

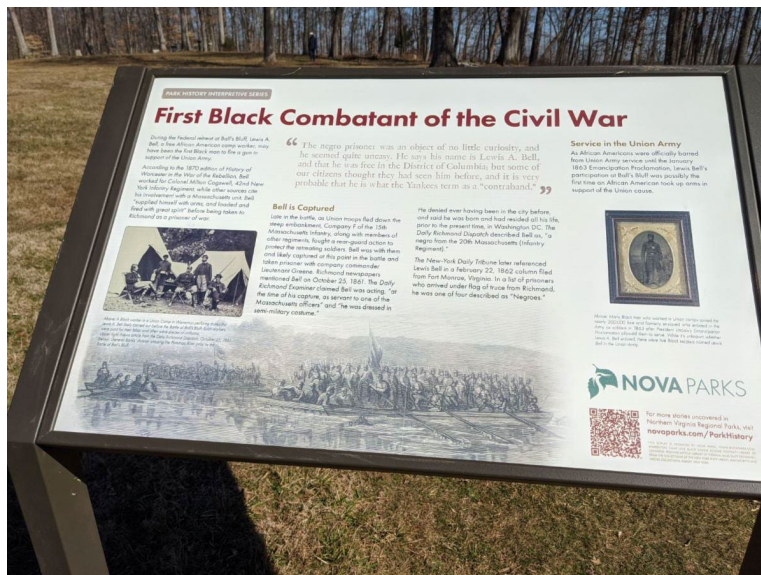
Leesburg District News



Kristen C. Umstatt
Leesburg District Supervisor

March is Women's History Month. Women have made a significant contribution to Loudoun in the development of the County as a renowned restaurant, craft beverage and tourism destination. Please see [Visit Loudoun's profiles](#) of some of the dynamic female entrepreneurs who make Loudoun such a unique and appealing place to visit.

Interpretive Sign Dedication at Ball's Bluff



During the Civil War battle of Ball's Bluff, Lewis A. Bell, a free African American, took up arms to protect the Union troops he served with. Thanks to Cate Magennis Wyatt and NOVA Parks for installing a plaque on the battlefield in his honor.

Leesburg's Tuscarora High School Band



Thanks to Leesburg's Tuscarora High School band members for playing at the opening of Leesburg's first Chase Bank. They absolutely made the event.

Morven Park

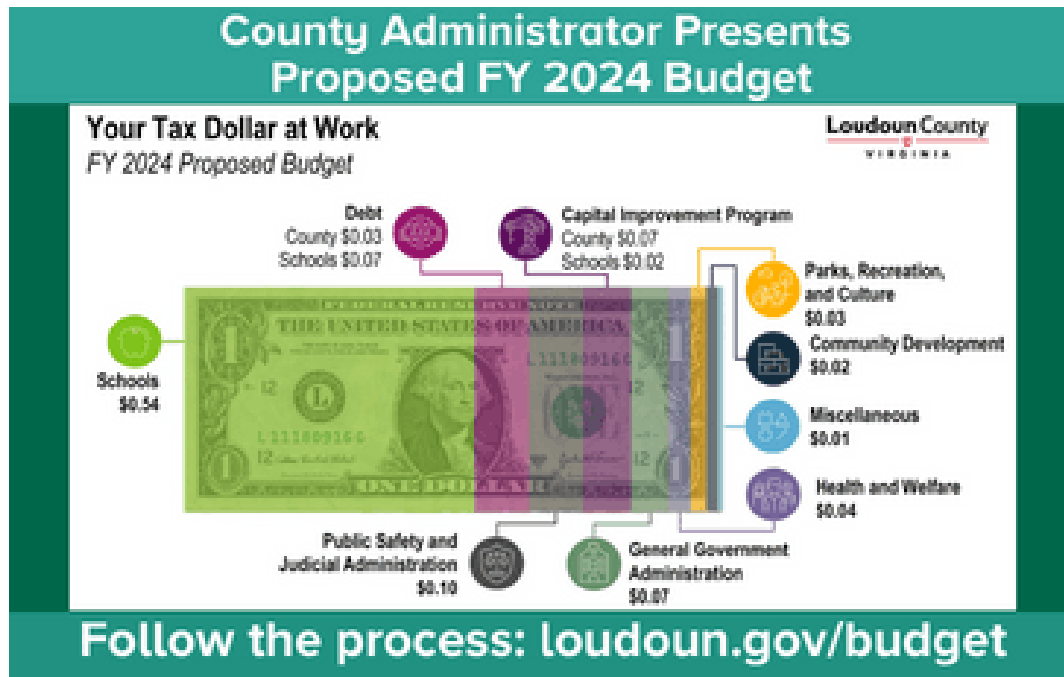


Can you guess where this photo on the left was taken? It is the rarely seen south side of the Davis mansion at Morven Park on the edge of Leesburg.

To get to this woodlands spot on the right, head northwest on foot or horseback from the Coach House parking lot at Morven Park. You can travel for over a mile through the

woods on a wide trail along a ridge top. Last Sunday morning, we had the trail to ourselves on the way out and encountered only two families and their dogs on the way back.

FY 2024 Budget



County Administrator Tim Hemstreet presented a [proposed budget](#) for the Loudoun County government to the Board for FY 2024, which begins July 1, 2023. The budget totals \$4.2 billion in appropriations for the County Government and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS).

The proposed budget has been prepared at a real property tax rate of \$0.87 per \$100 of assessed value, which is 2 cents below the current real property tax rate of \$0.89 per \$100 of assessed value. While the proposed tax rate for FY 2024 is lower than the current tax rate, the proposed rate is 6.5 cents above the overall equalized rate of \$0.805, which is the rate at which the average real property owner's tax bill would remain flat year over year. The homeowner's equalized tax rate is \$0.83. This means that while the proposed tax rate is lower than the current tax rate, the average homeowner's tax bill would increase if the proposed tax rate is adopted. Under the proposed budget, the average homeowner in Loudoun County would have a real property tax bill increase of \$302, or about \$25 per month, in tax year 2023.

The proposed budget executes the planned reduction in the general personal property tax rate from \$4.20 per \$100 of assessed value to \$4.15 per assessed value for tax year 2023. This is to give vehicle owners some relief on their personal property tax bills.

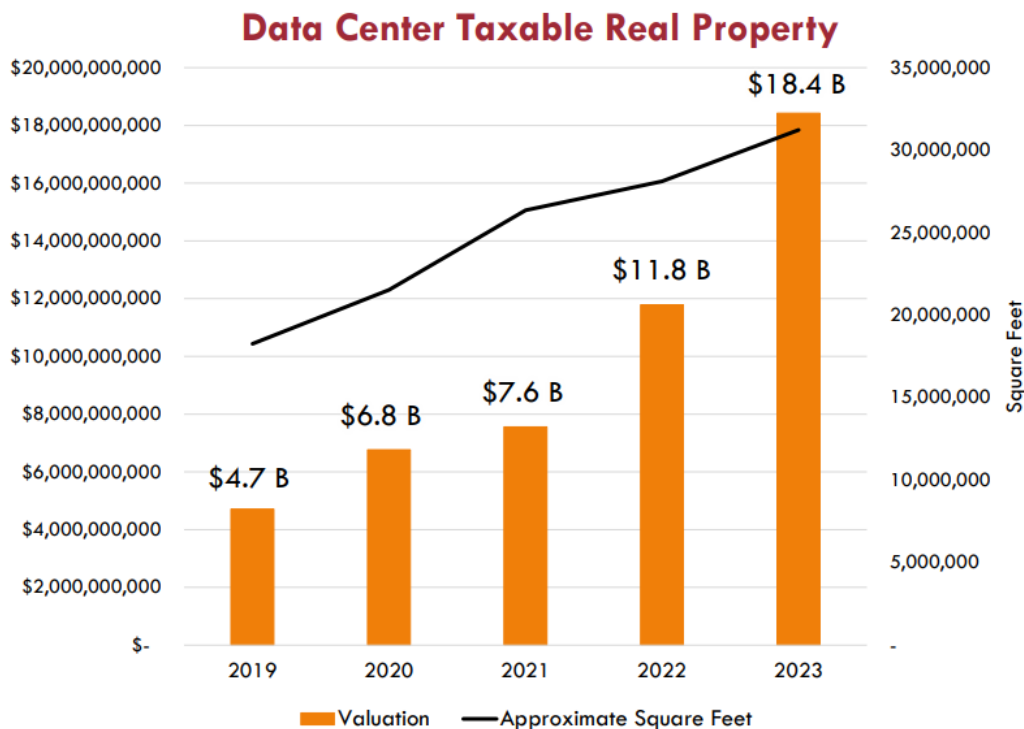
LCPS requested a total of more than \$1.1 billion dollars in local tax funding for FY 2024. The County Administrator's proposed budget includes an increase of \$69.1 million in local tax funding over last year but leaves a gap of \$6.2 million from the School Board's adopted budget. In addition, due to an error in the Commonwealth of Virginia's revenue calculations, the resulting revenue shortfall of up to \$7.4 million could prompt the School Board to ask for additional funding.

We will determine the final tax rates and related budget policy decisions during March budget work sessions with final adoption of the FY 2024 budget expected at the Board's business meeting April 4th. There are three budget public hearings scheduled for:

- Wednesday, March 1st, 3:00 pm, Board Room, Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street SE, Leesburg
- Wednesday, March 1st, 6:00 pm, Board Room, Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street SE, Leesburg
- Saturday, March 4th, 9:00 am, Board Room, LCPS Administration Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn

Anyone who wishes to speak at the public hearings may sign up in advance by calling 703-777-0204. Public input may be provided in person or virtually. More information about providing input is posted on the [County's website](#).

Real Property Assessments



On February 7th, Commissioner of the Revenue, Robert Wertz, provided an annual update to the Board regarding [2023 real property assessments for commercial and residential properties](#).

Data Centers are 58% of the total commercial real property value. The significant growth of data centers is the primary driver of commercial valuations. As depicted in the bar chart above, data centers have an overall assessed value of \$18.4 billion with 31 million square feet. Most of the growth between 2022 and 2023 is driven by an increase in the power capacity for existing data centers, land acquired by data centers, and new construction.

Loudoun County real estate assessment notices for tax year 2023 were mailed this month. These assessment notices, which are not tax bills, communicate to property owners the value of their real property as of January 1, 2023, and are reflective of sales activity occurring in the local real estate market during 2022. New values are also available online [here](#).

Property owners who believe their assessments are incorrect will be provided with a 30-day period within which to file an [Application for Review with the Commissioner](#) until March 10th. Thereafter, appeals may be made to the Board of Equalization.

ARPA Nonprofit Grant Program

Category ¹⁰	Organization	Requested	Recommended	Score	Service Description
Food Assistance	Loudoun Hunger Relief	\$1,000,000	\$420,000.00	96	Implement emergency grocery service program which is focused on providing highly nutritional and culturally relevant foods to disproportionately impacted Loudoun residents.
	Tree of Life Ministries	\$353,756	\$148,577.52	96	Implement food assistance delivery program to extremely low-income households.
	Seven Loaves Services	\$60,000	\$16,200.00	92	Implement food assistance to the food insecure.
	Dulles South Food Pantry	\$101,953	\$27,527.31	85	Increase availability of additional food to keep up with new client demand.
	Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers	\$18,000	\$4,860.00	82	Continue food delivery services to low-income elderly and disabled residents.
	Mobile Hope	\$1,101,436	\$297,387.72	82	Support for nontraditional food delivery to targeted neighborhoods.
	Loudoun Education Foundation	\$48,000	\$12,960.00	77	Support funds for the Backpack Coalition Program.
Mental Health	INMED	\$996,992	\$269,187.84	92	Multi-generational mental health programming serving Latino community.
	LAWS	\$543,043	\$146,621.61	92	Increase capacity of the Therapy Service program for survivors of domestic violence.
	A Place To Be	\$1,060,000	\$286,200.00	88	Deliver mental health services to youth and young adults with disabilities.
Other financial and employment supports	NVFS	\$1,327,307	\$358,372.89	89	Support residents through Loudoun Recovery program, including financial support and case management.
	Crossroads Jobs	\$53,190	\$14,361.30	81	Fund job search, placement, and retention program.
Utility Assistance	Loudoun Cares	\$900,156	\$243,042.12	88	Utility assistance to low- and moderate-income residents.
Childcare needs assessment and supports	TBD via procurement	\$250,000	\$250,000	N/A	
TOTAL		\$7,563,833	\$2,495,298.3		

At the February 21st Board business meeting, the Board approved Scenario 2 (see table above), which provides smaller awards to more nonprofit organizations that have demonstrated adequate performance related to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) outcomes, are in compliance with federal reporting requirements, and support life sustaining emergency services to targeted populations. The purpose of the County's

ARPA Nonprofit Grant Program is to support sustainable recovery from the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for Loudoun's disproportionately impacted residents.

The County received 27 applications from nonprofits who provide a program or service addressing one or more of these areas of need:

- Rental Assistance
- Food Assistance
- Utility Assistance
- Mental Health
- Other (providing supporting evidence of need and impacts of program/service)

I first supported a motion that would provide larger awards to nonprofit organizations who scored highest. That motion failed but I believe we need to fund the worthy nonprofits who applied and provide critical services for our community so I voted for Scenario 2. Thank you to staff who put a lot of thought and expertise into the review process.

Utility Work at North and Church Streets

North Street & Church Street Intersection Closure
Night Work
March 5 - March 10, 2023



	Closed Street
	North Street Detour
	King Street Detour
	Local Traffic Detour

Local traffic will be allowed into the closed sections of North Street and Church Street.

As part of Loudoun County's new [courthouse construction project](#), construction crews will be performing utility work at the intersection of North Street and Church Streets NE in Leesburg in two phases. During this time, residents can expect lane closures, delays and noise associated with the construction. Additionally, due to work activity at the south end of Rotary Park, access to a portion of Rotary Park will be closed through March 10th.

Through Thursday, March 2nd, work is scheduled to take place from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm at the intersection of North and Church Streets NE. To complete this work, one lane of traffic will be closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic at the intersection.

Overnight utility work is scheduled from Sunday, March 5th through Friday, March 10th from 7:00 pm until 7:00 am. During this period, the entire intersection will be closed at North Street NE and Church Street. Drivers and pedestrians should use extra caution when traveling through the area and follow directions from the posted signs and road crews.

Courthouse Construction Virtual Meeting

The County has scheduled a virtual construction update on the new courthouse project that is open to the public. This project includes the construction of a new 92,000-square-foot Loudoun County District Courthouse and renovation of existing courts facilities. The event will be held Wednesday, March 29th, at 6:00 pm via WebEx. Please visit the [courthouse project website](#) for the login information.

Warm Regards,

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Business of the Month
Maggie's Art Work



Maggie loves nature and animals and her artwork is directly inspired by interacting with nature. 25% of her artwork earnings help support wildlife causes. Many of her works have sold from local galleries, i.e. Oatlands, Millwood, The Waterford Fair, Middleburg and Leesburg Gallery showings and throughout Loudoun County. Recent exhibits include owl paintings at the Bryne Gallery, Artists in Middleburg - AIM Gallery and "The Bull Brothers" at the opening of the Tryst Gallery in Leesburg,



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

The proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Six-Year Capital Improvements Program was presented to the Town Council February 13th. The proposed General Fund budget totals \$77.9 million. The entire proposed budget, including the General Fund, the Capital Projects Fund, and the Utilities Fund, is \$157.5 million. [Click here](#) to see the budget review and adoption schedule.

Parking in Downtown Leesburg: The Town of Leesburg will officially transition to utilizing the ParkMobile system for payment for its on-street parking spaces on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Coin meters, which have been bagged since the beginning of the free holiday parking promotion in November, will be removed. Beginning March 1, those who wish to utilize on-street parking spaces may pay using the ParkMobile system, which has been utilized in the downtown since 2016. The Town has developed a [Frequently Asked Questions webpage](#) to aid in the transition to ParkMobile. Payments to ParkMobile can be made by downloading the ParkMobile app, texting ParkMobile, or scanning a QR code. On-street parking will remain free on weekday evenings after 5 p.m., on weekends, and Town holidays. In addition, the Town Hall parking garage will remain

free for users for the first two hours. More information on parking options in the downtown can be found [here](#).

Spring Bling: Leesburg's Department of Parks and Recreation will host the 26th annual Spring Bling, A Hometown Fine Arts & Crafts Show, on Saturday, March 4 from 9 am to 4 pm. The indoor event will be held at Ida Lee Park Recreation Center. Learn more [here](#).



Leesburg Youth Career Expo: The Town of Leesburg's Department of Economic Development will host a Career Expo for students and recent graduates on Sunday, March 26, 2023. The event will take place at Tuscarora High School, 801 N King Street, in Leesburg, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Local businesses are invited to participate by submitting a request form [here](#). There is no cost to participate. For more information about the expo, please contact Business Development and Retention Manager Melanie Scoggins at mscoggins@leesburgva.gov or 571-271-1206.



Paint the Plow Project: The Town of Leesburg Commission on Public Art (COPA) and the Friends of Leesburg Public Arts (FOLPA) invite local schools to be a part of the Town of Leesburg's "Paint the Plow" art project. This year's theme is "Around the Town". Three designs will be chosen and painted onto Town of Leesburg snow plow blades and featured in the 2023 Leesburg Kiwanis Halloween Parade and the Town's Christmas and Holiday parade, in addition to being visible while plowing Town streets during snow events. Artwork must be an original student design and students must paint the plow. Submissions are due no later than Thursday, June 15th. Learn more [here](#).



Community Information

2023 Free Tax Relief Seminars

The Commissioner of the Revenue is holding information sessions about the county's real estate & car tax relief programs.

- March 8: Cascades Library
- March 13: Purcellville Library
- March 24: Ashburn Library
- March 27: Rust Library

All sessions begin at 10:30 a.m. No appointment needed.

LOUDOUN
COUNTY
VIRGINIA

loudoun.gov/taxrelief

The County is holding free Information sessions to familiarize residents with the eligibility criteria for the county's generous real estate tax and car tax relief program.

Loudoun County homeowners 65 or older or with disabilities who are below established income and wealth limits may benefit from a reduction in the amount of property taxes they pay on their homes and cars. Qualified applicants for real estate relief must have a gross combined income less than \$77,000 and net worth less than \$920,000. Up to \$10,000 in income of a spouse or relative residing in the home is excluded from the income calculation for real estate relief. Program participants saved over \$8.4 million in real estate and vehicle property taxes in tax year 2022.

Find out about the county's [tax relief program](#) and have your questions answered at the free, upcoming sessions. No appointment or RSVP is required to attend. All sessions begin at 10:30 a.m. The schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, March 8th - Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls

- Monday, March 13th – Purcellville Library, 220 East Main Street, Purcellville
- Friday, March 24th – Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn
- Monday, March 27th – Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road NW, Leesburg

2023 Loudoun Youth Leadership Program: Applications are now being accepted for the Loudoun Youth Leadership Program which is a week-long program designed to introduce youth to leadership concepts and to provide exposure and interaction with local business, government and community leaders. Participants can choose one of two sessions on either July 10 - 14, or July 31 - August 4, 2023. The program is open to all rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, public or private, who live in Loudoun County. Youth participating in the week-long sessions will learn leadership skills, observe leadership in action with business and civic leaders from around the county, as well as taking part in interactive team building experiences.

Applications will be accepted until March 10th and can be found [here](#). Tuition is \$495/student. Financial aid is available to qualifying students. Visit our [website](#) for more program information.

Loudoun to Host Two Upcoming Job Fairs:

- Saturday, March 18th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, at the Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services administrative offices, 742 Miller Drive SE, Leesburg.
- Wednesday, April 5th, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, at the Loudoun Valley Community Center, 320 W. School Street, Purcellville.

Each of the Loudoun Job Fairs will feature several local employers with full-time, part-time and seasonal job openings in Loudoun County. Immediate opportunities are available in the fields of customer service, education, finance, government, hospitality, law enforcement, leisure, non-profit, retail, staffing, transportation and waste management. Those planning to attend the job fair are encouraged to [pre-register here](#) to receive reminders and updates.

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

Sent by kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov powered by

