



Dear Leesburg Resident,

I hope everyone has a healthy and happy New Year! The FY 2019 budget season is starting. The School Board operating budget presentation will be Wednesday, February 7th at 6:00 pm in the LCPS Administration Building in Ashburn. The County Administrator's budget presentation is Wednesday, February 14th at 5:00 pm prior to the 6:00 pm public hearing before the Board of Supervisors. The dates of the budget public hearings are below. At the January 3rd Board meeting, the Board majority instructed staff to prepare the FY 2019 proposed budget at the estimated equalized real property tax rate (\$1.09) and provide options that would increase the tax rate by one cent above (\$1.10) and decrease the tax rate by one cent below (\$1.08) the estimated equalized real property tax rate. The current real property tax rate is \$1.125.

#### **Budget Public Hearings**

- Tuesday, February 27th at 6:00 pm
- Thursday, March 1st at 3:00 pm
- Saturday, March 3rd at 9:00 am (LCPS Administration Building)

As in 2017, I will advocate for the full funding of our schools. Our students still need new computers and textbooks. Recently, I visited Round Hill Elementary, which has a computer science immersion program, to spend time with the students. There are only three elementary schools in Loudoun County that offer computer coding and robotics classes from kindergarten through 5th grade. Sadly, none of these schools is in Leesburg. The Round Hill program was impressive, and I would like to see this curriculum at every elementary school in the County.

To better support the good work of our nonprofits, the Board voted to pursue direct funding arrangements in FY 2019 with the six nonprofits who provide core safety net services. The proposed cost is \$502,519, which would allow the full \$1,090,700 existing nonprofit budget to be available for the competitive portion of the nonprofit grant awards. For our nonprofits, please see information about the grant funding application at the bottom of this newsletter.

The Board approved expanding [real estate tax relief for the elderly or permanently disabled](#) effective on January 1, 2019. All applicants who are currently benefiting from the program will not be affected. My Board Member Initiative to reduce the [personal property tax rate for permanently disabled veterans](#) to \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value on one motor vehicle owned and regularly used by a qualifying permanently disabled veteran was approved. The County's part-time Veterans Affairs Coordinator position became full-time to help link veterans with both County government services and services provided by our VFW, American Legion, and other veterans' groups. At the January 18th Board meeting, my motion to reduce the personal property tax for uniformed members of the Virginia Defense Force to \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value passed unanimously. The Virginia Defense Force is an all-volunteer organization that fills in for the National Guard when the Guard is deployed.

### **Land Use**

**Envision Loudoun**, the comprehensive planning process, held five community outreach meetings and offered an online engagement tool for Round II: Envision the Future Workshops in June and early July. The project team is now developing and assembling the components of a new General Plan and Countywide Transportation Plan for Round III workshops tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2018. The input received through Round I and II workshops is being used to develop the various components of the plan. The project team is expected to complete a draft of these components, which will be presented at the next round of public workshops.

The Board held a **Housing Summit** to discuss housing affordability in Loudoun County. The Board's discussion focused on incentivizing the housing market; developing a public land inventory; identifying sites for increased affordable housing near transportation infrastructure and existing or planned community amenities; and building upon the existing housing trust fund for a revolving loan program.

### **DC United-Affiliated Soccer Stadium**

On January 18th, the majority of the Board of Supervisors voted to enter into a [Memorandum of Agreement](#) with DC United's affiliated feeder team for a soccer stadium at Bolen Park that would have a minimum of 5,000 seats, along with other facilities, including expanded parking lots. The Memorandum does not put an upper limit on the number of seats at the stadium. The County Parks department will have use of the stadium when the feeder team is not using it. I voted against entering into the Memorandum for four reasons: 1) the potential stadium traffic impact of an additional 1,500 or more cars on Sycolin Road and Battlefield Parkway during evening rush hour - there are no plans to widen Sycolin Road south of the Town of Leesburg border; 2) the fact that the County has, over the last year, taken the position that Kincaid Boulevard (currently closed, due to the community's concerns about thousands of additional vehicle trips cutting through the middle of their neighborhood) should be opened up to Bolen Park traffic; 3) the fact that the stadium is being fast-tracked to open in early 2019, at least a year or more before the planned reliever road, Crosstrail Boulevard, is built from Kincaid Boulevard to Route 7; and 4) the fact that the County is committing \$15 million of taxpayer funds up-front to build the stadium and associated facilities. To be fair to my colleagues on the Board who voted for the Memorandum, they believe the lease payments from the team will cover the debt service on the \$15 million. I am not convinced, but my colleagues are sincere in their belief. I will keep you informed about the dates of the land use public hearings before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Please visit the County's [website](#) to read the staff report and Memorandum of Agreement.

### **Transportation**

The Board held a **Transit Summit** in May and a **Transportation Summit** in June. The Board discussed purchasing new Gillig buses (including fare boxes and real-time hardware) and developing a new service plan to address the identified service gaps. We requested a Transit Summit every year until the Metrorail becomes operational. The Transportation Summit focused on improving safety and reducing congestion on our roads including Routes 7 and 15 in Leesburg.

**Route 15 at Edwards Ferry and Fort Evans Roads:** VDOT will hold a design public hearing in the spring of 2018. The project will construct a grade-separated interchange at Route 15 and Edwards Ferry Road and construct improvements at Fort Evans Road to address congestion and safety. Construction of this project could be a decade out.

**Route 7/Battlefield Parkway Interchange:** A design public hearing will be held Wednesday, March 7th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at John W. Tolbert Jr. Elementary School, 691 Potomac Station Drive, NE in Leesburg.

**Route 15 CPAM-2017-0002:** The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to amend the 2010 Countywide Transportation Plan to revise the segment of US Route 15 (James Monroe Highway) from a rural two-lane local access undivided rural arterial roadway to a four-lane median-divided facility between North King Street (US Route 15 Business) and Montresor Road (VA Route 661). Staff is tentatively scheduled to present at the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors public hearing on Wednesday, February 14th at 6:00 pm in the Board Room on the first floor of the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, SE, in Leesburg. The meeting will be televised on Comcast Government Channel 23, Open Band Channel 40, and Verizon FiOS Channel 40. It will also be available for viewing through the Loudoun County [webcast system](#). The staff report will be posted on the County's website approximately one week before the hearing date. For the staff report that was presented to the Planning Commission in December, please go [here](#).

**Route 7 Bypass widening from the Greenway to West Market Street and Clark's Gap:** The Route 7 Bypass between East Market and West Market Street is currently 4 lanes - 2 in each direction. Both the Town of Leesburg and Loudoun County transportation plans assume the Bypass could be widened to a total of six lanes. At VDOT's suggestion and in response to the eastbound morning backups that extend from the Dulles Greenway to Route 9 at Clark's Gap, and the westbound evening backups on the Bypass and the Greenway, the County wishes to prioritize a widening project for 6 lanes and has begun planning for 8 lanes - 4 in each direction.

County staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors consider the prioritization of a project to design and construct a third eastbound lane on Route 7, between Route 9 and the Dulles Greenway, and a third westbound on Route 7, between the Dulles Greenway and West Market Street. County staff also recommends that the Board direct staff to incorporate an amendment to the Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) that is being processed in conjunction with the Envision Loudoun project to define the ultimate condition of Route 7 as four-travel lanes in each direction between West Market Street and the Dulles Greenway.

Leesburg residents, whose homes back up to the Bypass, have asked whether sound walls could be part of any widening project. According to VDOT, if federal funds are used in this project, federal regulations require that a noise study be done and, if conditions merit, sound walls can be part of the project. If no federal funds are used, then there is no federal, state,

regional, or local requirement that a sound wall be part of the project. However, that doesn't mean it couldn't be made part of the project, but we would have to lobby for it.

**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa):** The Board submitted nine transportation projects totaling \$365,702,000 and the Town of Leesburg's Route 7 at Battlefield Parkway Interchange totaling \$25,000,000 to the NVTa Six Year Regional Funding Program covering fiscal years 2018 - 2023. One of the projects, to widen US 15 to 4 lanes between Battlefield Parkway and Montresor Road, ranked the highest in congestion reduction, and was listed as one of the top three priorities. The application was submitted to the NVTa in December 2017 with adoption expected June 2018.

### **Capital Projects**

The sinkhole remediation and ground improvements for the Pennington Garage are progressing. With a total of 208 drill holes required to perform sinkhole remediation, 205 are complete as of January 2nd, representing 99% completion. Ongoing efforts to protect foundations in areas at-risk of future sinkhole development are also progressing. With a total of 298 drill holes required to protect foundations, 146 are complete as of January 2nd, representing 49% completion. For those of you wondering why construction has slowed in recent weeks, the County discovered cracks in the pillars and walls and is trying to determine the reasons behind these cracks.


### **Public Input**

I made a motion to reconsider the action taken on January 3rd to amend Section 1 C in the Rules of Order for 2018 - which put in place a 30-minute time limit on the 6:30 pm public input session. I heard concern about the new 30-minute time limit from Republicans and Democrats, and given my absence from the January 3rd meeting, I asked for a reconsideration to eliminate the time limit. The Board majority approved a substitute motion to place the limit at 60 minutes for the 6:30 pm public input session. I did not vote for the substitute motion because I believe our main obligation is to listen to the public.

In 2018, I will serve on the Potomac Watershed Roundtable, the Clean Air Partners Board with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Annexation Area Development Policy Committee, the Family Services Board, the Transportation & Land Use Committee, and the Virginia Association of Counties Transportation Steering Committee.

Thank you and stay warm!

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

Happy New Year! Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, February 6, 2018. The Town is holding a special election to fill the remainder of the Town Council seat vacated by Ken Reid when he resigned in December. There are 3 candidates to fill this seat, the term of which expires on December 31, 2020. Polls will be open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 6th.

On Wednesday, January 24th, the Town Council and the County Board of Supervisors held a joint meeting. The topics of discussion were: (1) County land acquisitions inside the Town's corporate limits, (2) public transit, (3) economic development, (4) Route 15 North congestion mitigation, and (5) Virginia Association of Counties/Virginia Municipal League.

I will be giving my annual State of the Town address, at 6:00 pm on Monday, February 5th in the Council Chamber at Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you can't attend, you can watch on Comcast Channel 67 or FiOS Channel 35. In addition, you can stream it live from the Town's [website](#). The video will also be archived and available for on-demand viewing.

We haven't had much snow so far this winter, but we have had several extended periods of extremely cold weather. When below-freezing temperatures are in the forecast, please take precautions to avoid frozen pipes. The Leesburg Utilities Department has some tips on this [website](#). Did you know that your water meter can freeze as well? If you have no water service throughout your home and you know that your pipes aren't frozen, it could be a frozen meter. Call 703-771-2750 (Mon-Fri, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm) or 703-771-4500 (outside of regular office hours) for 24/7 assistance. Staff will be dispatched to check on your meter and get your water running again.



## **Business of the Month** **The Arc of Loudoun**

The Arc of Loudoun at Paxton Campus is a full-service non-profit organization for children with disabilities and their families. Our mission is to empower, embrace, and engage children with disabilities. The 17-acre campus has multiple programs and services that together provide an integrated and innovative environment. Programs include: The Aurora School, Aurora Behavior Clinic, Open Door Learning Center Preschool, ALLY "A Life Like Yours" Advocacy Center, and Ability Fitness Center.

We invite you to join us for our fundraising events such as our [\*\*50th Anniversary Celebration Gala\*\*](#) on April 21st at 6:00 pm at the Lansdowne Resort and Spa, Music at the Manor Festival, award-winning Shocktober in October, and Annual Golf Tournament. Feel free to visit our [\*\*website\*\*](#) or call 703.777.1939 for more information.

## **Events & Info**



**Leesburg's First Friday:** Stroll around historic downtown Leesburg on the First Friday of each month 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

**Loudoun Nonprofit Grant Funding Application:** The online grant application and related documents are now posted, and applications must be submitted by February

22nd. Loudoun County accepts applications from community nonprofits that provide core human services to vulnerable and disadvantaged residents. For those nonprofits who were unable to attend the training sessions, a link to a training video will be posted on this [webpage](#). Training is highly recommended for any organization seeking grant funding.

**My Bloody Valentine:** February 9th and 10th at Paxton Manor in Leesburg. My Bloody Valentine is for all those looking to do something unique this Valentine's Day. Whether you want to hold your loved one closer while going through 32-rooms of terror or whether you are single and want to go out with a bunch of friends because love... stinks, our event is open to you! Purchase the 7:00 pm, 8:00 pm, or 9:00 pm hour and join us any time within the hour you purchased. You must be inside the gates by 10:00 pm to go through the attractions. All proceeds benefit The Arc of Loudoun.

**31st Annual YMCA Chocolates Galore & More:** Friday, February 23rd from 7:00 to 11:00 pm at the Lansdowne Resort and Spa in Leesburg. This fundraiser for the YMCA Loudoun County is one of the finest culinary and social event of the winter season. The signature portion of the evening is the Best Taste and Best Presentation competition between some of our finest local restaurants. The [YMCA Loudoun County](#) offers after school programs at many elementary schools in Leesburg. Please visit their [website](#) to learn more and register.

**Home Improvement Programs Offer Help with Weatherization Repairs:** The County offers home improvement and repair programs that can help qualified homeowners weatherize their homes. The programs make homes more energy efficient through weatherization repairs such as installing a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) unit, a new roof or new windows. More information about the programs, including income charts used to determine eligibility, is available at this [website](#) or by calling Robert McCarthy at 703-777-0353.

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

**Constant Contact** 

Try it free today