



Weekly Newsflash
February 22, 2023


**REMINDER: Loudoun Water to Conduct
Landscaping Work Near W&OD Trail in
Sterling**

Loudoun Water will soon begin conducting landscape work near the Washington & Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail in the section between Route 28 and Sterling Boulevard.


The work is estimated to begin next Wednesday, February 22, 2023, and could continue until Wednesday, March 15, 2023 depending on weather conditions.

Loudoun Water's crew will be clearing some trees and brush that has not been recently maintained around the easement. The majority of work will consist of the removal of overgrown brush and smaller vegetations, but may also include some trees, if necessary.

Access to the W&OD Trail should not be impacted, Loudoun Water is just notifying trail users of their presence in the area. For questions or more information, residents and trail users are welcomed to call the Loudoun Water customer service line at [571-291-7880](tel:571-291-7880).



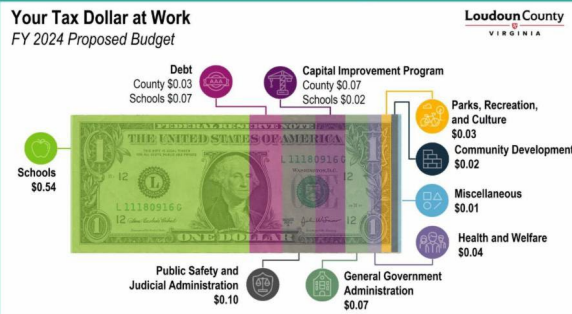
LOUDOUN WATER
Work conducted near the W&OD Trail



Loudoun Water will be conducting landscaping work.
Affected areas: Rt.28 to Sterling Blvd
Timeframe: February 22nd to around March 15th!
Weather Permitting
Questions? Call Customer Service at 571.291.7880

Loudoun County Administrator Presents Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2024

County Administrator Presents Proposed FY 2024 Budget



Follow the process: loudoun.gov/budget

County Administrator Tim Hemstreet presented a proposed budget for the Loudoun County government to the Board of Supervisors for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024), which begins July 1, 2023. The budget totals

\$4.2 billion in appropriations for the county government and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS).

Proposed Budget

The proposed budget has been prepared at a real property tax rate of \$0.87 per \$100 of assessed value, which is 2 cents below the current real property tax rate of \$0.89 per \$100 of assessed value. While the proposed tax rate for FY 2024 is lower than the current tax rate, the proposed rate is 6.5 cents above the overall equalized rate of \$0.805, which is the rate at which the average real property owner's tax bill would remain flat year over year. The homeowner's equalized tax rate is \$0.83. This means that while the proposed tax rate is lower than the current tax rate, the average homeowner's tax bill would increase if the proposed tax rate is adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

The proposed budget executes the planned reduction in the general personal property tax rate from \$4.20 per \$100 of assessed value to \$4.15 per assessed value for tax year 2023. This reduction is part of a strategic effort to ensure a diverse revenue base. As vehicles are assessed at the general rate, vehicle owners in the county can expect some relief on their vehicle tax bills.

The FY 2024 proposed budget includes:

- \$14.3 million in base budget adjustments to continue to provide core services.
- An increase of \$27 million for employee compensation, which consists of:
 - \$14.5 million to provide a 6% merit increase for the general county workforce.

- \$4.6 million for a one step-increase and a 3% adjustment for uniformed Fire and Rescue personnel, for an average pay increase of 6%.
- \$6.4 million for a one-step increase and a 6% adjustment for uniformed Sheriff's deputies, for an average pay increase of 9%.
- \$1.5 million for a hiring and retention bonus program.
- The addition of 40 positions to open new facilities and support the county's CIP.
- \$6.5 million for affordable housing, which continues the dedication of the equivalent of one-half cent of the real property tax rate to affordable housing needs.

Public Participation

There are several ways in which members of the public may participate in the budget process, including Board of Supervisors public hearings, email, voice messages and social media. The Board will hold three public hearings on the proposed FY 2024 budget.

The hearings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, March 1, 3:00 p.m., Board Room, Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street SE, Leesburg
- Wednesday, March 1, 6:00 p.m., Board Room, Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street SE, Leesburg
- Saturday, March 4, 9:00 a.m., Board Room, LCPS Administration Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn

Anyone who wishes to speak at the public hearings may sign up in advance for one speaking slot, beginning Thursday, February 16, 2023, by calling 703-777-0204. Public input may be provided in person or virtually. More information about providing input to the Board of Supervisors is posted on the county's website at loudoun.gov/signuptospeak.

The upcoming budget public hearings at the Government Center will be televised on Comcast Government TV Channel 23 and Verizon FiOS Channel 40. They will also be streamed live at loudoun.gov/meetings. The public hearing at LCPS will be televised on Comcast channel 18 and Verizon FIOS channel 43 and livestreamed on the [LCPS website](https://www.lcps.edu).

Members of the public may also:

- Leave a message on the Board of Supervisors' Comment Line at [703-777-0115](tel:703-777-0115).
- [Send an email to the Board of Supervisors](#) or write to the Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177.
- Provide comments through the Loudoun County government's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) sites.

[Read the Full Budget Press Release for More Info](#)

Park View Century Club Membership Fundraiser

Did you know...

Football helmets are \$400 each.

Football Uniforms can cost up to \$20K.

Competition Cheer Uniforms bought last year were \$7,000.

Basketballs for both boys and girls teams cost \$8,000.

Gymnastic Crash Mats are \$2,000 a piece...



This is where you come in. You do not need to be a Park View Alum to be part of the Century Club. This is their annual fundraiser to assist the athletic department with yearly costs. There are over 300 athletes and the number continues to grow each season. Your \$100 tax deductible donation will be used to purchase new/updated equipment, new uniforms, sports clinics, choreography, camps, and training aids.

With proof of your membership you will enjoy free entrance to all Park View home games, a treat from our concession stand and a thank you gift. Please

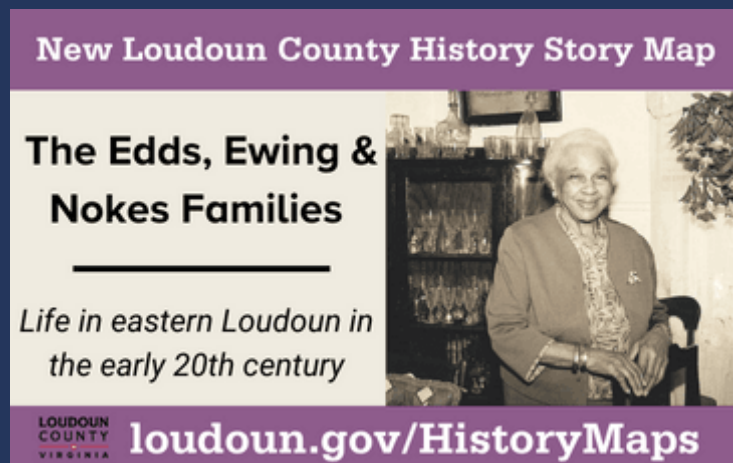
email parkviewcenturyclub@gmail.com for membership form. The school cash link below will allow you to process your payment online.

There are great things happening at Park View and the Park View Century Club invites you to be a part of it! You can follow them on Twitter @pvpatriotnation and on their Century Club Facebook & Instagram pages!

Please share with your family, friends, colleagues and the Sterling Community! They have a goal of 150 and still need about 100 more!

[SchoolCashOnline.com: Fee Details](https://www.schoolcashonline.com)

County Presents Stories of Prominent Black Families in Loudoun



The history of some of Loudoun County's prominent Black families is being told in an [online presentation](#) created by the Loudoun County Office of Mapping and Geographic Information. The Edds, Ewing and Nokes families, who owned farms in eastern Loudoun in the early

20th century, are featured in a web-based application that combines historic maps, text, photos and audio in an online "story map."

The story map is based on a presentation given at the Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum that includes research from the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Historic Records Division as well as information gathered by the Black History Committee of the Thomas Balch Library. Also included are excerpts from a Thomas Balch Library oral history recorded in 2002 with Nokes descendant Carrie Nokes, who died in 2008 at the age of 95. In the interview, Ms. Nokes recalled what her life was like growing up in the community known as Nokes, which was named after her family.

To access the "Loudoun County History: The Edds, Ewing, and Nokes Families" presentation and other interactive mapping applications, visit loudoun.gov/historymaps.

Commissioner of the Revenue to Hold Real Estate & Car Tax Relief Seminars

The 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 and car tax relief program.

2023 Free Tax Relief Seminars

The Commissioner of the Revenue is holding information sessions about the county's real estate & car tax relief programs.

- March 8: Cascades Library
- March 13: Purcellville Library
- March 24: Ashburn Library
- March 27: Rust Library

All sessions begin at 10:30 a.m. No appointment needed.

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loudoun.gov/taxrelief

Loudoun County homeowners 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 on their homes and cars. Qualified applicants for real estate relief must have a gross combined income less than \$77,000 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 for real estate relief. Program participants saved over \$8.4 million in real estate and vehicle property taxes in tax year 2022.

Find out about the county's tax relief program and have your questions answered at the free, upcoming sessions. No appointment or RSVP is required to attend. All sessions begin at 10:30 a.m.

The schedule is as follows:


- Wednesday, March 8, 2023 - Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls
- Monday, March 13, 2023 – Purcellville Library, 220 East Main Street, Purcellville

- Friday, March 24, 2023 – Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn
- Monday, March 27, 2023 – Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road NW, Leesburg

Applications will be available online by February 27, 2023, 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 offices of the Commissioner of the Revenue in the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street SE in Leesburg or 46000 Center Oak Plaza in Sterling.

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

REMINDER: Loudoun County Business Tax Deadline is March 1



The graphic features a yellow banner at the top with the text "Business Tax Filing Deadline". Below the banner, on the left, is an icon of a tax form with a clock overlaid on it. To the right of the icon is a grey shield-shaped badge with the text "March 1 2023". At the bottom left is the Loudoun County Virginia logo, and at the bottom right is the URL "loudoun.gov/efile".

Loudoun County Commissioner of the Revenue Robert S. Wertz Jr. recently issued notices of business tax filing requirements to business owners for tax year 2023. The notice provides the necessary account number to enable taxpayers to report by March 1, 2023, their calendar year 2022 gross receipts

at loudoun.gov/efile. The license tax or fee can then be paid at loudoun.gov/paytaxes. The filing of receipts and payment of the tax are due by midnight March 1.

Owners of business equipment that was located in Loudoun County on January 1, 2023, must declare it for taxation to the Commissioner of the Revenue at loudoun.gov/efile. The reporting of original cost, year of purchase and item description is due by midnight, March 1, 2023. Semi-annual bills for this equipment will be issued by the Loudoun County Treasurer and will be due May 5 and October 5.

Owners of businesses within one of Loudoun's incorporated towns should contact the respective town regarding local license renewal. The reporting of business equipment is made to the Commissioner of the Revenue for all businesses in the county whether within or outside of an incorporated town.

For more information or filing assistance, visit loudoun.gov/cor or contact the Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue [by email](#) or by calling 703-777-0260. Regular office hours are weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. So that the office may better serve residents, taxpayers are encouraged to email or call prior to visiting the office.

March Programs from VCE Loudoun

Fruit Tree Pruning Basics

One way to care for your trees and promote desirable fruit is to prune strategically. Learn how to prune fruit trees with six easy steps! Join VCE Loudoun for this hands-on workshop, where we will show you how to prune apple trees, pear trees, peach trees, and cherry trees.

This event is designed for farmers and people interested in becoming farmers. The address will be sent upon registration. Space is limited.

Thursday, March 2 • 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. • Lovettsville, VA

[Register for Fruit Tree Pruning Basics](#)

An Equine Perspective

What can you do about Buttercup and Tick-Borne Theileria?



With spring approaching and warmer weather bringing new life to our environment, equestrians have a lot to prepare for! VCE Loudoun's ANR Extension Agent Jim Hilleary will discuss the management of Buttercup before it flowers in your pastures this spring and Theileria Orientalis, a tickborne protozoon with an increasing presence in Virginia.

Thursday, March 2, 6pm - 7pm • National Sporting Library & Museum, Middleburg, VA

[Register for An Equine Perspective](#)

Snakes Alive: An Introduction to the Snakes of Loudoun County

with Jenny Erickson

Snakes play an important role in maintaining the balance and diversity of native species. They keep rodent and insect populations in check and in turn are preyed upon by larger species. While they spend the cold months in hibernation, much of their summer is spent under cover or basking in the sun. At this program, Jenny Erickson will help participants identify the snakes that are native to our area and will discuss how we can live harmoniously with them.

Thursday, March 2 • 7:00pm - 8:00pm • Virtual Event

[Learn More](#)

[Sign Up for Event Announcements](#)

Grape Disease Workshop

Learn about grape disease management as you prepare for the grape growing season:

- March 29, 2pm - 4pm: Disease Management Strategies (English)
- March 30, 2pm - 4pm: Grape Disease Identification (Spanish)

This workshop is offered in a hybrid format, so you can attend in person or virtually.

Wednesday, March 29 & Thursday, March 30 • 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. • 750 Miller Dr. SE, Suite F-3, Leesburg, VA •

[Register for Grape Disease Workshop](#)

VCE Loudoun Announcements

Master Gardener In-Person Help Desk Opens

In-Person Help Desk Open on First 4 Mondays & 4th Tuesdays

Is something eating your hostas? Does your tree look sick? When is the best time to fertilize your lawn? Are you interested in constructing a compost pile? Is a strange weed overrunning your vegetable bed? VCE Loudoun Master Gardeners are here to advise and help! Our in-person help desk opens on March 6th.

Alternatively, the easiest and most readily available way for the Loudoun community to contact VCE Loudoun Master Gardeners is electronically. If you have gardening questions, please fill out the [Help Desk Request Form](#).

First 4 Mondays & 4th Tuesdays from 10:00am - 12:00pm • 750 Miller Dr. SE, Suite F-3

Loudoun-Fauquier 4-H Junior Camp

Registration Opens March 8

Join VCE Loudoun 4-H for the best week of the summer! Registration for 4-H Junior Camp opens on March 8. At camp, your child can challenge themselves with new activities that excite them, such as Canoeing, Model Rocketry, a Ropes Course, and Campfire Cooking. Visit our website to [learn more](#).

Sunday, June 11th - Thursday, June 15th • \$365 • Northern Virginia 4-H Center - Front Royal, VA •

[Register for 4-H Junior Camp](#)

Clerk of Circuit Court Offers Black History Program February 25

Black History Month Program

Navigating Slavery: The Goose Creek Meeting & The Hopkins Family

February 25, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Goose Creek Meeting House
18204 Lincoln Road, Purcellville

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loudoun.gov/clerkarchives

Loudoun Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary M. Clemens is pleased to announce that the Clerk's historic records team is offering a special Black History program in recognition of Black History Month in February. The program, "Navigating Slavery: The Goose Creek Meeting and the

Hopkins Family," is scheduled for **2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 25, 2023**, at the Goose Creek Meeting House, 18204 Lincoln Road in Purcellville.

The program will include presentations by scholars from Johns Hopkins University and members of the Clerk's historic records team. The program will offer discussions related to the Hopkins family's role in relation to slavery and the Goose Creek Meeting's (Quaker community) view of slavery in Loudoun County.

The program is presented by the Loudoun Clerk of the Circuit Court, Goose Creek Friends, Johns Hopkins University and the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library. The program is free to the public. For more information about the program, contact the Clerk of Circuit Court's Historic Records and Deed Research Division at [703-737-8775](tel:703-737-8775) or [via email](#).

More information about the Clerk's Historic Records and Deed Research Division may be found at loudoun.gov/clerkarchives.

**APPLY TODAY: Sterling District
Representative for the Loudoun County
Animal Advisory Committee**

Loudoun County's Animal Services Committee is seeking a member for the vacant Sterling District seat. Commission members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and the individual filling this open seat would be one of 9 members.



Board of Supervisors
Sterling District

The purpose of the Animal Advisory Committee is to advise the Board of Supervisors on the effectiveness of the Loudoun County Department of Animal Services; to advise to the Director Animal Services; to promote public awareness of the Department of Animal Services; and to serve as ombudsman for Animal Services issues or concerns.

There are many Sterling District residents who are passionate about animal welfare, and many have had an opportunity to interact with Loudoun County Animal Services. The committee would benefit from having a Sterling district resident participating in their discussions with Animal Services, communicating feedback about their experiences, and advising about animal-related concerns from the Sterling district.

If you are interested in being considered for the position, please complete the [online application](#). Additional information is posted on the county's website at loudoun.gov/advisory.

Supervisor Koran T. Saines

Sterling District Supervisor
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
[703-777-0204](tel:703-777-0204)

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