

Dear Leesburg Resident,

In September, I reported that two of Loudoun's transportation initiatives on behalf of the Town of Leesburg were unanimously supported by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. One will continue the regional funding for the Route 7/Battlefield Parkway interchange, and the other legitimizes the Town's rescheduling of the Route 15/Edwards Ferry Road project to accommodate the transfer of \$5 million from that project to the Battlefield/7 interchange project.

Zoning Ordinance Overhaul

At the September 19th Board business meeting, we endorsed a project plan for comprehensively revising and/or replacing the Revised 1993 Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance to implement the Loudoun 2019 Comprehensive Plan. The zoning ordinance is the primary implementation tool for the comprehensive plan and needs to be revised and/or replaced to maintain consistency between the comprehensive plan and regulatory planning documents. The overhaul project will also update the content and structure of the zoning ordinance based on modern best practices in land use regulation. The core work on the Zoning Ordinance Overhaul is expected to take 24 months to complete (see schedule below).

The community outreach plan involves getting ideas on a finite number of options, and taking public feedback on the proposed updates to the zoning ordinance. Outreach tools for community groups will include, but are not limited to: focus groups, discussion items at applicable advisory bodies and community group meetings, informational materials, e-notification or mail inserts, website postings, an online survey, and special events.

Milestones*

- Sept 2019 Consultant selection, Project Plan
- Oct 2019 Project kickoff, Web tools
- Early 2020 Round 1 community input
- July 2020 ROIA
- Mid 2020 90-day referral review
- Late 2020 Round 2 community input
- Mid 2021 Planning Commission
- Late 2021 Board of Supervisors

*Quarterly status reports to the Board will occur throughout the project

Tuscarora Crossing

At the September 19th Board business meeting, Supervisor Higgins moved that the Board of Supervisors approve a revision of the 2015 Tuscarora Crossing approvals. This project is located just outside of the Town of Leesburg corporate limits, within the Leesburg Joint Land Management Area. The Tuscarora Crossing application will convert approximately 6.2 acres from approved retail use to residential use in order to develop 234 affordable dwelling units and increase the amount of nonresidential development in order to build up to 1,436,000 square feet of data center uses on an approved industrial/office land bay.



I did not support this application because it takes land that had been zoned commercial and turns it into residential even though the affordable housing aspect of this development is something the full Board supports. I continue to be concerned about the impact of too much housing on our schools and roads. I understand LCPS says we have capacity at this time but we also have the Leegate development with about 400 units that will be coming online shortly in the Town of Leesburg. Both of these developments would currently be served by schools that many students feel are already overcrowded. Regardless, I will continue supporting our school needs.

On behalf of the residents of Village Walk, I would like to say that it is unfortunate that a developer controlled HOA did not see fit to alert the homeowners who had bought into that community that this application was coming forward. It would be helpful in the future if we requested enabling legislation from the General Assembly to require developer-controlled HOAs

to actually inform the homeowners within the development when an adjacent property was going to be developed. I continue to lament the fact that so often we hear from residents, who have bought into a community, that they were told the fields or forests next to them would never be developed. When I went door to door in Village Walk, many residents said they had been told the land south of them was a permanent nature preserve and could never be touched. That, unfortunately, is not the case. I do want to thank the residents of Village Walk for their diligence and professionalism as they became involved in the County development process.

Proposed Red Flag Laws Policy Statement

The Board discussed Chair Randall's proposed policy statement to support state legislation that outlines the procedure, notification requirements, and evaluation processes for determining when an emergency severe threat order of protection is necessary, and upon such order, 1) removes firearms under the possession of the respondent to a responsible custodian, local law enforcement, or federally licensed firearms dealer; 2) provides penalties associated with purchasing, possessing or transporting a firearm by a respondent until the order expires or is dissolved by the court; and, 3) provides penalties for anyone transferring a firearm to a person known to be served with a warrant.

At the September 19th business meeting, the Board majority on a 6 to 3 vote, moved to defer removal of firearms from persons under emergency severe threat order of protection from the legislative program until the Virginia State Crime Commission submits its recommendation to the Virginia General Assembly on November 18th. I appreciate examining this issue further; however, Chair Randall's policy statement is limited to emergency severe threat order of protection. Too many people are shot and killed by people with mental health issues and I think it is in the interest of public safety that mentally ill people in crisis not have immediate access to firearms. For this reason, I supported Chair Randall's initiative on red flag laws.

Discharge of Firearms--Berming

At the September 24th Transportation and Land Use Committee, Supervisor Meyer moved to forward the following language to the November 7th Board business meeting that the County's discharge of firearms codified ordinance be amended to include the following language: "it shall be unlawful for any person to discharge a firearm without a backstop or method of containment (see picture below) that will adequately contain the projectile to the property upon which it was discharged" with no recommendation from the committee.

Supervisor Meyer further moved that staff include the following data regarding instances where a firearm discharge was not contained to the property upon which it was discharged, during this Board's term. Specifically, the data sought is the approximate distance from the target shooting to the damaged property or wounded individuals and the acreage of the originating property.

I believe this motion is a step in the right direction and appreciate Supervisor Meyer's efforts to make areas safer in western Loudoun and the transition policy area. The reckless discharge of firearms is happening way too often in Loudoun County. In fact, a woman was recently wounded by a neighbor's reckless shooting. I am afraid it will only get worse unless the Board takes action to hold the persons who are doing the reckless shooting accountable.



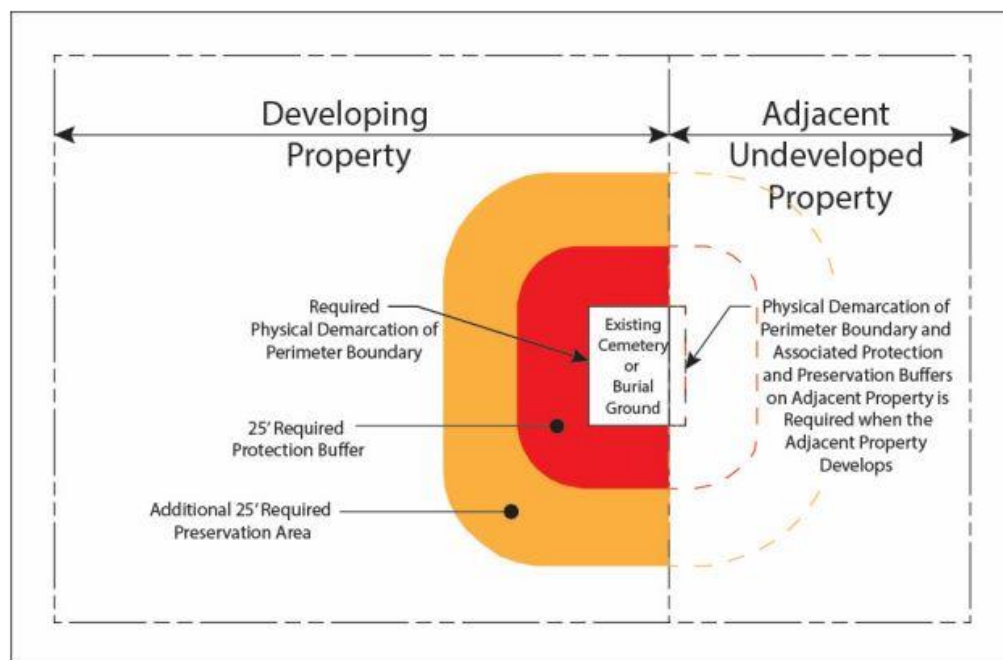
Image from "Outdoor Shooting Ranges: Best Practices" published by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2003.

Cemetery Buffers

The cemetery protection regulations that were originally advertised for Planning Commission consideration will be reinstated with the zoning ordinance amendment for setbacks, buffers, screening and related landscaping at the October 17th Board business meeting. The proposed regulations include a cemetery buffer totaling 50 feet in width and consisting of two components: 25-foot protection buffer (extending outward from cemetery boundary) and 25-foot preservation buffer (extending outward from

protection buffer). No land disturbance would be permitted within either component of the buffer, except for what is necessary to remove invasive vegetation, provide access, and maintain grave sites. The innermost protection buffer can only be modified with Board approval via a special exception application, whereas the outermost preservation buffer can be modified administratively (to allow grading, installation of additional landscaping, etc.). This proposal matches the Heritage Commission recommendation for a 50-foot buffer for cemeteries, burial grounds, and graves (see picture below).

HC Cemetery Buffer Recommendation



Monroe Technology Center

The Leesburg Town Council voted to approve the plans for The North Star School, which will become the new home of Loudoun County Public Schools' Alternative Education Program, currently housed at the Douglass School. North Star will also provide daytime and evening adult education programming. The 10-acre site was the home of Monroe Technology Center for 40 years before it moved to the Academies of Loudoun campus last fall.

2019 State of the Commute Survey

The Transportation Planning Board's triannual State of the Commute survey results are available. Survey responses show how important it is for our region to provide our residents more options for commuting, and to support

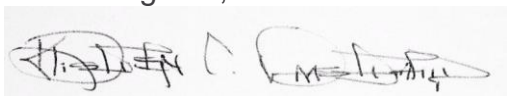
policies that focus on moving more people, whether in cars or on public transport, throughout the region. The three big takeaways from the survey are:

1. Fewer commuters are driving alone,
2. More workers are teleworking but still more want to,
3. Where commuters live affects their commute choices.

You can see the full report [here](#).

Thank you and please remember to vote on November 5th.

Warm Regards,



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Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

Isn't the cooler weather wonderful? Get out and enjoy fall in Leesburg!

Groundbreaking for [Route 7/Battlefield Parkway Interchange](#) will be on Tuesday, October 15th, at 11 am. VDOT is managing this project, with funding and support from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Loudoun County, and the Town of Leesburg. Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2021. The interchange will make a big difference in traffic congestion on Route 7, by eliminating the light at Battlefield Parkway.

Curbside Fall Bulk Leaf Collection begins on Tuesday, October 15th. Residents should rake leaves to the curb by Sunday night. There is no set collection schedule, but our goal is to make a complete sweep of the Town once a week. Help our crews with collection by following a few simple do's and don'ts: don't mix leaves with brush or yard waste, don't rake leaves in front of storm drains, and don't park cars on top of leaves! Collection will continue through the end of December.

The [Kiwanis' Halloween Parade](#) will take place on Thursday, October 31st at 6:00 pm. The parade will step off from the front field of Ida Lee Park and proceed down King Street, through the Historic Downtown, and end at Fairfax Street. King Street will be closed to traffic, including cross-traffic, beginning at 5:30 pm, so be sure to come downtown early to get a great viewing spot! Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items to donate to Loudoun Hunger Relief - their truck will be at the end of the parade to accept donations.

The Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission will present the 26th annual Loudoun History Awards on Sunday, November 3rd at 2:00 pm. These awards honor individuals who have made significant contributions to preserving Loudoun's past through the collection of documents and memorabilia, preservation of historic landmarks, visual arts, writing, and long-time commitments to local history organizations. The ceremony will take place at the Thomas Balch Library (208 West Market St) and the public is invited.

The Marshall House will host its annual [Veterans Day Commemoration](#) on Monday, November 11th, at 10:30 am. For more information, visit [here](#).

Don't forget that Town offices will be closed for Columbus Day on October 14th and for Veterans Day on November 11th, but there's no change to trash, recycling, and yard waste collection on either day.



[Business of the Month](#) **[Street SMART Driving](#)** **[Academy, LLC](#)**

Street Smart's priority is to make sure that you receive top notch driver training. It provides a safe environment where students learn and improve their driving skills. Whether you are just learning to drive, ready for your behind-the-wheel training requirement, or need a refresher to prepare for your DMV Road Evaluation, it is here to meet your

needs. The Leesburg branch is owned and operated by Lolita Smart, a resident who grew up in Leesburg.

Events & Info



Voter Registration Deadline and Absentee Voting for November Election

The deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 15th. In-person absentee voting will be available at:

- Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration, 750 Miller Drive SE, Suite C in Leesburg.
 - Through October 25th, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.
 - October 28th through November 1st, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 8:00 pm,
 - Saturday, October 26th and Saturday, November 2nd, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

The deadline for voters to apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to them is 5:00 pm, Tuesday, October 29th. The last day to vote an absentee ballot in person is Saturday, November 2nd.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event: Saturday, October 12th from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at 751 Miller Drive SE in Leesburg. Loudoun residents are welcome to bring HHW from their homes to the event, free of charge. Typical HHW includes: fluorescent light bulbs, dry-cell batteries (alkaline, Ni-Cad, Lithium, rechargeable, etc.), oil-based paint/stain/varnish, paint thinner, mineral spirits, metal polish, rust remover, wood strippers and preservatives, furniture polish, waxes, sealants and solvents, bleach, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fertilizer, pool chemicals, muriatic acid, sulfuric acid, ammonia, mercury, mercury thermometers and thermostats, gasoline, expired fuel, auto cleaners and flushes, brake and transmission fluid, windshield washer fluid, fire extinguishers, moth balls, flea and tick products, photographic chemicals and other hobby chemicals. Anyone who has an item that is not on this list is encouraged to call the county's Waste Management Division at 703-771-5500 to see if the item can be accepted or if an alternate disposal option is needed. The limit per household is 15 gallons of liquid HHW (container size not to

exceed 5-gallon), and 40 pounds of solid HHW. Participants may be requested to provide proof of Loudoun County residency such as a driver's license or utility bill.

Census Jobs Recruitment Sessions: Hundreds of U.S. census enumerator positions are needed in local Loudoun neighborhoods from early spring through the summer of 2020. These positions will be part-time and flexible and have a starting pay of \$25 per hour. Paid training for U.S. census enumerators is also provided. Attend one of the information sessions at the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center located at the Shenandoah Building, 102 Heritage Way NE in Leesburg, throughout October to meet with U.S. Census Bureau staff and get employment application assistance. Three sessions will be held daily in October on the 16th, 25th, and 31st. Business casual dress is recommended for these events. To register for a session, visit [here](#).

Community Development Block Grant: The application process for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is underway. The CDBG program provides funding on an annual basis for local projects that address a variety of housing, public service, and community development needs. Eligible applicants for CDBG funds include local nonprofit organizations and local government entities in Loudoun County or those mainly serving Loudoun County residents. Applications are due no later than Friday, November 8th at 4:00 pm. The application packet is available [online](#) or by contacting CDBG Program Assistant Sandra Berrios at 703-771-5731 or sandra.berrios@loudoun.gov.

CDBG Program Public Hearing on Housing and Community Development Needs: The Loudoun County Family Services Advisory Board will conduct a public hearing at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, October 23rd, to gather input on addressing housing and community development needs. The public hearing will be held in the Shenandoah Room on the second floor of the Shenandoah Office Building, 102 Heritage Way NE in Leesburg. No advance sign-ups are required.

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. November 1st is Leesburg's First Friday. King Street will be closed to traffic. Come down and enjoy the additional room to walk and revel in the music, food, and drink.



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[About our service provider](#)

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