

Best Practices When Using Amplified Outdoor Sound

Town of Leesburg, Virginia

1. **Do not amplify drum kits.** When a live band with drums is performing, do not amplify the drums. Most of the time, for the size of venue available here in Leesburg, drums can be heard perfectly well without amplification, and by not amplifying the drums, it helps avoid the other instrumentation being too loud as they are amplified over the drums.
2. **Use a decibel meter.** While the Town enforces noise violations based upon the noise being audible from a certain distance away, smart-phone based noise meters may help as a tool to assess if you are unduly loud. At 100 feet from the sound source, a smart-phone based noise meter should not register over 70 decibels.
3. **Point speakers away from residents.** When setting out monitors or speakers, pay particular attention to how they are oriented. When possible, please try and orient monitors or speakers in a way that minimizes sound projecting into the surrounding community.
4. **Time management.** Designate someone to pay attention to the time to avoid accidentally going beyond the permitted hours for amplified sound.
5. **Check volume periodically.** Schedule multiple volume checks during the time sound is to be amplified. The way sound carries can change over the course of a day due to multiple factors, including change in atmospheric conditions.
6. **Be a good neighbor.** Communicate with your neighbors so that the surrounding properties are aware you will be having an event with amplified sound.