

Blue Ridge

LEADER & LOUDOUN TODAY

OCTOBER 2017

14TH ANNUAL
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— SEE PAGE 16 —

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Meadow Must Go Says HOA Couple Fights For Monarchs



Michael and Sian Pugh

— By Andrea Gaines

Home Owners' Associations have quite a bit of control over how individuals manage their property.

When differences of opinion arise, the HOA's CC&Rs – Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions – usually settle the issue.

But, for one couple – Michael and Sian Pugh who live at the 27-year-old Farmington on the Green development in Purcellville – a seemingly simple matter of a wildflower meadow has devolved into an expensive legal challenge directed at the most fundamental of property rights. Make the change we are demanding, says the HOA, or we'll interfere with the sale of your property.

This is not a new issue for the HOA or the



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Farmington neighborhood.

The Pughs have lived on their 5.6-acre property since 2005. They are the third set of owners. The two property owners before them maintained the two-acre meadow portion of the property in the same manner, allowing traditional meadow grasses, wildflowers, and other naturally occurring and planted native species to thrive in a controlled manner.

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Purcellville HALLOWEEN Block Party Oct. 28

Purcellville's seventh annual free Halloween Block Party will be held Saturday, Oct. 28, from 5 to 9 p.m. on 21st Street in Old Town Purcellville. The street will be closed to vehicular traffic and transformed into Loudoun County's largest Halloween Block Party. Last year more than 5,000 people from across the county and beyond attended the family-friendly event.

Back again this year will be children's entertainer Mr. Knick Knack. He and his guitar will take the main stage at 5 p.m. Loudoun County's Magic by Ryan will begin at 6 p.m.

Halloween-themed games for the kids will include The Rubber Rat Toss, Pumpkin Bowling, Pin the Nose on the Witch, Pumpkin Tic Tac Toe, the Rubber Ducky Race, and others. Every child will win a prize.

Seven creative costume contests will be judged for trophies and cash prizes. First place in each of the contests will be awarded \$100; second place, \$50; and third, \$25. Judging for infants to five-year-olds

will be at 6 p.m.; six-year-olds to 12-year-olds at 6:30 p.m.; all kinds of pets at 7 p.m.; 13-year-olds to 17-year-olds at 7:30 p.m.; adults 18-years-old and over at 8 p.m.; and group/family at 8:30 p.m. These contests will be followed by judging for best overall costume, which will be awarded \$500 cash.

Other events will include Howl at the Moon and Most Horrific Scream contests, balloon artists, and face painting.

Food vendors from Magnolias, La Dolce Vita Gelatos, Tacos from Casa Tequila, and several others will be available on 21st Street from 5 p.m. on.

Parking for the block party will be free throughout the town.

For contest rules and more information, visit www.purcellvillehalloween.com; on Facebook go to Purcellville Halloween Block Party; or contact Michael Oaks or Kim Patterson, at Re-Love It, 540-751-0707, or by emailing reloveit@aol.com.



Photo by Samantha Hagan

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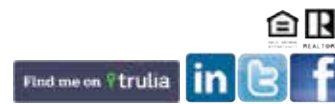
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 - Brenda & Frank Graziano, Leesburg - Summer 2017



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ASK DR. MIKE

- By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

Our son is in 3rd Grade and we've received two emails from his teacher to inform us that our son is misbehaving in class. We were told that he is being "oppositional," and when we asked for examples, the teacher said that our son interrupts others (and her), talks out of turn, is pushy socially and has trouble staying in line. Our son's First Grade and Second Grade teacher also said that he was difficult to manage in class, but my husband and I just don't see any of this at home. Our son is off the charts intelligent, always gets top grading marks and he gets bored in class. We've been telling his teachers this for three years, but they get defensive with us. With back to school night coming up, we'd appreciate your advice. Upset in Loudoun



Dr. Mike

harsh term to use, and even if it's not entirely accurate, it appears that your son is struggling socially and behaviorally in class this year. Based on what you reported, what's happening for him now is similar to what happened to him in First and

Second Grade.

Is it possible that both you and the teacher are correct; that your son is exceptionally bright and that he also has social and behavioral struggles? You write that your son is misunderstood and that he "gets bored." While it may be true that he acts-out when under stimulated, he still needs to be able to age appropriately manage his emotions and behaviors.

I think that you should consider a neuropsychological evaluation for your son. This sort of evaluation will help you to better identify why he's experiencing academic, social and behavioral unevenness in his functioning in the classroom, and it will provide you with a road map to address any issues that are revealed via standardized and objective testing.

It's possible that your son has a processing problem(s) (e.g., attentional, sensory, visual or auditory struggles),

Dear Upset,

No parent likes to hear someone say negative things about their child, especially teachers or other individuals who play an important role in their child's life. "Oppositional" is certainly a

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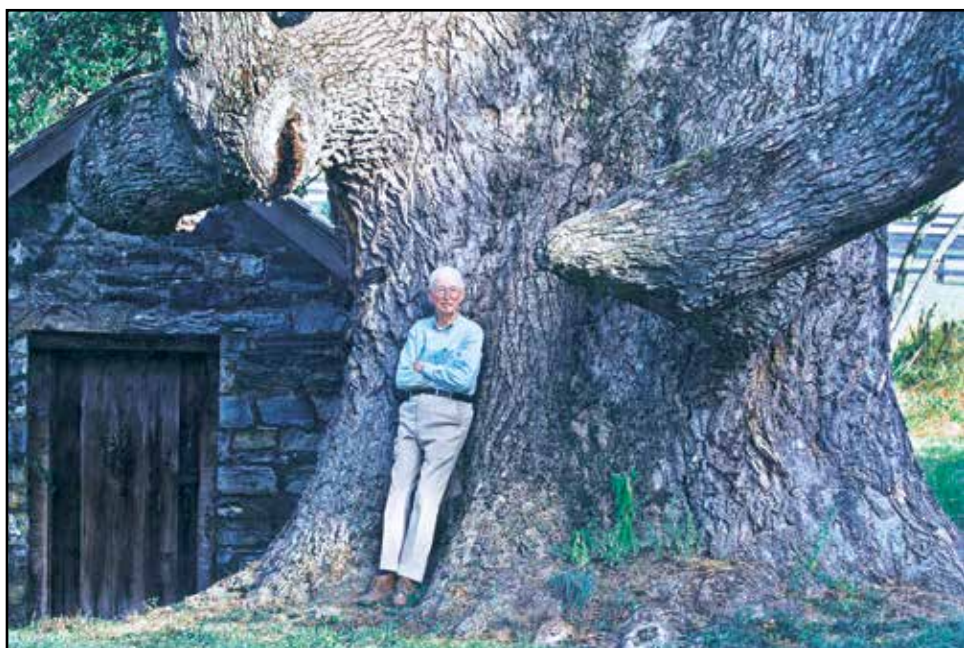
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County Seeks Nominations Where Are Loudoun's Biggest Trees?



This yellow poplar is the largest tree in Loudoun County and the third largest in the state.

– By Andrea Gaines

Located in the very heart of the national movement known as The Journey Through Hallowed Ground, Loudoun County has some of the most precious historic assets in the United States.

Also here are some of nature's most precious assets; big trees – some which rank as the largest in of their kind in the entire state.

Loudoun County is on a mission to update its official Big Tree Registry. And, our official urban forester, John Zuiker is reaching out to citizens who think they might know the location of one of these ecological giants.

The Commonwealth of Virginia ranks fourth on what is known as the National Big

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Opinion: The Tax Party

– By Charles Houston

I Googled tax rates of Virginia counties today and guess what ... Loudoun is number one again.

As I take in this news I wonder; what is driving this? Is it really so great to be the wealthiest county in the country? Is it so great to have an unemployment rate that economists would say is too low? Is it so great to be one of the country's fastest growing counties?

No, it's not great.

Just over the Blue Ridge sits Clarke County with a tax rate about half of what we pay.

We can thank our Supervisors – most of them – for taking a hard line on taxes. It's a front-page struggle for them every year but somehow they manage to adjust the rates so we're not taxed into the stratosphere. But, in reality, we and the Supervisors don't face a tax problem, but a spending problem.

Each year the county sends out a little graphic showing where the tax money goes.

One department stands out: The school system. It operates secretly, not even giving the School Board requested information. When this year's budget was negotiated between the two Boards, the school system did not get \$1,900,000 it re-

quested to replace some textbooks. About a month later the school system was closing its books on the expiring fiscal year. Guess what? It was going to show a \$2,000,000 surplus! Perfect, those kids would get their text books after all. Wrong! Rather than buy the books, or better, refund some taxes, the school administration wasted it on iPads and other gizmos. Arrrrgh!

In 1999 or thereabouts Loudoun citizens grew tired of too much growth and the high taxes it brought. Voters rebelled, tossed out the old growth-is-great Board and elected a slate of slow-growth advocates. But the "let's grow" mentality has reemerged. And that is the problem. On a microeconomic level, each new house costs \$1.62 in county services for every \$1.00 it pays in taxes. Thus a house at Loudoun's average \$471,000 value probably pays \$4,000 in taxes and consumes \$6,500 in services. Every new house is a loser for us taxpayers.

It's easy to see why. Given a statistician's average of 1.5 children per family and the \$11,000 a year it costs to educate each child, that house with 1.5 kids costs us taxpayers at least \$16,500 in educational costs alone. A true econometric study would also add the increased expenses of other county services. At least that family pays \$4,000 in

property taxes. What a great deal!

In a county of 350,000 people, the added cost of a few new houses is hardly noticeable. When it's not "a few new homes" but a tsunami of houses, taxes and traffic get really, really bad.

I admire the Board of Supervisors in many ways and thank them for fighting tax increases; I fault them for their fundamental belief that growth is good. As your eyes see the changes in the scenery, growth is bad. And, as the numbers show, growth is bad. When challenged on that point they say they are focused on getting commercial development to offset the costs of the new houses. They just don't get it. A commercial office building the size of the Government Center would pay \$165,000 in property taxes. Sounds good, right? But what the Supervisors and the development crowd simply don't understand is that commercial development brings workers along with it, and those workers living here cost taxpayers far, far more than the taxes paid by the commercial building itself. Here's the math: That building would house about 500 workers. If only half lived in Loudoun, the added tax burden would be \$620,000, offset by the \$165,000 of taxes paid by the building. Thus we get soaked \$455,000 in new taxes. And don't forget the building's

impact on traffic – about 7,500 new daily trips on already congested roads. That's just one medium sized building – and the pro-growth crowd wants as many new buildings as possible. Might it be for their economic self-interest?

Our leaders overlook this link between commercial growth and the dramatic costs of the residential development it causes. I don't like trendy phrases like "paradigm shift," but that's what the Supervisors need. I prefer archaic language, like "See growth come. See taxes skyrocket."

Boston had its Tea Party. Loudoun needs a Tax Party. Scrap the developer-run Envision Loudoun ruse. Abolish the stooge Stakeholders Group. Get rid of AR-1 zoning and put all of western Loudoun in the less dense AR-2 category. Protect the Transition Area. Get the Economic Development Department to work on getting more data centers (which pay high taxes and have few employees.)

If the current Board doesn't listen, well, in the next two years the Board is up for reelection. And, hopefully, there will be a Tax Party ... at the voting booth.

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

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We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor:

Submissions may be sent to
Editor@BRLeader.com, or via mail to,
PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325.
Please include your name,
address and telephone number.

We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary.
Deadline for print edition is the third week of
each month, or, online any time.

Letters To The Editor

Envision Loudoun In Crisis

Dear Editor:

A year and a half into the process of the reviewing and rewriting the Loudoun County Comprehensive Plan, how is it going? After attending Envision Loudoun public input sessions, Stakeholders Committee meetings, and talking with Loudoun residents, I fear that the process of rewriting the Comprehensive Plan is being hijacked with little regard to public oversight and review.

When the Envision Loudoun process started, Loudoun residents were promised transparency and feedback as the process went along. Two well publicized public outreach sessions at various locations across the County were attended by hundreds of people. According to people who attended, newspaper reports, and recorded comments of those that attended the outreach sessions and commented online, there was overwhelming support to leave both the Rural Policy Area and the Transition Policy Area alone. The Stakeholders Committee meeting on Monday, Sept. 25, the 26 Committee members and staff discussed scenarios that increase density across the TPA, especially in areas south of Braddock Road. In the area to the west of Lightridge Farm Road, staff recommended adding 82 - 88 additional housing units. The Stakeholders proposed adding 749 units to the same area, an 8-9 times increase from present density. In the southeast corner of the TPA,

both staff and Stakeholders are looking at the potential development of 15,522 additional housing units for a total of 18,324 new units in the Transition Policy Area. This is like adding the communities of Brambleton, Ashburn Village, Stone Ridge, and The Broadlands, combined, to the existing TPA. This is unsustainable.

Residents of the Rural Policy Area should be especially alert. At Monday's Stakeholder meeting, the "Working Map" presented for discussion proposed annexation of three sections of the RPA into the TPA. Apparently, the Stakeholders Committee disregarded the Board of Supervisors opinion that the "Rural Policy Area was off the table" for consideration during Comprehensive Plan review.

Each new dwelling costs more in annual operating expenditures than is taken in through tax revenues. One solution is higher taxes. The other solution is to stop rampant development and preserve the Transition Policy Area. It's time to tell the Board of Supervisors that Envision Loudoun process is off the rails!

*Don Goff
Willowsford*

Walbridge Violating My Privacy

Dear Editor:

The audacity of the Tia Walbridge campaign is striking, as evidenced by their brazen violation of personal privacy. They have handed my personal cell phone

number over to a campaign volunteer who is now pestering me to vote for Democrat Tia Walbridge. But it gets much more offensive knowing they probably got their hands on my phone number, possibly by abusing Freedom of Information requests.

The stories are popping up around the Commonwealth; in Harrisonburg, Virginia, students at JMU received a personalized text on their phone this week, appearing to be from volunteers working on a local Democrat's campaign. Now people are wondering how they found their name and number in the first place. Reports there indicate Democrats used FOIA to get at student directories.

I read that in Roanoke, Republican Delegate Greg Habeeb got a text from his Democrat opponent's volunteer and that led him to look at the law. This raises questions about this predatory texting, including the legality of spamming individual's personal cell phones. Whether it violates Virginia's or Federal laws seems to be a gray area. But do Democrat candidates even care?

When a volunteer for Walbridge texted me, I had already decided to vote for LaRock and this solidified my decision. After responding to this text-happy volunteer saying I wanted to be left alone, the person actually texted me again to explain themselves – seems these 'volunteers' simply don't get it.

My message to Ms. Walbridge is simple - please keep my cell phone private and stop texting me about your campaign.

*Greg Keefer
Purcellville*

Continued on page 29

Virginia Gubernatorial Debate – Highlights Substance Vs. Style



Ralph Northam answering questions from the press post-debate.



Ed Gillespie and his wife Cathy, post-debate fielding questions from the press.

– By Andrea Gaines

Republican candidate Ed Gillespie and Democratic candidate Ralph Northam faced off in their first televised debate in the race for Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia on Sept. 19, moderated by Meet the Press’s Chuck Todd, and hosted by George Mason University and the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

With the country in a polarized mood, and the Commonwealth of Virginia seen by many as symbolic of the ever-shifting loyalties of Republican and Democratic voters, the debate was notable for its pretty clear presentation of where these two candidates stand on the issues, rather than their campaigning style.

Moderator Todd, known for his sense of fairness and matter of fact style kept things moving, most of the time, steering the hour-

Location: Capital One Headquarters, Mclean, VA

Moderator: Chuck Todd, NBC News Political Director and Moderator of Meet The Press

Hosted By: Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Schar School of Public Policy & government at George Mason University, NBC4

Format: Opening & Closing Statements and Timed Q&A

Panelists: Julie Carey, News 4 Northern Virginia Bureau Chief, Aaron Gilchrist, anchor of News 4 Today, Dr. Mark Rozell, Dean of the Schar School

long debate away from crafty one-liners and focusing on substance, instead.

While, early on in the evening, the

debate touched on the controversies surrounding and the violent Aug. protests in Charlottesville and the Confederate Monuments issue, it didn’t stay there.

Republican Ed Gillespie opened his formal presentation of his candidacy on an economic note, pointing to what he saw as the poor performance of the Commonwealth under the leadership of Democratic governor Terry McAuliffe. “Our growth rate last year was six tenths of 1 percent, making us 39th out of 50 states in economic growth,” said Gillespie. “The policies I put forward,” he continued, would result in the creation of more than 53,000 new, additional, full-time, good-paying private sector jobs across our commonwealth. That’s a 25 percent increase over current projections.”

Along the way, Gillespie told the story of his background working in the family

grocery store. While his immigrant father started life in the United States as janitor, with his family’s encouragement, he made it to college and eventually, to the White House as a counselor to President George W. Bush.

Gillespie, who comes to the race with extensive policy credentials, praised his opponent Ralph Northam for his military service but said Northam’s economic policies lack “a sense of urgency.”

In contrast, Northam, in his opening statement, claimed credit for the economic progress that he, as the current Lieutenant Governor of Virginia has helped inspire, Democrat Northam referenced “record-setting ... 215,000 new jobs [and] over \$16 billion [in] capital investment” created under McAuliffe. “Our unemployment rate has gone from 5.4 to 3.8 percent,”

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Mayor Fraser Hosting Stage Side Chat Oct. 11



Want to know more about the finances of the town, how about opportunities for volunteering, or do you have an improvement idea that you would like to see? Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser once again has an open discussion with citizens to address their questions and embrace their ideas at the Carver Center, Wednesday, Oct. 11 – from from 7 to 8 p.m. In the past topics such as utilities, businesses, traffic, events and taxes have been discussed. Come connect with others in the community and share your ideas.

View From The Ridge – Who Are You, Loudoun County?

– By Andrea Gaines

As the Board of Supervisors began the Envision Loudoun effort – the multi-year process designed to update and rewrite the County-wide Comprehensive Plan – citizens were asked what they wanted to see in the Loudoun County of the future. Who are you, Loudoun County, our leaders and planners wanted to know.

In overwhelming fashion, and across dozens of meetings and thousands of comments, residents have said: “We are the Transition Policy Area, the Rural Policy Area, and the Suburban Policy Area ... We are the successful growth management strategy that supports a suburban east, a transitional middle, and a rural west.”

So why is our government not listening?

Early on in the Envision Loudoun process, the TPA – a zoning buffer between the high-

density east and the rural, low-density west – was targeted for development by pro-growth advocates, including the developer-dominated Envision Loudoun Stakeholder Committee.

Area residents – having failed to stop approval of a massive, 135,000+ sq. ft. suburban-style Harris Teeter complex – found their voice in the Transition Policy Area Alliance and a group called Loudoun Residents for Reasonable Growth.

But, as LRRG noted six months ago, “The Transition Area Alliance is monitoring the process for development of the New Comprehensive Plan and has seen indications that the new plan is moving away from the current planning area concept that includes the Suburban, Transition, and Rural policy areas. These planning areas have defined Loudoun for 15 years and

Continued on page 31



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Deadline For Voting Registration Is Oct. 16

In order to be eligible to vote in the General Election to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, you must register no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 16. For the convenience of the citizens of Loudoun County, the Voter Registration Office at 750 Miller Drive, SE, Suite C, Leesburg, is open each week Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Loudoun County Voter Registration Office will be offering absentee voting in person at their Leesburg Office located at 750 Miller Drive, SE, Suite C, Leesburg, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Additional absentee voting locations and extended hours are:

Voter Registration Office – 750 Miller Drive, SE, Suite C, Leesburg.

Monday through Friday Oct. 30 through

Nov. 3, 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, is the last day upon which one may vote an absentee ballot in person for the upcoming election.

Senior Center in Cascades - 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling (near the library) and **Dulles South Multipurpose Center** - 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding

Monday through Friday, Oct. 30 through Nov. 3, 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Anyone needing to vote an absentee ballot by mail must submit their completed Absentee Ballot Application by the close of business on Tuesday, Oct. 31. Completed applications can be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail or online – www.vote.virginia.gov.

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FOR SALE

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Fully renovated c.1720 home on 13 creekside acres in Purcellville. Offered for \$899,000



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Genius Jerky – On The Move And Doing Good

– By Andrea Gaines

It's one o'clock in the morning and Loudoun entrepreneur Richard Plebuch is doing what he always does – making a difference. At this moment, packing up ready-to-go shipments of Genius Jerky for hurricane victims.

In the wake of Hurricane Irma, Plebuch, Owner Operator of Loudoun County's Genius Jerky – along with his partners and staff, including Director of Finance, Steve Brewster and Director of Customer Public Relations, Angela Smith, could be found pulling out all the stops to get shipments of beef jerky to people in hurricane evacuation centers.



Genius Jerky, Richard Plebuch

With their so far two flavors of the tasty dried beef snack – South Korean BBQ and Honey Habanero, both developed by Plebuch himself – the young company has a history of reaching out to people and organizations in need. It's just what they do.

When hurricane season hit, they were on

it; sending 765 bags to victims through the Salvation Army of Loudoun. They are also helping a mother of two who is battling a very difficult cancer. Said Plebuch, "600 bags of were sold after appearing in studio on DC101's Elliot in the Morning. The bags were a manufacturer error that caused the bags to be extremely hot [spicy!], we didn't want to sell them originally but decided to sell them at a discount to benefit the family to help offset the medical costs." And said Plebuch, "... our intentions are to donate a small percentage of all bags sold to the Muscular Dystrophy Association once we become profitable.

Genius Jerky's product is as full of heart as their philanthropic attitude. It'd

high in protein, low-fat, nitrate-free and is made using top quality ingredients; no GMOs (genetically modified ingredients), no added hormones and no preservatives. And, all Genius Jerky beef is free-range, grass-fed and grass-finished.

At the Cow, the only fictitious employee in the bunch, is the company's official bovine spokesman. Is there a customer club, a fan club? Yes, of course there is, and it is called the Genius Club. Does the company have a really fun website, yes. You can go to www.geniusjerky.com, and, in true beef jerky style, "Meat," as in M-E-A-T the Geniuses, AKA the staff. And, can you follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

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Candidates for Governor



Ed Gillespie

Ed Gillespie is a small business owner, former top White House and Capitol Hill aide, and the Republican nominee for governor of Virginia.

Gillespie grew up working in his parents' grocery store. The son of an Irish immigrant, he started his career as a Senate parking lot attendant and worked his way up to become Counselor to President George W. Bush. He became the first GOP chairman in 80 years to preside over his party's winning the White House, House and Senate. He is also a former Chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia.

Gillespie has spent his career fighting for principles of limited, effective government and personal liberty that help make life better and more prosperous for Virginians. He is fighting to make sure that the American Dream his family has experienced continues to be in reach for future generations.

He and his wife Cathy have three grown children, and they live near historic Mt. Vernon in Fairfax County.

Blue Ridge Leader: Virginians have many public safety concerns – terrorism, natural disasters, threats to our electrical grid, cyber security. What can you do as governor to help us prepare for them?

Ed Gillespie: Providing for public safety is an essential responsibility of government, and one that must be addressed with the utmost seriousness. As governor, I will coordinate efforts between our partners in federal, state and local law enforcement to put in place policies that will combat dangerous gangs, including MS-13, reduce crime, and provide support for the brave men and women who selflessly serve their communities to make our Commonwealth safer for ALL Virginians. Additionally, I have earned the endorsement of the Police Benevolent Association and a majority of sheriffs from across the Commonwealth. I will work closely with them to make Virginia safer and stronger.

Homeland security is a critical function of government. The Secure Commonwealth and Resilient Panel serves to monitor and coordinate the emergency preparedness of government at all levels in Virginia. This

critical panel includes elected leaders, public health experts, first responders, business and industry and local government. On Day One, I will direct the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene the Secure Commonwealth Panel within the first ten days of the Administration in order to fully evaluate the current state of readiness and report on any vulnerabilities and gaps in our public safety posture to protect all Virginians.

You can read my detailed public safety policy proposal at forALLVirginians.com.

BRL: What is your plan to reduce the costs of healthcare for all citizens of Virginia?

EG: Virginia's next governor will face significant challenges in healthcare and social services. I will turn those challenges into opportunities for reform and improved health outcomes for Virginians. This begins with recognizing that Washington, D.C. will not solve our problems.

The Health and Human Resources Secretariat makes up more than 25 percent of Virginia's biennial budget. I will ensure Virginia works with our federal partners to remove barriers to permit Virginia to continue to lead the nation in innovative solutions to ensure those Virginians most in need receive a helping hand on the path to self-sufficiency.

BRL: How would you level the playing field in education so all communities – rich and poor – have the same opportunities?

EG: The proper role of government is not to guarantee equality of outcomes, but equality of opportunity. That means we have a moral duty to ensure all children have access to an excellent public school. As governor, I'll work to make sure that all students – no matter where they live – have the opportunity to reach their full potential and ensure our high school and college graduates are career-ready on day one, prepared with skills for life.

As it relates to our K-12 education system, I will give our teachers greater freedom to innovate and work with parents to respond to the unique needs of individual children. Virginia students, teachers, and families will benefit from innovative solutions – driven by technology – to more efficiently deliver and monitor learning and teaching in the 21st century.

I have put forward detailed policy proposals to improve our K-12 education system and our higher education system at forallvirginians.com.

BRL: Most US states, including several of Virginia's neighbors, do not tax groceries. What is your position on this?

EG: Virginia families are feeling the squeeze, our approach to economic development is antiquated and tired, and Virginia is losing



Ralph Northam

Democrat Ralph Northam is a former Virginia State Senator (Senate District 6, 2008-2014), and the current Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia – an office he has held since 2014. A native son of the Eastern Shore, Northam is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology (1981), and served as president of VMI's honor court. He is a U.S. Army veteran, having spent eight years as an active duty officer, rising to the rank of major. Northam has a medical background, earning his M.D. from Eastern Virginia Medical School in 1984. He did his residencies at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he treated soldiers wounded in Operation Desert Storm. He has also served as chief neurological resident at Johns Hopkins Hospital, as a private-practice pediatric neurologist and as assistant Professor of Neurology at EVMS. Northam currently lives in Norfolk with his wife, Pam, and two children, Wes and Aubrey.

Blue Ridge Leader: Virginians have many public safety concerns – terrorism, natural disasters, threats to our electrical grid, cyber security. What can you do as governor to help us prepare for them?

Ralph Northam: Being born and raised in Virginia, and with Pam and I raising our children here, we share many of these same concerns. As an Army veteran and doctor, I have spent my life working to protect and serve others, and I consider that the most important job in serving as governor. That is why I was proud to support increasing pay and training for our police and sheriffs in our last state budget, and why as a state senator I secured funding to study strategies to address rising sea levels in Virginia.

There are 76 million attacks on the commonwealth's network each year, and that's why I've proposed a plan that includes continuing to support increased penalties for cybercrimes, protecting the commonwealth's IT infrastructure, and ensuring we have a trained workforce to fill the 36,000 open, high-demand cyber jobs right here – the most in the nation. Investing

in our public safety officers, workforce, and our infrastructure has been, and will remain, a top priority.

BRL: What is your plan to reduce the costs of health care for all citizens of Virginia?

RN: As a physician, I uniquely understand what's driving the cost of healthcare in this country. It's time to expand Medicaid in the commonwealth and extend coverage to 400,000 working Virginians. Every day that we don't, we are not only leaving on the table but giving away to surrounding states that we compete with, close to \$6 million a day. Since January of 2014 we have given away over \$10 billion of the tax dollars that we send to Washington and we'll never get it back. It's the right thing to do.

That's why I have called for a Bipartisan Joint Subcommittee, comprised of members from both the Health Insurance Reform Commission and the newly formed HHR Oversight Committee to address the concerns of rising healthcare costs, specifically for vulnerable communities. Virginians should lead the country on innovations in health care that will raise quality and decrease costs. As a native Virginian, former member of the legislature and physician – I believe it is time we put common sense back into improving the health care system and work together to improve the health care experience for all Virginians.

BRL: How would you level the playing field in education so all communities – rich and poor – have the same opportunities?

RN: As a pediatric neurologist, I see every day that there is power in every child. There is so much learning potential in our children before they get to kindergarten, but if everyone doesn't get access to early childhood education, that's what starts what I call the gaps between the haves and the have nots. I was proud to lead our administration's effort to secure a grant that gave us the power to expand pre-K education to 13,000 students and as governor, I'd like to expand the opportunity to more of our children.

BRL: Most US states, including several of Virginia's neighbors, do not tax groceries. What is your position on this?

RN: This November, voters have a choice of two economic visions: there's my opponent's plan to cut taxes for the wealthy at the expense of hard-working Virginians versus my track record of growing the economy and giving people the skills needed to fill new-collar jobs.

As part of my vision, I've called for cutting the regressive grocery tax for Virginians under a certain income threshold. I've proposed creating a bipartisan tax commission to make our tax code simpler, fairer, and fiscally responsible – and I

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Candidates for Lt. Governor



Justin Fairfax

Democrat Justin Fairfax is a former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia who has served as Deputy Coordinator of the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force and Deputy of for the Major Crimes & Narcotics Unit. He has worked in the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government. Fairfax grew up in a disadvantaged neighborhood in Washington, D.C., but with the help of a supportive family – including his grandparents and mother, who put all four of her children through college – he earned a degree in public policy from Duke University and a J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he served on the prestigious Columbia Law Review. Fairfax is an attorney. He and his wife, Dr. Cerina Fairfax, D.D.S. own a dental practice and live in Northern Virginia with their young son and daughter.

Blue Ridge Leader: What in your life experience motivates you to pursue public service?

Justin Fairfax: Economic security and opportunity the theme of this campaign, and has played a large role in the story of my own life. Growing up, I was not privileged with a large amount of money, status, or power, but I was surrounded by a supportive and loving network of family. After my parents' divorce, we came to live in inner-city Washington, DC with my maternal grandparents. The strength of my support network gave me opportunity, a high-quality education, family, faith, and hope; what I like to call spiritual wealth. My mom supported me and my three older siblings in ways that seemed beyond impossible. We were fortunate to escape the tragedies that devastated so many families and youth in our community during that time. Because so many gave me spiritual wealth, I feel I have a spiritual debt that I am determined to repay through public service. I am committed to ensuring that others can have similar opportunities, such as a college education and economic security, no matter their start in life.

BRL: How would you strike the right balance between consumer privacy and

the needs of business on issues such as telemarketing, the use of personal information, etc.

JF: In addition to being an attorney I work with my wife running a dental practice, and I have a first-hand understanding of the challenges of maintaining a business. As Lieutenant Governor, I will work to ensure that businesses have the resources they need to succeed without overstepping the liberties of consumers to keep some information private.

In recent years we have seen too many instances of security breaches on the part of both government and the private sector that have left individuals' private information exposed. People should have the right to expect that anyone who collects their personally identifying information will take responsible steps to keep it secure. Further, even in the absence of any breach, many people have come to believe that marketers, vendors, and solicitors are allowed access to more information about themselves than is appropriate.

I would support stronger consumer protection and cybersecurity laws designed to tighten up practices in this area, accompanied not only by meaningful regulations and oversight but also by strong penalties in instances of noncompliance. I also believe that there should be more opportunities to "opt-out" of inclusion in various databases than currently exist.

BRL: The Lieutenant Governor casts the tie-breaking vote in the Virginia Senate. If elected, do you see this as giving you more responsibility, more power, or both?

JF: The Lieutenant Governor helps to shape policy for the state. I take this task seriously and I see this as giving both responsibility and power. In instances of ties, the Lieutenant Governor can determine what becomes public policy in this Commonwealth. However, my campaign is not based on convenience or the consolidation of power. My first priority is to ensure that Virginians have more economic security and opportunity. I will work hard every day to give people the same shot and the same support that I was given, and, if elected, I will carry the responsibility to cast votes that work to support these efforts.

BRL: One of many issues facing voters is the cost of providing government services and benefits, including in state tuition, to people living in the United States who have not complied with immigration laws. What is your position?

JF: I envision of a Virginia in which everyone is welcome, everyone has opportunity to succeed, and no matter where you were born or what your background you have a chance at the American dream. That is why I oppose rescinding the Deferred

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Jill Vogel

Republican Jill Vogel is a Virginia Senate Senator, representing District 27 which includes parts of Loudoun and surrounding counties and the City of Winchester. She was named Legislator of the Year by the Virginia State Police, the Virginia Treasurers Association, the Commissioners of Revenue Association of Virginia and the Virginia Courts Clerks Association. She is a native Virginian and nationally-known attorney, recognized as such by Washingtonian Magazine and other prominent periodicals. Vogel is a managing partner at the firm Holtzman Vogel Josefiak Torchinsky PLLC. She has held various legal positions in both government and the private sector, including Virginia State Senator and Deputy General Counsel at the Department of Energy. Vogel earned her B.A. from the College of William and Mary and her J.D. from DePaul University School of Law. Born and raised in the Shenandoah Valley, she is a wife, mother and business owner in addition to State Senator, and active in volunteer and civic organizations. She lives in Fauquier County with her husband and children.

Blue Ridge Leader: What in your life experience motivates you to pursue public service?

Jill Vogel: Since I was young, I have always had a passion for solving problems, which drove my interest in public service. During my legal career, I had the opportunity to serve as Deputy General Counsel at the U. S. Department of Energy, where among other things, I was responsible for leading a one-year regulatory review to ensure our regulations were appropriate and did not hurt job creation, economic growth, or consumers.

The spirit of community involvement runs deep in my family, so when I saw a Senate seat open up, I took the counsel of my family and my friends to welcome that opportunity to serve.

In Virginia's Senate, I have worked on a broad variety of bills making Virginia a better place to live, work, and raise a family, and developed many relationships with my Senate colleagues which help me get things done.

Under our Constitution, the Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate of

Virginia and has a powerful voice to be an advocate for important policies to make things better in Virginia.

I chose to run for Lieutenant Governor because Virginia needs a strong voice who will put principle over party and get things done in the interest of all Virginians, and never quit working diligently to make Virginia a well-managed state capable of earning top rankings, such as being the best place to raise a family or the best place to create jobs.

BRL: How would you strike the right balance between consumer privacy and the needs of business on issues such as telemarketing, the use of personal information, etc.

JV: Rapid advancements in technology are driving many changes to our society's view of privacy, consumer protection, and the use of personal information. These advancements also introduce a number of cybersecurity challenges, as all too many consumers have learned the hard way.

Government must strike that balance and make sure we are protecting personal information in a way which makes sense and offers meaningful safeguards, but without creating too much red tape or obstructing technological advancement or startup activity.

With the data economy being an issue of interstate commerce, state lawmakers have a limited number of options due to various federal preemptions designed to create a uniform business climate throughout the nation, when state borders have started to mean less in the age of e-commerce.

I am open to a number of reforms which build on the principle of consumer consent – that is, that each of us should have knowledge of and a say in how our personal information is used.

Where adopted, disclosure should be meaningful and understandable, not buried in forty-two pages of legalese.

Regulatory modernization is necessary to keep pace with the changing environment, ensuring that companies which handle large amounts of personal information take responsibility for securing that information, but in ways which do not interfere with the innovation we need from the technology startups which are critical in driving our economic growth. Rules should make sense and be narrowly tailored to address actual problems.

Finally, the legislature must work with Virginia's law enforcement community and with our Attorney General to ensure that our laws keep pace with technology and allow those who break the law to be held accountable – particularly the cybercriminals who traffic in and profit from stolen information and identity theft. Reducing the demand for stolen information is key to reducing the incentive to steal it in the first place.

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Candidates for Attorney General



John Adams

Republican John Adams is a descendant of the Massachusetts family that gave us the second and sixth Presidents of the United States – John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams. He has served as a federal prosecutor and as an Associate White House Counsel for President George W. Bush, and has also clerked for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Adams attended Virginia Military Institute and was honored as a Distinguished Graduate with a degree in economics (1996). After VMI, he received his commission as a United States Naval Officer, serving two tours. Following military service, he attended the University of Virginia School of Law, earning his J.D. Adams is currently in private practice at McGuire Woods LLP, Virginia's largest law firm, where he chairs the Government Investigations Department. Born and raised in Chesterfield, Virginia, he and his wife Lisa continue to live in the community, where they are now raising four sons – Thomas, Daniel, Andrew and Henry. Each of the boys attend the same Chesterfield public schools their parents once attended.

Blue Ridge Leader: Drug-related overdoses claimed the lives of 1,400 Virginians in 2016. What innovative solutions would you spearhead to address this crisis?

John Adams: The heroin and opioid epidemic affects communities all across Virginia, and is only getting worse. Since my opponent, Mark Herring, took office, fatal opioid overdoses have increased 66 percent. As soon as I decided to run for attorney general I created a substance abuse working group to help me understand the magnitude of this issue and put together a statewide policy proposal to address the crisis. In June, at the Chesterfield County Jail, I was joined by practitioners, law enforcement, and service providers to announce my plan, which you can read on my website. It centers around two things: stronger enforcement against those who seek to harm our children, friends and communities by selling these drugs; and, more alternative sentencing and rehabilitation like what Sheriff Karl

Leonard is doing in Chesterfield to help those addicted to these substances. The bottom line is that it is time for action, not just more convening and talking. And we must bring people working on this issue together to utilize and maximize resources and start working immediately to help end this growing epidemic.

BRL: One of the major challenges in the criminal justice system is the proliferation of gangs. What is your number one priority on this issue?

JA: Gang violence is increasing in Virginia, particularly in Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley. One of the top priorities of the attorney general is to keep Virginia safe. We need to get serious about the increase in gangs, and also work to keep Virginia's children out of gangs to begin with. In fact, I recently spent the day with the Northern Virginia Gang Taskforce learning more about these very problems. As a federal prosecutor, I worked with local, state, and federal law enforcement to get violent criminals off our streets. This included gang members through a collaborative program called Project Exile in the city of Richmond. Project Exile was instrumental in lowering gang violence and the murder rate in the city. I believe this program was successful and one that we should look at as a model for addressing the growing gang problems we are seeing across Virginia.

BRL: To protect vulnerable populations such as seniors, veterans and children the state's attorney general needs to safeguard the public purse. What would you do to make sure tax payer dollars are spent as efficiently as possible?

JA: As a Navy veteran, I have seen people and companies go after our service members and veterans to try to take advantage of them. Consumer protection is a core function of the attorney general's office. As a former federal prosecutor, I will protect Virginians by leading a highly effective team of lawyers that will prosecute those who break the law and harm consumers. Under my watch, Virginia will be very inhospitable to those companies and individuals who attempt to harm our citizens. One rising issue is spoofing – calls to cell phones that look like they are coming from a familiar number. As attorney general, I will take spoofing seriously and work to protect Virginia consumers from these phone calls. You can read more about how I will address this issue on my website.

To the topic of spending tax payer dollars efficiently, something else I will not do is hire outside counsel to represent the Commonwealth just because the issue is not something I agree with politically. This is something Mark Herring has done, and it has cost tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars. The attorney general's job is to

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Mark Herring

Mark Herring, a Democrat, is the current Attorney General of Virginia. His election to that position in 2013 gave Democrats control of that office for the first time in twenty-four years. Herring served in the Virginia State Senate representing parts of Fairfax and Loudoun Counties (District 33) from 2006 until 2014. He holds an undergraduate degree in foreign affairs and economics – and an M.A. in foreign affairs – from the University of Virginia. He received his J.D. from the University of Richmond School of Law. He was raised in Loudoun County and was an attorney in private practice in his hometown of Leesburg. Prior to his election to the Virginia Senate, Herring served on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and as the Town Attorney for Lovettsville. Herring and his wife, Laura, have been married for 27 years and have two children – daughter Peyton, 24 and son Tim, 21.

Blue Ridge Leader: Drug-related overdoses claimed the lives of 1,400 Virginians in 2016. What innovative solutions would you spearhead to address this crisis?

Mark Herring: I've made combating this crisis a top priority as Attorney General because I believe it is the most pressing public safety and public health crisis confronting Virginia. When I first started raising the opioid epidemic as a concern, we had a hard time convincing people to pay attention, but now the epidemic is touching so many Virginians from all walks of life. I intend to continue my efforts to tackle this problem with a multifaceted approach that includes enforcement, education, prevention, and legislation designed to save lives. I've implemented new law enforcement initiatives, strengthened partnerships with the medical community, and supported new recovery and treatment efforts to further expand our response to this crisis. My team and I have worked more than 90 cases against dealers and traffickers involving more than 434 pounds of heroin and fentanyl, but I know there's more work to be done. That's why I've called for new laws to crack down on deadly fentanyl, incentivizing alternatives to opioid

prescriptions, and eliminating federal restrictions on using Medicaid in residential treatment settings. I'm also working with a bipartisan group of states attorneys general to hold distributors and manufacturers accountable for their role in this crisis. My team and I have been working on this problem every day for nearly four years, and we're not going to stop because we are still losing too many treasured friends, spouses, siblings, children, and parents to this epidemic.

BRL: One of the major challenges in the criminal justice system is the proliferation of gangs. What is your number one priority on this issue?

MH: Education and prevention are key components of my anti-gang strategy, because once a young person decides to join a gang, it's incredibly difficult for them to walk away. My office has a comprehensive youth education program that includes anti-gang programming, along with a documentary, "The Big Lie," that helps young people understand that all of a gang's promises of wealth and power are just lies. It's also important to be tough on gang members who commit acts of violence or bring deadly drugs into our communities. My team and I have been relentless in going after the gang members, heroin dealers and traffickers, and illegal gun dealers who threaten the safety of Virginia communities. We have put gang members who committed murder behind bars for life and put away gang-connected heroin traffickers responsible for bringing hundreds of pounds of deadly drugs into the Commonwealth.

For our work alongside Virginia's law enforcement community, we have even been honored by the Virginia Gang Investigators Association.

BRL: To protect vulnerable populations such as seniors, veterans and children the state's attorney general needs to safeguard the public purse. What would you do to make sure taxpayer dollars are spent as efficiently as possible?

MH: I've worked each and every day to keep Virginians safe and to defend the rights of taxpayers, seniors, veterans and military families. I will continue and expand these efforts in my second term. We have redoubled our efforts to protect Virginia's children from dangerous online predators. We've helped put hundreds of child predators behind bars, brought new technology to the fight against child exploitation, and led a national, bipartisan effort to combat child exploitation. I also expanded and reorganized my office's Consumer Protection Section to aggressively enforce Virginia's consumer protection laws, provide exceptional customer service in resolving complaints and disputes, and provide robust consumer education to keep Virginians from being victimized by fraud,

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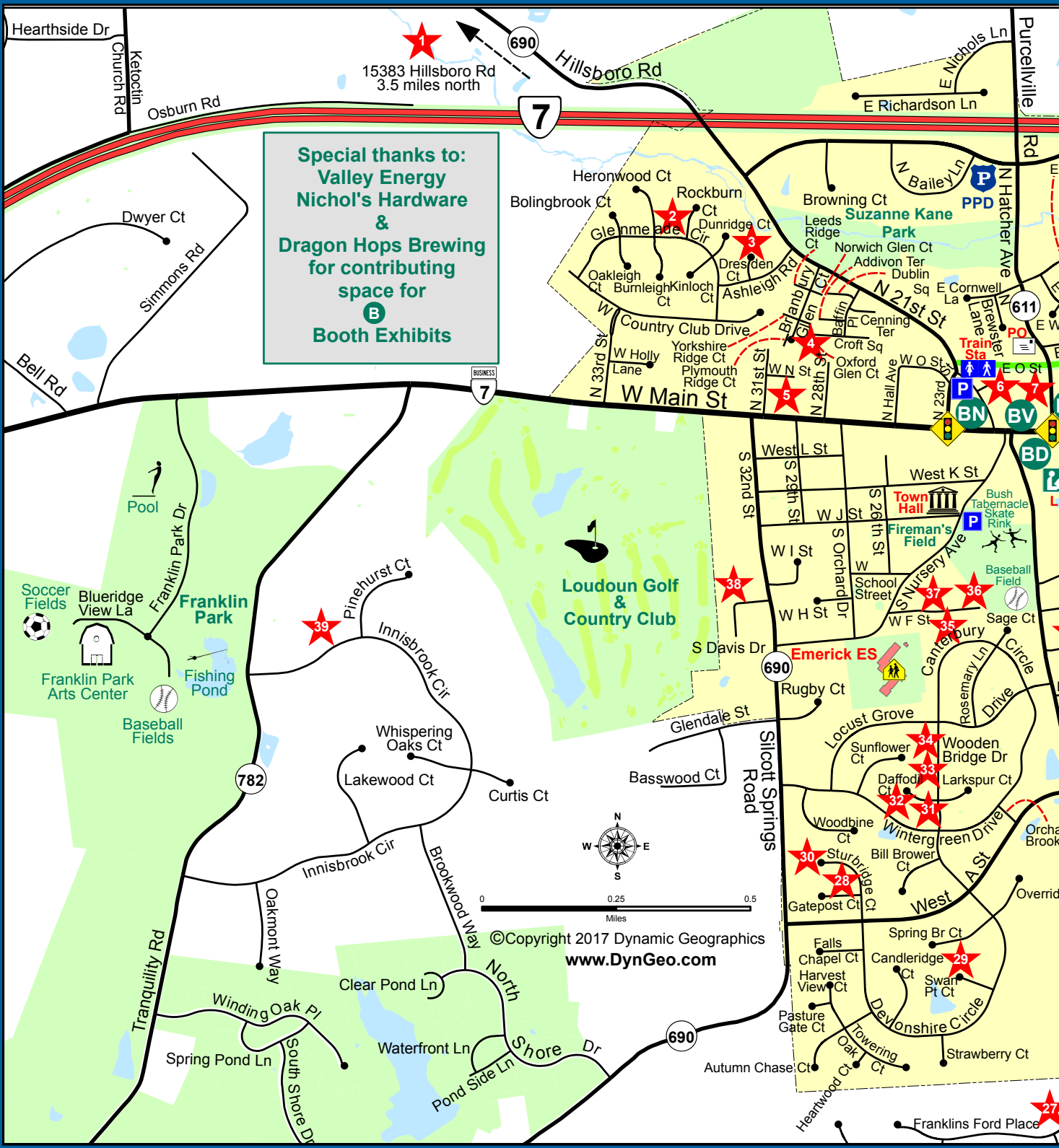
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Herring, continued from page 15

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BRL: What in your background makes you particularly suited for the role for attorney general, and in promoting the state's law enforcement agenda?

MH: When I see a problem, I want to fix it. When I see a wrong, I want to set it right. And I love helping people. That's why, to me, there's no greater or more important job than being Virginia's Attorney General. My team and I have worked every day for nearly four years to keep Virginians and their families safe and to promote secure and successful communities in every corner

of the Commonwealth. I have built strong relationships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, and we've made more public safety and law enforcement tools and resources available to Virginia communities. Whether it's cracking down on violent gangs, child predators, or drug traffickers, we've taken Virginia's most pressing public safety challenges head on. During my term, my team and I have worked more than 90 drug cases against dealers and traffickers involving more than 434 pounds of heroin, have brought charges against nearly 250 child predators, and sentenced gang members to nearly 750 years in jail. We've made progress, but there is more work to do, and I know that with my experience, and working together with the Governor, General Assembly, and law enforcement at all levels, we can meet these challenges and make Virginia and even safer place.

BRL: In one sentence: What do you love most about Virginia?

MH: Virginia is a dynamic state with a rich history, beautiful natural landscapes, and a diverse population with tremendous opportunities in front of us for growth and prosperity both now and for future generations of Virginians.

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Debate, continued from page 5

said Northam, “the lowest it’s been in nine years.” He also described his early life growing up on a small farm on Virginia’s eastern shore.

On the issue of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, both candidates voiced support for the project, with the proper environmental protections in place. Northam took a more regional and national approach to the pipeline decision, however, especially with respect to the permits required and how that would be managed by the Army Corps of Engineers and Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality. Gillespie pointed to the need for Virginia to have more autonomy when it comes to devising an energy plan of its own. But, both candidates positioned their answers in the context of how best to support the state’s economy.

Taxes are a lightning rod issue here in Virginia, and on that point the debate did not disappoint. Todd posed this question to Gillespie, and Northam to respond as well. To Gillespie: “You have proposed a 10 percent across-the-board reduction in taxes for all Virginians as well as a rollback of business taxes. But according to the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, Virginia is one of the least taxed states in the country. Why does Virginia need a tax break?”

Gillespie responded, “... we anticipate and project, over the course of the next five years, \$3.4 billion in increased revenue coming into Richmond, into our treasury, even with anemic economic growth like we have here ... And, like I said, if our next governor does not address these challenges with the right policies and a sense of urgency, we will fail our ... fellow Virginians.”

Northam used the opportunity to caution against tax cuts as a threat to the educational system and the state’s need for infrastructure improvements, setting off a spirited back-

and-forth between the candidates hitting on everything from Standards of Learning (SOL) test to workforce development. On these two points both candidates manage to bring the issue around to their own personal experiences with early childhood and high school educational programs – Gillespie with autoshop, woodshop, and metal shop, and Northam with small engine repair and auto restoration.

Sequestration and the nation’s preoccupation with the dysfunction on the national stage entered this gubernatorial debate, as did President Trump’s proposed travel ban, the Paris Climate Accords, healthcare, gang violence, immigration, D.A.C.A., federal tax reform, the LGBTQ community, Metro funding and other issues.

As the debate entered its final minutes, moderator Chuck Todd, pleading with the candidates to keep their responses short and drawing quite a laugh from the crowd said: “I’m gonna – you’re gonna – we’re gonna do this ... you guys ... if you can keep your answers to 60 [seconds] now instead of 90 ... [please!]”

The debate ended with one-minute closing statements from each candidate.

Gillespie whose closing statement focused on Virginia’s economy urged voters to take a long view, saying: “This election is not just about the next four years, it is about the next 30 years” emphasizing the need to invest in Virginia’s economy. “We’ve got to unleash entrepreneurship ... we’ve got to make sure that we improve our public schools and we modernize our transportation system.” He continued, “I will be a governor for all Virginians.” Northam, while promoting a very different set of policies, said that the future “is really about our children,” and what kind of communities they need to grow and prosper. “This is all about taking Virginia to the next level ... We’re all in this together.”

Trees, continued from page 3

Tree Registry, with between sixty-three and sixty-six National Champion Trees – trees that are the largest of their species in the United States.

The state runs The Virginia Big Tree program, a registry of over 300 native, non-native and naturalized species, maintained by the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech.

As home to fifteen State Champions or Co-State Champions – champion being defined as the largest of a particular species – Loudoun County is a power-player on the big tree category, and with forty-one trees on the Virginia state list.

But, is that Little Leaf Linden, that Pin Oak, Virginia Pine, Red Mulberry or Waxmurtle the biggest in the County? Loudouners will soon know.

Since the call for nominations went out, “The response has been crazy,” said Zuiker. “... we have about 45 trees to measure. We measured a silver maple the other day that was almost a state

champion. Really cool.”

Officially – at least up until this point – the largest tree in Loudoun County is a Yellow Poplar. It is located on private property – a private residence – and is 102 feet high, 336 inches around, and has a crown spread of 66 feet – the distance from one end of the tree’s branches to the other end. The tree is also the third largest in the state.

Nominating a tree for the Loudoun County Big Tree Registry is easy, and can be done through an online form at www.loudoun.gov/BigTreeRegistry. The www.loudoun.gov webpage also includes an interactive map that shows the general location of the county’s big trees and details about the tree, including the name, height, circumference and crown spread.

Citizens are also free to contact Loudoun County Urban Forester John Zuiker at 703-771-5991 or by email at John.Zuiker@loudoun.gov.

Let’s preserve our ecological giants.

Fairfax, continued from page 14

Action for Child Arrivals (DACA) program. We are a nation built by people who came to this country to build a better life for themselves and their families. Immigrants are a crucial part of the narrative of our nation, and any attempt to erase that history is an attack on us all. DACA participants should be welcomed to remain in this country and in our community. They should also continue to qualify for in-state college tuition, as they have previously.

Driver’s licenses should be available to all Virginians regardless of documentation. Immigrants live and work here. Ensuring that all drivers are licensed is a safety issue, as well as a crucial part of keeping a job and supporting one’s family.

Additionally, there are a broad range of local benefits that are intended

to be available to everyone. It is in the interest of all members of the community to take active steps to prevent avoidable catastrophes such as homelessness, substance abuse, and gang membership. These are exactly the sort of benefits that should be provided for everyone in our community, regardless of immigration status or documentation. As Lieutenant Governor, I will work to ensure that they are available to everyone who needs them.

BRL: In one sentence ... What do you love most about Virginia?

JF: What I love about Virginia is that all across the Commonwealth people from a variety of backgrounds are coming together to stand up for our values; in a country that seems so divided it warms my heart to see Virginians coming together.

Vogel, continued from page 14

BRL: The Lieutenant Governor casts the tie-breaking vote in the Virginia Senate. If elected, do you see this as giving you more responsibility, more power, or both?

JV: While the tie-breaking vote gives the Lieutenant Governor a degree of power in the Senate, the real strength of the office lies in the platform it offers for our Lieutenant Governor to be a strong voice for smart policy reforms which make Virginia a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

We need a Lieutenant Governor with a bold policy vision and the working relationships in the Senate which are so critical to getting things done. We need a leader who will use her voice to highlight key issues we face and bring people together, building on common ground, to find solutions to the problems we face, and use a steady hand to make Virginia the nation’s best-managed state.

BRL: One of many issues facing voters is the cost of providing government services and benefits, including in state tuition, to people living in the United States who have not complied with immigration laws. What is your position?

JV: Every public college and university in Virginia has a limited number of slots for in-state students. Those colleges should not be denying access to citizens for those limited slots by giving them to those here illegally. Virginia taxpayers support our higher education system and they should have the first opportunity for in-state tuition slots.

Immigration is one issue where my opponent and I differ, and often on issues of cost. I oppose giving limited slots to those here illegally, while my opponent supports it, and has even suggested he would make college free for those without legal presence. I oppose the establishment of

sanctuary cities and support a requirement that employers verify the lawful status of their workers. He has supported the establishment of sanctuary cities and declined to back an accountability requirement designed to prevent businesses from breaking labor laws and cheating legal workers and competing businesses by hiring illegal workers, often under the table.

The issue of the cost of government benefits is another area where we differ. On healthcare, I oppose a government-run, single-payer health care system, in part because the \$32 trillion price tag is too expensive for taxpayers. By contrast, my opponent has endorsed Bernie Sanders’ plan for single-payer, and does not believe it is too expensive.

My work writing budgets on the Senate Finance Committee has given me a deep appreciation of the care we must use in balancing competing demands for services, such as education, transportation, and public safety, with everything else we do, while operating under the balanced budget requirement of Virginia’s Constitution.

In many cases, when we say the money is not there, it’s a matter of dollars and cents, not Republicans and Democrats. Every dollar comes from somewhere, and part of being a well-managed state is ensuring every dollar is spent where it does the most good.

BRL: In one sentence ... What do you love most about Virginia?

JV: Virginia represents a shining slice of what makes our country great, from our rich history, to our natural beauty, to the opportunity we offer everyone who calls our Commonwealth home – it’s a great place to live, work, and raise a family, because our belief in the Virginia Way means we are committed to leaving things better off for our children.

From Six Stories Back To Three Downtown Returns To Three-Story Height Limits

– By Valerie Cury

The Purcellville Town Council, Sept. 26, voted 5-2 to reduce the maximum building heights in the C-4 District, with Council Members Chris Bledsoe and Doug McCollum voting against.

Said Vice-Mayor Nedim Ogelman, who supported the change, “We are going to be making a very important vote today on height limits in the C-4 area ... and judging from what people have said during our election, what people have said during our Comprehensive Plan process, and public input, this will be an important vote.” Ogelman had reviewed citizen input provided during the Comp Plan process, and said most citizens wanted three stories or fewer – with only 15 people out of 236 asking for four stories or more. In 2008, based on developer advocacy, the Lazaro Council raised the building height limits in the C-4 District to 65 ft.

Council Member Kelli Grim made the motion, and the Council voted on limiting the height to a maximum of 45 ft., and no higher than three stories. The Council also removed the Zoning Administrator’s ability to grant administrative modifications to

But Bledsoe said he didn’t understand “why the three-story language was needed.” Ogelman said that the language made it unambiguous; one could build more than three stories with only the 45-ft. height restriction, without the three-story limit.

the height limitation. The only exception would be for publicly owned buildings and places of worship.

Council Members Chris Bledsoe and Doug McCollum, who did not support lowering the height limit, said they would support a maximum height limit of 45 ft. But Bledsoe said he didn’t understand “why the three-story language was needed.” Ogelman said that the language made it unambiguous; one could build more than three stories with only the 45-ft. height restriction, without the three-story limit. “And, frankly, that’s the language the citizens want, and I think we owe it to the citizens.” Bledsoe said the people he had been talking to didn’t mention a height limit, and they didn’t want “detailed architecture.”

In some cases, if the language were only to refer to height without the story limit,

the height measurement would be counted at average grade level. This could mean that a basement level or levels, below grade, would not be counted – leaving the possibility for even more than four stories.

Said Ogelman, “I would like the three stories and not to exceed 45 ft. as the language. The more vague the language is, the more we will put the interpretations on our Zoning Administrator, and I am in favor of not having our Zoning Administrator to not have to do anything like that. I am not in favor of flexibility, but in favor of specificity in what this document says ... I am in favor of going as close as possible to what the rules were prior to 2008, because that is what citizens want.” Ogelman said that the Dillon building and the Magnolias building are exceptional buildings and you can’t take their height as the norm. “They are culturally distinct. “It would

be like saying in Washington D.C. – the Washington Monument is this high – why don’t we make all the buildings as high as that?”

Council Member Ryan Cool said, “This seat that I now occupy was previously occupied by an individual who voted in support of the six-story height, and then when people said they didn’t approve of six-stories during election season, his opinion changed. I ran in opposition to the six-story height and remain so.”

The Town attorney said if the third floor was below the grade, ‘it would appear that you would have a two-story building.’ Mayor Kwasi Fraser answered, “But it is still three stories.”

Council Member Kelli Grim added, “So, depending on the grade, if you only mention height – it could turn out four or five stories ... So only saying 45 ft. does not accomplish keeping it at a three-story height limit.”

Ogelman concluded, “What people said, in any information that I have looked at, is three stories at the most.” He said that citizens didn’t mention feet. He said it’s best to mention both standards to avoid the ambiguity.



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Adams, continued from page 15

represent the client – the Commonwealth of Virginia. But Herring has refused to do so in multiple situations where Virginians have chosen laws that conflict with Herring’s political agenda. In addition, just last year, Herring was forced to use \$200,000 of your tax dollars to settle a lawsuit against him after he fired a female assistant attorney general who had complained that she was being paid less than her counterparts.

BRL: What in your background makes you particularly suited for the role for attorney general, and in promoting the state’s law enforcement agenda?

JA: We have some serious issues facing the Commonwealth. Cities across Virginia are seeing a rapid increase in violent crime and gang activity. And, fatal opioid overdoses have increased 66 percent in Virginia since Mark Herring took office. We need an attorney general who will get serious about public safety. As a former Naval officer and federal prosecutor, as well as a volunteer fireman, I have first-hand experience working to make our communities safer. Public safety will be a top priority of mine as attorney general and I have the experience to provide the leadership needed to bring law enforcement and service providers together to get Virginia’s heroin and opioid crisis under control and address the rise in violence we are seeing across the Commonwealth.

I am not a politician and have never

run for political office before. Instead, I have spent the majority of my professional career in public service and I have deep legal experience that I believe will benefit all Virginians. Since law school, I have clerked for a United States Supreme Court Justice (Clarence Thomas), been a Federal Prosecutor, and served as Associate Counsel to the President of the United States (George W. Bush). Most recently, I have helped run a large law firm representing many clients with complex and serious legal issues. In short, I believe I have the legal experience to be the best possible lawyer for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Whether it is advising senior government officials, making difficult prosecutorial decisions, or representing Virginia in complex constitutional matters, I have the experience to get the job done and keep Virginians safe. I have experience working with law enforcement at all levels of government. I was honored to receive the endorsement of the Police Benevolent Association. Most importantly, with me, Virginians will know they have an attorney general that is representing their interests, not his own.

BRL: In one sentence: What do you love most about Virginia?

JA: Virginia is where I was born, went to school from kindergarten through law school, learned to fish, learned to cook, met my wife, got married, served in the Navy, served as a prosecutor, had our four boys, and where we are raising our family – in short, it is home.



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Meadow, continued from page 1

Woody vegetation – the kind that, over time, would transform the land into forest – is bush-hogged on a regular schedule. The Pughs have worked diligently with local conservation groups to manage the land as certifiable meadow habitat. Birds, butterflies, beneficial insects, and small mammals – most of which disappear under the mower's blade – thrive here. But, according to the HOA, despite the land being maintained this way for years, the meadow must be converted to a lawn; and nothing will cure the situation short of mowing it down.

Susan Abraham, a professor of landscape design at George Washington University and the owner of a landscape company, says that ecologically friendly design is the trend with HOAs, today. Many of Loudoun's most well-known developments – including Willowsford, River Creek, and Broadlands – are beautifying their landscapes, reducing mowing costs, and improving their stewardship of the land with more natural landscaping practices.

Said Pugh, "In the last few years, the Audubon Society, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, the Piedmont Environmental Council, and others have made great strides working with Homeowner Associations in Loudoun County to address environmental concerns stemming from our rapid population growth, and to install sustainable native landscaping."

As a 2015 Audubon At Home Wildlife Sanctuary Ambassador Site Report on the Pugh's two acres notes: "This meadow provides a number of benefits to the local community. The native grasses and pollinator plants in meadows generally have deeper root systems than conventionally maintained lawns. This helps eliminate soil compaction, and builds topsoil allowing more rainfall to be absorbed and helping to prevent flooding and erosion. The native plants in the meadow nurture and support beneficial insects, such as bees and butterflies, which are important for pollinating local crops, and home flower and vegetable gardens."

The Pugh's have been fighting the battle for Monarch butterflies and other threatened bits of nature for a long time. "In January 2014," says Pugh, "... the HOA sent us a letter demanding that we mow the area to lawn level. We went to multiple meetings and protested, and while they did decline to put a lien on the property or to fine us immediately, they refused to rescind the violation, and have informed us that if we sell the property, the meadow must be mowed as a standard suburban lawn before they'll approve the transfer."

Continued Pugh, "The HOA board doesn't have legal authority to force mowing the meadow ... but they are also insured for lawsuits and are forcing us to spend cash to defend our property rights while they work with an insurance-provided attorney. The result is that we either have to give up property rights that should run with the land, or put vast sums of money at risk."



Following the trend of eco-friendly landscaping, Virginia – which has, over time, encouraged private landowners to help conserve groundwater to minimize surface water pollution and protect the public purse – has sought to re-educate water users, including private HOAs whose rules prevent homeowners from using rain barrels, greywater, and certain kinds of plants and trees.

Experts say that HOA CC&Rs must be reasonable and flexible – able to change with the times. And at least some of the Pughs' neighbors feel the same way.

Farmington resident Emilie Towe, called the HOA's treatment of the Pughs "completely ridiculous." The meadow, noted Towe, is a long-term feature of the neighborhood, and defines it in many ways. It's always been there, she says, and it is wrong for the Pughs to have to spend tens of thousands of dollars in court to defend it.

Pugh himself echoes this sentiment. "Since the lot was created (and before it was sold to the first homeowner), the back two acres have always been a meadow ... We get deer, foxes, rabbits, hawks, all kinds of butterflies including Monarchs (there's lots of milkweed) ... The meadow is only visible from our house, because it is all shielded from public view by trees and the contours of the land."

Pugh continued: "Our legal counsel tells us that this is a clear and outrageous violation of our property rights, and that none of the covenants for Farmington on the Green give them the authority to do this."

"Before filing the lawsuit, we pleaded with them multiple times to rescind the order, and they refused. Through three years of pre-trial negotiations, every single settlement offer they have made requires us to destroy the meadow on sale of the property."

The Pugh's court case is scheduled to go to trial in December, at which point the couples' expenses are likely to have grown to more than \$50,000. But, "... the Audubon Society has stepped up to recommend expert witnesses for the trial, and we're confident of our ability to win the suit," said Pugh. "Sian and I have decided this is important enough to put the money at risk ... It is a shame that while other associations focus on the environment, Farmington on the Green is actively trying to destroy this 30-year-old wildlife refuge."

The Pughs have published a video on YouTube and Facebook that shows aerial and ground-level photos of the meadow, and explains how they manage the property. It can be found by searching on YouTube for Mike's Meadow Goose Creek.

Friendship, Relaxation, And Maintenance-Free Nails



Kim Patterson

– By Andrea Gaines

Earlier this summer Re-Love It co-owner Kim Patterson opened the new Top Coat Nail Spa on Main Street in Purcellville, in a building that long ago served as the Town’s movie theater.

“I really, missed doing nails,” said Patterson. “In a lot of ways, nails were my first love.”

Now, nails are a big business in the United States, with well over 7 billion in annual sales. And, in terms of business success in this category, Patterson has been doing nails for over 30 years and has experienced all, with many awards and accomplishments – including international recognition. She has acquired 45 trophies and was rated the top 10 in the United States.

But, while splashy and trendy – and always offering something new – Patterson points out that this is a business which is, at its core, about personal relationships. And, that’s one of the reasons she loves it.

“My nail spa is about meeting each woman’s particular needs,” said Patterson. Clients have personal goals for their nails, she says. “They of course want a polish that won’t chip the day after they leave the salon. But, they also want to maintain a particular length, and use a polish that stands up to their particular routine.” And, she says, “Getting your nails done is a social, get away for a time, event. Friends get their nails done together It’s girl time for the two of them, away from the rush.”

Top Coat is an “organic, eco-friendly, natural nail spa.” This includes the use of “5-free” nail polish – products with zero formaldehyde, zero toluene, zero DBP, zero formaldehyde resin, and zero camphor.

Patterson and her staff will pamper you with services that include the Moisture Pack Spa Manicure, the Anti-Aging Spa Manicure, the simple Spa Manicure, and all artificial nail enhancements. Top Coat also offers full body waxing for men and women, eyebrow and eye lash tinting, eye lash extensions, and more.

Going to educational events is important to the Top Coat staff and they will be going to Columbus Ohio to the Premier Beauty Show for continuing education.

The Top Coat Nail Salon – at 860 E. Main Street in Purcellville – is open Tuesday through Saturday, by appointment. Call 703 297-7919, or you can book an appointment online: www.topcoatnailspa.net.

Gillespie, continued from page 13

ground to other states. We’ve got to turn things around. In March, I put forward the ‘Cutting Taxes for ALL Virginians’ Plan – the centerpiece of a sweeping, substantive agenda we will lay out this year to turn our economy around by emphasizing natural, organic economic growth instead of a top-down government approach that picks winners and losers with our taxpayer dollars. This plan cuts individual income taxes by ten percent across-the-board for the first time since the rates were established in 1972. The plan would diversify our economy by helping start-ups and scale-ups, and create more than 50,000 new full-time private-sector jobs.

BRL: What in your life experience motivates you to pursue public service?

EG: My father was an immigrant to this country; he was brought here as a boy from Ireland by my grandfather, who’d found work in America. My parents never went to college, but they insisted that I do. So I took out student loans and I worked my way through school at the Catholic University of America: waiting tables, tending bar, whatever it took. One of my jobs was as a Senate parking lot attendant, parking the cars of the staff that worked in the big office buildings on Capitol Hill. That led to a desk job inside one of those buildings, and eventually I worked my way to being Counselor to the President of the United States of America. From immigrant janitor to West Wing of the White House in two generations time. What a country. My father left a country where if you were born poor, you died poor – for something completely different. America, a place where we start out in life does not determine where we end up. That is the promise we have to keep. That cannot be our past. It must be our future. I am running for governor to make sure that this American Dream continues to be in reach for future generations.

BRL: In one sentence: What do you love most about Virginia?

EG: With our vast natural resources, our fertile lands, our port, world-class colleges and universities, our natural beauty and historic landmarks, there’s much to love, but my fellow Virginians, who I seek to serve are the best part of Virginia.

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Rowley To Perform At 868 Estate Vineyards

Emma Rowley, a 22-year-old singer, songwriter and recording artist from Hamilton, will be performing live at 868 Estate Vineyards, Saturday Oct. 7 rain or shine. Join 868 Estate Vineyards as they host Emma Rowley and two of her local, musical friends (Abigail Flowers & Alex Taughinbaugh) in celebration of her new music to be released throughout the month of October. They will each be singing their own original music in an intimate, acoustic setting on 868's magically lighted stage. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the sunset while listening to the music. 868 Estate Vineyards will have their grill fired up to serve Rowley's favorite pig mac-n-cheese as well as other delicious options. The musical acts will also have merchandise available for purchase at any point during the show. Saturday, Oct. 7, at 868 Estate Vineyards with music from 6-8pm, 14001 Harpers Ferry Rd. Purcellville.

Rowley has performed on multiple Broadway stages in New York City and has made appearances at Carnegie Hall and Nashville's Bluebird Café to name a few. She earned her degree in commercial music and songwriting from Belmont University.



Emma Rowley

Carver Center October Events

- Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, Oct 3. Through Oct. 27, 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., Core and More. \$67.
- Thursday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Voter Registration Outreach - Office of Elections will be at Carver to check your status and provide absentee ballots.
- Friday, Oct. 6, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Monthly Lunch and Movie: *Fly Away Home* Please pre-register for lunch by noon on 10/5, by calling 571-258-3407.
- Tuesday, Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Carver Center Advisory Board Meeting
- Friday, Oct. 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lunch Bunch, Market Table Bistro, Lovettsville. Please sign up by Tuesday, October 17. Bus cost: \$4 (each diner pays for own meal and tip).
- Wednesday, Oct. 25, 10:30 to 12 p.m., Book Club Monthly book discussions led by Purcellville Library staff. Books available on site.
- Mondays and Wednesdays, Oct. 30 through Nov. 29, 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m., Body Sculpting. \$75.
- Tuesdays, Oct. 31 through Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Computers for Absolute Beginners. \$48.
- Tuesdays, Oct. 31 through Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Email and Internet. \$48.
- Tuesdays, Oct. 31 through Nov. 14, 1



Vickie Leigh and Marlene Kennan

- p.m. to 2 p.m., Inkle Loom Weaving. \$3 materials fee.
- Tuesdays, Oct. 31 through Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Computers for Absolute Beginners. \$48.
- Tuesdays, Oct. 31 through Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Email and Internet. \$48.
- Tuesdays, Oct. 31 through Nov. 14, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Inkle Loom Weaving. \$3 materials fee.
- Fridays, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, Beginner Watercolor Class. \$15.
- Mondays, Nov. 6 through Dec. 11, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Drawing Class. \$30.
- Wednesdays, Nov. 8 through Dec. 20, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Advanced Beginner Watercolor. \$30.



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ELLA AT 100!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

8:00 PM

Join L'Tanya Mari and her sextet for a celebration of Ella Fitzgerald's 100th. The acclaimed jazz vocalist will be paying tribute to the immortal Ella Fitzgerald, performing gems from Ella's career of mainstay tunes such as "A Tisket, A Tasket," "Mr. Paganini," "Mack The Knife," and infusing unusual approaches taken by Fitzgerald on tunes such as "Cotton Tail" that features violin and "Closer Walk with Thee," a spiritual cherished by many and covered by such notable country artists such as: Willie Nelson, Patsy Cline, and Randy Travis. The evening includes the exploration of different genres that Ella performed, which is why she was deemed the first lady of song and features stories about Ella Fitzgerald's colorful life and career. Harry Appelman, piano; Steve Zerlin, bass; Leland Nakamura, drums; Dokune Oke, guitar; Micheal A. Thomas, trumpet; Aaron Malone, violin.

Tickets: \$30

Reserved Seating

www.franklinparkartscenter.org

HURRICANE RELIEF CONCERT: THE WHITE HOUSE BAND

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 2:00 PM

The White House Band is a 9-piece orchestra of musicians who are former military band members, all of whom have played at the White House. Tap your toes to jazzed-up versions of music ranging from Dixieland, Glenn Miller, and Weather Report, to some modern-day jazz, all of which was first arranged and played for the Presidents and their families

and guests! You will never find a greater range of fantastic tunes spanning many generations, performed so well and as entertaining. There might also be some fun "inside" stories that also accompany the music! All ticket sales will go to support the communities in Houston, TX or Florida who are rebuilding after devastating hurricanes. Sponsored by The Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center and Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

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Jazz vocalist trio perform music of 1930-1950's "sisters" groups.

10/25 8:00 pm \$10/person

Bravo! Franklin Park Celebrates 10th Season



From Left to Right: Richard Hamilton, Kellie Goossens, Les Thompson, Elizabeth Bracey and Nelson Gallagher.

– By Andrea Gaines

With an attitude that can only be described as dramatically infectious, Franklin Park Arts Center is in major celebration mode this fall, launching an exciting 10-10-10 Concert Series – ten shows, for just \$10 each to mark the start of its 10th Season. An equally fun and dramatic Open House, to which the public is invited, will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 10 – at 10:00 a.m. of course.

According to Franklin Park Arts Center Manager Elizabeth Bracey, the 10-10-10 Concert Series, which kicked off in September and features classical and jazz music, is designed to celebrate the visual and performing art center’s 10th Season in a creative way.

Franklin Park, part of the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, has developed quite a following with young audiences, featuring, among other things an engaging set of puppet shows during the week.

It is also well-known for its Gold Star Series. Sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Park, this series features performances showcasing nationally recognized names, attracting an audience well-versed in what’s available

locally and even regionally – at the Kennedy Center, for example. Franklin Park’s Gold Star performance series opens with an Ella Fitzgerald concert in October, and continues through the end of 2017 and into 2018 with An Evening with Buddy Holly – featuring Robbie Limon (November 18), The Fabulous Hubcaps (December 9), Thomas Pandolfi – Chopin Music (February 23) and An Evening with Mark Twain (March 3).

10-10-10, says Bracey is built on idea of a classical and jazz series, with a twist. “We wanted to bring local groups and performers, connect with audiences with music about every-day, human things and also attract students – people learning to play violin, for example.”

Education and outreach is part of the arts center’s mission, “our character,” said Bracey. So, the 10-10-10 Concert Series is also designed to give people the chance to enjoy things like chamber music for the first time, at a reasonable cost. “I had never been exposed to a lot of chamber music,” she explains. “But,” she said, “I found it to be just delightful!”

Bracey, who has worked in County and local government for 20 years, volunteered with the people who gave birth to the

Franklin Park Arts Center idea and also ran the Lovettsville Community Center for a time. He mother is an artist, and she’s always treasured that personal connection to the arts. Speaking about Franklin Park Arts Center and how far it has come, Bracey said, “It takes courage to work in the arts, whether you are an artist, a performer or a venue. It takes a leap of faith. Not everything is going to be a money maker. When you work for the government you’d like to feel you’re helping to solve homelessness or another critical social issue. But, in many ways the arts do

really make a community. We’re proud to get so much support from the Virginia Commissions for the Arts, and proud to be associated with all of the arts-related things in the area – The Western Loudoun Studio Tour, even high school theater groups.”

“We’re still discovering,” says Bracey. “Still discovering.”

For more information on the 10-10-10 Concert Series, which runs from Sept. 2017 to May 2018, go to www.franklinparkartscenter.org.



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Calling All Artists To Paint Holiday Decorations

Discover Purcellville, a community non-profit, is seeking Artists to donate their talent to paint large holiday decorations. The finished decorations will be placed along Main Street and Old Town Purcellville this holiday season for all to enjoy. Last year 85 pieces were displayed. Those will go back up along with 100 more that will be painted this year. Contact Michael 540-751-0707, or email dpurcellville@gmail.com for more info.



The Secret Life Of Pumpkins

– By Andrea Gaines

Pumpkins are not what they seem. They have secrets. Glorious, glorious secrets.

First, pumpkins are a fruit. A “fruit of the vine,” as they say. A fruit of the vine in a family of plants known as cucurbits – think cucumbers, melons, squash, etc. And, they are quite varied, ranging in size from one pound to over one thousand pounds.

Second, while the classic Jack-o’-lantern pumpkin is most often orange, pumpkins can be white, red, yellow, tan, green – even blue. They can be rough or smooth, ribbed or not ribbed. And, while used today to greet trick-or-treaters, the fanciful lanterns were originally used to ward off evil spirits.

Quite versatile, pumpkins are not just for eating, not just for scary lighting. Native cultures used pumpkins to remove freckles and to cure snake bites.

Finally, while we think of pumpkins as the main ingredient in a sweet and savory pie filling, the Pilgrims used pumpkins, not for the filling, but for the pie crust itself. Or, they made a soup out of pumpkin flesh and served it in the

hollowed-out pumpkin. Or, they cut off the top of pumpkins, removed the seeds, filled the pumpkin with milk, spices and honey and baked them in hot ash. The original, crust-free pumpkin pie.

No wonder we love pumpkins. A colorful fruit – sweet or savory, big or small, nutritious or medicinal – that can also be turned into a porch light for eager trick-or-treaters.

October 26 is National Pumpkin Day, and October 21 is National Pumpkin Cheesecake Day. We also love chocolate, so let’s toss this in – National Chocolate Cupcake Day, October 18, which we have renamed, *National Go Bare Orange Chocolate Cupcake Day*.

As we celebrate this beautiful month of October, and the wonderful colors and temperatures surrounding us, let’s also pay homage to the pumpkin. See below for our ideas. The Secret Life Of Pumpkins ... In The Kitchen. Fun adaptations of your favorite recipes with a twist.

We wish you a Happy Halloween – and every sweet or savory, big or small, nutritious or medicinal, scary or not day – in between!



The Secret Life Of Pumpkins ... In The Kitchen

Your Favorite Recipes, With A Twist

Pumpkin Soup:

The Main Ingredients: Butter, onion, carrots, fresh roasted pumpkin or canned pumpkin puree, sage, chicken or vegetable stock and cream/salt and pepper. **The Special Touch:** serve the soup in a hollowed-out pumpkin topped with a dollop of sour cream topped off with a spoonful of cinnamon-laced applesauce.

Pumpkin Cheesecake:

The Main Ingredients: Cream cheese, eggs, pureed pumpkins, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, flour and vanilla. **Special Touches:** For the crust, substitute crushed ginger snaps for the traditional graham crackers, and spike your whipped cream topping with brown sugar.

Go Bare Orange Chocolate Cupcakes:

The Main Ingredients: flour, sugar, baking powder, dark chocolate, eggs and milk. **Special Touches:** In a word ... skip the icing and zing things up with a little orange; add orange zest to your cupcake batter, and top your cupcake, not with plain old icing, but with a fresh or dried mandarin orange slice dipped in melted chocolate and finished off with a shake of cocoa powder.



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Northam, continued from page 13

believe taking a look at the grocery tax is a part of meeting those principles.

BRL: What in your life experience motivates you to pursue public service?

RN: Both of my parents were tremendous public servants, and I've lived a life of service because of their example. I've served in the United States Army, taking care of wounded soldiers during Desert Storm. I've taken care of sick children and their families

as a pediatric neurologist for 25 years and served as the volunteer medical director of a children's hospice in Norfolk for over 18 years. I've served in the Senate for six years and as lieutenant governor for four. I'm running for governor because I want to take our commonwealth to the next level and ensure that every Virginian has access to opportunities to succeed.

BRL: In one sentence: What do you love most about Virginia?

RN: The Eastern Shore.

Letters To The Editor, continued from page 4

Roundabout Still Not Safe

Dear Editor:

The roundabout near the Purcellville Gateway has been in operation now, for well over a year. In spite of this, many people still do not understand how to use the roundabout and there are accidents that occur on a regular basis. For example, on Saturday Sept. 23, I saw at least 2 different accidents, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. With all the growth in Purcellville, maybe it would be a good idea to have a light instead of a roundabout, since many people in Loudoun County don't know how to navigate traffic circles properly.

Braden Bergman
Purcellville

Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

a learning problem (e.g., Non-verbal Learning Disability), or a psychological condition. Your son could also be twice exceptional (2e) where he is intellectually gifted but has some form of a disability. Based on what you've written, he does seem to be experiencing problems similar to those of 2e children. And there are many other possibilities. There's also a possibility that your son is perfectly fine and that with time and maturation and a few tweaks in the classroom, all will be good. Again, a neuropsychological evaluation (conducted by a neuropsychologist) will identify and rule out possible problems, and it will also provide you with a roadmap.

With the work load picking up in Fourth Grade, and with social demands and challenges increasing as your son advances, this is an excellent time to have your son tested/evaluated. You could ask the school to have their school psychologist test your son, but a school psychologist will only provide educational testing and not a comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation.

As far as back to school night goes, try to remain open to whatever it is the teacher has to say. Speak less and listen more so that you can get as complete of a picture as possible. Take in what is said, process it, and you can choose to respond later.

Remember that your son will be with this teacher all year, so you want to see her as an ally and work with her to support your son.

Dr. Mike,

Our daughter turns 5 years old in a few weeks, and we are planning her birthday party. We looked into a number of spots, but everything costs \$400 or more for a party for our daughter and a handful of her friends. My husband

and I simply can't justify paying that much money. Our daughter has already been to several swanky birthday parties in the area, and she is expecting the same for herself now. She cried and cried when we told her that we weren't going to rent the pink stretch limo from Sweet and Sassy for a spa day for her and her friends. How do we handle this situation? Upset in Loudoun

Dear Upset,

At your daughter's young age, she just needs to feel loved and special. It's all in how you frame the event, so why don't you tell her that she will be having a super, fun party at home with some Sweet and Sassy flair? Don't let her believe that you're settling by staying home, but instead build it up and get her excited by pointing out the benefits of a home party. Staying home gives her a chance to show off her room, toys, etc. As parents, we often play the role of sales persons for our young children, and so you just need to sell your daughter on the idea that her party will be special. If she wants a spa day, paint nails and do glitter tattoos at home; creative spa gift bags with reasonably priced items for her friends might be the perfect end of the party touch. If she's still unhappy with your efforts and the party, this could be a good teaching moment for managing disappointment, or, for appreciating the value of a dollar.

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 outlets. He can be reached at 703 723-2999 and is located at 44095 Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn.

From Time to Time By Myles Mellor and Sally York

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
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50	51	52					53					54	55	56
57						58	59			60	61			
62					63					64				
65					66					67				

ACROSS

- 1. Children's book type
- 6. Balls
- 11. Bill encl.
- 14. Humiliate
- 15. Beth's preceder
- 16. Circle segment
- 17. Dependable one
- 20. Egg protector
- 21. Amateur video subject, maybe
- 22. Actress Rene
- 23. Kiss
- 25. Deposited
- 27. Bidding
- 30. Singing exercise
- 34. Desktop pictures
- 35. Comics canine
- 36. Discontinued
- 37. Legal authority
- 41. Annex
- 42. ___-American
- 43. Corrupt
- 44. Fiasco
- 47. Tributes
- 48. Physicist Niels
- 49. Ill-gotten gains
- 50. Inscribed pillar
- 53. Duffer's goal
- 54. Capture

57. Local law enforcers

- 62. South African org.
- 63. Wipe clean
- 64. Anticipate
- 65. Math degree
- 66. Shut out
- 67. Exigencies

DOWN

- 1. Trodden track
- 2. Double-reed woodwind
- 3. Stooge
- 4. Consumption
- 5. According to
- 6. Iron hooks, in fishing
- 7. "The Sun ___ Rises"
- 8. Umpire's cry
- 9. When D.S.T. begins
- 10. Descendant of Muhammad
- 11. Droops
- 12. Graphic ___
- 13. Lingering effect
- 18. Boot
- 19. Classic art subject
- 23. Nota ___
- 24. The Beatles' "Back in the ___"
- 25. Numbers game
- 26. Buckets

- 27. Two-footed
- 28. Gastroenteritis cause
- 29. Laughs loudly
- 30. Thomas the Tank Engine narrator
- 31. Fixin' to
- 32. Gather
- 33. Pastorals
- 35. Proposal
- 38. Pledge
- 39. Track shape
- 40. Wreck site
- 45. Well
- 46. Lathered
- 47. Title for some priests
- 49. Harness racer
- 50. Diagnostic test
- 51. Salon job
- 52. Make an impression
- 53. Tower site
- 54. Scottish hillside
- 55. Biting
- 56. Catches on
- 58. Mine find
- 59. Family dog, for short
- 60. Cooler
- 61. See red?

Answers on page 31

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View From The Ridge, continued from page 5

have helped to create the uniqueness that is Loudoun County.”

For an area designed – not as the place for Loudoun’s overflow eastern development to go, but as a low-density buffer between the suburban east and the rural west – the TPA continues to represent the biggest target for the County’s increasingly vocal recalcitrant developer community.

TPA language was left out of the Envision Loudoun Vision Statement. TPA areas have been identified as representing the majority of “undeveloped land” in the County. And, some want to absorb parts of the RPA into the TPA.

These reversals have the potential to gut the current plan’s growth management strategy.

Loudoun’s Board of Supervisors knows this. The Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce knows it. The Stakeholders Committee, dominated by pro-growth interests, knows this. And, the neighborhood groups working to maintain the current plan’s suburban east, transitional middle, and rural west, know it, too.

Abandon the transitional middle, and the rural west is hit with a spill-over effect. And the plan that has protected Loudoun County’s most unique features begins to unravel.

Unleash that force and you get the developer community’s idea of progress – high-density residential areas, anchored by strip malls and convenience stores, from east to west. It will take some time, but...

Unleash that force, and you give up on a County where small towns and villages, powered by agricultural and tourist-based economic innovation, happily coexist with measured growth.

The TPA includes the part of Loudoun County that is west of the newer communities of Ashburn, Broadlands, and Brambleton, along with the new and more historic parts of Arcola. It includes the natural open area and water resources that run along Watson Road, including parts of Goose Creek and Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve.

As the Transition Policy Area Alliance website notes, “... communities were able to build in this area by committing large tracts

of land to open space, not to be developed. This is an area rich in natural habitat and history, with woods and streams which need to be preserved for all of Loudoun’s residents.”

As the Alliance goes on to say, “... the discussion is not fully addressing the concerns voiced during the Envision Loudoun public meetings. Concerns such as too much growth; lack of infrastructure including schools and roads; protecting the rural area; and lack of green space in suburban Loudoun ... The development of the New Comprehensive Plan should not be primarily focused on the unconstrained housing assessment needs and the prospect of changing or eliminating the Transition Policy Area for more growth. These are concerns of the developers and builders ... “

As noted by LRRG:

“In a watershed that is 60 percent forested, treatment costs \$29 per 792,516 gallons of drinking water. If the forested portion of the watershed drops to 10 percent, the drinking water treatment cost rises to \$91 per 792,516 gallons.”

“The TPA is home to 56 Species of Greatest Concern, according to the Virginia State Wildlife Action Plan.”

“The runoff from one acre of paved parking generates the same amount of annual runoff as 36 acres of forest or 20 acres of grassland.”

And, maintaining the integrity of the current Comprehensive Plan’s three-part growth management strategy is about more than protecting nature. It’s about Loudoun showing that it has the will and capacity to be a national leader in planning and zoning.

The most telling citizen sentiment coming out of the Envision Loudoun is how residents who have lived here a long time are experiencing a fleeting sense of place, and how expectant newcomers yearn to maintain it.

When asked, “Who are you, Loudoun County?” citizens have overwhelming upheld the three-part, growth management strategy that supports a suburban east, a transitional middle, and a rural west, saying: “We are the Transition Policy Area, the Rural Policy Area, and the Suburban Policy Area.”

So why is our government not listening?

Answers to puzzle from page 29

1	P	O	P	U	P		6	G	A	L	A	S		11	S	A	E											
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