



Supervisor

Caleb A. Kershner

Catoctin District



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA



The Latest Budget Update

Dear Catoctin Residents,

March seemed to go by faster than ever this year. It gave us a real taste of spring weather, punctuated with sudden plunges back into winter temperatures. My family has enjoyed getting back into our spring routine, with my sons starting their baseball practice for the season, and with all of us getting to spend more time together outdoors.

Speaking of outdoors, tomorrow is going to be a big day in Lovettsville! I hope you will join me this Saturday, April 2, at 10:00 AM for the [Lovettsville Community Park's ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening](#). The park is located at 12565 Milltown Road. I look forward to welcoming this much anticipated park. Many of you know the great history of this old farm property that belonged to the Reed family. If not, Lori Kimball does a great job of telling the story in her article, [The Ruse/Reed Homestead at the Lovettsville Park](#).

I'd like to personally thank Steve Torpy and his staff at Loudoun County Parks and Recreation for guiding this project through so many years, as well as former Supervisor Geary Higgins for staying on top of this project for the eight years that he held this seat. This is going to be a wonderful amenity for all of Lovettsville.



Image Credit: Loudoun County's [invitation](#) to the park's grand opening / Loudoun County Government (trimmed from original)

For my Loudoun history story this month, I found an article by [Eugene Scheel](#) that focuses on the town of Purcellville. It weaves together the rise of the W&OD railroad and the growth of new agricultural businesses, and how this helped solve an Allied supply problem during the Second World War.

Let me tell you the story of Purcellville's orchard grass seed mill.



Image Credit: [Photo](#) of former Purcellville seed mill, now Magnolias at the Mill / Eugene Scheel

- Orchard grass is a sturdy, versatile grass that is commonly used to feed livestock. It can handle shade, drought, heat, or direct sunlight without much trouble. The US Department of Agriculture says that [it's highly palatable to all sorts of livestock](#), and that it is "is one of the best forage grasses" in the Northern states that use intensive rotational grazing systems.
- But orchard grass wasn't a major economic feature in Purcellville until March 31, 1874, when the Washington & Ohio Railroad finally reached the

town. As the Leesburg newspaper *The Mirror* put it, the new train depot "set the little village aglow with activity." Just two months later, *The Mirror* reported that several new buildings had already been built next to the new railroad tracks to take advantage of the new transportation network. (The more things change, right?)

- One of these new buildings was a steam-powered sawmill. Owned by John T. Hirst and John R. Smith, this mill was soon modified so it could separate seed from chaff. Nearby, [the Dillon Mill](#) was built for entrepreneur John James Dillon, and by 1875 (under new management by then) it was used to sell orchard grass, other seeds and fertilizer, and farming equipment.
- So orchard grass was finally becoming a product. But the Hirst and Smith sawmill ran into its share of difficulties. It [burned to the ground](#) in 1882. Then it [burned to the ground again](#) in 1904. The twice-rebuilt structure was finally sold in 1921 to William Henry Adams. William and his son, Contee Lynn Adams, renamed the mill to [Loudoun Valley Milling](#) and kept it running.
- By the late 1930s, orchard grass had become a hot agricultural product. This was partly because the region's growing dairy and horse industries needed an increasingly large supply of good feed, and orchard grass fit the bill. But when the US entered the Second World War, it was soon discovered that orchard grass also made an excellent packing material for artillery shells and other munitions. (The previous packing material, wood chips, would shift around during transport and let the munitions rub against the side of the crate - not something you want when shipping high explosives!) As an added bonus, once the munitions were unpacked at their destination, the grass could be given to local farmers, who could replant it and use it to feed their livestock.
- Virginia farmers jumped into the orchard grass business en masse. Statewide production climbed from 1.7 million pounds in 1940 to a whopping 2.7 million pounds in 1943. About 15% of that production came from Loudoun County, and Purcellville itself was soon regarded as the orchard grass capital of the US. It held that role through the 1940s and 50s, while its orchard grass was used to pack munitions during the Second World War and the Korean War.

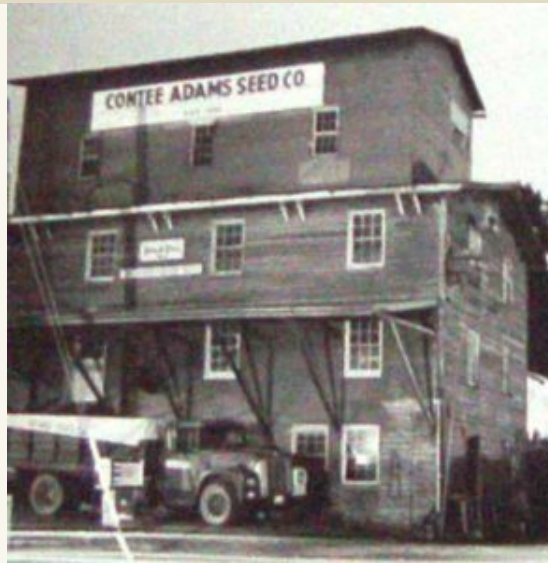


Image Credit: [Photo](#) of the Contee Adams seed mill in the 1940s, which is now Magnolia's at the Mill / Eugene Scheel

- In 1943, Contee Lynn Adams decided to concentrate solely on cleaning orchard grass seed, instead of selling the grass as feed. So he sold Loudoun Valley Milling, moved his operations to the Dillon Mill, and renamed his company to Contee Adams Seed Co. There he made an agreement with the new owners of Loudoun Valley Milling: he wouldn't grind grain or sell feed, and they wouldn't refine or sell seed. Having each defined their market niche, the two companies remained on friendly terms thereafter, to the point that Contee Adams employees would often help out at the other mill when they were shorthanded.
- Contee Lynn Adams ran his orchard grass seed business until he passed away in 1960. The business was then taken up by his son (also named Contee Lynn Adams, though he usually went by Lynn), who continued to run it until he passed away in 1991. That same year, the mill finally [closed down its operations](#).

Like the best of Loudoun's history, this one left tangible remnants that can still be seen and experienced today. The rail line is gone now, of course. But the [Purcellville Train Station](#) was restored between 1998 and 1999, and stands beside what is now the W&OD Trail. The old sawmill that burned down twice has become [Magnolias at the Mill](#). And the Dillon Mill is now [used as office space](#). It's worth stopping by the W&OD trailhead to visit these remarkable buildings and remember this piece of Loudoun's history.

As my headline suggests, I have news for you about Loudoun's FY 2023 proposed budget, which is getting very close to a final vote. I've also included articles on the county's redistricting project, as well as a review piece on the Route 15 North Widening project. You'll find all that and more below.

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

Sincerely,

Caleb Kershner

In This Issue

- County Redistricting
 - FY 2023 Budget Update
 - Study on Sheriff's Office
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- Fire & Rescue Graduation
 - Loudoun B&B Guild Breakfast
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Real-Time Updates - Keep Up With the Latest News!



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.

This 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, drop by my Facebook page and give it a like.

Go to Facebook

CURRENT EVENTS

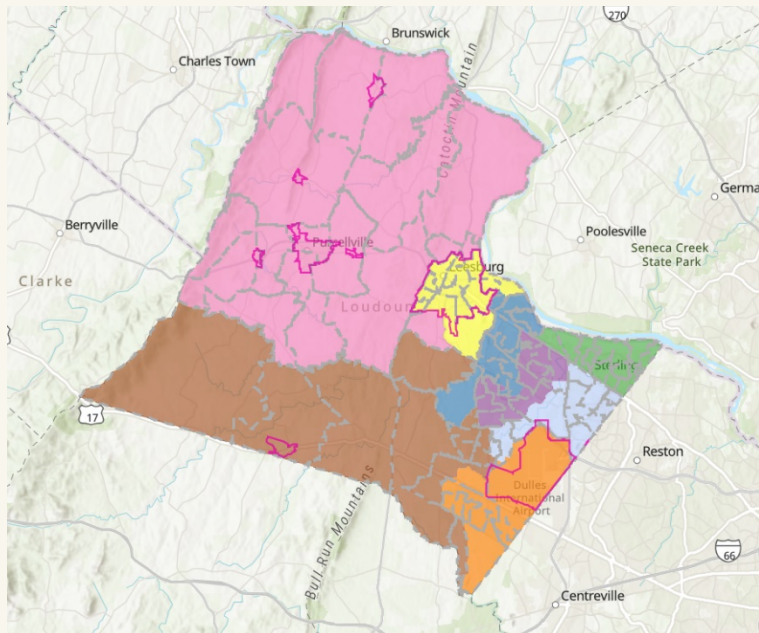


Image Credit: [Screenshot](#) of LT-Revised 1 Plan on Loudoun's online mapping system / Loudoun County Government

County Redistricting Moves Forward

On March 15, the Board voted to forward the LT-Revised 1 plan to our [May 11 public hearing](#). It also voted to keep most of the current district names, to consider Catoctin as the name for District 8, and to consider Blue Ridge, Evergreen and Little River as name options for District 7. Finally, it voted to hang onto the Letourneau-Turner Refined Plan as a backup plan, in case any last-minute problems are discovered in the LT-Revised 1 plan.

I am extremely disappointed that the Board did not support our current structure of having two Western Loudoun County supervisors in this plan. The Coalition of Loudoun Towns put forth a reasonable plan that would have preserved Western Loudoun in a meaningful way. I'm pleased that my colleagues were at least able to support my recommendation to include the St Louis precinct into District 7 along with Middleburg.

The [LT-Revised 1 Plan](#) aimed to keep communities of interest together while doing its best to distribute the population equally between the eight districts based on the 2020 Census figures. To do that, it made the following decisions:

- Locates all of Ashburn Farm in one election district
- Locates all of Ashburn Village in one election district
- Locates all of Birchwood at Brambleton in one election district
- Locates all of Broadlands in one election district
- Moves the St. Louis Precinct from District 8 to join Middleburg in District 7
- Moves The Regency from District 2 to District 4
- Moves the rural and transition policy areas southwest of Leesburg from District 6 to District 8

Staff is analyzing the LT-Revised 1 Plan right now, before the Board addresses it again at our [April 5 business meeting](#). If any issues turn up that would stop us from using this plan, as I noted, we'll use our backup Letourneau-Turner Refined Plan. Depending on how these meetings go, the Board could choose to adopt the final redistricting plan as early as May 11.

If you haven't weighed in yet on the redistricting plan, now is your chance. You can sign up to speak at the April 5 business meeting and at the May 11 public hearing. Your best option is to call (703) 777-0200 and register in advance before noon on the day of the meeting that you want to speak at. You can also email the Board anytime at bos@loudoun.gov.

Learn More

Your Tax Dollar at Work FY 2023 Proposed Budget

Loudoun County
VIRGINIA

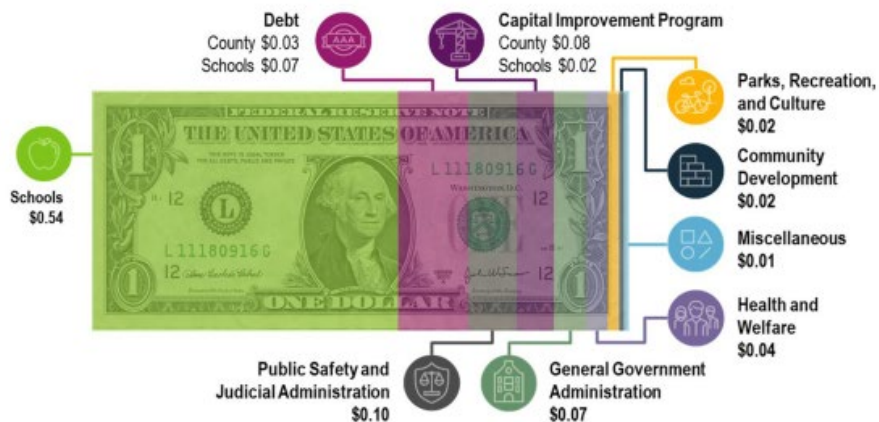


Image Credit: ["Your Tax Dollar at Work"](#) from Loudoun's FY 2023 budget process / Loudoun County Government

My Thoughts on Loudoun's FY 2023 Budget

The Board will be voting to approve the budget and set the tax rate on Tuesday. Unfortunately, that budget is going to raise our homeowners' taxes. It also gave up some valuable opportunities to economize our county's spending.

During our work sessions, the Board voted to cut or reduce various proposals, which removed removed \$6–7 million in spending and brought the tax rate down by half a penny. I voted for all of those cuts. On top of that, I proposed additional cuts, including one that would have given LCPS a smaller funding increase than they'd asked for, but would have let them pay their teachers a much-needed raise while still reducing Loudoun's tax rate by several cents. To my regret, I could not persuade enough of my colleagues to vote for these further spending cuts.

Shortly after the last work session, I published [a full op-ed](#) in the Loudoun Times-Mirror. I went into more detail about the tax rate, the economic factors it should have considered, and the opportunities it had (and missed) to get our county's spending under control. If you'd like to know what we should have done this year, and some potential budget lessons for next year, I'd encourage you to give it a read.



Kershner: FY 2023 Rate Too High; Budget Ignores Impact...

The FY 2023 budget for Loudoun County, which also funds Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), wrapped up on Monday evening with an appropriations resolution that will set the real property tax rate at \$0.89 per \$100 of assessed value and a...

[Read more](#)
www.loudountimes.com



Image Credit: [Photo](#) from Loudoun County Sheriff's Office website / LCSO

The Remarkable Value of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office – Thank You, Sheriff Chapman!

At our [business meeting on April 5](#), the Board will hear a presentation on a recent study that examined what it would take to remove the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and replace it with a county police department.

That item has now been posted to Loudoun's meeting documents page [here](#). It's the PDF labeled "Item I-1 Police Department Study.pdf". I got an early briefing on what to expect in this presentation - and I tell you truly, it gave me all sorts of good reasons to respect and value our current Sheriff's Office.



Image Credit: [Photo](#) of Sheriff Chapman from JoinLCSO.com / LCSO

Here are a few of the takeaways from that briefing, which was given by the [International Association of Chiefs of Police \(IACP\)](#):

- When considering key performance indicators, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office compares favorably among the other comparison agencies - in Virginia, among the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) region, and among other major county sheriff's offices similar situated.

- Those key performance indicators include: low violent crime rates in the COG region, improving call response times, rare use of force incidents, high rates of resident satisfaction, positive agency morale, consistent and thorough disciplinary measures, and 100% scores on all 190 standards of the VA Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission.
- The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office performs these feats at a remarkably low cost to the county. If we wished to convert to a county police department, the estimated *minimum* costs over the first 10 years would be over \$213 million. The *recommended* costs would be in the neighborhood of \$307 million.

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has earned my respect, but even I am sometimes surprised by just *how* good a job they do for our county. I look forward to seeing what other information turns up at the presentation on Tuesday.

If you'd like to watch the full presentation yourself, you can join us at [the Board's business meeting](#), either online or in person. If you'd like to sign up in advance to comment, your best option is to call **(703) 777-0200** and sign up as a speaker, which you can do until noon on the day of the meeting.

Download Report



Image Credit: [Photo](#) from Loudoun.gov / Loudoun County Government

Route 15 North Widening Project

PROJECT BACKGROUND

SECTION ONE: [Route 15 North – Battlefield Parkway to Montresor Road](#)

- **Phase One:** Battlefield Parkway to White's Ferry Road
- **Phase Two:** White's Ferry Road to Montresor
- [Route 15 North from Battlefield Parkway to Montresor Road Comprehensive Plan Amendment \(CPAM-2017-0002\)](#) – Adopted on 3-6-2018

SECTION TWO: [Route 15 North – Montresor Road to Maryland State Line](#)

- **Phase One:** Realignment of New Valley Church Road & [Spinks Ferry Roundabout](#).
- **Phase Two:** Signalized Intersection at Route 15 and Lovettsville Road
- **Phase Three:** Lucketts Bypass, Roundabouts at Lucketts and Stumptown Roads, Two-lane median divided roadway north of Stumptown/Lucketts Road, Shared use path on one side of the new roadway.

- **Phase Four:** Four-lane median divided roadway from Montresor Road to Lucketts, Replacement of bridges and major drainage structures. *(Construction of this roadway widening will be completed in a subsequent phase.)*
- [Route 15 North - Montresor Road to the Maryland State Line Comprehensive Plan Amendment \(CPAM-2021-0002\)](#) – This CPAM's purpose is to amend Loudoun's 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) by changing the classification of US Route 15 between Montresor Road (VA Route 661) and the Maryland state line.

LATEST PROJECT UPDATES

SECTION ONE: Battlefield Parkway to Montresor

The design plans have been split into two packages – one for phase 1 and one for phase 2. The design team is developing the 90% plans for phase 1 and updating the alignment of phase 2 to include a new bridge over Limestone Branch. Phase 2 - 90% construction plans are also in development with bridge design initiated for the crossing of Limestone Branch. The design team continues development of the 90% design plans for phase 1. Survey being initiated for the proposed shared use path along Whites Ferry Road. Floodplain study and alteration packages are being processed through the Loudoun County Department of Building & Development.

SECTION TWO: Montresor Road to Maryland State Line

CPAM: The Planning Commission passed CPAM-2021-002 by a [5-4 vote on March 11, 2022](#) supporting a bypass but without an endorsement of a specific alignment. We expect the CPAM to come to the Board of Supervisors [May 11th Public Hearing](#).

Phase One (Spinks Ferry Roundabout): Almost to 60% design, Land Acquisition Late 2022-2023, Invitation to Bid Summer 2024, Contract Awarded Fall 2024, and the project is fully funded.

EXPEDITING THE PROJECT

Our office has encouraged staff to look for more ways to streamline this project and to cut out any avoidable delays. To their immense credit, they came up with and implemented some creative and thoughtful solutions.

First off, the project has been split into three sections. This allowed staff to start working on the slower-moving tasks (like right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation) right away

for all three projects, which will save us time later on. It also means that if one piece gets delayed, we can still make progress on the other two.

To speed up the entire project, staff managed to cut out all federal funding, which would have dragged us into additional regulatory red tape and delays. They also opted to use task order consultants rather than hiring one main consultant (saving us 9–12 months), and to start discussions with property owners very early in the design process (saving us time in the right-of-way discussions).

They also found ways to smooth over the parts of the project that were likely to cause delays. They've sorted out the roadway alignment and major design elements, as well as how we'll deal with Little Springs access. Bike and pedestrian trail additions/supplements that weren't adjacent to Route 15 have been prepared as separate plan packages. On top of that, they secured the Board's design endorsement all the way back on January 19, and then proceeded straight to the 60% plan submission to our Building and Development department and to VDOT.

Finally, they've been expediting our right-of-way acquisition and utility coordination, which always tend to be a slower-moving piece of any road project. To do that, they jumped straight into right-of-way research early in the design process. As noted above, they've already begun having discussions with property owners. They've set up a process to acquire right-of-way from Morven Park and from other HOAs in the corridor, and have identified contacts for properties that are owned by out-of-state entities. In addition, they contacted utility companies during 60% plan development, and have been looping them in as part of their regular design coordination meetings.



Image Credit: [Screenshot](#) of proposed Route 7 / Route 287 Interchange improvements / Loudoun County Government

Correction (And It's Good News!) About the Route 7/Route 690 Interchange at Purcellville

In every newsletter, I like to include updates on the road projects that are likely to affect Catoctin drivers. One such projects is the [Route 7/Route 690 interchange](#) in the Town of Purcellville. It seems my last update on this project caught someone's attention—which was quite the compliment, since it means we have some highly engaged Purcellville readers—and I was quickly informed that the project is going more smoothly than I'd originally reported.

I'm always glad to be proven wrong about road project delays. Here is what's actually happening on this project.

What I Originally Reported: Purcellville had not yet provided their response to the design plat or to the plat submissions. As a result, the design phase completion was being extended to spring 2022.

What Actually Happened: Purcellville *did* try to send their response, but it seems to have snagged on a file size problem. Fortunately, by the time my newsletter went out, county and town staff had already caught the problem, gotten in touch with their counterparts, and sorted things out.

Better yet, our county administrator, Tim Hemstreet, had already worked out an improved reporting process with Purcellville's town manager, David Mekarski. The new process was designed to catch issues like this and make sure that any future response will go through smoothly. That is good news, both for this project and for our future endeavors with Purcellville.

Current Status: At this point, Purcellville and VDOT have confirmed that their plan comments have all been addressed. The design team is still working with Purcellville staff to resolve their comments on the plat. VDOT's Northern Virginia District office has signed the right-of-way (ROW) authorization and has forwarded it to the VDOT central office. Utility coordination is being done with Dominion and Century Link right now, and was scheduled to start with Verizon in March.



Image Credit: [Graphic](#) from Morven Park's Spring Horse Trails webpage / Morven Park, [Erin Gilmore Photography](#)

Morven Park's Spring Horse Trials

[Morven Park](#) is hosting their annual Spring Horse Trials at their top-notch equestrian center in Leesburg. The trials will take place this weekend, on **April 2-3**, from **8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**.

This event is open to public spectators at no charge. Morven Park invites you to watch the action up close, and recommends that you wear comfortable walking shoes. This is a chance to watch experienced riders and horses compete in dressage, show-jumping, and cross-country jumping events.

[Learn More](#)



**Admission
is FREE**



Loudoun County Equine Alliance

5th Annual

Equine Expo

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

STONE  TOWER
WINERY

9925 Hogback Mountain Rd., Leesburg, VA

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Free Glass of Wine to first 100 Guests

Sponsored by Visit Loudoun and Debbie Meighan - Washington Fine Properties

Image Credit: Graphic for the 2022 Equine Expo / Loudoun County Equine Alliance

Loudoun County Equine Alliance's Expo

The [Loudoun County Equine Alliance](#) will hold its 2022 Equine Expo on **Tuesday, April 12 from 5:00–8:00 PM** at [Stone Tower Winery](#) in Leesburg, VA. It's a chance to meet and greet equine businesses and enthusiasts from across Loudoun.

The expo is being sponsored by [Visit Loudoun](#) and [Debbie Meighan of Washington Fine Properties](#), and 60 vendors will be attending the event, including Debbie. It's open to the general public, and admission is entirely free. As a further incentive to get there early, the first 100 guests will each get [a free glass of wine](#).

Learn More

Congratulations!



Loudoun.gov/Fire

Image Credit: [Photo](#) from Loudoun Civic Alert / Loudoun County Government, LC-CFRS

50 First Responders Graduate from Loudoun Fire & Rescue Training

On March 23, the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System [celebrated the graduation of 50 first responders](#) who successfully completed their various levels of fire and rescue training. 18 of the first responders graduated from the EMT course, 6 from the Advanced EMT (AEMT) course, and 26 from the Firefighter I-II course.

LC-CFRS is understandably [proud of their new graduates](#), and so are we. Congratulations to all of you!



EMT FALL 2021

INSTRUCTOR MICHAEL McDONALD

Image Credit: [Photo](#) from LC-CFRS Facebook post / LC-CFRS

EMT Graduates

- **Amir Behsudi** – Arcola Volunteer Fire Dept
 - **Blake Crane** – Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue
 - **Kira King** – Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue
 - **Irma Ladenburg** – Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue
 - **Dominic Pitre** – Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue
 - **Jason Ryan Oestenstad** – Hamilton Volunteer Rescue Squad
 - **Maxwell Bennett** – Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company
 - **Sarah Krueger** – Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company
 - **Alena Lightbody** – Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company
 - **Jess Starkie** – Lovettsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue
 - **Tyler Yudd** – Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company
 - **Melanie Priddy** – Round Hill Volunteer Fire and Rescue
 - **Victor Elia** – Sterling Volunteer Fire Company
 - **Emily MacDonald** – Sterling Volunteer Fire Company
 - **Damien Rizzo** – Sterling Volunteer Fire Company
 - **Alexis Butcher** – Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad
 - **Ryan Huth** – Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad
 - **Taylor Lewis** – Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad
-



FALL 2021 ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

INSTRUCTOR SUSAN TRUBA

Image Credit: [Photo](#) from LC-CFRS Facebook post / LC-CFRS

AEMT Graduates

- **Marke Goode** – Loudoun County Fire and Rescue
 - **Tyler Martin** – Loudoun County Fire and Rescue
 - **Therese Senate** – Purcellville Volunteer Rescue Squad
 - **Katrina Kenneweg** – Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad
 - **Alexandria Meuret** – Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad
 - **E. Dario Tirado** – Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad
-



**INSTRUCTORS MIKE NOAH AND
LT DOMINIC SLATER**

Image Credit: [Photo](#) from LC-CFRS Facebook post / LC-CFRS

Firefighter I–II Graduates

- **Patrick L. Carter** – Aldie Volunteer Fire & Leesburg Volunteer Fire
- **Jonathan Pruiksma** – Arcola Volunteer Fire and Rescue
- **David Bryant** – Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue
- **Adam A. Camacho** – Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue
- **Michael Dawkins** – Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue
- **Thomas Gaydos** – Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue
- **Simon Okoth** – Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue
- **William H. Cawood** – Leesburg Volunteer Fire
- **Garrett H. Dawson** – Leesburg Volunteer Fire
- **Rodrigo A. Mondragon** – Leesburg Volunteer Fire
- **Ricardo A. Rodas** – Leesburg Volunteer Fire
- **Ian M. Maud** – Manassas Park Volunteer Fire-Rescue
- **Alejandro L. Huet** – Purcellville Volunteer Fire
- **Caleigh Marsh** – Purcellville Volunteer Fire
- **Joseph D. Royhab** – Purcellville Volunteer Fire
- **Trent P. Cavicchi** – Purcellville Volunteer Fire
- **Toma Anescu** – Sterling Volunteer Fire
- **Brian A. Diamond** – Sterling Volunteer Fire
- **Steven Flack** – Sterling Volunteer Fire
- **Nathaniel Fletcher** – Sterling Volunteer Fire
- **Charles Gandy** – Sterling Volunteer Fire
- **Josi J.E. Nataren** – Sterling Volunteer Fire
- **Kevin R. Shepard** – Sterling Volunteer Fire
- **Maxim A. Turets** – Sterling Volunteer Fire

- **Katrina Kenneweg** – Sterling Volunteer Rescue
 - **Van B. Lisle** – Sterling Volunteer Rescue
-



Loudoun Bed and Breakfast Guild holds annual meeting

A group of Loudoun businesses focused on the county's growing tourism industry met in-person Wednesday for the first time since the pandemic began at the Manor at Airmont in Round Hill. About 50 Loudoun Bed and Breakfast Guild members, including...

[Read more
www.loudountimes.com](https://www.loudountimes.com)



American Rescue Plan Act
INPUT SESSIONS FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

General Input Session Virtual Meeting
February 23, 2022, 11:00 a.m.

Office Hours Listening Sessions
March, April & May 2022

loudoun.gov/grantopportunities LOUDOUN COUNTY VIRGINIA

Image Credit: [Graphic](#) from Loudoun Civic Alert on ARPA funding / Loudoun County Government

We Need Nonprofits to Give Their Input on American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Are you involved with a nonprofit organizations that serves Loudoun residents? Then we would love to learn about your nonprofit's needs as the county gears up for another round of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal pass-through funding.

To do that, Loudoun County is hosting a series of online listening sessions. These are open to nonprofits that operate in Loudoun, whether you've previously received ARPA funding or not. The goal of these sessions is to discuss potential projects that may be included in ARPA funding programs, reporting requirements, and needs based on organizational COVID-related service levels.

We have two listening sessions coming up in April, and the last one is in May. The sessions will be held on Microsoft Teams at the following times:

- [Monday, April 4, from 1:00–2:00 PM](#)
- [Thursday, April 21, from 9:30–10:30 AM](#)
- [Wednesday, May 4, from 9:30–10:30 AM](#)

Learn More

LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT



Image Credit: [Graphic](#) from Spring House Farm's 180 lb beef bundle / Spring House Farm

Local Business Highlight: Spring House Farm

[Spring House Farm](#) is a farm and specialty grocery store here in Loudoun. Its owner-operators, Andrew and Liz Crush, are focused on offering pasture-raised beef, pork, poultry, eggs, and lamb, as well as natural honey. As they explain on [their website](#), they finally got fed up with "bland, factory-style farmed meats from the grocery store chains," so they decided to start this farm and grocery service in the spring of 2004.



Image Credit: [Photo](#) of Andrew & Liz Crush, who own Spring House Farm / Spring House Farm

At this point, Spring House Farm consists of several owned and leased properties throughout Loudoun. Their food can be bought at their farm store in Hamilton, ordered and picked up at [several drop-off locations](#) around the county, or ordered and sent to your home (direct delivery available if you have a Loudoun address).

The farm offers [CSA subscriptions](#), and has a full blog post on why you might [consider joining a meat CSA](#). They're also one of the vendors for the [EatLoco Farmers Market](#) at One Loudoun.

Learn More

MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS

ROUTE 15



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

Throughout December and January, one lane will be periodically closed in the evenings on Route 15 between Battlefield Parkway and Montresor Road, so that subsurface testing and investigation can be done.

The 60% design plans were submitted to Building & Development and to VDOT on June 23. Review agency comments were completed on November 15, and the design team is working to address them before the next submission. The cultural resource investigation has been completed and will be submitted to Building & Development for review. Right-of-way (ROW) acquisition is still 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 Have Ended

The [initial Route 9 focus group meeting](#) was held on February 13, 2020. Follow-up meetings were held throughout 2020 and 2021; the last one was held on December 13, 2021. These focus group meetings were designed 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 South 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, which incorporated [feedback that the focus group offered](#) at the October 1 meeting. The team refined those draft designs by taking them back to the focus group, getting more detailed feedback, and applying it. They followed up with another focus group on September 1, 2021, where they got highly granular feedback on their [proposed concepts](#).

Study Report Complete & Headed to TLUC

The Route 15 South Safety and Operational Study final report was presented to the Board on February 1, Loudoun County presented to the Board of Supervisors. The recommendations from that report are heading to TLUC (our Transportation and Land Use Committee) to be discussed at a future meeting.

Three of the report's short-term recommendations were sent immediately to VDOT:

1. **Remove overgrown vegetation** to address sight distance issues at certain intersections. VDOT responded quickly to this recommendation, and has already removed the overgrowth.
2. **A signage plan**, prepared by county staff and submitted to VDOT for review, that suggests additional street signs to improve safety along the corridor.
3. **Close the passing zone south of Braddock Road**, and consider adding rumble strips to the edge line and center line where feasible. VDOT has already informed us that they will adjust the length of the passing zones on Route 15 between New Road and Braddock Road, and that this adjustment will include closing the passing zone at the entrance to the Ohana Equestrian Preserve.

You can download a copy of the full report [here](#).

As usual, the [project website](#) includes all the documents from the focus group and public input meetings. Please feel free to check those out for further information. And you can always [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

Work crews are doing fine grading and minor bridge concrete wall construction, as the temperature allows.

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: A virtual public information meeting was held on October 25, 2021, to present the project design elements to the public. The public comment period closed on November 8, 2021. Geotechnical borings were drilled to characterize subsurface conditions. The design team initiated the development of 60% plans.

Next Quarter: The development of 60% plans will continue.

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 in its design phase. The second neighborhood meeting was held on March 10. Town staff gave a [presentation](#) on the project thus far, and gave attendees a look at the [intermediate design plans](#). A video of that recording will also be posted to the [project website](#), though as of now it has not yet been uploaded.

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.

DTCI will work with VDOT to develop a project agreement, where VDOT will administer a project to lengthen the acceleration lane on westbound Route 7 east of the Route 9 interchange. Concurrently, Loudoun County will perform investigations and develop a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the Route 7 widening planned between Route 9 and the Dulles Greenway.

Latest Update

This Quarter: DTCI staff drafted an RFP for design services. The draft RFP was provided to the Department of Finance and Budget (DFB) for processing.

Next Quarter: DFB will advertise the design RFP.

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

Loudoun will host a virtual design public meeting for this project **on Thursday, April 14, at 6:00 PM**. The project team will give a short presentation, and then will spend an hour answering as many questions as they can. You can see more information about the meeting [here](#), and should be able to register for it ahead of time [here](#).

VDOT previously approved the Interchange Modification Report (IMR) for this project in October 2021. The Construction Plan and Profile (CPAP) has been submitted to Loudoun, and the right-of-way (ROW) submission to VDOT was sent in November 2021. The plans have also been submitted to the Town of Purcellville for their review.

This project is in its design phase, which is now expected to wrap up in fall 2023.

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

This project is going rather better than my last newsletter indicated! I've included an article on it further up in the email. To sum up: The communication issue with Purcellville was already solved before I sent out my previous update. County Administrator Tim Hemstreet has already worked out a revised reporting system with Purcellville's Town Manager, David Mekarski. That new process should ensure that communications on this and future projects run smoothly.

At this point, Purcellville and VDOT have confirmed that their plan comments have all been addressed. The design team is still working with Purcellville staff to resolve their comments on the plat. VDOT's Northern Virginia District office has signed the right-of-way (ROW) authorization and has forwarded it to the VDOT central office. Utility coordination is being done with Dominion and Century Link right now, and was scheduled to start with Verizon in March.

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

VDOT now estimates that this project will [wrap up in summer 2022](#), and that the Featherbed Lane closure at Catoctin Creek and the detour will remain in place until then.

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

All of the utility plans and estimates have been received. A purchase order has been issued to Verizon, and DTCL is preparing a purchase order for Dominion. DTCL is also preparing offer letters to property owners. The County Attorney Office is working on agreements and deeds, which are almost complete. DTCL land acquisition staff will be sending offer letters within the next month to begin the right-of-way (ROW) acquisition.

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 project agreement was presented to the Leesburg Town Council on February 2, and the Council passed a resolution to proceed with executing the agreement.

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 currently in the design phase, and the 60% design plans are being prepared. There was a delay due to additional work that needed to be done to the Town Hall site. The Town of Lovettsville is working on scope changes to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and is developing a revised schedule to implement 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.

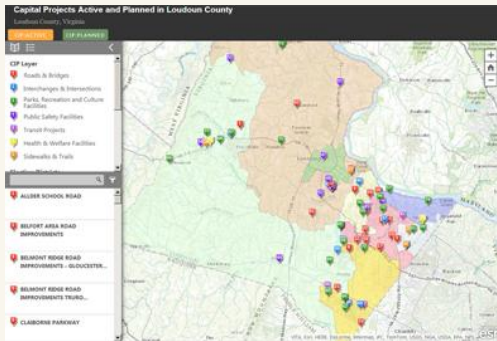
This project is managed by the [Town of Lovettsville](#).

Latest Update

This Quarter: The Town of Lovettsville is working on scope changes to this project to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and is developing a revised schedule to implement the project. As we reported earlier, the town has worked with design engineers to review comments on the 60% design plans. They have also coordinated with other stakeholders, businesses, and residents that live along South Church Street, to let them know about the planned improvements for that street.

Next Quarter: The town will finalize their revised schedule. As previously reported, the design engineer will keep working on the 90% design plans, which will be submitted to VDOT for their review.

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](#)



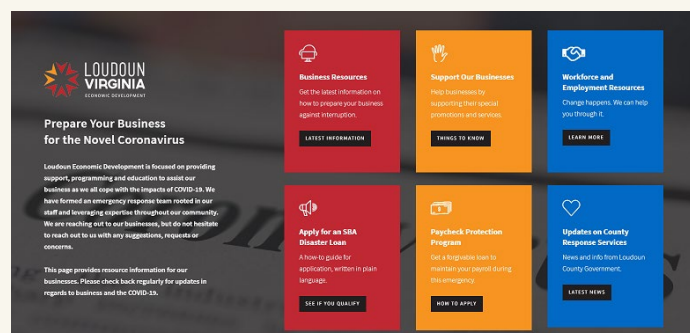
BUSINESS RESOURCES



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](#)

LOUDOUN CARES
VOLUNTEER CENTER



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 Catocin 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](#)

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

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