



Dear Leesburg Resident,

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer so far.

Transportation Update:

Route 15 North

I attended the third public input session to relieve congestion and improve safety on Route 15 North on Saturday, July 15th, with Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk and Catocin District Supervisor Geary Higgins. Based on preliminary results from the three Leesburg and Lucketts citizens' meetings, e-mails to the County, and the over 500 online surveys taken, there appears to be a consensus coalescing around three primary project goals: congestion relief, safety, and access. Roundabouts appear to be edging out traffic signals as a corridor-wide solution and widening the road to 4 lanes appears to have support at the southern end of the project. We have not seen the final results on the public reaction to widening Route 15 north of White's Ferry Road. Full results from the public input sessions will be available in the fall and presented to the Board. A stakeholders group of HOA leaders and community organizations will begin meeting in August to provide recommendations on Route 15 improvements based on technical analysis and discussion of public input comments. Thank you for attending the input sessions and responding to the online survey. There are plans to have at least two more public input sessions, starting early next year, as the stakeholders group evaluates the design options.

Edwards Ferry Road/Fort Evans Road Interchanges at the Bypass

At the July 5th Board meeting, the Board was informed of the design alternative selected by the Leesburg Town Council for the [Route 15 Bypass Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road Interchange project](#). Due to geometric constraints, the design at Edwards Ferry Road is the same for all three alternatives: a single-point

urban interchange with the Route 15 Bypass being raised over Edwards Ferry Road. For Fort Evans Road, the Town Council selected Alternative C: a grade-separated interchange with the Route 15 Bypass over Fort Evans Road. The Council chose Alternative C for the Fort Evans end of the project in order to maintain all existing turning options. Staff will be coming back to the Leesburg Town Council and Board with a more detailed design in February 2018 for endorsement.

Route 7/Battlefield Interchange

Please see Mayor Kelly Burk's report below.

Bears in Loudoun:

Every summer, the Department of Animal Services receives an uptick in calls related to bear sightings in Loudoun County, and this year is no exception. Loudoun County, in addition to being home to many people, is home to hundreds of species of wildlife, including foxes, coyotes and black bears. This time of year, young bears are venturing out, away from their mothers, to seek a place to call their own, and in that process, will often pit stop in developed neighborhoods. Residential areas can offer easy access to food in the form of accessible trash cans, uncleaned grills and seed-filled bird feeders. Last year, one bear stayed in an urban neighborhood for almost a week after a community crab bake, going from one uncovered trash can to the next looking for good-smelling scraps. Thankfully, nationwide, black bear conflicts are extremely rare, and bears are generally more afraid of people than people are of bears, but, we fully understand that the sight of a large bear can be startling. However, it is against federal law to relocate a bear, and this prohibition includes Animal Control Officers and LCSO. If a bear is acting in a threatening or menacing way, or is injured, we do ask that citizens immediately call our dispatch at 703-777-0406 so that we can request assistance from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the only agency permitted to relocate black bears in Virginia. However, in most cases, bears will move along on their own once their food source is eliminated. Below is the Loudoun County Animal Services' info sheet on avoiding conflict with black bears.

Avoiding Black Bear Conflicts

Unnecessary interactions can be prevented simply by removing or securing these common bear attractants.

	1 Remove & Store Inside	2 Secure & Clean
 <p>Bird Seed</p>	<p>Take bird feeders down</p> <p>Store seed and feeders indoors (not necessary in winter)</p>	<p>Rake up bird seed from the ground</p>
 <p>Garbage</p>	<p>Store garbage cans in a building or enclosed by electrified fence</p> <p>Take garbage to the curb only on the morning of pick-up</p>	<p>Keep outbuildings and garage doors closed</p> <p>Dumpster lids and doors should be kept closed and latched</p> <p>Use bear-resistant bins</p>
 <p>Grills</p>	<p>Store grills inside when not in use</p> <p>If you are having bear conflicts, stop grilling until bear moves on</p>	<p>Burn off food residue</p> <p>Dispose of food wrappers and grease cups</p>
 <p>Livestock & Pet Food</p>	<p>Store livestock and pet food inside</p> <p>Feed pets inside</p>	<p>If you feed pets & livestock outside:</p> <p>Clean dishes daily</p> <p>Remove leftover food daily</p>


 Bear conflicts are uncommon in Northern Virginia but, if you have an issue, please contact **Loudoun County Animal Services** at 703-777-0406
 

Metro Sales Tax:

I supported Supervisor Higgins' resolution opposing a 1% metro regional sales tax and I support inclusion of this position in the County's Legislative Program. County staff has developed a creative solution to metro funding that would leverage current local payments to cover increased metro costs. However, I have some reservations, because the creative solution will require approval by the General Assembly. If the General Assembly does not approve the leveraging of current metro payments, and if the existing metro special tax districts do not cover metro's costs, then part of the tax burden will shift to property owners throughout the County. In the future, we may have to revisit the sales tax option, because it may be less burdensome on our residents and businesses than raising property taxes countywide to pay for metro.

Annual Compensation:

As you know, the majority of the Board voted to increase the next Board's pay by 62%. I could not support that high an increase and I voted against it.

Sign Ordinance:

On July 20th, I voted to allow property owners in the County (outside the Towns) to post as many political signs on their properties as they wish. I believe that restricting

the number of campaign signs you can have on your property is a restriction of your First Amendment right to support the candidates of your choice.

Air India:

Washington Dulles International Airport welcomed the inaugural Air India flight on July 7th. This new service offers three weekly nonstop flights between Dulles and Delhi and is expected to provide over \$30 million a year in revenue to Loudoun and the region. India currently represents a 6% market share of all international travelers to Virginia. Welcome Air India! Pictured below (left to right) are Delegate Jennifer Boysko, Kristen, and Kannan Srinivasan.



Stay Cool!:

While the last couple of days haven't been as hot, please take precautions in the summer heat. Limiting time outside, staying hydrated and ensuring to take special care of children, the elderly and animals are important ways to protect you and your family. The County's [Excessive Heat website](#) has more information and you can also sign up for air quality and weather alerts.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen C. Umstattd'.

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Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

Traffic congestion relief is one of the Town Council's top priorities and I'm pleased to report that major progress has been on two key transportation projects in Leesburg: (1) the interchange at Route 7 & Battlefield Parkway and (2) the interchange at the Route 15 Bypass, Fort Evans Road and Edwards Ferry Road. The Town has been working with the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and Loudoun County to identify funding for these interchange projects. Both interchanges are in the design phase and the Council recently endorsed design concepts for them. Our goal was to maximize pedestrian access and connections without compromising the improvements in traffic flow. There are links to the chosen designs for the [Route 15 Interchange](#) and the [Route 7 Interchange](#) on the Town website. The Route 7/Battlefield Parkway interchange will involve removal of the traffic signal at Cardinal Park Drive and we held a meeting with businesses and property owners in Cardinal Park on July 18th to discuss options for the intersection.

Mark your calendars for a new arts event on Saturday, July 29! The Friends of Leesburg Public Arts is sponsoring the first annual ["Arts in the Alley"](#) street fair, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. There will be over 50 artists' booth in the alley along the Town Hall parking garage, in Mervin Jackson Park, in the Town Hall Rose Garden and on the Town Green, plus two stages of live music, kids' activities, roaming performers and much more.

I love the sense of community that many of our new businesses are generating here in Leesburg. Every Saturday morning, a group of classic car enthusiasts meet at Portside Coffee & Bakery, from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Stop by and check out some very sweet rides. Portside Coffee is located in Crescent Place, across from Raflo Park on Harrison Street.



Business of the Month Cleaner 4 Less

Justine van Engen and her husband, Kurt, own and operate the eco-friendly Cleaner 4 Less dry-cleaners in the Exeter shopping center along Battlefield Parkway. They do all dry-cleaning on the premises, so you always know where your clothes are. Except for large items, like curtains and comforters, all items are \$2.29 apiece. Justine and Kurt work closely with local high schools and the Leesburg Police Department to make sure uniforms are in top shape. Cleaner 4 Less is open Monday through Saturday and offers same-day service. They are located at 700 Fieldstone Drive, Suite 104. Phone number: 703-517-0778.

Youth Connection



[Teen Health and Wellness, Real Life, Real Answers](#) is now available online through Loudoun County Public Library. This award-winning resource provides middle and high school students with self-help support. Timely topics covered include suicide, diseases, drugs, alcohol, nutrition, mental health, bullying, LGBTQ issues, and more. It is geared to teens, their families, educators and others who are interested in serving teens, and includes listings for hotlines. Access is available on the Research & Learn page (alphabetical) and on the Kids & Teens tab on the Library website

Events & Info



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 August 4th.

Leesburg's First Friday

Leesburg at Leisure Fall Registration Now Open!: Parks and Recreation guide to a variety of classes and events throughout the Town available to all ages. Registration began at 8:00 am on Tuesday, July 25 for Town of Leesburg residents and annual pass holders. Open registration begins at 8:00 am on Tuesday, August 1. If you have any questions or want to obtain your user name and password to register online please call 703-777-1368.

Discover the Charm Mural Installation: Sagetopia, a Leesburg-based graphic design agency, and the Friends of Leesburg Public Arts (FOLPA) will dedicate the newest piece of public art in Leesburg on Saturday, August 5 at 10:00 am. The new "Discover the Charm" mural is on the side of Town Streets Division Auxiliary Shop, located at 204 Liberty Street SW. The 25' x 18' mural includes Fourth of July fireworks at Ida Lee, the W&OD Trail, musical scenes from First Fridays and Tally Ho, local restaurants and shops on King Street, the haunted house at Paxton Manor, and many other notable aspects of Leesburg.

Acoustic on the Green Summer Concert Series: the Town of Leesburg's Award Winning Free Summer Concert Series starts June 10th and goes through August from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Town Hall Green, 25 West Market Street. Please click [here](#) for the list of concerts this summer!

Bluemont Concerts: 7:00 p.m. Sunday evenings at the Loudoun County Courthouse, 18 East Market Street until July 30th. Requested donation is \$5 per person, \$4 Bluemont Friends & Seniors and \$2 kids under 12. Since 1976, the Bluemont Concert Series has presented more than 5,000 high-quality events to a combined audience of more than 2 million in 68 communities in Virginia!

Civil War Artifacts from the collection of Leesburg resident, John Creamer, will be on display at the [Thomas Balch Library](#) in Leesburg from July 5 - August 31. The public may view the artifacts during normal business hours. The display includes items dug "just ahead of the bulldozer" as well as other Civil War era items from Loudoun County.

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