

Leesburg 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Town Council

Kristen C. Umstattd, Mayor
Katie Sheldon Hammler, Vice Mayor
David S. Butler
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Kenneth "Ken" Reid
Kevin D. Wright

Celebrating 2009

To the Mayor, Town Council, and Leesburg Residents:

I am pleased to present the Town of Leesburg's Annual Report for the 2009 Fiscal Year. This report provides a summary of the highlights and accomplishments of the past year, as well as a snapshot of the Town's financial standing. While it does not include everything that the Town Government accomplished, it does provide a robust overview of what has been achieved. More details can be found in the annual budget (available on the Town website), which documents the specific accomplishments of each department.

2009 was a successful year for the Town of Leesburg. In the face of national and regional economic struggles, the Town has continued to move in a positive direction. Proactive leadership and direction by the Mayor and Town Council, supported by a professional and progressive team of staff members at all levels of the Town organization have led to the following highlights:

- ◆ New and improved recreational facilities
- ◆ Enhanced public safety
- ◆ Lower real property tax bills
- ◆ Improved land development plan review process
 - ◆ Enhanced energy efficiency at Town facilities
 - ◆ Environmental stewardship
 - ◆ Dramatically improved Town website

Please take a moment to review this annual report. I believe you will see that your Town Government is doing more with less, looking for new ways to provide services, and is committed to providing the highest level of customer service. Our on-going commitment to our residents is to provide a safe, well-managed community, while providing quality services at a reasonable cost.

With the strong leadership and support of the Town's elected officials, we will continue to build on the highlights and accomplishments of 2009, and create an even brighter future for the next 250 years.

Sincerely,

John Wells
Town Manager



published by:

Town of Leesburg
P.O. Box 88
Leesburg VA 20178

Top Stories



Outdoor Pool Opens

Located within the Town's 138-acre Ida Lee Park, the A. V. Symington Aquatic Center was made possible by the generous bequest of \$5 million from a local resident who regularly swam at the Ida Lee Park indoor pool. Mrs. Symington's bequest stipulated that the money was to be used exclusively for improvements at Ida Lee. After the Town was notified of the bequest in August 2005, Leesburg officials began working with the public to identify the best use of the funds. The outdoor pool was one of three projects identified. One of the other two projects – the Indoor Tennis Center – opened in January 2008. The Town is still working on the final project – the expansion of Ida Lee Park – through the acquisition of an adjacent parcel of land.

On Friday, May 22, 2009 – just 9½ months after the groundbreaking – Leesburg celebrated the opening of the A.V. Symington Aquatic Center. The Town's first outdoor municipal swimming pool, the Aquatic Center features a 600' lazy river, a "beach" area, a large slide tower with two body flumes, a drop slide, a 25-yard lap pool, two gang slides, a water pipe fall, pool crossing feature, dumping buckets, squirt whale, floating snake and alligator, and multiple bubblers and fountains. The Aquatic Center is a hallmark for the community's commitment to health and wellness.

The completion of the Aquatic Center within a very aggressive construction schedule is a testament to the dedication and capabilities of the Town staff responsible for the project. Staff from the departments of Capital Projects Management and Parks & Recreation worked hand-in-hand with the contractors to ensure the opening of the Aquatic Center in time for Memorial Day Weekend, the traditional start of the swimming pool season.

Land Development Process Improvements Take Hold

For years, the Town's land development process has been plagued with a reputation for being inflexible, lengthy and unpredictable. From a developer or business owner's point of view, commercial construction projects in Leesburg were more expensive and took longer to build than in other areas. Following a project cancellation in 2007, Leesburg officials committed to reorganize the Town's entire process.

Efforts began in December 2007, with an implementation date of July 1, 2008 – the start of the 2009 fiscal year. The reorganization had three major elements:

- ♦ The creation of a new Department of Plan Review, pulling the staff responsible for reviewing site plans into a single department. Plans are now reviewed by interdisciplinary teams working together.
- ♦ Implementation of a new software program that tracks all land development applications. Previously, each department used a different program, so there was no single source of information about the status of an application.

- ♦ Creation of a central office for the submission of applications, regardless of type. Submission requirements have been standardized, as well as the process for routing plans to the appropriate staff.

Other improvements were made to the process, including regular reporting on the status of plans in the process and adding more face-to-face meetings with applicants into the review process. Town staff met the goal of putting these changes into place by July 1, 2008. More importantly, the changes were made using only existing resources – no new funding was required.

A year later, it is clear that the Town has made significant progress in improving the land development process and in mending the Town's reputation. One hundred percent of the plans submitted since the changes took effect have been approved in three or fewer submissions (the average under the old system was more than five). Town staff is actively seeking feedback from applicants to identify where additional improvements are needed and will continue to improve the process.

Honors & Accolades

We already knew that Leesburg was a great town, but it's always nice to get validation! Here are a few of the many recognitions that Leesburg has received:

♦ Best Places to Live & Launch

In 2008, *Fortune Small Business Magazine* named the country's top 100 towns for entrepreneurs. Leesburg ranked #31 on the list. Editors noted the high number of business start-ups, the historic downtown and our proximity to both Dulles Airport and the nation's capital.

♦ Great Places to Retire for Wine Lovers

In 2009, *U.S. News & World Report* rated Leesburg as one of the nation's top ten places to retire for wine lovers. The mix of proximity to a major city (Washington DC) and nearby rural countryside were noted again by the selectors.

♦ Tree City USA

Leesburg has received the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA award for 20 consecutive years! Did you know that trees cover 27% of the land in Leesburg and help provide over \$2 million worth of benefits to citizens each year?

♦ Preserve America Community

Preserve America is a federal program recognizing communities that protect and celebrate their culture heritage, use their historic assets for revitalization and encourage their citizens to experience and appreciate these historic resources. Leesburg has been a Preserve America Community since 2006.

New Town Website Debuts

In today's technologically-advanced world, the primary contact that the Town government has with its citizens is through the Town website. Open and available 24/7, the website is often the first place residents go for information and news; so keeping the website fresh and up-to-date is of paramount importance. During FY 2009, one of the major projects that involved every department in the Town was the redesign of the Town website. Chief complaints from citizens about the old website were that it was difficult to navigate and that it contained a lot of outdated information. For their part, staff was frustrated at the inability to update website information directly – all updates had to be routed through the Information Technology Department.

As part of the redesign process, Town staff reevaluated all of the existing content and how it was organized. Wanting to make navigation more intuitive, the new website includes conversational-style menus and links, like the "I Want To . . ." and expanded Frequently Asked Questions sections. In addition, the menus are cross-linked, so there are multiple ways to get any one page. The new website more than doubles the amount of content available, with over 700 pages. More importantly, each department has the ability to make immediate updates to the website.

Leesburg's new website debuted on May 29, 2009 and has received overwhelmingly positive reviews from users. Since the website's debut, Town staff continue to improve the site. Spanish language translations of content, interactive maps, and online forums are some of the improvements under development.

250th Anniversary Celebration

On September 14, 2008, Leesburg celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Town's founding with a downtown block party. Patterned after a children's birthday party, the entirely free event featured live music, carnival games, clowns, face painting, balloon artists, goody bags, and – of course – birthday cake . . . a really BIG birthday cake.

The event brought to a close the year-long schedule of activities and programs that commemorated Leesburg's 250 years as a Town. Some of the year's highlights:

- ♦ 250th Anniversary Lecture Series at the Thomas Balch Library
- ♦ special exhibit at the Loudoun Museum on Leesburg's history
- ♦ publication of a pictorial retrospective book, *The Town of Leesburg: 250 Years in the Making*
- ♦ Vintage 50 Restaurant's special commemorative beer, 80 Shilling Ale
- ♦ Temple Hall Farm's annual Corn MAiZE, featuring the 250th logo
- ♦ 250th logo merchandise, including T-shirts, sweatshirts and garden flags



The Budget Numbers

Revenue

The Town's revenue comes from many sources, including county/state/federal funding, real estate and other local taxes, permits, fees, fines and grants. When people talk about the "Town Budget," they usually mean the General Fund (see Budget 101 on the next page). This chart illustrates the major sources of revenue for the General Fund (\$46 million in FY 2009).

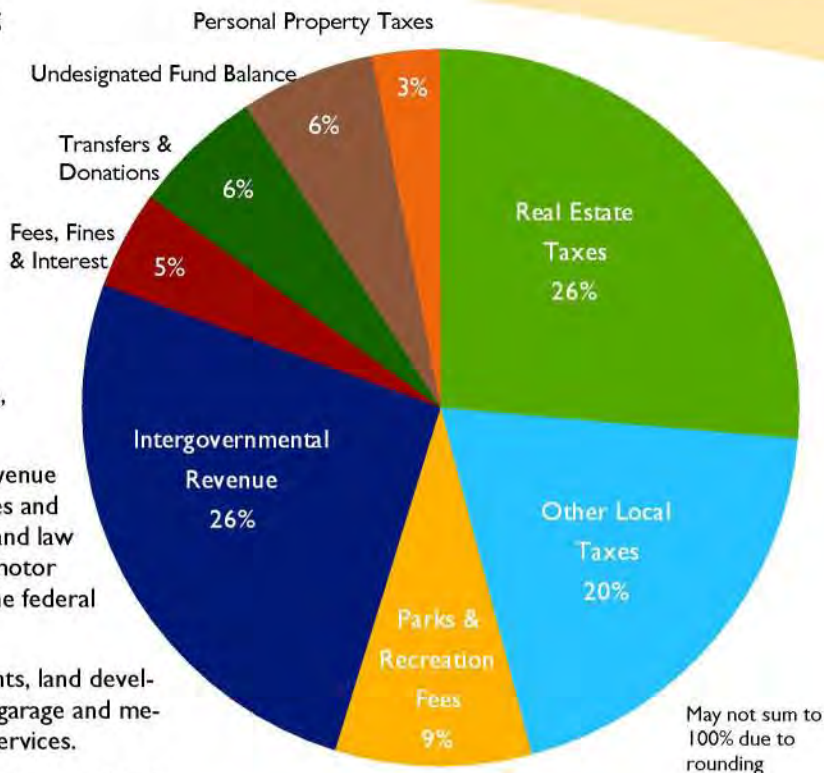
Real Estate Taxes – in FY 2009, 77% of real estate taxes came from residential property and 23% came from commercial property.

Other Local Taxes – includes Motor Vehicle and Business Licenses and Meals, Hotel, Bank Franchise, Cigarette, Daily Rental and Utility Consumption Taxes.

Intergovernmental Revenue – the majority of this revenue comes from the Commonwealth of Virginia, including sales and communications taxes, funding for highway maintenance and law enforcement, and state relief for personal property tax (motor vehicles). The remainder is from Loudoun County and the federal government.

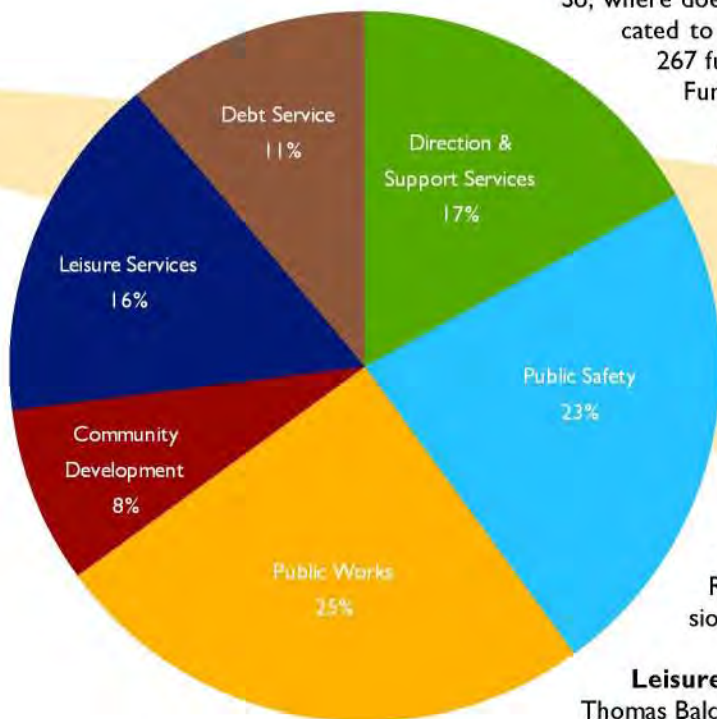
Fees, Fines & Interest – includes interest on investments, land development application fees, parking & traffic tickets, parking garage and meter revenue, and other miscellaneous charges for Town services.

Transfers & Donations – includes transfers from the Enterprise Funds, cash proffers from developers, and other contributions such as the Symington Bequest.



Expenditures

So, where does all of the revenue go? 58% of the Town's General Fund is dedicated to personnel expenditures – the salaries and benefits of the Town's 267 full-time and 78 part-time employees. This chart illustrates General Fund expenditures by functional program.



Direction & Support Services – includes the Town Manager's Office, the Town Council, the Clerk of the Council, the Town Attorney, the Economic Development Office, and the Departments of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Also includes contributions to outside agencies that provide services to Leesburg citizens.

Public Safety – includes the Leesburg Police Department.

Public Works – includes the Streets, Grounds and Building Maintenance Divisions, Traffic Management, Trash Collection & Recycling, and Inspections.

Community Development – includes the Departments of Plan Review and Planning & Zoning, as well as the Boards & Commissions related to community development.

Leisure Services – includes the Parks & Recreation Department and the Thomas Balch Library.

Average Tax Bills Decline

In 2008, real estate tax assessments in the Town of Leesburg decreased a total of 7%. Since real estate taxes are the single largest source of revenue for the Town's General Fund, this decrease had serious ramifications for the Town's FY 2009 budget.

As part of the budget process, Town staff starts with a calculation known as the "equalized tax rate." The equalized tax rate is the rate that would generate the same amount of revenue as the previous year, based on the current year's assessments. When assessments go up, the equalized tax rate goes down. When assessments go down – as they did for FY 2009 – the equalized tax rate goes up. For FY 2009, the equalized tax rate was 19.234¢ per \$100 of assessed value. If the equalized tax rate were adopted, the average homeowner would see no increase or decrease in their tax bill.

However, recognizing that the declining property assessments were linked to an overall economic decline and that the Loudoun County property tax rate would increase beyond the County's equalized rate, the challenge faced by the Town was how to continue to provide the same level and quality of services to our citizens without increasing the tax burden on them.

For FY 2009, the Town's real estate tax rate remained at 18¢ per \$100 of assessed value. As a result of lower property assessments, the Town portion of the average homeowner's tax bill declined by nearly 7%.

The total General Fund Budget for FY 2009 was \$45,962,714. This budget represents an increase of just \$11,670 – or 0.03% – over the FY 2008 Budget. In other words, the General Fund budget remained essentially the same. Looking at the larger picture, the total budget – including the General Fund, the Capital Projects Fund, the Airport Fund and the Utilities Fund – declined nearly 9%, mostly due to the completion of major capital projects.

For more information about the Town of Leesburg's budget, visit our website at

www.leesburgva.gov

Fiscal Year vs. Tax Year

The fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th. It is the 12-month period designated as the operating year for accounting and budgeting purposes. The tax year is the same as the calendar year (January 1st to December 31st) and is based on the January real estate assessments.

General Fund

FY 2009 Total: \$46 million

The General Fund is the Town's primary operating fund and accounts for all revenues and expenditures not designated for specific use by statutes or the Town Charter. The single largest source of revenue for the General Fund is real estate taxes.

Capital Projects Fund

FY 2009 Total: \$25 million

The Capital Projects Fund accounts for the purchase and/or construction of major capital facilities, such as roads, buildings, and recreational facilities, and the budget for the Capital Projects Management Department. The revenue for this fund comes from developer proffers, grants, funding from the state and federal governments, bond proceeds, and transfers from other funds.

Enterprise Funds

FY 2009 Total: \$30 million

The Town of Leesburg has two Enterprise Funds: the Airport Fund and the Utilities Fund. These funds were established to account for the operations, investing and financing activities of self-supporting activities of the Town that provide services to the public on a user-fee basis.

Budget Process

The annual budget process begins in September with revenue projections. In December, each department submits a budget request to the Town Manager. In February, the Town Manager submits the proposed budget to the Town Council. Public hearings are held in March and in April, the Town Council sets the tax rate and adopts the budget.

Highlights

Presidential Candidates Hold Rallies in Leesburg

In an unprecedented turn of events, within the span of five days, Leesburg hosted campaign rallies for two of the major candidates in the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election. On October 22, 2008, the Democratic Presidential candidate (and future President) Senator Barack Obama held a rally at Ida Lee Park. An estimated 30,000 people attended. On October 27, 2008, the Republican Vice Presidential candidate, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, came to J.R.'s Festival Lakes, with an estimated attendance of 8,000. With less than a week's notice, the Leesburg Police Department took the lead role in coordinating security and traffic measures for both rallies, in partnership with the United States Secret Service, the Virginia State Police and the Loudoun County's Sheriff's Office. Town police officers and public works staff put in many hours behind the scenes ensuring that both events were safe and memorable for all attendees.



Shredding Events Collect Eleven Tons of Documents

Identity theft is a serious issue. Every year, millions of Americans become victims. Thieves often use information from the documents that people place in trash cans and recycling containers. A simple solution is to shred these documents before disposing of them. However, shredding can be a time-consuming and messy endeavor if done at home, and for the volume of documents produced by a single household, hiring a commercial shredder is expensive. In an effort to help reduce the threat of identity theft and to promote recycling, the Leesburg Public Works Department began hosting semi-annual "Community Document Shredding Events" at Heritage High School. For the shredding events, a portable commercial shredding unit is brought to the site and citizens can have up to 3 boxes of documents shredded for free. During the first three events, over 500 Town residents had more than 22,000 pounds of documents shredded and recycled.

Leesburg Dog Park Opens



On Saturday, May 9, 2009, the Leesburg Parks & Recreation Department cut the ribbon on the Town's only recreational facility specifically for our four-footed citizens. The dog park at Olde Izaak Walton Park includes a 25,000 square foot fenced off-leash area, dog waste stations, picnic tables and benches.

Citizens had lobbied for the creation of a dog park in Leesburg for a number of years, but finding an appropriate location proved challenging. A number of sites were considered, including the possibility of leasing land from Morven Park. In September 2008, the Town Council approved the plans to build the park at Olde Izaak Walton Park, an existing Town park. Construction costs were approximately \$18,500, which was significantly lower than costs would have been for a new park. The dog park is open from dawn to dusk and can accommodate up to 10 dogs at one time.

250th Anniversary Lecture Series Goes Digital

During 2008, as part of the celebration of the Town's 250th Anniversary, the Thomas Balch Library presented a series of six lectures about distinctive features of our historic town. Lecture topics were:

- ♦ William Wirt
- ♦ Leesburg's Archaeology
- ♦ Mapping Leesburg
- ♦ Leesburg as a Transportation Hub
- ♦ Leesburg's African-American Community
- ♦ Leesburg on the Eve of the American Revolution

These lectures were recorded on video and are now available on DVD with an accompanying booklet. DVDs and booklets have been given to all of the Loudoun County High Schools and are available for purchase from the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library for \$15.

19th Annual Flower & Garden Festival Draws Record Crowds

For the first time in many years, the Flower & Garden Festival was graced with two days of beautiful weather. As a result, a record 30,000 people came to Leesburg to eat, shop and be entertained. Now in its 19th year, Leesburg's annual Flower & Garden Festival is the Town's premier special event, held each year during the 3rd weekend in April. This year, over 125 vendors of flowers, plants, art, garden décor and more filled the downtown streets. Each day of the two-day festival featured a full line-up of live music, children's entertainment and children's crafts.



Watershed Planting Projects “Go Natural”

Two projects aimed at increasing the tree canopy, improving water quality, increasing wildlife habitat and improving flood control were completed in Leesburg this past year. First, over 70 volunteers turned out to plant over 200 trees at a stormwater management pond in Kincaid Forest. The second project involved planting a stream buffer of trees, shrubs and native grasses along Town Branch at Harrison Street, just south of Catocin Circle. These plantings will

help protect areas from erosion by slowing rainwater runoff and will filter pollutants out of the rainwater before it flows into local streams. Both projects were joint efforts of staff from the Departments of Planning & Zoning and Public Works, the Town's Watershed Committee and Environmental Advisory Commission, the Center for Watershed Protection and the Piedmont Environmental Council.



Leesburg Goes Green

In 2008, Leesburg was recognized by the Virginia Municipal League for the Town's efforts to improve energy efficiency, reduce consumption and increase recycling, with VML's “**Certified Green Government**” designation.

The Town Council set a goal to reduce the Town government's energy consumption 10% by 2012 and Town staff across the organization have implemented programs to achieve that goal.

The Utilities Department has led the Town's efforts to reduce energy consumption with programs at the Water Filtration Plant and the Water Pollution Control Facility. Measures include the installation of skylights and motion detection light switches, lowering the temperature in some facilities, operating certain equipment only during off-peak hours, turning certain equipment off when not needed, and switching to newer, more efficient technologies.

Some of the other measures being taken around Town include:

- ♦ Refitting the HVAC systems at Town Hall and the Thomas Balch Library to maximize efficiency.
- ♦ Monitoring gas mileage in fleet vehicles.
- ♦ Replacement of incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.
- ♦ Implementation of “paperless” packets for the Town Council, the Planning Commission, the Economic Development Commission and other commission meetings.

None of these measures alone will make much of a difference in the Town's energy usage; but taken together, they can make a huge difference!

A Day in the Life

24 Hours With Town Staff

1:05 a.m.

IT staff fixes a server problem at the Police Department, from home via VPN connection.

2:25 a.m.

Police respond to a report of a dog attacking an individual.

4:15 a.m.

Utilities Maintenance crew repairs a water main break.

5:00 a.m.

Parks & Recreation staff opens Ida Lee Recreation Center for the day.

7:50 a.m.

Public Works staff replaces a damaged street sign.

8:10 a.m.

Airport staff conducts an airfield inspection.

8:40 a.m.

Capital Projects Engineer and Urban Forester inspect a road widening construction project.

9:15 a.m.

Preservation Planner meets with a downtown property owner to discuss renovation project.



9:35 a.m.

School Resource Officer talks with students about conflict resolution.

10:20 a.m.

Finance staff issues a new business license.



10:50 a.m.

Library archivist processes a newly received collection of historical records.

11:00 a.m.

Public Information Officer hosts "Get the Scoop" session with local media.

11:30 a.m.

Plan Review staff meet with a developer and his engineer to discuss plans for a new office building.

12:05 p.m.

Town Hall Receptionist provides a resident with a new recycling bin.

1:15 p.m.

Central Plan Intake receives a land development application for review.

1:45 p.m.

Human Resources staff accepts a job application.

2:00 p.m.

Zoning Inspector responds to a citizen complaint about a junk vehicle.

2:30 p.m.

Street Maintenance crew pours a section of new sidewalk.

3:00 p.m.

Economic Development manager meets with an existing business owner to discuss expansion plans.

3:40 p.m.

R.O.C.K. program coordinators check in students to the after school program at Evans Ridge.

4:10 p.m.

Finance staff set up a water service account for a new resident.

5:30 p.m.

Business Retention Coordinator organizes a ribbon cutting for a new business.



6:35 p.m.

Library specialist assists patron with genealogical research.

7:00 p.m.

Capital Projects staff holds a meeting with residents to discuss an upcoming storm drainage project in their neighborhood.

7:30 p.m.

Mayor and Council begin regular meeting. Town Clerk records meeting.

8:25 p.m.

IT staff provides on-site support for Council meeting webcast.

9:50 p.m.

Parks & Recreation staff closes Freedom Park after the last ballgame of the day.

11:45 p.m.

Technician at the Kenneth B. Rollins Water Plant checks the water level of the Carr Tank.

Interchange Eases Traffic on Route 7

In September 2008, a major piece of the transportation network in Leesburg was completed—the grade-separated interchange on Route 7 at Crosstrail Boulevard and River Creek Parkway. The construction of the interchange was a proffer made by Kettler, the developer of the Village at Leesburg, as part of the rezoning of the property. The opening of the interchange eliminated two traffic signals on Route 7, one at River Creek Parkway and one at Cochran Mill Road, greatly improving traffic flow in the area. The total cost of the interchange is estimated to have been \$25 million.

Bus Routes Expanded

As more commercial centers and the roads linking them have opened, the Town has worked with Virginia Regional Transit to expand the bus routes that serve the Town. The Leesburg Trolley now stops at Potomac Station Shopping Center and Fort Evans Plaza II. VRT operates three fixed routes that provide continuous service throughout Leesburg, Monday through Friday, from 7 am to 7 pm. The free Trolley route that connects the Historic Downtown with shopping centers on the east side of Town also runs on the weekends. The central transfer point for all three bus routes, as well as the 7-to-7-on-7 bus, is in the Historic Downtown, at the Loudoun County Administration Building. For details about the routes, stops & hours of operation, visit VRT's website at www.vatransit.org.

Investments in Infrastructure

For a town its size, Leesburg has a very aggressive Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Nearly 60 projects are included in the FY 2009-2013 five-year program, totaling \$118 million! These projects span a wide range of the Town's infrastructure needs, from swimming pools and playgrounds to roads and storm sewers. In addition, the Town works with private developers to obtain contributions towards the infrastructure needed to support new development (see box right).

The bulk of the Town's General Fund capital improvement projects involve either transportation improvements (streets, trails & sidewalks) or storm drainage improvements – and often include both. In recent years, the completion of Battlefield Parkway has been at the top of the list. Much of this road has been constructed by the developers of Exeter, Potomac Crossing, Edwards Landing, Fort Evans Plaza II, and Oaklawn. A major segment of this road, from Route 7 to Kincaid Boulevard, opened in September 2009. The two remaining segments of Battlefield Parkway are included in the Town's CIP and are scheduled to be completed by 2012.



Storm drainage improvements have received increasing attention in recent years, particularly in the older residential sections of Leesburg. Storm drainage projects are frequently combined with road widening and sidewalk projects. The recently completed West Market Street improvements and the Lowenbach Street improvements, planned to begin construction in 2010, are two examples.

During FY 2009, two major Utilities Fund capital improvements were completed. First, a \$19.6 million expansion of the Town's Water Filtration Plant increased the plant's capacity from 12.5 million gallons per day (gpd) to 15 million gpd. Secondly, the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) expansion increased capacity for wastewater treatment to 7.5 million gpd. The WPCF expansion totaled \$32 million – odor control measures accounted for \$4 million of that amount!

Any Capital Improvement Project involves multiple departments within the Town. First, the Capital Project Management Department is responsible for the design and construction. In addition, the department that will ultimately be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project once completed – whether Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Utilities or the Airport – needs to be involved, not just at the end of the project, but throughout the entire process.



New Route 7 interchange at River Creek Parkway & Crosstrail Boulevard

Leesburg Executive Airport

The Leesburg Executive Airport is a tremendous asset to the Town and the whole region. The airport is the second busiest General Aviation airport in Virginia and serves as a reliever airport for Washington Dulles International Airport. If necessary, Dulles Airport could divert aircraft to the Leesburg airport in order to relieve air traffic congestion.



Of course, most of the aircraft that use the Leesburg Executive Airport are small planes, flown for both recreational and business purposes. Over 250 aircraft are based at the airport, including a number of business jets. In FY 2009, the airport saw over 120,000 take-offs and

landings. Business travel accounts for an increasing percentage of this traffic.

Beyond providing recreational and business travel opportunities, the Leesburg Executive Airport contributes to the community in other ways. Three flight schools, an air medical transport company and the FAA's Cybersecurity Group operate out of the Leesburg airport.

The Town has made significant improvements to the airport and more are in the works. During the past year, the South Apron was expanded, allowing more space for aircraft tie-downs, and the first phase of the perimeter fencing was installed. Upcoming projects include the construction of new aircraft hangars on the South Apron, the completion of the perimeter fencing, installation of new security gates, and installation of an Instrument Landing System (ILS). The vast majority of these capital improvements are funded by grants from the FAA and the Virginia Department of Aviation.

FY 2009 marked an important benchmark for the Leesburg Executive Airport – it was the first year for the airport operations to be financially self-sufficient.

The Leesburg Airport Commission hosts an annual Airport Open House, which is free to the public. Attendees can tour the airport and its facilities, and many local pilots showcase their aircraft. In August 2008, the highlight of the Open House, attended by over 2,000 people, was the display of a World War II-era B-17 "Flying Fortress" heavy bomber.



Quick Facts

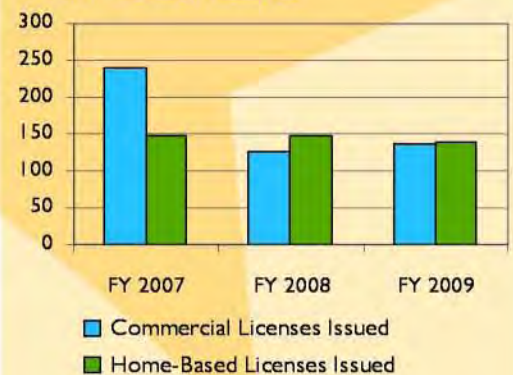
Bond Ratings

The Town's bond ratings determine the interest rate the Town pays on the bonds it issues. The higher the rating, the lower the interest rate. Leesburg's current bond ratings are:

Moody's	Aa2
Standard & Poor	AA+
Fitch	AA

These bond ratings rank the Town's bonds as High Grade, the second highest rating category.

New Businesses



Volunteer Hours

Citizens volunteer over 12,000 hours of their time to the Town each year. In FY 2009, volunteers served in the following ways:

- ◆ 7,700 hours by the Citizen Support Team
- ◆ 2,600 hours at Thomas Balch Library
- ◆ 13 Boards, Commissions & Committees
- ◆ 12 Town-Sponsored Special Events
- ◆ 6 Community Events
- ◆ 4 Community Projects

Volunteers are a valuable—and valued—asset to the Town.

Crime Rate

Leesburg is an exceptionally safe community. The chart below illustrates the rate per 100,000 residents of violent crimes in 2008.

