

The 66th Annual Halloween Parade is tonight from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in historic downtown Leesburg. The Kiwanis club has single-handedly organized and sponsored the parade since 1964. Please remember to bring donations for Loudoun Hunger Relief to help fight food insecurity.

Early in person voting is available to all registered voters in Virginia, no excuse required until Saturday, November 5th. Please see the extended hours at the Leesburg early voting location, 750 Miller Drive, Suite C, in the Community Information section below. Remember Election Day is November 8th. Thank you!

Leesburg Police Department Compliment

One of Leesburg's residents and small business owners recently let me know that, when his business was burglarized, Leesburg Police officers were on the scene within minutes of the alarm going off. He described our officers as dedicated and compassionate and he felt reassured that these officers are fully invested in our community and are protecting the Town. He could not say enough good things about them and asked me to extend his appreciation to the Chief and the entire Leesburg Police Department. So, thank-you to the entire Leesburg Police Department, for looking out for the Town.

For more information about the Leesburg Police Department, please visit the Town's [website](#).

Grandmaster Choi



For 30 years, Grandmaster Choi, of USTMA in Leesburg, has raised tens of thousands of dollars each year to "Kick Cancer Out of the World." Here, he signs checks totaling more than \$17,000 to Blue Ridge Hospice. For more information, please visit [here](#).

NAACP Freedom Fund Gala



Christian Yohannes, a key leader in Loudoun's NAACP, spoke to a crowd of over 300 at the NAACP's annual Freedom Fund Gala on October 22nd.

Animal Advisory Committee

Maggie Steinhilper represents Leesburg on the Animal Advisory Committee. She thought we might want to know about the Animal Shelter's "Animal Services Events". Find out more [here](#).



FY 2024 Budget Guidance

With increasing prices due to inflation, I am cognizant of the financial difficulties residents are experiencing. At the October 18th Board business meeting, I made the following motions:

- To prepare the FY 2024 proposed budget with net new local tax funding split between County Government and Loudoun County Public Schools at a ratio of 40%/60%. (passed unanimously)
- To prepare the FY 2024 proposed budget at a personal property tax rate of \$4.15 per \$100 assessed value for TY 2023 and TY 2024. (passed 6-3)
- To prepare the FY 2024 proposed budget at the current tax rate (\$0.89) with the expenditures of compensation and base budget funded and an option to go up one- and one-half cents. (failed)

An amendment to prepare the FY 2024 proposed budget at a real property tax rate that approximates the revenues and expenditures for Scenario 3 (\$0.905), including options to increase or decrease the proposed budget passed 5 to 4 with myself, Supervisors Buffington, Kershner, Letourneau opposed.

Regarding the personal property tax, the Board made a commitment to lower this tax from \$4.20 to \$4.15 per \$100 assessed value for tax year 2023 and 2024. I believe we should keep this commitment especially with the rise in vehicle values. The total assessed value of vehicles went up by approximately 23 percent in tax year 2022. Earlier this year, we approved applying an 80 percent assessment ratio to blunt the impact of increased vehicle values on the car tax bills.

The fiscal guidance we are receiving now is a "behind the scenes look" at the budget process. These proposed tax rates are typically seen as preliminary and when the County

Administrator presents the FY 2024 budget to us in January, the numbers will likely look different. I will keep you updated as I find out more information.

Tax Relief for Veterans' Surviving Spouses

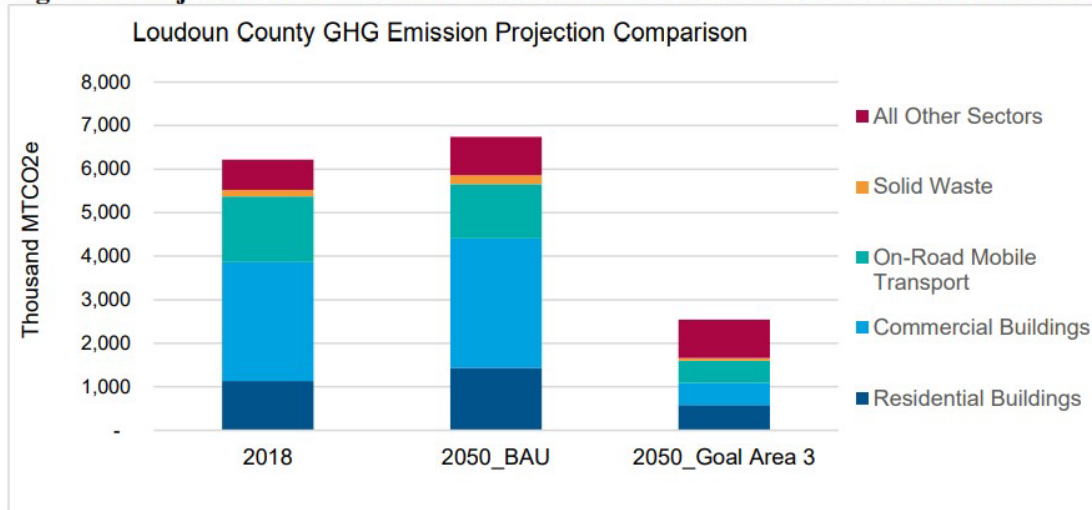
At the October 18th Board business meeting, the Board unanimously moved to advertise a public hearing for Wednesday, December 14th at 6:00 pm, to consider the new ordinance to establish a tax rate of one cent for real property owned by surviving spouses of certain persons killed in the line of duty. Currently, there is one family who would benefit from the tax classification. I am happy to support this ordinance because I feel we should support veterans' families.

County Energy Strategy Update

On October 18th, the Board received an update on the status of the [County Energy Strategy](#). The vision is to achieve the goal set by the Virginia Clean Economy Act for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 and a carbon free grid by 2050 while ensuring energy is clean, reliable, and affordable for all residents and businesses.

Figure 5 illustrates the change in 2050 emissions under the Business-as-Usual (BAU) and mitigation scenarios in the County Energy Strategy. BAU is the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that would be expected if energy use in the County were to continue as is.

Figure 5. Projected GHG Emissions in 2018 and 2050: BAU vs Goal Area 3 Scenarios



Three goal areas will help meet the vision: 1) County government leadership (i.e., Government by Example), 2) supporting renewable energy development in the County, for which government and community recommendations overlap, and 3) stimulating community-wide efforts. Each goal area contains several strategies consistent with the 2019 General Plan and examples of the types of actions that may be taken to implement

those strategies. Anyone interested in environmental- and energy-related news may subscribe by visiting the [County website](#).

Public Input Procedures for Non-English Speakers

On October 18th, we adopted changes to the Rules of Order that formalized the procedures for the translation of public input by non-English speakers during board meetings. In addition, the Board authorized advance online sign-up for all public speakers.

In an effort to ensure each speaker who appears before the Board has equal time while also assuring that members of the Board and the public can understand input from non-English speakers, the Board opted to continue the practice of providing consecutive interpretation. The consecutive interpretation process relies on an interpreter who is either present in the meeting room or participating in the meeting virtually and translates spoken words into English in real time. The Board's updated rules indicate that the additional time required for translations will not count against a speaker's total allotted time for public input or count against the total time allowed for public input.

Warm Regards,

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Business of the Month

USA Market

Located at 64 Plaza Street, NE in Leesburg this Latino grocery store and restaurant is always busy. Stop by to shop, carry out a meal, or sit in the restaurant.



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

Emergency Management Coordinator: Alex Fitch has been hired as the Town's new emergency management coordinator and will begin working for the Town on November 28. Fitch has spent 25 years with the City of Fairfax Fire Department, achieving the rank of Captain. For the last 16 years, he has also served as a member of the National Capital Region Incident Management Team. In addition, Fitch has served as an instructor at the FEMA Emergency Management Institute, and as a communications cache manager and team member with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, all while fulfilling his duties to the City of Fairfax Fire Department. He is a graduate of FEMA's National Emergency Management Basic Academy.

Virginia Main Street Forums: The Department of Economic Development will host two public forums, regarding the Virginia Main Street Program (VMS), on Wednesday, November 9 and Monday, November 14. Residents, business and property owners, and community leaders are encouraged to attend in order to gain further knowledge about VMS, as well as to provide feedback on the desire and need to advance the program. After collecting input and assessing interest, a presentation will be made to the Leesburg Town Council in January 2023 on whether or not to move forward. Both forums will take place from 7 to 9 pm at the Ida Lee Recreation Center. To register, visit [here](#).

20th Annual Freeze Your Gizzard: The Leesburg Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with Loudoun Hunger Relief, is hosting the 20th Annual Freeze Your Gizzard Cross Country 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run on Saturday, November 19. Runners of all skill levels and ages are invited to join this community tradition. Registration for the 5k is \$20 through August 31. Registration for the one mile fun run is \$15. Prices will increase on September 1. Register [here](#).

Fall Leaf Collection: Leesburg's annual fall bulk leaf collection is currently underway. Town crews will attempt to collect leaves from every street once per week but routes may take up to 10 business days. Inclement weather or a heavy fall of leaves may delay collection. Final leaf pickup will be the week of December 26 for any leaves placed at the curb no later than Sunday, December 25. After this date, leaves must be set out in yard waste cans or paper yard waste bags to be collected as trash. For more information, including the collection schedule, visit [here](#).



Community Information

November General Election: Loudoun County election officials remind voters of important dates and deadlines for the upcoming general election on Tuesday, November 8th.

- Extended early in person voting hours at the Office of Elections and Voter Registration, 750 Miller Dr. SE, Suite C, in Leesburg:
 - Tuesday, November 1 – office remains open until 7:00 pm.
 - Thursday, November 3 – office remains open until 7:00 pm.
 - Saturday, November 5 – office will be open from 9:00 am- 5:00 pm.
 - Saturday, November 5: Last day for early voting.
 - Tuesday, November 8: Election Day, in-person voting, 6:00 am – 7:00 pm.
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Survey of Youth & Parents to Help Young People Thrive: The Loudoun County Advisory Commission on Youth (ACOY) is conducting a survey to gather information that will help inform County leaders when making decisions about services and programs designed to meet the needs of young people in the community.

The survey is intended for youth ages 13-22 and their parents or guardians. The survey consists of 25 questions and is expected to take about ten minutes to complete. The survey covers four topic areas:

- Activities and interests.
- Drug and alcohol use.
- Mental health and stress management.
- Online access and activity.

Responses are anonymous. Participants are not required to provide any individually identifying information such as their name, home address, birth date, IP address, etc.

- [Take the survey in English.](#)
- [Take the survey in Spanish.](#)

The survey is open through Tuesday, December 6th. Information gathered from the survey will be used to inform ACOY's "State of Loudoun Youth" annual report to the Board.

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