



From my family to yours, have a wonderful Christmas and holiday season and a very Happy New Year. I want to thank all our residents and the owners and employees of our businesses for making Leesburg such a wonderful place to live. It is an honor to work with you. Please continue to let me know your thoughts on issues of interest to you. To everyone reading this, regardless of whether you are a Democrat, Republican, or Independent, your thoughts on issues are important to me. I want to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Leesburg District School Board member, Erika Ogedegbe, for her dedication and her unfailingly calm approach to the many issues she had to deal with.

In the January newsletter, we will be welcoming our new School Board member, Lauren Shernoff, who has been a consistently strong, persistent, and thoughtful advocate for our students, parents and teachers. I would like to thank Val Suzdak and Laura TeKrony for having kept our office and this newsletter on track for almost 8 years. Val will be leaving our office to be Chief of Staff for Laura, the Supervisor-elect for the Little River District. Congratulations, Laura and Val! These two promise to be a highly effective team for Little River. Finally, it is my great honor to welcome Sherry Sewall, a distinguished Air Force veteran, as our office's new Chief of Staff. We are lucky to have her.

Menorah Lighting Ceremony at One Loudoun



Governor Youngkin listens to Holocaust survivor Mr. Mandel speak at the Menorah lighting at One Loudoun on December 10th. In a poignant statement, Mr. Mandel stated that he speaks about the Holocaust because there are so few survivors left to do so. Thank-you to Chabad for organizing this event.

Christmas and Holiday Parade



Thanks to the Leesburg Police Department's motorcycle officers for really getting into the Christmas spirit, as they lead the town's Christmas and Holiday parade on December 2nd. Right behind them were Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk and Council Members Todd Cimino-Johnson and Zach Cummings.

Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company



Every year, Santa travels with the [Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company](#) to bring cheer to neighborhoods throughout the town. Please consider giving generously to [support our volunteers](#).

Aurora



Aurora, the yellow lab, is retiring at age 10. She is one of the County's Explosives Detection Canines. She and her best friend, Deputy Fire Marshal Leif Sundberg, have provided explosives detection sweeps for U.S. Presidents, Members of Congress and Governors. She is retiring at age 10, so that she can enjoy treats and popcorn. Here, this very good girl is getting ready to receive an honor from the Board of Supervisors while her young friend, the black lab, gets ready to assume her duties.

Zoning Ordinance Rewrite

On December 13th, the Board of Supervisors approved the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite, which I supported. I have been concerned about the lack of flexibility in the ordinance for the business and affordable housing communities. Although my concerns have been alleviated, I expect this ordinance will need to be amended as issues arise.

I want to thank County staff for all the time and work they put into rewriting the ordinance and the stakeholders and community members who provided the Board with helpful feedback. To view the new Zoning Ordinance, please visit this [website](#).

Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled

Annual Gross Household Income	Total Net Financial Worth	Percentage of Exemption*
\$0 - \$77,000	Cannot Exceed \$440,000	100%
\$0 - \$70,000	\$440,000.01 to \$560,000	50%
\$0 - \$63,000	\$560,000.01 to \$680,000	50%
\$0 - \$56,000	\$680,000.01 to \$800,000	50%
\$0 - \$49,000	\$800,000.01 to \$920,000	50%

* on dwelling and lot up to 3 acres

Loudoun County provides an [exemption from real property taxes](#) on the principal dwelling and up to three acres for residents who are at least 65 years of age or permanently and totally disabled. Any additional acreage or structures, such as pools, barns, sheds etc. may be taxed.

In July 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved updates to Chapter 872 of the Loudoun County Codified Ordinances to increase the income limitation to receive a 100% or 50% exemption from your real estate taxes. Please see the table for the Annual Gross Household Income limits effective for 2023 Tax Relief applications. At the same time, the Board also added that disability income of the owner, owner's spouse, or any relative of the owner or owner's spouse residing in the home will be excluded from the income calculation.

There is an upcoming deadline for first-time real property tax relief on January 2, 2024. If you meet the qualifications, please complete the [2023 Loudoun County Tax Relief Application](#) and provide the supporting documentation as described by the deadline.

Workforce Resource Center

The [Loudoun Workforce Resource Center](#) is a program of the Department of Family Services, located here in Leesburg. The center provides no-cost resources and equipment to both job seekers and businesses. The mission is to connect businesses and job seekers to achieve their employment goals. They have regular events, both in-person and online, to assist with a variety of career development activities such as resume building and interview skills.

Winter Weather

As we move into January, being prepared for a winter storm is important. The [Town of Leesburg](#) provides information about being prepared for winter weather, including creating a Family Emergency Plan. The Leesburg Town Snow Hotline is: 703.777.SNOW.

Loudoun County also provides information about [winter weather](#) and ensuring you and your family are prepared. You can find contact information for utilities, information about county maintained roads, and what to do during a storm.

Warm Regards,

Kristen Umstatt
Leesburg District
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
kristen.umstatt@loudoun.gov
703-777-0203

Sherry Sewall
Chief of Staff
sherry.sewall@loudoun.gov
571-528-6814

Business of the Month LIVWELL Organic Market



[LIVWELL](#) Organic Market believes that people should have access to clean foods, functional supplements, and pure body care products that promote a healthy mind, body, and soul. LIVWELL is located on East Market Street. They sell healthy foods and clean products at affordable prices. LIVWELL is also a resource for health and nutritional information to empower each person to make informed decisions for living their happiest and healthiest life.



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

The holidays are a festive time of year when we share special moments with our family, friends and loved ones, and look ahead to a new year filled with promise and opportunity. During this season of hope and joy, I offer my sincere thanks to all of our neighbors and business owners for your continued collaboration, cooperation, and support. I also want to express my appreciation to all Town of Leesburg employees for your dedication, commitment, and service to our community. The outstanding work you perform each and every day enhances quality of life and exemplifies what building community is all about. Happy holidays to one and all!

Town offices will be closed on Friday, December 22nd, Monday, December 25th, and Tuesday, December 26th for the Christmas holiday. Town offices will also be closed on Monday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

Holiday Tree and Light Show: Be sure to visit the holiday tree located on the Town Green, 25 West Market Street. It will be on display through the first of the year. There is also a light show in the rose garden, next to Mervin Jackson Park and the log cabin. Approximately 2,600 individual bulbs make up the RGB light show. They are synced to three songs, which include "Deck the Halls", "Christmas Sarajevo" (Trans-Siberian Orchestra), and "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year". The light show runs daily from 4:30 to 9:45 pm and will run through the evening of January 1st. A reminder that parking is free in the historic downtown now through Monday, January 2nd. This includes the Town Hall parking garage and on-street meters.



Bulk Leaf Collection: Leesburg's annual bulk leaf collection will end the last week of December. Any new leaves must be set out in covered trash cans or placed in bags for collection by Patriot Disposal, Inc., the Town's trash and recycling contractor. If residents have leaves during the winter months, and they are prepared as noted above, they will be collected as trash on residents' regular trash and recycling collection days. Town-wide yard waste collection for recycling will resume in April 2024. For more information, please call 703-771-2790.



Town Hall Art Exhibit: The Leesburg Commission on Public Art (COPA) is pleased to announce a new art display currently available for viewing on the first floor of Leesburg Town Hall (25 West Market Street). Mixed Media by Deborah Tripp features 65 pieces of artwork created by students from the Academies of Loudoun. The exhibit will run through February 2024. For more information, regarding this exhibit, e-mail Deborah.tripp@lcps.org.



Update from Erika Ogedegbe

As my term as Leesburg District School Board Member comes to a close, I want to thank all of you: students, families, teachers, staff, administration, my fellow School Board Members...our entire community. Leesburg is such a special place; my family and I chose this town as our home because of its excellent schools, diverse population, overall safety, and abundance of resources. What a wonderful area to live and learn!

I am excited to welcome the new School Board, and I am confident in the good work that they'll do. I am still a parent of a child in Loudoun County Public Schools, so I remain invested in the actions of the Board and the outcomes in our schools. I encourage all of you to remain engaged as well, and remember that you can contact your [District School Board Member and the At-Large School Board Member](#) with questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Opportunities to connect with our new Superintendent, Dr. Aaron Spence will continue throughout the school year. For more details, dates, and locations, please visit [here](#).

School Board Meetings will resume in the New Year; please check back at the LCPS [website](#) for a 2024 meeting calendar. Note that you can continue to provide constructive, informative, and thoughtful public comment!

Also in the New Year, look for more information about the January 27, 2024 [Health and Wellness Conference](#), presented by the LCPS Department of Student Services. From 9:30 am to 2:00 pm at Riverside High School in Leesburg, come together with our community for presentations, breakout sessions, and more!

Thank you, and I wish you a very happy holiday season!



Community Information

Winter Camp at Loudoun County Animal Services: Join us as we learn about pets and wildlife, play fun games, do crafts and meet adoptable animals too! This is a three-day camp for children ages 7 to 11. The camp runs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Wednesday, December 27th to Friday, December 29th and the cost is \$150 per camper. The location of the animal shelter is 42225 Adoption Drive in Leesburg.

33rd Annual Martin Luther King March and Celebration: At 10:00 am on Monday, January 15, 2024, marchers will gather at the Loudoun County Courthouse (18 East Market Street in Leesburg) to walk to the Frederick Douglas Elementary School. The march and program afterwards is organized by MLK Diversity-Engagement Foundation.

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

Sent by kristen.umstatt@loudoun.gov powered by



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