

# Residential Real Estate Assessments

## Loudoun County

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BOB WERTZ, LOUDOUN COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

JAMES WHITE, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

JAMIE RITCHIE, PATRICK JEWELL & CARL WIBERG, SUPERVISING  
APPRAISERS

# Assessment Administration

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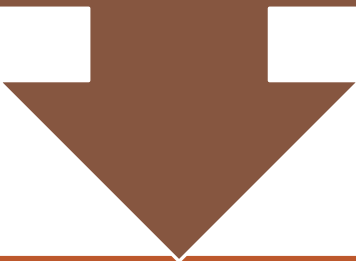
The chief tax assessing officer in Loudoun County is the Commissioner of the Revenue. The primary duty of the Commissioner is to ascertain and assess, at fair market value, all real and personal property.



This authority is granted under the Code of Virginia § 58.1-3103.

Mass  
Appraisal is  
not Fee  
Appraisal...

Mass appraisal is the systematic appraisal of groups of properties, as of a given date, using standardized procedures and statistical testing.



This differs from single-property appraisal, commonly referred to as "fee" or "bank" appraisal, which generally estimates value for a single property as of a given date.

# Assessment Process...

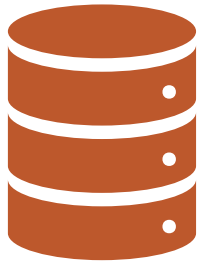
*Assessments are prepared annually at 100% of fair market value per state code 58.1-3201 and Loudoun County Ordinance 860.09. The effective date of the assessment is January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.*

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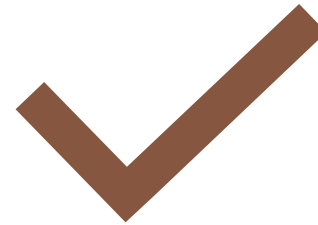
- Data collection and analysis: General, Specific & Comparative.
- Group stratification: Arrange similar properties together to form assessment groups or neighborhoods.
- Determine and apply land values for all residential property.
- Model specification: Develop or refine valuation models
- Sales verification: analyze sale & property characteristics, remove sales that do not meet the requirements of Market Value.
- Reassessment: Apply valuation models & adjustment factors to produce the assessment – statistically test each group for market value, uniformity and equity.
- Assessment Notice: Send notification of real estate assessment to each property owner.
- Assessment Review: Property owners may request a review of the assessment prior to the levy.
- Land Book: Submit to the Clerk of Court the final real estate assessment roll & levy for the specific tax year.

# Data Integrity

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The quality of property characteristics data, more than anything else, will determine the reliability of values generated in the reassessment. Therefore, property characteristics are constantly verified to ensure reliable assessment results.



This task is completed in several ways...

# Data Collection & Verification

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On-site property  
inspections



Permit and building  
plan reviews



Multiple Listing  
Systems



Aerial imagery



Geographic  
Information  
Systems (GIS)



Data collection  
surveys



Property owners

# Data Collection/Verification - Site inspection...

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Owner  
Request

Appeal

New structure  
or  
improvement

Sales  
Verification

Neighborhood  
Review/Special  
Projects

Assessment  
Uniformity

Ratio Studies

Data quality  
review

# Sales Verification

## How are sales verified?

1. Real Estate Transfer Documents: Deeds, sale contracts, transfer affidavits, etc...
2. Third Party Sources:
  - MLS
  - Real Estate brokers and agencies
3. Buyers & Sellers
4. Sale Verification Questionnaires: Sent to property owner after the sale.



# Market Value

Fair market value is the most probable price a buyer would be willing to pay a seller for a property offered for sale in an open market, over a reasonable period of time, where both buyer and seller are well informed, and neither is under pressure to buy or sell.



Transfers of real estate are analyzed annually. Nearly 95% involve sales of residential properties. Sales for previous years are also reviewed when warranted. Information is gathered from buyers, sellers, and real estate professionals. The selling prices are then compared to the assessed values to arrive at an assessment / sales ratio. The county is required by law to annually assess at fair market value as of January 1 of each year.

# Non-Market Value Sales

1. Same Surname - (Jones to Jones; or father to daughter, etc).
2. Deed of Gift.
3. Forced Sale- foreclosure, divorce, bankruptcy, or special commissioner.
4. Sale between government or private tax-exempt entity.
5. Sale of undivided interest. (may include business interest).
6. Partial Conveyance - part of the property is conveyed creating a new parcel.
7. Sale between co-tenants.
8. Deed of Trust.
9. Cemetery Lots.
10. Deeds of Exchange.
11. Timber, Easement, Quit Claim, or Mineral Rights deed..
12. Conveyance where personal property is conveyed; e.g. inventory, machinery, accounts receivable.
13. Auction Sales.
14. Sale between Bank and Contractor.
15. Rezoned property.
16. Date of Deed is substantially different from Date of Recordation.

# Data Collection/Verification – MLS & PERMITS

☐ Sweetgum Pl, Round Hill, VA 20141 Pending Residential \$510,000

(61) [Icons]

 1 / 61 [Icons]

MLS #: [VALO](#)  
Tax ID #: [75-100000000](#)  
MLS Area:  
School District: Loudoun County Public Schools  
Subdiv / Neigh: FALLSWOOD  
Garage Spaces: 2  
Total Parking: 2  
Listing Agent:  
Listing Office:  
Selling Agent:  
Selling Office: [Atoka Properties](#)

Beds: 4  
Baths: 3 / 1  
AbvGrd Fin SqFt: 1,848  
Acres/Lot SF: .99 / 43124  
Lot Dim:  
Tax Annual Amt: \$4,424.00  
Property Cond: Very Good

Structure Type: Detached  
Style: Colonial  
Central Air/Heat: Yes / Yes  
Year Built: 1994  
DOM/ CDOM: 5 / 5

Agent Phone:  
Office Phone:  
Settled Date:

## BUILDING/ZONING PERMIT # B-----

|                         |  |                        |                               |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Permit Issue Date :     | 2020-01-31                                 | Building Permit # :    | B-----                        |
| Applicant Name :        | CARRINGTON BUILDERS AT WHEATLA             | Structure Type :       | RESIDENTIAL SGL FMLY DETACHED |
| Owner name :            | CARRINGTON BUILDERS AT WHEATLA             | Construction Purpose : | <b>ADDITION</b>               |
| Property Address :      | XXXXX AUDREY JEAN DR<br>WATERFORD VA 20197 | Permit Purpose :       | <b>SCREENED PORCH</b>         |
| Bldg/ Floor/ Unit:      |  | MCPI Number :          | 377305240000                  |
| Section/ Lot :          | PH X LOT X                                 | Tax Map Number :       | /27/B/2////////               |
| Subdivision :           | OLD WHEATLAND ESTATES                      | Contractor :           | CARRINGTON BUILDERS LC        |
| Mechanics' Lien Agent : | ANY AGENT                                  | Related Permits :      | ZP                            |
|                         |  | Mech Lien Agent Ph # : | XXX XXX-XXXX                  |



## Data Collection/Verification – Aerial Imagery

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# Data Collection/Verification - Geographic Information Systems



# Land Valuation

- Fundamental Assumption...
  - Current use is the highest and best use unless something occurs to question the current use, an example could be a zoning change to higher or lower density.
  - Land is assumed to be buildable unless:
    - Documentation otherwise is on file or provided
    - Readily apparent conditions limiting development (physical factors)
    - Deed Restrictions
    - Governmental restrictions
    - Easements

# Common Approaches to Land Valuation

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Sales Comparison Method: This is the most accurate approach to land values and should be used when sufficient sales are available.



Comparative Unit Method: The average or typical per unit value of each stratum of land is determined.



Base Lot Method: The value of the standard or “base” parcel is established in each stratum through traditional sales comparison with the base lot serving as the subject parcel.



Allocation Method: The allocation method is based on the principal of balance, a logical value relationship based on a normal or typical ratio of land value to the total property value for specific categories of real estate in specific locations, example – condos.



Abstraction Method: Abstraction is a method in which land value is extracted from the sale price of an improved property.



Cost of Development Method: This method subtracts the total development costs from projected sales prices to derive land values.

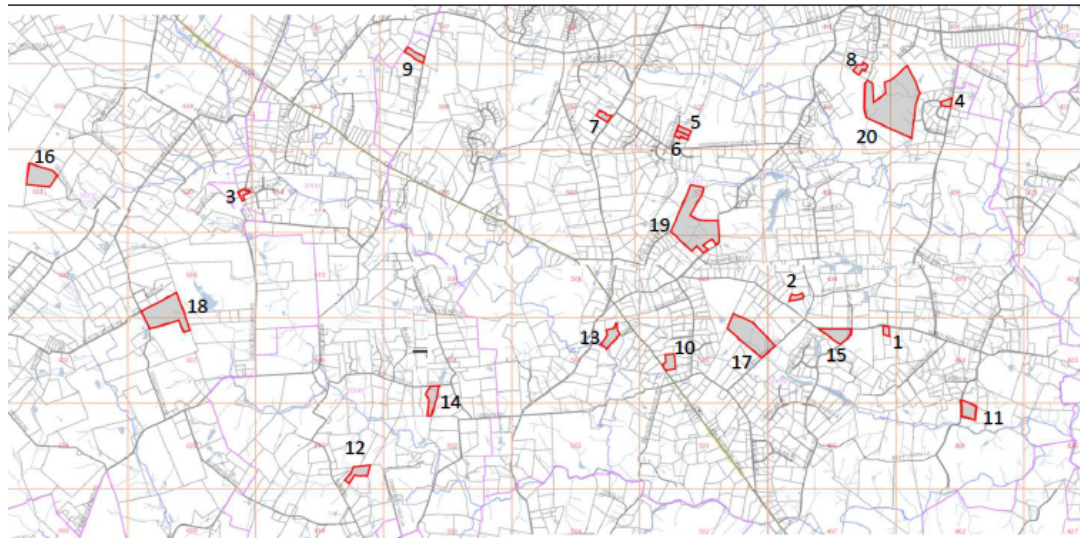


# Sales Comparison Method

Verified Indicators of Market Value – Sales within the market area are researched to identify indicators of value for the subject property by adjusting the sales prices of the comparable for differences from the sale price of the subject. The sales data can be used to create land valuation models for mass appraisal.

**2017 Bluemont / Philmont /North Fork Vacant Land Sales**

|    | PARID        | Address                    | ALT ID          | ZONING | FLD  | STP  | MS STP | ACRES  | Sale Price | Sale Date  |
|----|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------|------|------|--------|--------|------------|------------|
| 1  | 495405541000 |                            | /57/////13A     | AR1    |      |      |        | 3      | \$160,000  | 6/8/2016   |
| 2  | 494163796000 |                            | /56//50/////5B  | AR1    |      |      |        | 3      | \$110,000  | 7/11/2016  |
| 3  | 635206534000 |                            | /54//18/////2/  | AR2    |      |      |        | 3      | \$175,000  | 9/29/2016  |
| 4  | 457375624000 | 19155 Lancer Cir           | /45//32/////3/  | AR1    |      |      |        | 3.14   | \$200,000  | 4/7/2014   |
| 5  | 527173089000 | 19108 Nicholson Farm Ln    | /44//33/////3/  | AR1    |      |      |        | 3.51   | \$162,500  | 9/29/2015  |
| 6  | 527172269000 |                            | /44//33/////4/  | AR1    |      |      |        | 3.51   | \$150,000  | 11/17/2015 |
| 7  | 559295424000 |                            | /43//24/////1B  | AR1    |      |      |        | 4.58   | \$180,000  | 10/5/2016  |
| 8  | 492495650000 | 18829 Trinity Church Rd    | /45//35/////4A  | AR1    |      |      |        | 4.64   | \$184,500  | 9/16/2016  |
| 9  | 587166244000 | 18781 Airmont Rd           | /43///2/////10A | AR1    |      |      |        | 6.3    | \$185,000  | 12/30/2014 |
| 10 | 530264297000 | 36984 Snickersville Tpk    | /56//26/////6/  | AR1    |      |      |        | 7.74   | \$249,000  | 10/16/2015 |
| 11 | 461484166000 |                            | /57///8/////2/  | AR1    |      | 1.3  |        | 10     | \$178,000  | 5/15/2014  |
| 12 | 617197879000 | 20834 Furr Rd              | /55//25/////14A | AR2    |      |      |        | 10     | \$240,000  | 10/1/2014  |
| 13 | 562496916000 | 20102 Lovers Ln            | /56//48/////1C  | AR1    | 4.01 | 1.18 |        | 10.56  | \$284,500  | 6/30/2014  |
| 14 | 591172741000 | 35417 Poor House Ln        | /55//16/////5C  | AR2    |      | 0.15 |        | 10.6   | \$250,000  | 2/11/2015  |
| 15 | 495483218000 | 20035 Watermill Rd         | /56/////47/     | AR1    |      |      |        | 14.59  | \$220,000  | 10/22/2015 |
| 16 | 651371568000 | 19305 Dodderidge Ct        | /53///9/////4/  | AR2    |      | 1.07 | 5      | 24.89  | \$325,000  | 1/27/2016  |
| 17 | 530401717000 |                            | /56/////52/     | AR1    |      |      |        | 48.68  | \$580,000  | 1/10/2014  |
| 18 | 636167308000 |                            | /54//17/////8A  | AR2    |      |      |        | 50.26  | \$525,000  | 3/24/2015  |
| 19 | 528178116000 | 19571 Telegraph Springs Rd | /56//17/////D/  | AR1    |      | 0.6  |        | 81.65  | \$769,000  | 7/28/2016  |
| 20 | 457261326000 |                            | /45/////47/     | A10    |      | 1.09 |        | 119.47 | \$800,000  | 1/7/2015   |





# Allocation Method

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The allocation method is based on the principal of balance, a logical value relationship based on a normal or typical ratio of land value to the total property value for specific categories of real estate in specific locations. This method is predominately used in planned subdivisions where parcels of land are similar in size and location. An example is illustrated below...

| Neighborhood | Average Land value | Average value when Improved | Land-to-Total Value Ratio |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| R191376      | \$251,200          | \$646,330                   | 39%                       |
| R192114      | \$297,500          | \$872,940                   | 34%                       |

The land-to-total value ratio is approximately 35%. This percentage could be applied to other similar neighborhoods where land sales are not available for comparison.

Application: If the estimated market value is \$600,000, the land contribution would be estimated at \$210,000 or 35% of the total.

# Comparative Unit Method

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Suitable for areas where parcels vary in size but similar in other aspects.

## HOMESITE (comparative unit)

- Predominant driver of value due to ability to support a residential dwelling.

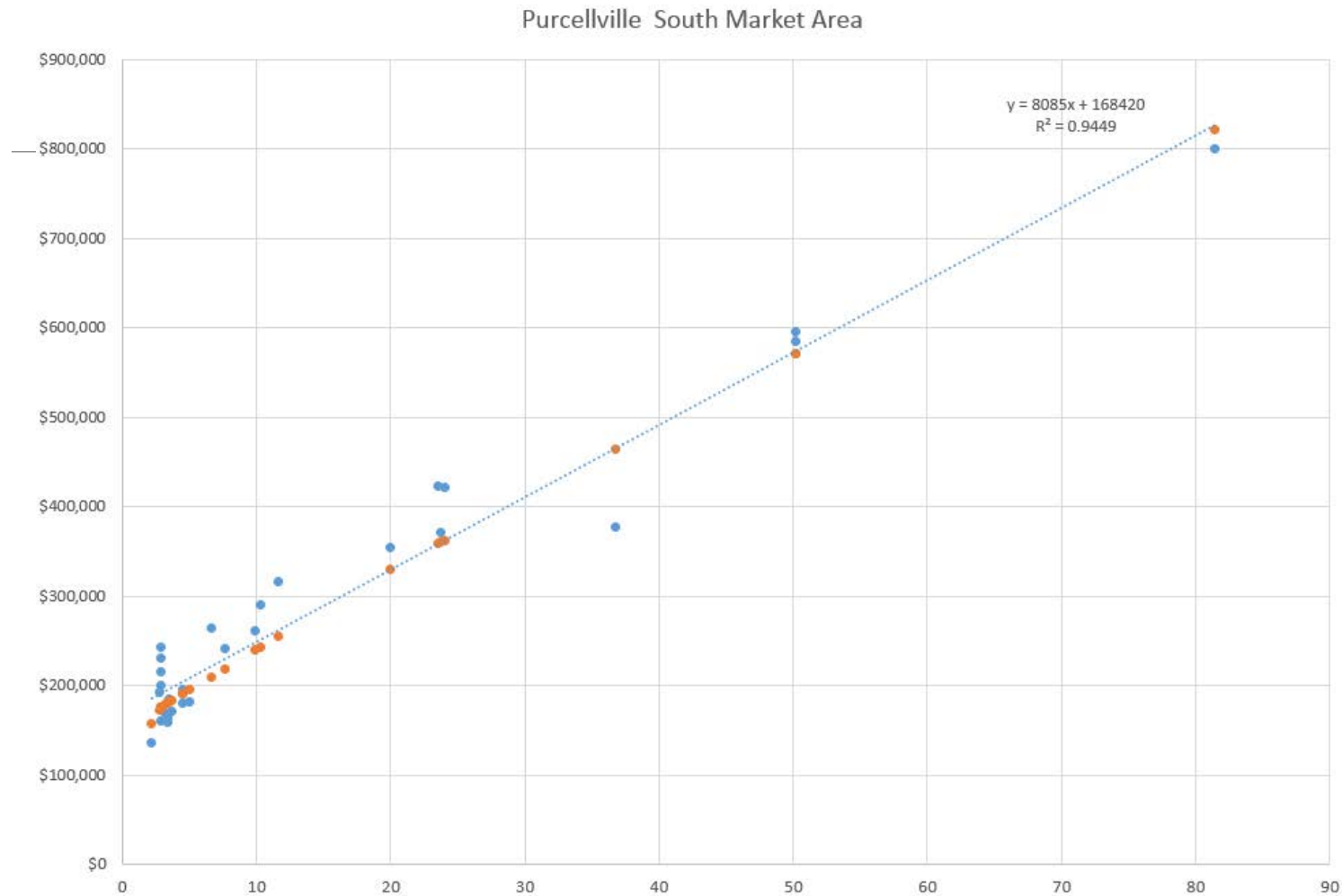
## SURPLUS ACREAGE (size adjustment)

- The contributory value of land decreases as land size increases. The value of 10 acres is not twice the value of 5 acres.

# Secondary adjustments for land valuation

- Major Flood plain
  - Adjustments considered for diminished use.
- Steep slopes
  - Adjustments considered for diminished utility.
- Road frontage
  - Value reductions can be applied to reflect reduced marketability due to lack of frontage.
- Easements
  - Adjustments to consider right-of-way or other restrictive easements.

Testing land models: the example below uses linear regression to measure the relationship between estimated land values against actual sales.



Sales Prices

Assessment Model Values

Linear Regression Line

# Development & Application of Valuation Models (Improvements)

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## PRIMARY ATTRIBUTES

Size (living area)

Quality

Condition

Number of Stories

Number of Bathrooms

Basement foundation

Attic (finished or unfinished)

Exterior (brick, stucco, siding, etc...)

HVAC (heating and air conditioning)

## SECONDARY ATTRIBUTES

Finished basement area

Garages

Fireplaces

Decks, Patios, Porches, etc.

Other buildings and yard improvements:  
Pools, barns, or stables.

Misc. Features: 2<sup>nd</sup> kitchens, wet bars,  
elevators etc.

# Model Tuning & Calibration

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Using the primary and secondary attributes, assessment models are developed & calibrated against recent market sales. The results are tested to ensure models meet the standards of mass appraisal regarding uniformity & market value.

| Model Name               | # of Sales | Median Ratio | Weighted Ratio | Average Ratio | COD   | PRD   |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|-------|-------|
| 110 - 1.0 Story Detached | 276        | 95.35        | 95.32          | 95.592        | 5.363 | 1.003 |
| 120 - 2.0 Story Detached | 2171       | 95.20        | 95.37          | 95.708        | 5.901 | 1.004 |

## Common Statistical Testing Methods

**Assessment to Sale Price Ratio** –  $\text{Assessment} \div \text{Sale Price}$ . This is used to see how appropriate the valuation model is.

**Coefficient of Dispersion (COD)** - Provides a measure of the variation of individual assessment ratios around the median ratio.

**Price Related Differential (PRD)** – Used to determine if higher valued properties are over assessed or lower valued properties are under assessed.

## Group Stratification

*Properties that share similar characteristics can be assembled into assessment groups or neighborhoods.*

|            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Location   | (Leesburg)                 |
| Sub-Market | (Greenway Farms)           |
| Style      | (Colonial, rambler, other) |
| Age        | (year built)               |
| Quality    | (Poor, Average, Good)      |
| Size       | (Living area)              |
| Condition  | (Average, Good, Very Good) |



# Completed Neighborhood assessment

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| Ratio Statistics:  |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Average:           | .959  |
| Weighted Mean:     | .958  |
| COD:               | 2.234 |
| PRD:               | 1.001 |
| Target Nbhd Factor | .922  |

| Sales Summary | Sales Price | Cost Value | Ratio | Sales \$ Sq Ft | Assd \$ Sq Ft |
|---------------|-------------|------------|-------|----------------|---------------|
| Total #       | 9           |            |       |                |               |
| Lowest        | 553,000     | 537,270    | .91   | 212.45         | 206.40        |
| Highest       | 646,000     | 610,350    | 1.01  | 245.87         | 228.34        |
| Average       | 599,444     | 574,379    | .96   | 228.41         | 218.88        |
| Median        | 601,000     | 577,930    | .96   | 226.94         | 218.96        |
| Avg Deviation | 24,395      | 19,201     | .02   | 6.80           | 5.86          |

Property Details can be found at  
[www.loudoun.gov/parceldatabase](http://www.loudoun.gov/parceldatabase)

| Property Search       |  | Loudoun.gov |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|
| Profile               | PARID: 113408178001                      |             |
| Values                | 19171 WINMEADE DR                        |             |
| Sales / Transfers     | Primary Building                         |             |
| Land                  | Card 1                                   |             |
| Land Use Status       | Property Address 19171 WINMEADE DR       |             |
| Residential           | Location 2                               |             |
| Detached Structures   | City, State, Zip LEESBURG, VA, 20176     |             |
| Commercial            | Occupancy RESIDENTIAL CONDO              |             |
| Map                   | Story Height 2                           |             |
| WebLogis              | Style CONDO STACKED/PIGGYBACK            |             |
| Aerial Photos         | Model MANHATTAN                          |             |
| Tax History / Payment | Exterior Wall Material ALUM/VINYL SIDING |             |
| Parcel Tracking       | Grade Good                               |             |
|                       | Year Built 2007                          |             |
|                       | Net SFLA (above grade) 1,532             |             |
|                       | Total SFLA (Includes Fin. Bsmt) 1,532    |             |
|                       | Condition AVERAGE                        |             |
|                       | Dwelling % Complete 100                  |             |
|                       | Full Baths 2                             |             |
|                       | Half Baths 1                             |             |
|                       | Additional Fixtures 2                    |             |
|                       | Total Fixtures 10                        |             |

# Annual Assessment Notice

## REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT CHANGE NOTICE FOR TAX YEAR 2020

**Parcel ID:** 080374569000

**Acres:** 0.06

**Property Address:** 18524 PERDIDO BAY TER  
LEESBURG VA 20176

**Legal Description:** RIVER CREEK LAND BAY J  
200401200005394 PC F-29-9  
PH.VIII SEC.2B LOT 25

**Magisterial District:** CATOCTIN

**Property Location:** Catoctin District

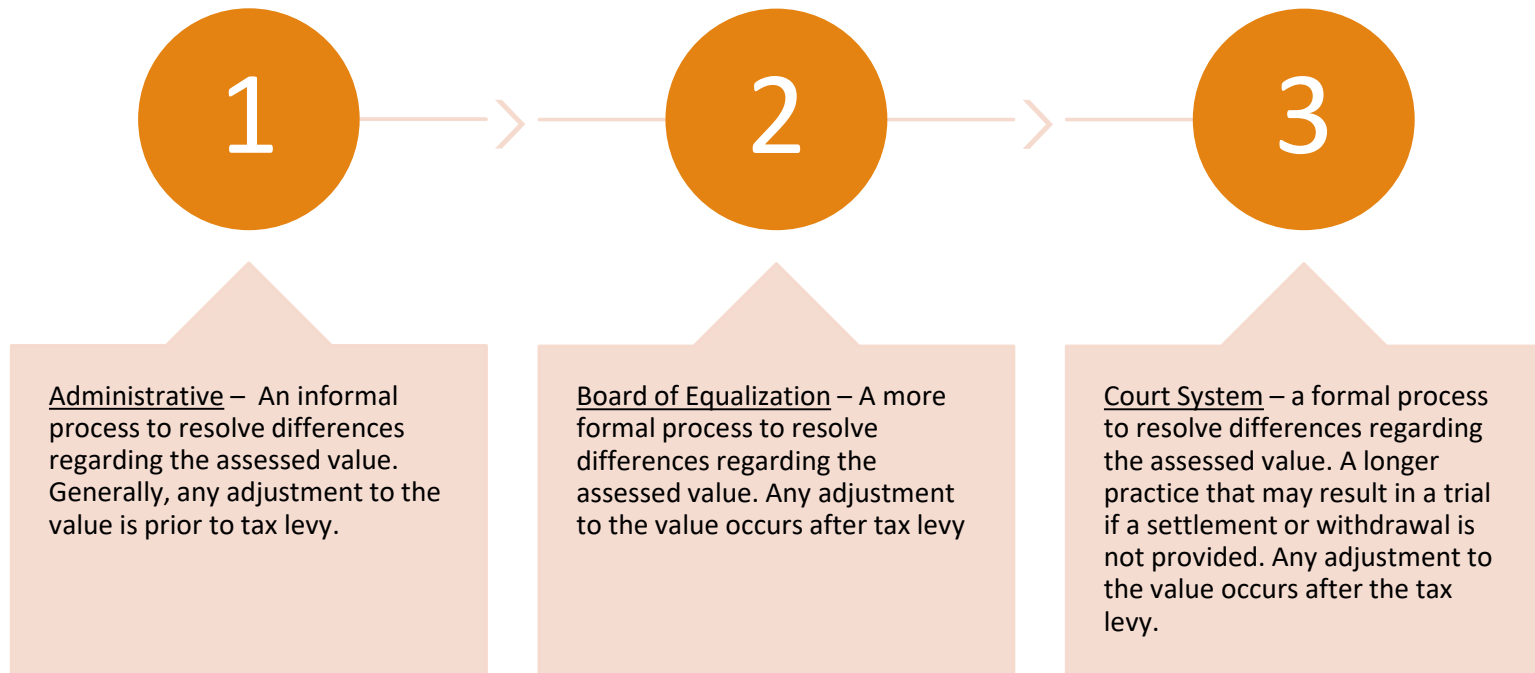
**Property Owner:**

| LOUDOUN COUNTY ASSESSMENT EFFECTIVE DATE                                   | 1/1/2020     | 1/1/2019 | 1/1/2018 |
|--|--------------|----------|----------|
| LAND   | 180,000      | 180,000  | 180,000  |
| STRUCTURE (includes wells, septic fields, buildings, and other structures) | 416,950      | 390,770  | 379,270  |
| TOTAL FAIR MARKET VALUE  | 596,950      | 570,770  | 559,270  |
| <b>TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE</b>   | 596,950      | 570,770  | 559,270  |
| LOUDOUN COUNTY TAX RATE PER \$100  | *Not Yet Set | 1.045    | 1.085    |
| <b>TOTAL TAX</b>   | N/A          | 5,964.55 | 6,068.08 |
| <b>PERCENT CHANGE IN TAX LEVIED</b>  | N/A          | -1.71%   | -1.18%   |

Should you desire to have a discussion about your real estate assessment, your appraiser, **Monae Lienhard**, can be reached at **703-777-0294** or **Monae.Lienhard@loudoun.gov**. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

# Assessment Review Process

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# Thank You

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Real Estate Information is available online at  
[www.loudoun.gov/cor](http://www.loudoun.gov/cor)

or by calling (703) 777-0260

Select option #3