

Dear Leesburg Resident,

Happy spring! Please see the list of spring events coming up in Leesburg at the bottom of this newsletter. Feel free to send me events and information you want included in my monthly newsletter. Thank you.

#### **Land Use**

On March 7th, a majority of the Board of Supervisors voted to reconsider the One Loudoun application. I did not support the motion to reconsider. I continue to be concerned about the number of residential units approved during this Board's term and in the past. The 2016 Resident Survey reported that citizens' number one concern is too much growth. I will not change my position on March 23rd when the Board takes a reconsideration vote on the 200 additional residential units proposed by One Loudoun.

#### **Preservation**

The Board unanimously supported Chair Randall's and my initiative to develop a cemetery preservation ordinance to protect existing and historic cemeteries and burial grounds during the land development process at the March 7th Board meeting. The Heritage Commission enthusiastically endorsed this effort. It is my desire to protect our heritage and save the burial grounds for enslaved people before they are forever lost to development.

On February 15th, I supported a minor special exception to increase the number of events permitted annually at Rust Nature Sanctuary. The expansion will make this property viable in the future. Leesburg residents consider the sanctuary a jewel and asset and the Northern Virginia Park Authority does a wonderful job keeping it wild and open to the public.

**Budget**

The Board held [five budget work sessions](#). The "equalized" tax rate is the rate at which the average homeowner's tax bill remains the same as last year. The proposed equalized tax rate for homeowners is \$1.140. I support the proposed real property tax rate of \$1.135, which fully funds the schools and funds many critical needs for the County like support for disabled residents and our veterans. This is also a tax cut for most residents. Any reduction in the tax rate below \$1.135 will have an impact on the schools by reducing the LCPS transfer from the County, resulting in a deficit between the School Board's requested funding and proposed budget. The schools have experienced significant funding cuts in years past and during this period of economic growth, I want to fund an increase in teacher pay, full-day kindergarten and other needs like new textbooks.

Last night, a majority of the Board voted to pass a tax rate of \$1.125, underfunding the schools by \$5.5 million. I did not support this motion. I will continue to advocate for full funding of our school system.

The Board voted to allocate \$5.265 million to fund LCPS bus purchases and \$3.8 million to fund turf fields at Heritage and Dominion High Schools. Congratulations to the Heritage High School Booster Club for their long and ultimately successful efforts to get artificial turf approved for the fall of 2017. This would not have happened this year without the persistence of Heritage and Dominion parents.

The Board voted to approve \$38,060 for the 0.47 FTE Veterans Coordinator in the FY 2018 Budget. At the request of our veterans, I requested that the County's part-time Veterans Affairs Coordinator position become full-time to help link veterans with both County government services and services provided by our VFW, American Legion, and other veterans' groups.

The Board voted to allocate \$600,000 of a requested \$1 million to expand contracts with supported employment and day support organizations like Every Citizen Has Opportunities (ECHO). ECHO helps place adults with intellectual and physical disabilities in jobs. It currently provides support to 100 people but has a wait list of 28 people.

Residents can speak at our Board Business Meeting on March 23rd during the public input session at 6:30 pm. Advanced sign-up is available until noon of the business meeting at 703-777-0200. The Board will adopt the FY 2018 budget and tax rate at the April 4th Business Meeting.

**Strategic Plan**

The Board held a [special business meeting](#) on March 2nd to discuss staff's recommended work plan for the strategic focus areas identified at our September 16, 2016 Strategic Planning Retreat.

For the transportation focus area, I requested that there be better coordination related to commuter bus and public transportation options when looking at future applications for rezonings. I've heard from constituents that some bus routes are standing room only. I would like to see in the staff report the impact of a rezoning application on public transportation.

For the community health and wellness focus area, I asked about the needs of adults with disabilities. There is not enough housing and supportive services for these individuals. The County has a network of private and nonprofit providers like ECHO to address immediate and future needs but there is a backlog. The Board voted to increase spending for ECHO in the FY 2018 budget which will help but more will need to be done in the long-term.

For the growth management focus area, I requested an estimate of the operating costs for the education of students generated by a rezoning. The Board receives projections on the capital improvements required for a rezoning and I would like to address the additional operating costs in the staff report.

Staff will provide a biannual update on these initiatives. There will also be a Transit and Transportation Summit this summer and a Housing Summit in the fall. I will keep you informed about the dates and times of these events once they are scheduled.

### **Transportation**

The VDOT public information meeting on March 2nd about the Route 15 interchanges at Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road was packed. There will be another opportunity to give input at the design public hearing to be scheduled. VDOT hopes to have the final designs endorsed by the Board and Leesburg Town Council later this year. You can see the three configurations under study at the Fort Evans Road interchange by visiting the [VDOT website](#). The layout of the Edwards Ferry Road interchange is largely set. This project does not have construction funding or a construction date yet.

Please take note of the two planned night closures at Route 7 & Belmont Ridge Road for the interchange construction. The first phase is scheduled to begin the night of Monday, March 27th and end on or about April 10th. During Phase 1, the Route 7 eastbound left turn lanes to Route 659 north and left through lane will be closed, beginning at 10:00 pm. Complete closures of Route 7 and Route 659 will occur at 20- minute intervals between 12:00 am and 5:00 am, Monday through Friday.

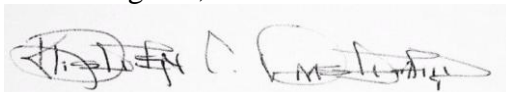
The second phase is scheduled on or about April 11th to April 20th. During Phase 2, the Route 7 eastbound left turn lanes onto Route 659 north and the Route 7 eastbound left and center through lanes will be closed, beginning at 10:00 pm. Route 7 and Route 659 closures will occur at 20-minute intervals between 12:00 am and 5:00 am, Monday through Friday. **Loudoun County officials ask that motorists plan ahead to take alternate routes to avoid this area during the affected times.** For more information, visit the [County website](#).

### **Bus Routes**

Loudoun County is seeking public input about new or modified bus routes and transit services through an [online survey](#). Survey responses are due March 31st.

Please feel free to contact me or my Chief Legislative Aide with any issues or feedback.

Warm Regards,



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## Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

March is budget month. The Leesburg Town Council has been reviewing the budget since March 8th. This two-year budget proposes maintaining the present tax rate of 18.6 cents per \$100 of assessed value. With this suggested tax rate, some long overdue enhancements can be added, such as 3-person Public Works crew. Since 2000, the Public Works Department has had 27 employees. The road miles and population in Town have almost doubled since 2000, but Public Works has not added any new staff. Also, proposed to be added in the budget is a person for parks maintenance, a zoning inspector, closed captioning for Council, Planning Commission and BAR meetings, resident newsletters, and an information technology strategic plan. Additionally, the budget calls for a new special event, The Taste of Leesburg, and joining the National Main Street Program to help organize, revitalize and support downtown Leesburg businesses.

If you are interested in more information about the budget, please visit the Town [website](#). The last public hearing is March 28th at 7 pm. You are welcome to speak to the Council and share your opinions and ideas. The Council will vote on the budget April 4th.



## Business of the Month

**LEESBURG**  
VINTNER  
ESTABLISHED 1988



**CARROLL**  
VINEYARDS  
ESTABLISHED 2012



Mike Carroll, owner of downtown Leesburg's [The Leesburg Vintner and Carroll Vineyards](#), helped me lift a 75-pound melchior of fine Bordeaux. It's all you'll need for your next happy gathering of 48 guests.

The Vintner established Carroll Vineyards in 2012. The vineyards are located in Paeonian Springs, just outside of Leesburg and the tasting room is at The Vintner store in downtown Leesburg. Check out the Carroll Vineyards

wine varietals and a wide variety of wines from Virginia, the US and around the world.

## Loudoun School-Business Partnerships 2017

The award ceremony recognized the many business partnerships that enhance and strengthen Loudoun County Public Schools. Leesburg's K2M was honored for its work with Evergreen Elementary School. K2M not only partners with Evergreen Elementary School, it also incorporates into its workforce individuals with disabilities. As if that weren't enough, K2M emphasizes its recruitment of women engineers at its Leesburg headquarters. For more information, visit their [website](#).



## Youth Connection



**Loudoun Youth Leadership Program Scholarships:** Due to the generosity of the Community Impact Fund, and the Jack Kent Cook Foundation, Loudoun Youth, Inc., has scholarship funds for their Loudoun Youth Leadership program for high achieving, low income students. Loudoun Youth Leadership Program is a week-long leadership program designed to introduce youth to leadership concepts and to provide exposure and interaction with local business, government and community leaders. The program is open to high school students and limited to 25 youth per week to encourage team building and provide a genuine experience in a small group setting. This year's sessions are July 10-14 and July 31-Aug 4. Interested students can apply at [www.loudounyouth.org](http://www.loudounyouth.org). For more information, contact Program Director, Michelle Jones at [jones@loudounyouth.org](mailto:jones@loudounyouth.org).

**4th Annual Leesburg Youth Career Expo:** Tuscarora High School, 801 North King Street, Leesburg, Saturday, April 15, 11 am to 2 pm. There will be over 50 companies



looking to hire 11th and 12th grade high school students, college students and recent grads. Mark your calendar and come join the future.



## Events & Info



[April is Keep Leesburg Beautiful Month](#): Stop by Town Hall to get gloves, orange vests and bags to pick up the roadside trash that has accumulated all winter long. When you have finished, leave your bags out in the open, call the Town, tell them where the bags are located and Town staff will pick them up. KLB is a great activity for Scout troops, youth groups and service organizations. Visit [www.leesburgva.gov/KLB](http://www.leesburgva.gov/KLB) for more information.

[Legacy Farms Breakfast in the Garden](#): Saturday, April 1, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, 15855 Limestone School Road, Leesburg. Legacy Farms helps people with autism find competitive employment with a wide array of agrarian based job

opportunities. Learn more about the programs and tour the garden and greenhouse. For more information, visit the event page on [Facebook](#).

[Spring Native Plant Sale](#): Saturday, April 1, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Morven Park, 17195 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. Beautiful spring flowers, shrubs, trees, vines and ferns will be available at the Native Plant Sale. For more information visit, [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org).



[Leesburg's First Friday](#): Stroll around historic downtown Leesburg on the First Friday of each month (except January) to enjoy numerous live music performances throughout the town, art exhibits, wine tastings, lectures, and so much more! Over 45 specialty shops, art galleries, antique shops and restaurants are open until 9 pm or later, many offering free refreshments and/or special sales. Mark your calendar for the next First Friday event on April 7th.

[Ida Lee Easter Egg Hunt](#): Saturday, April 8, 12:00 to 4:00 pm. The Hunt is on for candy and prize filled eggs at Ida Lee Park! After the hunt, enjoy family friendly amusements and photos with the Easter Bunny. Be sure to bring your basket to collect your eggs in! Pre-purchasing tickets is strongly recommended to proceed through the gate quicker. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 day of event.

[Easter at Morven Park](#): Saturday, April 15, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Celebrate the beginning of spring in the historic Morven Park gardens with games, crafts, egg hunts and our popular egg roll down the Davis Mansion lawn. Be sure to meet rabbits from the 4H Leaps and Squeaks Rabbit Club, and take your own family photo with the Easter Bunny in our garden. This event sells out and pre-registration is required to attend. Registration is \$10 per child (ages 2-12) and \$5 per adult.

[27th Annual Leesburg Flower and Garden Show](#): Saturday, April 22, 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday, April 23, 10 am to 5 pm. The Flower and Garden Festival has become an annual rite of spring for Loudoun County. The festival boasts 150 vendors which include landscapers, gardening suppliers, plant sellers, outdoor living furniture, and more. There is also live music entertainment, activities for the kids, and delicious food.

STAY CONNECTED:





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[About our service provider](#)

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