Summer 2015 Citizen Survey Reveals Deep Disillusion With Town's Approach To Growth And Zoning

- By Andrea Gaines

In July of 2015, Purcellville surveyed its citizens to "obtain vital information and a snapshot of [residents'] overall level of satisfaction" with the town. The survey measured 370 overall responses with questions about town services and staff, Loudoun County services, taxes, government and elected officials, and more.

With the exception of the town's water and wastewater policies - where citizens gave the town a low 41 percent satisfied/very satisfied rating - Purcellville got high marks from its citizens. But, looking deeper, citizens expressed quite a bit of skepticism about town policies, particularly with respect to its approach to growth and zoning.

"Control Growth" was among the top six ways residents said that Purcellville could improve the level of citizen satisfaction with the town, along with lowering water and sewer rates, maintaining Purcellville's small town atmosphere, providing more recreational opportunities, lowering taxes and listening to citizens.

Citizens also rated receiving information from the town on "development items" as their number one priority – behind receiving information on events, council decisions, public policy, finances and sports. And, "smart growth" was one of three top items that citizens believed should be the priorities of the town council - including taxes and lower water and sewer rates.

As Planning Commissioner Nedum Ogleman pointed out in a recent statement calling for a thorough Comprehensive Plan review prior to the sweeping zoning changes now proposed, "The recent town survey

"Stop the developers who, when given the chance, will Fairfax-ize this beautiful town and not look back."

shows us that for each one citizen who wants us to work with special interests for increased, aggressive development, 10 want us to prevent or control such development."

When asked "What is the most important thing the Town of Purcellville can do to improve your level of satisfaction?" one citizen commented: "The town does not solicit nor care about the concerns of the average citizen. The pro-growth environment is contrary to why most of the citizens of the town moved here, yet concerns are ignored." Another commented, "If it were not for [local newspapers], I would not even know about most things. It seems I would miss it until after votes happened. Decisions are being made too quickly with little ... real long term analysis." Many also questioned the town's sincerity in dealing with citizens saying: "I'm informed, but don't feel heard", "It seems like they [the town's leadership] ... are not transparent" and at least one, being painfully direct said: "Stop having deals under the table and pocketing money in local developer's pockets."

Others were more specific about the exact developments they oppose, including one resident who commented: "Stop the development of [Tilley entertainment] off

Continued on page 22

Cactoctin Corner Getting Ready For Development



In August 2010 the Lazaro Town Council approved a comprehensive plan amendment to allow the property now known as Catoctin Corner to be rezoned mixed use commercial. The council action was done against the recommendation of the planning commission. This was also in direct conflict with the Eastern Gateway Charrette, and violates the comprehensive plan. Currently, the project calls for 7 commercial businesses.

Defiant Planning Commission Sends Zoning Changes To Town Council

- By Andrea Gaines

In a dramatic 5-1-1 vote, the Purcellville Planning Commission has put the ball squarely in the Purcellville Town Council's court, recommending dozens of sweeping zoning changes fought for tooth and nail by developers. The vote shifts the focus of the debate from the Planning Commission to Town Council meetings and public hearings scheduled to start in October.

Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman was the sole dissenter in the Planning Commission's dramatic volley, voting

no on the proposed changes. Planning Commissioners Chip Paciulli, Theresa Stein, Edward Van Istendal, Doug McCollum and Gil Paist, voted yes, with planning commissioner Chris Bledsoe absent for the vote.

At the Planning Commission public hearing Mayor Kwasi Fraser said, "A vast majority of the proposed changes will increase the value of a few property owners by granting by right use...while other citizens will lose out on the ability to obtain value added conditions for development

Continued on page 40



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Ask Dr. Mike

- By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

My 6 year old son refuses to eat anything but peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, carby snacks and anything sweet - no veggies, no meat, no cheese, no pasta, etc. His pediatrician says his weight is

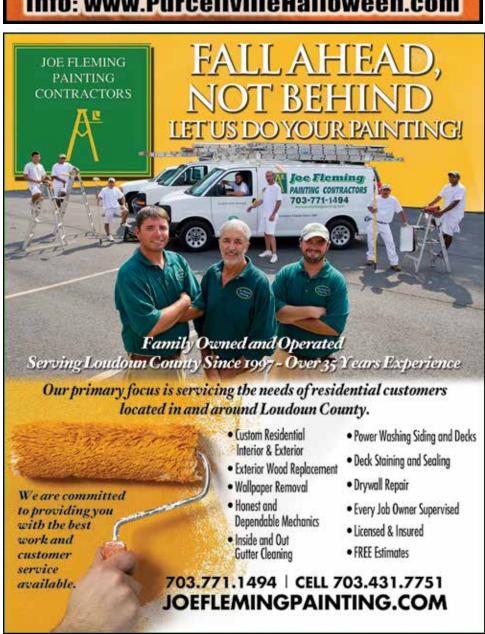
fine, and she suggested a vitamin and mineral supplement shake, which my son actually likes because it's chocolate. When I was a kid, I ate what was on the table for dinner, or I didn't eat

anything. Why doesn't that approach work with my kid? The harsher I get, the more disobedient he gets. Even when I am super kind to him, nothing changes. Every day is a struggle, and there is always a fight with tears...sometimes

for both of us. I am at my wits end

Continued on page 40





Scott York, Candidate For Chair, Board Of Supervisors

York has lived in Loudoun County since 1986. Among his many responsibilities as a member of the Board of Supervisors, York represents Loudoun County on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the Virginia



York

Association of Counties, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the National Capital Regional Transportation Planning Board. York is married to JoAnn and they have four children and eight grandchildren.

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running?

Scott York: The next four years will ultimately set the tone and path for Loudoun moving forward and beyond 2020. Review of the Comprehensive Plan, completion of the Silver Line and other critical transportation infrastructure improvements, continued expansion of our commercial tax base, affordable housing, education and affordable taxes are just some of the issues facing the next board. Prior to running for and serving as chairman, I served on the Planning Commission as well as the Sterling District Supervisor. Due to my past years of service, I have developed decisive and essential relationships with regional, state, and federal office holders

and community leaders. I'm running for re-election because the Loudoun Board of Supervisors needs experienced, proven and effective leadership to guide the Board through the next term.

BRL: How important is the Loudoun **County Revised General Plan?**

SY: I initiated the process that led to the creation of the Revised General Plan. This and other efforts led to the elimination of some 60,000 zoned and planned residential units. Through the revisions of the plan, we protect our natural resources and historic sites, and help grow the rural economy.

BRL: Will you support traffic calming projects in areas such as Hillsboro. How about the 690 interchange? For example, will you work with VDOT and the state to secure funding for the immediate advancement of the 690 interchange on Route 7?

SY: Yes I support the Hillsboro and 690 interchange. We have been and continue to work for state and NVTA for funding of these and other projects.

BRL: In the past, several Boards of Supervisors adopted and signed an ethics pledge which governed their behavior toward each other and the public. If elected, would you sign an ethics pledge? What would you like to see in it?

SY: Yes I would. I would like to see as the last clause in the document read, "Should any Board of Supervisor violated a single

ethic standard contained in this pledge shall immediately resign his or her seat.'

BRL: Planning Commissioners make important decisions which significantly impact individuals and neighborhoods. What criteria will you use to pick your planning commissioner?

SY: I have always selected individuals who are good listeners, thoughtful, respectful of the public and staff, who pledge to do the homework that comes with being a commissioner, and abides by the rules, policies, and regulations set forth by the county and the commonwealth of Virginia. My planning commissioner has served the citizens well and I'm proud of his service.

BRL: In the past, certain actions by the Board of Supervisors have given members of the public an impression that the Board prioritizes the needs and wants of developers to the detriment of county residents. These actions include the streamlining, relaxing or eliminating various zoning regulations on development. Do you agree with this perception? Why or why not? How would you handle this?

SY: While the question focuses on perception, I'll address reality! We have worked to streamline the process so economic project applications are able to process faster than in the past, but done in a manner that protects to common good of the public. There have been a few regulatory changes that have been made as

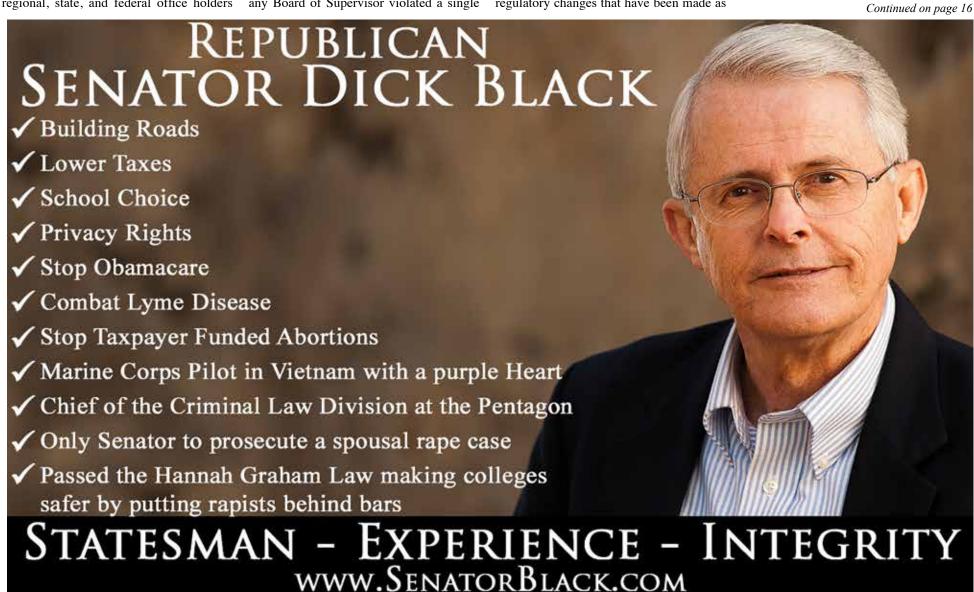
well, some I have agreed with and others I have not. I will support changes that help support the common good of the citizens, and will promote the health and welfare of the county.

BRL: What do you see as the future of western Loudoun County? Will you strive to preserve the rural nature and character that all of Loudoun County benefits from via tourist/visitor dollars even if it means going against the pressure of developers?

SY: As I said in answer two, I initiated the process that led to the creation of the Revised General Plan that led to the elimination of some 60,000 zoned and planned residential units. Through the revisions of the plan, we protect our natural resources and historic sites, and help grow the rural economy. I do not, will not support any attempt to increase any residential development opportunities in the rural planning areas.

BRL: Virginia's Freedom of Information and Retention of Records Acts set certain minimum standards of transparency for local government officials. Do you think county officials and supervisors should go beyond the minimum standard? Are you willing to lead such an effort? Will you hold your appointees to a similar standard?

SY: All written records are public documents. All of my meetings are of public record. All my meetings that I have with anyone looking at or are processing





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Randall, Candidate For Chair, Board Of Supervisors

Phyllis Randall, who was raised in a military family, is a 23-year resident of Loudoun County. Randall and her husband, T.W., have been married for 24 years and have two sons educated in Loudoun County Public Schools. Randall is the immediate past chair of Virginia's



Randall

Fair Housing Board and the current chair of Virginia's State Board of Corrections. She is a mental health/substance abuse therapist. Recently Randall has been endorsed by the Loudoun Education Association and the Loudoun Police Benevolent Association.

BRL: Why are you running?

PR: I believe Loudoun should have a school system that is responsive to the voices of parents and teachers while demonstrating measurable outcomes and wise use of taxpayer dollars.

I also want to grow Loudoun's business and commercial tax base. I believe one of the more effective ways to lower the residential tax rate is to incentivize more businesses to locate in Loudoun. To increase the business tax base, Loudoun needs a transportation grid that moves people efficiently and safely and that includes Metro and an expanded commuter and transit bus service. A business friendly community also requires affordable housing, family recreation and entertainment, and unyielding protection of our environment and open spaces through forward-thinking,

wise-use growth planning.

BRL: How important is the Loudoun County Revised General Plan?

PR: According to Loudoun's Department of Transportation and Operations, the build out of Loudoun could be realized sometime between 2030 and 2040. The next Board of Supervisors will have the responsibility of crafting the last phase of Loudoun's economic future. Our challenge will be to develop our county so that Loudoun remains a vibrant, active community that grows economically. My priority will not be to rezone, but instead to review Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan in a way that not only develops the Metro corridor but also revitalizes areas that are not reaching full economic potential. Finally we must aggressively protect western Loudoun's rural culture, economy and environment.

BRL: Will you support traffic calming projects in areas such as Hillsboro. How about the 690 interchange? For example, will you work with VDOT and the state to secure funding for the immediate advancement of the 690 interchange on Route 7?

PR: Hillsboro is in dire need for their traffic calming project to be fully funded. We must do it now. I do support making the 690 interchange a top priority and moving it forward. For Loudoun to continue to thrive economically, a transportation infrastructure that moves people efficiently and safely is imperative. I support the completion of Phase II of the Metro Silver Line and the Metrorail Service Districts to help fund the Metro extension to Loudoun County. In

addition Loudoun would benefit from more commuter buses that move people who live in Loudoun throughout the county. Finally, I will always work with VDOT and members of the Loudoun Delegation of the General Assembly to attempt to secure more state transportation dollars for Loudoun County.

BRL: In the past, several Boards of Supervisors adopted and signed an Ethics Pledge which governed their behavior toward each other and the public. If elected, would you sign an Ethics Pledge? What would you like to see in it?

PR: Leading my fellow supervisors in signing a "Code of Ethical Behavior" will be the first motion I put forward as chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. On June 3 I released a press statement with the full verbiage of an ethics pledge and requested my three opponents join me in agreeing to sign a "Code of Ethical Behavior" Initially, none of my opponents agreed to this pledge. To date two of the three have acquiesced and said they would sign an ethics pledge, however, Mr. York has publically stated he would not sign a "Code of Ethical Behavior." An ethics pledge has been central to my campaign because I know that government at every level belongs to the people.

BRL: Planning Commissioners make important decisions which significantly impact individuals and neighborhoods. What criteria will you use to pick your planning commissioner?

PR: I want my Planning Commissioner to be someone who has lived in Loudoun for no

less than five years. I think it's important that person has an investment in Loudoun such as children in the school system or a business in Loudoun. I want that person to have a clear understanding of land use and zoning policies. And finally, I want a person who will have the time to commit to the position and will be willing to meet with the public.

BRL: In the past, certain actions by the Board of Supervisors have given members of the public an impression that the Board prioritizes the needs and wants of developers to the detriment of county residents. These actions include the streamlining, relaxing or eliminating various zoning regulations on development. Do you agree with this perception? Why or why not? How would you handle this?

PR: I don't believe this is a perception, I believe this is a fact. The most recent "evidence" of this is the approval of the Tuscarora Crossing Development where the BOS rezoned land that was zoned a CLI to residential. This rezoning added cars to the road and students in the schools. Because often these re-zoning decisions are made based on a proposed proffer package, I think we first must understand that a development that is not good for Loudoun, or for a certain area in Loudoun should not be allowed despite the proffer(s) offered. Next, the purpose of proffers should be to add amenities to enhance a development that has already been deemed to be a positive addition to Loudoun's economic and housing needs. In working

Continued on page 17

On November 3, Reelect Delegate Dave LaRock!

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-Nicole Riley, State Director National Federation of Independent Businesses/Virginia



Authorized and Paid for by Dave LaRock for Delegate.

King, Candidate For Chair, Board Of Supervisors

Charlie King moved to Leesburg in 2001 from Falls Church. King and his wife Krys have been married for 18 years and have a daughter.

He is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and the George Mason University School of Law.



King

King's community involvement began in law school when he was appointed to the Falls Church Historical Commission and helped implement the city's then new preservation ordinance. After law school, he started a law practice in Arlington County.

After being hired to teach at the Police Academy in Sterling, he moved his practice to Leesburg in 2000 and moved to Leesburg in 2001.

After moving to Loudoun, he served on the Board of the Loudoun County Izaack Walton League and served as the vice-chairman of his HOA. He was elected to the Board of the Loudoun County Bar Association and is currently chairman of the Loudoun County Community Criminal Justice Board. King was also appointed by the Circuit Court to serve as a special justice to preside over civil commitment hearings. In his spare time he skis, hunts in western Loudoun and collects antique oil

paintings and books.

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running?

Charlie King: Last year I concluded a change in the Board's leadership was overdue. There was a communication problem between the chairman and community stakeholders. Decisions needed to be made after greater attempts to reach a consensus among the citizens and Board members. Because I was so concerned, I decided something needed to be done and when no other Republican candidate stepped forward, I decided to challenge the incumbent.

The next chairman must understand his or her role in facilitating consensus both on the Board and in the community to accomplish the tasks the county needs done.

The next chairman must be willing to persuade the Board to make crucial decisions based on the county's long-term best interests. He or she should do more listening and less talking.

With bold new leadership, we can ensure Loudoun County has the best of everything and the promise of Loudoun County extends to all our residents.

BRL: How important is the Loudoun County Revised General Plan?

CK: Reviewing and revising the Comprehensive Plan is required by statute. Our current plan is overdue for review. The county staff has started planning a review

process to begin next year. The formal process for reviewing and revising the Comprehensive Plans should begin after the FY 2017 budget process is completed next year.

I would seek to appoint a broad community of stakeholders to recommend changes in the Comprehensive Plan. I would supplement county staff with representatives from organizations such as the Urban Land Institute. I would also recommend the county hire well known academics in land use planning who have no ties to Loudoun County to make recommendations to obtain diverse opinions on possible changes.

BRL: Will you support traffic calming projects in areas such as Hillsboro? How about the 690 interchange? For example, will you work with VDOT and the state to secure funding for the immediate advancement of the 690 interchange on Route 7?

CK: The volume of traffic in the two lanes running through Hillsboro makes that section of Route 9 extremely dangerous. The town contains many historic buildings situated only a few feet from the road. It is imperative that the Hillsboro Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety project be funded and built now using county funding. Traffic calming should be considered at other western Loudoun locations such as the intersection of Routes 9 and 287.

Purcellville needs another access point from Route 7 so the 690 interchange is a necessity. I will work to obtain funding for this project.

BRL: In the past, several Boards of Supervisors adopted and signed an Ethics Pledge which governed their behavior toward each other and the public. If elected, would you sign an Ethics Pledge? What would you like to see in it?

CK: Yes, I would sign an ethics pledge. I'm running to ensure that openness, honesty and integrity are the foundations of Loudoun County government.

I pledge to disclose contributions, relationships, gifts and possible conflicts with those doing business with the county. Beyond complying with the rules, Board members should avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

The General Assembly needs to adopt clearer and more stringent ethics and campaign finance laws for local governments. I support including a request for tougher ethics laws in the county's annual legislative package.

BRL: Planning commissioners make important decisions which significantly impact individuals and neighborhoods. What criteria will you use to pick your planning commissioner?

CK: The at-large planning commissioner *Continued on page 16*



Charlie King

for **Chairman of the Board of Supervisors**The Republican candidate.

We need to change how we do things to meet the challenges facing our community. I will always put our families and communities first and get results for you.

— Charlie King, Republican for Chairman epublican Charlie King knows it will take a new approach and new ideas to meet the challenges facing Loudoun County. As the next Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, Charlie King will establish a positive, collaborative working relationship with the school board, town councils and other members of the board of supervisors and work to:

- **Restore** integrity to local government
- Promote the rural economy
- **Preserve** & maintain open space
- **Fast Track** the Hillsboro traffic calming roundabouts and the Rt. 7 & 690 interchange
- **Provide** tax relief to families

Vote Charlie King for Chairman on November 3.

Bellanca, Candidate For Chair, Board Of Supervisors

Tom Bellanca has lived in Loudoun since 2007. He lives in Aldie with his wife and two daughters. He previously ran for the Board of Supervisors in 2011. Bellanca is a realtor and is president and founder of Dulles Corridor Real Estate.



Bellanca

Blue Ridge Leader: running?

Why are you

Tom Bellanca: Too often special interests have injected themselves into our election process and the resident's interests are not represented. In 2011, I ran to get the horrible traffic issues addressed in the County. I ran to address the terrible overcrowding and poor planning for our schools. I ran to work on getting our economy going again. All of the funding for needed services in the County depends on economic development. Now that we will be funding a portion of the Metro Silver Line, this becomes even more important because Metro funding, if not materialized will take needed funds away from the schools.

BRL: How important is the Loudoun County Revised General Plan?

TB: It is very important and we have a good plan as it is. We need to protect the transition and rural areas and maintain the

valuable rural economy. We do need to follow through with the CPAM amendments to help fund the Metro rail. We also might need to review how our current plan helps or hinders the commercial sector with regard to by right developments in the county; we shouldn't be adding additional by right development outside the existing commercial allowances.

BRL: Will you support traffic calming projects in areas such as Hillsboro. How about the 690 interchange? For example, will you work with VDOT and the State to secure funding for the immediate advancement of the 690 interchange on Route 7?

TB: I believe that all traffic projects in the county should be prioritized based on need and in conformance with the Countywide Transportation Plan which I worked on in 2008 as an interested party. I've been working and campaigning on getting our transportation issues addressed since 2008. I proposed prioritizing the projects in 2011 and campaigned on getting additional sources of revenue for us to address our needs.

BRL: In the past, several Boards of Supervisors adopted and signed an Ethics Pledge which governed their behavior toward each other and the public. If elected, would you sign an Ethics Pledge? What would you like to see in it?

TB: I support having more than an Ethics Pledge. The State government recently passed new legislation to address this issue and I believe this is the correct channel for developing a code of ethics that is applicable under State law for all State and Local officials. The new board can be tasked with coming up with a better, more detailed ethics pledge and a method to enforce it.

BRL: Planning Commissioners make important decisions which significantly impact individuals and neighborhoods. What criteria will you use to pick your planning commissioner?

TB: The Commissioner I select should have similar views as myself on their vision of protecting the character of Loudoun County. This will largely be determined maintaining the layout of the county as stated in the existing General Plan without major modification.

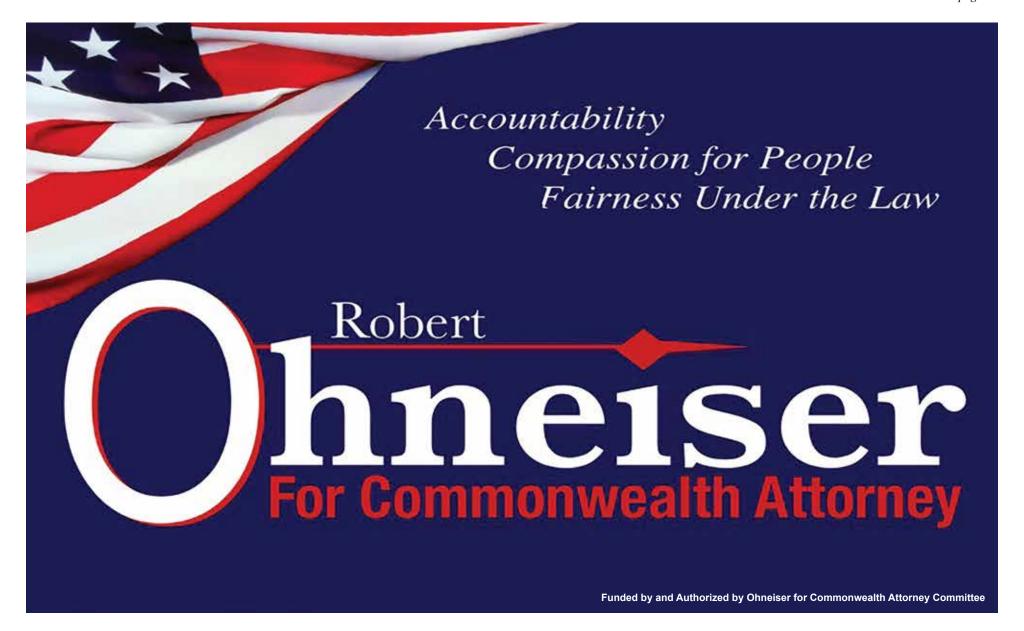
BRL: In the past, certain actions by the Board of Supervisors have given members of the public an impression that the Board prioritizes the needs and wants of developers to the detriment of County residents. These actions include the streamlining, relaxing or eliminating various zoning regulations on development. Do you agree with this perception? Why or why not? How would you handle this?

TB: In many ways, what you say is true. The biggest problems have occurred when the regulations are simply ignored. Most of the existing problems in the County with regard to school are not the result of the streamlining and relaxing, but outright changes that go against the General Plan. The larger problems of traffic, school overcrowding are due to historical exceptions made to the plan and the more recent streamlining and relaxing are adding to an existing bad situation. Fortunately, the slowing of the pace of ignoring the General Plan is enabling the county to catch up with some of the much needed projects.

BRL: What do you see as the future of Western Loudoun County? Will you strive to preserve the rural nature and character that all of Loudoun County benefits from via tourist/visitor dollars even if it means going against the pressure of developers?

TB: I like the Western part of the County the way it is. I believe efforts should be made to maintain this area as a rural area and preserve its character. I ran on this issue in 2011 and nothing has changed with my position on preserving it. I will work hard toward the goal of preserving our rural economy and environment over the next four years.

Continued on page 18





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Richard Jimmerson, Candidate For Blue Ridge District

grew up an Army brat, so home was where the Army took them. Richard married his high school sweetheart, Karen, and they relocated to Virginia shortly after. They have been married for 23 years and have three daughters



who attend the local elementary, middle, and high schools. Before the birth of their first child, they relocated from Alexandria to Loudoun County, first living in Ashburn and then Leesburg. In 2011, their love of biking and the outdoors brought them to Purcellville when a home bordering the W&OD came available. Richard is currently the Chief Information Officer of the American Registry for Internet Numbers and has been actively involved in Internet resource governance and education since the 1990s. Prior to working for the Internet industry, Jimmerson managed information system for the United States Marine Corps working at the Navy Annex to the Pentagon. He has a degree in Business Administration from American Intercontinental University.

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running?

Loudoun **Richard Jimmerson:** County, and particularly the Blue Ridge District, will make many zoning and land use decisions over the next four years. With most of the county built out, much of the development pressure will be focused in the Western part of the County. These decisions could have a long-lasting impact on the future of our neighborhoods, farms, scenic landscapes, and identity as a community. I am steadfast in my commitment to not increase residential development in the rural planning areas to preserve our natural spaces and more importantly to hold the line on tax increases that invariably occur from that

I will dedicate myself to maintaining the public's trust by involving citizens in every decision I make. I bring energy, experience, and a determination to work for them and to maintain our quality of life we enjoy here. Our diverse county is one of the best places to live and I saw the need for a strong and independent advocate in the Blue Ridge District.

BRL: How important is the Loudoun **County Revised General Plan?**

RJ: This plan is critical to the protection of the Rural Policy Area and to preserve the land resources and rural economy that is growing here. Any revisions should have direct community involvement and the support of residents. I intend to include all voices in the discussion when making changes to this important plan.

BRL: During this year, an election year, the public school budget has been increased, over the past three years it has steadily decreased. Do you think this decrease has hurt the school system?

RJ: Our current board of supervisors all claim they have increased the budget every year, but they fail to factor in inflation, which has eroded the "increase" they have budgeted. School costs are variable and not fixed. Healthcare, transportation, utilities, and other mandates are constantly increasing. Our dilemma is that state funding for education in Virginia is down 16 percent from 2009 (adjusted for inflation). Bare minimum funding allows for no advances in salaries, technology, and other variable costs. The state of Virginia provides school districts 10 percent less funding than the national average. This creates a reliance on local revenues from local property and sales taxes. Federal funding to Virginia has increased steadily and for FY 2016 we will see a 4.1 percent increase. It will be critical that Loudoun Supervisors lobby for increased state funding that grows at the same rate as our obligations to citizens, so vital services are maintained without having to rely on increasing local taxes. Investing in education is the largest decision we make to assure a positive future for our children and our community.

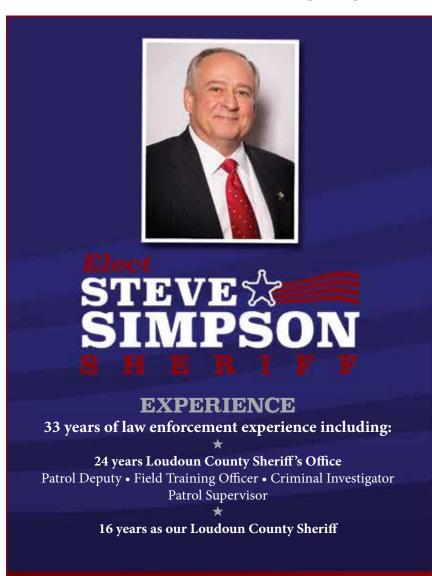
BRL: How can the Board of Supervisors help the local business community work together to attract and/ or retain new commercial businesses?

RJ: Loudoun's Department of Economic Development and the various initiatives the county runs in partnership with area businesses has created a strong foundation for growth and investment for relocation or expansion of industries. Elected officials need to seek out opinions on a wide variety of policy issues that affect the business community and the community at large. Part of our strategy should involve a retention and expansion survey of the business community to assist our Economic Development team in adopting zoning, programs, and resources to support the business community. Gaining perspective on their challenges can help direct our policy and positions.

BRL: In recent years, Loudoun County has relaxed the requirements for locating data centers, which use an enormous amount of both water and electricity, as well as tend to be noisy. Do you support this action?

RJ: The data center industry is important to Loudoun County. Our location and historical link to the early days of the Internet industry have made Loudoun a preferred location for data center businesses. I support

Continued on page 11



Let's put "local" back in Local Law Enforcement!



Steve Simpson Will...

- ★ Restore an environment of transparency between the Sheriff's Office and **the public.** In order to build trust, information must be shared with the communities we serve.
- ★ Re-implement the Sheriff's Office Gang Unit and Narcotics Unit to address the growing gang and drug activities in our communities.
- ★ Put a greater emphasis on local law enforcement. Too many deputies are assigned to federal task forces while local positions go unfilled. We need both.
- ★ Bring back a "teamwork relationship" with the Commonwealth's Attorney.
- ★ Restore Fiscal Integrity to the Sheriff's Office budget. In 16 years as Sheriff, Steve Simpson never once went over budget, even in the leanest
- ★ Restore a relationship of respect with the Board of Supervisors and local **Town Councils.** A sheriff needs to be straight with our elected officials and not offer excuses.
- ★ **Deputies need to be respected.** We need to have open communication. Deputies should not be afraid to approach the Sheriff with their concerns.
- ★ End partisan politics in the Loudoun Sheriff's Office. No deputy or other employee should ever lose their job on the basis of their support (or nonsupport) of a political candidate. It never happened when Steve Simpson was Sheriff.

Jimmerson, continued from page 10

our continued advancement of this industry, but believe they should be allowed with special exception, particularly in locations near to residential communities where impacts can be greater. I think we should carefully review all requirements for data centers and where they may be established in Loudoun County.

BRL: Do you support the Northern Collector Road in Purcellville? Would you have voted for the study and do you believe a study is needed to take a road off the county plan?

RJ: The County is spending taxpayer money to determine the need for a road that, if built, would support development on currently undeveloped property. The study was not necessary to retain the road or negate it from the transportation plan. A segment of the road would be built in the new Mayfair community and that is being used as the impetus to promote its completion to route 287. Before the Wright Farm community was built, the Northern Collector Road was in the Transportation Plan. A decade ago was the right time for the Town of Purcellville and County officials to realign the road or not allow homes to be built so close or directly in the path of the planned road. It is unacceptable to displace homeowners as a result of the lack of foresight and planning more than a decade ago. I am hopeful that the study will determine a more community

driven alignment or decision.

The county has budgeted funds for a secondary access road to Woodgrove High School from Route 690. It appears new design plans and an Interchange Justification Report for the proposed Route 7/Route 690 Interchange will be submitted to VDOT soon. My focus will be on the interchange and the benefits it will bring to the area.

BRL: When major decisions come up, how much weight would you place upon individual requests from constituents? Special Interest Groups? Business owners?

RJ: As Supervisors, we are elected to be the conscience and judgment in deciding what is in the public interest. It is not enough to vote as I think best and not as my constituents wish. I would like to use technology to increase public engagement — but engagement that better represents the sentiments of the entire community. Loudoun County can utilize digital tools to engage the public more constructively and efficiently, which promotes better decision making by helping extend the voice of citizens and businesses. Making our county government open, honest, and accessible is the right thing to do.

BRL: Do you support opening up the Transition area to higher density residential development and would you extend public utilities (water) into the Rural Policy Area?

RJ: Approving higher density in the Transition Policy Area for one

applicant opens up the door to more future applications for higher density. I do not support these actions, as they quickly erode the integrity and intent of the original plan.

I understand the desire of some citizens to extend public water utilities to the Rural Policy Area. It is important to note that making the decision to do this does much more than bring the service to existing homes and businesses. Considering the already present roads and power infrastructure in Western Loudoun, adding the presence of the water utility would bring increased pressure to open up that portion of the county for increased development interest.

BRL: We hear a lot about partisan politics these days on the national level. How would you work with your colleagues from other parties?

RJ: Loudoun residents want a Supervisor focused on problem-solving, not political point scoring. As an Independent, I am not tied to the views of a single party. A good idea is a good idea, no matter what political party supports it. Motivated people who work on the interests of the people can create a well-managed government that adds value to the community. I can remove the barriers

between the two parties to move forward policy that puts community needs first.

BRL: Would you sign an Ethics Pledge and if so what issues do you consider key to be covered in such a pledge?

RJ: Yes. As leaders, we must set a standard for politics and hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards. Without voluntary, ethical restraint, the pursuit and exercise of our power risk becoming self-serving.

BRL: What in your experience or background qualifies you to be a member of the Board of Supervisors?

RJ: As a former Marine, I was trained for high-stakes positions at a young age. I was driven by a desire to serve my country and my success in the military demanded I work well with others, have resilience, and mental agility. My military service gave me skills relevant and valuable to my current position as a Chief Information Officer.

I have worked as an executive in the Internet governance and infrastructure field for nearly 20 years. As an expert in community engagement and executive management, I believe my skills and leadership experience will provide the tools needed to serve as your Blue Ridge Supervisor for the next four years.

Editor's Note: Tony Buffington was asked to attend the Blue Ridge Leader forum and also asked to participate in the candidate questions. After numerous requests he declined to participate.



Higgins, Candidate For Catoctin District

Geary Higgins was born in Baltimore, and grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland. He was active in Boy Scouts, and graduated from Winston Churchill High School. A graduate of Clarion University in Clarion, Pennsylvania, he received a degree



Higgins

in Business Administration, with a double major in management and marketing and attended college on an athletic scholarship for wrestling. Higgins and his wife, Gail, moved to Loudoun County in 1977. They live near Waterford in a historic home and have three daughters who graduated from Loudoun Valley High School. The family attends Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg. Higgins has a keen interest in history, antiques, and historic preservation. He and his wife have restored two historic homes and were presented an award from the Loudoun Preservation Society. Currently, he represents the Catoctin District on the Board of Supervisors.

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running?

Geary Higgins: I would like to preserve Loudoun's beauty and history in a manner that is compatible with intelligent/ reasonable growth policies and responsible economic development. I would also like to continue to serve the public and maintain

the course that our current board has set for the County. As Loudoun continues to grow and I look forward to serving another term to be able to continue this positive direction for the county.

BRL: How important is the Loudoun County Revised General Plan?

GH: Loudoun's Revised General Plan is a very important and foundational planning document for the county.

BRL: While this year, an election year, the public school budget has been increased, over the past three years it has steadily decreased. Do you think this decrease has hurt the school system?

GH: The LCPS budget has actually increased year over year during our term. My colleagues and I on the Board have increased funding to Loudoun County Public Schools by \$239 million over the past four years and these increases total about a 32 percent increase to the LCPS operating budget against an enrollment growth of roughly 14 percent for the same period. This year the board was the first BOS to fully fund the LCPS budget request since 2001 and has also fully funded the LCPS CIP requests including the Academies of Science. All of this was accomplished while lowering the tax rates and reducing the average homeowner's property tax bill by about \$235 a year.

BRL: Over the years, Western Loudoun's small elementary schools have

repeatedly been threatened with closure. What is your position on retaining neighborhood elementary schools?

GH: I have always supported and have a consistent record of fighting for Western Loudoun's small schools. Hamilton Elementary is still operating due to my efforts when I was a member of the school board.

BRL: How can the Board of Supervisors help the local business community work together to attract and/or retain new commercial businesses?

GH: I and my colleagues on the Board adopted the Rural Economic Business Development Strategy and have added over \$500,000 to the County's Economic Development budget along with additional staff to the Rural Economic Development Department. Over the past four years we have added 10 million square feet of new commercial development totaling an investment of \$1.4 billion and we have added or retained over 10,000 jobs in Loudoun.

BRL: Do you support the Northern Collector Road in Purcellville? Would you have voted for the study, and do you believe a study is needed to take a road off the county plan?

GH: I along with Supervisor Clarke initiated the process to remove the Northern Collector Road from the CTP. As part of that process, a study of the effects of its removal on other roads is required prior to the board making a decision to proceed

with its removal.

BRL: When major decisions come up, how much weight would you place upon individual requests from constituents? Special Interest Groups? Business owners?

GH: In making decisions, I am always available to meet with any affected parties including constituents, interest groups and business owners. All of their input is important in order to make an informed decision. I would say that the input of directly affected constituents would carry the most weight.

BRL: What do you see as the most important transportation projects for the County right now?

GH: I and my colleagues on the Board have been committed to funding transportation. We have designated 2 cents of the property tax rate to transportation and currently have a \$792 million CIP for road construction. Some of the most important projects right now are the Belmont Ridge Road Overpass, the Route 690 interchange, the Route 287 and Route 9 roundabout and improvements to Route 15 north of Leesburg.

BRL: Do you support opening up the Transition area to higher density residential development and would you extend public utilities (water) into the Rural Policy Area?

GH: No, I do not.

BRL: We hear a lot about partisan politics these days on the national

Continued on page 14



Geary Higgins for Catoctin Supervisor

Working for Catoctin - Working for Loudoun

★ Integrity ★ Effective ★ Proven Leadership ★

As your Supervisor I will continue to:

- ★ Reduce the tax burden on Loudoun's families.
- ★ Prioritize transportation projects for Western Loudoun, fight to lower Dulles Tolls and improve Loudoun's rural roads.
- * Removing barriers to bring broadband to Catoctin.
- ★ Supporting our schools and protecting our community schools in the West.
- ★ Preserve Loudoun's history, beauty and quality of life.
- ★ Grow the rural economy and Loudoun's agricultural production.
- ★ Fight Lyme Disease.





"Geary Higgins's integrity, moral character and determination have served Loudoun County and the Catoctin district well.

His extensive public service record has given him the experience to tackle and successfully solve difficult issues head-on. From keeping the tax rate low, fighting for broadband and securing funding for the Lovettsville Community Center and Park, to replacing the failed water system in Raspberry Falls and Selma Estates, and re-location of the Hamilton utility pole, no issue has proven too large or too small for Geary to solve.

He is a proven leader for Catoctin and I look forward to working with him on issues such as transportation projects, Lyme Disease mitigation and continued growth of the rural economy in the years to come."

— U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Comstock



GEARY HIGGINS

Green, Candidate For Catoctin District

Craig Green lives in Hamilton, a town he has called home since 1978. He attended Blue Ridge, and Loudoun Valley, and his two children later went to Hamilton Elementary and Loudoun Valley High School. He is



Green

an E-commerce Strategist who runs his own company, and has previously worked in IT in the Reston area. He has been a member of the Hamilton Town Council and Hamilton Planning Commission on and off since 2002. He and his wife Jan were married 13 years ago on his father's farm outside of Hamilton. Craig is an amateur musician who likes to join in on informal jam sessions every now and then, just don't ask him to sing.

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running?

Craig Green: I'm running to give back to this County that has been my home since I moved here in 1978. I'm running to work on bringing our school system back to the higher standards it was in before our current board began dismantling it. I'm running because I understand that new houses cost us money, and until our government makes a concerted effort to mitigate that fact, we

must put a stop to reckless development.

BRL: How important is the Loudoun **County Revised General Plan?**

CG: The current plan is aging in place, and reflects a vision of Loudoun as a bedroom community for workers in the DC Metro area. I believe we can create meaningful employment centers around our Metro stops, but my opponent spent the first half of his term fighting the future. I want an inclusive, citizen-driven plan that will create a truly 21st century vison of our county.

BRL: While this year, an election year, the public school budget has been increased, over the past three years it has steadily decreased. Do you think this decrease has hurt the school system?

CG: Over and over I've talked to parents, children, teachers and staff in the school system who point to real services that are no longer available in the school system because of the austerity the current board has practiced. We are only slowly rebuilding after the hit that the 2007 recession put on our schools. This is more than a one time election year gimmick.

Over the years, Western Loudoun's small elementary schools have repeatedly been threatened with closure. What is your position on retaining neighborhood elementary schools?

CG: These buildings are bought and

paid for. They are located in the middle of of "Yes" or "No"), is created to generate thriving communities, and are key elements of the town's identities. They do quite well academically, without all the bells and whistles of our new schools, which tells me that the key to our schools' success is spending money on the people inside the schools, not on the buildings. I would vote against a budget that threatened their closure and feel that any future western schools should be built inside, not outside, the communities they serve.

BRL: How can the Board of Supervisors help the local business community work together to attract and/ or retain new commercial businesses?

CG: We must make sure that land currently zoned commercial remains so. Each tract that our Board has converted to residential has led to less opportunity for meaningful commercial employers to move to Loudoun.

BRL: Do you support the Northern Collector Road in Purcellville? Would you have voted for the study, and do you believe a study is needed to take a road off the county plan?

CG: I think there are much greater road needs in Western Loudoun, and remain unconvinced that the Southern Collector really solved traffic issues in Purcellville. The study as written, with 7 options (instead

confusion over the issue. I know that prior roads have been removed without reliance on a study, and find it odd that this Board, which often overrules County staff, is now relying on them to control this process. We've done without it so far, and I will vote against it once in office.

BRL: When major decisions come up, how much weight would you place upon individual requests from constituents? Special Interest Groups? Business owners?

CG: There are more voters than special interests. Everyone's voice needs to be weighed, and I think it vital that the Board create a truly open and transparent process that allows, and embraces more constituent involvement in our legislative process. The current Board prefers to operate in the shadows.

BRL: What do you see as the most important transportation projects for the County right now?

CG: I think the bigger issue is what isn't getting done in Western Loudoun. Of 31 current projects, only 2 are west of Leesburg. That leaves out crucial problem areas like Rt. 15 North, the Rt. 287/9 intersection, and the perpetually missing Rt.7/690 intersection in Purcellville. I've driven hundreds of miles of local backroads that are lacking attention and maintenance.

Continued on page 14

WORKING FOR LOUDOUN'S FUTURE



Schools: Our schools must be fully funded every year — not just in an election year.

Roads: Western Loudoun roads have been ignored for too long – of the 31 projects in the current pipeline, only 2 are west of Leesburg. I'll fight to put more attention on our problem roads.

Development: The current Board remains unwilling to stop residential growth, and continues to convert commercial land to residential. I'll put a halt to that.

About me: Moved to Hamilton in 1978 and graduated from LVHS. Joined the Hamilton Town Council in 2002, and worked on Hamilton's Comprehensive Plan, establishing growth limits, managing demands on public utilities, and setting a fair tax burden. MBA with a focus on finance and entrepreneurship.

CATOCTIN DISTRICT SUPERVISOR GREENFORSUPERVISOR.COM

Paid for and authorized by Friends of Craig Green



Higgins, continued from page 12

level. How would you work with your colleagues from other parties?

GH: Local government is not about politics, it is about good policy. I would say that I have the best record on the current board of working with others. I believe that you can disagree without being disagreeable.

BRL: What in your experience or background qualifies you to be a member of the Board of Supervisors?

GH: I moved to Loudoun in 1977 and have served on the school board. I

currently serve on the Board of Supervisors representing the Catoctin District and have a record of working with others for responsible government in Loudoun. I and my colleagues on the Board came into office with the commitment of improving transportation, controlling spending and expanding economic development and we have delivered on those promises.

BRL: Do your work and other obligations allow you time to serve the citizens you represent?

GH: Yes. My employer and my family

have been very flexible in allowing me to perform my Supervisor duties.

BRL: Would you sign an Ethics Pledge and if so what issues do you consider key to be covered in such a pledge?

GH: I believe in open and transparent government and support the Virginia FOIA law and I support the current state of the law which requires the public disclosure of any gifts or contributions from anyone over the amount over \$100.

BRL: Catoctin and Blue Ridge districts are unique in the number of elected town

governments within them. These towns are part of the character of the districts, but have differing needs and objectives. What role do you see the Catoctin Supervisor filling in relation to these towns?

GH: The towns of Western Loudoun are each unique in their own way and have different "personalities". I believe that it is important for the Supervisor to work with the towns, while at the same time representing the interests of the residents outside of the town that live in the adjacent unincorporated areas of the county.

Green, continued from page 13

Road problems are local, and I will focus on Western Loudoun once elected.

BRL: Do you support opening up the Transition area to higher density residential development and would you extend public utilities (water) into the Rural Policy Area?

CG: No on both accounts. The Transition area is already zoned adequately, we need to cement that in place. Water in the RPA will only invite greater development and density, I cannot imagine a plan that would extend services without disrupting the beauty that we take for granted in western Loudoun.

BRL: We hear a lot about partisan politics these days on the national level. How would you work with your colleagues from other parties?

CG: I expect to be working on a mixed Board, and therefore we will need to work together to get things solved. I do not think

that national issues have a place at the local level – we need to focus on providing good, responsive services to our constituents, and leave the labels at the door. I have many friends of many political persuasions - what we share is a commitment to government that serves the voters and not special interests.

BRL: What in your experience or background qualifies you to be a member of the Board of Supervisors?

CG: I graduated from the Loudoun County School system, and my children both went to Loudoun schools, so I feel I am a booster for the quality education they have provided in the past. I've been on the Hamilton Town Council and Planning Commission for the last 9 of 13 years, starting in 2002, so I have a very strong command of the actual issues that are key to local government - planning, zoning, budgeting and infrastructure planning. I

have an MBA, so I'm very comfortable with the nuts and bolts issues of budgeting and finance.

BRL: Do your work and other obligations allow you time to serve the citizens you represent?

CG: Absolutely. I work from home as an e-commerce strategist, and have a very open schedule. I would not take this task on if I did not feel that I could commit 100 percent of the effort needed to be successful - any less would be a disservice to the voters of Loudoun County.

BRL: Would you sign an Ethics Pledge and if so what issues do you consider key to be covered in such a pledge?

CG: Yes. We need to be open and transparent when we are spending more than a billion dollars annually, and making decisions that impact voter's daily lives. The current Board has made an effort to hide their processes and deliberations from us. I

would prohibit voting on issues that would impact my campaign donors, I would enact a more open process of public commentary, and would publish full-text, unambiguous transcripts of every meeting held.

BRL: Catoctin and Blue Ridge districts are unique in the number of elected town governments within them. These towns are part of the character of the districts, but have differing needs and objectives. What role do you see the Catoctin Supervisor filling in relation to these towns?

CG: As a town councilor, I have been on the receiving end of prior supervisors who did not respect the unique elected status of local governments. At the same time, I see Towns that seem to act without consideration of their impact outside their borders. I would enact a frequent and regular process of meeting with the Towns at their convenience, to discuss local issues and help drive consensus about our future common goals.

The contrast couldn't be clearer. Your vote couldn't be more crucial CHUCK'S AGENDA LAROCK'S FAILED AGENDA

Freshman LaRock sponsored a bill (HB2165) to cancel tax exempt status for 18 non-profits, including the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Project Hope, National Wildlife Federation and the Frederick United Methodist Housing Development. A blatant attempt to increase taxes on charitable organizations that employ lots of people!

BILLS SO EXTREME THEY NEVER GOT OUT OF COMMITTEE

LaRock proposed preventing police discretion to approve purchases of bazookas, grenades and rocket launchers (HB878). He proposed tax credits for home schooled and private school students (HB950). He would have benefitted personally at the expense of public education. He wants to severely limit rail and bus transportation (HB6553). Fortunately, his Republican colleagues squashed these bills. (Del. Joé May never embarrassed District residents like this!)

A DISTRICT OFFICE THAT'S ALL BUT INACCESSIBLE

It's in the countryside. It's run out of his home. It's behind a huge iron gate. It's by appointment only. (Joe May's office was accessible and he was approachable!)

Chuck will work to reduce transportation congestion and will make VDOT responsive to its customers. He'll work to increase the State's Public Education Budget which decreased 17% since 2009. Chuck supports full-day kindergarten across the 33rd District and he'll find the funds to make this happen. He'll also fight for a job-ready educated workforce and incentives for Frederick, Clarke and Loudoun County businesses.

BILLS THAT WILL BE EMBRACED **ACROSS THE AISLE**

Chuck has negotiated with governments across the world: he'll negotiate for you to get things done. He will introduce a bill to (finally!) insure the Dulles Greenway's sustainability and future: a future that won't rely on outlandish tolls. He'll work for ethics reform. Chuck will work tirelessly for seniors, healthy citizens, and for our farmers as well as our environment.

AN OFFICE THAT'S OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE Chuck's office will be in a commercial, centralized area. You'll know where it is. And you'll know that Chuck will be there for YOU!

Chuck Hedges for Delegate
ChuckHedgesForDelgate.com
Fire the Freshman. Hire the Grown Up.

Paid for by Friends of Chuck Hedges

SCOTT YORK Board Chairman

"The next four years will be critical for Loudoun regarding land use, transportation, education and budget issues. We do not want to step backwards. It is vital that we have a leader who has the understanding, experience, and vision as these challenging issues come before the Board."

Choose Wisely Vote York! Nov 3rd





Scott has worked successfully to protect rural western Loudoun. He led the effort starting in 2000 that reduced the number of residential units that could be built in the rural area.

Scott is a strong supporter of the rural economy, rustic road standards, and traffic calming measures to help protect the character of our towns and villages.



Protecting Our Environmental and Historical Resources

Loudoun is blessed with many unique environmental and historic resources, and we need to protect them.

As a Planning Commissioner and member of the Board of Supervisors, Scott has worked to preserve Loudoun's environmental and historic resources. He is a strong supporter of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground and open space preservation.



Favors Expanding Broadband Service to Rural Loudoun

Scott fully supports expansion of broadband services in western Loudoun.

Residents, businesses, students, and healthcare services need the latest technology capabilities which high-speed internet services bring to communicate and conduct business.

Now is the time to expand broadband to western Loudoun.

Our Community Choice To Move Loudoun Forward!

Chairman York.com
Authorized and paid for by
Friends of Scott York



Sheriff Mike CHAPMAN



Today we have the lowest crime rate in our area and the highest satisfaction rating ever recorded in Loudoun County. I will continue working hard for the residents of Loudoun County and I'm asking for your support and vote on Nov 3rd.

Leadership, Experience, Integrity

LOUDOUN NOW HAS THE LOWEST CRIME RATE IN THE REGION Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments reported Loudoun has the lowest serious crime rate in all 22 regional law enforcement agencies between Maryland, Virginia and D.C.

Crime Reduced
Over the past 3 years by

Through efficiencies, strategy and effective enforcement, crime rates continue to drop in Loudoun: 3.7% (2012), 4.8% (2013), 9.5% (2014).

Latest UVA Study
Shows satisfaction rating at

The University of Virginia's Study is comprehensive proof that the leadership and plan in place now is working. It will only get better!

Fiscal Savings
Cutting taxpayer cost by
\$4M

Over the past three fiscal years, the balance (net) return to County coffers was \$4,511,284 fulfilling Sheriff Chapman's promise of fiscal responsibility.

STEP Up Plan
In action & successful!

123+ Initiatives and goals planned, enacted and met in the past 3 years! Sheriff Chapman's positive changes have improved law enforcement, professionalism and outreach. ✓ Sheriff, Loudoun County Virginia

 750 staff members; largest full service Sheriff's Office in Virginia

✓ Booz Allen Hamilton

 Subject Matter Expert, Global Security and Law Enforcement

✓ DEA

- · Chief of Public Affairs
- Acting Regional Director, Far East
- Country Attaché, Seoul Korea
- Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Northern California
- Supervisor, McAllen, Texas
- Field assignments; Miami, Tampa, Pakistan
- Howard County Maryland Police Department
 Patrol, SWAT, Criminal Investigations
- ✓ Masters in Public Administration, Troy State University
- ✓ Graduate: DEA Academy; Special Agent, FBI National Executive Institute, FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development, Howard County Police Academy, National Sheriff's Institute, VA Sheriff's Institute, DCJS (VA) Executive Certification
- ✓ United States Army War College '15 Security Seminar
- ✓ Sheriff Mike Chapman holds and FBI TS and SCI Clearance



"Your safety is my top priority!"

Mike



York, continued from page 3

a development application are disclosed. All my campaign donations are publicly disclosed.

BRL: This year, which happens to be an election year, the public school budget has been increased, over the past three years it has steadily decreased. Do you think this decrease over these years has hurt the system? Why or why not.

SY: The statement preceding your question is false. During the last 4 budgets, including this year's full funding of the school budget, the "General Fund" transfer to the schools has increased in each of those years. Never once did it decrease. In these last four budget cycles combined, the operating budget for LCPS has grown by 32 percent.

BRL: What differentiates you from your opponent(s)?

SY: The chief differentiator that sets me apart is my extensive local government leadership and experience. My four years on the Planning Commission, my four years as Sterling District supervisor, and my experience as chairman has helped me fulfill my role on the Board of Supervisors to help guide Loudoun County to the premier jurisdiction it is today. My work and experience on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the Washington Council of Governments and the Virginia Association of Counties has helped to cultivate the regional and state partnerships to help address the many critical issues we face. I have three opponents who do not have much, if any, local government experience to manage the most prominent and prosperous county in the commonwealth.

BRL: In your opinion what are the top three issues you think the county will face during the next four years and describe your strategy for addressing those issues.

SY: It has been nearly 15 years since there has been an extensive review of the Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan). While we have approved amendments to the plan, the Board has not reviewed its entirety in whole since 2001. I will have a proposal for the next Board in January to initiate the process for reviewing the Comp Plan.

This Board has made significant progress in transportation infrastructure improvements with the new funding sources. We have \$750 million for transportation improvements programmed in the six year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as well as tens of millions of state funded projects soon to begin or under construction. In order

for us to realize the \$750 million CIP, the next Board will need to maintain the 2 cents of the tax rate dedicated for transportation and ensure that we receive our fair share of the 70 percent funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA).

As always, the county budget! With schools consuming \$0.69 of every dollar, it's a difficult balance to provide funding for education versus general government programs, while trying not to put more pressure on the backs of taxpayers. This year, we were able to approve the budget with an equalized tax rate and still fully fund the school budget. However, the schools continue to see student increases of about 2,400 students a year, and Loudoun continues to grow by about 33 residents a day for a total of about 12,000 a year. I will continue to strive to meet the needs of the community by providing excellent education, public safety, parks and recreation, libraries and other government functions, while striving to lower the tax burden on home owners. I will work as I have in the past to ensure government efficiency and expanding the commercial tax

BRL: List the top three pressing transportation problems in Loudoun County. What will you do to solve them? Please pick one in western Loudoun County.

SY: The first transportation challenge, having the available funding to do the road projects that are needed for solving transportation congestion and safety, like the Rt. 690 interchange and the Hillsboro traffic calming projects. I will continue my efforts with the state for additional state funding, use the county's federal lobbyist for federal funding, and to work with NVTA for additional funding. Also, I led the effort to set aside 2 cents of the tax rate for transportation projects, worth about \$14 million per year. In the next term I will have the Board look at possibly increasing that by and additional cent or two.

The second challenge, completion of the Silver Line project and its associated multimodal connections and parking garages. While funding is available for most of what is needed, we need to insure critical action steps are met moving forward so we are ready for rail service when the Silver Line project is done.

The third challenge that will face the next Board is to discuss the future of bus transit for when rail service is operational to Loudoun County. We will need to look at whether or not we keep providing the same level of bus service to the same destinations.

King, continued from page 7

will be my most important appointment. I will seek a nominee who adheres to the highest ethical standards, possesses excellent judgment, thinks critically and independently and takes a collegial approach to problem solving.

BRL: In the past, certain actions by the Board of Supervisors have given members of the public an impression that the Board prioritizes the needs and wants of developers to the detriment of county residents. These actions include the streamlining, relaxing or eliminating various zoning regulations on development. Do you agree with this perception? Why or why not? How would you handle this?

CK: In recent years, the Board has denied rezoning requests for additional residential density. The perception is the current Board is wary of large additional housing rezonings. The county's actions you refer to govern technical site plan and submission requirements, not substantive land use policy. Confusion has arisen among both citizens and applicants over what types of rezoning the county seeks. As part of the Comprehensive Plan revising, the rules should be clarified so that everybody understands what is permitted, expected and prohibited.

BRL: What do you see as the future of western Loudoun County? Will you strive to preserve the rural nature and character that all of Loudoun County benefits from via tourist/visitor dollars even if it means going against the pressure of developers.

CK: Western Loudoun County's irreplaceable natural beauty, rural character and open-space must be preserved. There should be no significant changes to the Rural Policy Area when the Comprehensive Plan is amended. Water and sewer should not be extended beyond the towns and other limited areas.

I support continued preservation efforts through the county's Historic and Cultural Conservation Districts and oversight through the Historic District Review Committee, recognition of individual properties through the Joint Architectural Review Board Awards Program and by promoting continued growth of the rural economy.

BRL: Virginia's Freedom of Information and Retention of Records Acts set certain minimum standards of transparency for local government officials. Do you think county officials and supervisors should go beyond the minimum standard? Are you willing to lead such an effort? Will you hold your appointees to a similar standard?

CK: Government should be as open as possible. Meetings in executive session are appropriate for personnel matters, contracts, and the purchase or sale of land by the county.

Discretionary FOIA exemptions should be invoked sparingly and not as a matter of course to conceal deliberations of the Board

BRL: This year, which happens to be an election year, the public school budget has been increased, over the past three years it has steadily decreased. Do you think this decrease over these years has hurt the system? Why or why not.

CK: This question is unclear because the school budget has not been decreased over the last three years. When classroom teachers came forward at the FY 2016 budget hearings and testified how many years they had been teaching they had never come to hearing previously and described specific unmet needs, I was persuaded fully funding the School Board's requested budget was appropriate.

BRL: What differentiates you from your opponent(s)?

CK: I believe integrity is the most important characteristic of a leader. Truthfulness, surrounding yourself with people of good character, avoiding even an appearance of impropriety and a willingness to sign an ethics pledge are factors voters should consider in casting their vote for all Board candidates.

Unlike Mr. York, I will not be an errand boy for special interests, will not lie about my intentions and positions and will not surround myself with nefarious people who do not have Loudoun County's best interests in mind.

BRL: In your opinion what are the top three issues you think the county will face during the next four years and describe your strategy for addressing those issues.

CK: Congestion—Construct missing road sections and streamline VDOT approval process for developer proffered roads.

Education—Partner with School Board, parents and LEA to devise fiscally responsible plan to implement all-day kindergarten.

Comprehensive Plan Revision- Begin the process of reviewing and revising the Comprehensive Plan which Scott York has neglected to do for 15 years.

BRL: List the top three pressing transportation problems in Loudoun County. What will you do to solve them? Please pick one in western Loudoun County.

CK: In eastern Loudoun, congestion is the major problem. Part of the solution is to construct missing road segments, especially on the Loudoun County Parkway. Also, Loudoun County needs to work with VDOT to attempt to streamline the construction approval process.

In western Loudoun, the condition of Route 9 poses major problems. The roundabouts in Hillsboro should be built as soon as possible.

Randall, continued from page 6

with stakeholder groups, such as NVBIA, environmental and historical preservations organizations and most especially the public, my goal will be to listen to the opinions and the rational of these groups and to act in the best interest of the citizens.

BRL: What do you see as the future of western Loudoun County? Will you strive to preserve the rural nature and character that all of Loudoun County benefits from via tourist/visitor dollars even if it means going against the pressure of developers?

PR: Protecting western Loudoun's rural culture and environment is key to ensuring Loudoun's economy. Most people visit Loudoun to enjoy the amenities of western Loudoun. Generating \$3 billion in tourism tax revenue, Visit Loudoun is the gem of Loudoun's economic development. Simply put, we must do everything possible to support Visit Loudoun's successes, such as their "Wedding Campaign," "Visit Loudoun University," and "Epicurience Virginia." Supporting and promoting Visit Loudoun is synonymous with protecting western Loudoun County from encroaching development.

BRL: Virginia's Freedom of Information and Retention of Records Acts set certain minimum standards of transparency for local government officials. Do you think county officials and supervisors should go beyond the minimum standard? Are you willing to lead such an effort? Will you hold your appointees to a similar standard?

PR: Although recessing into special or executive session is allowed for various uses, I believe conducting county business should,

to the degree possible be done on the record and in an open session. Special or executive session should be used only to discuss business items such personnel, legal or contract issues. In addition I believe the annual "State of the County Address" should be made available to all county residents. Currently the chair of the BOS offers the "State of the County" address only to people who attend a Loudoun Chamber of Commerce breakfast, at 8:30 in the morning at a cost of \$75. I do not believe Loudoun residents should have to pay to hear about the county they already pay for.

BRL: This year, which happens to be an election year, the public school budget has been increased, over the past three years it has steadily decreased. Do you think this decrease over these years has hurt the system? Why or why not?

PR: There is no doubt that underfunding the Loudoun County Public School budget to the tune of over 90 million dollars harms, not only our teaching staff, but also the students who are the least able to absorb the negative impact of what results when the LCPS budget is vastly underfunded. School nurses, after school buses, summer school, middle school deans, library assistants and needed technology are just some of the impact felt by the Loudoun school system as a result of an underfunded budget. In addition our teaching staff receives one of the lower compensation packages in the region. Loudoun cannot recruit and retain preeminent teaching staff if we are not willing to compensate these well educated professionals what they are

BRL: What differentiates you from your opponent(s)?

PR: My commitment to serve began at the grass root level, volunteering in my children's

PTA's and PTO's and continues today at the state level. I served for two years (2008-2010) as chairperson of the Loudoun County Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Loudoun County School Board. I also served on the Blue Ridge Speech and Hearing Advisory Board and Friends of Loudoun Mental Health. In 2009 Gov. Tim Kaine appointed me to be the citizen representative on Virginia's Fair Housing board. Acknowledging my reputation for problem solving and consensus building Gov. Bob McDonnell retained my position on the FHB where I eventually served in the capacity of chairperson of Virginia's FHB. In March of 2014 I was appointed to the Virginia State Board of Corrections by the current governor, Terry McAuliffe, I am currently the chairperson of the Virginia State Board of Corrections.

BRL: In your opinion what are the top three issues you think the county will face during the next four years and describe your strategy for addressing those issues.

PR: Almost every issue in Loudoun is impacted by Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan I believe the most urgent and pressing issue is the need to update the plan. The current plan is no longer useful in guiding the future of development, school locations, or transportation. Very early in my term I will instruct county staff to reach out to stakeholder groups, community leaders and most importantly constituents. In the past 25 years Loudoun has transformed from a county of 125, 000 residents to one with 350,000 residents, and is still growing. Unfortunately, our transportation infrastructure has not kept up with growth. In order for employers to move their business to Loudoun County

we need an adequate transportation infrastructure. Although the Metro (Silver Line) will help ease traffic congestion, Metro alone is not enough. Loudoun needs a commuter bus service that has longer and weekend hours, and graduated fee scale.

It is critical that Loudoun's public education system prepare our students for 21st century challenges by teaching them how to question, how to think critically and how to solve the urgent problems facing a new global society. We need to invest in STEM programs and provide more options for the new vocational programs.

BRL: List the top three pressing transportation problems in Loudoun County. What will you do to solve them? Please pick one in western Loudoun County.

PR: We should focus on Loudoun's full transportation grid and how to ease congestion. We need to focus on multimodal and mass transit options such as a connected transit and commuter bus services.

Although Loudoun has many pressing transportation issues, I would focus on the following:

Claiborne Parkway: As a four lane median divided road between Ryan Road and Croson Lane.

Sterling Boulevard Extension: The project is a four lane urban major connector with divided median, associated turn lanes and shared used path. It will conform to VDOT standards for future assignment to the VDOT system for maintenance.

Tall Cedars Parkway – Pinebrook Road to Gum Springs Road: Construct a two lane section from Pinebrook Road to Riding Center Drive. As mentioned above the 690 Interchange as well.

Tired of SCOtt York and failed politics as usual?

ounty government is broken. Development is out of control. Traffic is getting worse. And time and again Scott York has been a part of the problem—NOT the solution.

Scott York has failed western Loudoun.

York neglected simple safety improvements on Route 9.

York failed to provide broadband internet access to our families, businesses and students.

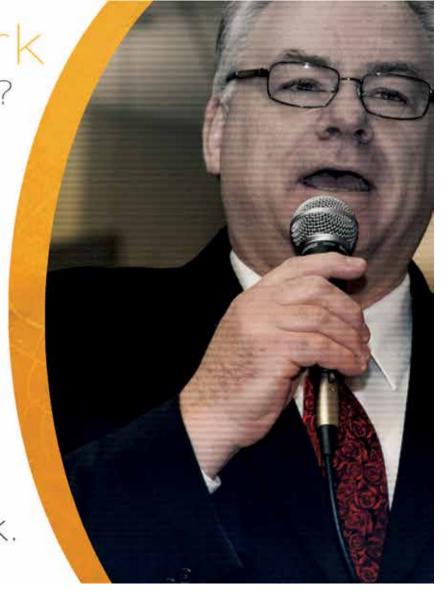
Too often York sides with the east against protecting our interests.

We can't trust pro-development Scott York to stand up for Loudoun families and communities.

After 15 years, it's time for a change.

Vote NO on Scott York.

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AVAILABLE LOTS

OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD IN

LOUDOUN \$50,000

Fantastic opportunity to build on .42 acre lot at end of

cul-de-sac backing to stream. Community offers interest in the environment and energy efficient building. Enjoy

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ng.Special lot that has authorization for a garage.

Leesburg

\$299,000

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Leesburg. Large master w/walk in closet and full bath.

Lower level offers family room, den and full bath.

Fenced back vard and charming brick patio in front.



www.kidtimechristianacademy.com

Bellanca, continued from page 8

BRL: Virginia's Freedom of Information and Retention of Records Acts set certain minimum standards of transparency for local government officials. Do you think County officials and supervisors should go beyond the minimum standard? Are you willing to lead such an effort? Will you hold your appointees to a similar standard?

TB: I believe strongly in open government. The sunshine laws are often abused and I will work to maintain access by the residents of the county to their government. The Chairman of the county controls the rules of order for daily business and the Chairman has a responsibility to protect the resident's interests in government.

BRL: This year, which happens to be an election year, the public school budget has been increased, over the past three years it has steadily decreased. Do you think this decrease over these years has hurt the system? Why or why not.

TB: According to LCPS, the operating budgets were as follows: 2011-12 \$745M, 2012-13 \$823M, 2013-14 \$843M, 2014-15 \$911M, 2015-16 \$981M. The above statement that it has decreased is false. The more adequate way to describe the funding is that it has decreased relative to the needs of the system. The growth in the student population is relatively stabilized compared to the growth that was occurring before 2011. Increases in residential development over the past four years have increased the pace of growth in the system and funding is not keeping up with that pace. By reducing the pace of new students being added to the system and continuing to increase funding, we can eventually catch up with the needs.

BRL: What differentiates you from your opponent(s)?

TB: I have a Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science from Richmond College. I have an advanced degree, Masters of Arts from George Mason University's School of Public Policy, Government and International Affairs. I have the equivalent of three Master's degrees in Commercial Real Estate and am very knowledgeable on development issues. I am an expert in Commercial Real Estate in the Dulles Corridor and Transit Oriented Mixed Use Developments. I started my career at

Arlington Courthouse Plaza which is an internationally acclaimed transit oriented development with mixed uses, including Arlington County Government over the Metro Station. I've worked on numerous similar developments throughout the Dulles Corridor that include the world renowned Reston Town Center and Reston's Planning and Zoning Committee. My expertise is ideally suited for Loudoun County as it enters into the Metro Silver Line phase and a more Urban Center, Transit Oriented Development friendly atmosphere. I believe transit oriented development truly represents smart growth.

Hamilton VA 20158

BRL: In your opinion what are the top three issues you think the county will face during the next four years and describe your strategy for addressing those issues.

TB: The Economy will be the most important issue. Our economy is stagnating. Loudoun County residents have seen the highest level of decline in their household income since 2009 of any jurisdiction in the Metropolitan DC area (Source George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis). If we have a decline in property values, this will put extensive pressures on our County and particularly the school budget. We need to have policies that will support our economy and diversify away from our dependence on the housing sector. The entire state economy is depending on Loudoun County's housing sector and if this doesn't change we will all be in serious trouble.

BRL: List the top three pressing transportation problems in Loudoun County. What will you do to solve them? Please pick one in Western Loudoun County.

TB: The most pressing issues in Loudoun County with regard to transportation are the east west roads. Rt. 7, Waxpool Road, Rt. 606, and Rt. 50 are overburdened with traffic particularly during rush hour. Much of this funding is already approved and these roads will be widened in the coming term. Additionally, the Silverline should reduce the demand for daily trips on these roads, but the new board will be tasked with coming up with ways to reduce commuter's dependency on driving and transfer that dependency on using the rail. This includes making sure we have world class transit oriented development around the future metro stations.



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The Fall Menu at Magnolias is being served to rave reviews. It's time for great new tastes!



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Western Loudoun Rts. 9 & 287 www.joshuashands.org

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Auction 2pm 38327 Charles Town Pike Waterford, VA

Absentee Voting Happening Now

In-person absentee voting for the Nov. 3 general election is underway at the Loudoun County Office of Elections, 750 Miller Drive, S.E., Suite C, Leesburg. Absentee voting hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Loudoun voters who cannot make it to their precinct on Election Day may be eligible to vote an absentee ballot in person or by mail. There are 19 different qualifying reasons that allow voters to use an absentee ballot. All the reasons and instructions can be found on the Virginia Absentee Ballot Application Form online at www. loudoun.gov/absentee.

The Loudoun County Office of Elections will offer extended absentee voting hours beginning Monday, Oct. 26 through Friday, Oct. 30 from 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. and on Saturdays, Oct. 24 and Oct. 31, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Absentee voting will also be offered at the Senior Center in Cascades, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling and Dulles South Multipurpose Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding, beginning Monday, Oct. 26 through Friday, Oct. 30, from 4 to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays, Oct. 24 and Oct. 31, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The last day to vote an absentee ballot in person for the upcoming election is Saturday, Oct. 31.

Anyone who needs to vote an

absentee ballot by mail must submit a completed Absentee Ballot Application by close of business Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015. Completed applications can be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail.

Voters who vote either absentee inperson or in their precinct on Election Day, are now required to show an acceptable form of photo identification. Acceptable forms of photo ID include a Virginia DMV-issued driver's license, a U.S. passport, a student photo ID from a college or university located in Virginia, or a photo ID issued by either the U.S. government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, a local Virginia government, or any political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Voters who do not have one of these forms of photo ID are eligible for a free Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Eligible voters may apply for this free card from any local voter registration office. Currently, all voters who apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card will immediately receive a temporary identification document that they can use to vote either in-person absentee or in their precinct on election day.

Voters are encouraged to visit www. vote.virginia.gov, to check their registration status, polling location and see what's on their ballot. Information is also available at www.loudoun.gov/election 2015.



Providence Farm Bluemont, Virginia \$2,650,000

42 acre equestrian property in Piedmont Hunt • Lovely 5,000 sf home with 1st floor master suite • Horse facilities include indoor (150' x 75') and outdoor (200' x 100') arenas • 10 stall stable with large apartment • 8 more stalls in shed row • 6 paddocks • Cross country course & 9,800 sf heated Morton Building

Helen MacMahon

(540) 454-1930



Kerfoot House Upperville, Virginia \$1,290,000

Circa 1810 Federal brick home with stucco wing • 4 BR • 3 1/2 BA • 6 FP • High ceilings • Beautiful woodwork & floors • Recently renovated • Lovely kitchen with new custom cabinets, Carrara marble countertops, Viking refrigerator, Bertazzoni gas range and slate floor • New baths, Carrara white marble floors • English period gardens, specimen plantings, mature boxwoods, grand setting

ul MacMahon (703) 609-190



Foxhall Round Hill, Virginia \$1,200,000

Historic property in protected area • First offering since 1951 • 3 log structures circa 1690, 1720, and 1940 connected to create charming home • 4 BR, 3 BA, 3 FP & beautiful floors • Huge boxwoods • Needs updating • 33.89 acres mostly open • Creek • Solid barn • Original structure Quaker meeting house Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Stonewood Middleburg, Virginia \$750,000

Charming stucco, log & frame home on 6.38 acres • 3-4 bedrooms • 3 1/2 baths • 2 fireplaces (one in the kitchen with antique brick floor) • Beautiful reclaimed pine flooring • Bright & sunny family room opens to bluestone terrace • Master bedroom opens to private balcony • 2 car garage • 4 stall barn with tack room • More land available

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Kenthurst Lane The Plains, Virginia \$700,000

Colonial on 2.51 private acres • Classical architecture with notable features • Coffered ceiling • Dental moulding • Transom windows • Stone fireplace • Sand-in-place hardwood throughout main and second levels • 5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths & 2 fireplaces

Paul MacMahon

(703) 609-1905



Copper Hill Farm Haymarket, Virginia \$695,000

Private horse property • Brick home w/first floor master BR • 4 BR • 2 1/2 BA • Bright, freshly painted, new carpeting, refinished hardwood floors & high ceilings • Open floor plan • Screened in porch off kitchen • Living room w/FP • 5 stall barn • Paddocks • Dressage ring • Large storage building Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650

Helen MacMahor

(540) 454-1930



Unison Road Cottage Unison, Virginia \$434,900

3 bedroom stone home on quiet gravel road between Middleburg & Purcellville • Nice hardwood floors • Stone fireplaces • Generous room sizes • Large dining room and family room • Screened in porch • Large yard • Lovely trees and plantings • Also available for rent

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info@sheridanmacmahon.com www.sheridanmacmahon.com

"Monte Subasio" Is A Taste Of Italy In Bluemont



- By Hannah Hager

This breathtaking, private estate may sit amongst the Blue Ridge Mountains, but it's named for the magnificent Monte Subasio – the mountain range in the province of Perugia in central Italy. While not the most famous foothills, both lands have a quiet dignity that radiates throughout this grand mansion.

The property boasts a large, natural flowing pond amongst a lawn highlighted by lilacs, viburnum, dogwoods, cherry trees and silver bells and gardens accented with a geometrical design of boxwoods and roses. Walking paths lead you along woodlands with two streams, fenced paddocks and pasture land that are bordered with an abundance of roses, peonies, poppies, cat mint, yarrow, dianthus and more.

The grounds set the ideal backdrop to this authentically-designed Georgian Revival home. The tree-lined entry provides entrée to the main brick house accentuated with four chimneys, nine dormers, limestone headers and sills a curved front portico with columns and traditional Georgian dental moldings custom-built for this estate. You'll also notice the adjoining indoor pool and the four-car garage with copper roof.

The custom mahogany six-panel front entry door with period side lights and arched window is the first sign of the attention to detail you'll find within. The antique heart pine staircase treads, spindles, volutes and cherry hand railings direct your eye to the first of many chandeliers sprinkled throughout the mansion.

The interior's heart pine hardwood, custom paneling, built-ins and moldings are a theme throughout. In the living room you'll find antique, period sconces, a wood-or gas-burning fireplace with custom mantle, marble hearth as well as the custom silk drapes with trim, tassels and tiebacks imported from England.

Further wall sconces, chandeliers, and an additional custom-built mantle are found in the dining room. The library boasts antique heart pine pocket doors with Germanmade Haefele hardware and rollers. French doors open to a private terrace for when you need to lift your head up from your work.

Speaking of contemplating relaxation, find your way to the master suite that first opens from the main hallway through double doors into an entry vestibule. Grand chandeliers are found in the master suite itself and in its adjoining bath. The bathroom suite is decked out with the all the features you could ever wanted. Venetian-style mirrors sit atop a wood-mode furniture base cabinet supporting double Kohler under-mount sinks and lavatory, a Calacata Grey countertop and back splash with polished nickel Kohler hardware – expect to see these touches throughout the home. Lastly, the master suite also has a conservatory, which is the perfect place for a little relaxation with its air conditioning, tile floor, bead board ceiling and custom



Address: 18599 Calumet Lane, Bluemont

Bedrooms: Five

Bathrooms: Five full and four half bathrooms

Square footage: 11,000

Acreage: 23 acres
List price: \$2.95 million

Contact: Jim Lemon, Washington Fine Properties, LLC

Call: 540 687-6395

windows with moldings.

You'll enter the kitchen in the same way you would the master wing - through double doors from the main hallway. The space is lit by custom, fine-art chandelier with recessed, low voltage ceiling lights in addition to undermount lights. The custom wood cabinets are painted white with glass front uppers. A large peninsula is host to cabinets for storage and a bookcase on the sitting room side. The center island also has additional storage underneath its soapstone countertop. You'll see the Calacata Grey marble counter tops from the master suite again in the kitchen alongside the back splashes, one piece marble back splash behind stove. Look forward to the Kohler hardware and concealed separate Sub Zero refrigerator and freezer. What supremely appointed kitchen wouldn't be complete without a professional Viking gas range with six burners, griddle, grill, and two ovens with convection?

The home will speak for itself when you pass by the sitting room and additional main-level areas to the second story. The second-level hallway is dotted with five chandeliers and similarly-styled custom draperies and hardwood finishes. Perhaps you won't be surprised to find a second master bedroom with the same features. This one, however, has a stairway leading to a large, unfinished attic room with four working dormer windows. The additional bedrooms are equally opportunistic, featuring the same chandeliers, lights, hardwood and custom draperies and sizable closets.

Perhaps what will you take you by surprise is the clubroom and entertainment area in the lower level. Four chandeliers light up the clubroom with a custom bar featuring two stainless steel under-mount Sub Zero refrigerators, a custom stone fireplace and surround sound. Don't the miss the ice cream parlor with white Carrera Marble countertops and wainscoting on your way to the wine cellar with electric,





HVAC, a bead-board ceiling, wood paneling, brick walls and mode Cherry Cabinets.

You'll never have to step outside to have all of your needs met within this home. Don't believe me? You can enter the indoor pool and garage area through your own private chapel ... A breezeway connects the two areas of the home where once again you'll find more French doors and chandeliers. The indoor pool is not only heated, it is also saltwater with automatic sand filtering and electronic water purification so there's no need to use chemicals.

The garage is fully lit with electrical service and plumbing hookups. Get your hands dirty in the potting shed with antique entry door, antique hardware and brick floor or make you rway to the barn/tractor garage combination. The brick building is fully-insulated with 12' to 14' ceilings and Kolbe & Kolbe windows and doors throughout. Custommade barn and Dutch doors take you full circle to enjoy the estate's outdoor areas in either the front, side and rear paddocks with five-board fence.

Bonfils Sworn In As Interim Broad Run Supervisor

James G. Bonfils has been sworn in as the interim Broad Run District supervisor for Loudoun County. The swearing-in ceremony was conducted by Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary Clemens. Bonfils was appointed to

the position by the Board of Supervisors.

"It's a real honor to serve as Broad Run District supervisor," said Bonfils. "I look forward to doing my best to serve my district impartially."

Bonfils was accompanied to the ceremony by his wife, Terri. Also on hand for the ceremony were Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Scott York, Vice

Chairman Ralph Buona, Delegates member Randy Minchew, and County Administrator Tim Hemstreet.

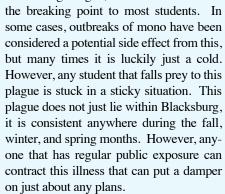
Bonfils will serve on the Board of Supervisors through Dec. 31, 2015. The candidate who is

elected as Broad Run District Supervisor in the November general election will take office on Jan. 1, 2016. Bonfils was one of 12 people from the Broad Run District who applied for the position which became vacant Sept. 6 when Shawn Williams resigned.

More information about the Board of Supervisors is online at www.loudoun.gov/bos.

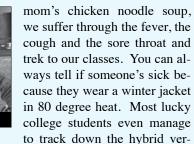
Prepare For The Plague - By Mary Rose Lunde mom's chicken noodle soup,

This is not a bubonic plague epidemic like in ancient history, thankfully. No, this is just a common cold that hybridizes into something that can turn a student's life into a living hell. Known at Virginia Tech as the Blacksburg Plague, this cold is



ways happens during the worst week too filled with multiple exams and due dates.

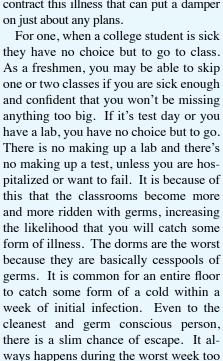
How do college students cope? Perhaps it is the opposite way elementary school students react. Instead of staying home watching television and eating



Unfortunately, I am one of the lucky few that have roommates that had both strands of the plague - the coughing version and the fever cold symptom version. This in turn causes me and anyone else lucky enough to somehow host the hybrid version of the cold consisting of both symptoms. As much as I would love to take a sick day like my younger self would have, I have been like the majority of students and have sucked it up and went to my classes.

It is incredibly sad that this fact is true: The older you get, the harder it is to get sick and take a sick day. Even for upperclassmen in high school, missing a day of school can take days to make up. It is a sad fact of life, and the increase in sickness and medicine resisting viruses does not help. Suffice to say, any student in a public school should be cautious about washing their hands and avoiding any unnecessary germ hazards. Although no one is innately immune, the better you eat, more active you are, and overall more hygienic the higher the chances you can avoid catching the sickness. Be wary if you catch the sickness and remember that missing one day of classes can impact the rest of your semester, especially if the class is a lab or consists of cumulative information.

Mary Rose Lunde is a sophomore at Virginia Tech and is currently recovering from her experience with the "Blacksburg Plague." She is a double major and is currently doing her best to avoid getting sick



Survey, continued from page 1

St. Francis [Court] and Wright Farm." At least two commented on the 21st Street Vineyard Square development in historic downtown. Said one: "I disagree with removing the historical buildings on N 21st and building that monstrosity. The citizens were not listened to, and the BAR [Board of Architectural Review] was completely ignored." Said another: "We don't need the Northern Collector route, but rather an interchange at RT 690 at 7. We should turn N 21st street into a walking mall and push the "monstrosity" to the north on the train station to the industrial park." And said another, with respect to zoning changes that propose to raise the limits on the size of big box stores and promote other suburban-style developments: "Improve the Town's culture, heritage and downtown

area for growing families that want to raise their families in a 'small town' culture. Make Purcellville unique and entice new businesses from small business owners that embrace this mindset. Keep 'chain' restaurants and businesses out."

One resident also expressed deep concern over the town's future and their place in it, saying: "I feel like we have no say on the future of the town. We believe that the future is in the hands of a few people on the town council (the "old' regime) and they are only interested in appeasing the developers. It's extremely unsettling and it really needs to turn around. Basically, I believe the average citizen should have a bigger say in the town ..."

Said another: "Stop the developers who, when given the chance, will Fairfax-ize this beautiful town and not look back."



The 5th Annual Purcellville Halloween Block Party





More than 4,000 people attended the Purcellville Halloween Block Party last year coming from all over Loudoun, Clarke, Fairfax County and beyond. This year the party will be the night before Halloween on Friday Oct. 30 from 5 to 9 p.m. on 21st Street in Old Town Purcellville. The street will be closed to vehicular traffic.

Starting at 5:15 p.m. Last Ham Standing will perform a family friendly free improv comedy show.

They'll be Halloween themed games for the kids, such as The Rubber Rat Toss, Pumpkin Bowling, Pin the Nose on the Witch, Pumpkin Tic Tac Toe and new this year Rubber Ducky Races.

Come dressed in your most creative costume and be judged in one of six costume

contests for trophies and cash prizes: Infants to 5 Yrs at 6:30p.m., 6 to 12 at 7 p.m., pets at 7:30 p.m., 13 Yrs to 17 at 8 p.m., adults 18 and older at 8:45 p.m. followed by the Best Overall Costume award of \$500. For other categories prizes are \$100, \$50 and \$25.

Other events include "Howl at the Moon" and "Most Horrific Scream" contests, roving magicians, balloon artist, jugglers and a very special dance performance.

Food by Magnolias, tacos from Casa Tequila, Lickety Splitz Hawaiian Shave Ice and baked treats by Joy's Dream Bakery will be available right on 21st Street from 5 p.m.

Admission is free. There is free parking throughout the town. For contest rules and more information visit www. purcellvillehalloween.com.



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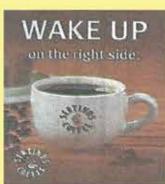


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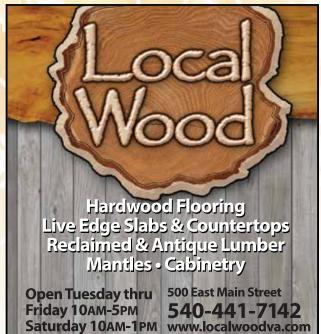
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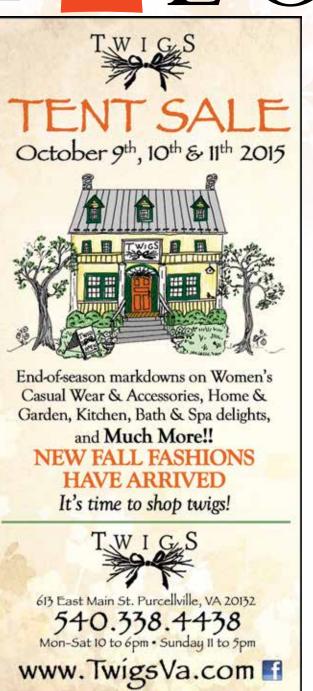


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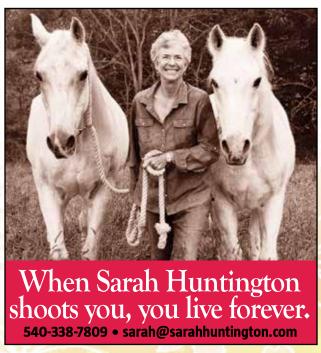












Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Willisville

– By Tim Jon

You may never feel the urge to travel to this little, unincorporated community; it's not exactly a conduit for commuter traffic, and there aren't really any places to shop,



or gas up, or procure much of anything else from a consumer standpoint. Nestled in that No-Man's Land between Round Hill, Middleburg and the Blue Ridge, Willisville is sort of tucked away in an area pretty much forgotten by time – and most of the rest of the county. And, I'm sure many of the folks who live down there will get along just fine if things continue this way for the foreseeable future; they've gotten this far without being on the cover of Rolling Stone, they'll probably be OK on their own - and I don't think they have a village press agent or anything to lure us out to the coming attractions.



The last morning I made a formal visit to the place, I saw lots of mist, maturing crops, curious cattle, about a hundred deer — and not a human soul — no visible ones, anyway. It was so quiet; you could almost hear the fog.

I recalled – at the time – that things move so slowly in this part of the County that indoor plumbing only entered the picture out here in recent memory. One of my archived news stories from Wage Radio reminded me that flush toilets got installed in about a dozen of the local homes out in Willisville over the Christmas and New Year's holiday season of 2006 and 2007. Yes, that's this Century. That's pretty rugged; you don't see much of that anymore – at least not in a county that usually hovers atop the list of most affluent localities in the known universe. Just another of our little conundrums that continue to

make this a fascinating - if sometimes frustrating - place to carve out a living.

See – Willisville – I'm again referring to 10-year-old news stories – was founded just after the Civil War by one Heuson Willis – a former slave. According to my records, he bought some three acres of land with a cabin for about \$100. Not sure if you can find any kind of real estate deals like that around hear any more; if you do, let me know. Now, in the passage of time since the Willis's settled, all the surrounding well-larded estates got their water and sewer updates accordingly; not so with Willisville – for various financial, political and geographic reasons. It only took an extra century and a half.

So: If you do take a drive out to this little community to take in the atmosphere of a quiet, quaint locale, you can do so with a bit of historic perspective on how the place came to be what's now a very charming, unique fixture in a county that's chuming out what look like pre-molded McMansions by the hundreds – but I'm sure they

all have indoor toilets. Now - how would you - and your great-great-grandchildren - like to wait 150 years for such conveniences? Yeah, me too. Like most of my fellow Northern Virginians, I'm not quite that patient. We can thank the folks out in Willisville - at the crossroads of Welbourne, Millville and Willisville Roads, by the way - for the gentle reminder about the more practical blessings in our 'modern' lives.

It may even go so far as to make you feel a bit humble – and grateful - that our 21st Century civilization actually has something to offer – besides congestion and 'must-have' electronic gadgets. And in the meantime, I'm sure the pace out in Willisville and the surrounding countryside will continue at its comfortable speed, making that curious juxtaposition, reminiscent of the old Aesop's Fable; I guess that would make the rest of us the hares, so: Stay focused on the task at hand, or you'll come to the end of the line only to find that those 'tortoises' were more successful the whole time. And, in many ways, maybe they are.



MOON MUSIC

Sunday, Oct. 11 7:00PM

- Native Loudoun County Trio Moon
- Music (Jim Moon, Deb Dalby and Mary
- Alyce Wicks) forged a partnership over
- eight years ago, with a signature nuanced three-part harmony vocal sound, backed
- by delicate piano and acoustic guitar.
- Tickets: \$10.00 in advance, \$12.00 at the door
- www.franklinparkartscenter.org



PORTLAND CELLO PROJECT Thursday, Oct. 29 8:00PM

The group has built a reputation mixing genres and blurring musical lines and perceptions wherever they go. No two shows are alike, with a repertoire now numbering over 800 pieces of music you wouldn't normally hear coming out of a cello - from Bach to Kanye to Pantera. Tickets: \$25.00 Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org

MAIN STREET THEATER PRODUCTIONS: WIZARD OF OZ

- Saturday, Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24 7:30PM,
- Sunday, Oct. 18, 25 2:00PM
- This isn't your grandmother's Wizard of Oz!
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- Follow Dorothy and her companions over
- the rainbow and through the land of Oz. Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$15 seniors/students,
- \$10 group of 20 or more www.mainstreettheaterproductions.org



HALOWEEN PARTY WITH **BRIGHT STARS**

Saturday Oct. 31 7:00-9:00PM

(Ages 3 & up) Trick-or-treating after party with Bright Stars Touring Theater, performing their hilarious version of the literary classic The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. You might get selected to join actors on stage for the impromptu Sleepy Hollow Choir. Hotdog & drink, glow necklace and a few more surprises included in admission. Family-friendly show begins at 7:30 pm. Ages 2 and under are free.

Tickets: \$ 5.00 Per Person, \$20.00 Family of 4+ www.franklinparkartscenter.org



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GALLERY COFFEEHOUSE: Moonlight and Magnolias Oct. 18

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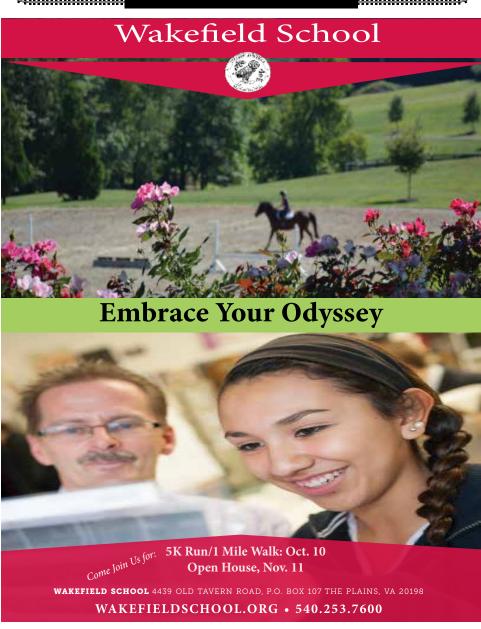




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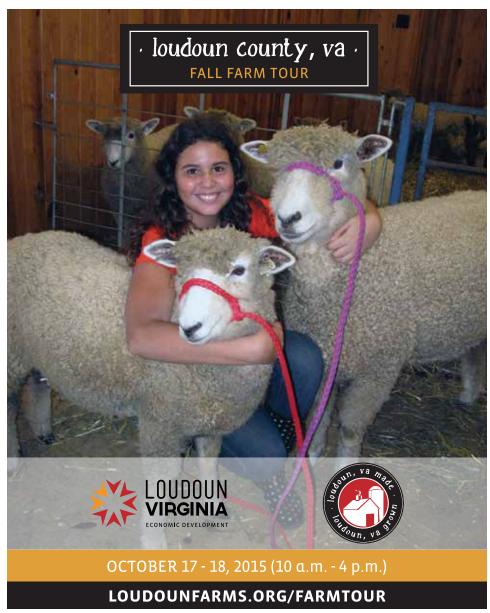
On Saturday, Oct. 3 doors will open at the grand West Belmont Place Event Center to host the 2015 Loudoun Men Are Cooking event, a tasting party featuring culinary competitions between amateur and professional chefs. The event takes place from 7 to 11 p.m.

Local community service organizations (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Psi Rho Omega Chapter and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Sigma Mu Mu Chapter), in partnership with Operation Uplift Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides educational support to the diverse population of underprivileged students in Virginia, have been working hard to "Cultivate a Future of Excellence" in Loudoun County.

Fifty chefs will prepare gourmet fare to delight the palates of more than 500 guests. To spice up the competition, professional chefs will share some of their kitchen secrets and cooking tips while offering up their signature dishes. In coming weeks, amateur chefs will start to heat up the competition by posting and boasting about their dishes on social media. Judges will determine whose dish ranks supreme; however, guests should save room to vote for their "Foodie Favorite" After sampling bold appetizers, creative sides, enticing entrees and decadent desserts, guests will be treated to the delightful live performance of a local favorite—Just's Friends Band and Show.

Psi Rho Omega and Sigma Mu Mu both share a mission to help deserving students and communities in need throughout Loudoun County. Operation Uplift Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the growth, development, and education of local youth by obtaining, managing, and directing resources to aid them. In 2015, the Foundation and Psi Rho Omega Chapter awarded over 11 scholarships to deserving students in Loudoun County. Psi Rho Omega and Sigma Mu Mu provided over 10,000 hours of community service in Loudoun County.

Admission is \$50 per person and is open to adults 21 and up. Tickets are available for purchase at www.lmacooking.com.



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21st Street Sidewalk Sale Oct., 10-11

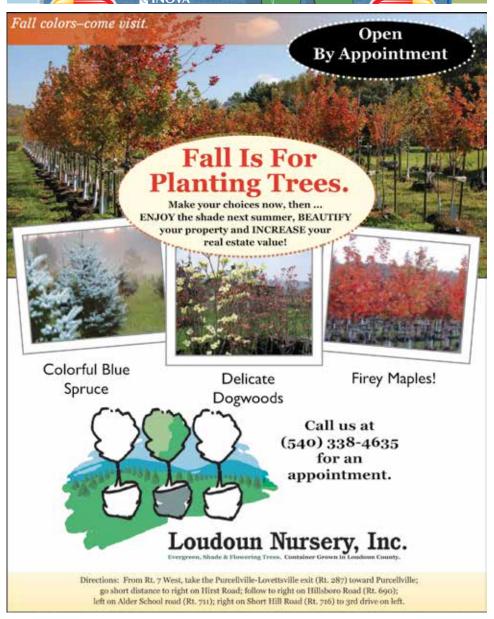
Merchants from 21st Street are celebrating the new improvements to the downtown area with its 1st annual 21st Street "New" Sidewalk Sale to be held during Purcellville's Treasure Sale Sat. and Sun. Oct. 10 and 11th from 8-4 p.m.

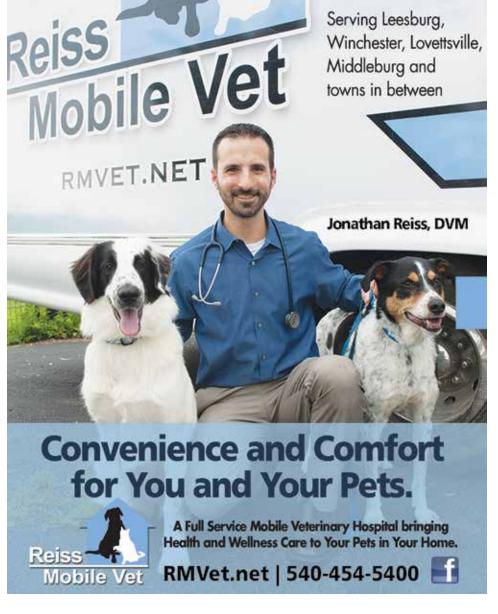
21st Street's sidewalks and It's Bazaar's rear parking lot will be filled with friends,

neighbors and guest dealers with lots and lots of bargains and sale items to fulfill anyone's shopping list.

Stop by, say hi, grab a cup of coffee, some food and show your support for 21st Street.

Want to join 21st St. 1st Annual Sidewalk Sale? Stop by or Call Michael at Re-Love It, 540 751-0707 or Kelley at Its Bazaar, 540 751-9260.





Sponsors And Participants Needed For 10K Race To Benefit Boulder Crest

On Nov. 8 the Loudoun Road Runners Club will once again conduct the annual Loudoun 10K Trail Race at scenic Camp Highroad located outside Middleburg to benefit Boulder Crest Retreat and the courageous wounded warriors it serves.

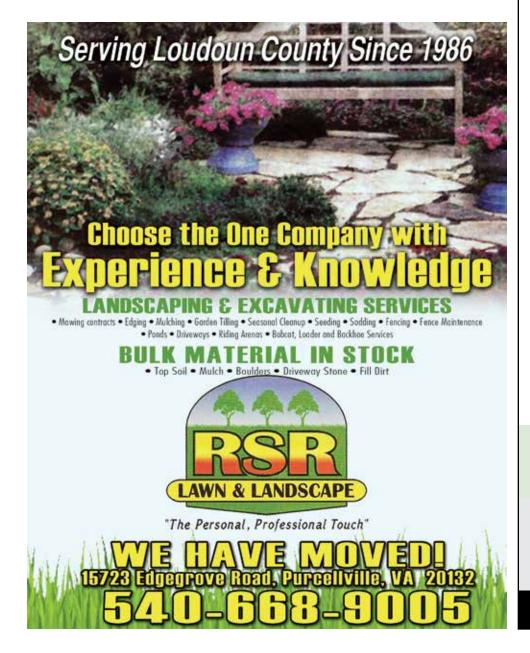
Boulder Crest Retreat is a privately funded rural wellness center dedicated exclusively to improving the physical, emotional and economic wellbeing of these returning heroes. All services are provided free of charge and Boulder Crest Retreat relies entirely on private donations for its facilities, daily operation and support of America's recovering warriors.

The Loudoun 10K Trail Race has annually raised more than \$25,000 to support Boulder Crest in its efforts with 100 percent of the proceeds going directly to the retreat. Sponsors and participants are again needed to support this year's efforts.

Persons or organizations wishing to provide sponsorship and/or offer charitable donations to support the event and Boulder Crest Retreat can do so by directly contacting Race Director, Jim Schatz at schtred@aol.com.

Charitable donations can also be made by check to "Loudoun Road Runners" and mailed to P.O. Box 3342, Leesburg, VA 20177, Please write "Loudoun 10K Trail Race" in the memo section of the check.

For individuals wishing to participate, the race will take place at Camp Highroad, a 600-acre retreat located at 21164 Steptoe Hill Road in Middleburg. Registration is \$50 and includes a long-sleeve race shirt and tote bag. The race field is limited to the first 200 runners who register and will be conducted rain or shine. It begins at 9 am. To register go to www.trailrun.loudounroadrunners.org.





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Failure to take corrective action could result in the brain actually "forgetting" how to hear and understand speech. When the brain is insufficiently stimulated by sound over a period of time, it can lose some of its ability to process information. The longer one goes without treatment the more likely it is that the brain will forget how to process speech, risking permanently impairing the brain's ability to understand speech.

There is a connection between diabetes and hearing loss, two of America's most widespread health concerns. The National Institute of Health has found that hearing loss is twice as common in people with diabetes and adults thought to have pre-diabetes have hearing loss that is 30 percent higher than in those with normal blood sugar.

Hearing depends on small blood vessels and nerves in the inner ear which high blood glucose levels can damage, diminishing the ability to hear. It is often accelerated when blood-glucose levels are not being controlled with medication and diet.

Some signs of hearing loss include:

- You have difficulty understanding people when they speak to you
- You find yourself asking people to repeat what they just said
- You feel that people talk too low or "mumble"
- You tune out in social situations due to not being able to follow conversations
- You have the TV or radio volume much higher than others feel is necessary

For most people, hearing loss is gradual and happens over time. Among seniors, hearing loss is the most prevalent medical condition, following arthritis and hypertension. For more information call Zounds Hearing in Leesburg at 571-748-3102.







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Bright Star Touring Theater presents The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Franklin Park Fall Fest

Franklin Park and Franklin Park Arts Center are teaming up to present a Fall Fest of programs, classes and performances to celebrate the autumn season. In fact, you can take a hike on Sunday Oct. 4 at 9 a.m. along 1.5 miles of the trails to look for signs of autumn and art, as the Sticks and Stones outdoor sculpture exhibit extends through the end of the month. Later that evening, imagine the natural world through the eyes of local painter and sculptor, Carmen Barros Howell, who will be featured at the Meet the Artist Coffeehouse at 6:30 p.m.

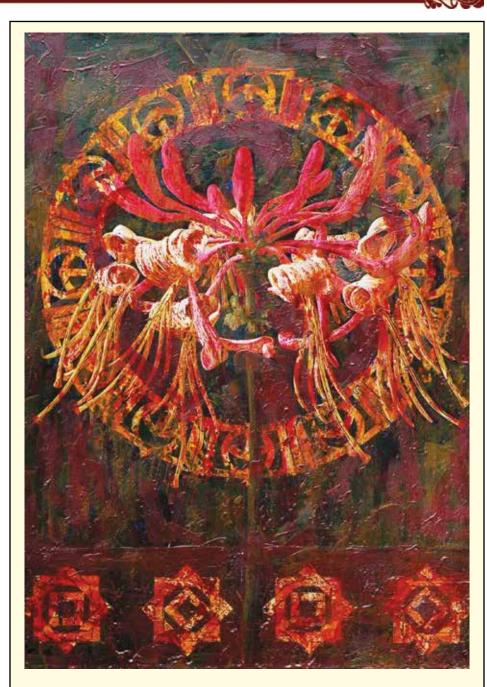
If music is what stirs your soul, the Arts Center has a variety of performances this month, beginning with the lively bluegrass sounds of Bush Brothers Live, timeless tunes of The Kingston Trio, the Americana sounds of Square Thirteen and the harmonies of Moon Music. Lastly, there is the much anticipated concert of Portland Cello Project, a group that has a reputation for blurring musical lines with their repertoire of over 800 artistically arranged songs that you never would expect to hear from a cello.

There is plenty for the kids as well, who are no doubt already talking about Halloween. Liven up their costumes this year after you take the Halloween Faces make up class at the Arts Center. Learn how to create makeup for costumes like rabbits, cheetahs, dogs, zombies and ghouls. Enter the Fall Scarecrow Contest and you could see your

entry displayed in the Park or even visit with the REAL Scarecrow in Main Street Theater's production of The Wizard of Oz. And after trick or treating is over, head over the Arts Center for a Halloween Party on October 31 from 7 – 9 p.m. Bright Star Touring Theater will present a family-friendly version of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, with plenty of audience participation. For more details on the Fall Fest contact Franklin Park 540-338-7603 or Franklin Park Arts Center 540-338-7973.



Two Faces, a painting by Carmen Barros Howell



- Artist Profile - Gerry Bannan

Paintings by Gerry Bannan will be on display in Waddell Gallery at the Loudoun Campus of Northern Virginia Community College from Sept. 21 to Oct. 23.

In his paintings, Bannan uses a combination of oils, encaustic and gold leaf on linen or panel.

NOVA-Loudoun is at 21200 Campus Drive in Sterling. Waddell Gallery is free and open to the public 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, contact Don Depuydt at 703450-2627 or ddepuydt@nvcc.edu.



Gobble! Gobble!

Join us Saturday, October 10th for our final patio service of the season at Fields of Athenry Farm. Let the kids run and play on the farm while you enjoy your family and friends. This Oktoberfest will be complete with beer, sausages and a great time. The grill will be fired up from 12-4 p.m. and the farm shop will be open from 11a.m.-5:30 p.m.



ONGOING

Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Purcellville Town Market outside the Purcellville Marketplace, I 30 East Main Street.

OCTOBER EVENTS

- © Oct. 2, Friday through Oct. 4, Sunday, The Mosby Heritage Area Association presents "Conference on the Art of Command" at the Middleburg Community Center, 300 W.Washington St., Middleburg. This year's conference is "July 2, 1863: Gettysburg, the Second Day." Call 540-687-6681 or email info@ mosbyheritagearea.org.
- © Oct. 3, Saturday, The Lucketts Bluegrass Concert Series at the Lucketts Community Center, 42361 Lucketts Road, Leesburg, at 7 p.m. featuring Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass. Tickets \$15 at the door.
- © Oct. 5, Monday, open house for the 600 Zone Elevated Water Storage Tank Color Scheme at 7 p.m. Help choose a color scheme. Creighton's Corner Elementary School cafeteria, 23171 Minerva Drive, Ashburn.
- © Oct. 6, Tuesday, meet and greet with candidates for chairman of the Loudoun Board of Supervisors. At 7 p.m. at NVCC-Loudoun, 21200 Campus Dr, Sterling, in the Waddell Theatre. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters.
- **Oct. 10, Saturday, Joshua's Hands Fall Festival** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 38327 Charles Town Pike. Entertainment, hay rides, crafts, three-legged races, live music, demonstrations, a petting farm and more.
- **Oct. 11, Sunday, Oatlands tea** from 1-3 p.m. in the historic Carriage House, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg. To make a reservation call, 703-777-3174.
- **Oct. I I, Sunday, Lovettsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue** open house from noon to 4 p.m.
- **Oct. 11, Sunday, Oatlands School's in Session open house days** at the historic Mountain Gap School. This program lets families experience a typical school day in the 19th century. Sessions will take place at 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. Call 703-777-3174 to register.
- **Oct. 17, Saturday and Oct. 18 Sunday, Ayrshire Farm** (21846 Trappe Road, Upperville), will be part of the Loudoun County Farm Tour. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and there is no charge for admission.
- **Oct. 18, Sunday, the Harvest Festival** will be held in the Barn at Oatlands, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg. The day includes live music, food, hayrides and more. www.oatlands.org
- © Oct. 21, Wednesday, Purcellville Police Department's Town Hall meeting at 7 p.m. at 221 S. Nursery Ave. The meeting will educate the public on the growing concerns regarding the accessibility of heroin and the addiction to the drug.
- © Oct. 25, Sunday, Oatlands School's in Session open house days at the historic Mountain Gap School. This program lets families experience a typical school day in the 19th century. Sessions will take place at 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. Call 703-777-3174 to register.
- © Oct. 25, Sunday, Rain Barrel Workshop at noon. The workshop is being held with the Hail to the Trail event from noon to 3 p.m. at the Chapman DeMary Trail, 355 North Hatcher Avenue Purcellville. Register by Oct. 2 at http://www.loudounsoilandwater.org.

Mid-Atlantic Region's Largest Rummage Sale Set for Sat., Oct. 17 - 18

The Ladies Board of Inova Loudoun Hospital will host the 77th Annual Ladies Board Rummage Sale at Morven Park – Tutt Lane entrance, 41793 Tutt Lane in Leesburg. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days. Proceeds benefit Inova Loudoun Hospital services and projects and nursing scholarships.

CARVER CENTER OCTOBER EVENTS

The Carver Center is at 200 Willie Palmer Way in Purcellville. Call 571-258-3400 to sign up for the following programs.

Oct. 8, Thursday, Fall Supper Club Dish restaurant in Charles Town, WV 4 to 8 p.m., registration closes at 4 p.m. Oct. 1

Ages 18 and older. Register on-site or at www.loudoun.gov/webtrac.

Oct. 2, Friday, lunch and a movie See the movie Jersey Boys at noon. For ages 55 and older. Must reserve lunch by calling 571-258-3459.

Oct. 21, Wednesday, Carver Lunch Bunch

Mediterranean Breeze, Ashburn

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration closes at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14

Ages 55 and older. Register on-site or at www.loudoun.gov/webtrac.

Wednesday, Oct. 21 to Dec. 2, Help with Medicare Part D
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You can enroll in or change your plan during this time. For help with choosing the right plan, make an appointment to meet with Doc Ashby at Carver.

Oct. 14, Wednesday, Shingles shots 10:30 a.m. to noon. For ages 60 and older.

There is no charge for the Shingles Shot. Please sign up by Wednesday, Oct. 7.

Oct. 7, Wednesday, Flu Shot Clinic 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Inova Healthsource will be offering Flu Shots. There is a \$35 fee for the four strain vaccine and a \$45 fee for the high dose.

Oct. 14, Wednesday, Excursion with Ken –Early Fall Leaves

Noon to 2 p.m. For ages 55 and older.

Ken will escort you on this last excursion around beautiful western Loudoun to marvel at the changing leaves in all their glory.

Our Brain Training Center is here to strengthen your brain's underlying cognitive skills so learning and reading become easier. We focus on a person's underlying cognitive skills, strengthening and correcting weaknesses, so that the capacity to learn is increased.

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Watch Out For The "Completely Peaceful And Non-Threatening" Rise Of China

- By Nicholas Reid

The world has become a messy place over the last seven years. Vladimir Putin is emulating Adolf Hitler in his quest to "protect ethnic Russians living in



other countries." Iran is attempting to join the nuclear weapons club, and ISIS is doing their very best to audition for parts in the next "Mad Max" movie.

However, the real, hidden danger of the world today is China. Now, when I say China, I am referring to the communist government of the country, not to the Chinese people which the communists oppress. Unlike many other threats the U.S. faces today, Chinese aggression is not out in the open (unlike Russia and ISIS). The Chinese are subtle, making sure that their moves are as under the radar as possible. The Chinese communists have also developed a masterful propaganda campaign to calm suspicion of their motives by making themselves extremely friendly to foreign businesses. The Chinese communists have established themselves, publically, as a nation that just wants to peacefully and nonthreateningly rise in power and status in the world through business. But, pull away the curtain, and it is clear that China's leaders have a very different plan.

Based upon China's worldview, the current state of China's military and what technologies they are developing, the Chinese plan to "reclaim their rightful role as world leader." This means getting rid of the usurper that is the USA. Now, this ideology sounds familiar. It is the same philosophy followed by the Japanese Empire up until 1945. We all know how Japan's dreams of dominion over Asia ended and how many lives it took to force the Japanese to abandon their ideology. Nonetheless, China is determined to crush America's power in the Pacific and take it over for themselves. Maybe they too should pronounce a "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere." What could go wrong?

Well, anyways, China has developed a complex plan to defeat U.S. military strength when a war starts. They believe that the keys to U.S. power is our aircraft carriers, satellite communications and use of the Internet. They have developed technologies to defeat all three. Since 2000, the Chinese military, I mean, the Peoples' Liberation Army (really guys? Liberation? More like occupation), has invested heavily in anti-ship missiles and anti-satellite missiles. They call these

technologies the "Assassin's Mace," because they feel that it will allow them to defeat a stronger opponent (the USA). On the internet, we all know that Chinese hackers watch our every action online.

The Chinese have taken special notice to the tendency of President Obama to downsize our military, and thus U.S. power in the world, and have acted accordingly. As they have upgraded their technology, the Chinese have also started testing how far they can go before the U.S. reacts. China is currently building brand new islands in the middle of the Pacific and contesting Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand and basically the rest of Asia for existing islands, waiting for the U.S. to react. We've done nothing. And as long as we continue to do nothing, the Chinese will continue to slowly erode our power in Asia until the day comes when they do usurp us.

Nicholas Reid recently graduated from high school in Loudoun County and is currently studying geology at the South Dakota School of Mines. He plans to be a paleontologist. In high school he was a ranking member of the Debate Club and selected to the National Honor Society. He is the grandson of teacher and writer Dr. Johanna LaFiandra and conservative columnist Joe LaFiandra.

Loudoun, Frederick County Schools Awarded School Safety Grant Funds

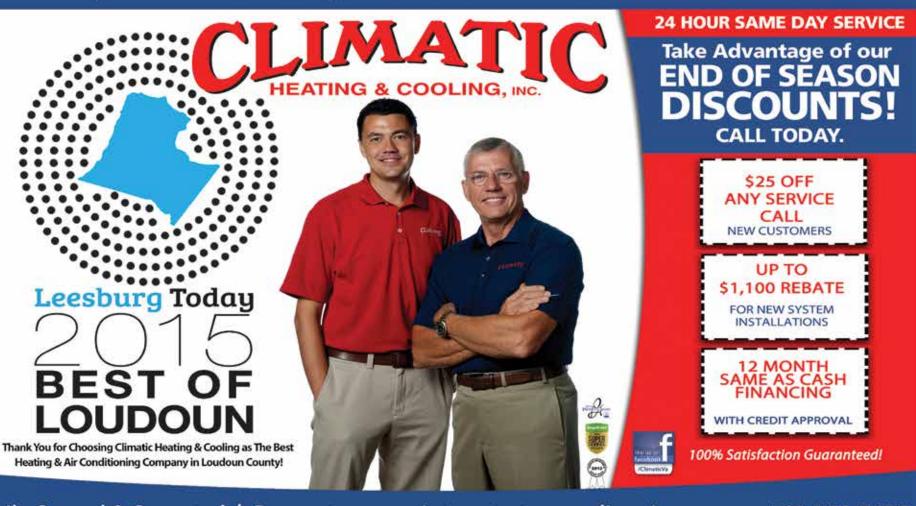
Loudoun and Frederick County schools will both receive a total of \$38,996 in grants for safety improvements as part of the School Security Equipment Grant program established by the General Assembly in 2013.

"This has been re-authorized by the General Assembly each year since 2013, and I expect it will continue as long as we see a need exists for these improvements and local school systems have a hard time covering them. Keeping kids safe in school is a commonsense investment," said Delegate Dave LaRock (R-33rd District) of the funding.

The funding in the two counties is allocated to Aldie Elementary, Banneker Elementary, Emerick Elementary, Hamilton Elementary, Lovettsville Elementary, Meadowland Elementary, Waterford Elementary, Apple Pie Ridge Elementary, James Wood High, Sherando High and Stonewall Elementary. Although Clarke County schools did not receive an allocation this year, three Clarke schools received a total of \$67,223 last year.

"This is just one example of how we're working to make Virginia a safer place," LaRock said. The General Assembly also approved a pay raise for state police, funding to provide targeted services to seriously mentally ill patients, and funding for new behavioral health community services and six new drop-off centers.

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Learning By Doing

- By Samuel Moore-Sobel

As my last semester gets underway, I find myself reflecting on past internships. Many students spend time working as I did, learning about the real world without actually being an official employee. Some of our experiences vary, from excellent to poor. Some internships help ignite passions, and others make for great stories.



When it comes to internships, I have plenty of experience to back up my claims. After five internships during my

college career, I have found being an intern is a unique experience. I have been in internships that both overwork and underwork, some filled with stress and others not so much. I have what seem like a million stories, which I willingly tell anyone ready to listen.

Last fall I was an intern with the Office of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. One of the classics is the day a fellow intern and I were walking along and ended up behind Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. I decided to stir the pot a little bit. As a press intern, my job was to track all mentions of Sen. Rubio in the news. I had just read an article about Jeb Bush which speculated that the former Florida governor would soon be announcing a presidential bid. So I turned to my friend and made sure to say it in a loud enough voice for the senator to overhear, "Hey, I just read an article about Jeb Bush. I think he is going to run for president, and should win the nomination!" An aide walking next to the senator turned around and gave me a dirty look since Sen. Cruz has long had his eyes on the Oval Office. As we walked to the end of the corridor, flashing cameras suddenly appeared. I straightened my tie, buttoned my jacket, and ended up on the front page of the politics section of The New York Times...right behind Sen. Ted Cruz. His staff may not have been as happy as I was with that picture!

Before serving in the senator's Office, I spent the summer at the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C. Just after meeting Chairman Reince Preibus, he pulled out his phone and began texting, proving the point that it is not just millennials who talk and text. After a few moments he said, "Sorry, Samuel, I am texting Paul Ryan." Sure enough, I could see that he was texting Wisconsin congressman and former vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan, a childhood friend of the chairman's. I was totally fine with being ignored in favor of the famous congressman.

While working at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, everyone on the staff was so supportive. During that time I had a letter to the editor published in The Washington Post and everyone came to my desk to read it. As we were sending out the spring mailing, I clumsily folded letters to be placed in envelopes, and had to ask a colleague how to fold them correctly multiple times. She joked that I couldn't fold a letter to save my life but could get published in the Washington Post. Thankfully they did not hold it against me!

After work in the nonprofit world and the government, I decided it was time to try out the private sector. So I took an internship in government consulting, working in an industry that has created its own language. With words like "Gantt Chart" and "deliverables" that I was supposed to use during daily "scrum meetings" as we talked about the progress of the project. Was there a special dictionary for this job? My personal favorite was "granularity," a word my boss repeated quite often. In order to complete a task well (such as creating a Gantt Chart) it was necessary to really get everything down to a "particular level of granularity." I still don't fully know what that means, although everyone thought I used the word effectively in endless meetings.

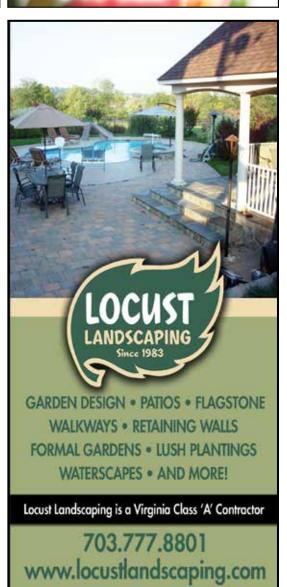
My last internship was the one that has made an impact on the direction of my life. I liked being a project manager, working with both programmers and management in order to complete projects. Or maybe I just really liked the word granularity. Either way, I have decided to pursue a career in government consulting, and hope to obtain a full-time position within the industry post-graduation.

One never knows the path they are going to take in life. If you had asked me what I wanted to do with my life before I entered college I would have answered by saying that I wanted to attend law school and eventually become a prosecuting attorney. Goals can change, new dreams can form. The key is to work hard and be willing to change paths if necessary. So to students everywhere, have the courage to embark upon an internship even if it isn't your dream job. Who knows, you might end up with some pretty cool stories! If you are really lucky, you might add a few words to your vocabulary. How could life get any better than that?

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a senior at George Mason University majoring in government and international politics.







Controlling Your Child's T-Factor

- By Andrea Gaines

October is Children's Health Month.

In medical circles, new questions are being posed about how to protect our children from the thousands of synthetic chemicals and toxins they are exposed to each day – what some call the "T-Factor."

Chemicals and toxins are present in our drinking water, in our air, in our homes, in the food we eat, in the cosmetics and toiletries we use ... even in the flooring that baby takes his or her first steps on.

Health experts say that these chemicals and toxins pose special risks to the growing bodies of infants, young children and teens. And, while legislators and manufacturers are beginning to address the issue, parents can help protect their children by keeping a few simple things in mind:

Avoid Pesticides And Antibiotics In Food. The pesticides, hormones, and heavy metals in our most common foods can be a concern. Some tips from the Environmental Working Group and others: 1) Choose fish low in mercury – good choices are Atlantic Mackerel, herring, rainbow trout, wild or canned salmon and tilapia; 2) Avoid fruits and vegetables that tend to have heavy pesticide loads and/or buy organic. Heavy pesticide residue fruits and vegetables include apples, peaches, nectarines, strawberries,

grapes, celery, spinach, sweet bell peppers, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, imported snap peas, potatoes, hot peppers, and kale/collard greens. (EWG's "Clean 15" – least likely to hold pesticide residue – include avocadoes, sweet corn, pineapples, cabbage, frozen sweet peas, onions, asparagus, mangos, papayas, kiwi, eggplant, cantaloupe, cauliflower, sweet potatoes.) Look for hormoneand antibiotic-free meat and dairy, too.

- Use Plastics Carefully. Many plastics, including those used in microwaveable food packaging, bottled water containers, children's toys and bibs, shower curtains and more contain classes of chemicals considered toxic, including phthalates. Overexposure to these chemicals and other synthetics have been linked to asthma, ADD, obesity and other diseases and conditions. Again, know what is in the products your children are exposed to.
- Use Personal Care Products Carefully. Personal care products and their related packaging everything from baby shampoo to eyeliner to body lotion can contain residue from plastics, dyes, chemicals and more. Just because it is labeled "natural" doesn't mean it doesn't contain chemicals you may want to avoid. Again, do your research.
- Beware Of Indoor Air Pollution. Indoor

air can be more polluted that outdoor air, laden with mold, pollen, tobacco smoke, household products and pesticides, radon and carbon monoxide gases, asbestos, formaldehyde and lead. The National Institutes of Health recommends keeping your home well ventilated and removing the most common pollutants. It is also important to: 1) dust and mop often – dust is a major source of children's exposure to toxic substances (The dust created in the renovation of homes built before 1978 can contain high levels of lead.); 2) use simple, non-toxic household cleaners, and consider fragrancefree detergents; 3) keep children away from areas you are renovating or cleaning out (Many paints, caulks and glues contain hazardous substances, so look for products that are VOC-free, zero VOC or low-VOC.).

Modern life presents us with new conveniences, new products and new food packaging and delivery options every day. But, where do the toxins hide? Discuss the issue with your pediatrician for information on your specific concerns. Other resources include: The Environmental Working Group (www.ewg.org), the websites of large retailers, Healthy Child (www.healthychild.org), the Center for Science In The Public Interest (www.cspinet.org) and the National Institutes of Health (www.nlm.nih.gov).





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Amy And Dan Smith's Planning For Life: How Divorce Affects Social Security Benefits

The 10-year rule and understanding your benefit options

When it comes to retirement income, Social Security typically accounts for the lion's share, so it makes sense to understand how to



maximize your benefits. As you may know, marital status is an important decision factor when it comes to timing benefits. But, did you know divorce also comes into play? Many people see divorce as a chance to start over, a clean slate, if you will. But just because your former spouse is out of the picture, doesn't mean his or her Social Security benefits have to be, especially if he or she earns more money than you. In fact, your ex can actually mean extra when it comes to what you're eligible to collect.

Here's why. If you were married at least 10 years before your divorce, you may be eligible to receive Social Security benefits based on your ex-spouse's record, assuming he or she is entitled to them. If your exspouse hasn't applied for retirement benefits yet, you can still collect on his or her record if you've been divorced for at least two years. This holds true even if your former spouse

has remarried. And, claiming benefits on his or her record has no effect on what a new spouse can claim. Of course, you have to qualify to do so.

To claim benefits on an ex-spouse's record, you must be 62 or older and still single. In addition, your own work-based benefits must be less than the benefits you'd receive on your ex-spouse's record. On the other hand, if you were the higher earner during your working years, be aware that your ex can receive benefits based on your record. The same qualifying criteria apply to your ex as well, and your own benefits will not be affected.

How divorce benefits work

Once you have reached full retirement age, you'll have a choice between your own benefits and your spouse's. You can choose to receive your ex-spouse's benefits first, while delaying your own retirement benefits. Waiting longer could result in a higher benefit down the road based on the effect of delayed retirement credits. Keep in mind, though, that getting married again generally means you can't collect on your former spouse's benefits record, unless the subsequent marriage also ends, for whatever reason.

Prior to full retirement age, if you're eligible for your own retirement benefits and exspouse benefits, you'll receive a combination of benefits equal to whichever is higher. Basically, your benefits will be paid first and then your ex-spouses benefits will supplement the rest. Keep in mind the amount you receive depends on the age you begin drawing benefits. Generally, the longer you wait to begin claiming Social Security, the higher your benefit.

There's no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to Social Security and when to start drawing benefits. However, it's important to talk to your advisor and determine how to maximize the benefits coming to you, including whether it makes sense to apply for benefits on your ex-spouse's work record.

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The Gathering Coming To Clarke



Virginia Native Americans are presenting a traditional harvest festival Oct. 30 – Nov.1 at the Clarke County Fairgrounds in Berryville called "The Gathering." Everyone is invited to "The Gathering" to join the Virginia Harvest Dance, 14th annual Virginia Gourd Festival, Kidz Harvest Fest, Three Sisters Art Challenge and more. Go to www.HarvestGathering.org for more information.

The Gathering is hosted by the non-profit federally recognized Sanctuary on the Trail in partnership with the Virginia Lovers' Gourd Society with the support of the Red Road Foundation, Nowa Cumig Institute and Clarke County Parks and Recreation.

Kim Ragland at Boyd's Nest Restaurant in Berryville has learned to make Indian fry bread and plans to serve up samples during the Farmers Market on Oct. 17. Also on Oct. 17, the Barns of Rose Hill is offering a Native American trio featuring Native American matinee with icon Dennis Banks, Three Sisters Art Challenge artist's reception and Dark Water Rising live rocky soul concert.



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Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

because he's not eating and we can't take him anywhere. My neighbor suggested therapy but should I have to take my son to therapy to eat a balanced diet? Your help is appreciated.

Concerned Parent

Concerned Parent,

It seems to me that you are caught in a control battle with your son, and your son is winning the battle. In my opinion, the first thing I think you need to do is to agree with your son that you will no longer be battling him on the topic of food. Instead, you and your son are going to agree on an action plan to solve the problem. The first step in your action plan will be to replace the escalation of nudging, coaxing, prodding, arguing and fighting about food with agreed upon meals each day.

The next step in your action plan will be to sit down with your son to put together a list

of foods that he likes, foods that he might like (or might be willing to try) and foods that he does not like. Perhaps you could categorize the foods as "yes foods," "maybe foods" and "no foods." Then for each meal, allow your son to have a small amount of one food that he likes, and serve a couple of maybe foods on his plate. If he chooses not to eat much, that is his choice. Remember no more nudging, coaxing, prodding, arguing or fighting about it. For breakfast, lunch and dinner, you will also want to decide on a time for when the meal is over and when the kitchen is closed.

I would then implement a no snack policy in between meals for your son. If he is filling up on Goldfish and candy after school, he probably will not have much of an appetite for dinner. By not snacking at all, your son will be hungrier at mealtime, and thus, he will be more likely to try the maybe foods he previously selected.

Whether your son is at a friend's house, at school, or at a restaurant, you will want to

keep him consistent with the meal plan. You will also want to reassess the maybe food list each day, and over time, your son's list of maybe foods should grow. You could even bring your son grocery shopping with you to discuss his maybe foods. Young children are visual, and at 6, seeing the foods he is considering could be helpful. You could also let your son know that you will reintroduce healthy snacks into his day when he and you agree on what those snacks will be (e.g., fruit). And of course, continue to follow your son's pediatrician's recommendation for the food shake supplement.

Keep in mind that your son will probably not care very much for the action plan that I am offering here because it is going to challenge him to change and change is usually difficult. In fact, he might even fight you over the plan; things could seem to get worse before they get better, but that is okay. Stay the course and with time, and by being reasonable, consistent, loving and patient,

your son's picky eating should improve.

If, however, your son's picky eating does not improve within a reasonable period of time (say a month or two), or if you notice that he is beginning to struggle in other ways or in other areas, you might want to consider seeing a child psychologist. While picky eating is not that unusual in early childhood, underlying anxiety may be what's driving your son's need to over control his food choices. Problematic anxiety with food in early childhood can sometimes work itself out with exposure and time, but sometimes it requires the additional attention of a mental health professional.

Michael Oberschneider "Dr. Mike" is the founder and director of Ashburn Psychological Services, a private mental health clinic comprised of 12 MD and PhD level mental health clinicians. Go to www. Ashburnpsych.com or call 703 723-2999 to learn more.

Planning, continued from page 1

that might compliment the lifestyles and environment they cherish in Purcellville ... the majority of the residents with whom I have spoken ... are recommending that we suspend making these drastic changes to the zoning uses ... all energy should be on the Comprehensive Plan review; you have the attention of the citizens so let's do it."

A few of the changes proposed by the Planning Commission include:

- Allowing completely new uses in select districts.
- Eliminating Special Use Permits for many uses.
- Increasing limits on restaurant size.
- Adding big box retail up to 10,000 square feet to the C-4 and C-1 Districts to name a few.

Noted dissenting commissioner Nedim Ogelman, "We said we would not change the purposes of the districts to avoid claims we are engaging in rezoning, yet the draft ordinance amendment before us ... is essentially rezoning ... We are tasked with advising the Town Council on planning issues. My advice to the Town Council is to listen to what citizens have been telling us in our information sessions, through correspondence, in our public hearing, and in the town survey ... that we table the draft zoning use changes until after we have a Comprehensive Plan Review."

Many citizens spoke at the Planning

"The recent town survey shows us that for each one citizen who wants us to work with special interests for increased, aggressive development, 10 want us to prevent or control such development. These citizens demand that we take the majority's input into consideration ..."

- Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman

Commission public hearing including Ed Need who highlighted the negative effects of rezoning.

Developer interests, however, presented a very different point of view. Attorney Mark Nelis, representing Jiffy Lube and others continued to press for a reduction in the number of zoning districts and a reduction in the number of special use permits required for various uses; the goal? – to save his clients time and money.

At the Town Council work session in late September, Councilmember Ben Packard made a motion to put the proposed zoning changes on the Oct. 13 town council meeting agenda.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Councilmember Karen Jimmerson objected, with the mayor noting that over the last three months he had sent numerous questions about the Planning Commission's long list of zoning changes to Commissioner Gil Paist, but, had received no answers.

Said Mayor Fraser " ... we have a Planning Commission that refuses to answer fundamental questions about the economic, social, and environmental impacts of their recommended zoning use changes ... There seems to be this continuous push to erect buildings without careful thought about supporting infrastructure and the impact to the surrounding environment ... experts in the field of town planning warn [that] it is poor practice and could result in legal trouble for a community to adopt a zoning ordinance first and then write up a town plan."

Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman, town council member Karen Jimmerson, Mayor Fraser and others are also expected to continue to push for a thorough Comprehensive Plan review before any major zoning changes are put in place.

Names Sought For Parks

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has directed the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services to initiate the public participation process for naming three new county parks.

One park site is located in the Broad Run election district, south of Marblehead Drive in the Potomac Green community. The property includes approximately 27 acres with three rectangular athletic fields, one baseball/softball field, trails, open space, a picnic pavilion and tennis court, restrooms and parking.

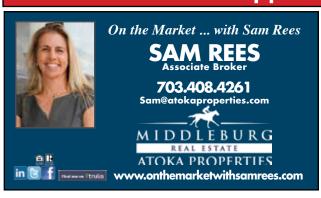
Another property consists of approximately 61 acres along Goose Creek in the Blue Ridge election district, adjacent to the Belmont Glen Village community. This passive park site will feature picnic areas and a trail that connects to the Goose Creek Preserve and adjacent communities, as part of the Goose Creek Stream Valley Corridor.

A third site consists of approximately 5.4 acres in the Blue Ridge election district, along the western side of Belmont Ridge Road. This park includes picnic areas, a tot lot, parking and pervious-surface trails connecting to the Goose Creek Preserve and adjacent communities, as part of the Goose Creek Stream Valley Corridor.

To propose a name for the new parks email prcs@loudoun.gov or mail Steve Torpy, Director, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, 20145 Ashbrook Place, Ste. 170, Ashburn, VA 20147. Include your name, email/address and phone. The deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Oct. 16.

On the web with daily updates at www.brleader.com

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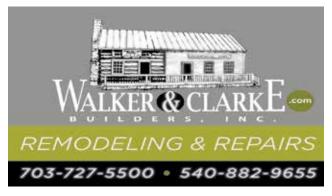












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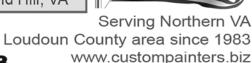
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ODFC Quest Wins Dulles National Soccer Tournament



The ODFC Quest U12 girl's soccer team won their bracket during the 24th annual Dulles National Soccer Tournament at Moven Park in August. The team is based in western Loudoun and is coached by John Regan.

From left to right: Back row: Delilah DeMark, Catherine Kelly, Mackenzie Shores, Maggie Sheridan. Middle: Hannah Rayburn, Addison Carroll, Tatum Black, Leah Hegerich, Brooke Nicholson. Front: Mia deLadurantaye, Hadley Hill, Jane Bodamer, Alley Jones, Ashlyn Cool.



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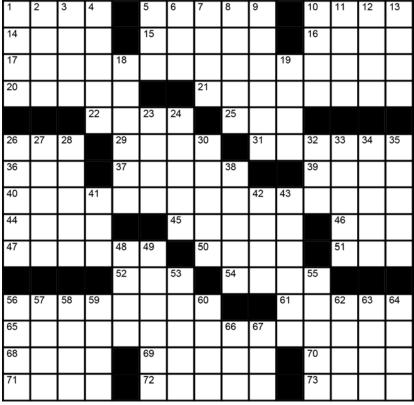
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The Real Thing By Myles Mellor and Sally York



ACROSS

- 1. Buddhist temples
- 5. About
- 10. Jackknife
- 14. Touch
- 15. Relating to a district
- 16. Computerphile
- 17. Real things
- 20. Loose talk?
- 21. Trial run, of a type
- 22. Nip partner
- 25. The facts of life?
- 26. Island chain
- 29. Nonpareil
- 31. Woman's hat
- 36. Fate
- 37. Innocent
- 39. Linen fabric
- 40. Really
- 44. Actor O'Shea
- 45. Chinese zodiac animal
- 46. Part of i.p.s.
- 47. "Golf, ___?"
- 50. Sojourn
- 51. Cousin of calypso
- 52. "___ De-Lovely"
- 54. Court attention-getter
- 56. Turns into money
- 61. Lively dance
- 65. Witness stand requirement
- 68. Cheat
- 69. Indigenous Canadian
- 70. Sheet
- 71. Dances
- 72. Key West native, informally
- 73. Brickbat

DOWN

- 1. Witty ones
- 2. Genesis brother
- 3. Nickname for football coach Bill

- 4. Dwarf
- 5. Jail, slangily 6. E.U. member
- 7. Behind
- 8. Chocolate substitute
- 9. Language group
- 10. Way in or out
- 11. Archipelago part
- 12. Flashed signs
- 13. At a previous time
- 18. Lizard
- 19. Baal, e.g.
- 23. Veneer
- 24. Interlocks
- 26. Pack animal
- 27 Red dve
- 28. "Enchanted April" setting
- 30. Ties up
- 32. Broadway opening?
- 33. Shows approval
- 34. Diacritical mark
- 35. Accessory
- 38. Inspiration for poets and musicians
- 41. Jersey call
- 42. Sanction
- 43. Most fairylike
- 48. Like some decrees
- 49. Italian, e.g.
- 53. Musical notation
- 55. Coffee cup holders, in the Middle

- 56. Impress clearly
- 57. Handel opera
- 58. Fast pace
- 59. Priests' vestments
- 60. Jar
- 62. Break
- 63. Greek portico
- 64. Start of a break-in
- 66. Sot's sound
- 67. Numerical ending

Answers on page 46



The Buddy Bench At **Loudoun Country Day School**



Dylan Buckley, a third grader at LCDS, wanted to have a special bench at recess where anyone who needed a buddy to play with, could sit and then others would go ask the student to join their game. She thought of this last year as a second grader, and our librarian Renee Kelahan, helped her make it happen. Dylan and other students raised funds through lemonade stands and asking their parents for money. Dylan and her classmates are sponsoring the buddy bench each year until they graduate in eighth grade. Each fall they will explain the purpose of the bench to other students.

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Video online at: www.loudoun.gov/adultday

Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services.

Looking To Unison Heritage Day And Halloween

On Halloween, Unison, one of Loudoun County's historic villages, will hold its rollicking annual Unison Heritage Day and Halloween party in the new Unison Community Center and on the Village Green.

The Oct. 31 village festival, from 1 to 5 p.m., will feature food and barbecue from Middleburg's well known Barbara Paige Caterers, beer and imported wines, fresh-shucked oysters and clams, dozens of homemade pies and desserts by Unison's historic United Methodist Church. All-afternoon Blue Ridge Mountain music will be performed by the Cobbler Mountain Grass Band.

The fair will also feature a visit by the children-friendly hounds of the Piedmont Hunt, the nation's oldest fox-hunting club, a Halloween costume contest for children 12 and under, and live and silent auctions. More than 150 donated items will be auctioned, from art, antiques, restaurant dining and services donated by Loudoun and Fauquier stores, restaurants and residents, including trout-fishing trips and American and foreign vacation adventures. The silent auction is from 1-4:30 p.m.; the live auction begins about 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the nonprofit Unison Preservation Society, proceeds from the annual festival will go toward community programs and improvements to the historic Unison Store, including a new back porch and an easy access entrance. The store was donated to UPS as a community center two years ago, by Middleburg-area philanthropist Dr. Betsee Parker. The 1870s store and Village Green this year have been hosts to art and yoga classes, a history lecture series, outdoor concerts, community gatherings and private dinners and wedding parties. A celebration was held this summer, with local and state officials, to honor the new Battle of Unison sign installed in front of the store. President Lincoln himself planned the 1862 battle, which he hoped might hasten the end of the Civil War. He removed Union Gen. George McClellan from command immediately after the Unison battle for failing to execute the plans.

For information and advance tickets go to www.unisonva.org.



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In the Market

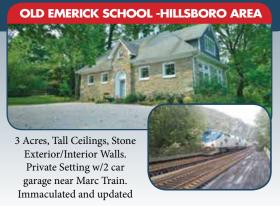
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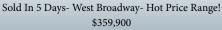














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