is welcome to attend or view the presentation at Comcast Government Channel 23, Verizon FiOS Channel 40 or livestream [here](#). Three budget public hearings are scheduled in February:

- February 24th at 3:00 and 6:00 pm in the Board Room of the Government Center.
- February 26th at 9:00 am in the Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building, 21000 Education Court in Ashburn.

I encourage residents to speak in-person or virtually at the budget public hearings. Please sign-up in advance by calling 703-777-0200. Thank you!

## Advisory Boards, Commissions & Committees

The Leesburg District has two vacancies on the Transit Advisory Board and the Community Criminal Justice Board. The Transit Advisory Board improves existing transit services provided by Loudoun County and proposes changes or additions to future transit services. Transit services include long haul commuter buses, regional and local bus transportation, paratransit services, and buses providing transit to existing and future Metro Stations. The Community Criminal Justice Board develops, monitors, and maintains community-based corrections programs for certain criminal offenders who meet the



eligibility criteria established under state law. If you are interested in serving, please submit your application [here](#). Thank you!

---

Warm Regards,

Kristen C. Umstattd  
Leesburg District  
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors  
[kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov](mailto:kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov)  
703-777-0203

Valerie Suzdak  
Chief Legislative Aide  
Supervisor Kristen Umstattd  
[valerie.suzdak@loudoun.gov](mailto:valerie.suzdak@loudoun.gov)

Laura TeKrony  
Legislative Aide  
Supervisor Kristen Umstattd  
[laura.tekrony@loudoun.gov](mailto:laura.tekrony@loudoun.gov)

## **Business of the Month**

### **Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers**



The [Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers](#) (LVC) mission is to help frail elderly and adults with disabilities to remain living independently with dignity and quality of life. The service is free with unpaid volunteers providing the services. Services include rides to medical and non-medical appointments, delivering food from Loudoun Hunger Relief, money management and support visits. There is even a CHORE Corps that mows lawns, removes snow and does small repair jobs in homes. In 2021, the LVC provided services to 313 people through 206 volunteers. All volunteers are vetted before they assume duties. The LVC is looking for more volunteers. Please apply to become a volunteer by contacting the LVC at 703-779-8617.





## Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

**Leesburg Town Council Meeting Reminder:** The Leesburg Town Council's regular business meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Work sessions are held on the Mondays before each regular business meeting, unless the meeting falls on a holiday. Agenda packets are posted not later than COB Wednesday before the Council meeting.

---

**Grant Opportunity:** The Leesburg Public Art Commission (COPA) invites local arts organizations to submit requests for funding for proposed arts activities that will take place in the Town of Leesburg during Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023). The Town of Leesburg will apply for \$4,500 of state funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts' Creative Communities Partnership Grant and match it with \$5,500 of local funds. The total amount of \$10,000 will be distributed to independent arts organizations to support arts activities within the Town. Interested arts organizations should submit an online application via the Town [website](#). Applications must be received by 5 pm on Friday, March 4th to be considered.

---

**Soil Amendment Available:** The Town of Leesburg Utilities Department is once again offering its organic soil amendment product known as Tuscarora Landscapers Choice (TLC). It is an excellent source of valuable nutrients essential to plant growth and soil quality and can be applied with any spreader used for granular material. The product is produced at the Town's biosolids processing facility as part of the Water Pollution Control Division's wastewater treatment program. TLC is available to Leesburg utility customers for free in 25- and 50-pound bags. Residents can pick up bags of TLC outside the gate to the Water Pollution Control Facility (1391 Russell Branch Parkway SE), while supplies last. TLC is also available in bulk quantities. Please call 703-737-7100 to arrange for pick up or visit [here](#) for more information.



---

**Winter Residential Newsletter:** The Town of Leesburg's winter residential newsletter is now available to view on the Town's website. It highlights current news, development updates, and winter weather reminders. The newsletter is intended to give residents an update on what is happening in the Town of Leesburg. To see the newsletter online, or to register to receive it via email or text, visit [here](#). Limited copies will be printed and made available in the Town Hall lobby (25 W Market Street).

---

**Snow Emergency Routes:** A snow emergency is declared when enough snow, sleet or other icy precipitation has accumulated, or is predicted to accumulate, on Town roadways to warrant plowing. When a snow emergency is in effect, all vehicles must be removed from streets designated as Snow Emergency Routes. Any vehicle not removed from the designated streets when a snow emergency is in effect will be towed at the owner's expense. Snow Emergency Routes are as follows:

- King Street, from the Union Cemetery to Country Club Drive
- Loudoun Street, from Liberty Street to Harrison Street
- Market Street, from Fairview Street to the Route 7/15 Bypass

For more information about the Town's snow removal operations, please visit [here](#).

---



## Community Information



---

**Free At-Home COVID Test Kits Delivered To Your Home:** The federal government has launched [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) where U.S. households can now order 4 free at-home antigen (not PCR) COVID-19 tests to be delivered. The tests are expected to ship in 7-12 days by the U.S. Postal Service to valid residential addresses. The tests provide results within 30 minutes (no lab drop-off required) and are effective regardless of whether an individual has COVID-19 symptoms.

---

**COVID-19 Testing Events:** The County will hold twice-weekly testing events at rotating sites. The schedule will be posted [here](#). The testing events are free and open to all. There are no age or residency requirements. No prescriptions or appointments are necessary. A person does not have to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 to be tested. A PCR test (nasal

swab) will be administered. No antibody or rapid tests will be offered. No COVID-19 vaccine will be available at these events. The [required registration form](#) can be filled out and submitted online prior to the test. For anyone who cannot submit the forms online, paper forms will also be available at the testing site.

In addition to the COVID-19 testing events hosted by Loudoun County, there are other testing locations and providers. Visit the [Virginia Department of Health's COVID-19 testing webpage](#) to find locations near you

---

**Walk-in Service Now Available at Loudoun COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic:**

Vaccinations are available on a first-come, first-served basis; no appointment is necessary. The clinic is located at Dulles Town Center, 21090 Dulles Town Circle in Sterling and is open on the following schedule:

- Tuesdays: 1:00 – 7:00 pm
  - Fridays: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
  - Saturdays: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
- 

**Grants for Affordable Housing:** Loudoun County received \$10 million in state grants from Virginia Housing's Amazon REACH Program (Resources Enabling Affordable Community Housing), which was established in response to concerns about the anticipated impact of Amazon's second headquarters in Arlington on the region's housing prices. This funding is in addition to an earlier grant of \$3.75 million to support two affordable multifamily developments in Loudoun County: Tuscarora Crossing Phase 1 and the View at Broadlands.

The following proposed developments are being considered by the Board to use the new \$10 million award:

- \$3.75 million in Amazon REACH funds to the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing to help them in the new construction of Goose Creek Village which includes 80 age-restricted affordable multifamily apartments proposed in Ashburn.
  - \$2.545 million in Amazon REACH funds to Good Works and Green Street Housing to help them in the new construction of Waxpool Apartments which includes 52 affordable multifamily apartments proposed in Ashburn.
  - \$3.75 million in Amazon REACH funds to Winn Development to help them acquire and rehabilitate Somerset Senior to create 102 age-restricted affordable multifamily apartments proposed in Sterling.
- 

**Circuit Court Awarded Preservation Grants:** The Loudoun County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary Clemens, has been awarded two grants totaling \$45,575 from the Library of Virginia as part of the Virginia Circuit Court Records Preservation program. One grant will be used to complete conservation of the land tax books for 1872, 1874 and 1878, will books from 1806-1809, 1825-1827 and 1829-1830, and a deed book from 1767. The other grant will be used to digitize criminal court papers from 1757 to 1865.



The deed and will books are used frequently by title examiners to conduct title research and for genealogical research. The 1757–1865 criminal court papers are a large collection of loose papers that have undergone substantial conservation. Following the digital conversion process, the records will be indexed in a specialized online database to enhance the efforts of individuals researching the historic court papers. Visit [here](#) for more information about the Clerk's historic court records program.

Over the past twenty years, Gary Clemens and his team have received \$687,456 in state grant funding for historic preservation efforts from the Library of Virginia. He is grateful for the grant funding to ensure proper conservation of valuable historic documents and to promote improved public access to these public documents.

Leesburg District | 1 Harrison St, S.E., 5th Floor, Leesburg, VA 20175

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov powered by

