

Leeds Town

Quarterly Newsletter



OCTOBER 2024

Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we move into the heart of 2024, I want to take a moment to reflect on all we've achieved in the first quarter of this year. Leeds continues to thrive as a vibrant and connected community, and it's been wonderful to see so many of you actively contributing to the progress we're making together.

In Q1, we've made important strides in our infrastructure and public works projects. The long-awaited road improvements on Main Street are nearly complete, making travel safer and smoother for everyone. We've also secured additional funding to expand our recreational facilities, with plans for new a pickleball.

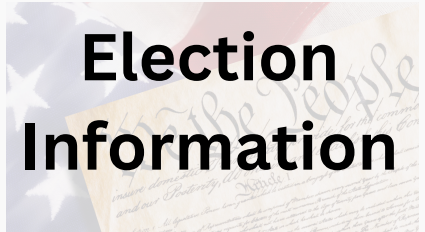
Our town is in discussions with Ashcreek Conservancy and Washington Water Conservancy to enter inter-local agreements which will bring water and sewer services to new developments.

One of my favorite moments from this quarter was the community's involvement in the Leeds 5k Run and patriotic celebrations, held July 4th. It was incredible to see so many participants and volunteers come together to support local causes. Looking ahead, we have several more community events on the horizon, and I encourage everyone to participate and stay connected.

As we head into the next quarter, I remain optimistic about the direction our town is heading. Together, we've made remarkable progress, and I'm confident that the rest of 2024 will bring even more opportunities of unity, connection, and positive change.

Thank you for your continued dedication to making Leeds a great place to live. Let's keep this momentum going!

Sincerely,
Bill Hoster, Mayor of Leeds



Recent Primary Elections in Washington County, Iron County, Kane County, disclosed critical concerns for election officials. Ballots mailed on or before the deadline were not postmarked for several days afterward, because the mail is processed in Las Vegas, Nevada and not at the post office where the ballot was mailed from. This discovery resulted in law suits from candidates, public angst, and questions about election integrity since the legislators knew the problem existed before the election.

You can still mail your ballots; however, be sure to mail it at least several days prior to the election deadline (Nov 4th). You can also drop off your ballot at Leeds Townhall or at the Washington County building.

Voter registration deadline is by 5PM October 25th.

Short-term Rentals

The matter of short-term rentals in the town of Leeds has been under review by the town's Planning Commission. Short-term rentals by definition is a residence rented for less than 30-days.

Short-term rentals have mixed reviews from residents and property owners in the areas effected. Some are concerned businesses will buy up housing for rental, reducing inventory long-term residents. Others have vocalized a property owner should have all rights to use their property as they wish.

Current town code allows for residents to rent 25% or less of

their home for less than 30-days if they also reside on the property - referred to as a bed and breakfast ordinance.

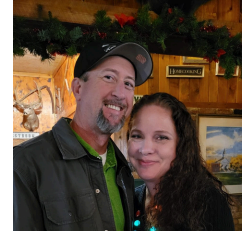
Washington County has implemented a search program to identify residential homes listed on vacation rental websites and sends that information to municipalities to enforce TRT tax reporting.

Residents are encouraged to participate in planning commission and town council meetings to vocalize their positions, as an updated ordinance is drafted and codified, soon.

A Great Staff Serving Leeds

The work to manage and maintain the Town of Leeds takes not only selfless volunteers, but a dedicated, talented staff. Leeds is so very fortunate to have such volunteers and staff who work behind the scenes to make Leeds a beautiful, thriving, and safe community.

Michelle Rutherford joined Leeds as Town Clerk in 2024. Her exposure and training were very limited, but Michelle dove in with both feet, learning the processes and methods for ensuring the town remained legal in processes, as well as implementing several new systems for improving the town's efficiency, accuracy and safety. Please take a moment when you visit Town Hall to thank this smiling face and dedicated staff member of Leeds.



Michelle Rutherford (right) with fiancé Andrew (left)

Our beautiful park, clean streets, emptied garbage cans, sign repairs, cemetery clean up, and so much more are due to the diligent efforts of Mr. Bill Stone. Bill has taken so much pride in his efforts and it certainly shows. He even volunteers many hours each week to doing extra work on the town's appearance. Please take a moment to see and appreciate the efforts of Bill and all that he does for our town, as well. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated and selfless people working behind the scenes.



Bill Stone (left) with Jim Vasquez (right)

Councilman Hansen Resigns



Councilman Brian Hansen

Town Councilman Brian Hansen will be vacating his seat on Town Council. Hansen and his wife have accepted a mission call for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, leaving in December of 2024. We wish to extend our sincere gratitude for his time of service and dedication to Leeds Town.

The process to replace this vacated seat is as follows:

- Declare vacancy (done)
- Public Notice with deadline to apply
- Eligibility
 - *Registered voter in the town*
 - *Resident of the town at least 12 consecutive months.*
 - *Not have been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude.*
- Town Council reviews applicants - transparent process open to the public.
- Council votes - majority must be met

If you are interested or have additional questions, please contact Town Hall. 435-879-2447.

Additional openings for Planning Commission are anticipated soon, as well.

Some Dates to Remember

October 2, 7:00 pm - Planning Commission
October 9, 7:00 pm - Town Council
October 14 - Town Hall Closed / Columbus Day
October 23, 7:00 pm - Town Council

November 6, 7:00 pm - Planning Commission
November 11 - Town Hall closed / Veterans Day
November 13, 7:00 pm - Town Council
November 28 - Town Hall Closed / Thanksgiving

Main Street Construction Complete



FINALLY, we can travel up and down main street without cones, dust, and potholes. The Washington Water Conservancy and Leeds Domestic Water Association have finished placing water lines, and there are just a few finishing touches with hydrants and sidewalk repairs.

LEEDS *Spirit of Service* 2024 AWARD



2024 Spirit of Service Award was presented to three Leeds citizens who demonstrate a commitment to community service and make a positive impact on the lives of others. Jeremy Stratman, Doris Mc Nally, and Mark Osmer are all very deserving.



Leeds Considers Joining Regional Water Supply Agreement

The Town of Leeds, in collaboration with the Washington County Water Conservancy District, is currently reviewing the possibility of joining the updated Regional Water Supply Agreement. This agreement builds on the original version signed by the town in 2017 and introduces key components such as water conservation measures and adherence to the Hansen, Allen, and Luce study. This study regulates the placement of septic systems in the region to protect water resources.

A significant aspect of the new agreement includes water reuse, which supports sustainable water practices for the town. In a recent meeting, the Leeds Town Council voted to submit a formal request to the board of the Washington County Water Conservancy to join the agreement.

If approved, this partnership will allow developments currently unable to receive water from the Leeds Domestic Water users Association (LDWA) to access water resources without needing to disconnect from the Town of Leeds.

Silver Reef Museum



The Silver Reef Museum has been a wonderful attraction for locals and tourists. The Washington County Commissioners have presented Ron Cundick a recognition award for his selfless service and dedication for years of successfully running the museum.

The museum is always looking for volunteers. Please visit the museum during normal business hours to learn more.



Leeds Town Newsletter

Understanding the Truth in Taxation for Fire and EMS



Hurricane Valley Fire District services the fire and EMS needs of several municipalities; Hurricane, Laverkin, Toquerville, Virgin, Rockville, Springdale and Leeds. The department also covers all of the unincorporated county areas.

Fire and EMS calls have risen year over year, 2024 anticipated to exceed 6,500. About 80% of those calls are for EMS.

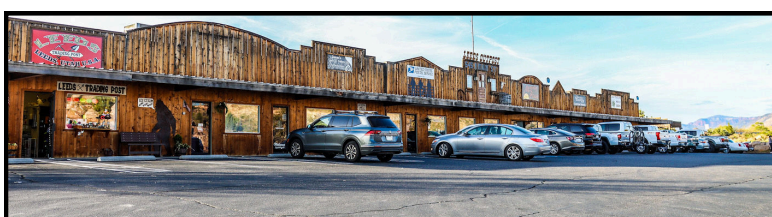
The District attempted a 89% tax increase to the portion of taxes each property owner contributes to Fire and EMS in 2022. This effort was ceased at the Board level.

The Board drafted legislation with the assistance of Representative Joseph Ellison, that enabled a percentage of sales taxes to be used for funding Fire and EMS. Since over 35% of calls are attributed to tourists, and tourism brings about 5 million people to the area, while only 35 thousand people reside in the District, placing some of the burden on tourists seemed fair.

The bill passed; however, some flaws revealed that were remedied the following legislative session. Unfortunately, that modified bill died at the Senate floor and was not voted upon. The District has received high confidence from legislators the bill will pass in 2025; however, the District does not want to risk the safety of our citizens. The property tax increase is only a safety gap, incase the sales tax somehow fails again. When the sales tax bill passes, property taxes will be reduced significantly - to below 2024 levels.

The proposed increase from 0.000699 to 0.001063 will be reviewed by the Board, after the public hearing with a decision proposed to the County Commissioners, following. The proposed tax increase will render the department approximately 2.3 million to sustain current levels of service, prevent closing any stations, and avoid laying off any personnel.

The department has experienced the damaging effects of inflation the country has experienced over the past 3 years - higher gas prices, insurance rates, equipment costs, and more.



Please Be sure to help support our local businesses, who experienced difficulties stemming from the Main Street construction the past several months.