

The nation's top bond rating agencies have reaffirmed Loudoun County's triple-A rating on its general obligation bonds. The County has held the Aaa rating from Moody's since 2004, and AAA from Fitch Ratings and S&P Global since 2005. Why does this matter to our taxpayers? Because, with these top credit ratings, Loudoun can borrow money to construct critical roads, fire stations, parks, libraries and other infrastructure, at a lower cost than would otherwise be the case, saving taxpayers many millions of dollars over the life of these projects.

Once again, Loudoun's strong financial management, low debt profile and diversified economy have been recognized with the highest possible credit ratings. It's noteworthy that in the second year of the pandemic, Wall Street recognizes that the Board and County staff have continued to maintain financial flexibility while carefully managing the County's finances and capital program. The County team did a great job during all three presentations.

Vigil for Victims in Buffalo



Faith leaders from across the county assembled in Leesburg to pray and march for the victims of the mass shooting in Buffalo, NY. Leaders joined together with members of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i and Sikh congregations.

Loudoun County Latino Festival



At the Latino Festival, food and drink vendors served Latin American specialties to the hundreds of residents who turned out. Textiles from the Andes were on display. While the festival celebrated Latino culture, the crowd included a mix of nationalities. Among those attending were Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk and Vice-Mayor Marty Martinez.

Small Business Week



Michael Pearce (center left) moved from his native New Zealand, came to Leesburg, and founded [Vino Bistro](#), an elegant but fun restaurant with an extensive wine and specialty cocktails list in the Village at Leesburg. For small business week, I joined with Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk (2nd from right) and Councilmember Kari Nacy (far right) to celebrate [Vino Bistro's](#) resilience during the pandemic, along with its top notch food and drink.

Local Wood



Scott Carpenter (2nd from left) and Charlie Beach (far right) have relocated [Local Wood](#) from Virginia Village to next to The Branch, the renovated bowling alley and restaurant at 49 Catoctin Circle, SE. On Wednesday, Mayor Burk (center left), Councilmember Nacy (center right) and I (far left), were introduced to the elm tree that had stood for decades in Union Cemetery before succumbing to old age. The slab directly to the right of the Mayor was taken from that tree.

Youth in Government Day



May 3rd was Youth in Government Day, an opportunity for local high school students countywide to meet and speak with Board members and learn about the complexities that

Loudoun County officials are faced with when making decisions on behalf of local government and citizens. I am pictured with Angel Hernandez Ramos from Tuscarora High School.

Fiscal Benefits of Data Centers

The Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) is reviewing land use policies regarding data centers in the County. The committee will be meeting on June 1st to continue the discussion. Below is fiscal information about data centers based on information from County staff that will be part of the discussion.

Staff estimates that in Fiscal Year ("FY") 2022, data centers will generate \$575 million in General Fund local tax revenue, including real property taxes, business personal property taxes on computer equipment as well as furniture and fixtures, and business license taxes. This equates to 31 percent of the FY 2022 Adopted Budget for the General Fund. In comparison, the total land area for currently occurring data center development is less than 1.5% of total land area in the County. Data centers are an extremely efficient use of land from a fiscal standpoint and this comparison illustrates that data centers occupy a small share of land in the County. This is beneficial to residents as it allows the Board to keep taxes low to provide and expand services such as education, transportation, mental health and fire and rescue. In fact, assuming the same level of service, without this industry, the real property tax would have needed to be \$1.430 per \$100 of assessed value compared to the TY 2022 adopted rate of \$0.895 per \$100 of assessed value. This is not a burden I would want to place on residents.

That leads to the question of: Does the approval of additional data centers continues to positively benefit the county from a revenue perspective? Yes. Data centers are high-value properties, comprising \$11.79 billion in assessed value for Tax Year ("TY") 2022, accounting for approximately half of the value of all commercial properties in the County and approximately 10 percent of the taxable real property portfolio. From real property taxes alone, data centers are estimated to generate \$105.5 million in General Fund tax revenue for TY 2022, the equivalent of almost nine cents of the real property tax rate.

Data centers are also a major component of the Route 28 Special Improvements Tax District and the Metrorail Service District. Real property assessments for data centers comprise 58 percent of each of these districts, resulting in another \$21.2 million in special tax district revenues. When General Fund and special tax districts are combined, data centers are estimated to generate \$126.6 million in real property tax revenue for TY 2022. This represents a growth rate of 390 percent since TY 2016.

A 2022 study from the Northern Virginia Technology Council found that data centers in Loudoun County have a 13.2 fiscal impact ratio, meaning that they pay \$13.20 of local property taxes for every \$1.00 of public services associated with them being in Loudoun County. Growth in the data center footprint is beneficial to the County as commercial properties generally require less government services than residential and data centers are some of the most valuable non- residential properties.

Data centers are a vital part of Loudoun's economy. That being said, as with any industry, there is always room for improvement. Some of the biggest complaints we hear about

data centers is that they are visually unappealing, and they are noisy. The industry is making many improvements on both these fronts and is more environmentally friendly. I believe the TLUC discussion is worthwhile and look forward to ensuring that the data center industry continues to feel welcome in Loudoun County.

Joint Board and Town Council Meeting

Most of the discussion at the Joint Board and Leesburg Town Council meeting on April 28th was centered around a revenue sharing agreement between the Town and the County over data centers in the Compass Creek development, which is in the Joint Land Management Area (JLMA). The Town is seeking a revenue sharing agreement relating to properties currently owned by Microsoft and Peterson Companies within the JLMA.

During the adoption of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, the Board majority (Chair Randall and I opposed) changed the municipal water and sewer agreement with the Town in the JLMA. The changed policy states the central system (Loudoun Water) shall be the presumed utility service provider in the Leesburg JLMA for new service put in place after adoption of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan. If the property owner is not able to come to an agreement with the central system provider or the central system provider declines or is unable to provide utility service to the Leesburg JLMA or any portion thereof, utility service may be provided by the municipal system.

The Town made significant infrastructure investments to provide utilities in the JLMA including the Compass Creek area based on an agreement that had been in place for decades. Microsoft was already under development and the Town stepped up to ensure the needed utilities were provided on their schedule without additional cost to the company or the County. I appreciate the Mayor's and Town's position. The County is reluctant to do anything that provides less certainty to Microsoft including the concern about double taxation.

There was consensus for conversations to continue regarding revenue sharing. I want to ensure data centers are not surprised by double taxation or that there is a disincentive for them to come to Loudoun. I believe the Town could benefit from having the data center revenue and look forward to continued discussions.

Other topics discussed included future space needs for the County, memorandum of understanding for County services, and plastic bag tax revenue.

Route 15 North

At the May 11th public hearing, Supervisor Kershner moved that the Board of Supervisors forward [CPAM-2021-0002, US Route 15 North – Widening and Safety Improvements](#) from Montresor Road to the Maryland state line to the June 21st Board business meeting for action. Chair Randall made a friendly amendment which was accepted to include both the western and eastern bypass options for further analysis by staff. The motion, as amended, passed 6-2-1.

I supported Supervisor Kershner's motion because this is truly about saving lives and we have lost far too many lives on Route 15 because previous Boards did not take action. The State Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment evaluated the total number of crashes and compared similar road facilities but did not differentiate between the severity of crash types. The results of this analysis indicated that the Route 7 corridor from Route 28 to the Fairfax County line has more crashes than Route 15. To gain further understanding of the crash risk of the Route 15 North corridor compared to other facilities, DTCI conducted an additional study that evaluated the most significant fatal and severe injury crashes, and developed a crash rate. The results of this analysis indicated that Route 15 North has more fatal and severe injury crashes than Route 7.

Every transportation project has a phased approach with design, engineering, and construction. Delaying this project will be more lives lost on the most dangerous road segment in Loudoun County.

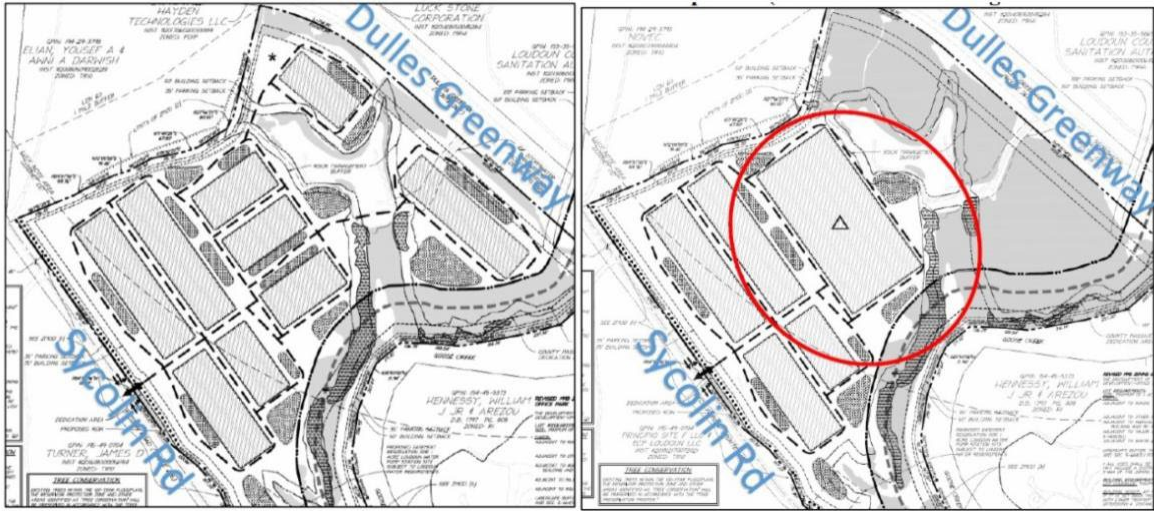
True North Data Center

At the May 17th Board business meeting, I enthusiastically supported a [Zoning Concept Plan Amendment](#) to amend the previously approved proffers and concept development plan associated with True North Data (ZMAP-2017-0003) in order to eliminate two building footprints, including one closest to the Goose Creek, increase the amount of proffered open space from 64.25 acres to 71 acres, protect a rare Northern Piedmont Mafic Barren community, and allow for the option to consolidate three previously approved buildings into one building. The maximum height would increase from 35 feet to 56 feet with one consolidated data center building. Supervisor Kershner's motion passed 7-2.

The original True North Data application was the most environmentally friendly application from data centers at that time. The applicant ensured there was no pollution going into the Goose Creek, put in place a pollinator garden with native plants and protected the wood turtle habitat. Since then, this applicant has worked to make it even better and I thank them for their dedication and commitment to preserve the scenic Goose Creek. They are helping us grow our economy in an environmentally neutral and beneficial way.

Original application has 2 buildings near Dulles Greenway

Approved consolidated building and elimination of 2 buildings



Westpark Golf Course

When the County entered into the purchase and sale agreement for the Westpark Golf Course property, the purchase included the following closing conditions.

- The property owner had to maintain ownership of the property for at least a year.
- The County did not purchase the entire Westpark property and so the property owner has to subdivide the parcel with the commercial area on it so he can retain it.
- A conservation easement satisfactory to the County had to be negotiated and placed on the property.

As of last week, the subdivision plat is in its final reviews by the Town and the conservation easement is close to being completed. The County intends to use the property for wetlands, stormwater permit requirements, and other environmental related uses, and the language is being finalized to ensure that these uses are permitted by the conservation easement. These processes will probably take another 45 to 60 days to resolve with closing likely to be later this summer. Assuming the outstanding items for closing can be completed in the next months, the public process for the park should begin at the end of this year or early next year. The Board direction once the County takes ownership of the property is to start the planning process for a passive park, focused on the wetlands, stormwater, and environmental uses noted above. A park use is also a by-right use under Town zoning.

Warm Regards,

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Business of the Month

7x24 Exchange



7x24 Exchange DC Chapter is an organization of about 300 member data center companies all around Northern Virginia. We have a huge membership base and various committees that help underrepresented groups pursue STEM programs in partnership with Loudoun Education Foundation, provide food for underprivileged students to eat over the weekend in partnership with Backpack Coalition, provide clothing and monetary donations to Women Giving Back, work to empower the youth and support their self-sufficiency in partnership with Mobile Hope, and support opportunities for veterans. We also provide education on the various career opportunities within our industry and created a [video to educate](#) elementary, middle, and high school students about what data centers are and support NVCC Loudoun Campus's 2-yr Engineering In Tech programs.



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner



Tree Planting on Leesburg Elementary School: In celebration of Arbor Day, the Town of Leesburg's Tree Commission, along with Councilman Zack Cummings and I, joined about 75 fourth graders on Friday, April 29, to plant a Black Gum tree in front of Leesburg Elementary School. During the process, Commissioners Pat Hatfield and Phil Marshall explained how to plant a tree properly and why it is important to dig, "an ugly pit". The Town's Urban Forester and Landscape Specialist Tyler Wright also explained the importance of trees and their multiple benefits to the community. Each student received a free Chickasaw Plum tree seedling to take home on behalf of the Tree Commission. The Town has been recognized as Tree City USA since 1989, for its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Anniversary of Thomas Balch Library: This year marks the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Thomas Balch Library. Named after Leesburg native Thomas Balch, a prominent Philadelphia attorney in the mid-19th century, the library building was dedicated in May 1922. In 1960 it became a free, though segregated, public library and in 1965,

following desegregation, its services became available to all persons. In 1974 it joined as a branch of the recently established Loudoun County Public Library system serving the community as a full service public library. When the county's new Rust Library opened in 1992, the Town acquired the Thomas Balch Library building, taking over its operation, and renaming it the Thomas Balch Library of Local History and Genealogy. A number of celebratory events will be held through May 2023. To learn more, call 703-737-7195 or visit [here](#).



A.V. Symington Aquatic Center: The A.V. Symington Aquatic Center will open for the summer season on Saturday, May 28. On Memorial Day weekend, the pool will be open from 12 to 8 pm on Saturday, May 28 through Monday, May 30. Town residents will be admitted at 11 am each day. Through June 15, while Loudoun County Public Schools remain in session, the pool will be open on Saturdays and Sundays only. Beginning on Thursday, June 16, the aquatic center will be open daily from 12 to 8 pm, with Town residents admitted at 11 am. The outdoor pool will be closed on July 4. The AV Symington Aquatic Center is located within Ida Lee Park and features a 600' lazy river, large slide tower with two body flumes, drop slide, 25-yard lap lane, two gang slides, water pipe fall, crossing feature, dumping buckets, little squirt whale and floating snake, as well as a large "beach" area with bubblers and water fountains, concession stand and grass picnic area. For more information, regarding hours, rates, passes, and rentals, please visit [here](#) or call the Aquatic Center at 703-779-5390.



Town Hall Art Exhibit: An open house will be held for the current art exhibit at Leesburg Town Hall on Friday, June 3 beginning at 6 pm. "A Touch of Whimsy" features approximately 30 pieces of artwork created by local resident Abigail Ryan. Vibrant colored horses, fairies, foxes, birds, and wild animals are depicted. The artwork consists of watercolors and mixed media using brush pens and blocks of dry ink, which help with the vivid colors. The open house is free and open to the public and will run until 7 pm. The exhibit will run through August.



Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' state-of-the-art traveling museum and art studio will visit the Town of Leesburg on Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5. The 53-foot, climate-controlled Volvo trailer will feature the exhibition, *Revealing and Obscuring Identity: Portraits from the Permanent Collection*. The exhibition of paintings, photographs, and

prints, by more than 10 artists, explore portraiture through a variety of periods, cultures, and styles. Themes include nature of art, the perception of beauty, and the cultural influences on identity. The exhibit will be open to the public, at Virginia Village (1 Fairfax Street, SE), on Saturday, June 4 from 9 am to 4 pm and on Sunday, June 5 from 9 am to 3 pm. Admission is free.



Acoustic on the Green: The Town of Leesburg's summer concert series, Acoustic on the Green, will return to the historic downtown beginning in June. Concerts will be held every Saturday through August. There will be no concert on Saturday, August 13. Concerts will be held on the Town Green, 25 W. Market Street, beginning at 7 pm. They are free and open to the public. No smoking, alcohol, or pets are allowed. Lawn chairs and blankets are advised. In case of inclement weather, the show will be cancelled. See the lineup [here](#).

Community Information



Virtual Trainings on Reversing Opioid Overdoses: The free, one-hour training covers: Signs of opioid overdose and how to respond to an opioid overdose emergency with the

administration of naloxone, a drug that can be used to treat narcotic overdoses in emergency situations. Participants who complete the training are eligible to receive free naloxone nasal spray. Anyone who uses opioids or knows someone who is using opioids is encouraged to attend. Those interested in attending **must preregister**. Below is the list of dates in June.

Friday, June 3rd, 12:00 pm. Register [here](#).
Monday, June 6th, 5:30 pm. Register [here](#).
Friday, June 17th, 12:00 pm. Register [here](#).
Friday, June 24th, 12:00 pm. Register [here](#).
Monday, June 27th, 5:30 pm. Register [here](#).

Tourism Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2023: Any organization interested in submitting a request for funds must complete the grant application [online](#) by 4:00 pm, Tuesday, May 31st. Additional information about the process, as well as a link to the online application form, may be found [here](#).

Nonprofits, municipalities, and businesses located in Loudoun County are invited to apply for funding for projects to attract regional and national visitors to Loudoun County. For FY 2023, which begins July 1, 2022, the Tourism Grant process will be supplemented by American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Virginia Tourism Corporation. As a result of these funds, awards for this fiscal year will be increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for eligible tourism, marketing and hospitality-related expenses.

Nonprofit Input for Coronavirus Relief Funding: Nonprofits serving Loudoun County residents are encouraged to complete a [survey](#) to assist the county in prioritizing programs for consideration in the second round of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The [online survey](#) will close Friday, June 10th.

This survey is a follow-up to a series of listening sessions through which Loudoun nonprofit organizations provided input on coronavirus relief funding earlier this year. Loudoun County expects to receive a second distribution of ARPA funding this year. The first distribution of \$40,162,454.50, which is half of the allocated amount of \$80,324,909, was received in June 2021. The Board of Supervisors appropriated the first portion of funds to address immediate needs to assist areas of the County hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, including \$2.5 million to nonprofit organizations. The second portion of funding also includes an allocation of \$2.5 million to nonprofits with a focus on continued COVID-19-related services.

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