

In March, we completed the budget process and will approve the FY 2024 budget at the business meeting today. I hope everyone has a wonderful spring break and Easter holiday.

Cloud Run



In honor of International Data Center Day, the 7x24 Exchange and the Data Center Coalition sponsored the "Cloud Run" - a huge welcome event for the Loudoun community and the data center industry. Families enjoyed a 4.99999k run/walk and 1 mile fun run around "Data Center Alley". They got to explore the Data Center Coalition's Data Center Discovery Zone. It was a fun, interactive opportunity to learn about Data Centers, including five nines of reliability, and the numerous career paths available in the data center industry. Participants of all ages and academic levels had the chance to meet Data Center experts to talk about skills/traits, scholarships, internships, trade programs, and other pathways to enter this lucrative industry. Most of the Board of Supervisors attended, including myself, Chair Randall, Vice Chair Saines, Supervisors Briskman, Glass, and Turner.

National Vietnam Veterans Day



VFW 1177 Post Commander Ray Delpesche leads the honor guard during the National Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony at the Old Courthouse in Leesburg. In attendance were Vietnam veterans, Sheriff Mike Chapman, Mayor Kelly Burk, former Vice-Mayor Marty Martinez, Ashburn Supervisor Mike Turner, Judge Thomas Horne, Paul Konold, and members of the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution. The crowd included veterans from all services.

Chinese American Ceremony



The Coordinated Council of Chinese American Associations held its annual celebration at the Leesburg Premium Outlets. Dragons were in attendance, along with Ashburn Supervisor Mike Turner.

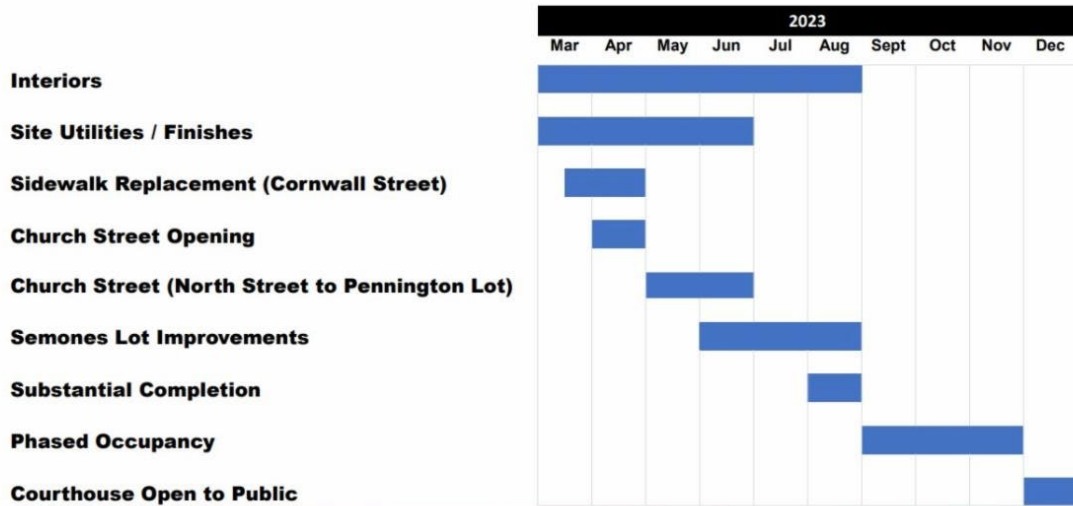
Loudoun Hunger Relief



Mayor Kelly Burk gets ready to knock down a wall, so that Loudoun Hunger Relief can expand into its new space.

Courthouse Expansion Meeting

Remaining Schedule Forecast



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA

LOUDOUN.GOV

On March 29th, the courthouse neighbors joined County staff in a virtual meeting on the courthouse expansion project. Thank-you to the neighbors for their unending graciousness and for the questions they asked and thank-you to Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary Clemens and General District Court Judge Deborah Welsh for joining in on the call. The graphic shows the schedule that staff presented. If you want more information, please go [here](#).

FY 2024 Budget

At the last [budget work session on March 16th](#), we directed staff to prepare an FY 2024 budget with a real property tax rate of 87.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value and a personal property tax rate of \$4.15 per \$100 of assessed value. The real property tax rate is down one and a half cents from last year's 89 cents. Even with the reduction, the average homeowner will pay \$337 more this year because assessments have increased.

At the March 6th budget work session, we added 36 field deputies to the Sheriff's Office. I was happy to support this resource request because it is a critical need. The number of deputies might seem high, but there have been very few requests for additional deputies over the years. Due to the tight budget year, we are deferring the capital outlay of the deputies (vehicles for example) to mid-year.

As to the schools, we increased the local transfer by \$3 million to cover part of the \$6.2 million gap in local tax funding. During the development of the FY 2024 budget, we provided guidance to share net new local tax funding between the County Government

and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) at the ratio of 40 percent to the County and 60 percent to LCPS, which was a change from the traditional 34 percent/66 percent split. “Net” new local tax funding refers to funding available after subtracting out needs for the capital budget, debt service budget, and the half penny housing increment.

Regarding state appropriations to the schools, there is a \$3.1 million shortfall in FY 2023 due to a calculation tool error by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). The VDOE calculation tool error was not addressed as part of the FY 2024 General Assembly “skinny” budget and LCPS has now projected a \$13 million shortfall. Action from the General Assembly to cover the state shortfall is not expected until after we adopt the FY 2024 budget on April 4th. During the March 16th work session, we committed to utilize current year fund balance to address LCPS’ state revenue shortfall, or at least a portion of the shortfall, that remains unresolved by the General Assembly. County staff anticipates returning to the Board in May 2023 with a recommendation to appropriate current year fund balance for this purpose.

Personal Property Tax Relief

At the March 7th Board business meeting, we approved a 95% assessment ratio for Tax Year 2023 that reduces the value of vehicles assessed using the JD Power National Automobile Dealers Association valuation guides to offset the continued unprecedented increase in vehicle values. We also adopted a [Resolution](#) for the personal property tax relief for Tax Year 2023 that includes the following:

1. Personal use vehicles valued at \$1,000 or less will be eligible for 100% tax relief.
2. Personal use vehicles valued at \$1,001 to \$20,000 will be eligible for 33% tax relief.
3. Personal use vehicles valued at \$20,001 or more shall receive 33% tax relief only on the first \$20,000 of value.
4. All other vehicles which do not meet the definition of “qualifying” (business use vehicles, farm use vehicles, motor homes, etc.) will not be eligible for personal property tax relief.

The assessment ratio was 80% last year but the Commissioner of the Revenue recommended 95% this year. The recommendation is in conjunction with the personal property tax rate reduction to \$4.15 from \$4.20, increase in tax relief from 27% to 33%, and assessment ratio to help blunt the impact of increased valuations. Vehicle values continue to be elevated because manufacturers are limiting production to keep prices up. There is a decline in the number of vehicles overall in the County that might have to do with the limited availability of vehicles.

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Briefing

At the March 21st Board business meeting, we received [an update from NOVA](#), an essential strategic asset to our region. NOVA is the 3rd largest community college in the nation and is the most diverse college in Virginia with 63 associate degree programs that

lead to direct employment or university transfer and 164 work force programs to meet specific skill needs of area employers. While NOVA is large, the average class size is small at 24 and classes are taught by professors not teaching assistants. NOVA is a top supplier of talent in our region with over 70,000 total students and 17,000 Loudoun students.

In partnership with LCPS, NOVA provides college credit instruction to 10,230 high school students through the Dual Enrollment Program. Enrollment in the program grew more than 17% between the Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 with over 50% participation. In Fall 2022, NOVA's Dual Enrollment Program resulted in an effective scholarship for Loudoun families of over \$7,600,000.

A unique Loudoun program is the Data Center Operations Technology program that was started a few years ago. The program was created jointly with the data center industry and is in such high demand that it will be expanded to another campus. The data centers I spoke to are thrilled with NOVA's students. Many students have a job waiting for them by the time they graduate even though they may have had no experience with data centers or computers prior to entering the program. NOVA has done a superb job with this program and I appreciate everything they do in this field.

Warm Regards,

Kristen C. Umstattd
Leesburg District
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov
703-777-0203

Valerie Suzdak
Chief Legislative Aide
Supervisor Kristen Umstattd
valerie.suzdak@loudoun.gov

Laura TeKrony
Legislative Aide
Supervisor Kristen Umstattd
laura.tekrony@loudoun.gov

Business of the Month
Ion International Training Center



[Ion is a World Class Training Center](#) in Leesburg. Built for skaters of all levels and ages. Open year-round, Ion keeps positive energy at its core. Skaters come to work hard, grow, and have fun doing what they love. From recreational skaters and beginner skaters to the world's best, skaters of all levels and ages call Ion home.



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

Leesburg Town Council Meeting Reminder: The Leesburg Town Council's regular business meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Work sessions are held on the Mondays before each regular business meeting, unless the meeting falls on a holiday. Agenda packets are posted not later than COB Wednesday before the Council meeting.

Service Recognition Month: The Leesburg Town Council and I have designated the month of April as "Service Recognition Month" for the Town of Leesburg. The creation of Service Recognition Month is an opportunity both to honor Town residents who support their communities through volunteering, but also to encourage those who may not yet be plugged in with a community or nonprofit organization to get involved.

In light of the growing number of food insecure individuals and families throughout the Town and greater Loudoun County, and in an effort to show support to a Leesburg-based nonprofit, the Town will collect nonperishable food donations for [Loudoun Hunger Relief](#) through Friday April 7th. The public is encouraged to drop off donations, with boxes located at Town Hall (25 West Market Street) and Ida Lee Recreation Center (60 Ida Lee Drive).

A kick-off celebration will be held on Friday, April 7th, from 5:30 to 7 pm with an open house event on the second floor of Town Hall. Both the Mayor's Office and Council

Chambers will be open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Members of the Town Council are expected to attend along with representatives from local nonprofits. The evening will also serve as the final opportunity to drop off food donations in the Town Hall donation bin.

Residents are encouraged to look for local volunteer opportunities at [Loudoun Cares](#). For a list of the most-needed food items at Loudoun Hunger Relief, visit [here](#).



Flower & Garden Festival: The Town of Leesburg's annual Flower & Garden Festival will take place Saturday, April 15th and Sunday, April 16th in historic downtown Leesburg. The event will feature more than 125 vendors including landscapers, gardening suppliers, plant sellers, outdoor living businesses, and furniture makers. In addition to the exhibits, festival goers can enjoy music, entertainment and activities for the kids, a rooftop beer garden, and delicious festival foods. For more information, call Ida Lee Park Recreation Center at 703-777-1368 or visit [here](#).

Yard Waste Collections Resume: Beginning Monday, April 3rd, Patriot Disposal Services will begin to collect yard waste every Monday for those living within the corporate limits of the Town of Leesburg. Yard waste is limited to grass clippings, leaves, weeds and small twigs and must be placed at the curb by 6 am on the day of collection. For more information, please visit the Town of Leesburg [website](#).



Community Information

FREE Webinars

PARENTING STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT TEENS

Presented by: Aaron Weiner, Ph.D., Board-certified psychologist and addiction specialist



How to Talk About the Portrayal of Drug Use in Popular Media

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Supporting Adolescent Mental Health

Thursday, April 20, 2023, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



Loudoun County
Mental Health,
Substance Abuse and
Developmental Services
prevention@loudoun.gov | loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention

REGISTER TODAY:

loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention



Prevention Alliance of Loudoun Educational Webinars: visit [here](https://loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention) for detailed information about each event and to register. The scheduled webinars are:

- Thursday, April 13, 2023, 6:30-8:00 p.m., How to Talk About the Portrayal of Drug Use in Popular Media: Learn how parents and caregivers can help teenagers navigate the social and cultural impacts of drug use as portrayed in popular media.
- Thursday, April 20, 2023, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Supporting Adolescent Mental Health: Learn how parents and caregivers can support teens' mental health and well-being.

Arbor Day 2023 Photo Contest



Arbor Day Photo Contest: This year's theme is "Trees of Character." Photos will be accepted through Wednesday, April 12th, in advance of the virtual Loudoun County Arbor Day Celebration. Winning photos and honorable mentions are scheduled to be posted on the county's website on April 28th.

Entries must be:

- A photo of a single tree or group of trees located in Loudoun County.
- Original photos taken by the entrant.
- Digital and submitted through this [online form](#). High resolution photos are encouraged. Only two entries allowed per person or group.

Entrants are asked to provide a brief explanation of why they think the tree they photographed has a unique character. For example, does the tree (or trees) have a unique size, prominence, age, shape, trunk, cavity or other feature that makes it a great “tree of character?” Awards will be distributed to the top three photos. Only the winning and honorable mention entrants will be notified. Photos will not be returned and will become the property of the Loudoun County Arbor Day committee.

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

Sent by kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov powered by

