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# LEESBURG Today

## Rescue Squad Seeks Space Solution

Loudoun County Volunteer Rescue Squad President David Weiss said he never expected his station on Catoctin Circle would be looking for space this soon but, just four years after a major remodel, that is the position the LCVRS is in.

"This is a little sooner than what we had anticipated," Weiss said. "We're at max capacity now. We will exceed that in about a year."

In 2002, the company began a remodeling process that would expand the building, originally built in 1974, by 50 percent. The addition next year of a new heavy rescue truck, coupled with the squad's five ambulances and other equipment as well as an expanding workforce and call volume, has caused LCVRS to outgrow its space already.

"As our call volume has increased, so has our need for additional manpower and storage space," Weiss said.

One of the ideas on the table for LCVRS is expanding its space onto the site currently occupied by the town's Catoctin Skate Park. The skate park is in the town's Capital Improvements Projects for 2012, when it is slated to undergo a \$400,000 renovation and upgrade. Weiss said so far he has approached Town Manager John Wells, Planning, Zoning & Development Director Susan Swift and members of town council about the idea and says that town staff has been receptive. He said he plans to meet again with Swift and also parks and recreation department director Kaj Dentler in the near future.

"We're broaching this from the perspective that this will be a multi-use space that we'll share with the parks and recreation department," Weiss said. "My goal as president is to work with the town to meet the needs of the parks and recreation department, the rescue squad and the Town of Leesburg."

Weiss said that, should the squad move into the skate park site, it would construct another stand-alone building that would house administrative offices, and also provide space for three more tandem bays that will allow room for six rescue squad vehicles. Additional parking spaces would also be constructed. Weiss said that one of the rescue squad's suggestions would be to move the skate park into nearby Brandon Park, an idea which Mayor Kristen Umstatted said she found intriguing.

Weiss said the rescue squad is engaging in some "forward planning" with regard to its space needs, and added that, as with the remodeling project from four years ago, any future expansion would likely be financed from within. Umstatted said she understands the need for space and hopes space can be found for both the skate park and rescue squad buildings.

"The rescue squad is a fundamental town service," Umstatted said.