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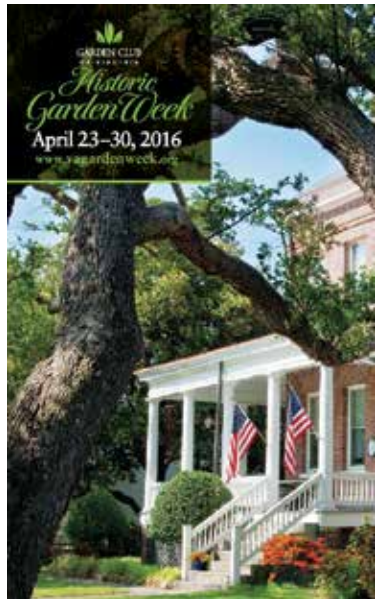
Virginia Garden Week Is Coming!

Virginia homes and gardens will welcome thousands of visitors April 23-30. Historic Garden Week 2016 – now in its 83rd year – will feature over 250 sites statewide, with an intimate look at wonderful homes, flowing gardens and landscapes and thousands of award-winning flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members.

Local sites include several in the Middleburg, Rectortown and Upperville areas, including Blandy Experimental Farm, Gap Run Farm, Holman Farm, Saint Bride's Farm, Belle Grove and the National Sporting Library & Museum. Local places of interest along the way include the Historic Goose Creek Bridge, The Caleb Rector house, Trinity Episcopal Church and Oatlands.

The full 250-page guidebook is available for downloading and for purchase at www.vagardenweek.org.

Keep the flowers coming! Don't miss the 74th Annual Garden Club of Virginia Lily Show, June 15-16 at Foxcroft School in Middleburg.



Conservation Easement Recorded Without Supermajority Vote

– By Valerie Cury

While the majority of easements donated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation are from private landowners, the Town of Purcellville in March 2009 put the 1,272-acre town water reservoir property into a conservation easement.

At the time, the Council got much fanfare for a conservation easement that was the largest granted in Loudoun County and the first by a municipality in the County. Former Mayor Lazaro benefited in the years following the much publicized easement. In

October 2010, he was appointed to the Virginia Municipal League's Go Green Advisory Committee and in 2012, Governor Bob McDonnell tapped Lazaro for a seat on the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees setting a course for his future employment at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

According to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Conservation Lands Database, Virginia has nearly 3.8 million acres of land in a conservation easement. Property owners

Continued on page 13

Stover Goes To Court April 25 Fundraiser Held April 16

Developers and owners, Mark Nelis, John Chapman, son Sam Chapman (candidate for Purcellville Town Council) and others, of the six-story Vineyard Square project on 21st Street will be represented by their attorney in court on April 25, 3 p.m. at the Loudoun County Courthouse. Mary Ellen Stover will be represented by her attorney, Frank Bredimus of Hamilton.

The Purcellville Board of Zoning Appeals ruled that Town of Purcellville Zoning Administrator, Patrick Sullivan, was correct in his determination that the then proposed Vineyard Square project had "commenced" when the developer tore down two small structures connected to the project.

Town zoning administrator Patrick Sullivan, in a reversal of town policy and of what he had previously stated, rendered an

official decision on the expired Certificates of Design Approval for the project. Sullivan allowed the project to proceed despite the fact that numerous dates for the project had expired. Sullivan's action was in direct conflict with a Purcellville Town Council vote on July 2014 denying an extension to the developers.

Stover is the owner of Mary Ellen Stover Antiques located on 21st Street and the organizer of Save Old Town Purcellville. She will be holding an open house fundraising event in her store on Saturday, April 16 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to raise funds for her legal defense. The public is invited and light refreshments will be served. Her address is 120 North 21st Street and she can be reached at 540 338-2632. Her mailing address is P.O. Box 178, Purcellville, Va. 20134.



**TOWN
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SEE CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS STARTING ON PAGE 23



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"I have been buying propane from Hunt Country for about a year now. My previous propane provider was much higher priced. The staff was rude and didn't seem to care if you gave them business or not. When I was shopping around for a new company, thankfully I found Hunt Country. The staff is friendly, professional, knowledgeable and genuinely cared that you gave them your business. Hunt Country prices are consistently lower than their competitors. I highly recommend that you call Hunt Country Propane, if you don't, you're making a BIG(\$!) mistake. Thanks Hunt Country!" —Ed, Leesburg



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ASK DR. MIKE

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

We are concerned about some habits our nine year old son demonstrates and would love some advice from you. We are unsure whether it's anxiety, nervousness, or just nervous/an excess of energy.

A few years ago he began biting his fingernails and does that very frequently now. Along with that habit he seems to pick up other tics that he'll demonstrate for a few weeks and then they'll dissipate which will be followed by another one a few weeks/months later. Some of these tics have been scrunching up his eyes/face and tapping his hands onto his legs. My husband and I try not to draw attention to them as we don't want him to feel badly about something he can't seem to help but we are unsure how to help him. Thanks for any advice and suggestions you might have.

A concerned parent

Concerned Parent:

Nail biting is a fairly common problem for children, and is considered to be one of the "nervous habits" of childhood.



Dr. Mike

Other nervous habits include teeth grinding, nose picking, hair twisting and thumb sucking. Different things, including boredom, frustration, and stress/anxiety can cause nail biting.

Tics, especially facial ones, are also a fairly common problem for children. About 25 percent of children are affected by facial tics, and boys are three to four times more likely to experience facial tics than girls. While the cause of facial tics is not completely known, stress/anxiety do appear to be factors.

While nail biting and facial tics are considered to be behavioral problems, the behaviors are largely unconscious. Thus, it's best to figure out what the underlying cause or motivation is to the distorted solution and unwanted behavior.

Behavioral strategies alone will likely not address what is going on for your son emotionally and may actually make things worse. At 9, with nasty tasting nail polishes, or even with pointing out the nail biting or tics to your son when they occur, your son could feel badly about himself or could even feel punished for things that are

Continued on page 44



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1:00pm *3rd - 8th Grade*

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www.LCDS.org



Loudoun Country Day School

PRESCHOOL - 8TH GRADE

20600 Red Cedar Dr., Leesburg, VA 20175 703.777.3841

On A Wing And A Prayer And A Smile

– By Andrea Gaines

On Sunday, May 1 individuals and families from all over came together in Purcellville for Sadie's Race, reminding us why each and every life we welcome into the world is so very special.



Sarah and Sadie Ablard

Sadie's Race is a 5k event and fun run organized in honor of Sadie Ablard, a courageous 5 year old who died in August of 2011 after sustaining a serious head injury while roller-skating.

Sadie had become very interested in an organization called the Smile Train, which helps provide life-changing surgery for children in developing countries born with a cleft lip or cleft palate. One Christmas Sadie and her family collected donations in lieu of gifts, raising the \$500 needed to fully fund two "smiles" – cleft palate surgery for two children in need. This sunny and humble little girl put everything she could into the cause, and since Sadie's death her mom has done the same, intent on raising \$250 – the amount needed for one surgery – for every one of the 1,913 days Sadie herself spent on this earth. \$478,250 to be exact.



This year's 5th Annual race will feature thousands of participants and is expected to raise enough money for many many surgeries.

Sadie loved running – at 5 years old she was already on her third pair of running shoes. As Sadie's mom has said many times and reinforced again this year, "In our short time together, my daughter taught me empathy, generosity and the benefits of living with an open heart. Now that's she's gone, I sustain myself by continuing her good works."

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Geotechnical Engineer

Melrose Farm Is Loyal To The Past; Faithful To The Future



— By Hannah Hager

It's often said that things aren't made like they once were – and it's often true, especially when it comes to elegant homes with “good bones.” Many are curious about what it must have taken to live and thrive in America at the beginning of the 19th century, but not many of us would be happy to experience it.

Luckily, some of these structures of yesteryear still stand after having spent centuries in the same spot as the world changes around it. Even more fortunate is that this manor home on Loyalty Road in Leesburg has stayed true to its roots while also evolving with the future by undergoing some loving facelifts while managing to maintain its integrity.

Standing at four-stories, this red brick home's commanding presence is evident upon arrival. Dual chimneys flank the ends, and a white column porch leads the eye up from the broad porch to the dormer windows on the roof. Don't miss the stone addition on the right, which is hidden behind mature trees offering ample shade.

The original bones are just as strong as ever, which you can see as soon as you enter the foyer. It's a treat to see a near two-century year-old home also be so spacious. The foyer is double the size you'd see in today's modern structures and the same can be said for the entryways into the great rooms. Perhaps you might be surprised by this excess of space, as it's often the case that older homes have smaller rooms that are easier to heat.

Speaking of heating – this manor is stocked with no less than eight fireplaces. Twin fireplaces sit side-by-side in the formal living room. Is the “his” and “hers” division of day's gone by? Perhaps, but you're the beneficiary now. The remaining six are sprinkled throughout in all the usual places; the dining room, kitchen and bedrooms, save for a surprise fireplace right next to jet tub in the master bath.

Mahogany wood is seen on trimmings, floors and wood-beamed ceilings in most rooms, but instead of being a bit gloomy, this impressive manor is quite light and cheery due to multiple improvements over the years. The best example of this is in the kitchen that boasts modern



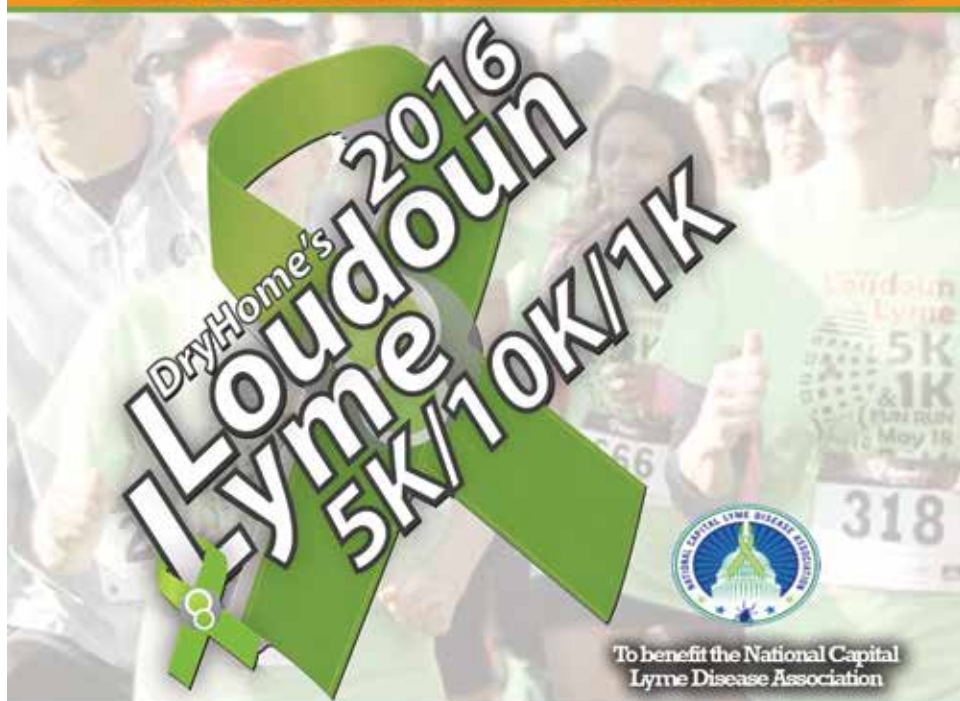
Address: 14428 Loyalty Road, Leesburg VA
List Price: \$1.495 million
Bedrooms: Six
Bathrooms: Four
Circa: 1823
Agent: Sharon Buchanan
Contact: 540-882-3559



upgrades, including white cabinets and recessed lighting. Of course, you'll also find sunshine in the sunroom or through the doors to the outdoor, slate-stone patio. Which saves the best for last.

What good is a manor house without its outbuildings? Enjoy your sweeping views of Loudoun while walking the grounds between the pottery shed and the main red barn. Maybe your mind will wander to the simple beauty of things past.

ANNOUNCING THE 6TH ANNUAL



Sunday, May 15, 2016

6:00 am registration • 8:00 am start
Information Fair 7:00 am until 11:00 am

Brambleton Town Center

22855 Brambleton Plaza, Ashburn, VA 20148

14 and over: \$30 prior to May 11th; \$35.00 at the event
13 and under: \$25 prior to May 11th; \$30.00 at the event

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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Temple Hall Farm



– By Tim Jon

I only met the late AV (Val) Symington once; it was a Sunday evening in my first year or two at Wage Radio (this would be the late '90's) and I was putting things in order for the next morning's news broadcast, when the doorbell rang. Now, it could have been just about anyone: A fellow employee who forgot his key, a local resident wanting help with a lost dog, a commercial client dropping off a check, a high school student seeking an internship, or someone with a potential news tip. But, in this case, I opened the door to find a charming little lady in an old work coat, glasses and a pair of rubber boots, driving an older model station wagon; she introduced herself as a former part-owner of the long-time, local radio station in Leesburg. We probably chatted for 20 minutes or so during our short tour of the building; we discovered a mutual love of hometown charm and character, I think she mentioned her enjoyment of Stokes Tomlin's Classics in the Morning Show – and then we said our goodbyes, and AV drove off in her 'clunker.'

Little did I guess that this ingenuous senior was also incredibly generous and about as well off as one could respectably be; the late Ms Symington eventually willed multiples of millions of dollars for the support of several local projects – Ida Lee Park, Oatlands Plantation, Loudoun Country Day School, Rust Library and Temple Hall Farm Regional Park. She had already donated the acreage at the latter facility in the mid-1980's, upon the death of her husband, James; they had owned and operated Temple Hall Farm back in the heyday of 20th Century Loudoun County agriculture. So, I had a very healthy personal and professional connection with the story of this grand lady at the time of her passing, and memories of her life and legacy would generally surface each time I'd pass Limestone School Road on Route 15 north of Leesburg; you could guess, then, that I may have been just a bit wistful as I made a recent Visit to Temple Hall Farm – more than 10 years after AV's passing, and approaching a decade since my tenure ended as News Director at Wage Radio.

A bit wistful, maybe – but also a good deal invigorated and inspired; I was happy



JON

to be able to enjoy a morning walk about this local park – preserved (in our 21st Century, Northern Virginia manner) as an old-fashioned working farm – and also experience a sense of gratefulness for my own relatively vigorous constitution and good fortunes. Having lost a disproportionately large number of our former 'Family' from the old Wage Radio, and being cognizant and understanding enough to appreciate the struggles of some of my friends and neighbors in trying to seek 'a living,' I was able – in that foggy, pre-dawn light – to offer thanks and praises for the forces that allowed me to be – period. As Rolling Stone Keith Richards has said: "Good to be here, good to be anywhere!" And we mean it.

Now, when the Symington's lived and worked at Temple Hall Farm, I'll bet that there were times of heavy labor, of sweat, turmoil and challenge; there were also times of discovery, joy, thankfulness and bounty. This facility, then, is a great example for our present-day world; our path through life may have periods as tumultuous as a river rapids, some as tranquil as a tidal delta, others a manageable in-between, and some of tragic loss. Life on a farm teaches us about the annual harvest cycle, the threat of crop failure, the daily regimen of animal husbandry, benefits of irrigation, the importance of soil retention and enrichment, innovative stock breeding and plant propagation – and most of all – the human ethics gained through good, honest (and often, very) hard work. Industry, service and even exhaustion often come with the territory; with the perspective of irony, they can be seen as our very rewards.

So, when you and your loved ones visit Temple Hall Farm, remember that that beautiful horse's stall needs to be mucked out, the straw in the turkey roost needs changing, the post-harvest fields require plowing, fertilizing and planning for next spring, the sheep probably need shearing, the machinery takes periodic maintenance and repair, and even the farmhouse may need re-shingling or painting. And the workers would most likely appreciate a hot meal. Yes, it's pretty, and the animals are charming, and the views of the open fields are inspiring, and these benefits are all wonderful – to be enjoyed after the expenditure of great time and effort. And this is good.

Thanks, AV.

Remembering Nancy Reagan

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

The passing of Nancy Reagan, a former First Lady who completely transformed the role and helped catapult her husband to greatness, marked the end of an era. Her death also happened to coincide with a turning point in the party that she and her husband helped resuscitate.



MOORE-SOBEL

Born Anne Frances Robbins in 1921 in New York City, her mother eventually left in pursuit of an acting career, leaving Nancy to fend for herself at a young age. Perhaps it made her feel lacking, but according to an article written by her daughter Patti Davis, she never let on. As Davis described it, Nancy revised "her own history with pale sweet colors." Sometimes the pain of the past is best concealed by cleverly constructed distortions of the truth.

Of course one cannot talk about Nancy without talking about Ronald. Even though she went on a date with the famed Clark Gable, he apparently did not hold a candle to the man who would become our 40th President of the United States. "My life didn't really begin until I met Ronnie," she touchingly wrote in *My Turn*, her 1989 autobiography. Theirs was a love story for the ages.

A brokenhearted Reagan met Nancy Davis after the demise of his first marriage to Jane Wyman. Reagan once declared that Nancy "saved my soul." Ironically, the strength of the love they shared may have led others to feel left out. Patti Davis, in an interview with Maria Shriver on the Today Show, described the feeling as "sort of like if a band of gypsies came and took me and Ron away, they would miss us, but they would be fine, they would go on." She went on to say that this did not mean the Reagan's did not love their children, but rather that "they were complete unto each other." Perhaps the Reagans loved each other a little too much.

Even so, the Reagan's love was undeniable and my bet would be that most men would give almost anything to have a woman look at him the way Nancy Reagan looked at her husband. That loving gaze that she so willingly cast upon the love of her life each time he spoke is etched into America's collective memory. Nancy Reagan was the supporting actress in the cast that appeared during most of the 1980's. She wasn't the main attraction, but as many declared after her death, Ronald Reagan's movie would likely not have moved out of production without her.

Nancy Reagan is known for having suffered far more under the limelight than her husband. Her refusal to live in the California Governor's Mansion after her husband was elected Governor in 1968 caused many Californians to view her as out of touch. Upon her arrival in Washington, her nice clothes and efforts to restore the White House were mocked. When it was revealed that she consulted with an

astrologer, it only served to harden the image created by her critics.

Yet her image seemed to soften as the years wore on, perhaps aided by the passage of time. Her courageous handling of her beloved's diagnosis with Alzheimer's certainly helped. She came to call the decade after his diagnosis the "long good bye" and spent every moment she could aiding her ailing husband. She even later became a supporter of stem-cell research; placing her at odds with the party she and her husband had helped shape.

Her passing was marked by many articles filled with words from Reagan staff members lauding the former President and First Lady. This was to be expected, an act that occurs after the passing of any historical figure. Yet it was striking to read the strong feelings of nostalgia expressed, painting a picture of a politics far different from our own. Almost every presidential candidate since the 1980's has paid lip-service to the Reagan legacy. When I interned at the Republican National Committee two summers ago, one got the sense that the party was still trying to recapture the magic of the Reagan years. "Reagan-Bush 84" signs were scattered throughout the building, and old Reagan memorabilia was being hawked on the campaign website. If only we could harken back to the Reagan era, the party seemed to be saying, when taxes were low and Republicans ruled supreme, our country could one day become great again.

At the time I found all of the Reagan nostalgia rather silly. It seemed long past time to move on and look towards the future. Yet the 2016 election cycle has begun to transform me into a Reaganite. I now find myself longing for the Reagan years, a desire to revisit the soaring rhetoric uttered by Reagan. My own journey with the Reagans began many years ago, scouring through pages and pages of reading material, trying to make sense of how these two came to help define a decade. Was it Reagan's eternal optimism? Was it Nancy's steely resolve in the face of Washington politics? Or was it both? The lesson of the life of Nancy Reagan may be that a man can only hope to achieve greatness with the assistance of an equally impressive woman.

Nancy Reagan will be remembered for the many elements that served to compose her life. Her campaign against drugs, her glamorous dresses and her protectiveness of her husband. Yet the very thing that stands above it all is her complete and absolute love for Ronald Reagan, a man who undeniably found his true love in Nancy Davis. May we all be so lucky to find someone who loves us as completely as Nancy loved her "Ronnie." I suspect that Nancy would not want to be remembered for anything less.

Samuel Moore-Sobel has spent many years reading biographies about the Reagans. He hopes that one day he will be able to share a deep and abiding love with someone, much like the love shared between Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

Amy and Dan Smith's Planning For Life How To "File and Suspend" Before It Is Too Late

With the recent changes to Social Security rules, filing and suspending will soon be phased out, but there's still time to take advantage of the strategy.

Here's a quick guide to maneuvering this rule while it still lasts, but as always, you should work with your financial advisor to discuss further how you can use this and other strategies in your financial plan.

The phasing-out of the file and suspend strategy:

Before these changes, filing and suspending offered a great opportunity for many couples to maximize their benefits. According to Social Security rules, spousal benefits can only be paid off a worker's record who has already filed for benefits. However, with the file and suspend strategy, one spouse who has reached full retirement age can file for Social Security Benefits and then immediately suspend the payment of those benefits. Using this strategy, the suspending spouse can file without having to receive their benefits-allowing their benefits to continue to grow (via delayed retirement credits until age 70), while their spouse can begin receiving spousal benefits.

Unfortunately, with the rule change, filing and suspending will no longer allow a spouse (or minor dependent) to claim benefits on the suspending spouse's earning records. The person who is filing will actually have to begin taking benefits in order for his or her spouse



AMY & DAN SMITH

or dependent children to be eligible for spousal or dependent benefits.

Who can file and suspend?

Trying to figure out if you make the cut? Here's what to know. The new law takes effect on April 29, 2016, so if you turn 66 by April 30, 2016 (Social Security deems you have attained your age one day before your birthday), you can file and suspend. If you make the deadline, your spouse will be able to collect benefits off your earnings while your own benefits are left to grow.

If you were born between April 30, 1950, and August 29, 1950:

Some experts believe that the April 29, 2016 deadline does not necessarily mean that a beneficiary must turn age 66 by then in order to "file and suspend." They argue since the Social Security Administration permits people to file their benefits application as much as four months in advance and there is a regulation that says if you're not yet entitled to a benefit you may still request that benefits be suspended. What they're saying in effect is that a worker reaching age 66 by August 29, 2016, could still effectively implement the file and suspend strategy.

Before you sign up:

If your birthday falls between April

30, 1950, and August 29, 1950, and you want to file and suspend, there are a few potential risks to be aware of. The SSA may not interpret the law changes to allow applications for people turning 66 after April 30, 2016, so there is a chance it will process your retirement benefit, while ignoring the request to suspend.

Additionally, if the SSA sees the timing as a missed deadline, it may grant your request to file and suspend, but not permit your spouse or children to collect on your work record, while our retirement benefits remain suspended.

TIP: Should you choose to attempt to take advantage of this strategy, pay close attention to your awards notice to ensure that everything has been processed and is working as you intended. If your request to file and suspend is denied, you can appeal the denial all the way up to the federal district court if necessary, however, this could be a long, messy process.

The foregoing contains general information only and is not intended to convey investment advice. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, an independent firm, CFP, CIMA, offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. (Tel.703-669-5022, www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com) Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James.

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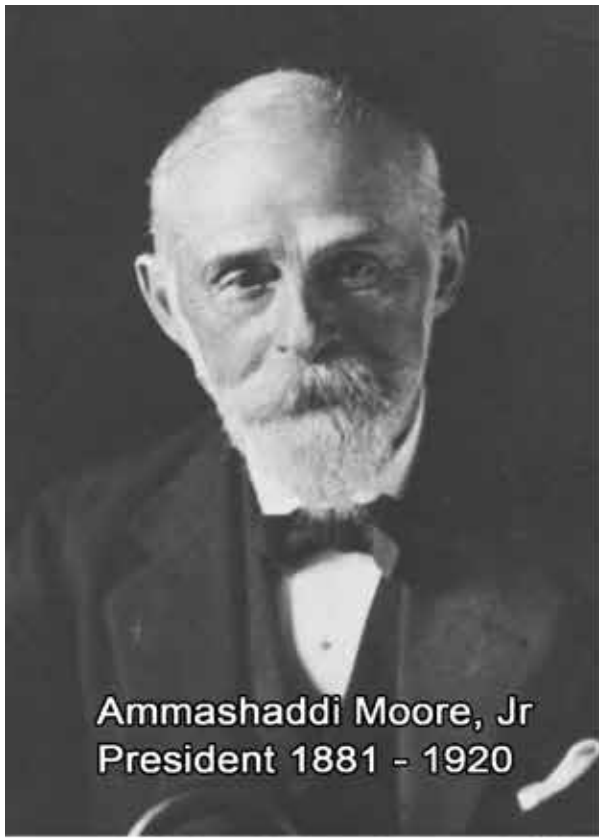
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Loudoun County Board of Supervisors: bos@loudoun.gov or call 703-777-0200

Purcellville's Vote Counts
May 3rd



Ammashaddi Moore, Jr
President 1881 - 1920



The year is 1881. Anton Bruckner, Johannes Brahms, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Camille Saint-Saens are all actively composing. Clara Barton founds the American Red Cross while Booker T. Washington founds Tuskegee Institute.

Out west, Bat Masterson fights his last gun battle in Dodge City, Kansas. Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday enter into a gunfight with the Clantons that becomes known as the "Shoot-out at the O.K. Corral". Billy the Kid and Jesse James both meet their tragic ends. Sioux indian chief Sitting Bull surrenders to U. S. Federal troops. President James Garfield is assassinated and Chester Arthur assumes the presidency.

And in Berryville, Virginia, Bank of Clarke County opens its doors on April 1st.

A lot has happened since those tumultuous days. But through it all, there has been one constant in the area - the continuously successful operation of Bank of Clarke in the local communities. From its humble beginnings with \$10,000.00 in capital, Bank of Clarke has grown to be a regional community bank with twelve branches in Clarke, Frederick and Loudoun Counties, the City of Winchester and the towns of Leesburg, Stephens City and Purcellville.

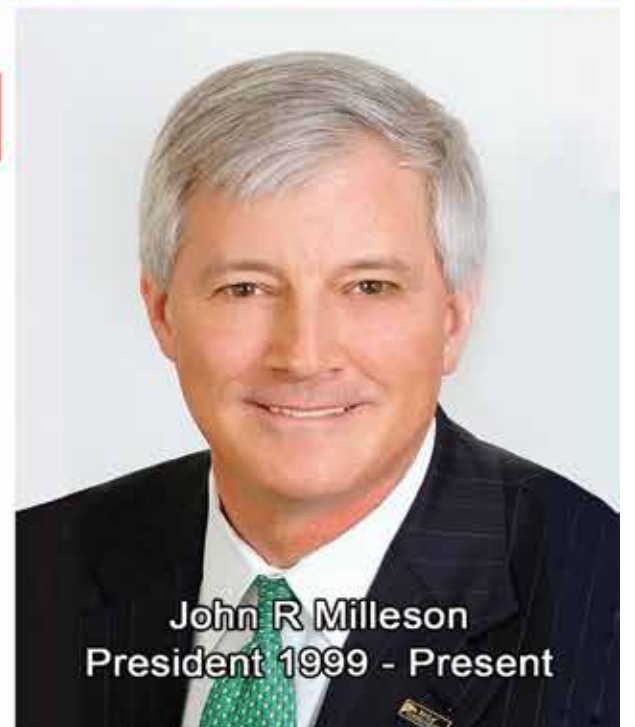
What has caused this record-setting success? To put it simply, knowing your past helps to navigate your future. The board, officers and staff build on this legacy each and every day. Over the years, constants have emerged - the desire to deliver the best service possible, combined with offering a full line of products and services that meet the ever-changing needs of its customers. Along with unbridled support for the local communities, this has been a recipe for success as Bank of Clarke County prepares to kick off its 135th year of continuous service.

Looking for a bank with staying power? One that's strong, sound and solid? Conservative AND progressive? One that respects its past and steers its future with valuable lessons learned? One that knows that a bank is only as successful as the towns it serves and therefore strives to make those communities the best they can be? Then Bank of Clarke County is your obvious choice.



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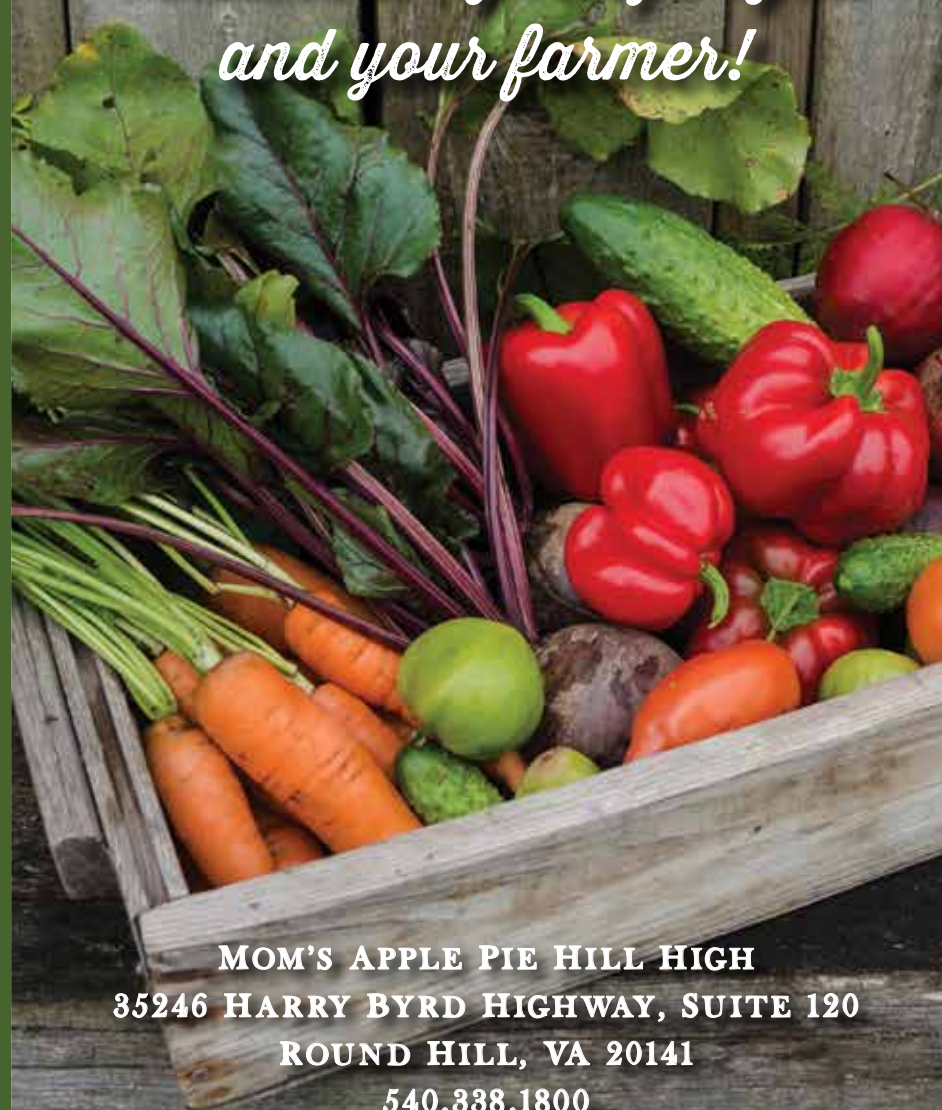
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Leesburg Flower And Garden Festival

Leesburg has scheduled its annual Flower and Garden Festival for April 16 and 17. Over 120 vendors will display their landscape designs, gardening supplies, outdoor living items, plants, flowers and herbs. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The Flower and Garden Festival will host two entertainment stages. The Main Stage, located on the Loudoun County Courthouse grounds, will feature acoustic performers all day on Saturday and Sunday. The music kicks off on Saturday with local favorite Gary Smallwood. The second stage is located in the Children's Area on Cornwall Street. The Children's Stage will feature interactive, live entertainment all day Saturday and on Sunday afternoon. In addition to the entertainment, children can paint large wooden animal cut-outs, create a garden marker, or participate in one of the other crafts available in this area.

While at the festival, visitors can vote for their favorite landscape display in the People's Choice Landscape Competition. Ballots can be picked up at the entrance booths or at the Gazebo. Completed ballots should be placed in the birdhouse at the



Gazebo by noon on Sunday so that the winner can be announced that afternoon.

There is a \$3 suggested donation per person. Donations can be made at the festival entrance booths. To see photos from the festivities, check out the event Facebook page at www.facebook.com/flowerandgarden. For more information call Ida Lee Park Recreation Center at 703 777-1368 or visit www.flowerandgarden.org.

Conservation, continued from page 1

typically are motivated to do so to take advantage of the federal and state tax breaks or to restrict it from development. In general municipalities do not receive any financial benefit from conservation easements.

In 2014, Friends of the Purcellville Watershed, a group of outdoor enthusiasts, began lobbying the Town Council to replace the current town-employee only access policy with a policy that welcomes the public to the property. In June 2014, the previous Town Council, including current members Joan Lehr, Patrick McConville, and John Nave, unanimously affirmed a position that no trails would be established on the reservoir property.

Although many conservation easements do not allow for public access onto private property, they can, and some do. The Purcellville reservoir, however, is public property and typically the terms of an easement are up to the landowner and the land trust. Since early last year, there has been little movement on the initiative to allow the public use of the property by the Friends of the Purcellville Watershed.

In researching the Conservation Easement on the property and its permitted uses, it was discovered that the vote on March 10, 2009, to place the 1,272 acres in Conservation Easement, did not receive the required supermajority vote.

According to Article 7, Section 9 of the Virginia Constitution, local governments need a supermajority vote—or three-quarters—to transfer land. The agenda packet for the meeting of March 10, 2009

included the statement that “the Attorney General has opined that a permanent conservation easement is tantamount to the sale of public property” which required a supermajority vote.

The agenda for that night reaffirmed the vote required a supermajority, which was “at least three-fourths of all members elected to the Town Council, or, in this case, at least, six votes.” Council member Wiley made the motion, which carried by only five votes, with Council member Steve Varnecky voting nay and Council member Greg Wagner absent for the vote, according to the meeting minutes. Current Council member and mayoral candidate, Joan Lehr, was serving on the council and voted to approve the motion.

The deed of easement was filed on Earth Day, April 22, 2009.

Moving ahead to June 24, 2014, the Town Council took a vote on the approval of a conservation easement with the Piedmont Environmental Council, Lazaro's former employer, on a 5 acre parcel of land that was donated to the town. The circumstances were the same as in 2009 (6 council members present and a 5-1-1 vote). Lacking the supermajority vote, the Town Attorney added, “This motion needs six favorable votes to pass,” which they did not get, therefore no easement was ever filed.

Former elected town officials failed to follow government regulations and procedures in 2009. The question then becomes, does the lack of a supermajority vote invalidate the conservation easement to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation?

Loudoun Valley's Julia McNamara Meditating Through The Marvels Of High School

— By Amanda Clark



Julia McNamara, a sophomore at Loudoun Valley High School, has begun to deal with her stress and anxieties by practicing a type of meditation called Mindfulness. Mindfulness is derived from a 2,500 year old Buddhist practice called Vipassana and is designed to develop the skill of paying attention to inner and outer experiences with acceptance, patience, and compassion.

McNamara says, “Mindfulness is connecting with the present moment in an attentive way. It helps to focus the mind and destress.”

“My mom wanted to become a mindfulness instructor and so as she progressed to her goal, I picked up a little along the way as well,” she says. She has read mindfulness books and has even been on a retreat. McNamara says, “On this retreat for teens, I learned mindful walking, eating, and smelling. I also had my first formal sit with a group.” When discussing how she first learned to walk mindfully she says, “I was so worried about running into someone else and I felt really self-conscious about how I looked that I didn't really pay attention to the sensations I was feeling. Once I was able to stop worrying about people around me, it was pretty cool.”

By focusing on something simple like

walking, McNamara was able to tune in to the amount of focus and balance that it takes to stand still. “We take walking for granted so to be able to really focus on it and what it felt like to stand and feel the ground beneath me, it was awesome,” she says. She says it felt like she “had never walked

before and this was her first time really and truly experiencing it.” This retreat helped her deal with complicated emotions and taught her how to focus her mind and be in the present moment.

She says, “Mindfulness has taught me many things and I am thankful for the opportunity to learn more about it. Especially as teenagers, we don't have it easy, and mindfulness has helped me realize this and has helped me deal with all sorts of emotions.” McNamara relies on Mindfulness when she is stressed or overwhelmed and is able to sort her emotions out saying “I feel more confident as a person.”

If anyone is interested in learning mindfulness, there is a 6 week course coming up at Odium Wine Cellars every Sunday from April 3rd- May 15 from 10-11:30 a.m. The course will be run by Julia's mom LeAnne McNamara and will help with anxiety and stress reduction. Half of the session will be also be a calming yoga portion. For further information or to sign up for the class contact LeAnne at 919-946-3306 or familymcnamara@aol.com.



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Spring Home Improvement

– By Andrea Gaines

mundane home improvement projects when you've done something good for the soul.

Experts say that the most basic of home improvement projects – rather than that awesome new kitchen – are the best financial investments.

This is particularly important coming off the hard winter we've had. Roofs and gutters might need attention, painting touchups and smaller wood and fence repairs may be called for, the driveway may need to be resurfaced etc., etc.



Spring is also the time to consider the fun things that occupy your home improvement wish list.

With both the practical and playful in mind, here's a possible checklist for April:

First, Act On Your Dreams ... Even The Little Ones. Every homeowner has that favorite project they've wanted to get to for a while. The room you've wanted to redo, that new garden or vegetable bed you've wanted to add, the well-used couch that would look great with some new pillows or a new slipcover, the new wall treatment you've wanted to try, the room or area you've wanted to make into a home office. Do something about it that dream, even if it's to just sketch out the ideas in your head. Sometimes it's easier to complete the more

Do Tend To Those Gutters. Winter snow and melting ice can do a number on your gutters. Have them checked by a professional or clean them out yourself, making a note of which ones need repairs. Check downspouts and drains inside and out, too, making sure that all are doing their job to move and keep water and debris away from siding, foundations and basements.

Small And Large Repairs. Inspect the wood trim around windows and doors, your railings and decks, your fencing, driveways and walkways. Making repairs and getting painting touchups done now, and getting estimates/timing recommendations from a professional if needed, will ensure the spring rains don't do more damage.

Your Roof, Chimney And Heating System. Check your roof shingles, chimney, flashing and skylights for winter damage. Get the most pressing things fixed now, and if you haven't done so, get started on a budget for eventual roof replacement and/or major repairs. Have your chimney flue cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep. And, have your furnace checked, too.

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April In The Garden: Be A Freestyle Beekeeper

– By Andrea Gaines

As the sun's lengthening days settle us into the spring, newborn bees and their caretakers are emerging from their hives and going to work, collecting pollen and nectar and replenishing the colony's food stores.

Along the way, any number of the 60,000 or so bees that make up a single hive may be stopping by your garden or yard to gather food from early-blooming flowers and trees – promoting biodiversity, setting seed and fruit production into motion and enhancing the overall health of your garden and landscape.

These early bee food sources are all around us, in common flowers such as crocuses, hellebores, hyacinth, violets, native anemone and wild strawberry, and in common trees and shrubs such as alder, willow, cherry, poplar, quince and redbud. As you prune, snip and clear in your yard, the bees are there working right alongside you.

There are about 4,000 species of native or wild bees in the U.S., including bumblebees, carpenter bees, sweat bees, leafcutter bees and mason bees. At least 150 crops grown in the U.S. depend on pollinators like bees, including apples, almonds, blueberries, citrus, melons, pears, plums, pumpkins and squash.



Pollinators are also vital to the plants we use to feed our livestock, and to fiber-producing plants such as cotton.

But, regardless of where your bees came from – a wild hive, a commercial beekeeper's hive, or a hive managed by one of western Loudoun's hundreds of bee

hobbyists (individuals and families with less than 25 hives) – they depend on you.

As the gardener, landscaper, lawnmower or tree-trimmer in chief ... you are what I call a freestyle beekeeper. And, it is both easy and rewarding to give bees and other pollinators the food, habitat and environmental protections they need to do the job you depend upon them for:

Plant with bees in mind: Fill your garden with natives and the plants bees and other pollinators love. These and other favorites include Alyssum, Bee Balm, Butterfly Weed, Clover, Echinacea (coneflower), Sunflowers, Geranium, Hysop, poppies and Rudbeckia (black-eyed Susan). Bees will remember and return time and time again to highly rewarding, easily recognized flowerbeds. Is there a place in your yard or garden where turf or a more human-focused space can be replaced with a swath of pollinator favorites?

Clear, mow and weed with caution: Grassy areas, meadow and woodland edges, and fence lines and hedgerows that appear a little unkempt can be very good for bees and other pollinators. High and low landscape patches with a diverse array of clover, dandelion, buttercup, violets, black-eyed Susan, goldenrod,

Queen Anne's lace and asters are food to a bee. Small brush piles, and areas with dry grasses and reeds, dead wood and muddy areas are habitat to a bee. Is a place in your yard or garden you can simply forego mowing this summer?

Avoid synthetic pesticides and go organic: Natural pesticides and fertilizers are not just poor substitutes for the real thing ... they are working their way into the mainstream as the better, healthier alternative. Start by eliminating the worst offenders (See our note in this article about dangerous Neonicotinoids). Experiment by releasing and/or cultivating ladybugs, spiders and praying mantises in your garden. Have you wanted to go the organic route for a while? Make this spring and summer the time you commit to making the transition.

When it comes to bees and freestyle beekeeping, there are lots of unobserved things going on in your garden and yard that serve and can take care of bees with little or no effort from you. These include un-mowed patches that are holding in extra moisture, small, flowering offering nectar and pollen, piles of wood, twigs and other organic materials that are providing nesting places and shelter.

This year, take on the mantle of freestyle beekeeper. And, enjoy April in the garden.

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Comstock Announces 2016 Congressional Art Competition

Congresswoman Barbara Comstock has announced the 2016 Congressional Art Competition for Virginia's 10th Congressional District. The competition is open to high school students who reside in the District. The Best in Show winner of the competition will have their piece of art displayed in the United States Capitol and runners up will be invited to have their pieces of art displayed in the Congresswoman's office. Congresswoman Comstock is a member of the Congressional Art Caucus and started the House Arts Caucus in the Virginia General Assembly.

"As a Member of the House Arts Caucus, I particularly enjoy the

opportunity to invite our young people to participate in the annual Congressional Arts Competition," said Comstock. "We had a wonderful Congressional Art Competition last year with over 180 submissions from students throughout the 10th District that reflected a wide variety of artistic expressions. This nationwide high school art competition allows us to encourage and recognize artistic talent throughout our district."

Students should drop-off their completed artwork on April 11 between 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Enterprise Hall on the George Washington

Virginia Science & Technology Campus. All art submitted will be on display from April 12 to May 12 in Enterprise Hall. Art submitted must be ready to hang and entries are limited to two per student. On the evening of May 2, the First, Second, Third, Honorable Mention, and Best In Show awards will be announced.

For information and guidelines about the 2016 Congressional Art Competition, please go to Congresswoman Comstock's website or contact Lucy Norment in the Congresswoman's office at 703-404-6903 or by email at Lucy.Norment@mail.house.gov.

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A Look Into What Is Learned In High School English

– By Mary Rose Lunde



English is the arguably the most important subject for a student in high school to learn. The most successful people in the world have one thing in common — being able to communicate effectively. This is what English teaches. Learning how to use the language effectively helps students develop their unique perspective on the world.

One of the most important authors in literary history died in February 2016. She wrote the famous novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a literary work of art that almost every student reads in his or her freshmen English class. It is a product of true literary genius. A class covering this work reveals to students how people add value to the world in unexpected ways and illustrate well how engaging in hypocrisy and being judgmental can hold us all back.

Fast forward to sophomore year where British literature is everything. This year's English class focuses on classics such as *Beowulf* and

Macbeth. Acting out the Shakespeare play is fun and learning about the history behind the tale, is exciting. The intricate details and hidden meanings in the play show students to look beyond what they see.

The next class, Advanced Placement Language, focuses on the rhetoric of words. Why do words elicit a specific effect? Take a look at any speech given, what kind of language is used to relate to a person's emotions, credibility, and logical reasoning? Why learn this? Well, because everyone needs to learn how to persuade people in order to be a successful leader.

The final piece of the puzzle in high school English is Advanced Placement Literature. This was my favorite class. It is a deep commentary about what life is and why it needs to be lived. Look into the eyes of characters and see the world from their perspective. This class teaches students how to write with their own voice while advocating an argument and supporting it with evidence. It teaches how to get through life, choose a position and back it up with actions.



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What You Don't Know About Propane That Can Save You Money

- By Dale K. Schulz



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Adjusted for BTUs, propane costs about \$1 a gallon less than either home heating oil or diesel. This is why school districts around the country are converting their school bus fleets to operate on propane. It is not only saving them money, but equally important propane burns cleaner than diesel.

People who don't own their propane tank pay significantly more than those who own their tank and in some cases, \$2 a gallon more. In effect, people who don't own their tank are subsidizing the price of those who do own their tank. Over the lifetime of homeownership, you could pay \$15 - \$20K more for propane if you don't own your tank, than your neighbors who do own their

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If you are leasing a tank and don't use what the propane company has projected you should use, you will be charged a minimum usage fee at the end of the winter season. The number one reason for your not using the minimum is typically due to a warmer than normal winter. This fee can be \$200-\$300. The winter was milder than usual in 2011-2012 and thousands of propane users were billed minimum usage fees in April. Hunt Country Propane does not have a MUF. Read your contract and see if you have a minimum usage fee. It's not reasonable - you don't control the weather.

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Dale Schulz is President of Hunt Country Propane and can be reached at 540 687-3608. Hunt Country Propane is a small, local propane company that currently delivers in Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William, Clarke, Culpeper and Frederick Counties in Virginia. It only takes a five-minute call to switch.

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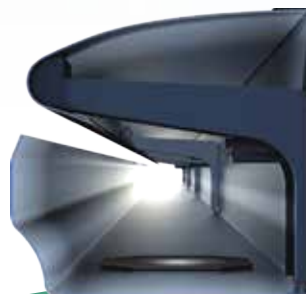
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High School English, continued from page 18

Why am I saying this? Well, it seems that people are becoming more and more critical of English in high school. More and more people are advocating limits on how much English teachers can teach. How successful can they be if they are limited to only certain topics? Why can't we teach high school students who are learning how to deal with the world something that will actually help them become better people?

English is not a subject in which one answer fits all, it is a subject that knows no bounds. English is the subject that allows a person to think for themselves and to follow what they believe. It allows for creativity to reach its peak and for students to learn

how to communicate what they need to effectively. Teachers need to be able to teach students these lessons that will impact them for the rest of their lives.

The English classes I took in high school changed my life. They taught me what living means and how to look at the world. I may be biased in saying that English is important, but, as a college student, the best lessons I've taken are in English because they aren't just right or wrong, they are life.

Mary Rose Lunde is a sophomore currently taking Acts of Interpretation, which focuses on literary and rhetorical analysis. She wouldn't trade the knowledge she got from her high school AP English classes.



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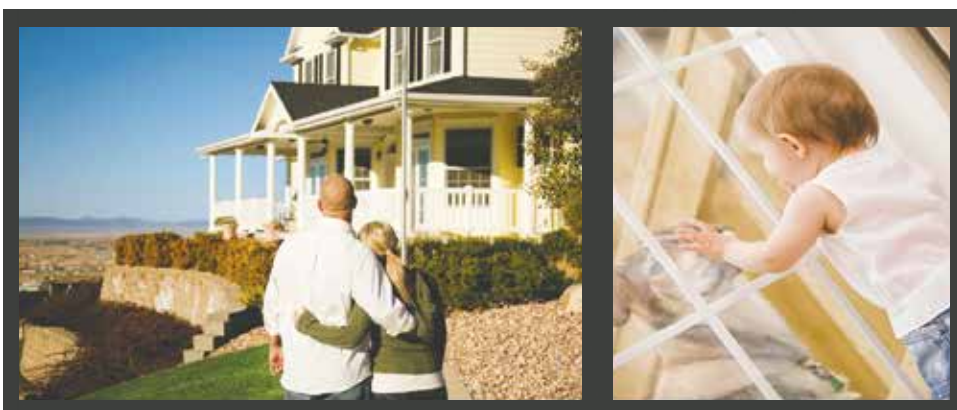
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*****PURCELLVILLE CANDIDATE QUESTIONS – MAYOR*****

Kwasi Fraser



FRASER

Blue Ridge Leader:
Why are you running for Mayor and if re-elected what will be your goals and priorities?

Mayor Kwasi Fraser: My primary reason for running for re-election is to serve the citizens of Purcellville. As your Mayor, I want to continue to deliver exceptional town services and make our community the best place in which to live. Exploring creative solutions in managing the town finances, making sure that the financial position of the town is protected, and that our budget reflects only the government we need, will continue to be a priority. I listen with respect and tackle problems thoughtfully and honestly, and will strive to lead Purcellville through the next few years of tremendous challenge and opportunity.

Relative to my goals and priorities, we need innovative and realistic solutions that are not focused solely on growing our way out of debt. I intend to continue to advance solutions I have already initiated during my first term.

Working with the Department of

Environmental Quality to obtain economic value from our \$40 Million wastewater treatment facility through effluent reclamation. Today, 500,000 gallons of treated water flows into our creek, and a percentage of that water can be reclaimed and used for the town's agricultural, industrial, and commercial purposes.

To reduce the need for water rate increases, continue to seek alignment with the Loudoun County Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce to expand our bulk water sale program. Some council members opposed this program yet offered no immediate alternative solution to monetize our excess water. Since the current program was not well promoted, I am working with the county and staff to aggressively market it to potential clients.

I recommended during my term the need for an operational audit of Purcellville's major departments to establish a baseline and to implement recommended corrective actions. Although a triple-A rating and our various awards are commendable, these do not provide an opportunity to shrink the town budget or find saving. Reevaluating our processes may prevent costly decisions and spending to give the

town more opportunity to invest in capital improvements that the public desires, such as more sidewalks, improving traffic patterns in town, and improved services

Stay the course with our asset management strategy. Purcellville has over \$120 million in assets, some of which are dormant and should be contributing more economic value. For example, the Aberdeen property is almost 189 acres and only 10 acres is needed. Dialogue has begun on potential revenue generating enterprises such as leasing to a wireless tower company, a partnership with Virginia Dominion Power for a low profile solar array, a drone flight academy, or a sale to pay off exorbitant debt.

BRL: What are the three most important issues facing Purcellville, and what would you do to address them?

KF: First and foremost, we must have fiscal prudence with taxpayer's dollars to preserve Purcellville's long-term financial security. Some of my colleagues adhere to a flawed paradigm that growth is the only way to pay down debt. I am advancing sound alternatives to stay true to the core values of our citizens and our Comprehensive Plan.

Older sections of Purcellville have been experiencing storm water issues, a situation which may cost millions to remedy. I have


requested an inventory of all impacted areas while exploring potential funding sources to provide immediate relief.

Traffic congestion. Daily, we experience congested streets, especially along the Hirst Road and Main Street corridors. I will continue to work with our Board of Supervisors on ways to advance the construction of the Rte. 690 and Rte. 7 Interchange to ease this congestion.

BRL: What is your vision for the future of Purcellville regarding historic places, resources, and community character?

KF: My vision for Purcellville's future is guided by the voices of the majority of our citizens. I envision continued preservation of our heritage assets such as Fireman's Field. When possible and financially feasible, we should convert one of our legacy assets such as the train station or the Dillon house into a working museum to tell Purcellville's story, then and now. Relative to our resources and community character, I look to the emblems on our Purcellville seal: the bushel of wheat, the key, and the library. The bushel of wheat represents our ongoing agricultural heritage which is being revived by the winery, craft brewery, and farm markets. The symbol of the key represents a welcoming community. As

continued on page 33



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FRASER

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MAY 3, 2016 TOWN ELECTIONS VOTER INFORMATION

The **DEADLINE** to register to vote in the upcoming May 3, 2016, elections is Monday, April 11.

REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE at www.vote.virginia.gov (have your driver's license ready).

ABSENTEE BALLOTS for the town elections are now available. Last day to apply to have a ballot mailed to you is Tuesday, April 26, 5 p.m. Last day to vote absentee in person is Saturday, April 30.

POLLING PLACES AND TIMES: Vote at your normal polling location with the exception of the Town of Purcellville, where all voters will vote at Emerick Elementary School, 444 S. Nursery Avenue. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/QUESTIONS/REGISTRATION FORMS/TO VOTE ABSENTEE contact or visit the Voter Registration Office in Leesburg: Judy Brown, General Registrar, 750 Miller Dr. SE, Suite C, Leesburg, VA 20175-8916. Ph: 703 777-0380, Fx: 703 777-0622, Hours, Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices And Candidates On The Ballot:

Hamilton – Three Council Members (4 year terms)

Candidates: Town Council – Matthew L. Clark, John D. Unger and Kenneth C. Wine
Lovettsville – Mayor (2 year term), Three Council Members (4 year terms)

Candidates: Mayor – Robert J. Zoldos, II, Town Council – Robert D. Gentile, Michael T. Senate and Jim D. McIntyre

Middleburg – Mayor (2 year term), Three Council Members (4 year terms)

Candidates: Mayor – Betsey Allen Davis; Town Council – J. Kevin Daly, Trowbridge M. Littleton, Phillip M. Miller and Tony C. Pearce

Purcellville – Mayor (2 year term), Three Council Members (4 year terms), Special Election to elect a Council Member for a 2 year term due to a vacancy on the Council

Candidates: Mayor – Kwasi A. Fraser and Joan S. Lehr, Town Council – T. Chris Bledsoe, Sam P. Chapman, Ryan J. Cool, Chris J. Hamilton, Patrick F. McConville, II, John A. Nave and Nedim Ogleman; Town Council Special Election, 1 vacancy for a two-year term – Melanie A. Fuller, Kelli M. Grim and Sandy C. Nave

Round Hill – Mayor (2 year term), Three Council Members (4 year terms)

Candidates: Mayor – Scott T. Ramsey; Town Council – Kim D. Fortunato, Mary Anne K. Graham, Mike K. Minshall. For more information go to www.loudoun.gov/elections or call 703 777-0380.

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Joan Lehr

Joan Lehr, her husband and two children, moved to Purcellville in 2002. They expanded the family business by opening Purcellville Copy in 2004. Lehr has been a member of the board of the Purcellville Business Association for 10 years. She is also a member of the Purcellville Rotary and has served the Town of Purcellville as Planning Commissioner and as a member of the Town Council for the past 10 years.



LEHR

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running for Mayor and if elected what will be your goals and priorities?

Joan Lehr: After 8 years on Town Council (2 as Vice Mayor), 2 years on the Planning Commission, and membership on Committees, I understand the Town government and how to work together with members of council and the community. I can provide the much needed leadership for council members, residents and businesses to work together.

My priorities are listed below:

BRL: What are the three most important issues facing Purcellville and what would you do to address the issues?

JL: There is one major issue, strong leadership. Providing that leadership will ensure that we manage growth to balance quality of life with local economic needs, maintain our strong financial position, and maintain control of historic and irreplaceable assets.

Purcellville has little undeveloped land inside our current borders. The development of those parcels, and adding in the surrounding parcels would not “Leesburg” Purcellville. Controlling the development on those parcels will keep us a small town.

Due to my efforts on previous councils, Purcellville earned AAA/AA Bond Ratings which allow the Town to service our debt at the lowest possible interest rates. These ratings matter, as they allowed us to equalize taxes rather than raising them. Maintaining the fiscal policies that got us to this point is critical.

Fireman’s Field, Bush Tabernacle, the Train Station and our watershed are irreplaceable assets. We have placed them in Conservation and Historic Easements. We need to continue to maintain control of them and protect them.

BRL: What is your vision for the future

of Purcellville in regards to historic places, resources, and community character?

JL: It is not just the structures which provide our Town its character; it is the residents, the business owners and the visitors. Previous councils had the foresight to place the watershed and Fireman’s Field in conservation easements. I will not support efforts to sell these treasures. It is these assets that bring people to Purcellville. People come to an event, then to shop or eat, and then perhaps, to live. These assets are part of what keeps our Town vibrant, which protects our home values.

BRL: The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that preserving and protecting the small town character is the core of the community. How will you work to ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision?

JL: The character of our small town comes from its residents and business owners. A visit to the grocery store can take an hour, because you meet someone you know in every aisle. You sit down in a restaurant and your beverage (water with lemon) appears like magic. You cannot zone for people’s character, you can zone to ensure that “big box” stores don’t show up on our borders. You can zone to create a buffer around town. We need to work with the vision of the residents of the town, listen to their ideas, and update our plan accordingly.

BRL: To what extent do you feel that population growth and development is necessary for Purcellville?

JL: Growth needs to be managed to keep our water and sewer rates and our real estate taxes stable. Without some growth, either in town or outside of town, stability is not possible. My vision is that we keep commercial development in town, through infill and redevelopment. Residential growth, on the parcels outside of town, can create a buffer around our borders.

BRL: What is your general opinion on annexations? Should Purcellville grow its borders?

JL: It is important to control the development of the few remaining tracts of land that sit inside and outside our current borders. Annexation provides that control. If the land is developed in the county, the Town receives no proffers or utility fees when it is developed, but the Town receives the traffic and other issues that go along with development.

BRL: How about Purcellville’s \$60M

debt – how would/have you address this?

JL: Due to the age of existing infrastructure, Federal and State mandates required the Town to make, unfunded improvements. Previous councils took the necessary steps to address infrastructure shortcomings and the Town incurred debt. The credit rating agencies have evaluated the Town’s fiscal condition, including that debt burden, and rated our community in the top tiers of fiscally managed governments.

Each of us has a mortgage, car payment, credit cards, college loans, etc. Most of us pay 25 percent or more of our income on debt retirement. The Town is no different. The Town pays ~20 percent toward debt retirement. Unfortunately, roofs only last 20 years, water heaters 10. Our public facilities have typical lifespans of 30 to 40 years. If we take on no debt, we would be debt free in 2034 (18 years). We need to pre-plan for future infrastructure improvements, pay cash when we can.

BRL: Town Staff has proposed looking into the possibility of the county buying Fireman’s Field. Your thoughts? How about the Fireman’s Field Tax District that was put in place in 2013?

JL: The staff report presented council options for Fireman’s Field. It is the council’s decision to move one of those options forward or to do something totally different. The mayor voted to sell Fireman’s Field to the county, I did not. Under the existing lease, the county provides scheduling and maintenance for the main baseball stadium. Through working with former Supervisor Janet Clarke, previous councils were able to obtain county funding towards construction of the Maintenance Building and other onetime projects. Council needs to work with the county to find the best structure for our continued relationship.

The Tax District was put in place to separately account for parks/recreation facilities, events and their debt service. The facilities include: Train Station, Bush Tabernacle, Fireman’s Field, and green spaces. The events include Christmas in Purcellville, Wine and Food Festival, Music and Arts Festival, events at the Train Station, etc. Prior to the creation of the Tax District, these expenses were paid from the General Fund. The Tax District did not change what we were paying. It only separated it for accounting purposes. The assets and events that are supported by this Fund are things that we as residents, hold near and dear to our hearts. Based on our survey and my conversations with residents, they want to maintain and protect these assets and events.

BRL: The majority on town council

recently approved the purchase of the financial software Munis, at the cost of \$400,000. Did you support this? Why or why not?

JL: I did support this. The \$400,000 expense will come from our Unassigned Fund Balance. This fund was specifically created for items such as replacing a system or asset using cash rather than new borrowing. The Town has been working on updating/replacing our current system for 4+ years. The existing computer software has been having failures to the degree that we can no longer ignore. The software system controls tax bills, utility payments, and other day to day financial transactions. The system we are putting in place will last 10 years, or longer. It will give us the ability to do on line payments and the opportunity for greater transparency.

BRL: Were the zoning use changes recently passed by the majority on council good for Purcellville?

JL: Yes, this was important for multiple reasons. This was the last task that needed to be completed after the Comprehensive Plan review done in 2011. This process implemented a grid format for the Uses. You can now look at a Use and see all the Districts that it is allowable in or at a District and see all the Uses that are allowable in it. This made the process much simpler for both the residents and the business owners. The consultant working with us to complete the current Comprehensive Plan Review felt that the work done on the Uses will make the current process simpler.

BRL: State the two main reasons that someone should vote for you.

I will provide the leadership needed to move Purcellville into the future. My living, working (owning a small business in town) and volunteering in Purcellville makes me aware of the needs of our residents, our businesses and our visitors. I have the ability to work with those on all sides of an issue.

My campaign slogan has always been “Issues Change, Values Don’t”. I will continue to maintain my high level of core values to ensure that I make the right decisions, for all residents and businesses, on issues that impact the future of Purcellville.



★★★★★★ **PURCELLVILLE CANDIDATE QUESTIONS - TOWN COUNCIL** ★★★★★★

Patrick McConville



MCCONVILLE

Patrick McConville moved to Purcellville in June 2009 from Sterling, and grew up in the Northern Virginia area for 38 years. He has worked in the land surveying industry for almost 20 years and currently works for Bowman Consulting. He enjoys history of the land and some of the unique descriptions one can find when doing research. He has been on the Purcellville Town Council for 4 years.

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running for Town Council?

Patrick McConville: I am running for re-election because I feel that over the past four years we need the experience I have obtained going into our next 4 years on Council. We have issues such as our debt, water/sewer rates and traffic along Main Street to work with. I want to continue to help put programs in place that keep the community coming together. I appreciate all that Purcellville and its citizens have to offer and want to build on those assets.

BRL: What are the three most important issues facing Purcellville and what would you do to address the issues?

PM: Water/Sewer Rates, Growth and Taxes. Addressing these issues is a challenging job. Water and Sewer Rates will continue to grow unless we sell our water/sewer availabilities or connections to new development. We need to add more users to the system to spread the cost. See the presentation by MFSG,

our utilities consultant, that was given on March 15, 2016. With the continued improvements/regulations, and renewal of permits for the system that will be in front of us, we need to put more cash into the coffers to cover the costs. By adding more people to cover the costs of overall Town services, the taxes get spread out more as well.

BRL: The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that preserving and protecting the small town character is the core of the community. How will you work to ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision?

PM: By developing programs to get families to come together whether it's the Music and Arts Festival, the Baseball games at Firemans Field, the Halloween Block Party, etc. Development regulations exist so that features within an area are incorporated into the design. I feel, that the people in Town, give off the Small Town Feel. Seeing families at local sports games, running into our friends at Sweet Frog or the Grocery store and having a conversation is what builds that "feel".

BRL: What is your general opinion on annexations? Should Purcellville grow its borders?

PM: My general opinion is, does Purcellville want the benefits of controlling the zoning of the parcel of land. There will be impacts to our community with any outside development. I look at potential benefits and upgrades to our existing infrastructure at the cost of the

developer and not the Town residents.

BRL: How about Purcellville's \$60M debt – how would/have you address this?

PM: Over the past 4 years we have looked at various additional revenue streams to help pay for some of the debt. Overall there is a plan in place to take care of our debt. I am looking at refinancing the balloon payments in 2020/2021 of the utilities and Fireman's Field. I look for more sustainable sources of revenue rather than one time deals. If we are looking out for the best outcome for our citizens, we need to find sustainable resources.

BRL: Town Staff has proposed looking into the possibility of the county buying Fireman's Field. Your thoughts? How about the Fireman's Field Tax District that was put in place in 2013?

PM: Absolutely not... Growing up I spent most of my time at the baseball fields and hanging out with my friends. There is a bonding experience and sense of pride that comes with the facility. The parking lot, Haske Field, Bush Tabernacle and Dillon's Woods are all part of the 16 acres, not just inside the fence. The County has told us that they have no interest in purchasing the facility, they already maintain the grounds. What I would be willing to sit down with the County and discuss, is how to get more utilization out of the facility and get us some revenue or maintenance funds for the shared resource.

BRL: The majority on town council recently approved the purchase of the financial software Munis, at the cost of \$400,000. Did you or do you support this? Why or why not?

PM: Yes I supported this purchase. Over the past

4 years I have heard many complaints from staff about the existing system and how it is outdated. Did I have a hard time swallowing the price tag, absolutely, but is it the best choice with future benefits, efficiency, and reliability, absolutely.

BRL: Were the zoning use changes recently passed by the majority on council good for Purcellville?

PM: Yes, it eliminated contradicting information within our zoning ordinance, it better defined the uses within districts. I am not one to believe that the hard work done by the planning commission over the past 2 years was to put Purcellville in bad light. The Planning Commission's purpose was to enhance Purcellville. The Council appointed these Commissioners because we felt that they are the best citizens for the task.

BRL: State the two main reasons that someone should vote for you.

PM: At the end of the day, this community isn't about me or my opinions, I am willing to sit down and discuss with anybody to help find the best solution. My beliefs, Purcellville knowledge, work experiences and discussions with citizens at the soccer fields, grocery store or even gas station help me to form my opinion. Knowing all the facts and challenges before us as a community gives me some insight into the future. I am a part of this community just like yourself. I can be found helping rake a baseball field, at a boy scout camp or helping coach on the soccer fields. I love to volunteer and help others. I know I can't make everyone happy; each person is unique with their own experiences that mold their opinions. We all have varying ideas of what tomorrow will look like.



John Nave



JOHN NAVE

John, his wife Sandy and their two children, moved to Purcellville from Atlanta Georgia 13 years ago. They both grew up in a small town very similar to Purcellville – and that's why they chose Purcellville for their home. Nave works for the Library of Congress. He has served on the Purcellville Town Council for 5 years (1 year to fill a vacant council seat and 4 years as an elected official).

BRL: Why are you running for Town Council?

John Nave: I have listened to the people of Purcellville. I will continue to do that. I have based my decisions on the input from citizens; that is what I was elected to do. I take that responsibility very seriously. Important decisions will be made over the next several years which will shape the future of Purcellville; I will protect our small Town character. We have a beautiful, unique small town with wonderful people; we are fortunate to live here. We need to

protect it.

BRL: What are the three most important issues facing Purcellville and what would you do to address the issues?

JN: I believe the three most important issues facing the Town are Development/Annexation, our debt and our water/sewer rates. Many people are not in favor of annexation, I stand with the people. There is no easy

answer to our debt and water/sewer rates. We must think creatively and work to solve these issues. Addressing non performing town assets, finding new revenue, selling water is a start but more much work is to be done.

The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that preserving and protecting the small town character is the core of the community. How will you work to ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision?

Land development must create a benefit for the people of Purcellville and be in line with our comprehensive plan, or it should not be approved.

BRL: What is your general opinion on

annexations? Should Purcellville grow its borders?

JN: I am not in favor of annexations for several reasons. First and most importantly, the people who live in our Town like Purcellville for its small town character; they do not want to see it grow. Our people love the small town atmosphere, the uniqueness and charm of Purcellville. Secondly, the proposals I have analyzed would not benefit our citizens or dramatically change our current financial condition. In fact it will have just the opposite effect in terms of overcrowding, traffic, and will place a burden on the support structure of the town. I also believe that the latest annexation request will do a great dis-service to our neighbors in Wright Farm. They are as much our neighbors as the families who live next door to us. How we treat them is a direct reflection of our character, citizenship. I have heard people say; well John tell me, how will you pay off this tremendous debt? There are other options we have not explored, and until we uncover every option, explore every avenue I will not give in to annexation as the solution to our debt as it is the easy way out. Any consideration for annexation must

be a benefit to our Town.

BRL: How about Purcellville's \$60M debt – how would/have you address this?

JN: Our debt is a serious and difficult situation to which there is no magic answer. We owe 59M and it's not going away. I have worked with the Town management and TC to identify underperforming assets and examine alternative uses for them. Examples include selling Mary's House Hope directly to that worthy organization, netting \$300,000 to the town while continuing to provide a shelter for women. Working with Town staff we identified an opportunity to "timber" areas of our reservoir, a needed task regardless of our finances but this will bring in \$300,000 to our Town over the next two years. Also working with Town staff we initiated the program to sell excess water capacity at our water plant. We are forecasting 50-80K in revenue next year. There is more opportunity here and more work to be done. But the reality is although these are positive moves for the Town and we continue to identify areas for improvement and efficiency, a solution to this problem will take more work and analysis to explore

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★★★★★ **PURCELLVILLE CANDIDATE QUESTIONS - TOWN COUNCIL** ★★★★★

Nedim Ogelman



OGELMAN

Nedim Ogelman became involved in Purcellville government because he sensed a disconnect between what town citizens want and what the town's government does. He stood out as the sole no vote when the Planning Commission pressed ahead with proposing changes to the zoning ordinance despite a clear signal from citizens to wait until after a Comprehensive Plan review. His background and track record on the Planning Commission demonstrate his strong civic commitment to Purcellville. A lifelong student and practitioner of good, open governance, he completed Virginia's 83rd Certified Planning Commissioner Program last year. Before that he earned a Ph.D. in Government from the University of Texas, an M.A. in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School, and a B.A. in History and Government from The Colorado College. He lives in a 1930s colonial home off West Main Street with his wife of 21 years, Laura, and his two sons who attend Blue Ridge Middle School and Emerick Elementary School.

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running for Town Council?

Nedim Ogelman: I am running for Town Council because we need a council that responds to the expressed will of the town's citizens. There is a disconnect between what citizens want and what the town's government does, despite the fact that a minority of the Town Council including Mayor Fraser and Karen Jimmerson are trying to do the bidding of most citizens. I stood out as the sole no vote when the Planning Commission pressed ahead with proposing changes to the zoning ordinance despite a clear signal from citizens to wait until after a comprehensive plan review. If elected, I will join the Mayor and Councilwoman Jimmerson in putting Purcellville citizens before special interests, and not just during election season.

BRL: What are the three most important issues facing Purcellville and what would you do to address the issues?

NO: The most important issues facing Purcellville are a need for more open and responsive governance, preservation of our small town character and community, and getting our fiscal house in order. Purcellville needs responsive local governance founded on honesty, transparency, commitment, discipline and patience. We can employ new, cheap, readily available technology, such as livestreaming of town meetings, easily searchable meeting minutes and transcripts and twice a year surveys, to help citizens stay informed and convey their opinions to their representatives in a convenient way. This would keep the town government accountable to citizens on how it spends their tax money and makes choices affecting their lives and property. Preserving our sense of community and small town feel

and getting our fiscal house in order are intertwined. I am committed to preserving our town's historic districts, distinct architecture, rural character and gateways because these are the foundation of our economic vitality, prosperity and quality of life. We need to listen to citizens who want to bring unique, local businesses into Purcellville by revitalizing existing commercial spaces in town as opposed to growing Purcellville's borders to help land speculators develop new commercial space at the expense of existing local businesses.

BRL: The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that preserving and protecting the small town character is the core of the community. How will you work to ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision?

NO: I believe the town can attract diverse, local business into existing, underused infrastructure without expanding its footprint in ways that threaten its small town feel. I am committed to preserving our town's historic districts, distinct architecture, rural character and gateways because these are--and optimally will continue to be--the foundation of our economic vitality, prosperity, and quality of life. To ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision, I would always gather information that enables me to put Purcellville citizens before special interests through community outreach. Then, I would vote to represent the expressed will of most Purcellville citizens, as Mayor Fraser and a minority of the town council has done in the past two years. Purcellville has a highly educated citizenry with tremendous common sense. I am convinced that the town would thrive if a majority of the town council's votes reflected the expressed will of citizens instead of individual members' interests or worse, the desires of outside special interests such as non-resident developers and land speculators.

BRL: What is your general opinion on annexations? Should Purcellville grow its borders?

NO: I am opposed to Purcellville growing its borders because that is not what citizens want, it will not remedy the town's debt problems, and it will not dampen growth pressures. Town citizens have been consistent, loud, and clear in saying that the best thing about Purcellville is its small town character and sense of community, judging from input to current and past Comprehensive Plan reviews. Purcellville can't grow and annex its way out of debt because local growth does NOT generate enough government revenue to pay for the public services--the roads, police, first responders, water and sewer facilities--that additional growth requires. In fact some argue that annexation will lead to worse and worse ratios of revenue-to-public service costs because increased population density and sprawl requires more and more complex public service structures with rising per capita costs that come back to citizens as higher taxes. I also do not accept the argument that annexation is some kind of a silver bullet that will enable Purcellville to

manage growth pressures stemming from the town's location in Loudoun County and Washington DC metropolitan area. In fact, annexation that hands land speculators an opportunity to maximize their profit through dense development at the expense of Purcellville citizens' quality of life would ruin Purcellville's small town feel while leaving the same growth pressures and pretext for further growth at the edge of the expanded town footprint.

BRL: How about Purcellville's \$60M debt - how would/have you address this?

NO: First, I would pursue a full operational audit of our town government to see if there are any possible efficiency gains to be had. The Mayor has proposed this as an option and has met resistance from a majority of the Town Council including Councilman McConville and Councilwoman Lehr among others. I would look aggressively to identify opportunities to refinance the existing debt. Since we are citizens of Loudoun County and the State of Virginia, not just Purcellville, I would look for support from the county and state, lobbying these entities aggressively to identify additional debt relief support. Wastewater treatment and disposal is an area in which we have significant debt and it is also one of the areas where the state has explicit financial assistance programs which the town has leveraged in the past. I would make sure that our town lobbied and appealed early and often for additional support for debt incurred from water treatment and sewer improvements. I would ask for additional support from the revolving loan fund, grants from the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund, the Combined Sewer Overflow Matching Fund, and any additional support we could get from the state and Loudoun County to service debt related to the town's water treatment infrastructure. I would not look to growth as a way to tackle debt because density and growth has proven itself as a source of MORE, NOT LESS DEBT because it requires increasing and increasingly expensive public works, utilities, and safety including first response capabilities. Purcellville cannot grow its way out of debt.

BRL: Town Staff has proposed looking into the possibility of the county buying Fireman's Field. Your thoughts? How about the Fireman's Field Tax District that was put in place in 2013?

NO: Fireman's Field is in permanent conservation easement and the most important thing to me is that it remain preserved for our community with the best upkeep, improvement and community use support possible. I am willing to listen to and support citizens in accomplishing these goals of preservation and community use in the best way possible. If it turns out that the people of Purcellville feel the county is better placed than the town to ensure that Fireman's Field is preserved in the best form possible I would support that sentiment. If on the other hand Purcellville citizens are satisfied with paying the Fireman's Field tax in order to retain their ownership through the town rather than the county I would support that sentiment.

BRL: The majority on town council recently approved the purchase of the financial software Munis, at the cost of

\$400,000. Did you or do you support this? Why or why not?

NO: Given the town's debt concerns and the skills of our staff, and research on the financial software used by communities the size of Purcellville, I am not convinced that this financial software was a good use of our taxes. I question the motives of our existing Town Council--with the exception of the Mayor and Karen Jimmerson--to pay \$400,000 for this financial software, while denying \$5,000 transparency software that would help citizens see how their tax money is spent. Given that towns like Purcellville typically purchase financial software costing about \$100,000 instead of the more expensive software used by cities--which have to tackle greater financial complexity that comes with added administrative responsibility --the \$400,000 software strikes me as an expensive luxury rather than an essential necessity. In addition this did not go out to bid.

BRL: Were the zoning use changes recently passed by the majority on council good for Purcellville?

NO: The zoning use changes passed by the majority on council were not good for Purcellville because they did not reflect the expressed will of most Purcellville citizens who showed up in half a dozen public sessions before the Planning Commission and Town Council and wrote statements read into the record before those sessions. As I said in my comments before voting against the proposed changes as a Planning Commissioner: "Too many citizens have made excellent points reflecting a desire for a new Comprehensive Plan before we change a single zoning use. Too many citizens have expressed concern that these proposed changes cater to the needs of a few special interests at the expense of most residents. Too many citizens have conveyed to us that the proposed changes will have undesirable, unintended consequences. Far too many citizens have expressed distrust and dissatisfaction with this draft proposal, which we claim we created on their behalf... Why are we doing this? On whose behalf are we proposing this change? I have seen nothing suggesting we are doing this because that is what most Purcellville citizens want." The Mayor, Councilwoman Jimmerson, and Councilman John Nave also listened to Purcellville citizens by voting against the proposed zoning use changes on the Town Council, but they were in the minority. If given the opportunity, I hope to help establish a majority on the Town Council that puts citizens' interests first.

BRL: State the two main reasons that someone should vote for you.

NO: Our town's citizens, not outside special interest, should determine the fate of Purcellville. As reflected in my voting record as a Planning Commissioner, I will listen to Purcellville citizens and champion their expressed interests over those of outside developers. I will also fight to preserve our town's historic districts, distinct architecture, rural character and gateways because these are the foundation of our economic vitality, prosperity, and quality of life - the source of the small town feel and sense of community most Purcellville citizens cherish.

★★★★★★ PURCELLVILLE CANDIDATE QUESTIONS - TOWN COUNCIL ★★★★★★★★

Chris Bledsoe



CHRIS BLEDSOE

Chris Bledsoe has lived in Purcellville for 13 years and 27 years in Loudoun County. He has served on Purcellville's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for 6 years as a member and chairman. He currently serves on Purcellville's Planning Commission.

requests, make virtually all details freely available to the public through Internet; make meeting minutes searchable again.

BRL: The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that preserving and protecting the small town character is the core of the community. How will you work to ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision?

CB: Nothing is more valuable to me than preserving the values of Purcellville residents like me that moved here precisely for the character and sense of community of an American small town. Purcellville's assets are based on a balance of basic amenities amidst a rural setting. I believe it is important to honor the goals set forth by citizens in the Comprehensive Plan by recognizing the potential impact on these values with every decision made by the governing body.

BRL: What is your general opinion on annexations? Should Purcellville grow its borders?

CB: The growth that Purcellville has seen in the recent past has been unprecedented. I believe we need to thoroughly evaluate the full cost of each proposed development and the direct impact it would have on traffic, services, infrastructure, schools and our quality of life. Annexation is not a panacea for our ills.

BRL: How about Purcellville's \$60M debt – how would/have you address this?

CB: This amount of debt and the looming balloon payments are a significant threat to our town. The effect is to limit our options by forcing town government to focus inwardly on resolving the debt, instead of looking forward and outward towards enhancing our services to citizens. However, I believe there are ways to be creative to find solutions to pay this debt and I will work diligently with the Mayor, Council and staff to reduce the debt without defaulting to annexations.

BRL: Town Staff has proposed looking into the possibility of the county buying Fireman's Field. Your

thoughts? How about the Fireman's Field Tax District that was put in place in 2013?

CB: I believe all options must be on the table for thorough consideration and analysis. However, any option to sell Fireman's Field must be subject to an agreement that continues to make this park property available to Purcellville citizens. I am opposed to increased taxes and I pledge to find ways to reduce our Town's debt burden as quickly as feasible so that we can more quickly reduce our taxes and I will always do my best to preserve the assets and features that give Purcellville its sense of place.

BRL: The majority on town council recently approved the purchase of the financial software Munis, at the cost of

\$400,000. Did you or do you support this? Why or why not?

CB: I believe the size of this purchase warranted further detailed analysis and should have been subject to competitive bids and certainly should have mandated a process of deliberation and public disclosure prior to approval.

BRL: Were the zoning use changes recently passed by the majority on council good for Purcellville?

CB: I do not believe these changes were necessarily bad for Purcellville; while I see less negative impact from these changes than others predict, I do respect the requests by many to delay their implementation until the Comprehensive Plan review had been completed and I would prefer that they had not been implemented until that time. Good governance is a deliberate process and haste often leads to poor decisions: If it took more than three years to compile and finalize the proposed use changes, it seems good judgment to at least review those changes over a reasonable period of time of at least six months to allow the public ample time to understand the precise nature of the changes.

BRL: State the two main reasons that someone should vote for you.

CB: I will work very hard to preserve and protect the values that we share in Purcellville to maintain our small town character; I have and always will listen to the voice of all citizens and work for them to increase our quality of life, ensure our economic viability and preserve our values.

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running for Town Council?

Chris Bledsoe: I am running for Town Council because this is my town and I share the concern of many that I have talked with that the small town charm and sense of community we share is threatened by annexation and the extraordinary debt our town is currently burdened with.

BRL: What are the three most important issues facing Purcellville and what would you do to address the issues?

CB: a. First and foremost is the debt. This debt affects every decision this Council makes: it limits choices, services and programs that we could otherwise undertake for the betterment of our community.

b. Pressure to annex and grow rapidly with significant negative impact on Purcellville's character.

c. Lack of transparency and citizen engagement. Reduce the need for FOIA

John Nave, continued from page 26

alternatives. We have town citizens whose skills and experience may help develop other solutions we have not analyzed. We recently had a private organization look at our water facilities to provide an analysis of the operation. Is it operationally efficient? Are there any changes we may make to improve productivity? My perspective: Is it possible to outsource some or all of this operation to reduce expenses? Something to analyze, evaluate and consider. Through all of this we should communicate and be transparent with our citizens what we are working on and the progress of the projects.

BRL: Town Staff has proposed looking into the possibility of the county buying Fireman's Field. Your thoughts? How

needed to invest in the infrastructure of the town to continue to meet our citizens and town needs. I carefully analyzed what these funds would be used for with this purchase. It is important for our citizens to know our current software is no longer supported, if our current system were to fail it would impact our ability to collect our revenue. For example, we cannot effectively run a report to illustrate delinquent taxes. We have no computerized HR system. The funds were available to acquire this system so no tax increase was needed to procure this; it will satisfy our requirements for a minimum of 10 to 20 years. This was a sound and much needed investment.

BRL: The majority on town council recently approved the purchase of the financial software Munis, at the cost of \$400,000. Did you or do you support this? Why or why not?

BRL: Were the zoning use changes recently passed by the majority on council good for Purcellville?

JN: One of the most important responsibilities TC has is the prudent and responsible utilization of our tax dollars. Tax dollars are utilized to run the town, provide services to the citizens and at times

JN: An approved Comprehensive plan should guide our actions.

BRL: State the two main reasons that someone should vote for you.

JN: The decisions I have made were based on what is best for the town of Purcellville. I will continue to do that. I am independent, I will not be influenced by any person or organization or interest group. I have conducted myself with a high degree of integrity and ethics. I will continue to work to address our high water/sewer rates, taxes and unwanted development. I will use my business skills and experience to help the Town. We have made progress but there is work to be done. This is not political, this is community service and for that I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the people Purcellville.

SEE ALL TOWN ELECTION CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS ONLINE AT WWW.BRLEADER.COM



★★★★★★ PURCELLVILLE CANDIDATE QUESTIONS - TOWN COUNCIL★★★★★★

Ryan J. Cool



RYAN COOL

Ryan J. Cool is an 8 year resident of Purcellville and has two children, Ashlyn and Ryan Jr. He is employed by Northrop Grumman Corporation. He has been in coaching youth sports: Soccer, basketball and baseball, since moving to town. He has a Master of Arts in Public Policy from the University of Albany, and has experience in both the public and private sector.

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running for Town Council?

Ryan Cool: In February of this year, the Town Manager stated that "this council seated now, and that will be seated

in the next two years, will have to make some of the toughest decisions that this community has ever faced." The tough decisions going forward require a far different approach than from previous administrations. I want to see Purcellville thrive and I want to share my skills, knowledge, and experience. We need a leader who is professional, who understands the issues, and who will listen to and serve their community.

BRL: What are the three most

important issues facing Purcellville and what would you do to address the issues?

RC: Debt management and taxes, growth while maintaining small town feel, citizen involvement/awareness of town decisions.

BRL: The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that preserving and protecting the small town

character is the core of the community. How will you work to ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision?

RC: When there are numerous amendments to the Comprehensive Plan made it is a clear indication that our leadership is not utilizing this document to guide their decisions. Purcellville has already exceeded its population projections and our population can't grow much beyond where we currently are. The threat to the small town character of the town can still occur without proper guidance and planning. Annexing and unchecked development can't be our stated mission.

BRL: What is your general opinion on annexations? Should Purcellville grow its borders?

RC: The Town manager has stated that annexations are not a panacea to solve our financial issues. Thorough cost/benefit analysis must be done rather than relying on a narrow opinion or report, which may inaccurately paint a dire financial situation to drive decision-making. Purcellville is the hub of Western Loudoun, and town decisions can heavily impact surrounding areas. The town has touted the revenue benefits of residents who reside outside of town and some in our administration are quick to dismiss those same residents simply because they are not town voters. I will be a voice of balance for both Purcellville's best interests as well as those who live on the periphery of town.

BRL: How about Purcellville's \$60M debt - how would/you address this?

RC: Our proposed budget for fiscal year 2017 states that all programs, projects, and facilities that we currently operate should be examined to see if they are still financially feasible and whether the benefits warrant the cost. Above and beyond this is instituting zero-based budgeting. Relying on base-line budgets that become entrenched means we end up with legacy programs or items in our budget that escape real scrutiny.

In shaping our debt management policies, we should advocate that our

elected officials clearly understand debt transactions, citizens should be able to get clear explanations about these transactions, and the cost and risks associated with these transactions should be clearly disclosed. Our citizens are entitled to a government that sets basic, common sense guidelines so that we know what happens to our money.

BRL: Town Staff has proposed looking into the possibility of the county buying Fireman's Field. Your thoughts? How about the Fireman's Field Tax District that was put in place in 2013?

RC: A Conservation Easement protects Fireman's Field in perpetuity and I fail to see how anyone could consider there is a "scheme" to sell it. Many want the Town to "maintain control of the field" and they must be made aware that the County controls the field and its operation. Although they pay to maintain the field and helped pay for the ticket booth and storage building in recent years, simply put, the Town does not have the human or financial capital to take on what the County can.

I commend the manager and council for exploring opportunities to relieve the debt burden from the purchase of Fireman's Field and the subsequent renovation of the Tabernacle. The Town needs to generate additional revenue to

continued on page 30



ELECT RYAN COOL

"This council seated now, and that will be seated in the next two years, will have to make some of the toughest decisions that this community has ever faced."
-Purcellville Town Manager, February 2, 2016

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★★★★★★ **PURCELLVILLE CANDIDATE QUESTIONS - TOWN COUNCIL** ★★★★★★★

Chris Hamilton

Chris Hamilton is an avid outdoorsman. Hamilton works at HSP Direct where he fundraises for non-profit organizations. He chose to make Purcellville the place to raise his family because of its vibrant community and small town feel.



CHRIS HAMILTON

Council seem to forget the people being hurt by their proposals. I will strongly oppose policies that benefit one person or group at the expense of someone else.

The third issue is the way our Town manages our money. Higher taxes and fees hurt our families under any economic situation, and raising rates during a slow economy is universally recognized as bad economics. Yet the budget

proposal currently before Town Council includes a 9 percent property tax increase, a 3 percent water rate increase, and a 5 percent wastewater rate increase. I will work to balance the budget and deal with our debt without raising taxes. Period.

BRL: The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that preserving and protecting the small town character is the core of the community. How will you work to ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision?

CH: The best way to preserve Purcellville is to find out what citizens think about any proposed changes. That goes far beyond public hearings. I want to talk with the residents who are actually affected by any changes that are proposed. That means holding events, picking up the phone, and of course holding public meetings, but most importantly of all going door to door in the affected communities. The best way to know if any updated regulations align with or violate Purcellville's small town character is to talk with the people directly impacted by those regulations.

It's imperative to actually follow through. It's worthless to gather input if you are going to just play politics and vote against

what people need. I will gather input, yes. But it's far more important to actually vote in line with the desires and needs of the people. That's what I pledge to do.

BRL: What is your general opinion on annexations? Should Purcellville grow its borders?

CH: Purcellville doesn't need any more annexations. We've grown enough already - if not too much.

BRL: How about Purcellville's \$60M debt - how would/have you address this?

CH: The next Town Council must do more than simply balance the budget. We need to pay down the debt. I don't believe we need to raise taxes or rates to deal with this issue; it's far better to limit expenses, especially capital expenses. The Town of Purcellville should act no differently than a family. When any family is in major debt, they cut up their credit cards and stop adding to the debt. The Town should examine budget cuts. That's the opposite philosophy from the current budget proposal.

BRL: Town Staff has proposed looking into the possibility of the county buying Fireman's Field. Your thoughts? How about the Fireman's Field Tax District that was put in place in 2013?

CH: If the Town can work out a deal that gives Purcellville permanent free access to Fireman's Field, I would consider some form of arrangement to benefit the Town. However, if any deal harms the Town residents, the answer is clear: no sale. Taxes are currently too high, and the Fireman's Field Tax District is no exception. We must balance the budget, pay down the debt, and lower taxes. **BRL: The majority on town council recently approved the purchase of the financial software Munis, at the cost of \$400,000.**

Did you or do you support this? Why or why not?

I approve of enhancing efficiency. However, it often takes years to determine if software actually creates efficiency. Financial software should be able to pass a cost/benefit test. The problem is we can't afford a nearly half-million dollar software program. Raising taxes to fund a capital expenditure and pay for its ongoing maintenance is economically unsound and harms residents and businesses.

BRL: Were the zoning use changes recently passed by the majority on council good for Purcellville?

CH: I think there is a larger question here. Why are we making zoning use changes right before a Comprehensive Plan update? Now is not the time to make piecemeal or incomplete changes. Regardless of whether the final changes were good or bad, they definitely came at the wrong time.

BRL: State the two main reasons that someone should vote for you.

CH: I believe that there is only one factor voters should consider when determining how to cast their ballots: each candidate's principles.

My principles are clear. If you agree with my principle of preserving Purcellville's heritage and small town feel, vote for me. If you agree with my principle of paying down our debt and balancing the budget through cutting spending instead of raising taxes or fees, vote for me. If you agree with my principle of listening to every citizen and not just special interests or "experts," then vote for me.

I pledge to follow these principles. Vote for me, and together let's preserve Purcellville.

Ryan Cool, continued from page 29

lessen the burden on citizens and there may be options that can still be explored without any impact on Fireman's Field. **BRL: The majority on town council recently approved the purchase of the financial software Munis, at the cost of \$400,000. Did you or do you support this? Why or why not?**

RC: Loudoun County is going through a review of their software systems and the amount they plan to spend as a percentage of their budget and the Town of Purcellville's new system as a percentage of our budget shows clearly this expense needed more analysis. The Town has won an award for seven years for distinguish budget

presentation with our current system. A mere two meetings seemed little time to thoroughly weigh the benefits against costs. Research should have been conducted to understand what state and regional resources were available to establish a new IT system, especially since there are many grants for municipalities when upgrading their systems. An uncoordinated effort will be expensive and possibly unsuccessful.

BRL: Were the zoning use changes recently passed by the majority on council good for Purcellville?

RC: When it comes to zoning changes, various questions must be answered to include: (1) Are the changes in line with the approved Comprehensive Plan, (and if

not, why are the changes being requested); (2) Whether the changes provide a positive impact to the community or are they targeted to satisfy particular interests.

BRL: State the two main reasons that someone should vote for you.

RC: I can be trusted to serve ALL the citizens of Purcellville without ties to any special interest or subset of the population, and I bring both public and private sector experience that will enable me to inform and actively participate in making the "toughest decisions this community has ever faced." I will do this by keeping our small town character at the forefront and keeping citizens aware of what impacts the Town decisions will have on their checkbooks.

Sam Chapman

We did not receive a response from Sam Chapman, son of developer John Chapman, as of press time.



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– By Kimberly Correnti

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CJ & Kim Correnti

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causing many serious problems. Others are a result of contamination with bacteria, mold, drugs, or other toxins as we sadly found out by the recalls that have plagued our pet's food. In some diseases the role of commercial pet food is understood ... in others, it is not. The bottom line is that diets composed primarily of low quality cereals and rendered meat meals are not as nutritious or safe as you should expect for your cat or dog.

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aid, repair and enhance your pet's life as well as yummy treats that would tantalize their taste buds but not add inches to their waist line. The result was a well-balanced product line of the highest quality without the empty marketing catch phrases and come-ons that lure buyers into a false sense of security.

Kimberly Correnti is the owner and Animal Nutrition Expert at DogGone Natural, located in Leesburg and Ashburn. www.doggonenatural.com.



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Fraser, continued from page 23

one of the safest towns in Virginia, we need to maintain that safety for our citizens and our visitors. The symbol of the library represents continuous learning, and our schools are ranked among the best in the nation.

BRL: The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that preserving and protecting the small town character is the core of the community. How will you ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision?

KF: Our town's physical characteristics and location makes it a unique place. The strong community here leads to an identity and character recognized immediately by visitors and valued deeply by residents. Because strong design and planning policies will preserve and protect our communities, I will evaluate all development opportunities using our Comprehensive Plan and citizen's feedback to guide my decisions.

BRL: Do you feel that population growth and development are necessary for Purcellville?

KF: If growth and development are consistent with our citizens' vision and the town's Comprehensive Plan, and we have the required infrastructure to support growth and development, then they should be pursued. But to grow

and to develop without a vision and a plan supported by our citizens is not wise and will lead to disastrous consequences. Our growth should be strategic, thoughtful, evidence-based, with clear goals and objectives.

BRL: What is your opinion about annexations? Should Purcellville grow its borders?

KF: Purcellville needs to optimize the utility and value of all of its existing assets before looking beyond its borders. We have several assets that are currently underutilized or undeveloped and also vacant commercial properties. Annexations today will have service costs far into the future and may ultimately exceed the perceived short-term benefits. Any annexation consideration should take into account the will of the majority of our citizens, existing businesses, and infrastructure support; otherwise, it will constitute an exercise in futility.

BRL: What about Purcellville's \$60M debt – how have/would you address this?

KF: During my tenure as mayor, we have not incurred any new debt and have reduced it from \$61,626,495 to \$59,386,125. As stated in my priorities, we have opportunities to leverage our town's assets to produce non-tax revenues, and we will continue to work on maintaining a sound debt management policy. Currently, we are selling

a town owned property for approximately \$300,000.

With regards to state or federal mandates, if it is important enough to require a mandate, it should be important enough to have funding. I plan to work with our state legislators to transfer decision making to levels of government more accountable to the people and to ensure that small municipalities like Purcellville are not burdened beyond reason.

BRL: Town Staff has proposed looking into the possibility of the county buying Fireman's Field. What are your thoughts about this and the Fireman's Field Tax District that was put in place in 2013?

KF: Fireman's Field is a heritage asset listed on the state and national registers of historic places, and the conservation easement on the property means it will be what it is today in perpetuity. Millions were invested in the Fireman's Field property, and its buildings and the current lease arrangement with the county for the field and the Bush Tabernacle does not generate sufficient revenue to service the combined debt service and ongoing maintenance. The tax-exempt bonds limit the amount of rent we can collect from the Tabernacle, and the county pays no money to lease the field. So, the majority of the debt associated with Fireman's Field is serviced through the Fireman's Field District Tax, an additional 3.5 cent tax on assessed home values, which was a 17 percent increase in taxes in 2012. The aging facility will continue to require enormous outlays to maintain them and with the tremendous growth in the last decade, staff and council evaluated the sale of the compound to the County to ensure a high level of service and source of recreation while protecting Purcellville's financial future. The County declined our offer, and we will continue to be good stewards of this property while working with our citizens to explore other revenue generating solutions.

BRL: Recently, the majority on town council approved the purchase of the financial software Munis at the cost of \$400,000. Did you support this? Why or why not?

KF: I did not support the Munis software purchase because it was done in haste, and it did not go out to bid in an RFP process tailored for a town our size, not to mention its cost is about 4 cents on the tax rate. A program for bigger towns, cities, and counties, this software takes two years to implement; most localities of our size use less expensive programs with shorter time to implement. In addition this software requires hiring one full time staff member and an additional part time staff person.

BRL: Were the zoning use changes recently passed by the majority on council good for Purcellville?

KF: During numerous input sessions, our citizens clearly stated that they did not want us to adopt changes prior to our Comprehensive Plan review/revision. So, those who approved the zoning use changes ignored the will of our citizens which was not good for Purcellville.

BRL: State the two main reasons that someone should vote for you.

KF: For the past two years, I have listened to and represented the voices of our citizens, even when this was unpopular. I want to continue to do so because I love Purcellville. This election is very important, and we need council members who will share our vision of its future.

My expertise and working knowledge in business transformation and financial management enables me to effectively assess situations, to collaborate with allies and competitors, and to identify and to implement solutions. Your vote is very important, and I'm asking for it on May 3, 2016.

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★★★★★★ **PURCELLVILLE CANDIDATE QUESTIONS - SPECIAL ELECTION FOR VACATED COUNCIL SEAT** ★★★★★★

Sandy Nave



NAVE

Sandy Nave has lived in Purcellville for twelve years with her husband John, and her two children Madison and Jonathan. She has been working in the heart of Purcellville for 10 years at the Loudoun Valley Community Center as a programming center assistant and instructor. Nave has been serving on Purcellville's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for 6 years and this lends to her appreciation for additional recreational activities in Purcellville.

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running for Town Council?

Sandy Nave: Because of the passion I feel for the Town of Purcellville and the people, especially the children that live here. I believe the next two years are a critical cross road and the decisions that are made will determine the decided course of our people's town. I want to contribute to finding solutions to the challenges that face our community and prescribe for more citizen input for ideas and solutions that face Purcellville

today. We are a town of great talent and experience and our greatest resource are the people of Purcellville. It would be an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Purcellville who have brought unmeasurable abundance to my life and my family.

BRL: What are the three most important issues facing Purcellville and what would you do to address the issues?

continued on page 36

Melanie Fuller



FULLER

Melanie and her husband Jim moved to Purcellville in 2006. Melanie has been an active school, sports and community volunteer for many years. Most recently she served a two year appointment on the Economic Development Advisory Committee and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Their children, Emily and Sam both graduated from LVHS and have gone on to JMU and the Marine Corps respectively.

BRL: Why are you running for Town Council?

Melanie Fuller: I have wanted to participate in local government for many years. I live and work in Purcellville and I have watched the growing pains we

have gone through for the last ten years. In my professional life I have worked with quasi-governmental organizations for 25 years so I felt I would be able to make a meaningful contribution and serve my community.

BRL: What are the three most important issues facing Purcellville and what would you do to address the issues?

MF: Water and Sewer prices; the citizens are going to have to make a choice between high water prices and growth. Selling water to other communities outside of town is risky and expensive. There are numerous laws restricting how much can be charged and who pays.

Taxes; again the way to lower taxes is to have more residents and more business. If

continued on page 36



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Kelli Grim



GRIM

Kelli Grim has lived in Purcellville for 9 years. She lives with her husband of 17 years, Bobby, and daughter. Grim was coach of her daughter's WLBL basketball team this past winter. She has served as president and board member of her HOA, and currently serves as treasurer. For 7 plus years Grim has attended most town meetings on a regular basis.

Blue Ridge Leader: Why are you running for Town Council?

Kelli Grim: I want to protect our small town lifestyle and all the things that make our town so charming. There is such a warm sense of belonging with parades, kid's sports, biking, hiking, family events, and unique small businesses. I love the feeling you get when you run into someone you know everywhere you go. It is also essential that we are respectful and collaborate with our neighboring communities as each small town has resources we could share.

Purcellville will grow and change over time, but we must elect neighbors that understand and will carefully evaluate critical issues. There are solutions to move Purcellville forward and I echo Mayor Fraser's initiative to implement new ideas for the benefit of the citizens.

BRL: What are the three most important issues facing Purcellville and what would you do to address the issues?

KG: Financial management – Purcellville has a spending problem, and there is no end in sight based on the recent budget work sessions. We must first identify and address waste, spending, and inefficiencies. The new town hall is a perfect example of shortsighted planning and overspending. It was a very poor decision that cost citizens over \$8M and we continue to sink money into a building that was too small to begin with. Even now we are spending money on emergency repairs and litigation because of poor workmanship of numerous contractors.

Communication – The town has made some advancement in their technology communication, but must do more. It should not be on the shoulders of the citizens to make it happen, and the town needs to be innovative and anticipate the need. When the Town Hall moved off Main Street so did their visual communication of meetings, announcements and reminders.

Growth Impact – Adding more homes

to Purcellville is not the answer to reducing our debt and adding more high density development through annexation is not the answer either. There are numerous parcels inside the town that have yet to be developed.

I believe that we cannot continue doing what has been done over the past ten years and expect different results.

I strongly agree with Mayor Fraser that an operational audit to review policies, procedures, and internal controls is needed.

BRL: The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that preserving and protecting the small town character is the core of the community. How will you work to ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision?

KG: I think we have a fantastic Comprehensive Plan, and I encourage every resident to read it. This plan played a part in our decision to move to Purcellville. What we do not have is a majority of council members that regard it as anything more than a 'suggestion box.' I will vigorously continue to support the vision and mission of the residents that spent so many long hours volunteering and providing input about what their long term goals are for our town.

BRL: What is your general opinion on annexations? Should Purcellville grow its borders?

KG: I do not support the annexation applications as they have been presented, and the developers have been clear they are not interested in building at the current county low density zoning – 1 house per 3 acres. The majority on council say that they want to annex property into town to "control it." On the contrary, land in the county is already controlled by the county at low density. When it is annexed by the town the land owner has access to town utilities which permits higher density zoning. The review of the Comprehensive Plan is very critical to determining long term plans and whether our borders should change. When the Purcellville Joint Land Management Plan between the town and county (PUGAMP) was eliminated, the town justified their decision by stating there were no plans to grow outside our existing borders. Some current town council members voted in 2013 to end PUGAMP for that very reason and now seem to have a different view.

The recent Senate bill 549 regarding proffers will go into effect in July. The bill forbids a locality from placing

"unreasonable" proffers on new developments and restricts what's known as conditional zoning. This changes everything that has to do with any rezoning and all possible annexations and must be taken seriously and addressed before any annexation consideration.

BRL: How about Purcellville's \$60M debt – how would/have you address this?

KG: There is no reason for a town of 9,000 people to be burdened with this amount of debt. It was initiated by careless actions and no plan in place for repayment of pet projects. We must do a better job of evaluating projects and priorities. The right questions need to be asked about the return on our investment and what the benefits and impacts are long term. There is a big difference between needing and wanting. Every dollar must be spent wisely just as the citizens in the community make tough decisions to live within their budget, the town needs to lead by example when spending.

BRL: Town Staff has proposed looking into the possibility of the county buying Fireman's Field. Your thoughts? How about the Fireman's Field Tax District that was put in place in 2013?

KG: I supported the town staff's suggestion of inquiring if the County had interest in purchasing Fireman's Field because it would have relieved residents of the looming balloon payment we are facing in the near future. But the County has indicated they are not interested in buying FF. The way the debt was packaged using non-profit bonds is the worst idea I have ever seen for what is one of the town's largest assets, beloved historic site, and a revenue resource. Non-profit bonds restrict the amount of revenue that can be collected. I think we also need to review other alternatives that may include changing the way the property is managed.

BRL: The majority on town council recently approved the purchase of the financial software Munis, at the cost of \$400,000. Did you or do you support this? Why or why not?

KG: When this issue came before the town council recently, it was presented as an emergency purchase that had to be made immediately. Staff revealed that this had been a serious issue for quite some time, and stated the town did not have a backup software system. The majority on council voted to purchase Munis for approximately \$400K without putting it out to bid. In addition this system will take 18 months to implement. Additional costs include one and a half new staff members.

BRL: Were the zoning use changes recently passed by the majority on council good for Purcellville?

KG: More than half of the changes were not good for the residents, and should not have been finalized until after the Comprehensive Plan review and update. The town recently conducted a survey of the residents and these changes were a direct contradiction of those results. Also, dozens of citizens came to speak against the use changes. A majority of the current Town Council members approved the changes. I will continue to oppose decisions that negatively impact the town residents. It is fundamentally wrong to accommodate the wish list of developers and their representatives. The majority on council just gave away zoning that is not compatible with our Comprehensive Plan.

The sweeping zoning changes in 2008 are on target to change the face of our historic downtown. The C-4 downtown district encompasses much more than 21st Street. It is not appropriate for Purcellville to allow by-right zoning for up to 6 story buildings on Hatcher Avenue or Main Street.

BRL: State the two main reasons that someone should vote for you.

KG: As an effective Purcellville Town Council member I will reach out for the maximum public input when making decisions. I will respond with the courtesy neighbors deserve and will diligently work to maintain, enhance and protect our small town lifestyle. I am committed to strengthening our fiscal transparency and accountability. For example, when the town spends over \$400,000 to obtain their bond rating as they did in 2013, the citizens should have easy access to this information. It took me over a year to find this information because the transaction was not handled by a check (which I review regularly), but instead a wire transfer of funds. Development pressures are enormous and I have the knowledge, dedication, strength and experience to protect our town. Voter participation in this election is crucial, and I ask for your vote on May 3.



Sandy Nave, continued from page 34

SN: First is preserving the small town character along with enhancing the atmosphere with appropriate new business, growth, and tourism. Small Town Character is the highest mentioned attribute that the people of Purcellville want to maintain beyond anything else and it is the duty of our town's leadership to abide by that request.

Prudent budget management that includes transparency and accountability. Our budget adjustments are no different than yours at home when you have more expenses and debt you have to cut back.

Aging Infrastructure and general town upkeep. Proactive planning and scheduling helps to keep the cost involved controlled by avoiding unexpected breakdowns and purchases.

Trail connectivity for pedestrians and bicycles for community enhancements, promotion of more open spaces and recreational activities and developing a playground that is dedicated and owned by the town.

BRL: The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that preserving and protecting the small town character is the core of the community. How will you work to ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision?

SN: The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan is a particular interest of mine. After serving six years on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the town, I have the duty of representing Parks and Rec at the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board. Specifically protecting our small town character is and should be a core value of Purcellville moving forward as that is the most often mention factor in the town survey and the citizen input from the comprehensive plan development update. Let's look at our current businesses while we are determining the appropriate services and opportunities that we need to support

Purcellville. In addition the small town character that Purcellville has is unique and we should go forward complementing the standard we've established rather than changing it up. Can we make some additions? Of course, but let's always remember what our citizens have told us they like most "Small Town Character!"

BRL: What is your general opinion on annexations? Should Purcellville grow its borders?

SN: Each annexation proposal requires careful analyzation in order to determine if the resulting benefits are in alignment with the small town characteristics that the Purcellville people have made clear they want to preserve. The current Kline annexation proposal is clearly is not. Purcellville has property and retail space available within our borders that awaits development and space empty pleading for occupancy. I believe we should first support new development within our borders as we search to broaden our commercial business with some of our existing commercial space. Some say that annexation is the answer to lowering our overall dept. I ask to what cost? There are revenues involved as well as cost that are generally not spoken of. All new property assumed into our town must be maintained and involve overall infrastructure cost as well that the town will be responsible for.

BRL: How about Purcellville's \$60M debt – how would/have you address this?

SN: As I listen and look at the FY2017 budget, I am convinced the same principals apply to the town budget that apply to your own families budget. How much do you have and what are the most important things you need? It's all priority based spending and acquirements. You have to tighten up on some items and areas, and there are some things we want this year that perhaps have to wait that we just cannot afford. The town has assets that may be more beneficial sold adding revenue. One of our largest assets the water and waste

plant I believe has an even larger ability to generate revenue for the town to outside sources as we have already begun to tap those possibilities. The debt reduction will take a lot of careful work over a long period of time. I am convinced that we can put our best resources together mainly our people, their ideas, experience, and talent and find effective solutions to this dept that is ours to address together as a community.

BRL: Town Staff has proposed looking into the possibility of the county buying Fireman's Field. Your thoughts? How about the Fireman's Field Tax District that was put in place in 2013?

SN: Fireman's Field is currently leased by the county and the county does the scheduling and maintenance at the field. I view Fireman's Field as the historical center axis of Purcellville. My hope is that we can keep it in our possession. With that said comes a cost as it is a historical property and there is level of maintenance that must be provided on ball fields, the parking lot, the tabernacle, the landscape and trees. We must decide as a community if we are willing to pay the cost or make choices regarding selling, leasing, or another innovative idea that I believe if we put our thoughts together we can unify and come up with. The Tax District helped provide additional recreational opportunities for the town. Many of our annual festivals are budgeted through this revenue. A popular request in the town survey was additional recreational activities in town and this is a way to help make those a reality.

BRL: The majority on town council recently approved the purchase of the financial software Munis, at the cost of \$400,000. Did you or do you support this? Why or why not?

SN: The Munis purchase is for and extended investment of ten plus years and covers many different functions of the town business from standard payroll and HR tasks to tax collections to name a few. All are

critical components of town business and having those functions under one system is more efficient in the overall picture. In this case I believe the system was necessary to prevent costly mistakes that could prevent loses to our budget in the future.

BRL: Were the zoning use changes recently passed by the majority on council good for Purcellville?

SN: The zoning changes were a lengthy and complex project. However, I believe that the Updated Comprehensive Plan should have been in place before these changes were looked at, voted on and approved. To now ask for citizen input on the comprehensive plan, and by the way I believe that this is the way we should approach all major decisions for the people's town, seems the ole cart before the horse. Are we going to go back and rezone areas after the fact, based on our citizens input? I certainly hope so! That would be my goal.

BRL: State the two main reasons that someone should vote for you.

SN: Simply I want to help preserve the small town character of Purcellville that we all cherish and continues to serve as a legacy for our children to grow up in. My passion regarding this town is such that we must preserve this incredibly unique gem before a few decisions or votes puts Purcellville on a path where by the adjective "small town" merely becomes a faint memory. I wish to express the voice of the citizens I encounter each day working in Purcellville. I feel so very lucky that not only to live here, but also work in the heart of Purcellville at the Loudoun Valley Community Center. The many different folks I encounter everyday from Mothers, Dads and Grandparents to our senior population, school children, and our teen youth, they care about their town and what happens here. With your support, I will work to preserve the Purcellville we all claim as our own and maintain the legacy of this incredible community for our children to enjoy going forward.

Melanie Fuller, continued from page 34

the citizens really want lower taxes they will have to embrace some growth. There is not a lot of room left so the growth would most likely have to be dense.

Growth; If growth is acceptable to the community we plan for it with the community's input. The update of the Comprehensive Plan is the mechanism for the citizens to have a say in how and where the town grows.

All of the issues are connected. We are a small enough community that the citizens can easily participate in the planning. I would encourage all citizens to find the time to engage in the planning process.

BRL: The Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that preserving and protecting the small town character is the core of the community. How will you work to ensure that updates to land development regulations align with this vision?

MF: The Comprehensive Plan and citizen input will guide us. With the proper consensus and zoning in place we will know what the guidelines are. Business will be able to make decisions

and rely on the rules that are in place. I do think we can adhere to the Town's Vision: Purcellville... Where history and progress intersect and people prosper.

BRL: What is your general opinion on annexations? Should Purcellville grow its borders?

MF: Annexation is a complex and may not be the first choice, however, if the community wants to see a significant decrease in sewer and water and tax rates there has to be growth in the number of homes and businesses that will provide regular customers. Refusing to annex does not mean that the properties will not be developed. When this happens, the Town will have no control over how the development looks and will receive no direct financial benefits. I would think we would want to explore the pros and cons of each circumstance.

BRL: How about Purcellville's \$60M debt – how would/have you address this?

MF: The Town has engaged Davenport & Company from Richmond, VA to guide them through these complex and important financial transactions. Kyle Laux, Sr. Vice President with the firm, made a presentation to the Town Council a couple of weeks ago. The debt is high, but there is a plan in place to manage it through the

years and the advisors will monitor, report and adjust as needed.

BRL: Town Staff has proposed looking into the possibility of the county buying Fireman's Field. Your thoughts? How about the Fireman's Field Tax District that was put in place in 2013?

MF: Citizens are sentimental about Fireman's Field. I do believe we should keep it with the Town. However, exploring options to have in your pocket is prudent. Government can not be run like a business. We all chip in so we can have a place like this for the community, used by so many of our citizens for many years.

Fireman's Field is an asset we want to keep for many years to come. We must take care of the property and setting aside a small amount of revenue that can not be used for anything else is a good use of this tax district.

BRL: The majority on town council recently approved the purchase of the financial software Munis, at the cost of \$400,000. Did you or do you support this? Why or why not?

MF: I was not involved in this process, however the important work of keeping

the tax payers money safe and accounted for should be a priority. Reporting to the Town, the citizens, the State; all require a robust, safe, and reliable system. I feel confident that the Town staff did the necessary research before recommending a system they will have to implement and manage over the years.

BRL: Were the zoning use changes recently passed by the majority on council good for Purcellville?

MF: We must have a coherent zoning plan in place for investment to be made in the Town. The uncertainty and difficulty of navigating the former zoning plan resulted in lost opportunities that may have benefited the Town.

BRL: State the two main reasons that someone should vote for you.

MF: I am a team player. We must work together. We must have a mindset that we are all in this together. This is how we will move forward and solve our most challenging problems.

I will always keep the good of the many in my mind and in my heart. Serving the community is about what is best for the overall health of all of the citizens.

★ HAMILTON CANDIDATE QUESTIONS ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ TOWN COUNCIL ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

John Unger

I am running for the Hamilton Town Council because I love this town and want it to remain the small, quiet, friendly community it has been. My wife and I moved here 40 years ago and raised our three children in the town. All of them attended Hamilton Elementary School and graduated from Loudoun Valley High School.



UNGER

I have been a member of the Town Council since 1983 and serve as the Chairman of our Finance Committee. My main job, with the aid of the Town Treasurer, is preparation and oversight of the Town's annual budget. While we constantly strive to keep our taxes and utility rates as low as possible, it is important that the Town has the revenue required to keep it running effectively and to continue to provide services such as clean and safe drinking water, trash pickup, and a pleasant town park.

While serving on the Council, I have seen many changes in Western Loudoun and especially in the areas around Hamilton. Some of these changes have been good for the town, but many have caused disruption and stress to the town and to its citizens. With its population of about 600, Hamilton is one of the smaller towns in Virginia, but we still have to comply with some of the same unfunded state mandates related to water and sewer that govern larger municipalities such as Leesburg or Winchester.

During the past few years we have upgraded our waste water treatment plant and the well system that supplies the water to the town. However, both of these utility systems operate at near their capacities, which limits the number of new residences the town can serve in the surrounding county.

Hamilton Elementary School is an important part of the town, and I am concerned with the continuing efforts of the County School Board to close the school. I feel very strongly that this integral part of Hamilton should stay open and serve the children of the town.

Another problem that Hamilton continues to face is growth in the surrounding county and in the ever-growing town of Purcellville. This growth has increased the traffic and noise through town, and we may have to consider traffic calming measures, similar to those done by Middleburg and Upperville, in order keep our streets and sidewalks safe.

Historically, we have had a relatively small turnout for our town elections. So I would urge all the residents of Hamilton to vote on May 3.

Kenneth Wine

I have been on the Hamilton Town Council since 2008 and currently serve as Vice-Mayor. During my time on the Council, we have worked together to improve the quality of our water and sewer systems. The zoning ordinances have been reviewed and updated bringing them more in line with the needs of a small town. I am running for office as I would like to continue working with the town to ensure that the quality of our water and sewer systems is maintained and also to continue working with the zoning administrator and planning commission to improve and refine zoning ordinances as necessary. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the citizens of Hamilton.



WINE

Matthew Clark

I grew up west of Round Hill and graduated from Loudoun Valley High School. My wife, Alessandra, and I have lived in Hamilton since April of 2013. We are parishioners at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Purcellville. I am an attorney and practice law at the firm of Smith & Pugh, PLC, in Leesburg.



CLARK

I am running for the Hamilton Town Council because I believe it is a civic duty to serve one's community and I enjoy being a part of a local governing body. While I have lived in Hamilton for only a few years, the Town is a part of the greater Loudoun community I have known all my life.

In early 2015, a vacancy on the Town Council opened up and I had the honor of being appointed to fill it. Since then, I have learned much about how the Town conducts its affairs and provides services to its citizens. As a member of the Town Council, I carefully consider all issues that come before me and I am always mindful that my job is to serve the people of the Town and to ensure it remains a wonderful place to live.

It is important that Hamilton continue to provide a high level of services without overburdening its citizens with taxes. With a small population, this is a difficult task. It is also important that the Town strike a careful balance between upholding its regulations and minimally interfering with peoples' lives. I believe the current Town Council does an excellent job of achieving these objectives. In the future, the Town will be faced with difficult choices concerning infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, and how to manage and slow traffic along old Route 7. There are many paths forward and the right choices will not always be clear, but I am up for the challenge of being part of the team charged with finding them. I hope that I will be elected to a new term, so that I will have the privilege of continuing to serve the people of Hamilton.

Focus On: Aureliano Resendiz Fence Building



Photo by Sarah Huntington

Aureliano Resendiz has been in the fence building business for well over a decade. He lives in western Loudoun County with his family for 23 years. Resendiz says, "I love building fences and love to see my clients happy." He does all types of wood and wire fencing and, "using the best wood is very important," said Resendiz. So next time you are thinking about home improvement don't forget the fence, and pick up the phone and give Aureliano a call.

LOUDOUN COUNTY ADULT DAY CENTERS

For Seniors with Physical Limitations or Memory Loss



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- ◆ Respite for caregivers needing support & free time
- ◆ Reasonable sliding scale fees

Offering engaging activities, individualized personal care, nutritious lunch and snacks, exercise, medication administration, health monitoring and limited transportation.
 Open weekdays from 7:30AM – 5:30PM.

<p>Purcellville Carver Center (off S. 20th St.) 200 Willie Palmer Way 571-258-3402</p>	<p>Ashburn (off George Washington Blvd.) 45140 Riverside Parkway 571-258-3232</p>	<p>Leesburg (near Leesburg Airport) 16501 Meadowview Ct. 703-771-5334</p>
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Video online at: www.loudoun.gov/adulthood

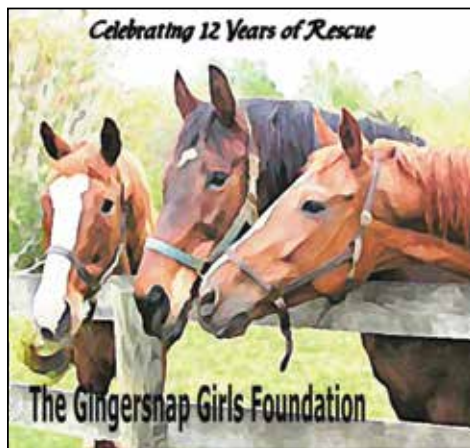
Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services.

Gingersnap Girls To Hold 9th Silent Auction

The Gingersnap Girls Equine Education & Rescue Foundation, a non-profit humane rescue, is holding their 9th Annual "New Day for Horses" Silent Auction & Benefit at Harmony Hall at Hamilton Safety Center Saturday, April 23 from 2 – 6 p.m. 39071 E. Colonial Highway, Hamilton.

Silent Auction will include: Art work, Potomac River & Chesapeake Bay cruises, theatre tickets, gift baskets and gift certificates from local merchants, furniture, beautiful crafts, raffles, door prizes and refreshments. Tickets are \$5 at the door, children 12 and under free.

One hundred percent of the proceeds go toward the rescue and rehabilitation of abused, abandoned, sick, and slaughter bound



equines, as well the organization's mission of educating against all animal abuses.

Call 540 338-5218 for more information.

Humane Society Seeks Homes For Barn Cats

The Humane Society of Loudoun County is soliciting the public's help in finding homes for a local population of semi-wild feral cats. The ideal situations for these cats include a farm with barn, horse stable, warehouse or other suitable outdoor locations. All cats are healthy and have received veterinarian care including sterilization, rabies shot and exam. There will be no adoption fee. If you currently have unspayed barn cats you can also receive assistance in having them sterilized. These cats can help keep rodents away from grain and food storage and you will enjoy watching them. If you own or manage property and have permission for long-term placement of animals on the property, please contact the HSLC at helpanimals@humaneloudoun.org



Jazz & Co Dance Concert At Franklin Park



The Loudoun School of Ballet's pre-professional JAZZ&CO DANCE presents its spring concert as a benefit for the Teri & Shari Malone Foundation at the Franklin Park Arts Center.

Friday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 9 at 3 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 10 at 3 p.m.

Admission \$12 adults, \$8 children/students/seniors at the door.

The dances cover the full range of contemporary dance from modern to Broadway jazz, including a professional work by choreographer Miya Hisaka. Franklin Park Arts Center, 36441 Blueridge View Lane, Purcellville.

CIA K-9 Training Exercise Explosives Left On LCPS Bus

Federal officials have confirmed that the explosives material found by a maintenance worker on a school bus parked at Briar Woods High School last week was apparently left in the vehicle by a federal agency conducting training exercises. Briar Woods is a secondary school in Ashburn serving students in Broadlands, Brambleton and surrounding neighborhoods.

While school and Loudoun County Sheriff's Department authorities were able to quickly confirm that the explosives materials could not be activated using normal operation of the bus, the parents of students who might have been on the bus when the explosives were present were quickly contacted.

Reports from Central Intelligence headquarters in Langley, VA confirmed that CIA K-9 units participate in regular training exercises with K-9 units from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Such a routine training exercise recently took place with law enforcement officials in Loudoun County, and explosive training materials were inadvertently left in one of the buses used.

Taking to social media, one parent questioned why a federal agency was placing real explosives on a school bus used by real kids, saying, "... you put my kid, who wears a harness to keep him in the seat, on this same bus, that you FORGOT TO REMOVE THE BOMB FROM???" while another urged caution and not to point fingers, indicating that their greater fear was that

an actual bomber might seek to disrupt a large music or sports event in the DC area.

Separating the benign from the credible threat is an ongoing challenge for both school officials and federal, state and local law enforcement, and parents are often feeling stuck in the middle.

In January a Loudoun Valley High School student appeared in court for making statement about wanting to hurt individuals at the school. A Sheriff's Department investigation concluded that the student was "perpetuating a hoax of a threat."

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office also recently investigated a March 4 phoned-in bomb threat at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn. The school was evacuated, and students were placed on busses and taken to a separate location. Canine units searching the school and grounds found no explosive material.

Security agencies report that they field an average of up to ten bomb threats in the country each day.

For example, a total of six area public and private schools received what officials described as bomb-threats-by-robocall on the day of the Stone Bridge High School incident, including Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, George Mason High School in Falls Church, Herndon High School, McLean High School, The Potomac School in McLean and Westfield High School in Chantilly.

Police found no bombs at any of the locations, but school safety experts say that bomb threats are on the increase nationwide.



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Beauty And The Beast

Local Survivor Competes For Cancer Group's Woman Of The Year

People say that life changed the instant they got the diagnosis. That's when the beast known as cancer knocked on their door and came crashing down on themselves and their family, time, stopped.

They also say that you learn something about life. You learn to tap into the very best of yourself, and you come to understand the incredible power you have to positively impact the lives of others ... maybe even save a life. And, this is exactly what happened to Purcellville's Tracy Robinson.

Robinson was diagnosed with cancer on September 3, 2015. And, time did stop. But, not for long. When Robinson was receiving treatment Hirst Farm neighbors through fundraising raised two months of salary and organized two months of meals for her family. Said Hirst Farm resident Kelli Grim, "This isn't the first time we rallied around one of our neighbors in crisis."

Today, with 4 months of cancer treatment behind her, and a full three months of "no cancer here" test results to her credit, Robinson is on a mission to raise \$280,000 as part of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Man & Women of the Year Campaign.

The society's MWOY campaign, which runs from March 24 through June 4, is an intensive ten-week effort in which participants



Tracy Robinson

compete for the title, raising funds for LLS research and patient support. Over \$123 million have been raised since the yearly campaign began.

Robinson was nominated to compete for the title in the DC area by cancer survivor Erin Ragsdale of Texas, who won Woman of the Year in 2015. Ragsdale raised some \$277,000, so Robinson is doing the next natural thing ... setting her

sights on raising \$280,000. She's also making it personal, raising the funds in honor of two friends that are currently battling leukemia and lymphoma - Iliana (age 7) and her mother, Gina, both also of Purcellville. Iliana and her mom were diagnosed just six weeks from each other and right about the time Robinson got the news.

With local celebrations, private dinners, silent auctions, golf tournaments and a fun rubber ducky competition, Robinson is diligently working her way through kick-off, mid-point and grand finale efforts that will - with the community's support - hit and even surpass her \$280,000 goal. Robinson's home town kick off is Saturday, April 9 at Monks Barbecue - 5 p.m.

For more information go to Tracy Robinson's web page: www.twisted4LLS.com. Her beautifully powerful YouTube appeal can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBTjgc738u8.

Sixth Annual Loudoun Lyme Race Kicks Off May 15

Local Businessman Has Personal Stake In The Race

The 6th Annual Loudoun Lyme 5K/10K/1K kicks off on May 15 from the Brambleton Town Center in Ashburn. The popular race is designed to drive awareness and raise money to help find a cure for Lyme disease - the number one tick-borne illness in the United States. Loudoun County accounts for the third largest number of Lyme cases in the country.




diagnosed with Lyme and tick-borne diseases. The local race is supported by many area businesses. Platinum supporters include area wineries, artists and home repair specialists such as DryHome Roofing and Siding, Inc. Steve Gotschi, the owner of DryHome Roofing & Siding, came up with the concept of the Loudoun

Lyme 5K after his wife and many of their friends contracted Lyme Disease. He hopes that the funds generated by the Loudoun Lyme 5K race will broaden awareness of the disease, educate the public on the symptoms and help find a cure.

The Loudoun Lyme 5K/10K will feature a 1K fun run, as well as an information fair to educate the public about Lyme disease, its causes, symptoms and treatments. Individuals who cannot attend the race itself can participate by logging their own scores and raising funds for the cause. To date, nearly \$200,000 has been raised to support research and advocacy efforts.

The National Capital Lyme and Tick-borne Disease Association is a nationwide organization concerned with the physical, emotional and social impact on people and their families

Donations in support of National Capital Lyme can be sent to DryHome Roofing and Siding, c/o Loudoun Lyme, 45921 Marines Road, Number 100, Sterling, VA 20166. Checks should be made payable to NatCapLyme. For more information or to register for the race go to www.loudounlyme.org.





Go Out Without Going Far!

Franklin Park Arts Center

36441 Bluemidge View Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132
www.franklinparkartscenter.org 540-338-7973

"EGG" Auction Event!
 16 egg shaped originals works of art by Loudoun artists and celebrities will be auctioned off Sunday, April 17 starting at 2:00 pm. Proceeds benefit Franklin Park Arts Center.





ONE MAN STAR WARS TRILOGY Thursday & Friday, May 12 & 13 8:00 PM

(All ages) You'll feel like the "Chosen One" when you witness Charles Ross impersonate all your favorite characters, recreate the effects, insert factoids, sing from the John Williams score, and fight both sides of the battles in this 75 min adaptation of Episodes IV, V and VI. By the end of the evening the Force will indeed be with you.

A Gold Star Performance presented with Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center.

Tickets: \$35 Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org



JAZZ&CO DANCE: MALONE BENEFIT CONCERT

Fri & Sat, April 8, 9 7:30 PM

Sat & Sun, April 9 & 10 3:00 PM

A delightful evening of artistry and entertainment. Comprised of pre-professional dancers, JAZZ&CO DANCE performs a repertoire from Broadway Jazz to Contemporary Ballet, with works by resident and guest choreographers.

Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$8 Seniors/Students/Kids Pay at Door

Cash or Check Only.

THE EDGE DANCE COMPANY Sat, April 16 7:00 PM

Experience an inspiring evening of contemporary dance as participants of the Edge Company collaborate with Virginia's professional Gin Dance Company. You're sure to leave this event with your spirits uplifted. Reservations 703-723-8089

Tickets: \$20 Adult, \$10 Child Pay at the Door

BLUE SKY PUPPETS PRESENTS: BANANAS

Wed, April 13 10:00 AM

(Ages 2 & up) Since 1974, Blue Sky Puppets have been one of the finest touring children's theatres on the East Coast. In this production Blue Sky Puppet Theatre presents themes of healthy living issues are explored in a fun, upbeat and positive way.

Tickets: \$5 per person Pay at Door

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Fri & Sat, April 22, 23 & 29, 30 7:30 PM

Sun, April 24 & May 1 2:00 PM

Audiences of all ages have been delighted with the story of an eccentric inventor and his children, Truly Scrumptious, and a magical car!

Visit mainstreettheaterproductions.org for tickets.

Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$15 Seniors/Students, \$10 Group of 20 or more

And There's MORE!

Gallery Coffeehouse: Readers Theatre, "Tuna Does Vegas"
 4/10 6:30PM
 Tickets: \$8 per person

Gallery Coffeehouse: Meet The Artist, Penny Hauffe
 4/17 6:30PM
 Tickets: \$8 per person

Gallery Coffeehouse: John DuRant
 4/24 6:30PM
 Tickets: \$8 per person



Join Us at the 5th Annual Sadie's Race 5K and Kids' Fun Run Fundraiser for Smile Train!

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Purcellville Train Station
200 N 21st Street
Purcellville, VA 20132

7am - Packet pick-up and Registration

8am - Kids Fun Run

8:30am - 5K

Register for Sadie's Race at sadiesmilefoundation.org and learn more about Smile Train at smiletrain.org



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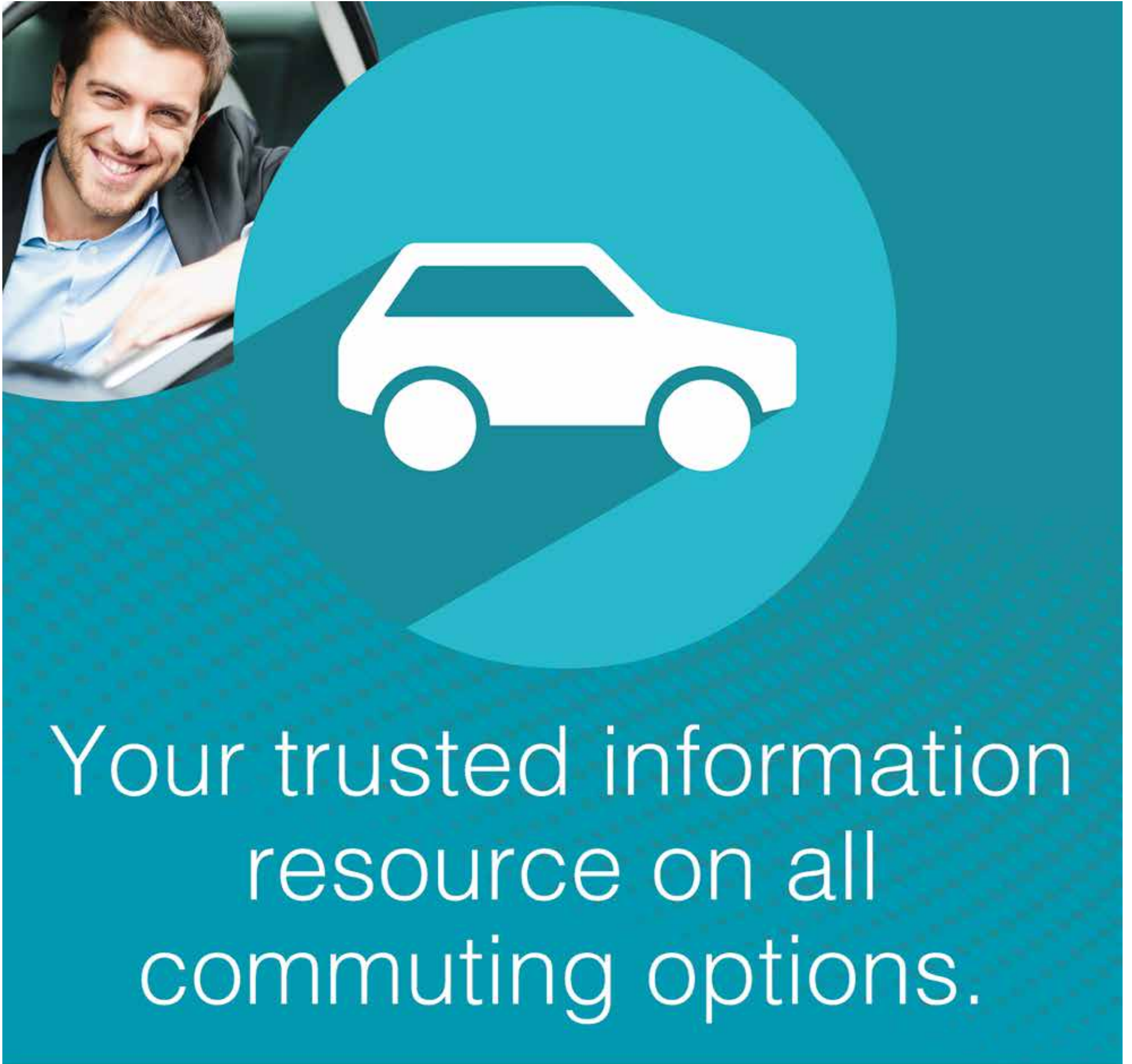
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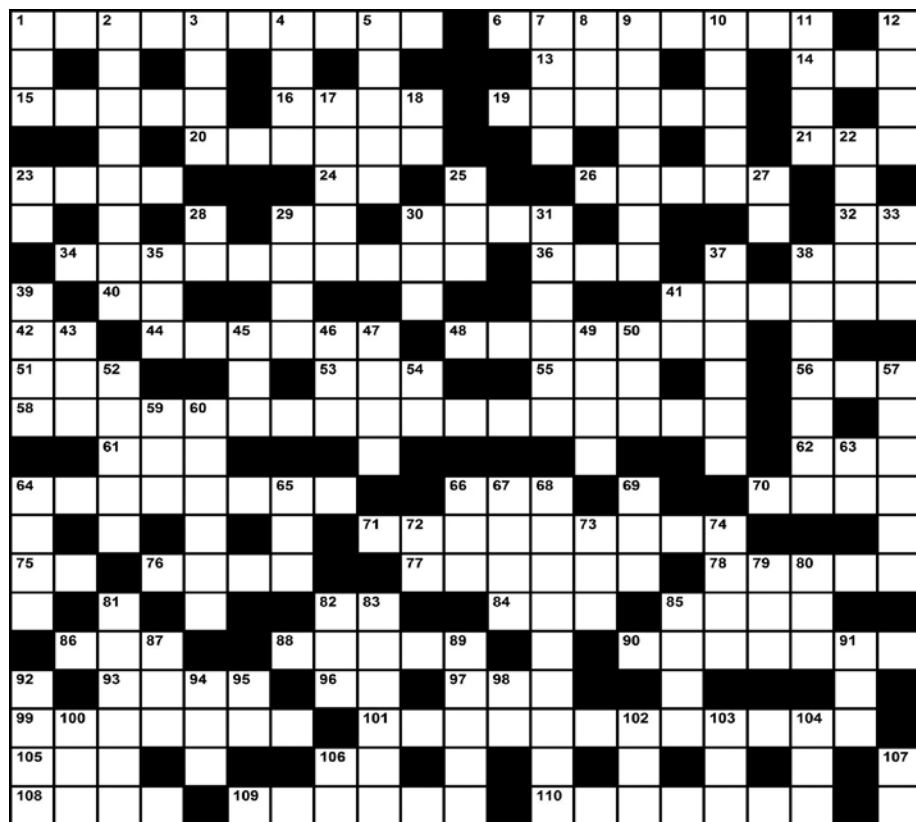
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Pville Brain Twister

By Myles Mellor and Sally York

The first two 100 percent correct crossword postmarked and sent to P.O. Box 325, Purcellville 20134 will receive a \$50 gift certificate.



ACROSS

1. Procedure that allows the town to expand its borders
6. Fireman's Field is protected by a Conservation _____
13. Sign of silent approval
14. Number of traffic lights Purcellville had 20 years ago
15. Stories permitted in downtown prior to 2008 zoning changes- also the number of beer breweries Purcellville has now!
16. George Michael's former band
19. Issue that gives elected officials the power to affect the amount of growth in the town
20. When the new roundabout at 287 was torn down to build the second roundabout what was the difference in feet?
21. Letters that indicate something funny on the internet
23. Small salmon
24. "___ the people...."
26. Purcellville's approximate debt, _____

DOWN

29. Compass direction, for short
30. Average family size in Purcellville
32. Trademark, abbreviation
34. Business in Purcellville has been in the same family for 250 years, _____ Orchard
36. It can form on the road in winter
38. Word before horse or lion
40. "___ can do," Hall and Oates
41. Creature comfort
42. "The Life of ___" movie
44. Loudoun Valley Student Cross Country Runner of the Year, Andrew _____
48. Principal of Emerick Elementary
51. Driver's licenses, abbr.
53. Doggie doc
55. 52 to an old Roman
56. Perception a medium claims to have, abbr.
58. Document developed by citizens of Purcellville that is supposed to reflect their vision, 2 words
61. Retirement account

62. Cause for a penalty shootout in soccer
64. First distillery since prohibition in Loudoun County, _____ Creek
66. College degrees, abbr.
70. One who changes colors
71. Mascot for Woodgrove High School
75. Weight measure a dieter watches, abbr.
76. Month Purcellville residents pay Personal Property taxes
77. Name of the business owner on 21st St. who is appealing the zoning administrator's decision in favor of Vineyard Square
78. Nickname for the Purcellville Fire department
82. Spanish, for short
84. Got spliced
85. Eager
86. Equipment cooler
88. Purcellville police _____, Cynthia McAlister
90. Elementary School that was once a High School
93. Romantic flower
96. Printer brand
97. Make a choice
99. Reason developers want to be annexed
101. 50 acre property along the proposed Northern Collector Road that has submitted an application to be annexed, _____ Crossroads
105. ___ we done yet?
106. 101 for a centurion
108. Author Twain
109. Body that controls the zoning outside the town limits
110. Purcellville's oldest business

29. What a politician fights for in an election
30. Good times
31. Brain-teaser
33. Month town elections take place
35. "___ Baby Baby" Linda Ronstadt song
37. Mascot for Loudoun Valley High School
38. Years Browning Equipment has been in Purcellville
39. Cast-of-thousands film
41. Nearby state, abbr.
43. Words said at a wedding
45. It indicates born name before married
46. Time just before an event
47. Payment to a landlord
49. Business slumps
50. OPEC controls its production
52. Metalworker
54. ___ Eliot (poet)
57. Legendary dancer who grew up in Purcellville
59. Authority
60. Accumulate, 2 words
63. That is
64. Farm where Purcellville Gateway now is
65. Eisenhower's nickname
66. Popular sandwich
67. Assert
68. Approximate percentage property tax increased when the Fireman's Field special tax was created in 2013
69. Pine tree
72. Operating system, abbr.
73. Color of Santa's coat
74. Garden in Genesis
79. Former European economic group (abbr.)
80. Numero _____
81. 120 acre property along the proposed Northern Collector Road that submitted an application to be annexed, _____ Brook
82. Sound to command silence in a cinema
83. Kind of apple
85. Ukraine capital and a kind of chicken dish
87. Refusals
89. Number of condominiums to be built in Vineyard Square in downtown Purcellville
91. Fib
92. First man in the Bible
94. Number of stories currently permitted in the downtown district-C4
95. Film about a gentle alien
98. Computer
100. Period in history
102. Resin
103. Process where a private company goes public
104. Old vinyl records
106. Copper symbol
107. Editor, abbr.

Stabbing In Purcellville – April 4

On Monday afternoon, April 4, there was a report of a stabbing committed against Pastor Janney at his house located in the Locust Grove subdivision in Purcellville. The stabbing was reportedly domestic in nature. According to the Purcellville Baptist Church social media page Pastor Janney is in stable condition. Janney was flown to the hospital in a helicopter which landed in a field near the parking lot of the church. Janney is pastor of the Purcellville Baptist Church.

There was a lock out at Blue Ridge Middle School, and Loudoun Valley High School. Emerick Elementary was out for the day but after school activities were locked down. The adult male suspect fled the scene but was apprehended shortly after the incident.

We will update as more information becomes available.



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Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

mostly outside of his control.

You write that the nail biting began a few years ago for your son. Do you recall any possible stressors for him over the past few years? Was starting elementary school stressful? Did you move? Have there been problems or changes in the home? Was there a death in the family? Does your son struggle with important areas of learning such as, math, reading or writing? Have there been any social problems outside of the home?

The good news is that most of the time children grow out of facial tics and nail biting, and having your help as parents will be important. While being too firm or punitive is not a good idea, helping your son to gain awareness and supporting him away from the unwanted behaviors is advised. Here are a few tips to consider.

Talk to your son about his problems.

If you are able to identify certain stressors in your son's life, encourage open dialogue. For example, if your son is a very sensitive child and is struggling socially, help your son to talk about his feelings and problem solve toward a solution. As a parent, you could also share some of your own social struggles from your childhood, and go over some of the things you did to improve things. If your son is indeed experiencing social or emotional struggles, you could also turn to movies or books to help. From Aesop's Fables to Disney and Pixar, children can learn and gain a sense of personal mastery through stories. *Zootopia* and *Kung Fu Panda 3* are a couple of recent movies that do a great job of teaching children the importance of overcoming personal conflicts toward successful resolutions.

Have a code word or strategy. Perhaps

you and your son could come up with a code word or a strategy (e.g., gently rubbing your son's arm) when the nail biting or facial tics occur. These sorts of reminders will help your son to become more self-aware of his unwanted behaviors without calling him out publicly.

Come up with replacement behaviors.

Having a stress ball or Silly Putty on hand for your son can distract him away from his unwanted behaviors and help him to self-regulate more adaptively. There are also several calming Apps your son could use on a smart phone, iPad/tablet or computer when the unwanted behaviors appear. "Thisissand" is one of my favorite calming Apps. It's a game where a child simply creates (in a slow and methodical manner) a sand pyramid using various colors. You will also find several mindfulness meditation Apps on-line for children that specifically

address stress and anxiety.

Given that your son has been experiencing nail biting and tics for some time now, I strongly recommend that you schedule an appointment with your pediatrician to discuss your concerns. Again, while children typically outgrow nail biting and facial tics, you should rule-out other sorts of problems or medical disorders. Your son's pediatrician may recommend a consult with a child neurologist, child psychiatrist or child psychologist. Research has shown that counseling can be helpful to treat stress/anxiety induced tics and behaviors.

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.

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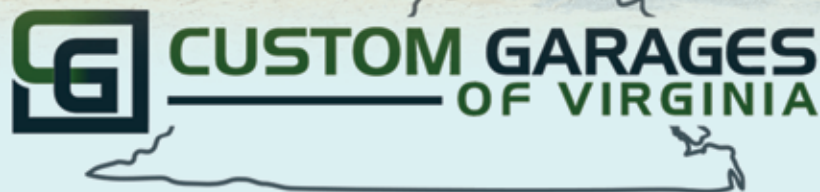


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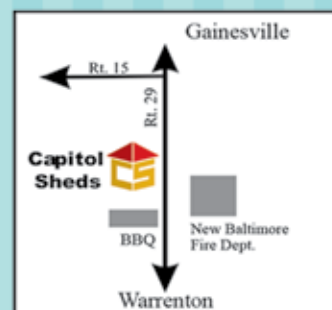
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