

# ***PROCLAMATION***

## ***Welcoming the Student Partnership Exchange Program Participants from Saint Cyr-sur-Loire, France***

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Leesburg recognizes the value of cultural exchanges with other countries as a way to acknowledge and appreciate both the differences and similarities among people from around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the George C. Marshall International Center, through its Student Partnership Exchange Program, has afforded six high school students from Saint Cyr-sur-Loire, France, the opportunity to come to Leesburg and Loudoun County to experience life in Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of Leesburg and Loudoun County businesses and government offices are hosting the students for career explorations during the week of April 11 through 15, 2016.

**THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia hereby officially welcome Killian Blois, Clemence Cauquil, Clara Lefevre, Damien Lefevre, Noemie Moreau and Guillaume Pierre to the Town of Leesburg and proclaim the week of April 11 through 15, 2016, to be Saint Cyr-sur-Loire Week in the Town of Leesburg.

**PROCLAIMED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016.

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David S. Butler, Mayor

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Kelly Burk, Vice Mayor

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Fernando "Marty" Martinez

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Katie Sheldon Hammler

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Thomas S. Dunn, II

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Suzanne D. Fox

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R. Bruce Gemmill

# ***PROCLAMATION***

## ***NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 2016***

***May 5, 2016***

**WHEREAS**, in 1852 the United States Congress established an annual Day of Prayer; and

**WHEREAS**, that law was amended in 1988 to designate the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer; and

**WHEREAS**, people in Towns and Cities across America observe the annual National Day of Prayer; and

**WHEREAS**, this is a time for citizens of all faiths to join together to pray for our national, state and community leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's theme "**Wake Up, America**" will be highlighted.

**THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia hereby proclaim May 5, 2016 as The National Day of Prayer.

**PROCLAIMED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

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David S. Butler, Mayor

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Kelly Burk, Vice Mayor

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R. Bruce Gemmill

# ***PROCLAMATION***

## **EARTH Day April 22, 2016**

WHEREAS, the global community now faces extraordinary challenges, such as global health issues, food and water shortages, and economic struggles; and

WHEREAS, all people, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, have a moral right to a healthy, sustainable environment with economic growth; and

WHEREAS it is understood that the citizens of the global community must step forward and take action to create a green economy to combat the aforementioned global challenges; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to broaden and diversify this global movement to achieve maximum success; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is the beginning of a new year for a commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts.

THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia hereby proclaim April 22, 2016 as Earth Day in the Town of Leesburg for 2016.

PROCLAIMED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

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# ***PROCLAMATION***

## **ARBOR DAY**

**April 29, 2016**

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day should be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this special day, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, trees provide many benefits to our community, such as reducing the erosion of topsoil, moderating temperatures, reducing heating and cooling costs, cleaning the air and water, and they also produce oxygen and provide a habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, planting trees and maintaining mature trees in our Town increases property values, enhances the economic vitality of local businesses, and beautifies our community, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Leesburg is recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community for twenty-seven consecutive years and desires to continue its tree-planting ways.

THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia hereby proclaim April 29, 2016 as the official Arbor Day of the Town of Leesburg for 2016.

PROCLAIMED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

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David S. Butler, Mayor

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Suzanne D. Fox

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# PROCLAMATION

## National Library Week April 10-16, 2016

**WHEREAS**, libraries are not just about what we have for people, but what we do for and with people;

**WHEREAS**, libraries have long served as trusted and treasured institutions, and library workers and librarians fuel efforts to better their communities;

**WHEREAS**, libraries are evolving to better serve their communities and to fulfill their role in leveling the playing field for all who seek information and access to technologies;

**WHEREAS**, libraries and librarians help document and reveal the past through reference, research, and access to historical, genealogical, and other resources;

**WHEREAS**, libraries and librarians are looking beyond traditional roles and providing more opportunities for community engagement and deliver services that connect closely with patrons' needs;

**WHEREAS**, libraries support democracy and effect social change through their commitment to provide equitable access to information for all library users regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic status;

**WHEREAS**, libraries, librarians, library workers and supporters across America are celebrating National Library Week

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia proclaims National Library Week, April 10-16, 2016. We encourage all residents of Leesburg, Virginia to visit Thomas Balch Library to take advantage of the unique historical and genealogical resources available, to explore new resources added to the collection, to engage with your librarians and to thank them for making information accessible to all who walk through the library's doors. Because of you, Libraries Transform.

**PROCLAIMED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

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## About the EAC

The EAC consists of seven Leesburg town residents, a Town Council liaison, and a planning commission representative. In order to protect the environmental interests of the Town, we depend on the entire community's help. The EAC raises awareness and involvement in protecting natural resources by bringing people together at "green bag" lunches, rain barrel workshops, streamside plantings, and other events. We invite you to join us as in stewardship of the Town's natural resources.



Tuscarora High School students Tiana Thornton and Sommer Isaacs reusing paper to make note pads

### EAC

c/o Irish Grandfield, Senior Environmental Planner  
25 W. Market St.

Leesburg, VA 20176

Phone: 703-771-2766

E-mail: [igrandfield@Leesburgva.gov](mailto:igrandfield@Leesburgva.gov)

See us on the web!

[www.leesburgisgreen.org](http://www.leesburgisgreen.org)

*"Promoting and protecting the environmental interests of Leesburg."*

**Your Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC)**



Winners of 2015 Tolbert Environmental Achievement Award: Tuscarora High School



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### What you can do for Leesburg's environment:

- Recycle
- Use native landscaping
- Limit use of lawn fertilizer
- Plant a tree
- Buy fresh, local produce & meat
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly



## Have an Idea? Share it with the EAC

The EAC meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in Town Hall. Members of the public are always welcome.

Have an idea or concern related to streams, storm-water, wildlife, plants, air quality, or other environmental issue? Please e-mail, call, and/or attend one of our meetings to share your idea or concern. We are here to help.

Some of our accomplishments over the past few years include:

- Helping the Town develop a pesticide notification program for spraying along

Town Branch.

- Obtaining grant money and organizing volunteers to plant trees and shrubs along streams and storm-water management ponds.
- Providing environmental education workshops and materials on lawn care maintenance, environmentally sensitive land development, energy management, and native landscaping.
- Developing Town Plan policies to protect our waterways.

- Sponsored rain barrel workshops for Town residents resulting in over 200 new rain barrels to help with water conservation and stormwater management.
- Provision of over 1,500 reusable grocery bags to Town citizens to reduce the demand for plastic.
- Recognition of many Town citizens and businesses through the Tolbert Environmental Achievement awards program.

## Greetings from EAC Chairman Charles Greenough

On behalf of the Environmental Advisory Commission, I am pleased to provide this annual report that showcases local efforts to protect Leesburg's natural resources. Our efforts this year have focused on increasing local recycling rates, energy efficiency at Town facilities to save natural resources and

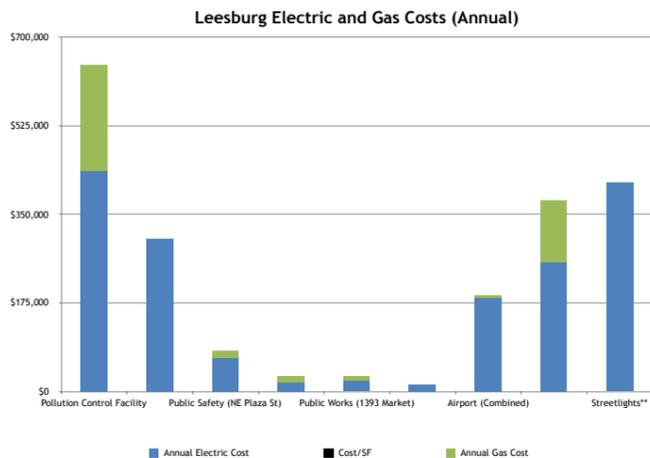
reduce electricity bills, and actions we can take to further restore our local streams through watershed planning, environmentally sensitive land development and conservation. We encourage all residents to treasure and protect natural resources in the Town (visit our website for ideas how). Thanks

to all your efforts as well as to the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy who have partnered with us on environmental projects.



### Energy Efficiency

The commission has done extensive research into energy consumption in town facilities. After analysis of data from town utility bills, it was determined that the town may benefit from more closely tracking and benchmarking energy consumption. A separate report will be made to council on this subject early in 2016.



### Rain Barrel Program Continues

Together with Loudoun Soil and Water, the EAC sponsors rain barrel workshops in the spring of each year. Citizens have the option to buy a pre-made barrel or build their own at a workshop. In 2015, Leesburg residents made their own or purchased 47 rain barrels. Over the last five years, residents have made or purchased 209 barrels. From year to year the colors of the barrels may change but all can be spray painted to match your home's exterior. Once again last year Town Council offered Leesburg residents a \$20 discount on the cost of purchasing a rain barrel through this program.

Rain barrels are a great way to promote water conservation and reduce storm water runoff following storms.

Look for more rain barrel workshops in Town in 2016. Materials, instructions, and assistance are all provided for one low cost.



Rain barrels store roof water for garden watering later

### Flower & Garden Festival

The EAC hosted a booth at Leesburg's Flower and Garden Festival in April 2015. Committee members talked with citizens about native landscaping, rain barrels, recycling, and other environmental topics of interest.

Many visitors to the booth were pleased to hear about the rain barrel workshops in Town; Others appreciated learning about the wide variety of items that can be recycled. The EAC distributed over 300 reusable grocery bags with the slogan "Leesburg is Green" during the event.

Look for the EAC booth during the Flower and Garden Festival every year. The booth is usually near the old post office on East Market Street.



The EAC & citizens connect at the Commission's Festival Booth

### Watershed Protection

The commission passed a revised resolution to support watershed plans for Cattail Branch and Big Spring Branch, which was forwarded to Town Council. The Commissioners also participated in storm drain marking efforts, replacing damaged or missing markers at multiple locations around Leesburg.

The commission met with petitioners concerned with stream preservation and flood prevention, with particular attention to Tuscarora Creek and Cattail Branch.

The EAC has actively promoted proper disposal of pet waste, automobile fluids, lawn fertilizer, pesticides, and other trash to help keep our streams clean and safe for our children, pets, and wildlife.

Want to help further? Volunteer to help mark storm drains in the Town. Scouting groups, ecology clubs, neighborhood associations, and individuals are all welcome.

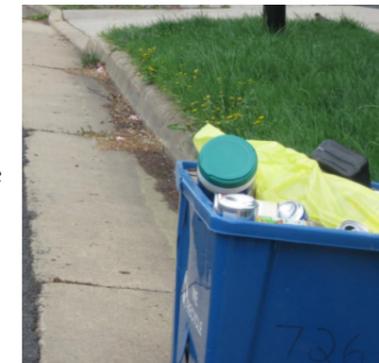
Contact Leesburg's Department of Public works at 703.771.2790 or on the web at <http://www.leesburgva.gov/government/departments/public-works> for more information or to register. All materials are provided free.



Sample Marker

### Working to Increase Recycling

The EAC has continued their work to promote increased recycling in the Town of Leesburg. Commissioners distribute information at the Flower and Garden Show, along with recycling and yard waste stickers, allowing residents to use any container as a recycling bin. The Commission passed a resolution to recommend Council seek twice a week recycling as part of the Town's next Solid Waste contract. The commission is also exploring ways to provide incentives to local businesses to encourage recycling by those with private waste contracts. For more information about trash and recycling services in Leesburg, visit: <http://www.leesburgva.gov/government/departments/public-works/trash-recycling-services>.



Curbside Recycling

### 2015 Tolbert Environmental Achievement Award Winners

Tuscarora High School is this year's recipient of the Tolbert Environmental Achievement Award for its innovative environmental science program that has helped spur several initiatives in sustainability. One example of the School's efforts is its reuse of excess printed paper to create notepads eliminating the need of the school to purchase new paper notepads. A second initiative has been to aid the plight of the monarch butterflies with a garden way station to help sustain the butterfly migration. In a third separate initiative, Tuscarora High School has implemented a new lunchroom recycling program developed and run by the Environmental Sciences classes. A big thanks to Tuscarora High School for their environmental initiatives. (See photos on page 4.)