

FY 2021 Final Budget Guidance

It is budget season again. At the January 7th Board business meeting, the Board majority moved to prepare the FY 2021 proposed budget at the current real property tax rate of \$1.045 and provide options to either increase the real property tax rate by one cent to \$1.055 or decrease the real property tax rate by one cent to \$1.035. I voted to revise the fiscal guidance provided in October as recommended by the County Administrator to maintain our current level of services as the population continues to grow by 11,000 residents per year. At the current real property tax rate of \$1.045, it is projected there will be a \$24.6 million gap between the Superintendent's proposed budget and our transfer to the schools. I requested additional information about our data center revenue which is approximately \$300 million a year to see if unprogrammed revenue can help fully fund the schools. Below is the average homeowner tax bill for each real property tax rate scenario.

Tax Rate Increase Scenarios - Average Homeowner Tax Bill

Real Property Tax Rate Scenario	Avg. Tax Bill
\$1.020 (estimated equalized rate)	\$5,179
\$1.045 (current rate)	\$5,305
\$1.055 (one cent increase)	\$5,356
\$1.070 (two and one half cent increase)	\$5,432
\$1.080 (three and one half cent increase)	\$5,483

Our County Administrator, Tim Hemstreet, will be presenting the proposed FY 2021 budget in the Loudoun County Government Center board room on Wednesday, February 12th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Budget public hearings are scheduled on Tuesday, February 25th at 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm in the Loudoun County Government Center board room in Leesburg and Saturday, February 29th at 9:00 am at the Loudoun County Public Schools administration building, 21000 Education Court in Ashburn. Advanced sign-up is available by calling (703) 777-0200.

Take the 2020 Census in March

We all know it's hard to keep New Year's resolutions, but this one only happens every decade. Every ten years, the Constitution requires a count of everyone in our nation. The next count, or census, begins in March 2020.

Your Census count ensures Loudoun County receives a fair share of federal funding for schools, healthcare, road projects, and affordable housing. For every adult or child not counted in the 2020 Census, Loudoun loses \$2,000 a year. Your count also determines local, state, and federal representation. Look for a special mailer from the Census Bureau in March. When the time comes, participating in the Census will be fast, easy and safe.

[Visit the 2020 Census Website](#)

Courthouse Grounds and Memorials

At the January 21st Board business meeting, we discussed the recommendations from the Heritage Commission's report for the Loudoun County Courthouse grounds and its memorials. We took the following action:

1. Allocate \$30,000 to pursue National Historic Landmark designation for the historic Courthouse and grounds.
2. Consider naming the historic Courthouse after Charles Hamilton Houston, pursuant to the County's adopted naming policy, and form a committee to include the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Judiciary members, and Heritage Commission members.
3. Reserve space for a future interpretive "Path to Freedom" trail using interpretive markers, art, and memorials.
4. Facilitate a community dialogue regarding the design and placement of memorials including those which will commemorate the reading of the Declaration of Independence, Loudoun's Union Soldiers, and the enslaved.

I supported these motions. Should the General Assembly grant the authority to the County to relocate memorials, I would support relocating the existing Confederate memorial to a museum or park. Staff will need to return to the Board with a scope and cost estimate for a facilitated community dialogue.

[Courthouse Grounds Research Project](#)

Demolition of the C.S. Monroe Technology Center

LCPS wants residents to be aware that the demolition of the former C.S. Monroe Technology Center at 715 Children's Center Road in Leesburg, is scheduled to begin on or about Tuesday, February 4th. The 81,500-square-foot C.S. Monroe building, which was constructed in 1977, will be removed to enable construction of The North Star School. The demolition of the C.S. Monroe building will take approximately 60 days, including disassembling the building and removing debris from the site. No explosives will be used in removing the structure. Heavy construction equipment will be operated each work day throughout this process.

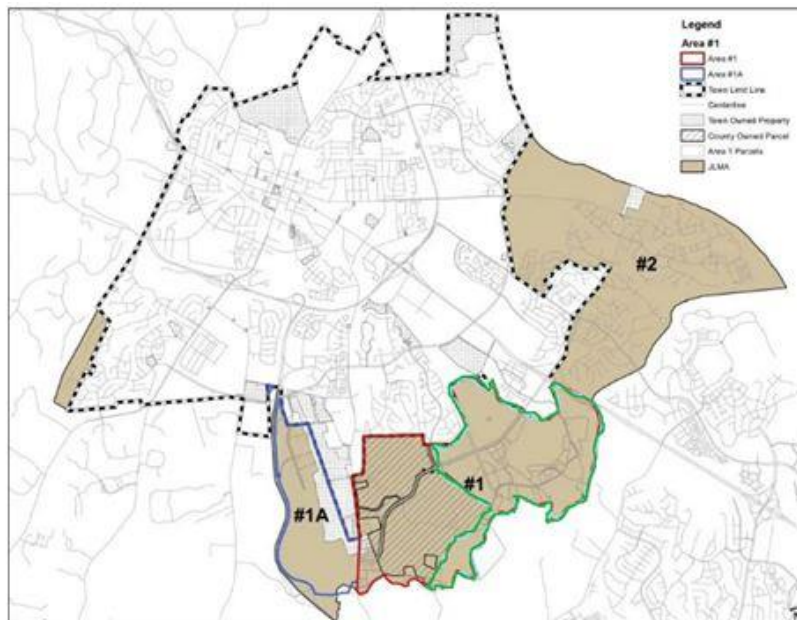
The Monroe Advanced Technology Academy, previously housed at the C.S. Monroe building, moved to the Academies of Loudoun in 2018. The North Star School will be the new home for LCPS's Alternative Education and Adult Education programs. This facility is planned to open for the 2021-2022 school year.



Front Entrance and Bus Drop Off view of North Star School

Leesburg JLMA Revitalization Area

Loudoun County has proposed designating a revitalization area in our Joint Land Management Area (JLMA) to support applications for low income housing tax credits. I will be requesting that the Board consider reducing the affected area to include only that part of JLMA that is outlined in green in the map below at the February 4th Board business meeting. Staff is requesting that the entire JLMA be included in the affordable housing revitalization overlay. Mayor Burk expressed concerns about including the entire JLMA in the revitalization overlay. She was especially concerned about encroachment of residential development near the Leesburg Executive Airport. I share that concern and fear that any Board action that indicates support for any housing near the Leesburg Executive Airport, including on the Compass Creek parcels, would tend to undermine both the airport and the commercial uses, including data centers, that are planned or under construction on the Compass Creek parcels.



The section of the JLMA that I have outlined in green includes the Tuscarora Crossing development that is requesting inclusion in the affordable housing revitalization overlay. The area outlined in green

excludes the sections of the JLMA north of Route 7, designated on the map as Section #2. Section #2 north of Route 7 includes relatively new communities, including the gated community of River Creek and part of Potomac Station, among others, that are highly unlikely to be in need of revitalization. Section #2 also includes multiple historical properties. Although the existing communities north of Route 7 are outside my district in the Catoctin district, I am concerned that we have not given these existing communities the chance to weigh in on the impact of this overlay district on their property values. The same would be true of the residents of the JLMA's Woodlea Hills, the small Catoctin neighborhood west of Woodlea Manor.

I am hoping the Board can support the alternative map as a reasonable compromise that allows approved affordable housing to compete for the Virginia Housing Development Authority's financial support while protecting existing communities and areas, like Compass Creek and the Leesburg Executive Airport, that have approved uses that are incompatible with housing. At the February 4th business meeting, public input is at 6:30 pm and advanced sign-up is encouraged by calling 703-777-0200.

Ambulance Transport Bills

Loudoun County Fire and Rescue began a fee-for-service program for emergency ambulance transport in July 2015. This cost recovery program was developed by the Board of Supervisors to supplement the needs of the Fire and Rescue System. All funds received through the program are directed back into the fire-rescue system to include the volunteer companies. This revenue will pay for training, equipment, specialty apparatus, and support personnel, allowing it to continue to provide quality care with competency and compassion.

There is no charge for emergency medical treatment if the patient is not transported. If you are transported by ambulance to the hospital, your insurance company will be billed first. Medicaid, Medicare, and most other private insurance policies allow for reimbursement of this service. For example, Medicare will cover 80% of the Medicare allowed fee for transport and mileage; as long as the transport is 'medically necessary', as defined by Medicare. You will then receive a bill for any co-insurance or deductibles. EMS providers will not ask for your insurance information or request any payment at the time of service. All insurance information will be obtained through the hospital where you received your emergency medical care.

This 2015 policy has confused some of our residents, so I want to emphasize these points: You may expect to receive up to three bills from the County to cover any part of ambulance transport that your insurance policy has not covered. If you can afford to pay the transport bill, please do, since your payment will support your volunteer rescue company with the costs of purchasing, maintaining and operating its ambulances. However, if you cannot pay your ambulance transport bill, the County will not go after you to pay and will not turn those bills over to a collection agency. Eventually, you will stop getting these notices in the mail. No one will suffer financial hardship as a result of emergency medical transport.

If you have a question regarding billing or insurance coverage, please contact the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Department by calling 703-737-8782 or e-mail questions to emscostrecovery@loudoun.gov. The Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System follows all Federal and State privacy and security regulations with strict adherence as a covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Warm Regards,

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Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

I hope everyone's 2020 has been off to a fantastic start. It's been a mild winter but the season is not over yet. When snow is in the forecast, please remove vehicles, trash cans, and other items from the roadway to give the snow plows as much space as possible to push snow. Also, remember that property owners and tenants are responsible for clearing the public sidewalks adjoining their property within 24 hours of a snowfall. If you notice an area that hasn't been cleared (particularly around commercial properties), please report it to the Town, so staff can follow up using this [online form](#). For more information about the Town's snow removal policies, visit the Town's [website](#).

Here are a few important updates regarding the Town of Leesburg:

The [Route 7/Battlefield Parkway Interchange](#) project is underway as overnight closures have occurred to accommodate lane shifts needed for construction on Route 7 (East Market Street) between the Leesburg Bypass and River Creek Parkway. Drivers can continue to expect overnight lane closures on Route 7, along with daytime lane closures, between 9:30 am and 3 pm Mondays

Patriot Disposal, Inc. is no longer accepting plastic bags or recyclables in plastic bags as of Monday, January 27th. The change is being made due to plastic bags getting wrapped around the sorting equipment. Residents are being asked to dump all recycling loosely inside their Toters. If the recycling will not fit into the Toter, you can use an extra container with lid. Any recycling that has been placed in

The Loudoun County Courthouse expansion project will require a complete closure of Church Street between Market and Cornwall streets starting in March and continuing through December. The Town will continue to keep an open line of communication with Loudoun County as this project continues to move forward. This will include, but will not be limited to, coordination of road closures,

through Thursdays, and 9:30 am to 2 pm Fridays. In addition, right of way acquisition is in progress.

More details regarding this project can be found at VDOT's [website](#).

bags, or is mixed with non-recyclable material, will not be collected. A yellow sticker will be placed on the Toter to alert the resident of the situation. Once corrected, all items will be collected on the resident's next regularly scheduled collection day. For questions regarding recycling, visit the Town's [website](#).

traffic detours, and signal timings while reducing traffic congestion and ensuring a safe environment. Any and all updates, regarding this project, will be made on the counties website. Residents are encouraged to sign up for project updates by visiting the County's [website](#).

Business of the Month

Crossroads Jobs

Crossroads Jobs, a nonprofit organization, helps people secure and maintain stable employment. Based out of Leesburg, it has found marketplace jobs for more than 300 area residents who have completed a proven program. All services are free to both applicants and employers.



Events & Info



Reversing Opioid Overdoses Training: Thursday, February 27th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the offices of the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services (MHSADS), 906 Trailview Boulevard in Leesburg.

The free training covers:

- Signs of opioid overdose.
- How to respond to an opioid overdose emergency with the administration of naloxone, a drug that can be used to treat narcotic overdoses in emergency situations.
- Distribution of a free naloxone nasal spray from the Loudoun County Health Department to registered participants who complete the training.

The training is open to the public; however, classroom space is limited and advanced registration is required. Anyone who uses opioids or knows someone who is using opioids is encouraged to attend. Pre-registration is first come, first served.

Register for Revive! Training



Leesburg District | 1 Harrison St, S.E., 5th Floor, Leesburg, VA 20175

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