



Loudoun County  
VIRGINIA

Supervisor

**Caleb A. Kershner**

Catoctin District



## Sugarloaf Network Systems Ends Internet Service for Some Customers

Dear Catoctin residents,

I've got two late-breaking updates for you. The first is about a sudden loss of internet service for some Sugarloaf Network Systems customers, and the second is about the Board's final adoption of the FY 2023 budget.

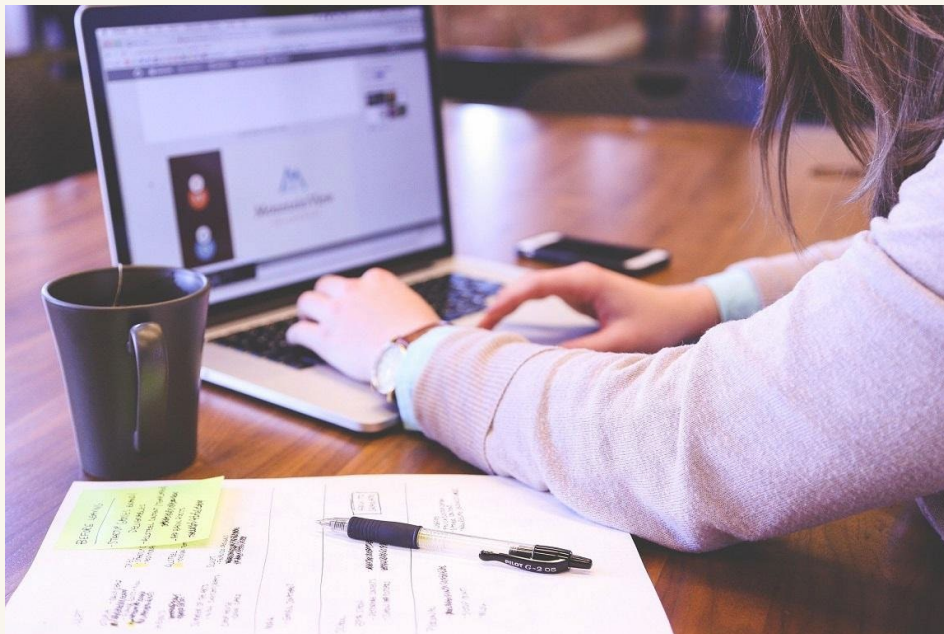


Image Credit: [Photo of laptop](#) / [Pixabay](#), [StartupStockPhotos](#)

## Update on Sugarloaf's Internet Service

On April 1, Sugarloaf Network Systems sent out an email to their customers, telling them that some of those customers would no longer get internet service from the company. This end of service appears to have been caused by technical issues that the company hadn't been able to fix over the last few weeks. Those issues may be related to [AT&T's recent shutdown of its older 3G network](#).

I found out about this on Friday evening, when one of our residents on Limestone School Road told me about the shutdown, and I've been looking into the situation.

County staff have now been in touch with Sugarloaf Network Systems and AT&T to try to sort out this issue, and they've tried to facilitate conversations between Sugarloaf and AT&T to determine whether a solution exists that could restore service to Sugarloaf customers. They've also learned from Sugarloaf that about 120 customers have been affected.

At this point, it's not clear whether these technical issues can be fixed. While the county has been trying to help Sugarloaf work with AT&T, the technology issue itself isn't one that our staff can resolve for them. On top of that, Sugarloaf is not a franchisee, so the county doesn't have the contractual or regulatory authority to require them to restore service.

Please know I'm looking into other potential solutions for those who've been affected by this outage. If you are one of the affected Sugarloaf customers, I'd like you to take the following steps:

- Plug your address into the [All Points Broadband Lookup Tool](#).
- Then email me at [Caleb.Kershner@loudoun.gov](mailto:Caleb.Kershner@loudoun.gov) with (A) your address and (B) the response that you got from the Lookup Tool.

I'll keep you posted as this situation develops.

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# County Board Finalizes \$3.5B Budget

BY RENSS GREENE

rgreene@loudounnow.com

County supervisors have approved their next annual budget, setting up real estate owners for higher tax bills fueled by skyrocketing property assessments.

The new \$0.89 per \$100 real estate tax rate is a historic nine-cent reduction—but will still leave the average homeowner paying higher tax bills as values climb. For the homeowner with the average \$636,200 residential property, the new tax rate will result in a tax bill about \$200 higher.

Supervisors on Tuesday also approved a cut to the personal property tax for the first time since it was set at its current \$4.20 per \$100 of value rate in 1987—starting next year, that tax rate will go down five cents. That is hoped to address an over-reliance on data center revenues, which county budget officers have warned



Supervisors Caleb E. Kershner (R-Catoctin) and Tony R. Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) were the only two supervisors to vote against the county's Fiscal Year 2023 budget, citing rising tax bills.

Image Credit: Photo of me and Supervisor Buffington / Loudoun Now

## Board Passes Budget, Tax Bills Will Rise

Loudoun Now has [a good summary](#) of the county's FY 2023 budget, which the Board adopted by a 7-2 vote on Tuesday. Their opening sentence is exactly right: this budget is going to stick our homeowners with higher tax bills. That's why Supervisor Buffington and I voted against it.

I've [expressed my concerns at some length](#) with this budget's approach to the tax rate. This would have been an excellent year to stick with the equalized tax rate and prevent the average tax bill from rising. Sadly, that's not what this budget opted to do.

The Loudoun Now article gives the highlights on the finalized budget's tax effects and on its key spending decisions. You can read the whole thing [here](#).

[Read Article](#)

Sincerely,

**Supervisor Caleb A. Kershner**

*Catoctin District Supervisor  
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors  
Loudoun County, Virginia*

**Supervisor Caleb Kershner | [caleb.kershner@loudoun.gov](mailto:caleb.kershner@loudoun.gov)**

Catoctin District | 1 Harrison St. SE, Leesburg, VA 20175

Sent by [caleb.kershner@loudoun.gov](mailto:caleb.kershner@loudoun.gov) powered by

