



Supervisor

Caleb A. Kershner

Catoctin District



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA



Loudoun
County

Agriculture
Development

Rural Economic
Development

Small Business
Development

Fighting
Lyme Disease

Community
Services



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February 2020

Dear Catoctin Residents,

Welcome back from Presidents' Day! I hope everyone had a nice weekend. In honor of the recent holiday, I thought I'd share these interesting facts with you about some of our most famous presidents:

- George Washington holds [the highest possible rank](#) in the U.S. Army, an honor that he shares only with General John J. Pershing.
- In 1842, while he was still practicing law in Illinois, Abraham Lincoln [got himself into a public swordfight](#).

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Get Your Friends in the
Loop

**Proudly Serving
Loudoun County**

- **Hamilton**
- **Lincoln**

- *Theodore Roosevelt was shot in the chest at a campaign appearance. He ignored the wound and [went on to give his prepared speech.](#)*

Thankfully, my February has not involved any of those things. But it has been full of change and hard work. The FY2021 budget season has officially started. I will be working hard to try to keep your property tax rates down.

My office has also been tracking and managing key projects that affect Catoctin residents, including road improvements to Route 15 and traffic calming measures for Waterford and Spring Lakes. We've also been responding to your thoughts and concerns. Your feedback is vital to us, so please keep it up!

I will be focusing my efforts in the coming days on the following issues. The first is transportation. Many of our rural roads are in dire need of maintenance and in many cases a major upgrade. We are looking into ways to improve our roads so they can handle their increased traffic load, while still preserving the rural feel and character of our county.

*The second is agriculture. Western Loudoun is home to a vibrant tradition of farming and viticulture. In addition to providing top-notch local produce, these places draw many visitors to the county, which is a boon to our **\$1.8 billion** tourism industry. In spite of that, we need to grow opportunities for our local farms and vineyards to introduce visitors (and our own East Loudoun neighbors) to their remarkable goods. It's high time we changed that.*

The third is broadband access. This is a serious problem for Western Loudoun, where residents are often stuck with few internet service options - or even with none at all. As with our roads, we are looking for ways to improve the key linkages in

- **Lovettsville**
- **Lucketts**
- **Taylorstown**
- **Waterford**



Map of Catoclin District

Get to Know Your County

[Loudoun B&B](#)
[Loudoun Chamber](#)
[Loudoun Equine Alliance](#)
[Loudoun Farms](#)
[Loudoun Wine Growers](#)
[Loudoun Youth](#)
[Virginia Equestrian](#)
[Virginia is for Lovers](#)
[Visit Loudoun](#)
[Volunteer Loudoun](#)

My Committees and Commissions

[The Finance /](#)
[Government](#)
[Operations and](#)

our telecommunications network (particularly the "middle mile" segment), while doing so in a way that doesn't disrupt our rural landscape and feel.

Please keep sending us your thoughts, and I hope the following updates are helpful to you. Don't forget to check out [my webpage](#) for the latest updates in the Catoclin District.

Sincerely,

Caleb Kershner

Loudoun's FY 2021 Proposed Budget And What It Means For You

On Tuesday night, County Administrator Tim Hemstreet presented his proposed FY 2021 budget for the County. So far, I like some of the things I see, and am reserving judgment on others. We'll spend the rest of March carefully working through it until we have a final approved budget in April.

**Economic Development
Committee**

**The Northern Virginia
Regional Commission
(NVRC)**

**The Loudoun County
Agricultural District
Advisory Committee**

**The Coalition of
Loudoun Towns
(COLT)**

**The Annexation Area
Development Policies
Committee (AADP)**



**View Current Calendar
of Public Meetings**

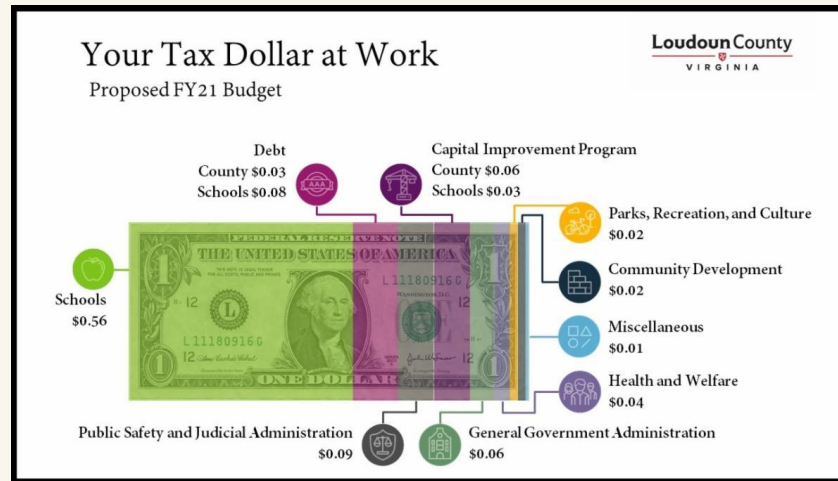


**View Live Webcasts of
Public Meetings**

Contact Me

Mailing Address:

1 Harrison Street, S.E.
P.O. Box 7000
Leesburg, VA 20177



Note About This Graphic: The School portion of your tax dollar actually equals \$0.67 cents when you add in \$0.08 cents for School Debt and \$0.03 cents for the School's Capital Improvement Projects.

Here are my two main takeaways so far.

This Proposal Still Raises Your Taxes

Back in January, the Board proposed (and I voted against) a tax rate as high as \$1.045 per \$100 of assessed value. Thankfully, this proposed budget would only raise the tax rate to \$1.035. But that's still going to increase the tax bill for our homeowners.

Our last two Boards managed to pay for the County's services without raising our taxes. In the last eight years, they actually

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[Jonathan Bales](#)
[Arlee Harris](#)

LEX
Loudoun Express
Request



Send your complaints and requests right to county staff! [LEX](#) is designed to be an online system where you can contact the appropriate county staff for all of your needs.

Stay Connected!

lowered the tax rate by 24 cents. That's a remarkable fiscal achievement - one that we should carefully preserve.

I'm concerned that if we start increasing the tax rate again, even with the best intentions, we won't find it easy to stop. And looking at the budget so far, I don't think we need to raise taxes to pay for the County's needs in FY 2021.

Only A Thoughtful, Rigorous Process Will Get Us The Budget We Need

We know that Catoctin needs improvements for its roads, rural economy, and broadband infrastructure. Many of these improvements are planned and paid for in the current budget. Tim and his staff have clearly put a lot of hard work and careful thought into their proposal.

Nevertheless, every dollar we spend comes out of your taxes. The current tax burden on our residents isn't something we can ignore. We have to carefully balance the needs for County services against the growing tax burden that we're placing on our residents. The only way for us to succeed is to follow a thoughtful, rigorous process.

Loudoun County Public Schools FY2021 Adopted Budget

Loudoun County received the [School Board's Adopted Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021](#). The total Operating Budget is \$1.37 billion, representing an increase of \$96,926,714 (7.6%) from the current budget.



Sign Up for County Alerts

Need a Traffic Update?



Dial VDOT at
511

Need to Report a Road Problem to VDOT?



Dial
1(800)FOR-ROAD



[Visit My Website!](#)

Forward to a Friend

It's important to note that operating budget revenue comes from a variety of state, local and federal sources:

- **Federal Funding** comes from Federal Special Education Aid and other federally funded grants.
- **State Funding** comes from Basic Aid, Sales Tax, Special Education Aid, and State Funded Projects.
- **Local Funding** comes from your property taxes paid to Loudoun County and from community use of building fees, tuition, sale of surplus equipment, cell tower leases, and other miscellaneous charges.
- **Local Revenue** also comes from your pocket through the onslaught of fees you pay on behalf of your student, such as the \$250 fee you pay for your child to park in the high school parking lot, or the \$150 per sport athletic fee that you pay for your child to play a sport, or the fee that you have to pay to see your child play the sport you already paid \$150 for in the athletic fee.

One family with two children in Loudoun County Public High schools

\$250 Parking Fee

\$150 Athletic Fee Fall Sport Child #1

\$150 Athletic Fee Fall Sport Child #2

\$150 Athletic Fee Winter Sport Child #1

\$150 Athletic Fee Winter Sport Child #2

\$150 Athletic Fee Spring Sport Child #1

\$150 Athletic Fee Spring Sport Child #2

\$250 Family Pass to Attend Athletic Events of Child

TOTAL: \$1,400

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(Total does not include your property tax, and does not include other school fees, such as the fee for AP tests.)

One family with one child in Loudoun County Public High schools

\$250 Parking Fee

\$150 Athletic Fee Fall Sport Child #1

\$150 Athletic Fee Winter Sport Child #1

\$150 Athletic Fee Spring Sport Child #1

\$250 Family Pass to Attend Athletic Events of Child

TOTAL: \$950

These fees have been too high for too long. I think these fees need to be reduced dramatically or eliminated altogether.

Loudoun County Public Schools FY2021 Cost Per Pupil by Category



<i>FY21 Budgeted Cost Per Pupil</i>	
State Category	<i>Amount</i>
Instruction	\$12,847
Operation & Maintenance	1,219
Pupil Transportation	732
Administration, Attendance, & Health	580
Technology	573
Facilities	68
FY20 Estimated Cost Per Pupil	\$16,019

*FY 21 School Board's Adopted Budget
Executive Summary, p. 25*

Local Transfer from Loudoun County

The School Board's Adopted Budget for FY2021 reflects a recommended funding increase from the County to the School Board of \$78.3 million, which is an increase of 9% over the FY2020 budget.

Send Me Your Thoughts

Let me know what you think about the School Board Budget!
Send me an e-mail at caleb.kershner@loudoun.gov.

Your Chance to Participate in Setting Our Budget

We will have public budget hearings on the following days:

Tuesday, February 25

- **Where:** Loudoun County Government Center
- **When:** 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Saturday, February 29

- **Where:** Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building
- **When:** 9:00 AM

How to Comment

You can sign up in advance to speak at any of the public meetings by calling (703) 777-0204. Alternatively, you can call the Board of Supervisors' Comment Line and give your thoughts at (703) 777-0115.

Written comments about the budget can be sent to the Board [by email](#), [on Facebook](#), [on Twitter](#), or by mailing them to Board of Supervisors, PO Box 7000, Leesburg, VA, 20177-7700.

The County has also set up [a webpage for the budget](#) to give you more information and updates.

[Visit the Website](#)

Route 15 North Improvements



Improving Route 15 north of Leesburg is a top priority for the Catocin District. We want to keep you informed about where the project stands. Here is the most up-to-date status on the Route 15 North widening project from Battlefield Park to Montessor Road:

- The Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure verified traffic levels along the affected

part of Route 15 in spring and summer 2019. They gave an updated traffic operational analysis to VDOT in fall 2019, which formed the basis for the road widening design.

- The County's roadway design consultant, J2 Engineers, developed a draft concept alignment in fall 2019 for widening the road and improving intersections at North King Street, Whites Ferry Road, and Montresor Road. You can see that draft concept document on the [Route 15 North project webpage](#).
- The County's civil engineering and environmental consultants, Gordon and Wetland Studies and Solutions, are currently performing environmental and cultural resource investigations along the roadway corridor, which will conclude in spring 2020.
- In the first half of 2020, DTCI staff will engage with the public to obtain feedback on the draft concept alignment.

We will continue to follow this project closely and keep you informed of any changes. Please [email me](#) with your thoughts and views.

Road Project Updates

*The latest on County and VDOT projects that
impact Catoclin District residents*

Crosstrail Boulevard

Segment B - the design and construction from Kincaid Boulevard to Russell Branch Parkway. A contract award for construction of this proffer item was approved at the Board Business Meeting on December 3, 2019.

RES and the Army Corps of Engineers have secured the bonding for wetlands mitigation. The deed for the remaining Dominion Energy easement has been executed and recorded. The agreement for bridge maintenance has been sent to the VDOT Central Office to be reviewed.

Woods Road Intersection Improvements

The purpose of this project is the construction of turn lanes on Evergreen Mills Road at relocated The Woods Road. It is the final phase of the original scope of The Woods Road Relocation. VDOT estimates the cost of the project to be \$2.8 million. Construction has been underway since the summer of 2019. Construction is currently underway; there has been no other change in this project's status.

John G. Lewis Memorial (Featherbed Lane) Bridge over Catoctin Creek

The purpose of this project is to develop conceptual bridge alternatives to address the existing historic truss bridge. VDOT presented three options to the State Department of Historic Resources. The DHS chose option 2A: building a new structure from the deck down, allowing the trusses to remain as ornamental.

John G. Lewis Memorial Bridge (Route 673 - Featherbed Lane) over Catoctin Creek is a single span steel pin connected Pratt through truss with a timber deck and asphalt overlay,

supported on stringers and floor beams. The bridge was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 25, 1974. It is 157 feet long, has an overall width of about 14 feet and clear roadway width of 11.16 feet. It carries one alternating traffic lane. The bridge was originally erected in 1889 on the Leesburg & Alexandria Turnpike (Route 7) over Goose Creek, to replace a bridge destroyed by flooding. In 1932 the bridge was dismantled and moved to its current location. The bridge was posted 15 tons in 2004 and reduced to 3 tons in 2013 due to insufficient capacity. The existing bridge has an average traffic count of 57 vehicles per day with daily truck traffic less than 3 trucks.

The right of way acquisition phase is currently underway; there has been no other change in this project's status.

Route 7 & Route 287

This project provides for the planning, design, and construction of improvements for the Route 7 and Berlin Turnpike (Route 287) interchange. The project is funded using local tax funding and VDOT Smart Scale funding. As of late 2019, contract negotiation was ongoing with the top ranked design consultant, with a draft contract package to be forwarded to VDOT for its authorization to award the contract. There has been no change in this project's status.

Route 7 & Route 690

This project funds the design, right-of-way acquisition and construction of an interchange at Route 7 and Route 690 in Purcellville. A Stage 1 Bridge report has been submitted, and a Summary of Route 7 Bridge Inspection Report is currently being reviewed.

The geotechnical field work has been completed. VDOT and B&D collected comments on the 60% design plans. They also

received comments on the type, size, and location of the Route 7 and Route 690 bridges; Dewberry has responded to these TS&L comments. The Federal Highway Administration has provided the executed NEPA. DTCI and VDOT will coordinate regarding the potential early purchase of an impacted parcel.

Route 7 & Battlefield Parkway

This project will replace the traffic signal at Route 7 (East Market Street) and Battlefield Parkway with a grade-separated interchange, and remove or modify the signalized intersection at Route 7 and Cardinal Park Drive to reduce congestion and improve traffic operations. Other improvements include accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians, and new interchange lighting. The Town of Leesburg has executed an agreement with VDOT to administer this project on the Town's behalf. The Town has also executed a reimbursement agreement with NVTa.

Construction is underway, and the traffic shift on Route 7 is now in place. The right of way acquisition process is underway. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is expected to issue a VPDES permit soon.

Route 9 & Route 287 Roundabout

This project includes design and construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Charles Town Pike (Route 9) and Berlin Turnpike (Route 287).

The 60% design plans and floodplain alteration were completed and submitted to VDOT, B&D, Loudoun Water, and Dominion Energy for their review on January 24.

Route 15 - Route 15 Interchange at Edwards Ferry/Fort Evans Road

This project includes the design and construction of grade separated interchanges at Route 15/Edwards Ferry Road and Route 15/Fort Evans Road. This project is still on hold, pending funding.

Town of Hamilton Pedestrian Improvements

This project provides drainage improvements and repair to the existing pedestrian sidewalks along Route 7- Colonial Highway adjacent to the Town's western limits. This is a Transportation Alternatives project managed by the Town of Hamilton. A Notice to Proceed was issued in 2019. There has been no change in this project's status.

Waterford Mill

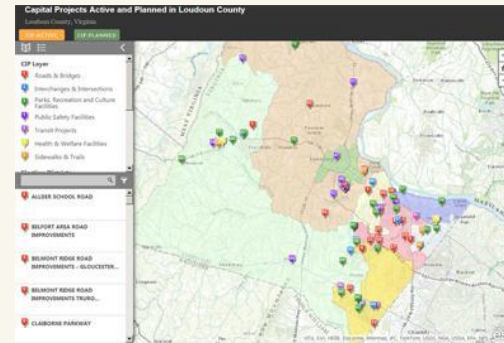
The purpose of this project is to restore the Mill structure and construct building access improvements. This project is funded by Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Transportation Enhancement funds.

Phases 1 and 2 of the project are finished. Phase 3 will include an outdoor classroom, permanent restroom facilities, an ADA walkway and viewing platform, a kayak and canoe launch, a small pavilion, and engineering to stabilize the Stone House. By October 2019, zoning approval was coordinated for the boat launch, additional safety signage was installed, an electric service was provided to the shoreline so a security camera could be installed, there was ongoing coordination with the HOA to acquire an easement for the waterline for the new restroom, and the waterline design plans were underway.

There has been no change in this project's status.

Loudoun County Capital Improvement Projects

Use the county's [interactive map](#) to track capital improvement projects in Loudoun. The map provides tabs for 'active projects', which will provide a list of capital projects currently funded and in a stage of design or construction development, and 'planned projects,' which are the capital projects planned for funding in Fiscal Year 2016-Fiscal Year 2020 as part of the Board of Supervisors's Adopted Capital Improvement Program.



Recognizing 50 Excellent Years of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program



Since 1970, the [Virginia Scenic Rivers Program](#) has protected and preserved over 803 miles of our Commonwealth's rivers.

Supervisor Buffington and I think that deserves some official recognition. That's why we're jointly recommending that the Board adopt [a Resolution commending the 50th anniversary of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program](#).

Catoctin Community Meetings



Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition

January 28 --- Purcellville

The Coalition invited me and Supervisor Umstadt to join them at their regular meeting at the historic Purcellville Train Station. We heard their reports and announcements, then stayed for an introduction and discussion with the Coalition members. It was a great chance to answer lots of questions, and to give my thoughts on how to help Catocin handle its growth without losing its rural character.



Loudoun Bed and Breakfast Guild Reception

February 10 --- Middleburg

The Loudoun Bed and Breakfast Guild invited me, Chair Randall, and Supervisor Buffington to their annual reception. I was happy to be there to support the Guild and its members. Loudoun's domestic tourism is a \$1.8 billion industry, and our B&Bs are an important part of our economy, both by taking care of their guests and by providing rural lodging that supports our wineries, breweries, and wedding venues.



Community Meeting on the Selma Estates Flooding

February 10 --- Leesburg

I met with County staff and Selma Estates residents to discuss their ongoing flooding problem. The residents shared their long, frustrating experience with us, and we got to see the work that our staff has put in to try to resolve the problem. Fortunately the Board took action in late 2019 to start identifying some solutions. We remain committed to helping, and we intend to move through this process and implement a workable solution as quickly as we can.

**LOUDOUN TOURISM INDUSTRY
\$1.8 BILLION**

LOUDOUN TOURISM - BY THE NUMBERS



Infographic created by the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development (2018)

According to the [Loudoun County Department of Economic Development](#), Loudoun County's booming tourism industry increased by 4.6 percent in 2017 to \$1.8 billion, according to the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

New statewide data showed that all Virginia localities saw increased tourism revenue, and that Loudoun contributed the third-most among any jurisdiction in the state, ahead of acclaimed tourist destinations like Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, and Skyline Drive.

More importantly, domestic tourism to Loudoun also supports 17,497 jobs (adding 222 new ones) and generated \$695.4 million in worker wages, up 4.8 percent over last year.

In addition to increased travel spending, tourism-related state tax receipts for Loudoun in 2017 were about \$47.2 million, up 3.3 percent, and local tax receipts were at \$27.9 million, up 2.8 percent.



If you'd like to keep up or find out more about ongoing or upcoming VDOT projects that affect you, you can check out [the VDOT website](#).

You may be interested in VDOT's [Paving Conditions and Schedule](#).



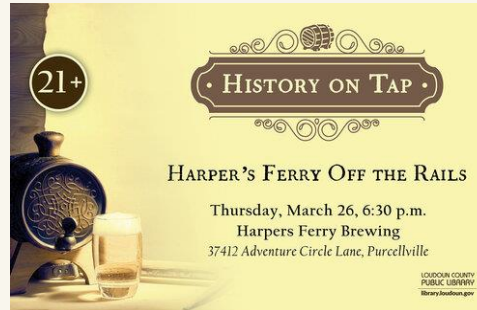
Loudoun Express Request

Loudoun Express Request is a helpful tool for contacting county staff regarding a wide spectrum of issues. Internet service, property use, environmental health, and much more can be entered on LEX. Enter your question or concern and LEX will contact appropriate county staff! Learn more [here](#).

Community Events



The Mosby Heritage Area Association's Upcoming Events



History On Tap: Harper's Ferry Off The Rails

Join historians from the Mosby Heritage Area Association and Loudoun Museum as we discuss some of the strange, forgotten, and significant stories of Harpers Ferry and the surrounding areas along the Potomac River.

History on Tap is made possible in partnership with Loudoun County Public Libraries. The program is free and open to the public. Ages 21+.

Price: Free

When: Thursday, March 26, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Where: Harpers Ferry Brewing, 31742 Adventure Center Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132

[Learn More](#)



Conversations in History: Lord Dunmore and the Coming of the Revolution

Join MHAA and NOVA Parks as we take a deeper dive into the complex life of Virginia's last Royal Governor and look at how revolution came to the Old Dominion. We will examine how Virginia's society fractured as patriot and loyalist factions came to blows, resulting in a military campaign that raged throughout Chesapeake Bay for nearly a year and left Virginia's largest city in ashes.

Price: Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, and can be purchased by clicking below or at the door. For more information call (540) 687-5578.

When: Sunday, March 29, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Where: Mt. Zion Historic Park, 40309 John Mosby Highway,
Aldie, VA 20105

Learn More



The Loudoun Museum opened its newest exhibit, [*Vintage Pursuits: Cultivating a Virginia Wine Industry*](#), on February 14. The exhibit explores the history of viticulture in the Commonwealth: from its rocky start in the 1600s, when frustrated colonists couldn't get the right kinds of grapes to grow, to its two centuries of trial and error, and up through its final success in the 1800s. It also notes that Loudoun didn't seriously develop its wineries until the 1980s (though we've certainly made up for lost time!).

The museum is open to the public every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Parking is available in the

adjacent Town Hall Garage (paid parking during business hours, free for the first two hours *and* on evenings / weekends), the nearby Liberty Street lot (free parking, 3 minute walk from the museum), or paid streetside parking (limited spots).

Price: Free (though guests are encouraged to make donations)

When: Every Friday - Sunday, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: The Loudoun Museum, 16 Loudoun Street SW,
Leesburg, VA 20175



The Thomas Balch Library's 2020 Winter/Spring Events

The Thomas Balch Library regularly sponsors a series of lectures, seminars and classes, walking tours of downtown Leesburg, and other special events. Here are some highlights from their upcoming events.



In Celebration of Black History Month:
Guest Speaker Dr. Jason Nichols

Dr. Jason Nichols will speak in celebration of Black History Month on **Sunday, February 23, at 2:00 PM.**

An award winning full-time lecturer at the University of Maryland's African American Studies Department, Dr. Nichols was the longtime editor-in-chief of *Words Beats & Life: The Global Journal of Hip-Hop Culture*, the first academic peer-reviewed journal of hip-hop studies, and co-editor for *La Verdad: An International Dialogue on Hip-Hop Latinidades*.

Dr. Nichols has received multiple awards for helping his students develop, including the 2015 Faculty Advisor of the Year Award, the 2018 Academic Excellence Award for Outstanding Faculty, and the 2018 M. Lucia James Impact Award. His work has been featured in The Guardian, Al Jazeera, Fox News, NBC News, The Hill, Mic, the Independent Journal Review, The Baltimore Afro, The Daily Caller, and the Baltimore Sun. He makes regular appearances on national and regional TV

and radio outlets. He also co-hosts *The Fifth Element*, a talk radio show on WPFW 89.3 FM in Washington, DC.



A Civil War Walking Tour of Leesburg: Historical Guide Richard Treat Gillespie

Richard Treat Gillespie will lead A Walking Tour of Civil War Leesburg on **Saturday, March 14, starting at 10:00 AM.**

The two-hour tour will start at the Thomas Balch Library parking lot. From there it will examine the surviving Civil War townscape of Leesburg, which was located just two miles from the border between the Union and the Confederacy. Participants will explore three skirmish sites, the exteriors of two churches, the courthouse lawn, "the best street in town," Harrison Hall (where General Robert E. Lee stayed), and the Episcopal cemetery. The tour will also give ample opportunities for any weary participants to sit and rest.

(**Note:** Participants are strongly encouraged to wear good walking shoes.)

Mr. Gillespie is the former Executive Director for Northern Virginia's Mosby Heritage, and a founding member of Loudoun's Civil War Sesquicentennial Steering Committee. Before joining the Mosby Heritage Area Association in 2004, he taught US History and Economics for 30 years at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, Virginia. A graduate of The College of William and Mary, he is a strong believer in melding the classroom, the community, and historic sites through heritage education.



Farm Hospitals at the Battle of Gettysburg:
Guest Speaker Ronald D. Kirkwood

Ronald D. Kirkwood will speak about his book, *Too Much for Human Endurance: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg*, on **Sunday, March 15, at 2:00 PM.**

Mr. Kirkwood is currently retired after a 40-year career as an editor and writer for newspapers and magazines, including *USA Today*, *The Baltimore Sun*, the *Patriot-News* (Harrisburg, PA), and the *Daily Record* (York, PA). He won numerous state, regional, and national awards during his career, and managed the copy desk in Harrisburg when the *Patriot-News* won a Pulitzer Prize in 2012.

Mr. Kirkwood has been a Gettysburg Foundation docent at the George Spangler Farm Civil War Field Hospital since it opened in 2013. A native of Dowagiac/Sister Lakes, Michigan, he is a graduate of Central Michigan University, where he has returned as a guest speaker for journalism classes as part of the school's Hearst Visiting Professionals series.



Railroad History in North Virginia:
Guest Speaker Charles A. Grymes

Charles A. Grymes will speak about the political and economic forces that drove railroad construction through North Virginia on [Sunday, March 22, at 2:00 PM.](#)

Mr. Grymes teaches a [Geography of Virginia course](#) as an adjunct faculty member at George Mason University. He retired from the U.S. Department of the Interior after over 30 years in a variety of jobs, including park ranger, scenic easement administrator, and information technology manager. He also serves on the boards of local non-governmental organizations, including as chair of the Prince William Conservation Alliance.

Free Seminars on Real Estate Tax Relief

Loudoun County Commissioner of the Revenue Robert S. Wertz Jr. has scheduled free information sessions to familiarize residents with the eligibility criteria for the county's [generous real estate tax relief program](#) and new eligibility thresholds for 2020.

Loudoun County homeowners age 65 or older or with disabilities who are below established income and wealth limits may benefit from a reduction in the amount of property taxes they pay. Qualified applicants for real estate relief must have a gross combined income less than \$72,000, and net worth less than \$920,000. Up to \$10,000 in income of a spouse or relative residing in the home is excluded from the income calculation. Program participants saved almost \$8 million in real estate taxes in tax year 2019.

Find out about the county's tax relief program and have your questions answered. No appointment or RSVP is required to attend these free sessions.

All sessions begin at **10:30 AM** at the following locations:

- **February 26:** Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls
- **February 27:** Gum Spring Library, 24600 Millstream Drive, Stone Ridge
- **March 3:** Purcellville Library, 220 East Main Street, Purcellville
- **March 4:** Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn
- **March 10:** Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road NW, Leesburg

Online applications will be available by March 2 at loudoun.gov/taxrelief. Residents may also call 703-737-8557 to have a form mailed to them or they may pick one up at the Commissioner's offices in the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street SE in Leesburg or the Loudoun Tech Center, 21641 Ridgetop Circle, Suite 100 in Sterling.

More information about the program is available online at loudoun.gov/taxrelief.



The Take Loudoun Home Expo brings together Loudoun's many Community Supported Agriculture programs and wine clubs. There will be food tastings for the CSAs, as well as wine tastings for a small fee.

This is a chance to find ingredients that you love from farms that you know. Meet Loudoun's growers and producers, and choose a fresh delivery option to your home or a convenient pickup location in the community.

When: March 14, from 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Where: [Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum](#) and [Claude Moore Recreation and Community Center](#)

[Go to Event Website](#)



Loudoun's Agricultural Heritage

[The Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum](#) is dedicated to preserving, promoting, and bringing to life the rich agricultural history of Loudoun County. Their interactive exhibits bring visitors face to face with 250 years of Loudoun's rich agricultural heritage.

More recently, the museum produced this mini-documentary video. It covers the history of agriculture here in the county, and how its soil and other natural features have played a role in major historical events.

Watch the Video



Loudoun Youth, Inc. is now accepting applications for their Loudoun Youth Leadership Program. Applications will be accepted through **Wednesday, March 4.**

The week-long program is designed to introduce youth to leadership concepts, and to provide exposure and interaction with leaders in local business, government, and the community. The program is open to all high school students, public or private, who live in Loudoun County. Participants will spend time in a variety of locations: learning leadership skills in a classroom-type setting, observing leadership in action with business and civic leaders from around the county, and taking part in active, hands-on team building experiences.

You can apply or learn more about the program at the Loudoun Youth website. The Leadership Program sessions will take place on July 6-10 and July 27-31. Tuition is \$495/student. Financial aid is available to qualifying students.

[Learn More](#)

LOUDOUN CARES
VOLUNTEER CENTER



Volunteer with Loudoun Cares

The holidays are a perfect time to think about volunteering. Check out volunteer opportunities with [Loudoun Cares Volunteer Center](#). The Volunteer Center is the one-stop resource connecting nonprofit organizations in Loudoun County to individuals in the community looking for a place to volunteer their time and resources.

[Let Your Friends in on the Latest!](#)

Do you have a friend or a neighbor who would benefit from the information in this newsletter? Then, forward this on!

My office is working to ensure as many Catocin residents as possible are being informed about important issues - whether those are public hearing notices, road closure announcements, inclement weather advisories, or other updates on issues of importance to the district and to the county.

Click to Sign Up

Sincerely,

Supervisor Caleb Kershner

Board of Supervisors - Catoctin District
Loudoun County, Virginia

Supervisor Caleb Kershner | caleb.kershner@loudoun.gov

Supervisor Caleb Kershner, 1 Harrison St. SE, Leesburg, VA 20175

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Sent by caleb.kershner@loudoun.gov in collaboration with



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