

Dear Leesburg Resident,

Starting this month, in addition to the monthly articles from Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk, my newsletters will include articles from Leesburg School Board member Beth Barts. I want to thank both Kelly and Beth for sharing their perspectives.

Proposed FY 2021 Budget

County Administrator Tim Hemstreet presented a proposed budget for the County government Fiscal Year 2021, which begins July 1st. The budget totals \$3.024 billion in appropriations for the County government and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS).

The proposed budget has been prepared at a real property tax rate of \$1.035 per \$100 of assessed value, one cent below the current real property tax rate of \$1.045 per \$100 of assessed value. Two things have led to our ability to lower the real property tax rate: (1) the hard work of the Loudoun County School Board, whose members turned in a budget that was \$16 million lower than anticipated; and (2) the data center industry and other commercial taxpayers, who provided \$15.5 million more in tax revenues than we had anticipated at the start of the year. The data center industry provides 27% of local tax revenue; \$390 million in personal property tax revenue (computer equipment) and \$72 million in real property tax revenue. At the proposed tax rate of \$1.035, all County needs are addressed and there is a \$2.5 million gap between the School Board adopted budget and the proposed budget.

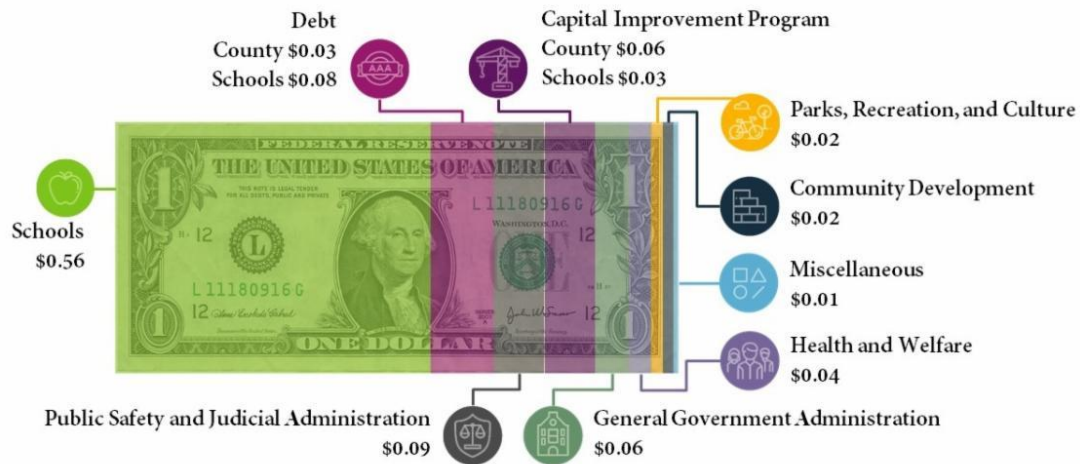
We will determine the final real property tax rate and related budget policy decisions during March budget work sessions with adoption of the FY 2021 budget at the Board's business meeting April 7th. More information, including the proposed operating budget and Capital Improvement Program, the County Administrator's FY 2021 budget presentation, and the schedule for budget work sessions is posted on the Loudoun County website.

[Budget Website](#)

Your Tax Dollar at Work

Proposed FY21 Budget

Loudoun County
VIRGINIA



Impact of Data Centers

The Northern Virginia Technology Council released a report in January 2020 titled, "The Impact of Data Centers on the State and Local Economies of Virginia." In 2018, it estimated that the data center industry in Northern Virginia directly provided approximately:

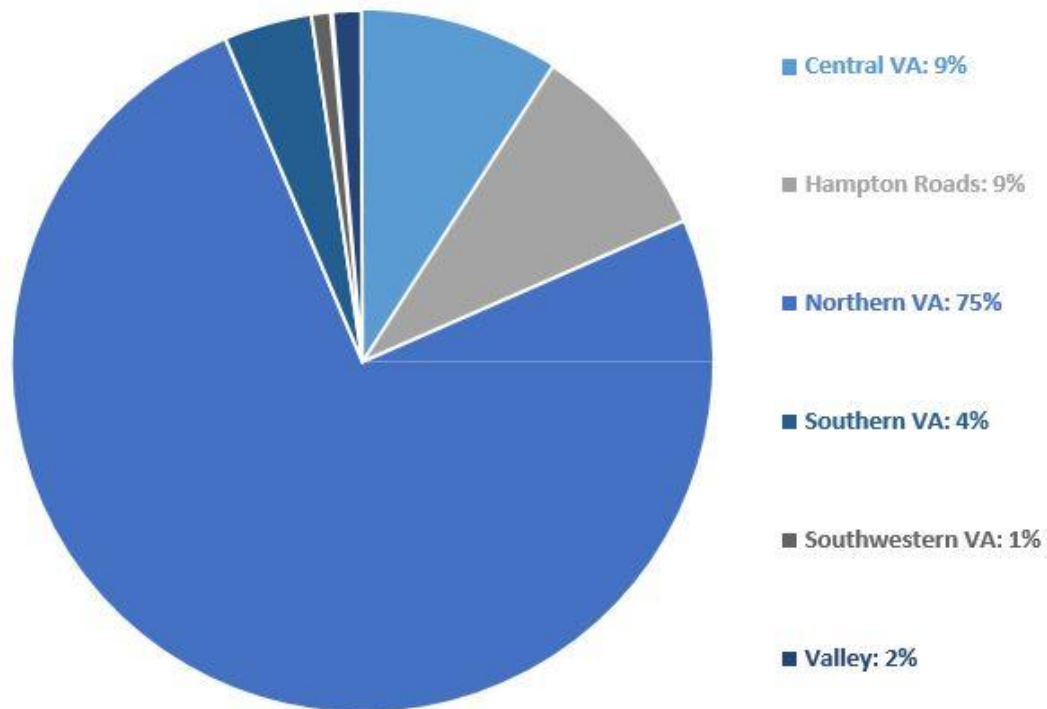
- 10,663 full-time-equivalent jobs,
- \$1.6 billion in associated employee pay and benefits, and
- \$3.5 billion in economic output.

With seventy-five percent of data center employment located in Northern Virginia (see chart below), Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) has developed programs to help address the challenges that data centers have meeting their staffing needs. Amazon Web Services (AWS) has a paid apprenticeship program at the NOVA. In December 2018, the program graduated its first students into full-time Associate Cloud Consultant jobs with AWS.

NOVA also has a 2-year Associate of Applied Science program to train Datacenter Operations Technicians. The program includes lab training at a training data center that the State of Virginia built on the NOVA-Loudoun Campus. The program started with 19 students in its very first year, almost half of them have already found internships or full-time jobs in Northern Virginia data centers or full-time jobs with companies that work for data centers.

Data Center Report

Figure 3. Regional Distribution of Private Sector Data Center Employment in Virginia in 2018⁹



What Does the 2020 Census Ask?

The 2020 Census **does not** ask for a resident's immigration status, Social Security number, financial information, email address, or political party. A resident **does not** have to be a U.S. citizen to respond to the Census, as the Census counts everyone in the United States.

The 2020 Census **does ask** the name, age, sex, race, and ethnicity of every person living with you in order to determine adequate funding for programs impacted by Census data such as our schools, healthcare, and roads. These questions also help determine the federal, state, and local election political representation. The Census asks if your home is rented or owned to obtain information used for funding affordable housing voucher programs.

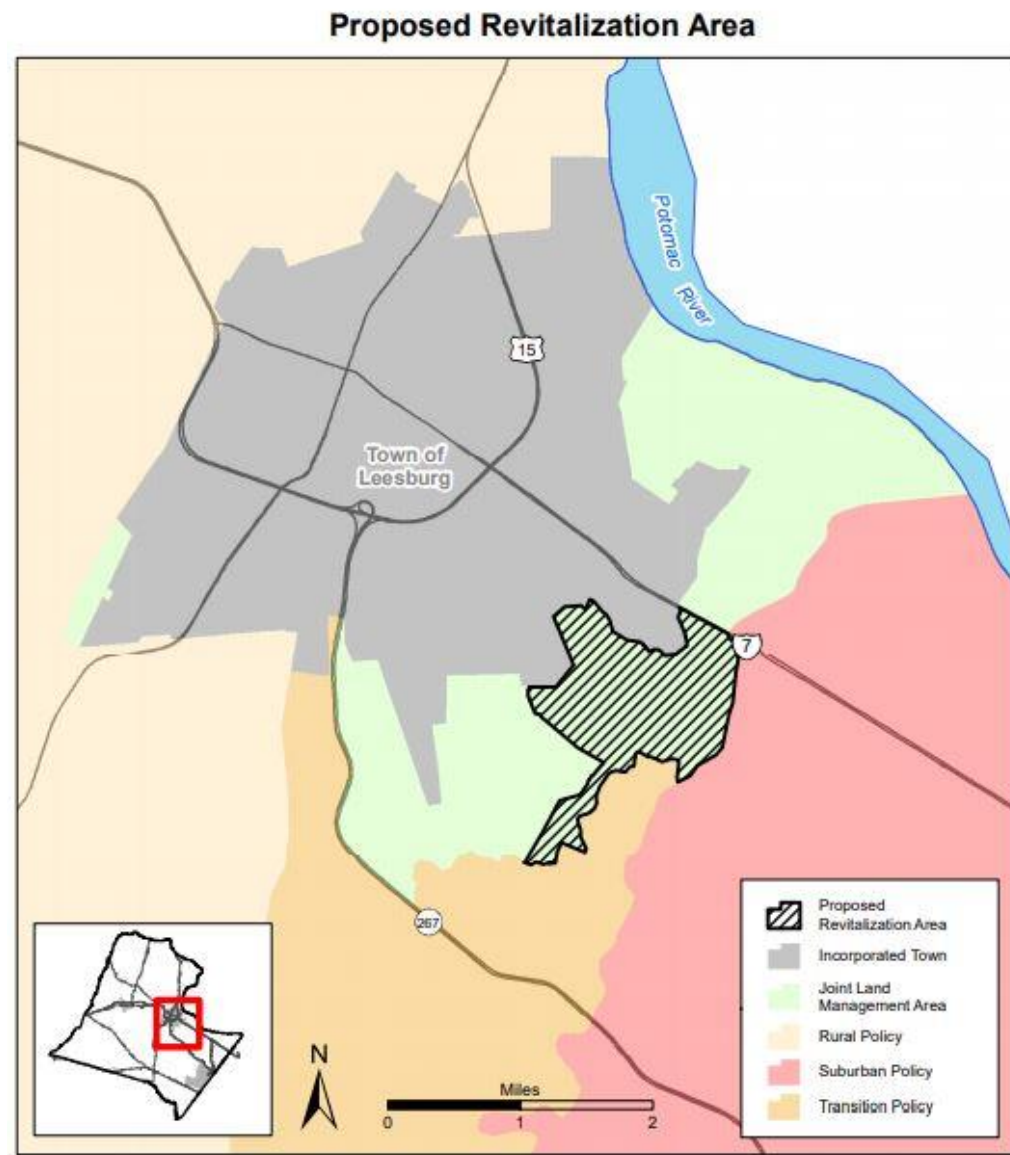
Check out the schedule below to make sure you know when to respond.

Date	Action
Mid-March 2020	Letter mailed to homes inviting residents to respond to the Census online. The online survey is available in 13 languages.
March 16-24, 2020	Reminder letter mailed.
March 26-April 3, 2020	Reminder postcard mailed
April 8-16, 2020	Reminder letter and paper Census questionnaire mailed if no online response has been recorded for household. Paper forms are only available via mail.
April 20-27, 2020	Final reminder postcard mailed.
May 2020	In-person follow-up by a Census workers if no response by online or paper form has been recorded.

Revitalization Area in Leesburg's JLMA

At the February 4th Board business meeting, I moved that the Board approve the . resolution designating an Alternative Area (see map below) within the Leesburg Joint Land Management Area (JLMA) as a Virginia Housing Development Authority Revitalization Area for purposes of § 36-55.30:2 of the Code of Virginia. This motion passed.

I asked the Board to reduce the proposed revitalization area in the JLMA for two reasons: (1) so that existing residential communities in the JLMA, including Woodlea Hills and the communities north of Route 7, would not have that overlay imposed on them without their having the opportunity to understand the full impact of being included in an affordable housing zone; and (2) to protect the Leesburg Executive Airport and the commercial properties nearby, including Compass Creek, from an overlay that implies they are appropriate locations for affordable housing. The already approved Tuscarora Crossing development is covered in the revitalization overlay. That inclusion allows Tuscarora Crossing to compete for state tax credits.



Courthouse Construction Update

The official start of construction of the new courthouse has not yet been determined. The County anticipates that construction will begin sometime in the next four to eight weeks and will announce the start date as soon as it is determined. Some work related to the courthouse project has begun. In February, crews started preparing four houses on Edwards Ferry Road for demolition. The houses are slated to be removed in March.

At that time of construction the following will occur:

- The Church Street and Semones parking lots will close and all courthouse parking will be relocated to the Pennington Lot and Garage.

- The Church Street, between Market and Cornwall Streets, will close for construction for a period of approximately nine months.
- The segment of Church Street leading from North Street to the Pennington Lot and Garage will close for approximately four to six weeks while improvements to the road are completed. Access to the parking garage will be provided through a temporary entrance off of North Street.

The best way to stay informed about the courthouse construction project is to sign up for email or text updates by visiting the project web page.

Courts Expansion Website

Route 15 North Widening Project

At the February 7th Transportation Planning Board Steering Committee, we approved a resolution to include \$23.7 million in Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) funds in FY 2020 for the Route 15 widening project from Battlefield Parkway to Montresor Road for planning, engineering and right-of-way acquisition. The \$23.7 million of funding is comprised of NVTA 70% (\$17.6 million), Federal TIP (\$1.7 million), NVTA bonds (\$1.0 million), and \$3.5 million of Loudoun County local tax funding. This project includes widening 3.5 miles of Route 15 from two to four lanes with a median, intersection improvements at North King Street, traffic signal modifications at Whites Ferry Road (Route 655) / Raspberry Drive, a roundabout at Montresor Road with a realigned Limestone School Road (Route 661), and the construction of a shared use path. In 2018, NVTA approved \$54 million for this project and this funding is part of that commitment. Of the \$54 million, \$17.6 million of the funds are included in the calculation of the \$23.7 million mentioned above.

Warm Regards,

Kristen C. Umstattd
Leesburg District
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov
703-777-0203

Valerie Suzdak
Chief Legislative Aide
Supervisor Kristen Umstattd, Leesburg District
valerie.suzdak@loudoun.gov

Laura Tekrony
Legislative Aide
Chair Phyllis Randall and Supervisor Kristen Umstattd
laura.tekrony@loudoun.gov

Business of the Month

ECHO



ECHO has been serving Loudoun County residents with disabilities since 1975. Our mission is to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve their optimal level of personal, social and economic success. We are currently looking for job sites and employers to hire our trained, dependable workers. We can solve problems facing all industries including high turnover rates, frequent absences and call outs, and issues specific to your business. Please contact Jenifer Liberi, Director of Employment and Advocacy at 571-707-8271 or jeniferl@echoworks.org, to discuss how ECHO can meet your needs.



Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

Town Manager Kaj Dentler presented his proposed budget to the Town council on February 11th. The council will hold two work sessions, on March 9th and March 23rd, to discuss the budget with staff. The meetings will be broadcast on the Town's cable channel and live streamed on the website. The public can make comments at the public hearing on

March 10th and at the tax rate public hearing on March 24th. All meetings begin at 7 pm in the Council Chamber at Town Hall, 25 W Market Street. The council is scheduled to adopt the budget and tax rate on March 24th. The newly adopted budget takes effect on July 1st.

On Tuesday, March 31st, I will deliver my annual “State of the Town” address. It will take place in the Council Chamber on the second floor of Leesburg Town Hall beginning at 5 pm. The public is encouraged to attend. My address will include recent Town accomplishments and upcoming projects and will be broadcast on the Town’s local government access cable channel, Channel 67 on Comcast and Channel 35 on Verizon Fios. In addition, the address will be streamed live from the [Town website](#). The video will be archived and available for on-demand viewing.

Here are a few events coming up in the Town of Leesburg:

The 8th annual Leesburg Career Expo will take place on Saturday, March 10th, at Tuscarora High School, from 11 am to 2 pm. This event is for high school and college students and recent graduates. Approximately 75 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. It’s free! Pre-registration is encouraged to avoid the long registration lines on the day of the event.

[Register Here](#)

Leesburg's Department of Parks and Recreation will host the 23rd annual Spring Bling, A Hometown Fine Arts & Crafts Show, on Saturday, March 7th from 9 am to 4 pm. The indoor event will be held at Ida Lee Park Recreation Center. Handcrafted items will be on display from more than 70 local and regional artisans. For more information, call 703-777-1368 or visit the website.

[Spring Bling Website](#)



Updates from Beth Barts

I want to thank Supervisor Umstattd for sharing space in her newsletter for a monthly update from your Leesburg District School Board Representative. After being sworn in January 6th, your School Board quickly went to work. We approved a budget that integrated community needs surrounding technology, compensation, security, mental health and reduced fees along with what the Division shared as necessary to meet its mission of "Empowering All Students to Make Meaningful Contributions to the World."

Along with expanding Universal Breakfast (no budget impact) and adding Full Time Parent Liaisons to several schools in the Leesburg district, I also want to highlight some additional enhancements:

- Added 15 high school counselors with the revised student to staff ratio of 250-1
- Added 4 middle school counselors with the revised student to staff ratio of 300-1
- Added School Security Officers for each high school
- Funded a teacher salary scale with a raise cap of 6%
- Funded a classified salary scale with raise of 2.5%
- Reduced student athletic fees from \$150 to \$75
- Made Winter Track a funded sport at all high schools
- Increased supply allotments of \$250 for new teachers and \$100 for returning
- Added 48 teacher assistants
- Reduced middle school class size
- Invested in our equity and communication departments
- Restored summer bus driver and attendant pay
- Added compensation for Health Clinic substitute training

In summary, the School board reduced the Superintendent's proposed budget of \$1,395,801,804 by \$16,712,198. The School Board's Adopted Fiscal Year 2021 Budget of \$1,379,089,606 is being considered by the Board of Supervisors. I hosted a public coffee in February and will be meeting individually with teachers in March. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at Beth.Barts@lcps.org to share your thoughts and concerns.

Events & Info



Coronavirus:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments are closely monitoring the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus. There

are currently no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Virginia at this time. However, it is likely there may be more confirmed cases in the United States and globally in the coming days and weeks. Because we are in peak cold and flu season, health officials encourage the following every day actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

According to the Chinese CDC, people in older age brackets appear to be more at-risk than younger individuals when it comes to the impact of the coronavirus ([see new study](#)). For more information and the latest updates, we recommend you visit the Virginia Department of Health website.

Virginia Department of Health Website

Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled:

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 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. No appointment or RSVP is required to attend. The session in Leesburg is Tuesday, March 10th at 10:30 am at the Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road NW. Additional information about the program is online.

Tax Relief Website

March 3rd Primary Election:

Loudoun County voters have the opportunity to go to the polls Tuesday, March 3rd for the Democratic presidential primary. The Republican Party is not holding a primary in Virginia, but will select delegates to its national convention at a state convention. All registered voters in Loudoun County are eligible to vote in the primary election as Virginia does not register by party affiliation. Polls in Loudoun County will be open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 3rd. The last day to vote absentee in person is Saturday, February 29th at the Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration, 750 Miller Drive SE, Suite C in Leesburg. More information about the March 3rd primary election is online.

Primary Election Website

2020 Loudoun Youth Leadership Program:

Applications are being accepted for Loudoun Youth, Inc.'s 2020 Loudoun Youth Leadership Program until Wednesday, March 4th. Loudoun Youth Leadership Program sessions take place on July 6 - 10 and July 27 - July 31. A week-long program designed to introduce youth to leadership concepts and to provide exposure and interaction with local business, government and community leaders. The program is open to all high school students, public or private, who live in Loudoun County. Youth participating in the week-long sessions 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, as well as taking part in active, hands-on team building experiences. Tuition is \$495/student. Financial aid is available to qualifying students.

Loudoun Youth Leadership Program

A PATRIOTIC & CELTIC MUSIC EVENT



Networking Event: 5:30 p.m. | Show Start Time: 6:30 p.m.

TICKET PRICES
\$30/\$50/\$75

Not a bad seat in the house

See our
promo video!!



For tickets visit:
www.ionitc.com/events/



Presented by:



SATURDAY
03. 21, 2020

ION INTERNATIONAL
TRAINING CENTER

PATRIOTIC | AMERICAN | MILITARY

CELTIC | INSPIRATIONAL | TRADITIONAL

Interested in sponsoring or advertising at this event?

Contact mark_reilly@thewashingtontattoo.com

www.TheWashingtonTattoo.com

Loudoun County Relay For Life:

Help raise funds for the American Cancer Society to fight back against cancer. Last year, we raised over \$185,000 locally and had approximately 1,000 participants involved. We

are hopeful that you will become a part of this meaningful and worthwhile event to help us eradicate cancer.

Saturday May 30, 2020. 5-10pm.
Village at Leesburg, 1602 Village Market Blvd SE, Leesburg VA
The center of the Village will be closed for the event.

Highlights:

3 – 5pm	Campsite set-up and decorating
5pm	Opening Ceremony
5:15 – 6pm	Survivor Birthday Party Celebration, <u>all participants invited!</u>
6 – 9pm	Entertainment, walking for all participants, fundraising at team campsites, special recognitions, cancer mission presentations, and team campsite contests.
9pm	Luminaria Ceremony
9:30	Closing Ceremony to include contest winners and recognitions!

What can I do?

Form, or join a Team.
Donate to a participant or team.
Host a fundraiser.
Help identify Cancer Survivors and those currently fighting the battle.

Please contact: Kelly.skahan@cancer.org

Event Announcements and Registration: www.relayforlife.org/loudouncountyva

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

[About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!