



Supervisor

Caleb A. Kershner

Catoctin District



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA



The Latest News on Zoning & Route 15

Dear Catoctin Residents,

I hope you all enjoyed your April as much as I did. One of my staffers mentioned that the name *April* [may have come from the Latin word *aperire*](#), which means "to open"—a reference to the flowers and trees opening up and blossoming. I think that's entirely appropriate, because this April has been a great chance to watch Loudoun's forests and greenery come to life.

This month, I'd like to share with you a story that [Eugene Scheel](#) has researched from the American Revolution. It follows a Loudoun resident who was sent by George Washington to become a double agent, infiltrate British forces, and try to capture the infamous Benedict Arnold—and who survived the resulting complications.

Let me tell you the story of John Champe.



Image Credit: [Painting](#) of John Champe beginning his covert mission / Eugene Scheel

- John Champe lived in Loudoun County during the American Revolution. Based on the surviving records, we believe he was [born in Aldie](#). When the war broke out, he sided with the colonies, joining up with the Virginia

Cavalry in 1776. He soon rose through the ranks. By 1780, he was a Sergeant Major, and had been [assigned to the Loudoun Dragoons](#), a mounted infantry unit commanded by none other than Major Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee.

- Then in September 1780, Major General Benedict Arnold took the step that earned him lasting infamy in American history, when he secretly [attempted to sell the American fort at West Point](#) to the British forces. To his regret, he fumbled the "secret" part of that task. Instead of collecting a rich payday, he found himself on the run, narrowly escaping his former commander, George Washington.
- Even in exile, however, Arnold managed to pose a problem for the Continental Army. Over the next month, Washington watched as Arnold's defection encouraged several other American soldiers to also change sides. To further rub salt in the wound, Arnold actively recruited loyalists in New York to join the British ranks.
- So Washington came up with a plan: Have one of his own soldiers pretend to defect to the British, gain Arnold's confidence, then kidnap him and bring him home to face treason charges. He contacted Lee, who presented this highly irregular mission to Champe. The Loudouner agreed to do it. In his memoirs, Lee recalled that Champe wasn't worried about the dangers, but *was* bothered by the fact that he'd be seen (for a while, at least) as the only Loudoun Dragoon to desert to the enemy.
- On October 20, Champe launched his covert mission. Things got off to a bumpy start when an American patrol spotted him and began a high-speed chase. To make things look realistic, Lee then had to send a second patrol out to chase him down. Despite all this, Champe managed to evade both patrols, then jumped off his horse, escaped through a marsh, and jumped into the Hudson to board a waiting boat.
- When he got to New York, Champe was then captured by the *other* military's sentries. He was questioned by a series of increasingly-senior British personnel until he found himself face to face with [Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief of Britain's North American forces](#). Champe explained to Clinton that American soldiers like him were following Arnold's example and were joining the British side.
- Using skills that must have made him a menace to poker players everywhere, Champe convinced the British commander-in-chief that he really was a deserter. Then he was introduced to Arnold himself, whom he also convinced of his deserter *bona fides*. Arnold made Champe one of his recruiting sergeants in his new American Legion, which he was staffing with loyalists. This gave Champe uninterrupted access to Arnold's home near the southern tip of Manhattan, overlooking the Hudson River.
- Ten days into his mission, Champe sent a message to Lee through a fellow conspirator, giving him the updated plan for abducting Arnold. Champe

would pry some of the fence boards loose from Arnold's fenced garden that overlooked the river. He and the other conspirator would jump Arnold during his regular evening stroll in the garden, drag him out through the gap in the fence, and then haul him through the back alleys of lower Manhattan to their waiting boat.

- To Champe's extreme annoyance, Arnold moved his quarters the day before the kidnapping was supposed to take place. Champe had to keep up his cover identity with Arnold's American Legion as they sailed to Petersburg, Virginia. To maintain the facade, he sometimes had to fight in Arnold's ranks against Lee's own forces.
- In the end, however, Champe couldn't create a reasonable opportunity to kidnap Arnold. After a few more weeks of trying, he snuck away from Arnold's troops, made his way to the Appalachian Mountains, and rejoined Lee's command. Lee's entire unit soon learned the true story, and Champe became a universally admired figure for "his daring and arduous attempt."

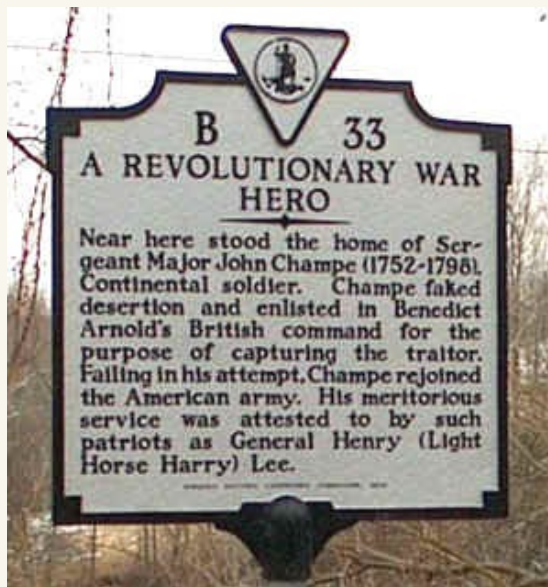


Image Credit: [Photo](#) of the road marker near John Champe's home / Eugene Scheel

- Washington excused Champe from further war service in light of his extraordinary mission. Champe retired to family life and seven children in Loudoun County. He also served as doorkeeper and sergeant-at-arms for meetings of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia and Trenton in 1783.
- Ironically, Champe's story was popularized in part by Captain Cameron, a former British officer and active diarist. Cameron was traveling near Aldie when he was caught in a thunderstorm. Champe heard him knocking on his front door and invited him in. As they waited for the rain to pass, they swapped stories about their respective military careers, and Champe told his guest about his mission to capture Benedict Arnold. Cameron wrote the

story down in his diary, and ultimately sold it to [Blackwood's Magazine](#), a British publication. (Champe himself never saw the story in print, having passed away in 1798 at the age of 46.)

Please keep sending us your thoughts. We will keep 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

In This Issue

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Meeting• Route 15 CPAM• Public Hearing on Redistricting• Selma Estates Update• Free Seminar on Conservation Easements• All Points Broadband Signups• Purcellville Music & Arts Festival | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loudoun County Barrel Tasting with Local Wineries• Morven Park Events• Lovettsville Events• Local Business Highlight: Long Stone Farm• Road Projects and Resources• Business Resources• Loudoun Express (LEX) |
|--|---|

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

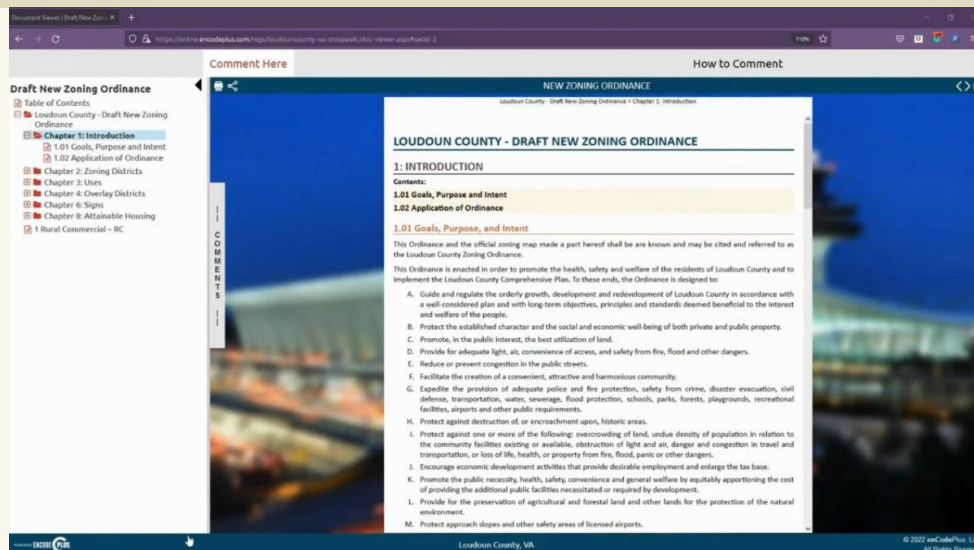


Image Credit: [Screenshot](#) from video guide to commenting on the ordinance / Loudoun County Government

Virtual Meeting for Loudoun's Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Draft – May 2

As I mentioned in [last week's news alert](#), Loudoun has published the [first draft](#) of our updated zoning ordinance. That kicked off a 90-day review period, designed to give you (and me) time to read through the draft, mull it over, and share feedback and impressions.

County staff gave three open house meetings about the ordinance in April. The fourth open house meeting will be held virtually on **Monday, May 2, from 6:00–8:00 PM**.

- **WHAT:** An open house style meeting, where you can ask questions and give comments on the draft ordinance. You can sign up to speak by [emailing staff](#), or by **calling 703-777-0246, option 5**, before noon on May 2.
- **WHEN:** Monday, May 2, from 6:00–8:00 PM
- **LINK:** The Webex link & access code are provided [here](#).

Here's how you can find the draft ordinance and other ways (outside of the May 2 virtual meeting) to give your comments on it:

- [The draft ordinance](#) is written in an online tool, which lets us put more information quickly at the reader's fingertips. For example, when you're reading through a section and want to know exactly how "zoning district" or "structural alterations" is defined, you can just move your mouse over that phrase and the exact definition will pop up.
- **You can comment on the draft ordinance as you're reading it**, which is another neat feature of the online tool it's written in! Staff has put together [this short guide](#) and [this 2-minute video](#) on how to do that.

- You can also comment on the draft ordinance using [this online form](#) that Loudoun has put together. Just fill in your information, type in your questions and comments, and click Submit.
- You can *also also* [email the Board directly](#) with your thoughts. I've gotten a wealth of encouragement, ideas, and thoughtful criticism from Catoclin residents in the past two years, so I hope you'll keep that up!

Finally, in addition to everything I've mentioned in this article, you will also have the opportunity to provide comments at a **Planning Commission public hearing** (expected to take place in fall 2022) and a **Board of Supervisors public hearing** (expected to take place in late 2022). I'll share more details on those hearings as they become available.

Learn More

Route 15 CPAM Goes to Public Hearing – May 11

CPAM / Concept B Improvements

1. Four lanes: Montresor Road to vicinity of Spinks Ferry Road.*
2. Two lanes with Median: North of Village of Lucketts to St Clair Lane.*
3. Traffic calming within the Village of Lucketts.
4. Bypass around Village of Lucketts.*
5. Roundabouts: Montresor Road, Newvalley Church Road, Stumptown Road/Lucketts bypass.
6. Realigned intersections: Montresor Road/Limestone School Road and Newvalley Church Road/Spinks Ferry Road.
7. Traffic signal at Lovettsville Road.
8. Bike, pedestrian and transit service opportunities.

* Required for CPAM

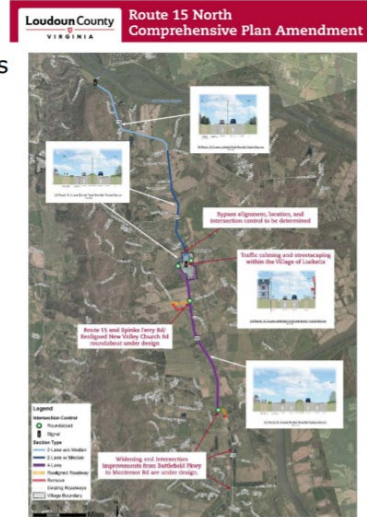


Image Credit: Screenshot of earlier Route 15 CPAM presentation / Loudoun County Government

The Route 15 CPAM is coming at last to our [public hearing on May 11](#). It will amend Loudoun's 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) to change the plans for US Route 15 between Montresor Road and the Maryland state line, replacing the CTP with a different set of plans collectively known as Concept B – Capacity and Safety Improvements.

Here are the main changes that this CPAM will make to this stretch of Route 15:

- **Widening:** Amend the ultimate condition of US Route 15 from Montresor Road north to Stumptown Road/Lucketts Road, including a future Lucketts Bypass, from a rural two-lane undivided Principal Arterial (Other) to a rural four-lane median divided Principal Arterial (Other) roadway.
- **Lucketts Bypass/US Route 15 Business:** Amend the ultimate condition of the existing US Route 15 from the future southern Lucketts Bypass intersection to the future northern Lucketts bypass intersection from a rural two-lane undivided Principal Arterial (Other) to a rural two-lane Major Collector roadway. This would become future US Route 15 Business through Lucketts on the existing US Route 15 alignment.
- **Median Divide:** Amend the ultimate condition of US Route 15 from Stumptown Road/Lucketts Road, including a future Lucketts Bypass, north to Saint Clair Lane from a rural two-lane undivided Principal Arterial (Other) to a rural two-lane median divided Principal Arterial (Other) roadway.

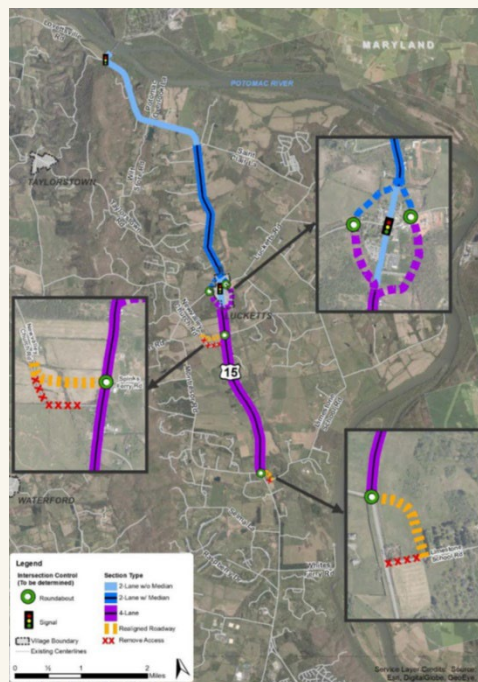


Image Credit: [Map](#) of proposed final condition for this stretch of Route 15 / Loudoun County Government

The Planning Commission also took up this CPAM at their work session on March 11. They had an extensive and detailed discussion—you can watch the full video of that work session [here](#).

In the end, they voted 5-4 (Combs, Kirchner, Merrithew, and Vance opposed) to forward the CPAM to the Board and to recommend that we approve it. They also shared the following comments with the Board:

1. Planning Commission support for the Village of Lucketts bypass does not include endorsement of a specific alignment.
2. The Planning Commission recommends that safety improvements be prioritized if the ultimate project is phased and requests that the Board act on safety improvements within 24 months.
3. The Planning Commission recommends that the Board commission a study to better understand the economic impacts of proposed improvements on local businesses and farms.

Route 15 has needed a major overhaul for a long time now. If you've sat in traffic there during rush hour, or if you've dealt with the cut-through traffic that it pushes through our small towns, you know how important this issue has been. This CPAM is a meticulously crafted plan for improving Route 15 and giving it the capacity that it needs. I look forward to supporting it at the [May 11 public hearing](#).

I would strongly encourage you to read through the [public hearing item](#) on this CPAM. It lays out the CPAM proposal, gives background information on how the proposal has been developed and discussed, and some helpful maps and road design illustrations.

Read the PDF

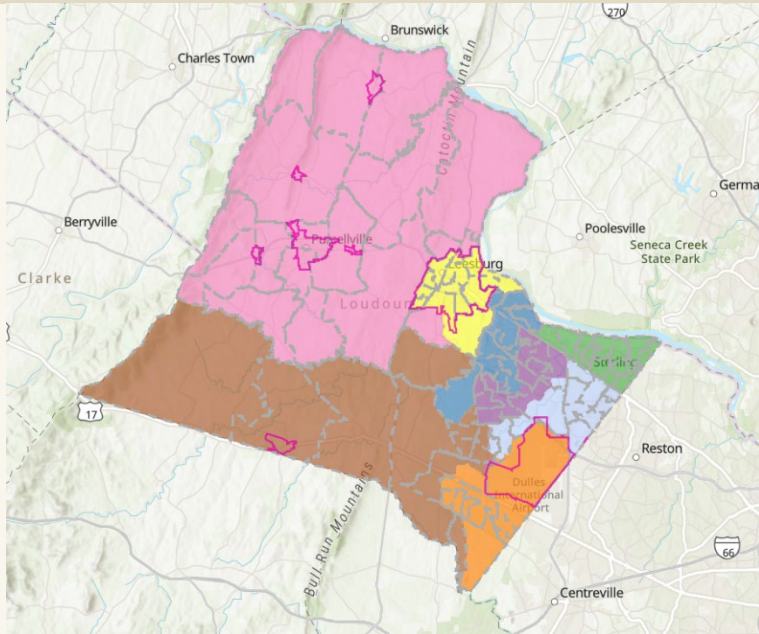


Image Credit: [Screenshot](#) of LT-Revised 1 Plan on Loudoun's online mapping system / Loudoun County Government

Redistricting Goes to Public Hearing – May 11

I put this on your radar in my [March newsletter](#) and my [April news alert](#), but wanted to give you one more reminder: The [LT-Revised 1 Plan](#) to redistrict Loudoun County is coming our [May 11 public hearing](#).

If you want to tell the Board what you think about this redistricting proposal—including your thoughts about its decision to trim us to just one Western Loudoun supervisor, instead of our current two—this is your last, best chance to do that.

To speak at the public hearing, your best option is to sign up in advance by **calling 703-777-0200 before noon on May 11**. If you miss that deadline to sign up in advance, you can still show up 30 minutes before the public hearing starts and sign up to speak on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition, you can send your comments directly to the Board, either by emailing the whole Board at bos@loudoun.gov or by using Loudoun's [online comment form for the redistricting process](#).

Learn More

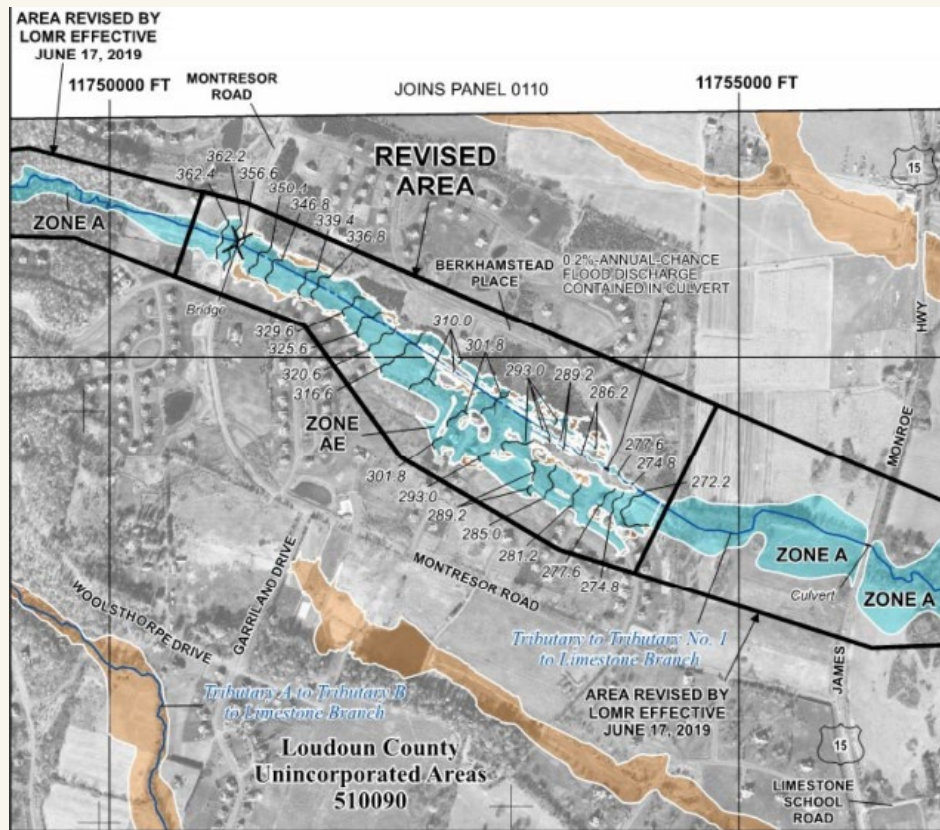


Image Credit: [FEMA Map](#) from FGOEDC meeting on Oct 13, 2020 / Loudoun County Government

New County Grant Fund Being Prepared for Selma Estates Flood Mitigation

I have some good news for our Selma Estates residents. This community has spent years dealing with an infuriating flooding situation, which the prior Board started [trying to fix](#) in 2019, and which I've been working on since my first days on the Board in 2020. At long last, we've confirmed that a county grant fund is in the works to solve this issue.

[As of April 21](#), several county departments are working together to establish this grant fund. It will provide the financial help that the remaining eligible properties need to handle their flood mitigation. The departments are working on a detailed proposal as we speak. Setting up this grant fund will require a new county ordinance, as well as the guidelines for how to handle the grant process.

Staff aims to bring this proposal to the Board in summer 2022. I am grateful for [all of the hard work](#) they've poured into this project, and I look forward to getting the Selma Estates flooding problem solved for good. I know the Selma residents are ready for that too! We're getting there, folks. Bless you for your patience.

Read County Update

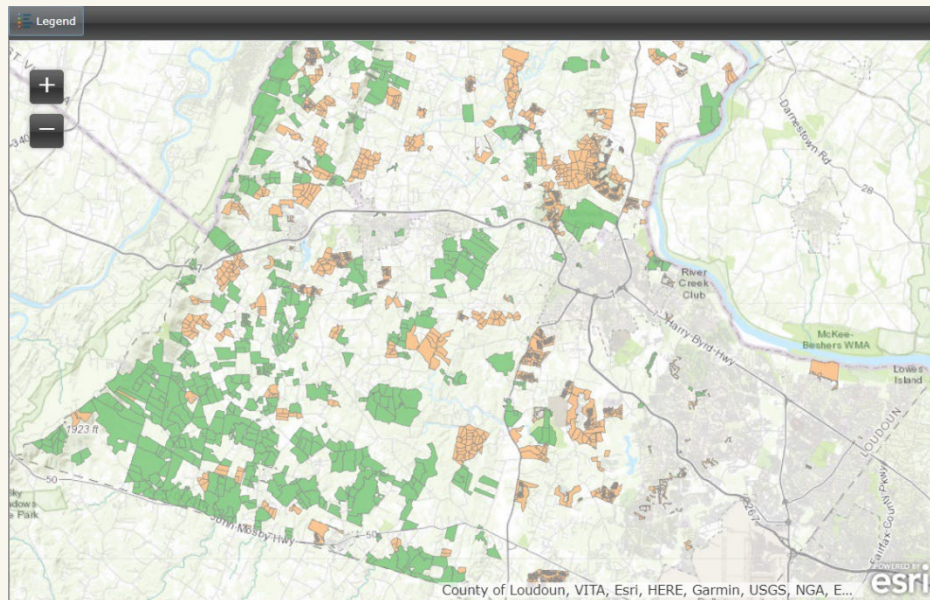


Image Credit: [Screenshot](#) of embedded map of conservation easements / Loudoun County Government

Free Seminar on Preserving Land Through Conservation Easements – May 4

[Conservation easements](#) have become an increasingly popular method of preserving rural land in Western Loudoun. There are currently over 75,000 acres of land protected by conservation easements in Loudoun. You can see where they're located on the county's [interactive map](#).

If you'd like to learn more about these easements, a free seminar is being held on **Wednesday, May 4, at 6:00 PM**, at the [Lovettsville Game Protective Association's](#) Club Hall. Attendees are invited to a free barbeque dinner along with the seminar. There will be presentations by attorneys, landowners, conservation buyers, and others, including

information about the financial and tax benefits of putting land into a conservation easement.

To attend, please RSVP to Brook Middleton at the Virginia Easement Exchange no later than **April 29**. You can reach Brook by phone at (540) 364-8071 or by email at dbmcpa@aol.com. If you have further questions about the event, please feel free to call Fred George at (703) 623-5134 or email him at flgeorge3@aol.com.

- **WHERE:** Lovettsville Game Protective Association's Club Hall, 16 South Berlin Turnpike, Lovettsville, VA 20180
- **WHEN:** May 4, starting at 6:00 PM
- **RSVP:** Contact Brook Middleton by April 29, (540) 364-8071, dbmcpa@aol.com

A special thanks to Supervisor Buffington and his team for [sharing the news](#) about this timely opportunity!



Image Credit: [Logo](#) from All Points Broadband's website / All Points Broadband

Sign Up for All Points Broadband Expansion

Do you have trouble getting broadband access where you live? If so, I'd encourage you to [register your location](#) with the All Points Broadband website. It's the only way for interested potential customers to be included in this new fiber expansion, which is bringing internet access to [about 8,600 unserved residents and businesses](#) in rural parts of Loudoun. They're expecting to start construction this summer, so now's the time to sign up.

Registering your address comes with no up-front cost and no obligations. Just plug in your information, click Submit, and find out if your home is within range of the project. If it is, All Points will keep you informed with updates as the project moves forward.

If you have more questions about the project, All Points maintains their FAQs [here](#), and the county has set up a [broadband expansion webpage](#) with further information.

Sign Up



Image Credit: [Logo](#) from the event's website / Purcellville Music & Arts Festival

Purcellville Music and Arts Festival – April 30

The Purcellville Music and Arts Festival will be held on **Saturday, April 30, from 12:00 to 7:00 PM** at Fireman's Field in Purcellville. It's a free event, open to the public. Festivities will include live music on multiple stages, an art exhibit (courtesy of the Purcellville Arts Council), local artisans and organizations, and food and drinks. There will be also be games for all ages, face painting, glitter tattoos, sidewalk chalk art, and t-shirt decorating.

- **WHEN:** Saturday, April 30, from 12:00–7:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Fireman's Field Park, 250 South Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, VA
- **COST:** Free - no registration or admission required.

Learn More



Image Credit: [Background Image](#) from the Barrel Tasting event page / Loudoun Wineries & Winegrowers Association

Loudoun County Barrel Tasting – April 30

The Loudoun Wineries & Winegrowers Association and Loudoun County Economic Development have teamed up to present this year's [Loudoun County Barrel Tasting](#). Local winemakers are opening up their cellars and offering wine tastings and samplings directly from the barrel.

- **WHEN:** Saturday, April 30, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- **WHERE:** A number of participating wineries. You can see the whole list of wineries [here](#), and a map of them [here](#).
- **COST:** Tickets for the event are \$45 per person if you order online, or \$55 per person if you buy them at the door at Lost Creek Winery or 868 Estate Vineyards.

The event organizers have collected these helpful tips for attendees:

- **Starting Winery:** You are **required** to select your starting winery. Then you are welcome to visit any and all of the other participating wineries. You won't receive your registration if you don't start at your selected starting winery. No exceptions!
- **Limited Check-ins:** Each participating winery has a limited number of check-ins. Once the number is reached then the winery is sold out and can not accept anymore check-ins, and you will need to select another starting winery.

- **Wristbands:** Attendees will receive a wristband upon check-in. A ticket admits 1 person into the event. No replacement for lost wristbands, a new one must be purchased.
- **Photo ID:** Be prepared to show your photo ID. No ID = no admittance.
- **Everyone Checks In:** Each person in your party will need to be present when checking in, wineries need to check ID's & attach wristbands to each attendee.
- **Using Your Wristband:** Be prepared to show your wristband at each winery you visit to let wineries know you've checked-in & are an event participant.
- **Adults Only:** This event is for adults only. No one under the age of 21 is allowed to attend the Barrel Tasting. This includes infants.
- **No Dogs:** Please do not bring dogs to the Barrel Tasting.
- **Ending Time:** Participating wineries will stop pouring at 5:00 PM, even if their normal tasting room hours are later.
- **Cutoff Limit:** No winery will continue to serve or sell wine to any guest who appears intoxicated, even if they have a limo or designated driver.
- **No refunds.** This event takes place rain or shine.

And because they've clearly gotten these questions before, the organizers have also prepared these two FAQs:

1. **Do I have to bring my printed ticket to the event?** Either print your ticket or show it on your phone, and bring your photo ID for age verification.
2. **Can I switch my starting winery?** No. We cannot change your starting location. You must check in at the winery you chose at registration. No exceptions!

Get Tickets



UPCOMING EVENTS AT MORVEN PARK

Image Credit: [Image](#) from Morven Park's website / Morven Park (trimmed from original)

Here are some of the highlights from Morven Park upcoming events calendar. There's more events than I could easily fit in one email—including two more dressage competitions—so I recommend checking out their entire calendar, [here](#).



Image Credit: [Photo](#) from Visit Loudoun's Spring Horse Trials webpage / Visit Loudoun

**Loudoun Hunt Pony Club Spring Horse Trials –
April 30–May 1**

The Loudoun Hunt Pony Club is holding their Spring Horse Trials on **April 30–May 1, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

This is one of two main events that the club uses to fund its educational opportunities. Their spring event is held each year at Morven Park's International Equestrian Center, while their summer event is held at Oatlands in Leesburg.

Learn More



Image Credit: [Photo](#) from Morven Park's Spring Horse Trials webpage / Morven Park (trimmed from original)

Open Cross-Country Schooling Day – May 3

Morven Park is opening its cross country courses for a schooling day. Those courses will be set just as they were for the Loudoun Hunt Pony Club Horse Trials (mentioned above). The schooling day will be held on **May 3 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

The cost is \$50 per horse/rider. Attendees should register upon arrival. Must have a current (paper) Coggins and 2022 Hold Harmless form (you can download the Hold Harmless form [here](#)).

For more questions about this event, you can email EqOffice@MorvenPark.org or call 703-777-2414, extension 6614.

Learn More



Image Credit: [Map](#) of route for Walking for Water 2022 / Wisdom Spring

Walk For Water – May 7

Heritage High School and Tuscarora High School Walking for Water clubs are teaming up with Wisdom Spring to help with their global water projects. Join the East Coast team as they “walk for water” to raise money to build wells in Africa, India and Nepal. The day is filled with the walk itself, games, face painting, raffles, music, food and fun for all ages!

The price is \$20 per adult, \$15 per child/student. Please contact SHOUGHLINKS@ME.COM for event and registration details.

Learn More



Image Credit: [Photo](#) from CDCTA's 2022 Dressage Show Facebook post / CDCTA (trimmed from original)

CDCTA Dressage Show – May 7-8

The Commonwealth Dressage & Combined Training Association (CDCTA) is holding their dressage show on **May 7–8, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.**

When we last checked, the CDCTA was still looking for volunteers to help with the show. If you're interested in helping out, please email Miranda Kettlewell at cdcta.dressage@gmail.com.

Learn More



Image Credit: [Image](#) from 2022 Crossroads Exhibit webpage / Morven Park

New Smithsonian Exhibit – Now Through June 6

This year, Morven Park is [one of just six sites in Virginia](#) that's been chosen to host the Smithsonian exhibit [Crossroads: Change in Rural America](#).

Sponsored by the Virginia Association of Museums and Virginia Humanities, this exhibit [traces the changes that have transformed rural and small town communities](#) (such as the ones in Loudoun) over the last century, and explores the forces that have shaped and reshaped rural American life.

Crossroads is a free exhibit—no ticket is required. It is currently housed in Morven Park's Winmill Carriage Museum, and it will remain there through June 6. You can see it Fridays through Mondays, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

[Learn More](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS IN LOVETTSVILLE

Image Credit: [Town Logo](#) from Lovettsville's website / Lovettsville Town Government

Here are some upcoming events and opportunities in the Town of Lovettsville.



Image Credit: Image from Lovettsville April newsletter / Lovettsville Town Government

Oktoberfest Inventory Day – April 30

If you like to spring clean, are fond of organizing, and would like to earn some volunteer hours while helping out with Oktoberfest, then Lovettsville wants your help. (Bonus points if you have carpentry experience!)

The Lovettsville Oktoberfest Committee is planning an Oktoberfest Inventory Day on **Saturday, April 30, from 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM**. A pizza lunch will be provided. During the inventory day, volunteers will help with tasks like:

- Checking all the LED lights to see if any need to be replaced.
- Setting up the wiener dog stadium to assess it & ensure it has all of its pieces.
- Assessing the current bunting.
- Checking extension cords to ensure they work.
- Doing an inventory of the Kinderfest toys.
- Setting up & assess the pop-up tents.
- Inventorying & assessing all sponsorship banners.
- Inventorying cones/barrels to see how many they have around town.
- Assessing the wooden towers to see if they can be saved or need to be rebuilt.
- Assessing the stage wagon, the wiener dog stage, and anything else we may find.

If you'd like to help, please make sure to [sign up in advance](#) so the organizers can order enough pizza for everyone.

Sign Up



Image Credit: Image from Lovettsville April newsletter / Lovettsville Town Government

Mason Freedom Lodge 118 Food Drive – April 30

The Masons of Freedom Lodge No. 118 will be [holding a food drive](#) to support the Western Loudoun Food Pantry on **Saturday, April 30, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**

If you'd like to contribute, please make sure to read the food pantry's [updated needs list](#). Donations of non-perishable items can be dropped off at the Lodge at 28 East Broad Way in Lovettsville.

Learn More



Image Credit: [Image](#) from Lovettsville's town website / Lovettsville Town Government

Lovettsville Needs Committee Volunteers

Lovettsville is [seeking volunteers](#) for its town committees, and they're very clear on the fact that you don't have to live in Lovettsville in order to serve.

The town have three main committees and a collection of subcommittees:

- **Commerce and Business Development:** Increasing collaboration with businesses, increase marketing for the town and businesses, Public Relations and Information Flow, etc.
- **Parks, Infrastructure, Environment & Utilities Committee:** Provide recommendations to the town on Parks, Infrastructure, Water & Sewer, etc.
 - **Tree Board Subcommittee**
- **Events Committee:** Oversee all the event subcommittees and work to create efficiencies
 - **LOVE Oktoberfest Committee**
 - **LOVE Summer Subcommittee:** Movies/Concerts on the Green
 - **LOVE Winter Subcommittee:** Light-Up-Lovettsville, Tree Lighting, Berserkle on the Squirkle
 - **LOVE Mayfest Subcommittee**
 - **LOVE America Subcommittee:** Memorial Day, Town portion of our annual 3rd of July Parade, Patriot Day, Veteran's Day

If any of those sound interesting to you, Lovettsville would love it if you would fill out [their town volunteer application](#).

Volunteer Today

LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT



Image Credit: [Logo](#) from Long Stone Farm's website / Long Stone Farm

Local Business Highlight: Long Stone Farm

[Long Stone Farm](#) is a grass-based livestock farm in Lovettsville, right at the base of Short Hill Mountain. Its owners, Justin and Casey Wisch, raise non-GMO pastured pork, beef, chicken, and eggs (chicken & duck) on their 200 acre farm. You can find their produce at their [main farm store](#) in Lovettsville and at their [Route 9 Market](#) in Paeonian Springs.



Image Credit: [Photo](#) of Justin and Casey Wisch, who own the farm / Long Stone Farm

The farm offers [bulk meat shares](#), as well as standard cuts, for [pork](#), [beef](#), and [chicken](#). Their [eggs](#) come from Lohmann Brown chickens and Khaki Campbell and Indian Runner ducks. I'd be remiss if I didn't also mention their [small batch salami](#).

Long Stone Farm is one of the farms on this year's Spring Farm Tour. They also have [other events](#) throughout the year, including their Sunday Supper educational evenings in the fall, where they pair an educational evening about the farm with bluegrass music, locally produced wines and ciders, and dinner prepared by a visiting chef.

[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

CPAM: As I wrote above in this email, a CPAM is coming to the Board's public hearing on March 15. That CPAM will revise Loudoun's 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan to include our plan to upgrade and improve Route 15 north of Leesburg. I've included a full article on that above.

Presentation to Leesburg: Loudoun County also gave an update to the Town of Leesburg on Route 15 North Project Improvements, including this Route 15 North Widening project, during the Leesburg Town Council Work Session on April 25. You can read the meeting agenda [here](#) and watch the video of that presentation [here](#).

Design Status: Phase I design is 90% complete, and was submitted for stakeholder review and approval on March 31. The design team's work involving floodplain studies and alterations are laying the groundwork for a Phase II 60% design review by stakeholders. That review should take place in summer 2022, at the same time that right-of-way acquisition begins.

Estimated Construction Schedule: Phase I construction is currently estimated for 2024 to 2026. Phase II construction is currently estimated for 2026 to 2028.

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

No update since last time. 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

ROUTE 15 SOUTH

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](#).

On February 1, 2022, the study's [final report](#) was presented to the full Board. Three of the report's short-term recommendations—remove overgrown vegetation to fix sight lines, add some additional street signs, and close the passing zone south of Braddock Road—were sent immediately to VDOT. The study's full recommendations were also forwarded to TLUC (our Transportation and Land Use Committee) to be discussed at a future meeting.

Recommendations Presented to TLUC

On April 20, TLUC was given a full presentation on the study's final report and on the Board's direction for improving Route 15 north of Leesburg. This was a chance for TLUC to take a first look at these recommendations and direction.

The presentation drew TLUC's attention to six main issues:

- **Recurring Congestion.** Route 15 north of Leesburg is a major regional roadway between Virginia and Maryland, and experiences recurring congestion. Before the pandemic, it was actually on COG's "Top 10 Most-Congested Corridors in the Washington Region" list of infamy.
- **Context-Sensitive Design.** Route 15 is a major touring route for exploring our area's historic and scenic attractions. It is a National Scenic Byway, and is part of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground corridor from Gettysburg to Monticello.
- **Safety.** DTCL studied Route 15's safety issues, and found that this stretch of Route 15 has a higher crash rate than the Route 7 segments between the Leesburg bypass and Fairfax County, in terms of fatal or severe injury crashes.

- **Emergency Response and Speed Enforcement.** This corridor doesn't have shoulders, which makes it hard to pull a speeding driver over. The congestion is also causing concerns for emergency response times.
- **Transit Service.** When Metrorail opens in the coming year, the focus for transit services is expected to turn northward and westward.
- **Public Input:** There are a variety of public perspectives on exactly how to fix this stretch of Route 15, and on various parts of the proposed CPAM.

You can download a full copy of that TLUC information item [here](#), and of staff's presentation slides [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

The storm water infrastructure has been completely installed, as have the curbs and gutters between the WO&D Trail Bridge and the Tuscarora Creek Bridge. Work crews have finished their work on the bridge approaches for the bridges over Tuscarora Creek and the W&OD Trail, connecting the bridge decks to the adjacent roadway. They will do the final grading at trails for the next several weeks, in preparation for pouring the asphalt. Ongoing work tasks also include fine grading to prepare for seeding in unpaved areas as weather 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: The design team made progress on the roadway, drainage and stormwater management design for the 60% plans, and a traffic capacity and queuing analysis memorandum has been submitted for VDOT's review. The design team initiated preparation of the limited access control change at the Dulles Greenway ramps.

Next Quarter: Staff expects to submit the 60% plans next quarter.

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 60% intermediate design plans are completed and are under review.

The second neighborhood meeting on this project 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 presentation has also been [posted online](#).

The next steps for this project will involve addressing and resolving comments received about the 60% design plans, and then preparing and submitting the 90% design plans.

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 issued a design RFP on February 23.

Next Quarter: DFB will receive design proposals and provide those to the PAG to be evaluated.

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 County held a virtual design public meeting for this project on Thursday, April 14.

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

The county is continuing to prepare the plats and coordinate with utility providers. Land is 15% complete, and is expected to finish up in fall 2022. The revised Environmental Assessment has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and by VDOT.

Based on the timing of appropriations, VDOT Smart Scale funding for this project and utility relocation are both expected to start in fall 2022. Construction of the proposed interchange is expected to begin in 2023 and should 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

There has been a delay in producing the steel girders needed to finish the bridge. Those girders are now expected to be delivered in mid-June. There's no way to accurately estimate the bridge's completion date until those actually arrive.

The Featherbed Lane closure at Catoctin Creek and the detour will remain in place until this project is complete.

Route 9 & Route 287 Roundabout

Summary of the Project

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

Latest Update

The roadway plan approval was received back in December 2021. Right now the project design team is coordinating with utilities within the project limits about relocation plans and needs. Right-of-Way (ROW) activities are also underway.

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 update since last time. 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

No update since last time. 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.

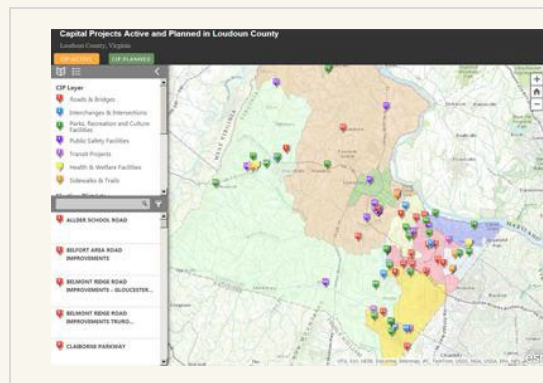
This project is managed by the [Town of Lovettsville](#).

Latest Update

This Quarter: The Town of Lovettsville is exploring the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help finance this project. The design work is moving close to its 100% milestone. The site plan will be used to install the storm sewer component as a first phase of construction—that should be installed by the end of this quarter.

Next Quarter: The town will work with the design consultant to finalize their revised schedule, and to finish up the 100% construction site plans.

ROAD RESOURCES



Loudoun's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

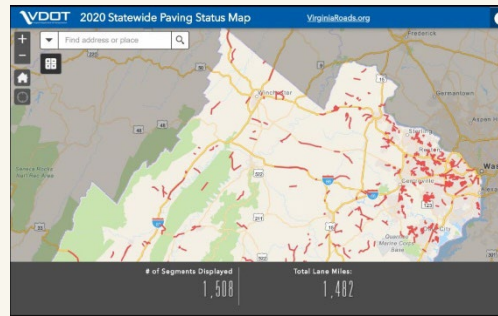
Use the county's interactive map to track capital improvement projects in Loudoun. It will show you active projects (currently funded) and planned projects (part of a later budget plan).

[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](#)



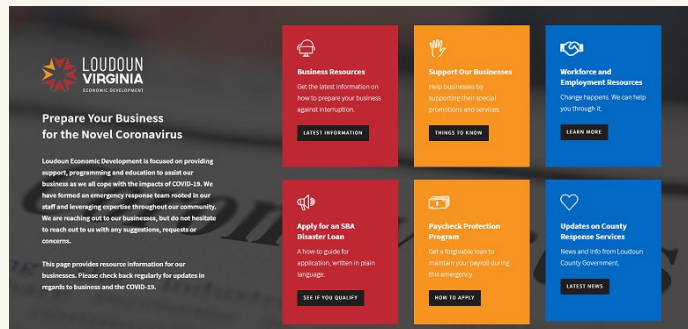
BUSINESS RESOURCES



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 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 interested in getting more of them, click the button to subscribe.

Subscribe

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

Sent by stacy.carey@loudoun.gov powered by

