



Dear Leesburg Resident,

Do you want to open your own business? Do you have an idea for a product or service that you want to bring to market? Come learn the answer to these and other questions at the free [Starting a Business workshop](#) at the Rust Library in Leesburg on March 15th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm hosted by George Mason's Small Business Development Center (SBDC). SBDC also offers no cost, one-on-one business advising services.

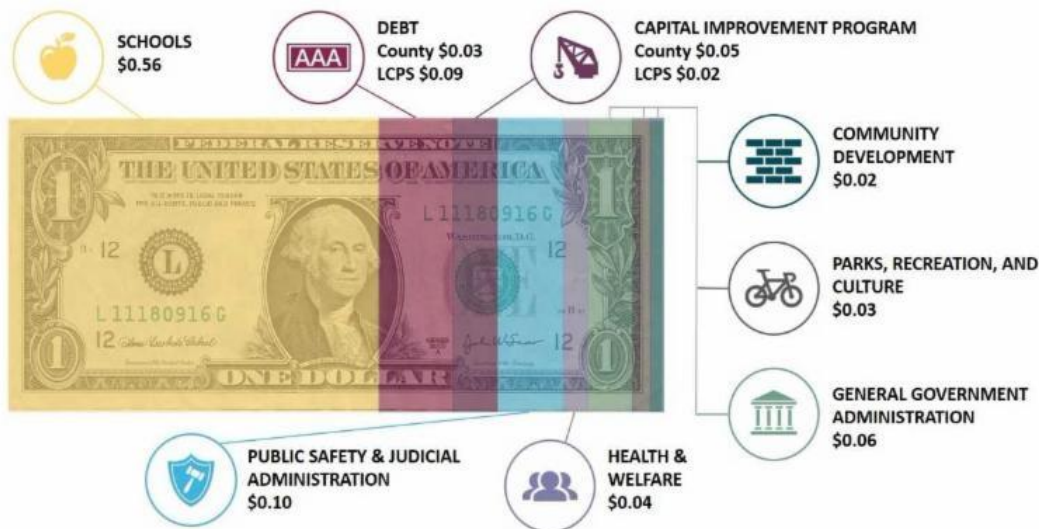
Please save the date for a Town Hall meeting Mayor Kelly Burk, Chair Phyllis Randall and I will be holding on Saturday, April 14th from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm in the Town Council chambers. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

#### **Budget**

On February 14th, Tim Hemstreet, the County Administrator, presented a [proposed budget for FY 2019](#) that totals \$2.3 billion in appropriations for the County government and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS). The proposed budget is based on \$1.09 or the equalized real property tax rate which is 3.5 cents lower than the current tax rate of \$1.125. The "equalized" tax rate is the rate at which the average homeowner's tax bill remains the same as last year. This rate will continue to maintain County service levels but underfunds LCPS by \$10.8 million. The advertised real property tax rate of \$1.105 fully funds LCPS and the County needs. The dollar bill graphic below is a representation of where tax dollars will be used under the proposed FY 2019 Budget.

# Your Tax Dollar at Work

*FY 2019 Proposed Budget*



During the School Board and Board of Supervisors joint budget work session, I asked if the robotics and computer coding offered at the three immersion schools will be expanded to all elementary schools. While there will be a greater emphasis on computer science in K-12, there is no plan to expand the program. I then asked how much it costs for the three elementary schools that currently offer the program. It is an impressive program that I would like offered at all of our elementary schools. I am pleased to report the replacement of out of date textbooks and digital resources is included in the FY 2019 School Board proposed budget.

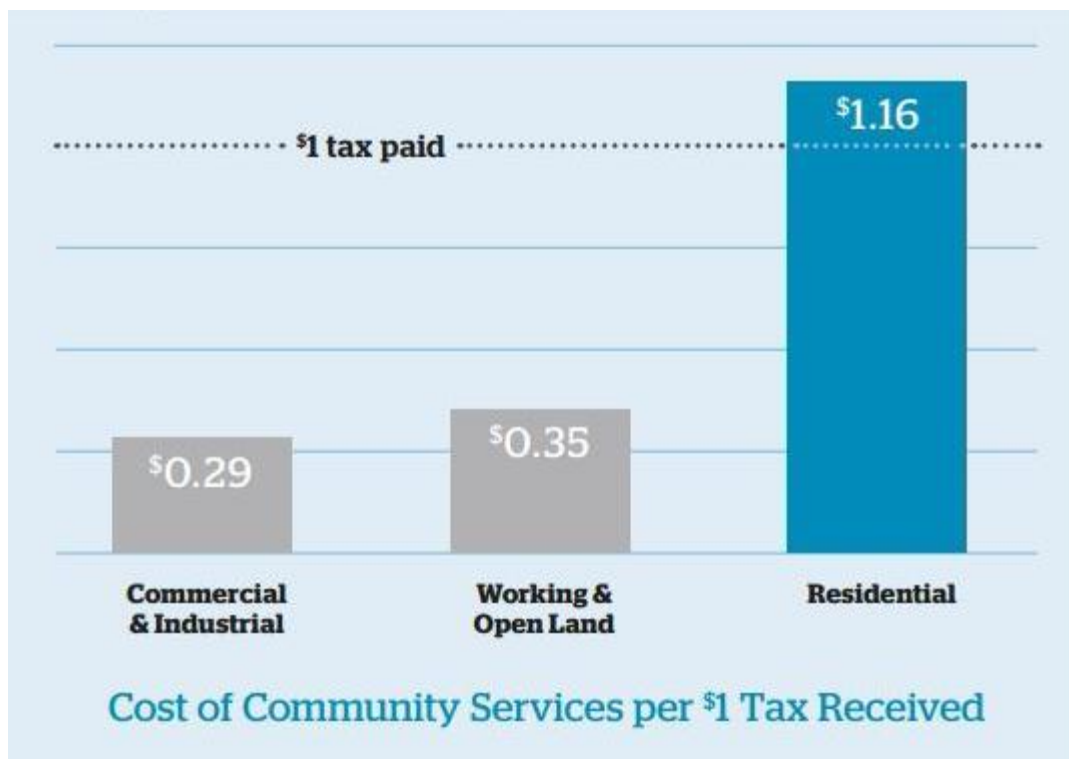
After hearing from the leadership of the Loudoun Education Association that LEA supports a tax rate of \$1.10 to (almost fully) fund the schools, I believe this tax rate, which is a 2.5 cent reduction from the current tax rate of \$1.125, is worth serious consideration. At \$1.10, the schools would be nearly fully funded, leaving a \$2.6 million gap. To put this \$2.6 million gap in perspective, the budget proposed for this upcoming fiscal year would require \$871.6 million from the County's General Fund. Last year, the Loudoun County Public Schools were able to fill a gap that, at \$5.5 million, was over twice as large as this year's projection. LCPS enrollment continues to grow at 1.8% or 1,483 students, as the County continues to add approximately 11,000 residents every year. The proportion of students with special needs has grown faster than the rate of total enrollment, requiring more resources to serve these children. New schools and teachers are needed to meet the growth in student enrollment and this is the largest factor impacting the budget.

## FY 2019 Tax Rate Options

<b>\$1.08</b>	<b>\$1.09 Proposed</b>	<b>\$1.10</b>	<b>\$1.105 Advertised</b>
County gap of \$2.8M	Fully funds County needs	Fully funds County needs	Fully funds County needs
LCPS gap of \$16.3M	LCPS gap of \$10.8M	LCPS gap of \$2.6M	Fully funds LCPS needs
Average Tax Bill \$5,024	Average Tax Bill \$5,071	Average Tax Bill \$5,117	Average Tax Bill \$5,140

Many of our residents have expressed frustration with the rapid growth the County has undergone due to residential rezonings under past Boards. Our residents have suggested that this County Board of Supervisors should stop allowing the residential growth that drives up student enrollment numbers and, in the absence of more rapid commercial growth, the need for higher taxes. I agree. This is why I have voted no on every major residential rezoning. It is also why I generally support commercial development and the efforts of the County's Economic Development Department to bring in new business. In 2017, the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development had a record year with 86 wins, totaling \$4 billion in investment. For example, the County has attracted data centers that now provide almost 25% of the County's revenues. Data centers now generate about \$500 million a year in total tax revenues to Loudoun County; \$200 million from their computer servers and other business personal property; \$200 million from their real estate; and \$100 million from sales tax.

Here's another way of looking at the question of residential vs. commercial. For every \$1 paid in taxes by the average residential property owner, there is \$1.16 needed in services. For every \$1 paid in taxes by the commercial sector, only 29 cents worth of services are required. Open space and farmland consumes about 35 cents in services for every \$1 paid in taxes. Essentially, commercial development, along with open space and farming, subsidizes residential development.



<https://www.pecva.org/maps-and-resources/publications/piedmont-view/233-special-edition-fauquier-county/1147-talking-taxes-and-growth>

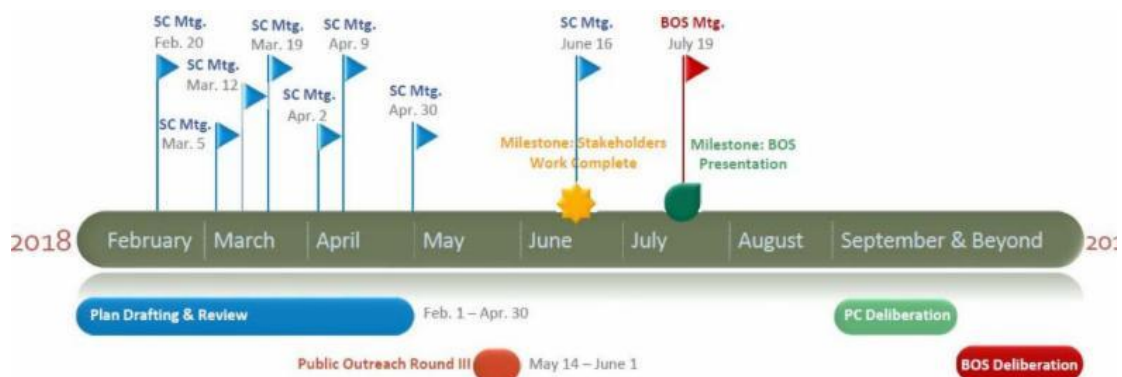
There are two upcoming public hearings on the proposed FY 2019 budget scheduled for:

- Thursday, March 1st, 3:00 pm, Board Room, Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg.
- Saturday, March 3rd, 9:00 am, Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn.

Anyone who wishes to speak at the public hearings may sign up in advance by calling 703-777-0204. The public hearings at the government center will be available for viewing on Comcast Government TV Channel 23, Open Band Channel 40, and Verizon FiOS Channel 40. They will also be [webcast](#).

#### **Envision Loudoun**

At the February 22nd Board business meeting, we approved the schedule for the upcoming phases of the [Envision Loudoun process](#), which will result in a new Comprehensive Plan for the County. The Stakeholders Committee will move forward without Board guidance, as I suggested, because this is the end of their process and it is time for the next phase. The Stakeholders' recommendations will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and then the Board of Supervisors on the following schedule.



Throughout March and April, the Stakeholders Committee will review drafts of the two components of the new Comprehensive Plan: a new General Plan and a new Countywide Transportation Plan.

During the last two weeks of May, the third round of Envision Loudoun's public outreach will take place. Six open houses are planned throughout the county, in which community members will have an opportunity to comment on the draft of the new General Plan and the Countywide Transportation Plan. Public input will be captured at these events, as well as through online platforms, and will be shared with the Stakeholders Committee for review at its June 18th meeting.

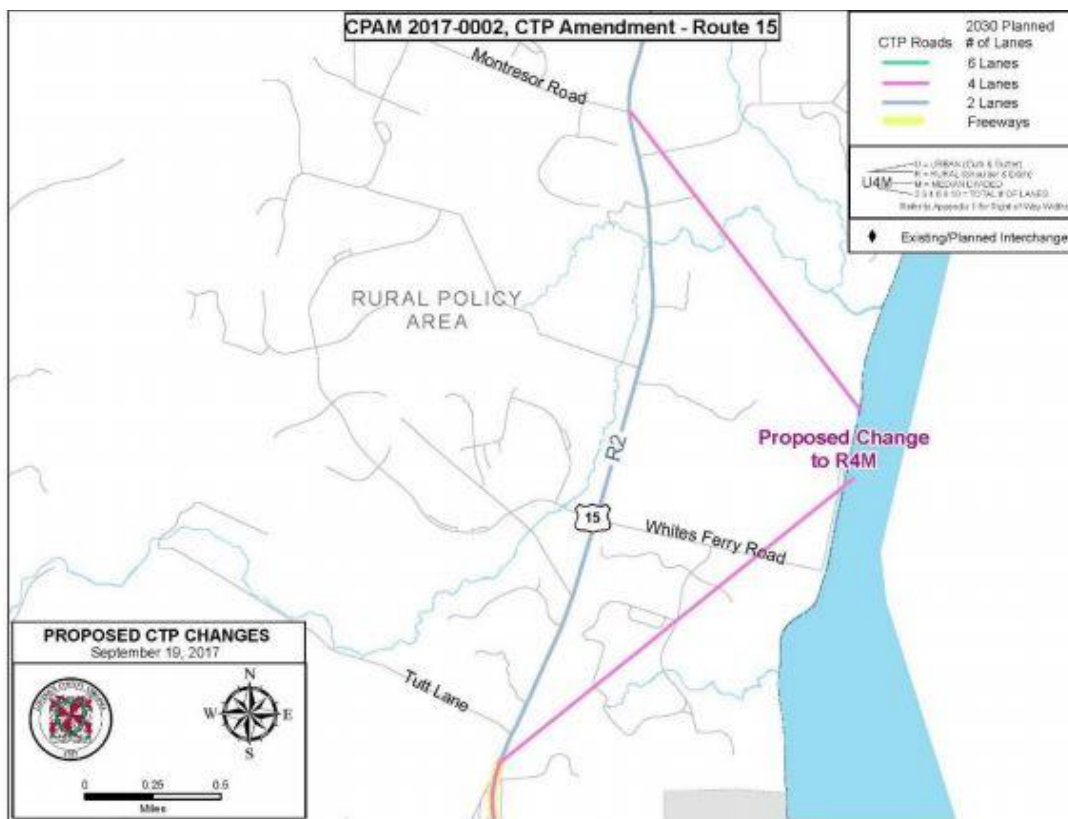
On July 19th, the Stakeholders Committee's recommended plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors, after which the plan will move on to the Planning Commission for review and public comment.

In late 2018 and early 2019, the Board of Supervisors will conduct its final review, public hearing and endorsement of the new Comprehensive Plan.

### Transportation

**Route 15 CPAM:** The Board held a public hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM) to the Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) to revise the segment of US Route 15 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) on February 14th.





I believe this has been an open process and appreciate the resident advocates on all sides. Safety, congestion mitigation, preserving the beauty of Route 15 and getting residents home to their families can all be accomplished. I am glad residents mentioned the need for access to Route 15 especially when turning left. This corridor has been studied for more than 20 years and it is time to move forward with a solution that maintains the historical and rural character of the road. The design will be consistent with heritage resource policies of the CTP and scenic areas and corridor policies of the Revised General Plan and the Heritage Preservation Plan and include bicycle and pedestrian trails. The Board voted unanimously to send the proposed CPAM to the March 6th Board business meeting for action.

#### **Route 15 Safety and Operational Study (Whites Ferry Road to Maryland State Line):**

Open house sessions are scheduled for Friday, March 9th at Ida Lee Recreation Center (2:00 to 9:00 pm) and Saturday, March 10th at the Lucketts Community Center (9:00 am to 2:00 pm). These sessions are being held to provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments and feedback on initial concepts that are being considered for the Route 15 corridor between Whites Ferry Road to the Maryland State line. The public is invited to come anytime during these sessions to view boards and maps, provide comments, and participate in a survey. The Ida Lee Recreation Center is located at 60 Ida Lee Drive, NW and the Lucketts Community Center is located at 42361 Lucketts Road.

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

### **New Veterans Center**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs "Vet Community Access Center" opened in Loudoun on February 12th located at 751 Miller Drive, SE, in Leesburg. Governor Ralph Northam, Chair Phyllis Randall and Supervisor Buffington joined Leesburg's VFW Post 1177, and 100 veterans and their families at the ribbon cutting.



The center offers a broad range of free services for veterans, their family members, and active duty military personnel, including readjustment counseling provided by licensed clinicians who assist veterans and their families with all mental health needs, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), marriage/family therapy, military sexual trauma, substance abuse, anxiety, and depression. Appointments at the Vet Community Access Center can be made by calling 304-263-6776.

Thank you and please remember to provide your feedback on the budget.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristen C. Umstattd". The signature is written on a light-colored background.

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## Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

It's budget season! The Town Manager, Kaj Dentler, presented his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019) on February 27th. A copy of the proposed budget document is available on the [Town website](#). In addition, there will be a hard copy available at the Thomas Balch Library. Our goal is to hold the line as much as possible on real estate tax bills without sacrificing the services that you expect. I encourage you to take a look at the budget and give us your feedback. The Town Council will hold a budget public hearing on Tuesday, March 13th at 7:00 pm and a tax rate public hearing on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00 pm.

If Leesburg is going to remain the wonderful community that it is, we must keep our young people here after they graduate and enter the workforce. That's why I'm proud that the town is sponsoring the 6th annual [Leesburg Youth Career Expo](#) on Saturday, March 10th at Tuscarora High School, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm (please see the flyer below). This free event is aimed at high school and college students and recent graduates. Over 60 employers will be there, looking to fill full-time entry level positions, full- and part-time summer positions, and internships. Many will be hiring on the spot. Job seekers should be dressed for interviews and bring copies of their resumes. Pre-registration is encouraged to avoid the long registration lines on the day of the event.

If you've been by Town Hall recently, you may have noticed the orange bows on the doors. The Love Your Neighbor Orange Ribbon Campaign placed the bows as a sign of love and community unity in response to the recent messages of hate and bigotry distributed in town. A basket of orange ribbons is in the lobby of Town Hall, available to anyone who would like one (or two). The ribbons will remain on the doors of Town Hall through the month of March.





## **Business of the Month** **China King Restaurant**

China King is located in the heart of historic downtown Leesburg at 5 South King Street. With great food at a great value, the Whang family is proud to have served residents and local businesses since 1989. February 14th was our 29th anniversary! Thank you to our wonderful customers for their patronage and friendship. Please call us at 703-777-9831 to make an order or a reservation.

## **Youth Connection**



*Leesburg* ★

*the hometown of the 21st century*

Tuscarora High School

801 N. King Street, Leesburg

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018

11:00AM-2:00PM



# **CAREER EXPO**

Are You a Student or Recent Graduate Looking for a Job or Internship?

**MEET EMPLOYERS - GATHER INFORMATION - APPLY FOR JOBS**

Free to attend • Pre-Register at [www.leesburgva.gov/careerexpo](http://www.leesburgva.gov/careerexpo)

## 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 March 2nd.



**Loudoun Commissioner of the Revenue Office to Hold Real Estate Tax Relief Seminar for Elderly or Permanently Disabled:** Robert Wertz has scheduled free information sessions to familiarize residents with the eligibility criteria for the county's real estate tax relief program. No appointment or RSVP is required to attend. Find out about the county's tax relief program and have your questions answered at the Leesburg session on Thursday, March 1st, 10:30 am, Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road, NW.

**Hire Loudoun:** If you are looking to fill full-time, part-time and/or intern positions, please register online as an employer no later than March 21st to participate in a career fair called Hire Loudoun. If you live in Loudoun and are looking for new career opportunities, you can attend this event at no charge on Wednesday, April 4th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott, 45020 Aviation Drive in Dulles. Please register for this event [here](#). The event is being organized by the Department of Economic Development, the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, and Purpose WorX.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, March 24th, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The hunt is on for candy and prize filled eggs at Ida Lee Park! After the hunt, enjoy family friendly amusements including unlimited rides on a jumbo slide, bounce houses and obstacle courses and photos with the Easter Bunny. Families are invited to bring lunches to enjoy a picnic at their favorite spot in the park. Tickets can be purchased in advance by stopping in or calling Ida Lee Park Recreation Center or [online](#). Tickets are \$10 per child. Pre-registration ends at 8:00 pm on March 23rd.

**Nursing Scholarships:** The Ladies Board of Inova Loudoun Hospital is accepting applications for nursing school tuition assistance. Scholarships are available to eligible students in various programs of study, including degrees at the associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. The Ladies Board has awarded 1,141 scholarships totaling almost \$1,660,000. Last year's 53 scholarships ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,750 and totaled \$110,250. Applications, criteria for selection and additional information are available [online](#) or at the Gift Shop at Inova Loudoun Hospital, the office at Loudoun Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Leesburg and the Twice Is Nice Thrift Shop in Leesburg. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, April 10th.

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

[About our service provider](#)

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