

# Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN TODAY

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JUNE 2017

## Geese On Main Street, With Data Centers At Their Heels



Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall

– By Andrea Gaines

Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall (D-At-Large) delivered a crisp, 35-minute State of the County speech on May 24. The message? Loudoun County had arrived at a very modern place in its 260-year history, and now faces not just the question of how to preserve the things that have sustained it so successfully, but how to meet the distinctly urban and suburban challenges demanding answers now, in real time.

Randall began by touting the County's extraordinary financial success, as defined by traditional economic indicators, including our AAA bond rating, \$3 billion in new commercial investment from 80 companies, and Loudoun's ranking as third in the nation in job growth, according to 2015 statistics.

But the very diverse set of topics that Randall addressed in the speech also revealed that Loudoun County, while

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**VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN**

## Purcellville Cannons Talent, Talent And More Talent

– By Andrea Gaines

At their 2017 home opener, the Los Angeles Dodgers absolutely trounced the San Diego Padres. Said one sports commentator: "Their opening-day bats were so special ... it was easy to forget the Dodgers also benefited from the planet's best arm."

That, of course – the talent an organization brings to the field – is the most important predictor of a team's possibilities for the season. And, if that's true, the Purcellville Cannons are poised to have a pretty great one. Because between returning players, and the team's newest recruits, the Cannons have put together quite a roster for their second season.

- One of the best is the Cannons All-Star Closer and Co-MVP pitcher Will Reed, who you'll see on the cover of the 2017 Cannons Program. (Reed shared the MVP title with Tyler Ratliff.)
- Another is Loudoun Valley High School alumni and Liberty Flames baseball infielder Trey McTyre, currently batting over 300.

### Cannons home opener vs. the Winchester Royals at Fireman's Field, Friday, June 3.



Will Reed

- Former Cannon infielder Sam Fragale of Virginia Tech fame returns to the Cannons for a second season. Fragale and is leading the NCAA in home runs and total bases.
- Woodgrove alumni Colin Reid is joining the Cannons as a pitcher. In his last 17 innings of work Reid struck out twenty-

seven unlucky batters.

- Also now on board is infielder Ray Hernandez of Alabama State University. Hernandez contributed four home runs and twenty-one RBIs to the Cannons' stats last season.

The full team roster includes: The infield – Ray Hernandez, Paul Cabrera, Trevin Esquerra, Daniel Myers, Jean Carlos Correa, Kyle Ouellete, Tyler Ratliff, Nolan Ritchie, Andru Summerall, Trey McTyre; Pitcher – William Reed, Alex London, Bradley Davis, Tanner Skidmore, Salvatore Lovaglio, Kyle Morton, Tom Sutera, Drew Windham, Austin Stephens, Devon Perez, Dalton Whitaker, Jase Carvell, Sean Gabel, Mike Taylor, Colin Reid, Trey Alderman, Parker Dyson, Andy Crum; Catcher – Onassis Matos, Jake Goodreau; Outfield – Mitchell Painter, Langston Watkins, Payton Marshall, Andy Szanski.

Thirteen home games and eleven away games are scheduled for the month of June. For details and team schedule go to [www.PurcellvilleCannons.com](http://www.PurcellvilleCannons.com).



U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Bill Sanders/Released

Aviation Structural Mechanic (Safety Equipment) Airman Eric Stephens, from Aldie, assigned to the Redcocks of Strike Fighter Attack Squadron (VFA) 22 conducts maintenance on an F/A-18F Super Hornet in the hangar bay of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). Theodore Roosevelt is underway conducting a tailored ship's training availability off the coast of California.

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# ASK DR. MIKE

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

*Dr. Mike, My husband and I are planning to hold our son back to repeat eighth grade. He plays on a travel sports team, and the extra year would give him an advantage for high school. My sister did it for her son, and her son ended up playing varsity as a freshman. He also ended up making honor roll. Our son attends private school, and the school is fine with it; they even told us that more and more parents are doing it to give kids that extra edge with grades and sports. Our son is 100 percent on board. Your thoughts?*

– Concerned in Loudoun

While most public school systems will not allow a student to repeat a school year if he or she is doing well enough academically, private schools may be more open to the idea. In my experience as a child psychologist, athletics have been the main reason for holding a child back in eighth grade. I've seen first-hand, children benefit athletically and academically by affording them more time to develop. However, I've also seen children suffer socially and emotionally from the decision – watching friends move on while they remain behind to relearn everything already learned the previous year can be difficult for many. The practice works best when a child can transfer schools to avoid peer pressure or judgment.

Dear Concerned in Loudoun,

Redshirting kindergarten or taking a gap year between high school and college has been common practice for some time. And yes, for a growing number of parents, eighth grade or middle school is now being seen as another redo-moment to help their children mature, for that extra edge in life.

I generally don't support the decision to redshirt in middle school for athletics because the risk of doing harm (socially and emotionally) far outweighs the benefit of becoming a better athlete. It also teaches a child that there is a way to cheat the system – especially if the child attends a private school and has money.

*Continued on page 26*

## Attention low inventory alert! We have sold out of almost all of our homes and need more homes to sell!

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### PURCELLVILLE SOLD



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### HAMILTON SOLD



Hughesville road- listed for \$849,900

### ROUND HILL SOLD



Williams Gap road listed for \$699,900

### PURCELLVILLE SOLD



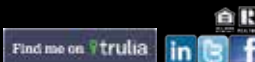
Greggsville Road listed for \$649,900

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## LaRock Announces VDEM Disaster Grants To Purcellville And LCPS



Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Delegate Dave LaRock

On May 23, Delegate Dave LaRock met with Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser to congratulate Purcellville on being awarded nearly \$95,000 in Virginia Department of Emergency Management disaster grant funds for damages sustained during Winter Storm Jonas.

Delegate LaRock stated, "I appreciate the hard-working folks who get the job done clearing our streets and providing vital services even in times of crisis. We all know that our local government and emergency services budgets are strapped for funds, and a huge weather event or other disaster can cause serious fiscal impacts. I'm pleased

that the state worked hard to expedite the distribution of this funding. Thanks to Mayor Fraser and Town of Purcellville staff for their work securing funds to cover these unexpected costs."

State Coordinator of Emergency Management Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D., commended "the hard work and dedication" of Purcellville and Loudoun County staff, saying their "...extensive documentation of all the steps of this process allowed VDEM to partner with and move the initial claims to final distribution." Loudoun County Public Schools will also receive nearly \$290,000 in disaster grant funds.

# envision

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Registration is not required but requested to help prepare. To learn more and register, visit: [Envision-Loudoun.org](http://Envision-Loudoun.org)

\*Registration opens at 6:30, meeting starts at 7pm unless noted otherwise

Attend the session most convenient to you

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Harper Park MS  
701 Potomac Station Drive, Leesburg

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21060 Whitfield Pl, Sterling

**Monday, June 12**  
Broad Run HS  
21670 Ashburn Road, Ashburn

**Tuesday, June 13**  
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Registration 7:00, meeting at 7:30pm

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## Cultivate Innovation-Driven Solutions

– By Delegate Dave LaRock (R-33)

Schools are letting out for summer break and many families are celebrating graduations and making plans for college. Few would disagree with the importance of quality affordable education. While it may not be prominent in the conversations, our state and local governments play key roles in the delivery of education to consumers from kindergarten to higher education.

As your elected Delegate, I work to meet the challenges of our local businesses, transportation networks, and education systems, and that means finding innovative approaches to delivering high-quality service efficiently. I'm glad to say there are ways to conserve education dollars while improving academic outcomes. That might sound hard to believe, but with School Choice, it's already happening across the nation. As one might expect though, making even small changes to how education dollars are spent stirs up vocal opposition from those who are currently on the receiving side of education spending.

Last Wednesday, I toured the new Hillsboro Charter Academy with Mayor Roger Vance, Loudoun School Board member Eric Dekenipp and others. One key to the success of charter schools is the downsized administrative control which allows parents and the local community into the education



Del.  
**Dave LaRock**

process. The level of energy and passion for education evident among the students and teachers at Hillsboro Charter Academy was striking. It is impressive listening to teachers talk about how kids become excited to learn as they react to innovative teaching methods, such as project-based learning. To my amazement, although they would appreciate more funding, the amount of money it takes to sustain this school is roughly half the cost per pupil compared to the larger non-charter public schools.

School choice is a term which generally refers to the range of options for K-12 education and includes charter schools, virtual education, homeschooling, private schools, and education savings accounts. Many of these have already demonstrated the efficiency and success I witnessed at Hillsboro Charter School.

Virtual schools have enormous potential for the streamlining of education. Just as many adults enjoy the freedom of working full or part-time from home, so can students as the right programs and monitoring procedures are put in place. The Virginia Legislature has passed several bills to put this in motion, although most have died with a stroke of the governor's veto pen.

The House and Senate also passed a bill I introduced to allow Education Savings Accounts in Virginia. This proposes a shift

of some state education dollars to help special needs kids whose educational needs are not being met by public schools. There are rapidly growing special education demands and accompanying budget pressure. In Virginia, the number of students most expensive to serve (autism and other health impairments) has skyrocketed by 23 percent to 46,865 students in just the last five years. The number one critical shortage area among teachers is Special Education.

The most significant laws I've proposed come from listening to people's needs, and this bill was no exception. Parents from the 33rd District have come to me with descriptions of how they've had to waste years fighting their school district to receive accommodations that their special needs child requires, but the district couldn't or wouldn't provide and the parents couldn't afford. This ESA proposal would allow parents to access other education resources to provide their special needs children with personalized education plans. Education Savings Accounts are being used in other states to provide students and parents with the resources they need to pursue additional education opportunities. All this is being accomplished while saving education dollars.

I support making quality education a high priority. I am happy to report that the House of Delegates passed a conservative, responsible, and structurally-balanced amended budget that invests in education. While avoiding any tax or fee increases on hard working Virginians, the budget secured \$32 million for a 2 percent teacher

pay raise with no local match required, effective February 2018. We are investing over \$18 million in new funding for K-12, while giving local school divisions added flexibility to spend the money as best fits them. We are providing over \$20 million in new funding for higher education to hold down tuition costs for Virginia families.

Along with budgeting for education, I support greater variety and efficiency. These school choice options hold potential to enhance, not attack, the public school system when added as an option alongside existing public schools – they are improvements. The modern-day effort to promote school choice across the country has nothing to do with taking one type of school and elevating it above the rest. It is about pairing students with schools that work best for them regardless of the type of school, or how it is funded.

*Delegate Dave LaRock was elected in November 2013 to represent the 33rd House District, including parts of Loudoun, Clarke and Frederick Counties, and the towns of Leesburg (partial), Purcellville, Berryville, Lovettsville, Round Hill, Hamilton and Hillsboro. LaRock serves on the Transportation Committee, the Science and Technology Committee and the Education Committee. Dave and his wife, Joanne, have lived in Loudoun for 31 years, building a successful family-owned general contracting business. The LaRocks reside near Hamilton with Laura, Abby and John, the youngest of their seven children.*

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## Letters To The Editor

### Loudoun Needs More Than A Plan

**Dear Editor:**

I am concerned for the future of Loudoun, a future that may already be lost if major factors that now determine the path of the County are not managed. Loudoun is already looking like any sprawling landscape in any part of the country. Loudoun needs more than a plan, it needs a vision.

The word "vision" is defined as "the act or power of seeing" – in planning terms, defining what you want your future landscape to look like.

Executing a plan without a vision will result in more of the same. And, even if there is a vision, problems like arbitrary ideals, bureaucratic barriers, impotency of leadership, exploitation and the unfortunate reality of population growth will happen.

Preservation of rural roadways is critical to a vision of Loudoun, at least in my view.

Unfortunately, a conversation with VDOT representatives about making Harpers Ferry Road a beautiful rural parkway for cyclists, hikers, joggers, tourists, local commuters, and residents – to preserve the natural, historical, and rural cultural that is the heart of Loudoun – proved futile. The vision of an idyllic country road was overlaid by a cacophony of sheep masticating on the cud of stale bureaucratic responses, data models, statistics, and concerns about commuter complaints. A bureaucratic approach to

an idyllic country road is a highway with turn lanes, passing zones, and additional traffic lanes – more of the wondrous VDOT planning that makes Northern Virginia traffic the second worst in the Nation.

Leadership does not have to be anathema to vision, but they must be empowered and trusted by the people to make uncomfortable decisions. Politicians are rarely visionary, though they can help actuate the future that people want. Keeping a job as a politician is difficult and risky when working to realize a vision. Politicians generally submit to the will of their benefactors, public opinion, party allegiance and self-interest. But, politicians, however uninspired, are still needed to realize any dream of a future for Loudoun.

Managed growth is a lie. Puppeteers continue to drool over prospects to exploit Loudoun by manufacturing more tasteless pedestrian town centers, strip malls, and tracts of horrifically monotonous colonials or McMansions ... on wasted acreage with trite names feigning deference to a farm, forest, ridge, meadow, grove, wood, hill, run, creek, acre, view ... or the variety of tree uprooted to make way for a barren grass yard ... empty features that sound fabulous on a real estate rack card.

The arbitrary ideal that Loudoun needs to be everything to everyone will result in the County being nothing to anyone; a design-by-committee county, a whirlwind of undecipherable wreckage.

In order to capture what everyone thinks,

the County leads meetings to collect the self-interests from residents and non-residents. Hopefully the output will provide valuable input toward a vision. The problem is, the output of the meeting is often the very basic ingredients to any landscape recipe: Schools, utilities, parks, and preservation of historic places. A cathartic spilling of traffic woes, the desire for more roads and the expansion of existing roads. But, the expansion of roadways never alleviates traffic; it only increases capacity and feeds growth and more traffic problems.

Loudoun can be economically diverse, preserve its character, history, culture, and be a place for people and families of all types. But, it will only be different from the rest of Metro D.C. if it is not everything to everyone. Growth must be managed, and government needs to be strong enough to achieve the objective.

So, what is the vision, Loudoun? What will the plan be? How will the plan be carried out? Who will lead it?

*Christopher Griggs  
Purcellville*

### Move Forward With Taintor

**Dear Editor:**

On June 13, the people of the 33rd District will have an opportunity to select a forward-thinking, problem-solving, issue-

*Continued on page 30*

## Why Your Water Rates Did Not Increase This Year Understanding Chargeback Accounting Practices

– By Kwasi Fraser, Mayor of Purcellville

Over time, chargeback accounting practices used by the Town of Purcellville have resulted in the transfer of over \$11 million from the Utility Fund (water and sewer) into the General Fund (Finance, Police, Maintenance, IT, Human Resources, etc.).

The constant need to “chargeback” or siphon off monies from the Utility Fund has led to yearly utility rate increases. In addition, by using this practice for over eleven years, the utility fund operated with a chronically large deficit, presenting the town with only one way to bring more money into the Utility Fund: growth ... in the form of more utility hookups. Today is the first time the Town Council has been able to address the chargeback issue with a majority that seeks to revamp the chargeback process, and this is what we have decided to do. The majority of this council have taken steps to define, measure, analyze, improve, and control the chargeback process.

### Understanding Chargebacks

Town employees – paid through the General Fund – are tasked with providing

operational and administrative support to the Utility Fund. Their time for processing water bills, issuing checks to vendors, and for utilities-related maintenance is charged back or applied to expenses for the Utility Fund. For example, if a staff member in Finance, which is a part of the General Fund, is generating an accounting report for the Utility Fund, that staff member would be paid from the Utility Fund. If an employee in the maintenance department, which falls under the General Fund, is checking and calibrating the water meters, his or her time would likewise be a chargeback to the Utility Fund.

There exist, however, several inconsistencies in the application of chargebacks. Unlike the administrative and financial activities charged back to the Utility Fund, maintenance/public works activities can be tracked and measured via the existing work order system. Further when a police officer patrols the reservoir and waste water treatment plant, or when IT disseminates information related to the Utility Fund, costs are not charged back to the Utility Fund because these employees are part of the General Fund.

This inconsistency in the use of chargebacks needs to be improved. Chargebacks should be supported by a transparent measurement and reporting system. As things stand, we have not been able to account for the actual hours spent by General Fund employees in support of the Utility Fund. Consequently, the actual time and effort spent by a staff member attached to the General Fund – on behalf of the Utility Fund – is estimated only and not monitored or measured for accuracy.

### Going Forward

During the eleven year period the current chargeback system has been in place, the General Fund saw surpluses, while the Utility Fund had to rely on ever-increasing sewer and water rates to service its debt and cover its operational costs.

The town manager recommended a 7 percent increase in utility rates for Fiscal Year 2018. This council countered that by reducing the proposed \$1.2 million in Utility Fund chargebacks for FY 18 by \$324,558 thereby eliminating the need for a rate increase. Going forward, we will also further define, measure, and analyze the entire process and implement the proper controls

and improvement systems. This \$324,558 reduction frees up cash in the Utility Fund to service debt and actual plant operational costs and reduces the need for significant increases in water and sewer rates.

Per the action of this Town Council, our citizens and businesses will see no increase in water and sewer fees for our new fiscal year.

The resulting \$324,558 increase in expense in the General Fund, covering administrative and financial management activities, is supported by revenue increases and responsible cuts in administrative and operational costs.

Our goal is to make sure systems are implemented to measure and monitor all chargebacks. In addition, we want to ensure that some chargeback activities now viewed as part of the normal administrative and operational function of employees in the General Fund, are absorbed by that fund and not the Utility Fund. Our current Town Council is committed to implementing a system that would provide accurate reporting information. In the words of Peter Drucker, “What gets measured gets improved.”

## May Is All About The Budget, Budget, Budget

– By Valerie Cury

At its May 23 meeting, the Purcellville Town Council voted 5-1-1 (with Council Member Doug McCollum voting no) to adopt the FY 2018 Budget. This brought a conclusion to the ten budget meetings that began in November 2016.

Most Council members had offered their suggestions on what to cut, and most of the straw poll votes on proposed cuts had resulted in a 5-2 vote, with a handful supported by McCollum and Council Member Chris Bledsoe.

During the May meetings, Mayor Kwasi Fraser thanked the Town Council for its work on the budget. “I know there were a lot of sleepless nights to go through the budget line item by line item ... making strategic cuts – and to some degree – cost avoidance.”

In the end, there was no increase in sewer and water rates. The Town Manager’s budget called for a seven percent increase in both water and sewer, but the Council ultimately whittled any rate increases down to a very sweet ... zero. Said Fraser, “Right now we have a surplus based on the expenses that we cut, and by putting the chargebacks into the General Fund.” For example: The \$75,000 budgeted for a water flow study was moved to 2019, when all the new homes from Mayfair come online and Catocin Corner is built out. By waiting, the Town will have accurate numbers of what the true capacity is, and not have to redo it at a later time. So, by postponing it, the Town will get more flows online and more accurate readings of the capacity.

### Budget Discussions – May

In public comments, former Council Member Joan Lehr urged the Town Council, when looking at the budget, not to propose cuts based on considerations

for getting re-elected.

Council Member Nedim Ogelman responded in his comment time, “Former Council Member Lehr is absolutely right. None of us should be up here doing anything with this budget with the idea of being re-elected. However, we should all be cognizant of the commitments we had made and the goals we had set in the process of getting elected. It would be wrong to have told citizens one thing when we were running for election, and turn around and do a polar opposite.”

He said the majority of Council’s objective is “to make things clearer, and to look for ways to not put pressure on higher water rates and higher sewer rates ... “This town has a significant debt burden in its water and sewer infrastructure and funds. And we are trying to look for ways for good governance, while also trying to reconcile that with transparency, and right-sizing our government.” He continued, “The people of this town in the election made a very clear signal that they would not like to pursue aggressive irresponsible growth. They want slow growth. So, our effort to try to reconcile slow growth with being responsible with the debt and also making sure that peoples’ utility rates don’t go up, is to figure out how to right-size government.”

Ogelman explained that the majority on Council is looking at “how to have a government that is sufficient and adequate to its needs, but not so big that it stimulates some kind of artificial demand for higher rates and increased growth.”... “This is coming now with this budget because this is the first time that there is a Council that has a majority that was elected to pursue those values.”

Council Member Ryan Cool asked, “Are you part of the problem or part of the solution? ... We are looking at these water rates and ... at how to manage the rates, rather

than just increasing and rubber stamping.” He continued, “Projecting the double-digit increases is not what the citizens have asked for, and not what they deserve.”

Mayor Kwasi Fraser quoted management guru Peter Drucker: “If you cannot measure it, you cannot improve it, you cannot control it, and you cannot manage it.” Fraser said that the Town has been using the accounting practice of chargebacks for the past 11 years, and “it has not been measurable. Again, it has not been measurable.”

He said his goal is to look at the chargebacks this year and in the future, because this practice has taken \$10 million from the Utility Fund and put it in the General fund. “So, in essence, this practice has been propping up the General Fund, while the Utility Fund has been operating at almost a deficit – and this is why rates keep on rising ... That is why we are looking at chargebacks to reduce this immeasurable accounting practice.”

Council Member Doug McCollum wanted to use money from the Reserve Fund. “It’s money that has been set aside for specific future purposes; and this could be one of them,” said McCollum. Fraser said that the money from the fund is in a high interest-bearing account, bringing in nearly \$50,000 yearly to the Town. “By cutting the expenses, we don’t have to touch the Reserve Fund ...” Grim pointed out that the Town’s consultant said under no circumstances does the Town want to use its reserve funds. “That would send the worst message, based on our credit rating,” said Grim.

### Purcellville Police Department

Vice Mayor Karen Jimmerson said that there was an article in a local paper that said that the Purcellville Town Council intended to cut the Police Department altogether. “That is incorrect,” said Jimmerson. “The department has increased by six percent

since 2016, and the proposed cuts from the enhancements are \$100,000, which was less than one percent of the proposed budget. The Police Department budget has grown faster than the Town budget as a whole.” She pointed out that the ratio of officers in Town is larger than cities that have 50,000 residents. The Police Department gets 23 percent of the Town budget.

Cool pointed out that overtime pay for the Police Department in this budget remains the same as last year – \$120,000. There are three officers coming from the academy, and one police officer will go from desk duty to the street. Council also approved one additional police vehicle.

Council Member Kelli Grim pointed out that the word “enhancement,” in the context of the budget, means to grow above and beyond what is currently working. She said that the Council’s goal is for the department to be properly funded, the optimal size for safety, success and efficiency. She also pointed out that there’s no plan to eliminate the Police Department. Fraser weighed in, and said that the Council needed to “right-size things, but that does not mean that we have a goal to cut the Police Department or do away with the Police Department. That’s far from the truth ... We need to make sure that the Police Department is well sourced ...”

Ogelman commented, “The signal we got in the last election is that people were concerned about their taxes and rates. Community policing is something we should pursue with zeal. We need to figure out how to right-size the resources. We are County citizens as well as Town citizens; and we should demand, as County citizens, that the Sheriff’s Department provide as much service, as much policing support, as we can ask for.”

# A Pivotal Moment In Numbers And Buzz Words

– By Andrea Gaines

Envision Loudoun will hold a second round of public input-sessions in June, wrapping up the Board of Supervisors' listening-and-learning portion of the multi-year effort to rewrite the County-wide Comprehensive Plan. In preparation for these input-sessions, the BOS is drafting official vision and goals statements, and establishing other guidelines, including how much growth Loudouners should be prepared to absorb in the coming years, and where that growth should go.

## Two Lighting Rod Issues

Two topics are getting lots of attention at this pivotal moment in the Envision Loudoun process. The first concerns what to do with the Transition Policy Area. This largely undeveloped area in the center of the County is intended to act as a buffer between the suburban east and the rural west through the use of lower densities, walkable community-based design standards for commercial and residential development, and generous open-space requirements. The second is the issue of new residential units. Are we stuck with all of the growth that wants to come in? Can we accommodate all of these new houses, and still look like Loudoun County?

## Gender Identity Or Zoning Confusion?

In Round I of the Envision Loudoun public input-sessions, citizens showed overwhelming support for the preservation of both the TPA and rural western Loudoun.

Citizens have expressed the same sentiment repeatedly since then, including at a May 2 public input-session that took place just prior to a BOS discussion on the development of official Envision Loudoun Vision & Goals Statements.

At the May 2 BOS meeting, TPA resident Don Gough, speaking on behalf of the Transition Area Alliance and Loudoun Residents for Reasonable Growth, called the TPA Loudoun's equivalent of a Central Park – invaluable for its 50 to 70 percent open space, natural ability to act as a wildlife mecca, and role as protector of County surface and ground water resources.

At the conclusion of its own TPA discussion, however, the BOS agreed in a 6-2-1 vote to eliminate any reference within the Vision Statement to the TPA – deleting terms such as “rural,” “suburban,” “urban,” and “transition/transitional” – in favor of more generic “in a variety of settings” language. Some Supervisors saw this as a dumbing down of the TPA concept. Others saw it as a neutral move. While still others minimized the effect that the language would have on the Envision Loudoun process.

Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large) – who favored the more generic language – said that by removing terms such as rural, suburban, transition, and urban from the Vision Statement, the Board was setting up a more general vision, and not making zoning policy. “I strongly support the Transition Policy Area – always have. That will not change,” said Randall.

Tony R. Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) returned to his defense of the TPA, saying that he thought it was significant that there was such a concerted effort to “strip” any reference to the TPA out of the Vision Statement. “A high-level statement is the perfect place to once again say that the Transition Policy Area is important to us,” said Buffington.

Kristen C. Umstatted (D-Leesburg) was perhaps the most vocal supporter of the TPA language. “Even in our generalized vision statement,” said Umstatted, “We need to establish our uniqueness ... We have beautiful rural areas, we have a transitional area between suburban and rural. We have the suburban areas. I think [this] highlights that we are a combination of different areas with different assets ...”

Ron A. Meyer (R-Broad Run) was at once technical, and then perhaps curiously technical when he said: “Transition setting – what does it mean? ... I'm not sure what that means in the English language ... What is a transition setting? Does it have to do with someone's gender identity?”

The most cut and dried response on the issue came from Suzanne M. Volpe

(R-Algonkian): “This is a high-level planning document. This is not a rezoning ... We are the only county in the lower 48 states that has a ‘transition’ policy area, okay? ... [Does it mean] transitional housing? Housing for people that have Alzheimer's ... I don't know ...”

The discussion of how to treat TPA-related language in the Envision Loudoun Vision Statement was brought to a close by Matthew F. Letourneau (R-Dulles) who, while indicating his support of the TPA, also maintained that it is “not working very well.” Suggesting that the discussion had devolved into a competition of who could show the most support for the TPA, he said: “I think we need to be a little bit careful of going overboard ... I don't think we have to tattoo it on ourselves every time we do anything ...”

## On-Demand Housing

The quandary facing the County as it rewrites its Comprehensive Plan – in concert with the thousands of citizens participating in the Envision Loudoun process – is this: Loudoun County is a fast-growing and very popular place to live. It is also a unique place, the features of which – including open land, beautiful scenery, abundant wildlife, and clean air and water – fall into increasingly short supply as we grow.

Between 2000 and 2015, the BOS and the Loudoun County Planning Commission approved 65,700 residential units for development. Some of these numbers are reflected in a report developed for the County's Envision Loudoun consultants who say that current zoning policies provide for the addition of 51,000 new residential units, 29,000 of which are already approved and in the pipeline. 51,000 new residential units that may be built by-right, of which nearly 30,000 are already being built.

A controversial County George Mason University Study, touted by developers as a much more accurate reading of our future, predicts a “severe housing shortage under current planning and housing policies,” indicating a need for 18,300 additional homes – above current growth projections.

In a separate exercise, County planners expect the demand for new housing to be about 50,000 additional units over the next 20 years, while the GMU study puts the need at 64,000. The numbers are dizzying, regardless of what time frame you look at or whose study you believe. As with the Board's recent discussions regarding the TPA, citizens seem to now understand that the real question is how to translate the desire to protect what is valued here in Loudoun County, without being run over by buzz words and numbers.

## On To Public Input, Round II

Former Blue Ridge Supervisor Jim Burton was a strong supporter and the main driver of the breakthrough Transition, Suburban, and Rural Policy Area framework that has defined Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan

## Envision Loudoun Public Workshops Round 2 – June 5, 7, 12, 13, 15

A second round of Envision Loudoun County workshops will be held in June. Pre-registration is not required.

Each session will begin with a 30-minute open house, during which time attendees have to opportunity to register and get a briefing on the topics to be discussed. Workshops last approximately 2 hours.

- **Monday, June 5:** Harper Park Middle School, 701 Potomac Station Drive, Leesburg. Registration, 6:30 p.m., workshop, 7 to 9 p.m.
- **Wednesday, June 7:** Cascades Senior Center, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Registration, 6:30 p.m., workshop, 7 to 9 p.m.
- **Monday, June 12:** Broad Run High School, 21670 Ashburn Road, Ashburn. Registration, 6:30 p.m., workshop 7 to 9 p.m.
- **Tuesday, June 13:** Harmony Middle School, 8174 W Colonial Highway, Hamilton. Registration, 7 p.m., workshop, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, June 15:** Mercer Middle School, 42149 Greenstone Drive, Aldie. Registration, 6:30 p.m., workshop, 7 to 9 p.m.

More information is available at [www.Envision-Loudoun.org](http://www.Envision-Loudoun.org).

for well over a decade. A wave of smart-growth voter sentiment swept Burton and other smart-growth advocates into power to preside over what news reports of the time described as an era of “explosive growth and the accompanying political tumult – over public schools, land-use planning, and transportation ... seesaw shifts in party domination of local politics ... and fierce debates over the pace of development ...”

Watching the Envision Loudoun process unfold, and commenting, specifically on the power given to the groups such as the Stakeholders Committee, Burton expressed concern that the BOS would not have the motivation and fortitude to preserve that framework, and protect Loudoun's unique historic, cultural, and rural assets. Said Burton, “It looks to me like they intend to open the transition area to greater residential density. This seems to be the whole reason for this exercise.” Burton added, in reference to the Envision Loudoun Stakeholders Committee, and other pro-growth powerbrokers: “Just look at the people they have appointed to all the study committees.”



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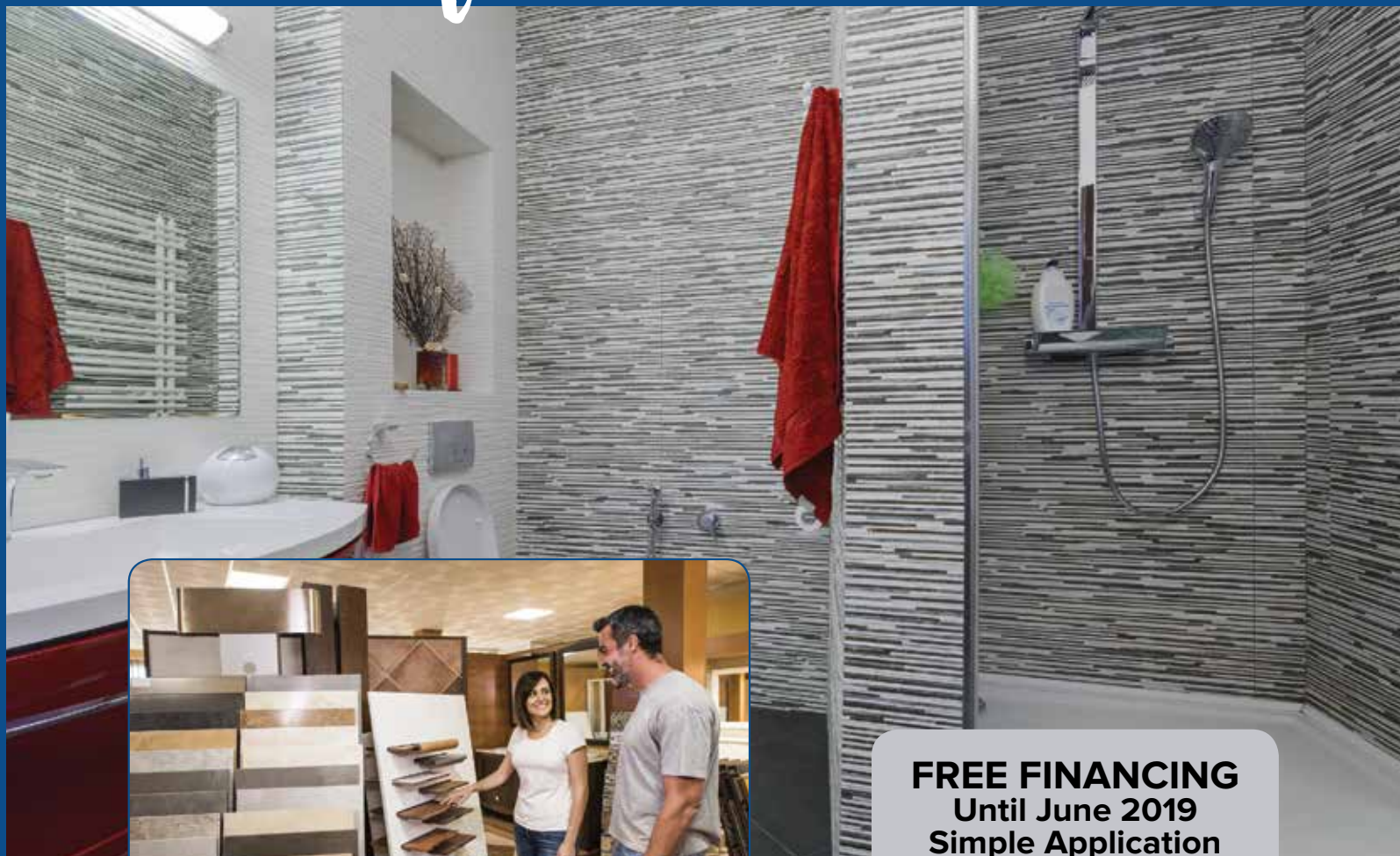
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# Purcellville: Another Dense Project Proposed For Roundabout

– By Valerie Cury

Packie Crown of Bowman Consulting, on May 16 at a meeting at the Carver Center, discussed a proposal to rezone and develop property at the southeast corner of Purcellville’s roundabout, across from the Catoctin Corner development currently underway. The developer’s application to rezone the property in question - the O’Toole property - would require a Comprehensive Plan amendment and a zoning amendment. It is also part of Purcellville’s Historic Corridor Overlay District and is located at a gateway to the town.

The Lazaro Town Council annexed the O’Toole property into Purcellville in 2008. It is located at the southeast corner of Rt. 287 and Business Rt. 7 and consists of two lots totaling 12.46 acres. When under Loudoun County control, the property had zoning allowing one residence. As a part of Purcellville, the property is zoned Transition X, as is generally the case for annexed properties. A Transition X zoning designation is a placeholder, with its ultimate zoning use decided by the Town Council. A portion of the site is within a

Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone.

Through Bowman Consulting, the property owner is applying for one of the most dense zonings – MC, Mixed Use Commercial. The development proposal consists of approximately 90,000 square feet of commercial space for restaurants, office and retail property, a daycare facility, an assisted living facility, as well as a three-story hotel.

The rezoning application requests access to the site from an existing entrance on Business Rt. 7, and a secondary entrance on the Southern Collector Road. The application proposes a right in right out-only from the property. The application also requests an entrance from the SCR of a left-and-right turn, in and out of the property.

Said Purcellville Town Council Member Kelli Grim, “I am very concerned about the safety of our community with the increased traffic this proposed project would bring; and this is more than two times the density of what is being built across the street (Catoctin Corner).”

At a previous Board of Architectural Review meeting, Town Council Member Nedim Ogelman, liaison to the BAR, said, “I just want to make clear for the record

that this review of architectural design for a mixed use commercial complex with a three-story hotel on the O’Toole property is happening before the Town Council has even considered the rezoning (that would be) necessary to pursue this project. So, there have been no public hearings – no votes on this proposed rezoning.”

Town staff added water availability as a concern. In a memo to the Purcellville Planning staff, Purcellville Capital Projects and Engineering Manager Dale Lehnig said, “Although the mass balance for water shows that using a peak factor of 1.2, there is sufficient water, the Town will need to work towards developing additional water

sources. With the [potential] addition of the O’Toole property, the Town is at 93 to 95 percent capacity.”

The developer submitted its application to rezone the O’Toole property to town staff in 2015. The recent May 16 meeting was the first time the public had been introduced to the proposed project. Citizens attending the meeting expressed concerns over density, traffic congestion and safety, whether the project fits with the desires of the Town’s citizens, and whether it conforms to the Comprehensive Plan. More information is available at the Town’s Current Applications website, at [www.purcellvilleva.gov/767/Current-Applications](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov/767/Current-Applications).

## Fraser To Hold Stage Side Chat June 14

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser will hold a stage side chat at the Carver Center Wednesday, June 14 from 7-8 p.m.

All residents are invited to attend, ask questions and provide suggestions.

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**Tues., June 13 – Primary Elections Voting Information**

A Primary Election for both parties is scheduled on June 13. Voters will choose a candidate for the Republican Party for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. For the Democratic Party voters will choose a candidate for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and House of Delegates for the 33 and 67th Districts.

The election is open to all registered voters in Loudoun County and voting will take place at the normal polling locations. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. To verify registration and precinct information visit the State Board of Elections website at [www.elections.virginia.gov](http://www.elections.virginia.gov). Note there are a few changes in voting locations:

- **Precinct 413** – Tuscarora is being moved to Frances Hazel Reid Elementary School (across the street) – also a polling place for Precinct 502.
- **Precinct 209** – Potomac Falls is being moved to River Bend Middle School (next door) – also a polling place for Precinct 207.
- **Precinct 309** – Aldie is being moved to The Church of Our Redeemer as the Aldie Methodist Church is under construction.

Candidates Appearing on Ballot : Write-in candidates are not permitted in primary elections in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Voters may request either the Democratic Party Ballot or the Republican Party Ballot but not both.

**Democratic Party Ballot**

- Governor (vote for one) - all precincts
- Ralph S. Northam
- Tom S. Perriello
- Lieutenant Governor
- (vote for one) - all precincts

- Justin E. Fairfax
- Gene J. Rossi
- Susan S. Platt

**Member, House of Delegates District 33 (vote for one) - precincts in House District 33 ONLY**

- Tia L. Walbridge
- Mavis B. Taintor

**Member, House of Delegates District 67 (vote for one) - precincts in House District 67 ONLY**

- Karrie K. Delaney
- John W. Carey
- Hannah K. Risheq

**Republican Party Ballot**

- Governor (vote for one) - all precincts
- Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie
- Corey A. Stewart
- Frank W. Wagner

**Lieutenant Governor (vote for one) - all precincts**

- Bryce E. Reeves
- Glenn R. Davis Jr.
- Jill H. Vogel

**Absentee Voting Information**

Ballots for both In-Person and By-Mail Absentee Voting are available. Last day to apply to have a ballot mailed to you is Tuesday, June 6 at 5 p.m. – and the last day to vote absentee ballot in person is Saturday, June 10 (office will be open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

In-Person Absentee Voting Location and Schedule (no satellite voting location for this election); Voter Registration Office, 750 Miller Dr. SE, Suite C, Leesburg, VA 20175. The office is open Monday through Friday (April 28 through June 9), 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Saturday, June 10 - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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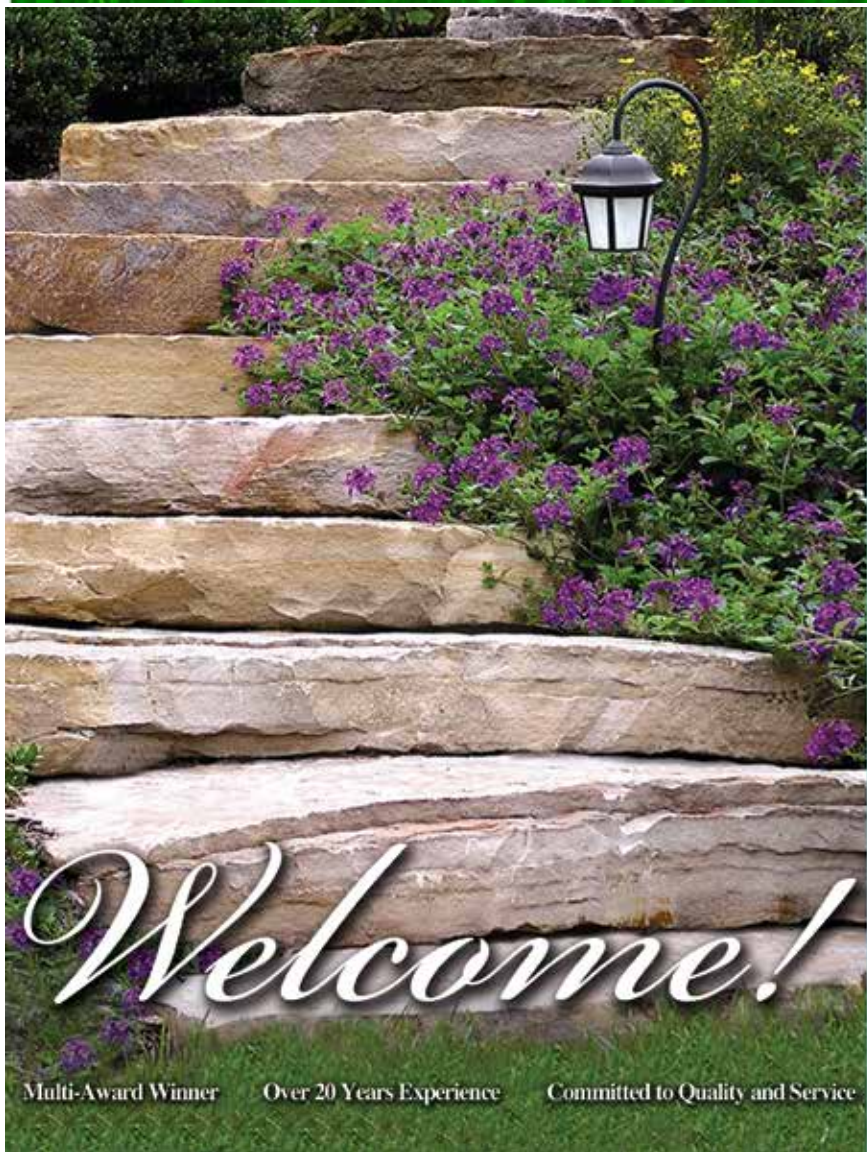
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# Put Up The Barricades - Translation: Protect What You Love

– By Charles Houston

Loudoun County is a paragon of land use – a rare combination of suburbs close to a major city, a scenic rural area and a transition zone – between the two. If it's so perfect, though, why are so many people frantic about its future?

The county's new Survey of Residents says that 53 percent think living here is great. But, a higher percentage – 69 percent – think that too much growth and traffic are our biggest problems. Everyone wants to be the last one in. So why not acknowledge reality and put a stop to the change we don't want. Put up the barricades!

Before your NIMBY radar goes up ...

hear me out.

What *is* Loudoun County anyway? It's not just our 521 square miles of land; it's our 385,000 citizens. And, is definitely more than just a bull's-eye location where developers can make their next buck.

Somehow we've lost sight of the fact that the county belongs to its people. We have a right to say, "Enough is enough," and our Supervisors should listen. Barricades don't have to be orange cones and KEEP OUT signs. They can be tough comprehensive plans and strict zoning codes.

I drove around eastern Loudoun last week, contrasting it to pastoral western Loudoun. It changed my thinking about the

two parts of the county.

The east is crisscrossed by perfectly landscaped boulevards lined with new, "neo-Colonial" houses. There are spiffy shopping centers, and car dealerships selling Ferraris and Lamborghinis. Zip code and income data shows almost identical median income in our suburban east and rural west, \$90,000. So much for the myth that we in the west are rich and snooty, looking down on our suburban neighbors from million-dollar racehorses ...

Arriving home via my own unpaved road, I saw horses, and cows, vineyards and wineries, corn and soybeans, bicyclists and runners. Our only automobile dealerships are used car lots. Yes, east and west are quite different, but all 385,000 of us have made conscious decisions about which half we prefer. This stasis – this state of stability – works well.

From the west, we can head eastward for more shopping and for more entertainment, or to buy a fancy car to park next to our pickups. Easterners enjoy dust-free driving, cul-de-sacs full of playing children and a slew of amenities. Or, they can head westward to sample local wine, or to take a country drive. This is symbiosis – a mutually beneficial relationship between east and west.

Easterners probably enjoy Loudoun's two faces – rural and suburban – and I doubt they want to see western Loudoun become a clone of the east. We all have preferences, but there is one certain commonality: Money, and how this all plays out within Loudoun's fiscal house.

For every dollar a Loudoun house pays in taxes, it consumes \$1.62 in county services; \$600,000 home, \$6,600 in taxes, \$10,700 in required services. Wherever your live, we taxpayers subsidize each home to the tune of \$4,100 per year.

The Envision Loudoun planning charade forecasts 50,000 new houses and over 160,000 new residents. The math is frightening: 50,000 new houses penalizing us at \$4,100 per house per year, means we face a new loss of \$205 million per year, forever ... while (using industry statistics) the real estate crowd pulls in \$8 billion.

Envision Loudoun's basic question – "How can we accommodate the people who want to move here?" – is backwards. Here are the real issues:

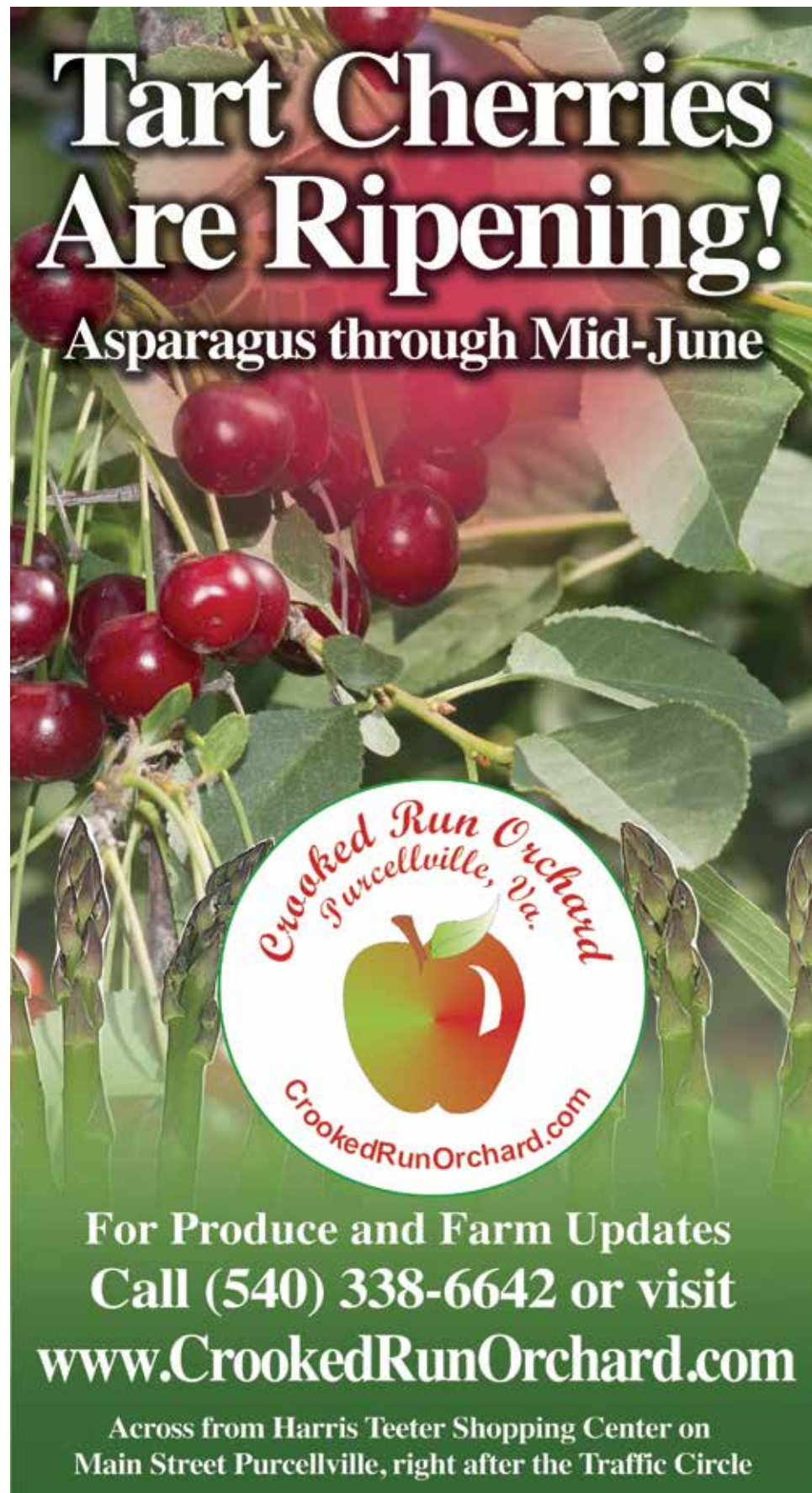
It's time for barricades – made up of a better Comprehensive Plan and a strict Zoning Ordinance.

How large do we want to be, and can we afford even that?

Voters see growth and traffic as the county's biggest problems. Nobody clamors for more growth, except profit-hungry developers who couldn't care less if their bulldozers lead to the metastatic death of a great county.

Want to help? Just call the Supervisors' comment line (703-777-0115) and say four magic words, "Protect What We Love."

*Charles Houston developed office buildings in Atlanta, and has lived in Paeonian Springs for 20 years.*



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# Saving Old Sterling Schoolhouse

– By Mark Gunderman

On the backroads off route 28, in an area known to the locals as “Old Sterling,” there resides a 137-year-old piece of history: the original Sterling schoolhouse. The one story detached frame building with metal roof and buckled walls was the first public school in Sterling built by Loudoun County, and it’s currently in danger of meeting the wrecking ball.

All through the nineteenth century the one to two room school was frequently the focus for people’s lives outside the home. Besides being used for educating children, it was a place where Church services, Christmas parties, dances, community suppers, lectures, and spelling bees were held.

The Old Sterling schoolhouse still stands at 1000 Ruritan Circle, not far from the corner of Atlantic Blvd. and West Church Road. According to Loudoun Historian Eugene Scheel, Broad Run School District No. 6 purchased the acre lot on October 11, 1879 from Dr. James E. Warner at a discount price of \$60. The school was completed and ready for the spring term in 1880 and served until 1947 when it was replaced by



Photo collage courtesy of Bill Ewing

the modern all brick Sterling Elementary.

The small 26’x72’ building on stone foundation with tin-lined high ceilings was heated by two stoves and lit by electricity, but by 1940 was in poor condition. The school which once enrolled forty students had no running water or bathroom but two outhouses did exist in the backyard, one for boys and one for girls.

There were 81 small schools in 1880 Loudoun County. Back then before busses and improved rural roads, the schools themselves had to be scattered out within walking distance of the students’ homes or they did not make it to school at all. These community-based schools contributed to

the small village cohesiveness and allowed students of farming families to travel to school by foot.

Tom Hummer was born on a Sterling farm in 1935. His mother Grace Hummer taught at the Sterling school from 1926 until 1934. However, Tom, who attended public school from 1941-1953, never matriculated to the Sterling school because he would have had to walk one and a half miles east. Instead Tom caught a private bus driven by P.J. Coleman going only one way west from Old Ox Road through Sterling to the elementary/high school in Ashburn. Tom said that there were only two other private buses working in the eastern sector during this time. T.J. Crouch drove west on Route 7 from Sterling to Broad Run to Ashburn and L. Solomon came east from the Broadlands area.

Another Sterling resident Hugh L. Ball was born in 1937 and attended the school from 1944-47. His mother Peggy Testerman taught at the school from 1936-1937. Hugh informed me that the front room was for grades 1-3 and back room for grades 4-7. The children carried water from a neighbor’s house using a three-gallon clay crock. The crock was placed in the

Cloak Room and had a spigot for pouring water into paper cups during break time. Local ladies brought in soup at lunch and kept it warm by placing the pot on one of the stoves and the children ate in the Cloak Room.

The school closed in 1947 and the county sold the building to H.F. Kenne on November 20, 1947, for \$3,100. Kenne, a farmer, renovated the building by partitioning it off into six rooms. It was a family rental until 1980 when Grandma Betty Geoffroy leased the building and established the very successful Sterling Schoolhouse Antiques from 1980 through 2007. Since then, the property has been used by a landscaping company and a heavy equipment operator to park vehicles.

Residents of Old Sterling appreciate this over a century old relic and want to preserve the timeworn schoolhouse before it ends up as yet another storage facility. Local folks consider this building a historic treasure and because the property is for sale, the schoolhouse’s current situation is tenuous. We have one last opportunity to rescue a small fragment of old Sterling. If interested in saving this old structure, contact Bill and Jackie Ewing at [bewing2@gmail.com](mailto:bewing2@gmail.com).

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# Addicted

– By Mary Rose Lunde



When most people think of addictions, they choose the more well-known types, such as alcohol or drugs. But there are other addictions that people don't always want to talk about. These can include: screen time, video games, caffeine, food, etc. These types of addictions can be just as unhealthy and deadly as the more well-known addictions; and more and more people are falling prey to them.

My mother and I recently watched a 20/20 episode focused on addictions, in which people were given the opportunity to admit their addictions and how much hold they had on their lives. And they were also given the opportunity to make steps to take back their lives. The episode was inspiring and uplifting, but that isn't the main point that needs to be considered. The increase in the number of people struggling with these addictions is growing. It has become commonplace to see people with screens in front of their faces, or a cup of coffee in their hands. This is not okay.

This should be a wake-up call to all because there are so many dangers in these kinds of addictions. People need to understand that the numbers will only rise as the technology gets more advanced and more available. So, what can we do to limit this addiction? Instead of running to the woods and unplugging completely, how can we limit exposure and risk? Simple: rules and motivations need to be changed. People need to want to change, and want to keep themselves from these addictions. They need to change their habits, and they need to understand the risks of what they are getting involved in.

There was an article a while ago about a teen who died because of a caffeine overdose. He drank sodas, coffee, and, I believe, energy drinks. All of these drinks alone seemed harmless, but combined caused death. Think about how accessible these drinks were to this teen. This teen wasn't underage, he wasn't looking for anything dangerous, and he wanted a drink. This is how dangerous these addictions are. They are available for simple money, and seem harmless, but they aren't.

Even video games, which are often thought of as a way to relax, can be harmful. A person spending an hour a night is fine, but when a father, as referenced in the 20/20 episode, spends all of his nights online, instead of with his family, that isn't okay. It isn't okay, and needs to change. Video games are played in the guise of entertainment, and they are entertainment in short bursts. Think about it: this addiction can start in the guise of fun.

Truthfully, anything can be seen as an addiction; everything has the potential to be bad. To accept this truth is the first step to acknowledging the risk and understanding that self-control and admittance are the keys to preventing an addiction. Don't get me wrong: You can enjoy your coffee and your down time, just be aware and be careful. If it does become an addiction, ask for help; and the people who love you will support you. All in all, addictions are dangerous, and can be hiding in places that don't seem like addictions. Hope is not lost. And just as the saying goes, "everything in moderation" can be okay.

*Mary Rose Lunde is a recent alumna of Virginia Tech, and will start her masters in Literature in the fall.*

## Amy And Dan Smith's Planning For Life Misconceptions About 529 Plans

*Just like the kids you're saving college funds for, 529 plans are often misunderstood. Read on to learn 529 plans are more flexible than you*

*may think. They can be set up by anyone, for anyone, and used for a variety of education costs at all kinds of institutions, not just typical four-year colleges.*

**Myth:** Only parents can establish a 529 account for a child

**Reality:** Anyone can open and contribute to an account for any beneficiary—no age limits or family connections necessary. Often, grandparents open 529 accounts to help fund college for grandchildren (with the added bonus that their assets won't be factored into financial aid calculations and they may often benefit from reduced taxes on their estate).

**Myth:** Once the child is in college, he or she has control of the 529 account.

**Reality:** The account owner has and maintains control of the assets as long as the account exists.

**Myth:** Contributions to a 529 plan will limit financial aid opportunities.

**Reality:** While 529 assets can have an effect, it isn't as significant as the impact of some other educational savings tools. Since 529 assets are under control of the account owner (not the beneficiary), they're assessed at a maximum rate of



AMY & DAN SMITH

5.64 percent when determining expected family contribution (part of the financial aid formula). In comparison, investment assets in the student's name, such as UTMA/UGMA accounts, are assessed at 20 percent.

**Myth:** I have to invest in the plan sponsored by the state where I live.

**Reality:** You can invest in any state's 529 plan, but look at what your state's plan offers first since some provide state tax breaks and other benefits to residents. Plans offered by other states may not provide these same benefits.

**Myth:** If I invest in a 529 plan, the beneficiary is limited to attending a public, four-year university.

**Reality:** Funds can be used for qualified expenses at eligible institutions in the U.S. and even some abroad, including private or public colleges, universities, and technical or vocational schools that qualify for federal financial aid. Check the department of education's website (faisa.ed.gov) and click School Code search to find qualifying institutions.

**Myth:** If it turns out the beneficiary doesn't go to college or receives a scholarship, all the money I've invested is lost.

**Reality:** Since the owner – not the beneficiary – controls the account, you can change who receives the funds to any eligible family member. Another, although less attractive, option is to take a nonqualified withdrawal. Earnings are then subject to the usual taxes and a 10

percent penalty (penalty waived in the instance of a scholarship).

**Myth:** I can't participate in a 529 plan because my income is too high.

**Reality:** Anyone can invest. There is actually no income limit to establish or contribute to a 529 plan.

*Earnings in 529 plans are not subject to federal tax and in most case, state tax, so long as you use withdrawals for eligible college expenses, such as tuition, room and board. However, if you withdraw from a 529 plan and do not use it on an eligible college expenses, you generally will be subject to income tax and an additional 10 percent federal tax penalty on earnings. Changes in tax laws or regulations may occur at any time and could substantially impact your situation. You should discuss any tax or legal matters with the appropriate professional. @2017Raymond James Financial Inc. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, 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) Any opinions are those of Amy and Dan Smith and not necessarily those of Raymond James. Raymond James does not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete and does not provide legal advice. Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James.*

### Music With A Cause June Concert: Bud's Collective

The Music with a Cause Concert celebrates the culmination of its first year with a concert to be held at Otium Cellars at 5:30 pm on Sunday, June 4. Bud's Collective is a powerful trio of pickers from the hills of West Virginia. The evening will also feature an auction of a piece from David Norton Pottery. Norton is an avid fan of the Bluegrass music of Bud's Collective and a renowned artist featured at The Torpedo Factory Arts Center. The June concert will raise money for scholarships for families needing tuition support at the Neighborhood Learning Center. Tickets are \$15 per person with those under 18 free. Otium Cellars is at 18050 Tranquility Road, Purcellville.

### LCSO Introduces Youth Fitness Camp – Hosted By NFL Legends

This camp will feature a pro football style combine and will be held at the Washington Redskins Training Facility in Ashburn. The camp will give youth football players, ages 6 to 17, an opportunity to showcase their skills and abilities. The combine consists of physical test and drills intended to help determine a player's speed, quickness, strength and agility as well as demonstrate their ability in one-on-one competition.

The free two-day camp will be held June 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and June 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and is open to 500 boys and girls between the ages of 6 to 17. To register go to <http://yournflexperience.com/registration6-24>. Loudoun residents only.

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# The Perfect Colonial To Start The Summer

- By Hannah Hager

Who says a fresh start only comes around once per year? You and your family deserve a clean slate with this lovely Colonial that's just been delivered by Purcellville-based builder Dennis Powers in the Loy Estates neighborhood of Leesburg.

Sunny are the summer days you'll spend in this yellow home with wrap-around porch in the front and window-lined morning room in the rear. Indoors, you'll feel just as bright thanks to the open floorplan and cathedral ceilings.

Make a beeline straight to the eat-in



**Address:** 14161 Alisha Creek Court, Leesburg  
**Bedrooms:** Four bedrooms  
**Bathrooms:** Two full and one half baths  
**Acreage:** 2.28 acres  
**List Price:** \$569,900  
**Agent:** Sam Rees, On the Market Loudoun  
**Phone:** 703-408-4261

kitchen, which is outfitted with top-notch details such as white wood cabinets, granite countertops, a butler reverse apron sink, stainless steel appliances and recessed lighting. You'll have watch over the family's activities in both the breakfast nook and family room with walls of windows,

hardwood floors and fireplace.

It'll be hard to resist serving dinner in your deluxe dining room, where you can enjoy the bay window and wainscoting trimming.

The attention to detail doesn't stop on the main level. Prepare to relax in your master suite with vaulted ceiling and plush

carpeting. The master bathroom boasts both a soaking tub and separate shower, and double vanities for both you and your loved one. The kids will be just as comfy in the three other bedrooms, too.

Hurry to have a look - this gem will likely be snatched up by a savvy shopper before summer is in full swing.



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# Bridge Of Memories

– By Andrea Gaines

The steel stringer structure known as the Forest Mills Road Bridge floods every time there's a heavy rain.

During storms, the Crooked Run waterway rockets under the bridge from the west and fans out in a marshy area to the east.

Throughout it all the bridge has held strong, protecting the land on the other side from the heavy current and high-flying debris, and, in the spring, creating natural safe zones in the tadpole-filled wetland on the bridge's east side.

Now almost 100 years old, the Forest Mills Bridge is being dismantled and replaced with a new structure. And, thanks to a ninth-generation Loudouner named Sara Brown – preserved and rebuilt as well.

Brown's family owns the historic Oakland

Green Farm, a B&B and beef cattle operation just up the road from the bridge.

Striking up a conversation with the VDOT folks working on the new bridge recently, Brown asked what was to become of the old wooden beams piling up on the side of the road.

"As eager as I was to be done with the construction," said Brown, "I couldn't help but feel somewhat wistful ... So many parties and ponies and walks and banjo and creek engineering projects [at that bridge]."

Told that the beautiful old timbers from the original bridge were going straight to the dump, "I asked if I could have some," said Brown. One thing led to another, and then came Brown's triumphant, May 18 Facebook post: "Guys. I got the bridge delivered. I got the bridge. Who wants to help me build a bridge?"



Photo credit Erin Welsh Everline.



The bridge, before it was dismantled. Sarah Brown takes a selfie with Donny, "the man with a truck" who helped move the newly-delivered wood (in background).

Brown plans to rebuild the bridge on her family's historic farm in a suitable spot – maybe over any one of a number of springs that run through the property, or near the farm's historic springhouse.

Said friend Jill Wesser Patience, "A bridge of memories. How great." Said Ainsley Fisher Tillman to Brown, "You, are my hero."

Over thirty Virginia bridges are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, protected, along with their stories, for

future generations to enjoy.

At least four of these are in Loudoun County, including the 1820 Broad Run Bridge and Tollhouse in Sterling, the 1900 (original) Catoctin Creek Bridge in Waterford, the 1810 Goose Creek Stone Bridge in Atoka and the 1829 Hibbs Bridge in Mountville. Now, one more bridge – or at least part of one – will be around for all of us to enjoy.

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## Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Cooksville Road

– By Tim Jon

You see – there’s this bell: A church bell, suspended inside a little white tower atop the old Mount Olive Baptist church building – that you can see for just a few split-seconds as you make your return trip toward Lincoln Road and the rest of your assignment; I don’t recall the first time I noticed this friendly, reassuring feature on one of my favorite spots along my mail route – but it could have been as long as three or four years prior to this writing. There’s something about the silhouette of that metal clanging device (though I’ve never heard it ring) that seems to calm and center me every time it comes to my attention; the message is much more subtle than to simply remind me to let go of momentary pressures and to fix my attention on the eternal and timeless – and, maybe I’ll never fully understand its meaning. And, maybe it’s better that way.

Cooksville Road – Route 778 if you’re counting – cuts west from Lincoln Road on the southern end of that little community – pretty much right across from the Lincoln Post Office – and sort of zig-zags back into the countryside for a half-mile or so – until you reach the ‘End of State Maintenance’



TIM JON



sign – with little room to turn around and retrace your tire tracks; it crosses an unnamed creek bed along the way, that can actually transform into a flood-threatening corridor of liquid during heavy rains, just after you pass the Goose Creek Burying Ground on your left – another reminder that whatever troubles your facing today might not seem quite so staggering a couple of hundred years down the line.

And the portion of Cooksville Road that continues beyond the public use section gets pretty hairy during slippery conditions, as I discovered when my mail truck started turning sideways and sliding backward down the hill from my intended direction; in those instances you usually wish you were safely back at the office where you just might encounter more civilized conditions.

But, if you survive the gauntlets of inclement weather on this little stretch of dirt roadway, you get to enjoy the various rewards of other seasons: the spring wildflowers are small and ephemeral, but their images stick with you until they return for their brief time; the transformation of the leafy greenery in autumn to a more colorful fall palette lasts a bit longer and covers more of your sightline, and adds its bonus of that unmistakable, earthy scent of harvest time. And, during the peak (or lull) of midsummer, on those hot, drowsy, still afternoons when you’re taking that (usually) two-minute run down Cooksville Road and back, it can seem as if everything in the world has come to a halt: back in the woods, away from the ‘main road,’ nothing discernable is stirring – even time feels momentarily suspended – as if something greater than us is holding its breath to allow – at least temporary – eternity.

Which brings me back to that bell – a symbol – as a sound-producing agent – of the here (and hear)-and-now concerns of those of us whose employment utilizes each minute, second and ever-increasingly smaller increments of time – as well as a reminder of the greater constants (perhaps outside the confines of mere space and time – or any dimension); that’s a pretty hefty moral load for an old, metal church bell perched atop an historic place of worship several hundred feet down a dirt road in a small, rural community off the path of any ‘main stems’ in Northern Virginia. Quite a responsibility I place on this ancient friend, but I believe it’s more than up to the task – or any I may dream up for it.

And – no – I don’t remember the first time I noticed this distinctive silhouette atop the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Lincoln – nor do I recall the last; after all, isn’t there something written in a book somewhere, about he who is first shall be later – and he who is later shall be first. In any case, it seems to ‘ring a bell.’

I don’t recall any references to any of this, though, in the rural mail carrier’s instruction manual. It’s just something I picked up on Cooksville Road. You find all sorts of things out on the trail. And I’m still looking.

# Transforming Scars – Engendering Hope

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

The woman’s voice on the other end of the line is warm and inviting, speaking softly in crisp tones, with great excitement, and at a hurried pace. Her words are eloquent and profound.

Furiously I type, trying to capture every word. “I am probably rambling on,” she says mid-way through our conversation. Hardly. I cannot get enough.

Amy Acton, Executive Director of *Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors*, says her vision for the organization is to “reach those who are alone, not just grow the organization, but grow the community that supports burn survivors and their families.”

Located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the organization was founded in 1977. According to its website, 40,000 people a year visit a hospital due to burn injuries. For thermal burn patients, the odds are in their favor. Nearly 96 percent will survive, if cared for in the United States. Yet for many, receiving treatment for their burns is simply the beginning. “We are laser-focused on this after-care area, when people are leaving the hospital and going home,” Acton tells me.

This non-profit organization attempts to fill the gap by offering several unique programs. Phoenix SOAR (Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery) is a



MOORE-SOBEL

hospital-based, peer support program that allows patients who have recently suffered burn injuries to connect with fellow burn survivors. Acton likens it to a “safety net, recognizing that there is someone else like you – who has gone through it, and is a few steps ahead of you.” The importance of this reality is magnified in the moment in which patients experience their injuries visually for the first time, wondering what the future holds. “I don’t know about you, but I couldn’t imagine that future ...” Acton says. “As you look into the mirror, it is such an individual experience, and you get stuck there sometimes.” A prescient statement, applicable to all forms of trauma.

Amy’s own personal experience has driven her to serve. At the age of 18, she incurred burns through an electrical injury. As the physical wounds of her burns healed, emotional healing did not take center stage. “It wasn’t until I was on the burn unit, that I saw you have to heal that emotional piece,” she tells me.

One of the many ways the organization promotes emotional healing is through *Burn Support Magazine*. *BSM* offers a myriad of inspirational stories and a splash of organizational news. For the last several years, I have received this magazine, and the same scene has played out repeatedly; mainly, the initial reading of a few paragraphs, and the inevitable pulling away.

Acton says my reaction is common. “You open it and peel it back a little bit – I think

it’s just a reminder we are here,” she says. “We are looking at ways we can simplify and start the conversation with people through different ways.” As I think back on my own experience, her words resonate. Each issue was a reminder that there were others with stories, thoughts, and feelings similar to my own ... even if I wasn’t quite ready to face them.

The idea of sharing stories seems to run through the heart of this organization, offered as an antidote to the tide of loneliness and fear invading the lives of others. Offering personal experiences can be a way to bridge the gap between despair and hope, helping others believe that they too can overcome, and then make a difference.

Even though her own story has receded into the past, there are subtle reminders that can help bring memories back to life. “Most of my burns are hidden,” she says, but “once in awhile there is an incident – somebody’s comments, something that happens, you kind of remember: Oh yeah, I guess that is still part of me.” Her words speak to an experience shared among all trauma survivors.

The social impacts of her injury are something she wishes she had been more prepared for in the initial stages of her recovery. To illustrate the point, she details a story of visiting a restaurant after she was discharged from the hospital. “Being prepared for that response would have set my course differently.” She was unaware of the reactions that would greet her re-entry

into the real world. “I was just excited to get out of the hospital,” Amy said. “I walked into this restaurant – and the double takes, stares. For some, it sends them right back home, and it is that much harder for them to get back out there.” For readers who feel powerless, who feel as if they have lost their voice, take heart. For burn survivors, just like all human beings, have control in how they respond to anything that comes their way.

In the seven and a half years since my life changed forever, I have felt as if I was on a track, running towards an elusive goal. What does it look like to reach a place of true healing? Sometimes the past can feel as if it has a choke hold on the present, a topic that deserves its own column, hence why next month will feature a continuation of how the Phoenix Society changes lives, including mine. Until then, a few more thoughts: “We can’t escape our past. We can only work hard – slowly and surely – to loosen its grip on our present,” a friend recently told me. Healing happens a little bit at a time – mindful of the lessons of the past, working towards wholeness in the present, all while looking expectantly towards the future.

*Samuel Moore-Sobel is thankful to the Phoenix Society for the ways in which it supports burn survivors. To find out more about the society’s work, please visit [www.phoenix-society.org](http://www.phoenix-society.org)*

# HS Students Cast Off, Reach For The Stars

– By Andrea Gaines

In March of this year, Woodgrove High School in Purcellville mourned the sudden death of science teacher and astronomer Bob McMillen.

Pouring their grief into an effort to pay tribute to this special man, within weeks they had delivered on their stargazer's biggest dream – to install a grand, inflatable planetarium in the school's library. This sense of purpose – to reach for something bigger than themselves – will play out in thousands of small and large ways as Loudoun County's high school seniors accept their diplomas and step out into the world this month.

It will all be over in less than one week – starting on June 8 and finishing on June 13. But, like the Woodgrove students who pulled together so beautifully this spring, Loudoun's high school students are determined to make their mark in life ... working extremely hard to excel in deep and significant ways.

• The LCPS system's SAT average of 1612 sits well above the national average of 1484. Loudoun also outperforms state and national averages on ACT measures,



reflecting exceedingly well on the County's ability to teach and prepare students for college.

- This fall, the County will open its long-awaited Academies of Loudoun, with an expanded Academy of Science, an upgraded Monroe Advanced Technical Academy, and a new Academy of Engineering and Technology, offering special educational opportunities for science-oriented students.
- Students at Loudoun County High School, Stone Bridge High School, Woodgrove High School, and Potomac Falls Academy of Science were recently recognized for their scientific projects by the 36th Annual Loudoun County Public School Regional

Science and Engineering Fair.

- According to US News & World Report, 11 Loudoun County high schools earned either a Gold or a Silver Medal for academic excellence.

All of these awards and accolades won't necessarily be on the minds of Loudoun's high school seniors as they accept their diplomas this month. But, the excitement will be in the air – and the sparkle will be in the sky.

From the Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today to all graduating high school seniors ... congratulations.

The LCPS high school graduation ceremony listing:

**Academy of Science**, 7:30 p.m., June 9, School Board Meeting Room, LCPS Administrative Offices

**Briar Woods High School**, 9:30 a.m., June 12, Eagle Bank Arena, George Mason University

**Broad Run High School**, 7 p.m., June 11, Eagle Bank Arena, George Mason University

**John Champe High School**, 10 a.m., June 13, John Champe High School

**Dominion High School**, 2 p.m., June 11, Dominion High School

**Freedom High School**, 2 p.m., June 11, Eagle Bank Arena, George Mason University

**Heritage High School**, 1 pm., June 11, Heritage High School

**Loudoun County High School**, 8 a.m., June 12, Loudoun County High School

**Loudoun Valley High School**, 9 a.m., June 12, Loudoun Valley High School

**Monroe Technology Center**, 7 p.m., June 8, Tuscarora High School

**Park View High School**, 7 p.m., June 12, Eagle Bank Arena, George Mason University

**Potomac Falls High School**, 9 a.m., June 13, Potomac Falls High School

**Riverside High School**, 10 a.m., June 12, Riverside High School

**Rock Ridge High School**, 5 p.m., June 11, Rock Ridge High School

**Stone Bridge High School**, 2 p.m., June 12, Eagle Bank Arena, George Mason University

**Tuscarora High School**, 8 a.m., June 13, Tuscarora High School

**Woodgrove High School**, 8 a.m., June 13, Woodgrove High School

## Show Dad He's One Cool Dude

– By Andrea Gaines

“There's nothing more American than motherhood and apple pie.” We agree with that sentiment. And, as Father's Day is coming up on Sunday, June 11, we would like to propose this second universal truth: “Put a Dad in front of a barbecue ... and you make him king.”

Dad is often the one standing watch over the grill.

But, even if he's the one flipp'in the burgers – and making sure the house doesn't burn down in the process – everyone else can fill in the edges by planning a menu, arranging for a cool gift and, and last but not least, arranging for a fun surprise.

**1. For The Menu**, we suggest three options for Father's Day:

*The All American:* Onion Bacon-Burger, Herb Butter Grilled Corn On-The-Cob and Grilled Potato Wedges;

*The Make-It-Steak:* London Broil (with papaya nectar marinade), Potato Salad and Cheesy Tomatoes, and

*The Easy-On-The-Waistline:* Mesquite-Grilled Chicken with Grilled Romaine Salad. (Our source for these recipe ideas is a great website called Barbecue'n On The Internet – “the leading edge in outdoor cooking” as they say. It has fantastic ideas for anything and everything BBQ. Check them out at [www.barbecuen.com](http://www.barbecuen.com).)

**2. For The Gift**, we have a really simple but really fun idea: Buy Dad a pair of vintage sunglasses from a local consignment store. This does not need to be expensive. Rather, the idea is to reveal your father for the cool dude that he is. Give them to him in honor of Father's Day and as an early gift for National Sunglasses Day, which is Tuesday, June 27. Impress him with your knowledge. For example, for 2017, the hottest trends in this category are gold or silver tone clip-ons ... round vintage style glasses ... oversized aviators ... and flat-brow fashion sunglasses.

**3. For the Surprise, here are a few ideas we got from our readers:**

“We collect our favorite family pictures of Dad and tell a story about them.”

“We all make handmade cards. He just loves them.”

“We organize and clean up his favorite work area. He never gets to it.”

“He gets to pick what activity he'd like to do for the day. Then, all of the adult kids fall out of the woodwork to join in.”

“In our family, we honor all Dads at once, from grandpa on down.”

“It makes him laugh, so we call him ‘Your Majesty’ all day. “Can I get you some coffee, Your Majesty? Need another pillow, Your Majesty?”

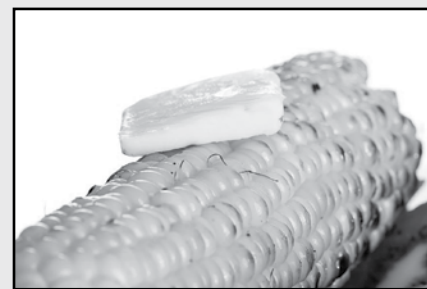
It's the perfect combination for Father's Day, really. Dad, a BBQ, a great menu, a cool set of sunglasses, and, a surprise.



**For Father's Day, impress Dad with your knowledge of today's hottest trends in sunglasses – gold or silver tone clip-ons ... round vintage style glasses ... oversized aviators ... and flat-brow fashion sunglasses.**

## More Opportunities To Be Ridiculous This Month

Don't miss the opportunity to mix in some more fun to your Father's Day festivities – or any time in June – with these crazy dates ...



**June 11, National Corn-On-The-Cob Day**

**June 13, National Kitchen Klutzes of America Day**

**June 20, National Vanilla Milkshake Day**

**June 21st, National Selfie Day**

**Congratulations, Graduates!**




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## LVHS Students Plant Milkweed On Chapman-DeMary Trail

LVHS students, (pictured left to right) Hannah Jimmerson, Fiona Taylor, and Lydia Wilson chose for their Senior Capstone Project working on improving the Bee & Monarch population in Purcellville. Their teacher sponsor is Liam McGranaghan, the Environmental Science teacher at LVHS, and their community sponsor is Amie Ware, Purcellville Division Manager of Parks & Recreation, who are helping guide their efforts.

Nicole Hamilton, Conservation Specialist with Monarch Watch, gave a presentation to the Tree-Environment Sustainability Committee that the students attended. The students learned about an opportunity to dig up hundreds of milkweed, the only plant the Monarch will feed and lay eggs on, from a home in Fairfax where they will



eventually be destroyed. With the help of Town Council liaison to the Committee, Vice-Mayor Karen Jimmerson, the students successfully dug up over 75 mature milkweed to transplant to the Chapman-DeMary Nature Trail in Purcellville.

## Purcellville Annual Police Awards Dinner – May 22

*Pictured from left to right: Rob Wagner, Kris Fraley, Chief McAlister (front), Ryan Vasconi, Mike Owens, Clark McDaniel, Paul Kakol. Council Member Nedim Ogelman (front), Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Council Members Chris Bledsoe and Kelli Grim.*



## Congratulations To The Newest Eagle Scouts



Troop 711 l to r: Joseph Baer, Zachary Light, Grange Newton, Evan Schell.



Troop 969 l to r: Lance Czarnecki, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Luke Harris.

## Crooked Run Orchard Owners Win Stewards Of The Year

The Land Trust of Virginia held their Nineteenth Annual Garden Party on Sunday, May 21, to present awards at the Wind Fields Farm in Middleburg. The Browns have placed the remaining two parcels of their farm in conservation easement. All 94 acres of Crooked Run Orchard are now in permanent conservation easement.

Pictured from left, H. Samuel Brown, Jr. and Uta Brown, Crooked Run Orchard (owners) Stewards of the Year, Turner T. Smith, Jr. Conservationist of the Year, and Dr. Thomas Graves Hilbert, Jr. Landowner of the Year.

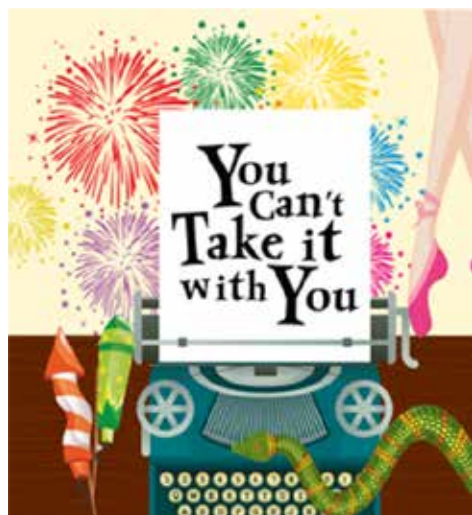


## Art Tour And More

Franklin Park Arts Center will be hosting six local artists as Stop #23 on the 12th Annual Western Loudoun Artists Studio Tour, June 3 & 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Other arts center highlights for this month include the Beale Street Puppets Teddy Bear Circus, Wednesday, June 7, The Last Ham Standing Comedy Improv, Friday June 16, the Pickwick Players' You Can't Take It With You and Main Street Theater's The Jungle Book KIDS, Wednesday, June 28 through Friday, June 30.

For tickets and details go to [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org).



## Gina's Pies: The Perfect Crime

– By Andrea Gaines

I think I just discovered the perfect crime. “A crime so ingeniously contrived and carefully executed,” says the dictionary, “that it cannot be detected or solved.”

That crime is called Gina's Pies, a gluten-free, home-based bakery here in Loudoun County that has been pulling the wool over law enforcement's eyes since January of 2016.

Let's face it. We all love sweets, including pies, cookies and tarts. Gina Farber's bakery is all about that, but in a fantastically healthy way, with gluten-free crusts, fillings made from local, farm-fresh berries and fruits – even locally sourced butters and lards.

Everything Farber sells is gluten-free. And, you can also order them in a form that conforms to any other diet law you may follow – for example, lard free, if you are a vegetarian, or nut, soy, and/or dairy-free, if that's what you and your family need. And, Farber uses almost all local ingredients – fruits, berries, butters, milk – and, she goes organic ever chance she gets. Says Gina, “Gina's Pies is a buy-local success story. Seventy-five percent of the cost of my products stay in Loudoun. My ingredients are bought from local farms, or organically if I can't source locally. About one-quarter of my customers require gluten-free. But, even families that don't require gluten-free buy my bakery products because of the quality of the ingredients that go into them.”

Gina's Pies is not just about pies, but scones and tarts and cookies, too, and wheat-free pastry shells you can use to make your own



concoctions. And, vegan chocolate bread. Yes; a brownie-kind-of-desert hiding out – on the lamb, as it were – in chocolate bread ...

Gina's pies and desserts are featured at some of our area's best and more favorite local stops – including Magnolia's at the Mill in Purcellville, Fireworks Pizza in Leesburg and Natural Mercantile, in Hamilton. Pick up locations include the Bee Healthy Market in Lovettsville, Healthy By Nature in Leesburg, Happy Creek Coffee in Purcellville and the Firehouse Gallery in Berryville. Customers order on line and can also arrange for custom delivery.

Gina is everywhere with her pies and sweets and is a great local neighbor. She's a member of the Greater Hillsboro Business Association and has strong ties to the people and organizations that make Loudoun County such a community-oriented place, organizations like Master Gardeners, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Faith Like A Mustard Seed Farm, All Ages Read Together and Very Special Arts. She is also a regular at Round Hill events.

It's easy to commit the perfect crime with Gina's Pies – sweets so good for you and the community that you don't even feel like you're indulging in a fantastic dessert. Father's Day would be a good occasion, as would graduation time. For more info go to [www.GinasPies.com](http://www.GinasPies.com).

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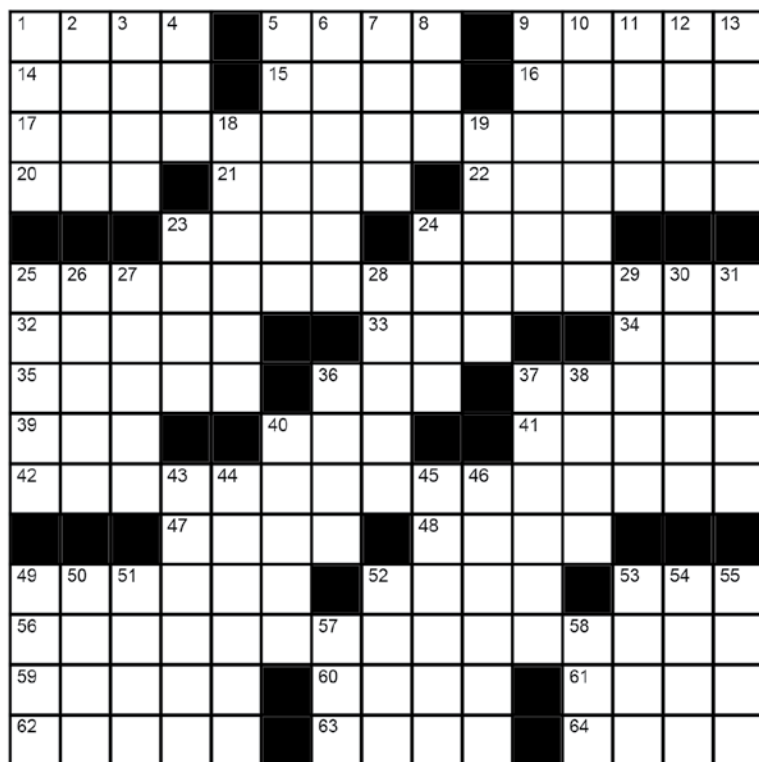
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## Cornered! By Myles Mellor and Sally York



### ACROSS

1. Phoenix neighbor
5. Year type
9. Touches
14. Denmark monetary subunits
15. Oscar winner Paquin
16. Salami choice
17. Targeted
20. Untilled tract
21. Unstable particle
22. Urges onward
23. Match game?
24. Point to the right
25. Cornered
32. Safari sighting
33. Windows forerunner
34. Lending letters
35. Litmus reddeners
36. Low-\_\_\_
37. Off to one side
39. Coffee order: Abbr.
40. Swell place?
41. Gadabouts
42. Ensnared
47. Rabbit \_\_\_
48. Swelter
49. Two-part
52. Agents
53. Support system?
56. Is out of options
59. Illegal firing
60. Suffix with psych-
61. Lack
62. Legal papers
63. Escritoire
64. Cutting part

### DOWN

1. Drudgery
2. Haliatus albicilla

3. Stiff hair
4. Blue \_\_\_, Ohio
5. Gap
6. Implant deeply
7. Like most graffiti: Abbr.
8. \_\_\_ de deux
9. Shocked
10. Wild things
11. Newton, for one
12. Bolted
13. Get smart
18. Corrects
19. Persian potentates
23. Sort
24. Conscious minds
25. Lively
26. Sore spot
27. Coniferous forest
28. Consummate
29. Less important
30. "Lohengrin," e.g.
31. Date
36. Some M & Ms
37. Certain discriminator
38. Good shot
40. Goat antelope
43. Flavored liqueur
44. Poetic feet
45. Old World herbs
46. Ruble kin
49. Certain herring
50. Container weight
51. They, in Trieste
52. Mesh of veins
53. Thin fastener
54. Crosspiece
55. \_\_\_ meridiem
57. Coal carrier
58. Be shy

Answers on page 30

## Loudoun Library Card Design Contest Has Begun

Loudoun artists are invited to submit designs for Loudoun County Public Library's Second Annual Library Card Design Contest, which began May 22.

A panel of judges from the Loudoun County Art Advisory Committee will choose three finalists based on creativity, originality, and message. Artwork or photography submitted should reflect the spirit of Loudoun and the work of Loudoun County Public Library. The three designs will be posted on library.loudoun.gov and in library branches July 11-16, when patrons will vote to determine the winner.

The winning design will become a limited-edition commemorative library card available in September in celebration of Library Card Signup Month.

"We had a wonderful response to the inaugural contest last year," said Chang Liu, Library Director. "I can't wait to see Loudoun artists' beautiful designs this year. And I'm thrilled to announce that the public will have a chance to view a gallery of all the entries online and in select branches in September."

Some general guidelines:

- Rectangular artwork is best.
- The finished card will be 2 1/8" x 3 3/8" (full bleed), but work will be reduced to fit.
- Do not include close-up photos of people.
- Use of copyrighted material is prohibited.

For complete rules, templates, and entry form, visit [library.loudoun.gov/card-contest](http://library.loudoun.gov/card-contest) or any Loudoun County Public Library branch.



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Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

But to each his own. I think it's great that your son is committed to something at such a young age, but I would challenge you to think about how much of the decision to hold your son back has to do with you or your needs as parents versus what is truly in his best interest. Once you've all thought through your motivations, and once you've weighed out all the negatives and positives, you'll be ready to make the right decision.

Dr. Mike,

*My sister is a recovering alcoholic. She recently completed a 28-day alcohol rehabilitation program. The entire family goes to the Outer Banks every year for a beach week, where there is a lot of drinking. My sister just sent everyone an email asking that we have a "sober beach week," since she is not yet ready to be around alcohol. I'm fine with that, and will do whatever I can to support her sobriety. However, my husband and several other family members are taking issue with her request. My husband's position (and brother and sister-in-law) is that he works hard, doesn't take much time off, and sees beach week as his time to let loose and drink. I see both sides and don't know what*

*to do. Things are getting tense. Any ideas? – Concerned in Loudoun*

Dear Concerned in Loudoun,

Your husband and your brother and sister-in-law may enjoy drinking on their vacation; but I think your family should consider your sister's needs during this difficult time for her. As someone who is new to sobriety and recovery, she will need her family's support. So, in my opinion, the real issue is more about compassion than it is about who's right or wrong, or which party is more correct. Perhaps the drinkers in the family could modify their drinking this year at the beach, given the situation; they could still drink, but not in the presence of your sister.

If there is agreement on this, I recommend sharing your plan with your sister in a caring manner. You can also suggest to your sister that she use the week at the beach to therapeutically reflect on where she is in her life. Maybe let her know that there are AA meetings at the beach, and that she could attend several for additional support with other recovering alcoholics. If, however, your sister is still unable (or unwilling) to compromise on her absolute "sober beach week," then maybe she is too

vulnerable to go this year.

Dr. Mike,

*Our 14-year-old son is looking forward to sitting around and playing video games and watching YouTube videos all summer. He plays way too many hours now; and we fight with him all of the time to take breaks from his technology. My husband and I would very much like him to have a different kind of summer. We suggested several camps, but he's refusing to go. He actually put a hole in his bedroom wall (and not the first) after our last talk about camp. My husband and I both work, and his older brother will be working. We know that leaving him alone in the house all day is not a good idea. – Concerned in Loudoun County*

Dear Concerned in Loudoun County,

I agree with you that leaving your 14-year-old at home unsupervised for much of the day all summer is not a good idea. An additional concern is that your son put a hole in the wall in response to something he didn't want to hear, and that this has happened before. Your son's response was inappropriate and extreme. It leads me to wonder if his relationship with technology

is presently at an unhealthy level.

I recommend that your son be assessed by a child psychologist or child psychiatrist as soon as possible to determine if he is in need of any sort of mental health treatment – therapy and/or medication. If your son's mental health concerns turn out to be significant, then I recommend adhering to the suggestions of his psychologist or psychiatrist for the summer. If your son does not meet criteria for a mental health condition, and is thus not in need of treatment, then I fully support your idea for an away-camp. As a psychologist, my two favorite summer camps for children and teens who do not struggle with a significant mental health condition (e.g., depression), but who at the same time would benefit from increased structure, are Culver Military Academy and Randolph Macon Academy. Culver is in Indiana and is an exceptional place. Randolph Macon, in Winchester, is also top notch.

*Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. is a clinical psychologist in private practice. He has been featured on CNN Nightly News, Good Morning America and several other media outlets. He can be reached at 703 723-2999 and is located at 44095 Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn.*

Data Centers, continued from page 1

showing great economic potential, faces big decisions in terms of what it hopes to look like ten or 20 years from now. Will it follow the traditional development patterns, and simply build out east to west until there is nothing to build on ... or, will it surprise everyone, and create something totally new. What, Randall seemed to be asking, is Loudoun County's mindset in this regard?

For example, Randall's speech celebrated the distinctly rural mindset of the sheriff's deputy called to ensure safe passage of cows and geese running through Leesburg and elsewhere. And, the perseverance and

loyalty of the 62 percent of the men and women firefighters and EMS personnel who work as volunteers (i.e. unpaid).

Randall was distinctly suburban in the way she addressed the new and growing economic underpinnings of the County, citing statistics showing Loudoun County to be the largest and fastest growing data center market not just in Virginia, not just in the nation, but in the entire world. She cited examples that demonstrate a citizen-mindset at once rural and suburban. Randall talked at length, for example, about a new business called Safe Ship developed by entrepreneur Anthony McKenzie. McKenzie, noted Randall, was determined

not just to make his new business a success, but to make it a success in the community in which he lives.

And then Randall's State of the County speech addressed a brand new category of place and attitude: the 21st Century urban communities coming to Loudoun County with the arrival of the Silver Line Metro in 2018.

As a politician and leader, Randall embraces all, with a fun-loving and determined personality that fully embraces the three-part Urban, Transition, and Rural Policy Area framework now under review as part of the "Envision Loudoun" process. And, at the same time, she seems undaunted in discussing the mind-bending change that

will come with the arrival of Metro.

Randall, herself, is not one to say, specifically, how all of these things might fit successfully into the Loudoun County of the future. She did not offer specifics in that regard, except to say that "in order to be responsive to our current residents and neighbors ... and fully prepared to welcome new residents, it is imperative that we, Loudoun's staff, Board of Supervisors, and residents, come together to complete Envision Loudoun and our new Comprehensive Plan."

It will be interesting to see where Randall and the County are when she makes her third State of the County address one year from now.

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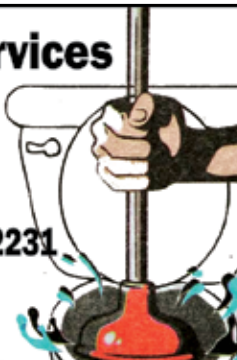
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*Letters, continued from page 4*

focused candidate who will work tirelessly in Richmond on our behalf. This is an important choice as so much is at stake. We cannot afford to continue with the extremist agenda set forth by Mr. LaRock when there is crucial work that needs to be done. With that in mind, I feel that there is no better candidate to best represent the people of the 33<sup>rd</sup> than Mavis Taintor. Mavis' resume is impressive! From her time as a Head Start teacher where she saw the importance of early learning programs in impoverished rural areas...to her work in the banking industry where she rose to an upper level management position during a time when there were no such opportunities for women... to her time as the co-founder of an asset management company where she grew a business from scratch, employed dozens, and then sold the business with \$4 billion in assets under management...to her time on her family's horse farm in Waterford where she's spent the last 10 years...Mavis brings a full life's experience to the table. This will be a tremendous benefit to the people of the 33<sup>rd</sup>. Mavis is skilled at negotiations which will be critical as she works across the aisle to maximize positive results and is a proven leader who has never backed down from a challenge. Mavis also has a personal understanding of the challenges of families who are dealing with loved ones who struggle with addiction. She will use that passion to bring forth much needed change in Richmond as she will be a leader who will fight for all people in the 33<sup>rd</sup> and across the Commonwealth.

I have grown weary of my representative working to divide rather than working to make positive changes for people and families in the 33<sup>rd</sup> District. We need to move Virginia forward and we can do just that with Mavis Taintor.

*Kristine Condie  
Lovettsville*

**Saving Western Loudoun County**

**Dear Editor:**

The following three major changes need to be made during the on-going work on the Loudoun County Comprehensive Plan in order to "save Western Loudoun County":

- Delete Agricultural Residential District 1 (AR-1) and combine it with Agricultural

Residential District 2 (AR-2), i.e., all of Western Loudoun County would come under the requirements for AR-2. Why should there be two separate districts, one allowing more houses than the other?

- Delete all references to "clustering." The idea of clustering new houses was originally conceived (naively) as a means of conserving "open space." It has turned out to be a very bad idea. Why should a developer be allowed to build four times as many houses if he is allowed to spread them out (cluster them?) anywhere he wishes? A cluster was never defined; neither was "open space" adequately defined.

- Delete "Minor Special Exceptions." Why should some land owner wanting to convert his property into an "events center" not have to go through a normal Special Exception process? The new Comprehensive Plan needs to strengthen the requirements/limitations of what an events center is before they engulf Western Loudoun County.

Realistically, does Loudoun County have the intestinal fortitude to do any of the above?

*Henry Plaster  
Bluemont*

**Supports Walbridge**

**Dear Editor:**

I am proud to endorse and express my full support for Tia Walbridge to represent the 33<sup>rd</sup> District in Richmond. As a current Town Council member in Purcellville, I understand the concerns of Purcellville and western Loudoun citizens and I believe Ms. Walbridge fully understands those issues and will work tirelessly to support our region.

Walbridge is a successful farmer and small businesswoman with deep connections to our community; she will be a strong partner for us in Richmond as we work to create a vibrant local economy that generates more and better job opportunities for all our citizens. Tia is a dynamic advocate for maintaining the excellence of our public schools, for ensuring that all Virginians have access to affordable health care, and for preserving our beautiful rural home and environment.

Walbridge owns and manages a sheep farm in Round Hill and runs a small business remodeling and renting out affordable homes in Winchester. Her two daughters attend local public schools, and Walbridge is a troop

leader for their Girl Scout troop. Her husband is a disabled veteran who continues to serve his country at the Department of Defense.

Tia Walbridge is one of two Democrats seeking to challenge incumbent Republican David LaRock for the 33<sup>rd</sup> District seat. Primary elections for governor, lieutenant governor, the House of Delegates, and local offices will be held Tuesday, June 13. The general election is in November.

*Chris Bledsoe  
Purcellville Town Council*

**A Winner Of A Budget**

**Dear Editor:**

On May 23, Mayor Kwasi Fraser and the Purcellville Town Council voted to finalize the FY18 budget on behalf of our taxpayers. As an elected government, this is the greatest responsibility that we have. We also have the unlimited ability to tax. Thankfully, our Mayor and Council have shown great restraint and responsibility when exercising that power.

At the beginning of this process I challenged each of us to be bold. The status quo has not worked. A few highlights from this budget for our citizens:

- No tax rate increase
- No increases in water or sewer (14 percent was proposed)
- No negative impact to Town-provided services

- All staff receive 3 percent pay increase
- Projected surpluses
- No actions/decisions taken are a detriment to our overall financial standing and rating
- Budget includes planning software that will allow for prudent growth decisions and understanding fiscal and infrastructure impacts.

My promises to the citizens of Purcellville a year ago were:

- Fiscal management
- Managed growth
- Maintain small town feel

I feel that this budget achieves each of these goals.

The Town of Purcellville should be aware of the effort put forth by staff to get us to this point. This process was not only lengthy, but interactive – with plenty of agreement and disagreement. I appreciate everyone's efforts in getting us to this point.

Additionally, the leadership of our Mayor should be applauded. Leadership is different than being a politician. Leaders avoid hitting the easy button and choose to provide innovative management approaches. Thank you to our Mayor for leading us to this point.

*Ryan Cool  
Purcellville Town Council*



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**Answers to puzzle from page 24**

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25	P	U	T	26	I	N	A	T	28	I	G	H	T	S	29	P	O	T		
32	E	L	A	N	D				33	D	O	S			34	A	P	R		
35	A	C	I	D	S				36	R	E	S			37	A	G	L	E	Y
39	R	E	G						40	S	E	A			41	G	O	E	R	S
42	T	R	A	P	P	E	D	L	I	K	E	A	R	A	T					
				47	E	A	R	S			48	B	O	I	L					
49	S	T	E	R	E	O			52	R	E	P	S		53	B	R	A		
56	H	A	S	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	T	O	R	U	N					
59	A	R	S	O	N				60	O	T	I	C		61	W	A	N	T	
62	D	E	E	D	S				63	D	E	S	K		64	E	D	G	E	

D E M O C R A T

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