



Dear Leesburg Resident,

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and holiday season. I want to thank all of our wonderful Leesburg residents, who came out for the Christmas and Holiday Parade last weekend. It is a true joy to get to talk to so many of our youngest residents along the parade route. All of them were remarkably polite. Leesburg children are the best and Leesburg parents, thank-you for teaching your children so well. Please let them know how impressed all of us were with their courtesy and kindness.



#### **Nonprofit Needs Assessment**

The Board voted to support the nonprofit needs assessment implementation plan at the December 5th Board meeting. This item will pursue direct funding arrangements in FY 2019 with six nonprofits who provide core safety net services and create a human services strategic plan. Core safety net services are those services that assist vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and families in meeting a critical need for safety, health, security

and independence. The potential co-location of human service providers will be explored during the strategic planning process.

### **Westpark Golf Course**

The Leesburg Council chambers were standing room only on December 4th as residents from Clubhouse Drive, Country Club, and Woodlea Manor came out to express concerns about plans to develop the Westpark Golf Course with up to 27 homes. Also present were Mayor Kelly Burk and Town Council members Ron Campbell and Marty Martinez. [Westpark Golf Course](#) was developed in 1968 and encompasses approximately 142 acres adjacent to Route 15 and the Route 7 Bypass within the southwest quadrant of Town. The site consists of a 27,000-square foot clubhouse, an 18-hole golf course, associated maintenance buildings, and a parking lot.

The prospective developer, CalAtlantic, offered two plans. One (Plan B) would be a by-right development of homes scattered across the property. The other (Plan A), the developer's preference, would amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow clustering, in exchange for which, the developer would dedicate some of the golf course as open space. The Leesburg Town Council, not the Board of supervisors, makes the decision on the Zoning Ordinance. I've had conversations with the Land Trust of Virginia (LTV) about the feasibility of getting some of the open space into a conservation easement, so that it couldn't be built on. And have given some of the residents contact information for LTV.

### **Graydon Manor Kennel**

Foxridge and Park View residents may want to keep an eye on the [Special Exception](#) application to permit a kennel serving a maximum of 150 dogs and 60 cats. The kennel is proposed to be built in conjunction with an animal hospital that is permitted by-right. A County Planning Commission Public Hearing is scheduled on December 19th at 6:00 pm in the first floor Board Room of the County Government Center at 1 Harrison Street, SE, in downtown Leesburg. Residents have expressed concerns about the noise and these concerns are shared by County staff. Planning staff is working with the applicant to find ways to mitigate noise. As I learn more information, I will keep you informed.

Citizens may sign up to speak in advance of the public hearing by contacting the Department of Planning and Zoning at 703-777-0246 prior to 12:00 pm on the day of the hearing. Citizens may also sign up to speak while at the public hearing itself. Written comments are welcomed at any time and may be submitted via email at [loudounpc@loudoun.gov](mailto:loudounpc@loudoun.gov).

### **Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly or Permanently Disabled**

At the December 13th public hearing, the Board approved the [amendments to the codified ordinances](#) of Loudoun County, chapter 872, real estate tax relief for the elderly or totally and permanently disabled. All applicants who are currently benefiting from the program will not be affected. The current program will remain intact and the Board voted to expand it to offer a more equitable program for seniors and the permanently disabled. The amended ordinance will become effective on January 1, 2019. I was happy to support these amendments.

### **Transportation: Route 7/Belmont Ridge Road Interchange**

[Night closures](#) are planned for the Route 7/659 (Belmont Ridge Road) interchange project. The removal of the temporary bridge overhang materials affecting the westbound lanes on Route 7 is planned to begin the night of Sunday, December 17th and will continue nightly until

the morning of Friday, December 22nd. Single and double lane closures, as required, are set to begin at 10:00 pm and all lanes will be open to traffic by 5:00 am the following morning.

This work is not expected to require a complete closure of Route 7 in either direction and a minimum of one lane is planned to be open at all times. In addition to law enforcement personnel directing traffic, electronic message boards will be posted to advise the public to expect delays the night of each planned lane closure.

#### **True North Data Center**

Thank you to all the citizens who came to speak at the December 5th Board meeting. The applicant has taken many of the public comments and resulting requests from some of us on the Board to heart and has offered additional environmental protections and other commitments to their proffer package. Some of the key commitments are these:

1. Open space has been increased to 62% of the property, with a minimum of 64 acres kept in open space;
2. Tree conservation areas will be imposed to protect more of the existing tree cover on the creek-side of the property (much of the property is currently in open fields);
3. Consistent with the County's plan for a linear park along Goose Creek, creek frontage will be donated to the County for public access - currently, there is no public access across this property to Goose Creek;
4. So as to improve erosion control over what would be allowed with by-right development, best management practices including berms and holding facilities will be used to slow down any rainfall that flows into the creek;
5. Two acres will be planted with flowering plants to create pollinator habitats;
6. Although no wood turtles have been found within 2 miles of the property, any wood turtles found will be protected and relocated to a safe habitat;
7. Buildings adjacent to Sycolin Road will be reduced in height to 27 feet;
8. Buildings will be painted in earth tones and designed to better blend into the existing terrain;
9. Additional landscaping will be planted along Sycolin Road and the Greenway;
10. \$50,000 will be offered to the County for student scholarships;
11. Any fuel stored on site will be in double-lined tanks with electronic warning systems to alert the operator to any leakage;
12. The project will use a small fraction of the water required by most data centers, as this particular design does not require water for cooling.

The annual \$22 million in revenue generated by this data center could go a long way to helping the County reduce overcrowding in our schools. It could help our schools update textbooks (some of which are 15 years out of date) and technology (some classroom computers are over 16 years old and sluggish at best).

The application went to the Transportation and Land Use Committee on December 13th and was forwarded to the Board business meeting on January 18th. Residents are encouraged to speak during the public input session at 6:30 pm. Advanced sign-up is available by calling 703-777-0200 until noon the day of the business meeting.

The second Board business meeting on December 21st was cancelled and the first Board meeting in 2018 will be January 3rd due to the New Year holiday. Thank you and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and wonderful holiday season.

Warm Regards,



Kristen C. Umstattd  
Leesburg District  
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors  
[kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov](mailto:kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov)  
703-777-0203

Valerie Suzdak  
Chief Legislative Aide  
Supervisor Kristen Umstattd, Leesburg District  
[valerie.suzdak@loudoun.gov](mailto:valerie.suzdak@loudoun.gov)



### Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

As Leesburg's Mayor, I get the opportunity to meet many interesting people. On December 21st, I met students from Smart's Mill Middle School who created the winning entry, "Follow the Yellow Brick Road", in the Town of Leesburg's 2017 "Paint the Plow" contest. The winner was selected by members of the public taking an online survey. The Leesburg Commission on Public Art announced the winner and recognized all participants at the Leesburg Town Council meeting. The students were so proud of their work! The painted snow plow blades were featured in the Kiwanis Halloween Parade and the Leesburg Christmas and Holiday Parade.

This holiday season please take care and be safe. Thieves often take advantage of crowded shopping centers and rushed shoppers. The Leesburg Police Department offers the following advice to help avoid being a victim:

- Be vigilant when using ATMs
- Beware of strangers approaching and distracting you
- Avoid looking at your phone while walking through a shopping center or parking lot
- Don't carry too many shopping bags
- Do not leave your purse, wallet, or shopping bags unattended

- Do not leave purchases visible in your vehicle
- Do not leave cell phones, tablets, or other electronic devices in plain view in your vehicle.

Leesburg residents can put their live Christmas trees at the curb for recycling collection in January. The Town's trash collection contractor, ESI, will collect Christmas trees on the following days:

- SE/SW Quadrants - Thursday, January 4th, and Monday, January 8th
- NE/NW Quadrants - Tuesday, January 2, and Tuesday, January 9th.

Town staff have been working hard to get ready for this winter and the inevitable snowstorms that will come. Once a snow emergency is declared, all vehicles must be removed from on-street parking on King, Loudoun and Market Streets. The Town clears snow from public streets beginning with the snow emergency routes and other primary roads, followed by secondary routes and neighborhood streets. During snow removal operations, staff will update the Town's Facebook page and the Town's Snow Hotline (703-777-SNOW). Property owners and occupants (both residential and commercial) are responsible for clearing snow and ice from public sidewalks adjoining their properties within 24 hours at the end of a snowfall.

Before the end of the holiday season, be sure to see the dancing lights in the Rose Garden by the town garage. It is a delightful light show and well worth the time to sit in the garden and enjoy. Merry Christmas and happy New Year!



### **Business of the Month** **US Taekwondo Martial Arts** **Academy (USTMA)**

Owner, Grandmaster Eung Gil Choi is an accomplished 9th degree black belt who has dedicated his life to the study of Taekwondo. He opened [USTMA](#) in 1987; the first school to teach Taekwondo and martial arts in the Leesburg area. He has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for cancer research and Blue Ridge Hospice and has served as Leesburg's and Loudoun's premier ambassador to South Korea as well as to our Korean communities in the US and Canada.

## **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 February 2nd.

## *Leesburg's* First Friday

**Leesburg Nativity Tour:** Modeled after a garden tour, the Leesburg Nativity Tour invites you to celebrate the history of Christmas - the birth of Jesus Christ - while you shop and dine in Leesburg over the holidays. We have placed privately owned nativities throughout shops, restaurants and businesses in Leesburg that will be on display until January 2nd. Please visit <http://leesburgnativitytour.org/> for the nativity tour route.

**Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign:** We are continuing to offer the opportunity for volunteers to sign up to ring the bells in front of local stores for contributions. Walmart and Giant are both Leesburg favorites and high \$ producers, and also direct financial donations are truly appreciated. Both can be managed through our website <http://virginiasalvationarmy.org/loudouncountyvacorps/>. Thank you.

**Mobile Adoptions from Loudoun County Animal Services (LCAS):** The mobile adoption bus is 33 feet long and goes to multiple locations in Loudoun County throughout the year. All pets on the bus are available for adoption and normal adoption procedures apply for all adoptions from the bus. Many pets can go straight home with their new family! Clyde, a twelve year old American Bulldog mix, was recently adopted at the annual LCAS' Home for the Holidays adoption event. Clyde is a great example of how older pets make wonderful additions to loving homes (please see his picture below). Upcoming mobile adoption events include:

- Saturday, December 16th - Leesburg Family Fun Day, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Saturday, December 23rd - One Loudoun Farmers Market, 9:00 to noon
- Friday, January 5th - Pets Supplies Plus in Ashburn, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Friday, January 12th - Pet Valu in Ashburn, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Saturday, January 13th - Leesburg Farmers Market, 9:00 am to noon

- Friday, January 19th - Purcellville Library, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Sunday, January 21st - Cascades Farmers Market, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm



**Give the Gift of Farm-Fresh Food:** Still looking for tasty, useful gifts for friends and family? Why not give them a subscription to fresh food from a Loudoun farm? Many of Loudoun's farms offer Community Supported Agriculture subscriptions. When you sign up for a CSA, you get a supply of seasonal food every week. It can be Loudoun-grown fruits or vegetables, or Loudoun-raised meat products, or a mixture, depending on the farm. To find farms that offer CSAs, visit <http://loudounfarms.org/CSA>.

Leesburg District, 1 Harrison St, S.E., 5th Floor, PO Box 70000, Leesburg, VA 20177

About our service provider

Sent by [kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov](mailto:kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov) in collaboration with

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