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MAY 2019

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COLT eviscerates draft Comp Plan, calls document ‘indefensible,’ ‘irresponsible,’ ‘transparently developer-centric’

BY ANDREA GAINES

Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall opened the first of the County’s two April public hearings on the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan with a rather prophetic announcement.

An overturned cement truck was causing major delays for drivers heading west on the Dulles Greenway, and, as a consequence, several individuals due to speak in early time slots might be delayed.

With an already overflowing crowd and over 130 people signed up to speak – most of whom were there to protest the tens of thousands of new homes and piles of traffic that the draft Comp Plan would bring – the irony of the moment was not lost.

Talk about traffic

The live protest started when, as one after another, the mayors of Middleburg,

Purcellville, Round Hill, Hillsboro, Leesburg, Hamilton, Lovettsville, and others – made their case to the Board that the draft Comp Plan presented by the Loudoun County Planning Commission threatened the fiscal stability and very identity of Loudoun.

The mayors spoke as representatives of the Coalition of Loudoun Towns (COLT), which presented a working alternative to what it has described as the “developer-



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centric” plan put forth by the Planning Commission. The alternative is called *The Loudoun Way – A Blueprint for*

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Big dreams, beautiful cars, and miles of enthusiasm

32 Annual Leesburg Classic Car Show is May 11

BY ANDREA GAINES

If you have never been to a classic car show, pop open your car door, jump in, start your engines and make it down to the 32 Annual Leesburg Classic Car Show – May 11 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All proceeds from the show will benefit the students and staff of the Academies of Loudoun, a nonprofit organization focused on STEM education – studies in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The streets of downtown Leesburg are a great place to be on a spring evening in May. But, these streets absolutely hum when they lined up with beautiful cars of every description – polished and primed to absolute perfection by their loving owners.

This is a fantastic show, and a very friendly com-



Joe Yeglic's 1981 DeLorean

petition – with entry limited to 250 cars.

While all “high-quality” cars can qualify for entry, voting and awards are limited to classic cars in 16 categories.

Show attendees will vote for their favorite “Classic” – cars 25 years or older. There will be 10 “Spectators Choice” awards. Other categories go by the brand of car, and include Chrysler/Dodge, Camaro, Custom, Ford/Lincoln/Mercury, Mustang, GM, Cobra, Chevrolet, and Corvette. There is also the broad category of “Import” – which always showcases some really exciting rides, the wildly open category of “Trucks,” and the very cool category of “Rat Rod.”

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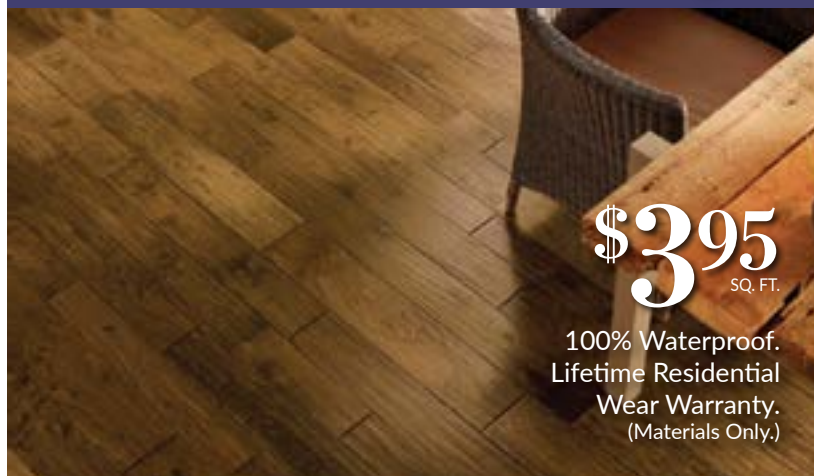


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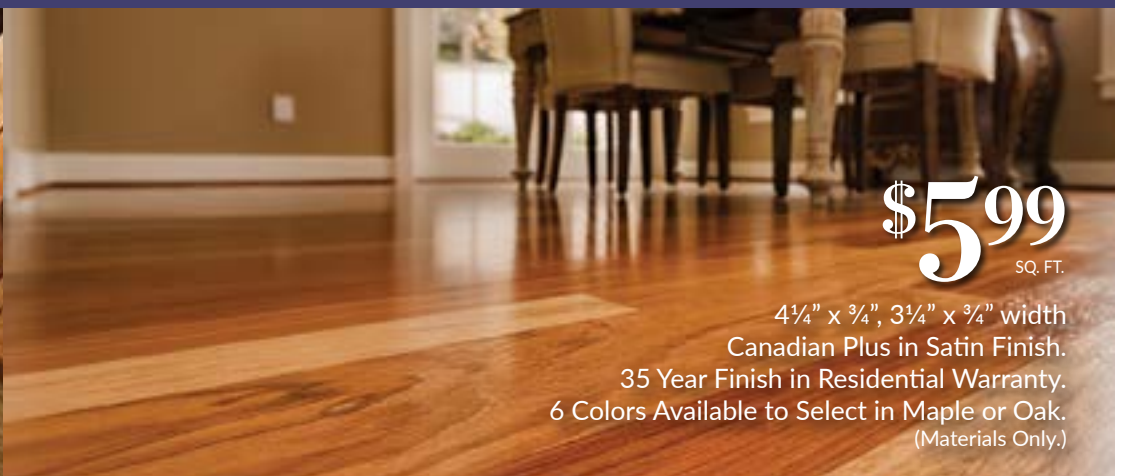
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Life at the level – and joy – of speed skating

BY ANDREA GAINES

One expert in the sport of speed skating, said this: “Sometimes, the fastest racer is not always the winner ... and one sport that exhibits this speed anomaly is the sport of speed skating.”

Loudoun Valley High School student Shreya Natargan knows this. As a sixteen year-old, she won the short track U.S. Speed Skating National Championship for her age category.

This is not necessarily because she was the fastest skater on the track at every moment. But, because she is a strategic competitor, skating, not just really fast, but in a way that tries to anticipate her opponents’ every move. “I passed when it was safe, and I held back when it was not,” said Natargan of that National Championship win. “Two skaters got their skates caught up in each others’, and I was able to pass them because I’d held back.”

We spoke with both Shreya and her father, Arun Natargan, on what family life is like when a child is competing at this level, and working to meet its absolutely mind-bending demands and responsibilities.

For, Shreya ... is making waves in the speed skating world – hoping and working to represent the USA in the Olympics one day. Prior to the Nationals, she won the North East Short Track Championships, held in Virginia, and the Mid West Region Championships, held in Illinois.

She also skates for the United Capital Blades Speedskating Club. And, she is making big waves in life.

As her father describes it, his daughter’s day begins sometime around 6

a.m., as she prepares for a full day at LVHS.

Returning from school, five times a week she and her mom drive well over an hour to Maryland for a 6 o’clock speed skating practice. “She eats her dinner in the car on the way to speed skating practice,” said Mr. Natargan, “And, in between skate times at practice, my daughter does her daily homework.



“I come from a family of educators,” he continued. “My wife and I want to keep a balance in our family between education and other activities.”

For the Natargan family, despite the very intense skating schedule, and keeping up with their elementary school-aged son at the same time, that seems to be working. And, one key to

all of this is their sense of family, and of community.

Mr. Natargan emphasized this as we spoke about his daughter’s skating, eager to “give a shout out” to the people who are helping her on the athletic side of things – including former Washington Redskins player Eddy Mason and his wife Sonya who run Mase Training in Sterling. He was also very humble about his part in all of this. “My wife is

ages youth to get involved in volunteerism. Five other Loudoun County students, including high schooler Sahana Arumani, seventh graders Abhinav and Pranav Babu, fourth grader Aarya Arun, and fifth grader Amrit Neel Kumar, serve in various roles at iloom – from President to Chief Communications Officer.

The donated goods originate as customer-returned merchandise from a linens manufacturer on Amazon.com. When the returns come in, Amazon forwards the merchandise to one of several iloom warehouses. Youth volunteers then inventory the merchandise, and donate it to the needy. They also sell some of the merchandise to help fund iloom operations.

It’s a great concept – turning merchandise that can’t be resold at a profit into donations. With one generous linens manufacturer on board, iloom is now working to get more manufacturers interested in the concept.

Shreya will compete in the America’s Cup Speed Skating Youth Trials in October, and hopes to move on to Olympic Youth Trials in Switzerland following that competition.

The thing that is so special about Natargan is that she is able to keep a hyper-focus on her skating, while – as her parents insist – keeping up to date on her basic high school studies, classes, and assignments ... and ... helping to run a company.

She also has the sense of family and community so special in her father and mother, saying, “My little brother calls me before every competition, and encourages me to win. I love him!”

Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 12 Let’s make some memories

BY ANDREA GAINES

We all come from different backgrounds, growing up in different places. Now, calling Loudoun County home, there is something about the place that brings forward our memories, including the memories that belong to our mothers, and the memories and traditions we share on Mother’s Day.

Last year the Blue Ridge Leader featured an exquisite Mother’s Day recipe for candied flower cupcakes. So delicious. So much fun.

This year we asked readers and friends to share with us their most treasured Mother’s Day memories.

We asked you to tell us, not just what you love about your moms, but how you celebrate the day. And, if you mom is no longer here, what do you remember about her? What did she leave with you as a life-long memory?

Moms as our guiding light

One of the first memories I’ll share with you is from one of my own brothers.

When I asked him about his Mother’s Day, at first he said that he “was not pulling up any clear or specific memories ... I only remember bringing mom flowers, and her being kind and loving as usual, but not wanting too much fuss made about her.”

But, then he shared a story about our mom that was told to him by one of her best friends.

Reading this, you’ll be able to connect with this story – I know you will.

My brother said that a friend of my mom’s said that she would go to the library, “Maybe once a week.



“She’d quickly roam the shelves and take out various books that looked promising to her. And, she’d lay them on the coffee table at home ... for the kids.”

As my brother related, the friend asked my mom, “How do you know what they ... your children ... will like to read?”

And, my mom said, “I don’t. I just put out various things that I think look promising or good for them, and hope they’ll find something of interest on their own.”

Said my brother, “I like that because she was guiding

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County approves \$1.77 million for local nonprofits

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has approved its annual Human Service Funding Awards for FY 2020. The awards seek to direct monies towards greater efficiency and effectiveness in the local nonprofit world, benefiting organizations that promote economic self-sufficiency, offer crisis intervention designed to avoid a more expensive, higher level of government services, assist individuals with long-term needs to stay healthy, safe and independent in the community, and enhance the quality, accessibility, accountability and coordination of needed services.

GOVERNMENT

The awards include an overall

allocation of \$1.77 million in local tax funding.

Six nonprofit organizations received a total of \$648,373. These include: Blue Ridge Speech and Hearing – \$68,590, HealthWorks for Northern Virginia – \$218,420, Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter – \$151,419, Loudoun Free Clinic – \$101,478, Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers – \$73,466, and Northern VA Dental Clinic – \$35,000.

Eighteen nonprofit organizations were selected to receive more than \$1 million in grant funding. These include: A Place To Be – \$64,115, Capital Caring – \$21,529, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington – \$41,037, Community Foundation for Loudoun

and Northern Fauquier Counties – \$55,029, Friends of Loudoun Mental Health – \$17,175, INMED Partnerships for Children – \$86,012, Legal Services of Northern Virginia – \$73,213, Loudoun Hunger Relief – \$106,527, Loudoun Literacy Council – \$61,165, Northern Virginia Family Service – \$29,676, Ryan Bartel Foundation – \$36,103, Stop Child Abuse Now of Northern Virginia/Resilience Network – \$110,000, The Arc of Loudoun/Ability Fitness \$105,486, The Chris Atwood Foundation – \$34,346, The Good Shepherd Alliance – \$61,077, Windy Hill Foundation/ Middleburg FISH – \$51,292, Women Giving Back – \$72,591, and YMCA of Metropolitan Washington – \$52,049.

Nine organizations will receive a total of \$45,000 in mini-grant funding, to build capacity and/or support small-scale innovative ideas or projects. This \$5,000 grants went to Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters, Dulles South Food Pantry, Inc., Help for Others, Inc., It Takes a Village Baby, Loudoun Commission on Women and Girls, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Project Horse Empowerment Center, The Fenwick Foundation, and Tree of Life Ministries, Inc. A full listing of organizations who applied for and received grants can be found at loudoun.gov/NonprofitGrantFunding.

LaRock Secures Republican Nomination Looks to November Election

Earlier this year, Delegate Dave LaRock, a Loudoun father and small businesses owner, secured the nomination to be the Republican candidate for the 33rd House of Delegates District in 2019. No other candidates filed for the nomination.

GOVERNMENT

"It's a tremendous honor to have the support of the Republicans of the 33rd District," LaRock says. "I look forward to carrying the values of individual liberty, efficient government, and common-sense solutions to our everyday issues. Working as a Virginia Delegate is a very demanding position and I'm frequently asked what makes the sacrifice of time away from family and putting aside personal interests worthwhile?

The answer is simple: I am encouraged by the progress my team and I are making toward tackling some big challenges; seeing that progress makes the effort worthwhile. When we pass a law that improves transportation, it's not about roads, it's about getting people out of congested traffic and back home safely with a minimum of wasted time. When we improve education or help in the fight against opioid abuse, it makes for brighter futures. I am seeing progress as we work to meet needs like closing the digital divide by removing barriers to quality, affordable internet access to



rural areas; a huge but surmountable challenge.

There is so much to be done, and I'd like to continue working with leaders in our communities to turn challenges into opportunities and deliver results; fighting to improve quality of life for young and old and

everyone in between. Those local leaders know me as trustworthy, hard-working and rock-solid in fighting for common-sense conservative solutions. At the same time, I have a six-year record of working across the aisle on bipartisan solutions to some of the more difficult issues that face our communities.

"Based on my past elections, I think voters in the District are happy with the job my team is doing," LaRock stated. "We've worked hard to make government responsive to the needs of 33rd District citizens, whether that's getting potholes fixed, expanding DMV services, or getting help from state agencies. While many people question the effectiveness of the federal government in Washington, I promise to stay laser-focused on making sure our Virginia government operates efficiently."

Loudoun 2040 Comprehensive Plan Review

May Schedule

Following the public hearings held on April 24 and April 27, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors will conduct a series of work sessions and business meetings to continue their review of the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan submitted to them by the Planning Commission.

These Board of Supervisors' work sessions and business meetings include:

- BOS Business Meeting, May 7, 5 p.m.
- BOS Work Session, May 8, 6:30 p.m.
- BOS Work Session, May 20, 6 p.m.
- BOS Business Meeting, May 23, 5 p.m.
- BOS Work Session, May 29, 6 p.m., work session

Residents may speak about Loudoun 2040 at the BOS business meetings on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm. The 6:30 p.m. public input session is limited to 60 minutes total. At the second business meeting of the month, an additional public input session is included at the beginning of the agenda at 5 p.m., which is limited to 8 speakers who must sign up in advance by calling the Clerk.

All meetings will be held at the Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, SE, in Leesburg (work session dates are subject to change).

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An Advocate's Story

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

It's not every day that you meet an advocate.

Paula Lazor, author of a forthcoming memoir entitled, "Beyond the Box: How Hands-On Learning Can Transform A Child and Reform Our Schools, A



MOORE-SOBEL

Mother's Story," is just that. Set to be released May 7 by Mascot Books, her book is intended to raise awareness while offering a sense of hope. "I guess the core point

of this book is to inspire parents that at some point feel that they are the only ones..." Lazor says.

Her journey to this point began years ago as a parent acting on behalf of her son, who started having difficulty in school around second grade. Years of navigating the school system while searching for the best accommodations for her son's learning disabilities gave birth to her journey as an advocate, sending her on a mission to find a way for her child to learn the way he did best: experimentally.

Years of research, coupled with countless interactions with many fellow travelers along the way, helped her formulate an effective path forward. At the urging of others, Lazor began considering the possibility of penning her remarkable journey. At first, she struggled with the idea of whether or not this story would appeal to a broad audience, prompting her to wonder, "Why would anyone care about some parent advocate in Arlington that was able to find, eventually, through a lot of advocating, a way forward for her child?"

Eventually, she came to see what had been so clear to those she encountered urging her to write. The pain experienced, the success attained, and the lessons learned all contained powerful universal truths that could potentially help families attempting to find their way. Fortuitously, her life had seemingly prepared her for such a moment. "I was a reporter for 35 years," she says, before quickly adding, "I know it's a different craft when you write." In order to bolster her skills, she attended Johns Hopkins University to obtain a Master's degree in writing, in preparation for what was to come.

"I basically had the story written," Lazor says. "I'd kept journals...I started reading through every entry," working to extract the bits of information that would fit into the story she would share with readers. "It was a lot of work," she

says, but eventually the project came together. Even after the writing process was underway, misgivings remained. "I was hesitant, frankly, to do it, for a while," Lazor says, citing privacy concerns.

Sharing one's story is far from easy. It requires a willingness to be vulnerable, without a guarantee of how such personal revelations will be received. Along the way, she's encountered many who simply are unwilling to reflect upon the past. "...There is this attitude, I think, that is very common..." she says. "...We are just going to move on, we're not going to go back..." Going back in time requires both courage and resolve, and can be quite painful. Yet, in the face of such excavations, wonderful nuggets of wisdom can oftentimes be found.

Lazor took an unorthodox path towards writing a book, building a platform through a local Arlington radio show, "Education Innovations." On WERA 96.7, she explores issues pertaining to education and advocacy. "...I never, ever thought I'd be doing a radio show," Lazor says, but the opportunity arose at the conclusion of an advisory committee meeting, when someone in the radio industry approached her. As they spoke about the book she was working on, the man told her, "That would make a really good show," and before she knew it, Lazor was on the radio. "It literally fell into my lap," she says.

Ultimately, Lazor desires to make a difference. Her book is designed to serve as both an educational and informative tool, offering a personal story to highlight important lessons learned along the way. "At the end of my book I have a lot of resource lists," she says. Her work is intended to serve as "sort of a launching point" for parents, educators, and organizations, so that "you don't feel so alone."

So, to all families struggling to find optimal educational options for their children, this book release is one you won't want to miss. Paula Lazor has thoughts to share, words that may come to change your life. "I really wanted the book out," she says. "I felt it would help a lot of people." While she remains unsure about how the book will be received, she feels confident in the work she has produced.

"The one thing that was really important to me was I just wanted to get it right," she says.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a freelance writer. To learn more about Paula Lazor, find her on Twitter, Facebook, and Mascot Books.

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I told you so

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

“Watcha got?” Robert Rood asked his wife.

Byne Rood answered, “No television since you mowed the cable from the satellite dish. Now I can catch up on things I want to re-read. Like these.”

“Newspapers?”

“Yeah. *The Blue Ridge Leader*. For a while now they’ve had a regular Op-ed about conservation by somebody named Houston. He’s opinionated.”

“Like you, B?” interjected Robert with a smile.

“I guess, but sometimes he’s funny. Like you.”

“Moi? Funny? I’m as serious as a dried-up pickle.” Robert, who was anything but somber, chuckled at that.

Byne gave his shin a playful kick. He held up the book he was reading to show its title, *Caesar’s Commentaries on the Gallic War*.

Byne ostentatiously shook open the first newspaper, folding it to the Op-ed. She read through it and turned to her husband. “These are better. Here’s Houston’s ‘*Commentaries on the Loudoun War*.’”

“Nice one, Byne.” His arched eyebrows bade her to continue.

“I read all of his Op-eds earlier, and now I want to see if he was right. He makes the point that the draft comp plan and the public conversations are based on a misleading premise. They measure future growth under this new plan, and compare it to future growth under the existing comp plan. That yields a smaller number – ignoring the tens of thousands of zoned but not yet built residential units. The real analysis should be future growth under the new draft plan compared to existing housing in place right now. That means 72,000 more houses than today.”

Robert groaned when Byne quantified the implications of 72K more homes

– an upfront cost to taxpayers of \$3 billion, plus annual losses of \$360 million for County services like schools, and 720,000 more daily vehicle trips, using VDOT numbers.

“Here’s the worst,” continued Byne. “The County assumes 3.78 people per house, so for 72,000 new houses, that’s another 272,000 people living in the County, taking us from 400,000 people to well over 650,000. Does anybody want that?” Byne’s face was flushed.

Robert asked her, “Are those real numbers? How about the land that’s zoned where someone could build by-right?”

Glancing down, Byne replied, “The numbers are all foot-noted. Houston said – ‘Some 49,000 new houses could be built under existing zoning on a by-right basis. They’re part of the total 72,000 new houses. This is a huge problem that no one addresses. The County should abolish the AR-1 zoning north of Snickersville so that the entire west is zoned AR-2, like the area around Middleburg.’ I think he’s right.”

“Yeah. Why should our northern area not get the same zoning protections as

Middleburg?”

“Let’s see what else he wrote.” Byne skimmed over five or six of Houston’s past Op-eds and looked at Robert. “There’s a consistent populist theme; ‘the county belongs to its people, not to developers.’” She pulled another issue and had an a-ha moment, “This must be another fundamental belief of his, the concept that growth is *not* good. I agree. Developers, louts at the Chamber of Commerce, the Planning Commission and some Supervisors yammer about economic growth as something we want, and say that more houses must be built to lure more businesses. That’s stupid.”

Robert was succinct, “We’re already the country’s richest county. Why on earth do we need more? Jeez.”

Byne continued, “‘We must protect the Transition Area,’ Houston wrote in this one. Hmmm. He believes developers are targeting it now with a long-term plan to use the TPA as a springboard to develop the west. Somewhere here is his piece on conservation easements. Remember, that helped us decide what

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Envision Loudoun 2040 must ‘keep the pig out of the parlor’

BY KAREN JIMMERSON

In 2018, my family moved across Loudoun County so that my husband’s commute to the same location for the past two decades would be reduced from nearly an hour and a half, to fifteen to twenty minutes. In the seven years we lived in Purcellville, his commute had increased by an hour, proving that our infrastructure is not keeping up with the enormous growth.

The private enterprise of a developer is conducted on a very public stage, since our government regulates the zoning that dictates what can be built and where. Our zoning ordinances are borne from a Comprehensive Plan that is created with public input for the public. The limits placed by zoning are part of the social contract that protects residents and their right to a safe place

to live, attend good schools, enjoy open spaces, and have adequate streets. When the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of zoning ordinances in 1916, it was to “keep the pig out of the parlor, even if pigs may not be prohibited from the entire community.” Zoning is to protect residents’ quality of life; and our elected officials control zoning.

The current Loudoun County Board

of Supervisors adopted a Vision and Strategic plan that states, “Loudoun County maintains the high quality of life it has achieved, shapes a future that represents the best of both worlds, and creates a place where its residents are proud to live, work, learn, and play.”

Looking at the vision and strategic statements for the County and Towns in Loudoun, the phrases and words used most often are focused on residents, not for large developers or landowners who often don’t reside here. The Town of Middleburg states its mission is to sustain its “historic character, natural beauty, and small-town charm.” Purcellville’s states, it will “implement an agenda to nurture and preserve our residents’ quality of life.” Leesburg’s asserts that it will be “carefully planned to preserve our sense of small town and neighborhood.” Lovettsville’s values and vision support “maintaining a peaceful, small-town feel that fosters sustainable essential services,” a poignant statement, considering that the possible proposed growth path for Loudoun is unsustainable.

In November 2017, the Loudoun Supervisors adopted a Strategic Plan Update, which states they will incorporate Envision Loudoun 2040 into the Board’s Strategic Plan. The current draft of En-

vision 2040 contradicts that vision statement of Loudoun, its Towns, and the values of residents throughout the County. It fails the litmus test that voters put to the Board nearly four years ago, when they voted each Supervisor into office.

The growth in Loudoun is fueled by a cycle in which developers come in and fund a small percentage of infrastructure to build their projects; Loudoun gets a short-term infusion of money, with a long-term liability that our taxes are unable to pay to maintain – let alone replace when the infrastructure wears out after a few decades. Our elected officials have put us in, and keep us on an unsustainable path, where the only way for the County to survive is to keep growing, or take on more debt, and sometimes both.

The meager financial contributions from development are politically justified as being in the public interest, even if it means the quality of our life continues to deteriorate. Our elected officials push the need for growth as progress for the public good, to provide new roads, affordable housing, or schools, even after we realize that it never truly materializes.

During the Envision Loudoun planning

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Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth: Carrvale Park

BY TIM JON

As far as I know the place doesn't even have an official name - just one of any number of stormwater retention ponds you can see scattered across our county; what made this one different, though, was that here I witnessed, for the first (and I'm sure, the only) time in my life - a veritable 'herd of turtles.' But, much like the inclinations of my Father before me, I'm getting ahead of myself.



JON

Let's see if I can begin at the beginning. The day's events started inauspiciously enough: just a plan to visit a small public preserve up in the northeast section of Leesburg, maybe stretch the legs, get a few photos and garner experience for a story. And, Carrvale Park served all those purposes - the rectangular little plot offered enough green space to get the feet moving and warm the blood, as I skirted the series of watery ditches and investigated the spare

noticed this natural-looking oasis lying within just a stone's throw). It felt good, even in this small way, to break into (for me) uncharted territory.

Seeing that my trail continued to lead along the furthest shore, I soldiered on, in hopes that I'd, by some means, make a southerly sweep and find my trusty vehicle - parked just off Marshal Drive.

As my mental map-making took shape, I'd made the north shore, and I began to notice a variegated, or dog-toothed series of shapes along the water's edge; the image of those dark forms against the sunlight bouncing off that water reminded me of a silhouette of offset shingles - seen perhaps at dusk or dawn. Speaking of which ("Duh!") - in those moments it occurred to me, "My Gosh, can those possibly all be turtles - out sunning themselves in the early spring warmth?" Some quick photos and subsequent inspection showed the enlarged pictures to show just that; it seemed as if all the turtles in the world had shown up along the north shore of

this innocuous, little reservoir of water (in reality I would estimate that somewhere between 50 and 75 individual animals crossed my field of vision - but that's still one heck of a lot of turtles!!!). A safety fence separated me from the reptilian row of disks and necks lined up along the water - and I noticed some of the critters slid off into the depths as I passed - so, close-up photography



was out of the question; I was left with a collection of photos showing - if you look closely - a very surprising number of what appear to be painted turtles - literally stacked up on top of each other right at the shore - reminiscent of the behavior ascribed to the one and only 'Yertle the Turtle' and his subjects, of Dr Seuss fame.

Having been fascinated by these creatures since boyhood, I felt truly blessed in the experience. You really never know for sure just what you're gonna come across as you ramble through this one-of-a-kind County of ours. One day it could be turtles; another time it'll be... well, I don't want to spoil the surprise.

So, I made my way slowly back to my car that morning - after an invigorating walk in some new territory, savoring the satisfied feeling in the knowledge that I had just seen more turtles than I ever knew existed - and had the barely-make-'em-out pictures to prove it.

With little, at this point, to lose in the day's offerings, I sauntered off the bridge, followed the blacktop and paralleled the swampy approach to the expanse of open water; bird activity in the adjacent trees kept my interest as the northern edge of the pond came into view, as I noticed the close proximity of the Rt. 15 Bypass on the other side of the path (having sped by countless times on four wheels I'd never

Loudoun's first publicly owned equestrian center proposed for Aberdeen property

BY ANDREA GAINES

The Purcellville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), in partnership with the Town Economic Development Advisory Committee, has presented to the Town Council a draft proposal to adapt the 193-acre Aberdeen property into Loudoun County's very first, publicly owned equestrian facility. Purcellville has approximately \$125 million in Town-owned assets, including the Aberdeen property. The Town purchased the 193-acre parcel in 2010 for \$2.1 million. It is located near the public water treatment facilities northwest of town on Short Hill Road.

The proposal, presented to the Purcellville Town Council on April 23 by PRAB representative Elizabeth Beer, is both ingeniously simple and broad in its approach, taking its inspiration from, among other places, Frying Pan Park in Fairfax County, a public space which features an equestrian center.

According to the proposal, on the equestrian side, the users and "the market" for the Aberdeen property include the Virginia horse industry generally, local and regional pony and driving clubs, eventing associations, trail riding groups, polo participants, and teaching professionals, among others.

Other users might include dog groups, sheep trial participants, bike groups, bird watchers, archery clubs, anglers, farming- and gardening-related organizations, and even music events users.

Although the financial end of things was not fully explored in the presentation, the proposal outlined the possibility of a "Club structure that is membership based, consisting of individuals, associations, professionals or clubs ..."

In an interview with the Blue Ridge Leader, Beer said, "We want it to work for people who work with horses and people who don't.

"Loudoun has a long history of people who love horses, love open space, love to farm, love the country life. Aberdeen can continue this tradition. This place could be a real feather in the cap of Purcellville. A public equestrian facility, also open to all kinds of users – we can make it happen."

The multi-user approach appeals to Beer because it adds to what she

described as "the sustainability" of the place.

Often times, she noted, government takes the approach of establishing a public place and then "paying for everything." People enjoy a sense of entitlement ... but not a sense of ownership.

While the property would always be owned by the people, an official Purcellville Town asset managed by the Town, "users, whether via a membership system or other structure," would be the ones who "help maintain the place and contribute to the place. We would self-police ourselves," she said.

Here, Beer talked about the tradition of how pony clubs and other horse-related organizations use a facility while leaving their jumps and equipment in place for the next person or group. It is understood that the next equestrian-related group or individual is welcome to the equipment while they are there, and always leave things in good order. "If they break something while using it, they just replace it," she said. "It's as simple as that."

Beer noted that Loudoun County has been looking to create a dedicated public equestrian facility. "I know that they want to do it, but they haven't figured out where to do it," she said. "But, Aberdeen could be that place."

The most important thing, noted Beer, is that Purcellville "take a big-picture approach – not just welcoming dressage, and polo, and hunting, but all of the equestrian disciplines. And, as I said before, non-equestrian users be welcome as well."

If Purcellville decides to go forward with the idea, "My next task," she said, "is to form an equine advisory committee that will remain in place throughout the process."

Beer also noted that her vision would be for Aberdeen to have a distinctly country, distinctly western Loudoun feel. "We're not looking for a super-manicured property. I'd like it to be forever rustic and natural.

"Start in a very basic way," she said, "With that old fashioned, helping-each-other, working-together kind of spirit."

The Purcellville Town Council will be working with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Town Economic Development Advisory Committee to develop and consider other ideas and refinements for Aberdeen over the next several months.

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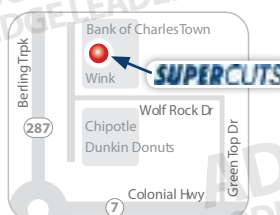
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— Money Sense —

What's the Best Way to Handle Grad School Debt?

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management offers ideas on how to manage repayments while staying on track

If you are getting ready to graduate from medical school, law school or almost any other post-college degree program, you are likely to have a lot of student-loan debt. But there are ways to make it more manageable.



EVELAND

While it is true that an advanced degree should pay off financially over the course of your career, the short-term cost may seem intimidating. In 2017, the most recent year for which data is available, the typical grad student had accumulated more than \$48,000 of student debt, according to National Center for Education Statistics. For medical school, the median amount owed was around \$180,000, according to the American Association of Medical Colleges.

“You are at an advantage if the undergraduate portion of your student loans is subsidized by the federal government because those interest charges are deferred as long as you remain in school at least half-time,” explains Jean Y. Kim-Wall, director and wealth strategist of the Strategic Wealth Advisory Group at Merrill. If your loan is not subsidized—which is the case with all graduate school loans – you will be charged monthly interest, even while you are in school, and any interest you do not pay will be added to the loan balance. So it is important to at least try to make those interest payments.

If you have a federal student loan, you may be eligible for one of four federal income-driven repayment plans. Each is tied to how much money you are making. Depending on your financial situation,

these programs can cap monthly debt payments at 10 to 20 percent of your discretionary income. To qualify for either plan, your income generally must be lower than your outstanding federal student loan debt or the debt has to make up a significant portion of your annual income. To learn about the eligibility requirements of each, visit studentaid.ed.gov.

Whether you have a federal loan or not, you might be eligible for some relief on the tax front. Both before and after your graduation, you can deduct up to \$2,500 of qualified student loan interest on your federal tax return, as long as your modified adjusted gross income is less than \$80,000 (\$165,000 for a married couple filing jointly). The amount you are allowed to deduct begins to phase out once your income tops \$65,000 (\$135,000 for a married couple filing jointly). This elimination of this deduction thankfully saw the cutting room floor in the final version of the new tax bill.

This can seem like a good news/bad news situation after you graduate and get your first job. Your starting salary may not be high enough for you to pay down your debt quickly, but it could still be high enough to disqualify you for the deduction. If it is, talk to your tax advisor about other ways you might be able to minimize your taxable income. One simple way of doing that is to make a tax-deductible contribution to a qualified retirement plan offered by your employer, such as a 401(k) or 403(b), or if that is not an option, talk to a financial advisor about making a contribution to a traditional IRA. And when you do that,

you get the added benefit of an early start on saving for retirement.

As for whittling down the debt, the

best solution is still old-fashioned budgeting—try to pay more than the minimum due every month.

For more information, contact Merrill Lynch Wealth Management Financial Advisor, Jeff Eveland in the Leesburg, Virginia office at 703.779.2130 or j_eveland@ml.com.

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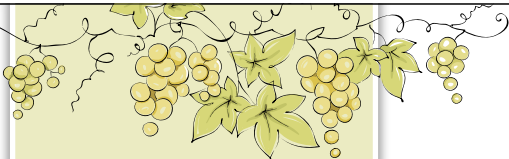
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Blooming Hill Lavender Farm
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Fields of Flowers
PURCELLVILLE

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“Stay Cool”

Flowers, flowers and more flowers

BY ANDREA GAINES

As May explodes into bloom, we feature four small businesses, each with a slightly different floral niche; native flowers and plants, a unique cut flower subscription service, a second cut flower farm, and the queen of all flowers ... lavender.

Natives as a garden's life's-blood

Watermark Woods is a local nursery business that focuses on native plants. Owners Julie and Chris Borneman pride themselves in having volunteered and partnered with the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, and Audubon at Home for many years.

Said Julie, “We focus on the native plants of Loudoun, and helping people build habitat with native plants. But, we are pulling people from all over the Piedmont region, from Pennsylvania to Delaware to Maryland. Our little bit-ty business is having a really big im-

pact on the County. People come from these places to shop and then stay for the weekend, visiting a winery, a local B&B.”

Watermark Woods is located at 16764 Hamilton Station Road in Hamilton. It is open Wednesday through Saturday with the following schedule: April 1 to June 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; June 16 to August 31, 9 a.m. to noon; September 1 to October 31, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (540) 441-7443 or go to www.watermarkwoods.com for more information.

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bi-weekly flower arrangement subscriptions, and regular, family-friendly, pick-your-own flowers opportunities.

It’s a really cool idea; the opportunity to sign up for the farm’s cut flower subscription service, picking up a perfectly arranged and decorated bouquet for a dinner party or special event ... or just to have on the family breakfast table.

Firefly Flower Farm is located at 18643 Foggy Bottom Road in Bluemont. It is open Monday through Friday by appointment only. Call (540) 454-7195 for more information, or go to www.fireflyflowerfarm.com

Lavender ... and gifts ... and more

Driving up to Blooming Hill Lavender Farm, you see a small, impossibly quaint structure that serves as the farm’s gift shop ... and looks like it is ready and waiting for you and you alone to come in. Beautiful plants and

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New pub ... and 'the lost art of service' coming to Purcellville

BY ANDREA GAINES

Kevin Bednarz, owner of the very successful Ashburn Pub, has set his sights on Purcellville.

Bednarz and his family have lived in Purcellville for 15 years. And, now, he's ready to join what he described as "the great restaurant family" in town.

His newest restaurant endeavor, the Purcellville Pub, will open at the former Coney Island Diner space on East Main Street – a prime town location. And on the menu ... great pub food, including burgers, salads, and chili; specialties such as the Bacon Cheeseburger Quesadilla, wings with 10 sauces to choose from, sandwiches, and fantastic entrees like Cajun Chicken Fettuccini, and Bourbon BBQ Salmon.

The space is twice the size of the Ashburn Pub. And Bednarz is doubly excited at that.

"We'll have a lot more space and be able to do a lot more at this Purcell-

ville location," said Bednarz.

"The Ashburn Pub is a small, little neighborhood place. With the Purcellville location, I've finally found a great spot. We'll be open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. And, we'll have a nice patio. We'll still feature our great craft beers, and have a great bar. But, we'll be able to do so much more."

Bednarz is intent on spreading his wings in his new larger space, and bringing back what he calls "the lost art of service."

"I want a place that brings the idea of personal service in a restaurant back," he said. "It's a lost art ... it really is. I want my people to know our customers' favorite foods, and their kids' names. I want them to be shaking hands, and getting to know everyone. I don't want people to have to place their order ... and then go to some counter and pick it up. Service is a lost art. I'm bringing it back."

As for the look of the place – the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

Our 15-year-old son wants us to allow him to vape CBD oil. We didn't know much about the drug, but he showed my husband and me on line that CBD can be helpful for all sorts of things like pain, anxiety and depression. Our son has had pretty bad anxiety since middle school and he wants to use the oil to help him with that. My husband and I are not fully on board with our son vaping CBD, so we can use your counsel here. Our son has anxiety for sure but we don't think this is the best way to treat it. We believe strongly in holistic treatments, but it just doesn't feel right to be pulling up to a vape shop with my 15-year-old for CBD oil.



DR. MIKE

— Help in Loudoun

Dear Help,

Cannabidiol (CBD) is derived from Cannabis, a plant that has been proven to have medicinal benefits for thousands of years. Unlike Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the compound in Cannabis that has psychoactive effects, CBD does not get you high. Your son is correct that CBD can help to diminish anxiety, depression and pain, and it can also help with other problems — acne, neurological disorders, alleviating cancer related symptoms and cardiovascular problems. More research is needed, but studies have also shown that CBD can help with the prevention of diabetes, anti-tumor effects and substance abuse and schizophrenia.

Regarding your son's interest in CBD, know that it has become very, very popular. Millions of people use it worldwide, and a recently released study revealed that 7 percent of folks in the U.S. have used CBD. According to that study, the CBD market could pull in

over 16 billion by 2025. For teens, I think CBD has an additional lure in that it's related to both vaping and Cannabis, so your son may be drawn to CBD for those not-so-good reasons as well. I wouldn't be surprised if some of his friends are already vaping CBD and perhaps vaping Cannabis and/or Nicotine.

I don't recommend CBD oil for your 15-year-old son for a several reasons. First, while Hemp derived CBD is legal in Virginia, it's not legal for those under the age of 18 years. Second, the CBD industry is in its wild, wild west phase, in my opinion, where more research and regulation is needed before the medical community endorses it as a viable treatment option. When it comes to dosing, long-term effects, etc., the guidelines and data just aren't there for it to be a go-to treatment yet. Third, again, vaping CBD for anxiety may expose your son to other teens who vape, and some of those teens may be vaping Nicotine or may be vaping Cannabis to get high.

There are a number of other holistic herbs that have proven to be helpful for anxiety — Kava, Valerian, Chamomile, Passion Flower, Lemon Balm and Lavender — and you may want to promote those with your son instead of CBD. I would also recommend that your son meet with a psychologist or psychiatrist if his anxiety is truly impacting his functioning and life. The research over several decades now shown that psychotherapy alone is extremely effective for mild to moderate anxiety and that psychotherapy and psychiatric medications together is most effective for moderate to severe range anxiety.

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



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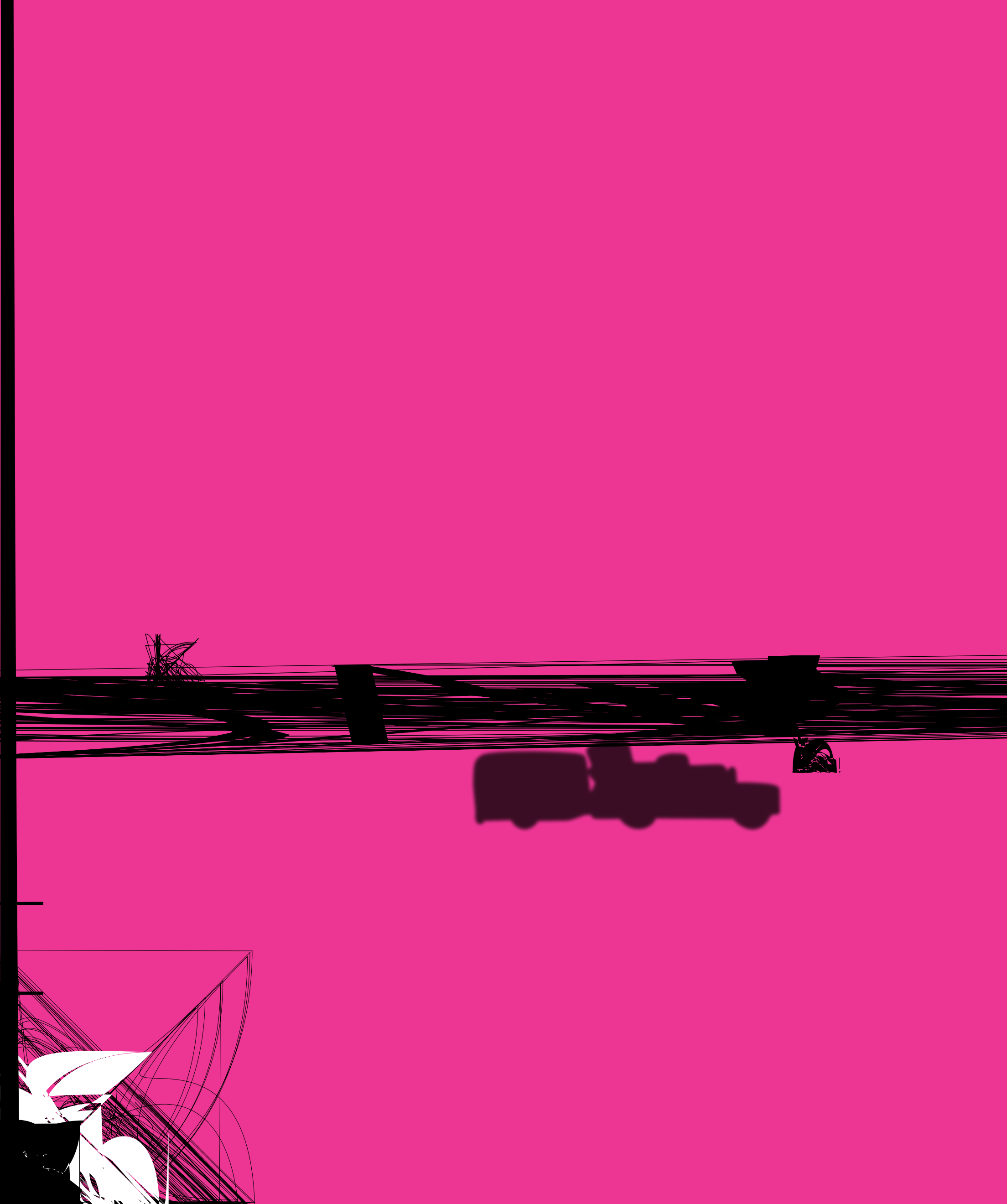
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Loudoun farms number one in Virginia

The United States Department of Agriculture released its first farm census in five years, and Loudoun's rural economy continues to lead the Commonwealth of Virginia in several key categories. The USDA report reveals that Loudoun is number one in Virginia for:

- Acres of grapes,
- Amount of hops grown,
- Amount of honey collected and sold,
- Number of alpacas and llamas,
- Farmers who are women, Latino, Hispanic, Asian, or have military service.



"The Board of Supervisors have made it a priority to preserve our farmland and support those who are putting their land to great use. It's gratifying to see that those efforts are paying off with another positive report on ag-based economy in the county," said Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall.

Loudoun County has 1,259 farms covering 121,932 acres. Loudoun-made, Loudoun-grown products run the gamut from hay to hogs and goats to grapes, plus products made from Loudoun-

grown raw materials, such as beer, wine, cheese, honey and wool.

"The results of this census will help inform our decisions about our programming to support rural business development, workforce, ag education and much more over the next several years," said Loudoun Economic Development's Executive Director Buddy Rizer.

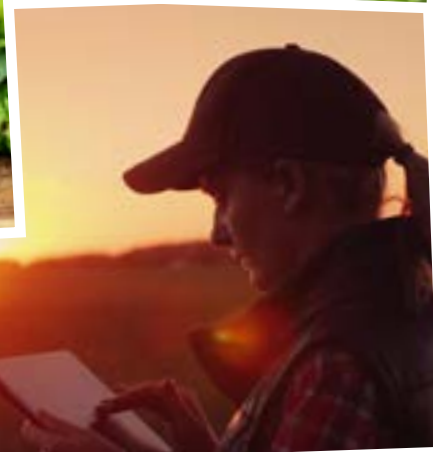
"Our long-standing commitment to supporting rural business owners, and making it easier for them to do business in Loudoun, continues to pay dividends in helping to keep our farmland farming."

"Loudoun farms have embraced new opportunities in agriculture – from agri-tourism to value-added products from

their crops. This is an important reason that Loudoun is number one in so many categories in this year's census report," said Interim Agricultural Development Officer Vanessa Wagner.

Loudoun farm businesses attract visitors from around the D.C. metro area and beyond, resulting in more than \$1.8 billion in tourism dollars spent in the county.

Details about Loudoun farms are available at LoudounFarms.org.



Leesburg hosts annual business awards event May 8

The Town of Leesburg will host the 18th annual Leesburg Business Awards on Wednesday, May 8, at ChefScape (1602 Village Market Boulevard

Southeast #120) in Leesburg. The reception will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m. The Leesburg Business Awards is

the Town's premier business event, celebrating the Leesburg business community and the independent business owners who are the backbone of the Town's economy. Outstanding businesses will be honored with awards in seven categories, which include the George C. Marshall Award for individual commitment to

Leesburg above and beyond business contributions.

All members of the Leesburg business community are invited to attend this free event. Please RSVP your attendance at www.leesburgva.gov/BusinessAwards by May 5. For more information, contact Melanie Scoggins at 703 737-7019.

LCSO & LCCFRS provide safety tips to avoid window falls

Warm weather has returned to Loudoun County and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System remind parents to be careful when they leave windows open to let in fresh air and enjoy the warmer temperatures.

GOVERNMENT

In recent years, emergency personnel in Loudoun have responded to incidents where small children have fallen from multiple stories after leaning against window screens that gave way. Serious incidents such as these are an often-overlooked safety issue for children.

The National Safety Council offers these tips to protect children from window falls:

- Keep windows closed and locked when children are around.
- Only open windows that children cannot access.
- Avoid placing furniture near windows to prevent children from climbing.
- Do not rely on insect screens to prevent a window fall.
- Enforce rules to keep children away from playing near windows or patio doors.

Residents are also encouraged to buy small wind-up devices, if you don't have cordless window coverings, to gather window cords and elevate them out of a child's reach. These cords can result in injury or even death if a child becomes entangled.

Open Burning Ban Takes Effect May 1

The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office reminds residents and visitors that open burning is prohibited in Loudoun County

GOVERNMENT

between May 1 and Sept. 30. These regulations prohibit open air fires or open burning with the following considerations:

Campfires, no larger than three feet in diameter by two feet in height and used for cooking purposes, are exempt from these prohibitions, provided they are not within 50 feet of any structure.

Portable outdoor fireplaces and chimineas are not considered

open burning but must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Single-family, attached and detached, homes are exempt from the distance mandate but are strongly encouraged to follow this fire safe practice.

On a year-round basis, open burning (to include campfires) is always prohibited in the town limits of Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville, Round Hill and all subdivisions ("urban or built up areas") throughout the county.



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Thursday-Tuesday: Dinner 5:00pm-9:00pm



New revelations in the Father Escalante saga

BY VALERIE CURY

In November of 2018, Father Ronald S. Escalante, Pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Church in Purcellville, was placed on administrative leave by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.

The church's action followed a series of reports, that Father Escalante had been investigating financial irregularities at his church, and that individuals involved in the irregularities were targeting him for retribution in the form of claims that he had "boundary issues" with a particular parishioner. New evidence, based on interviews with three individuals who spoke to the Blue Ridge Leader under condition of anonymity, corroborate this.

The related timeline/sequence of events is as follows:

- In September 2018, church administrative/financial irregularities were brought to Father Escalante's attention. Specifically, records showed an increase of 800 percent – several thousand dollars – in printing costs.
- An investigation showed that an employee of the church was using church printing resources – including materials and copiers – for an outside company job.
- The employee tried to persuade Father Escalante to let the matter slide. When that failed, it is

alleged that that same employee tried to recruit parishioners to claim that Father Escalante was "inappropriately hugging" certain parishioners.

- As reported by individuals who were asked to make these false claims, all except one family refused. The family that did make the allegedly false claims met with the assistant pastor in his office along with the employee that was engaging in the improper use of church printing resources.
- As a result of the allegations, the Catholic Diocese of Arlington placed Father Escalante on administrative leave. According to the diocese website: "Bishop Michael F. Burbidge has placed Father Ronald S. Escalante, Pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Church, Purcellville, on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation of alleged boundary violations involving a minor and adults which transgress the Code of Conduct for Clergy in the Diocese of Arlington. In accord with diocesan policy, these allegations were reported to local law enforcement and considered by the Diocesan Review Board."

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office was made aware of the allegations. But, just days after the church's announcement that Father Escalante was on administrative leave, the diocese website noted: "The Diocese of Arlington has received the news that Loudoun County

Sheriff's Office will not press criminal charges against Father Escalante ..."

The new information that has surfaced relates to a face-to-face interview with a friend of the young woman who originally accused Father Escalante of improper conduct. The girl's parents were present for the interview.

According to the friend, the young woman who accused Father Escalante of improper conduct had been pressured by her family into lying – making up a story about Escalante.

The friend recounted the following:

"It was in January after school and before practices. I was with my friends talking in the ladies' locker room. There was a group of us, and my one friend [the original accuser] was crying. She told us she was under immense stress. We all encouraged her to talk to us, or at least go and talk to her counselor. My friend swore us to secrecy."

The friend continued: "She [the original accuser] proceeded to tell us that it was very serious and confidential, and that if we told anyone she and her family would be in a lot of trouble."

The friend then said that the accuser's parents asked for her to receive an "anointing" by Father Escalante after sustaining a sport-related injury.

There was no allegation of inappropriate behavior by Father Escalante during or immediately following

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »





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Carver Center May Events

200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville

Monthly Lunch & a Movie: *This Beautiful Fantastic Friday*, May 3, 12 p.m.-2 p.m.; When her landlord forces librarian and aspiring author Bella Brown to clean up her overgrown garden, she meets grumpy elderly neighbor Alfie Stephenson, who's an avid horticulturalist.



COMMUNITY

Mother's Day Celebration Friday, May 10, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; Remembering Mothers. Pamper yourself and enjoy a Carver Spa Morning as we celebrate mothers.

Carver Center Advisory Board Meeting Tuesday, May 14, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Non-board members welcome.

Carver Senior Skits and Play Wednesday, May 15, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.; The Carver Drama Group will perform their hilarious skits and spring play.

Carver Lunch Bunch Friday, May 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sweetwater Tavern, Sterling.

Senior Prom Friday, May 17, 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; Harmony Middle School in Hamilton is hosting a senior prom. Food will be served.

Dress up like your Prom years.

Memorial Day Celebration Friday, May 24, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; Take a guided tour of Boulder Crest in Bluemont. Learn about the 37-acre retreat and all it has to offer combat Veterans and their families.

Drawing Class; Mondays, May 20-June 17 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Advanced Beginner Watercolor; Wednesdays, May 1-May 22, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Basic Watercolor; Fridays, May 10-May 31, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

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Public libraries 'Food for Fines' a great success

Make a donation of food to a needy organization, and earn your way back to full library usage. And, why not.

In a one-week campaign that ran from April 8 to April 14, the Loudoun County Public Library (LCPL) system collected 15,000 pounds of food donations, giving library cardholders the opportunity to waive fines for overdue books while helping the needy.

The Food for Fines program is in its third year. For every unopened, nonperishable food item donated, the LCPL waives \$1 in fines owed by the cardholder. According to LCPL, "By the end of the drive, 499 boxes packed with food had piled up in the halls of the library's administration office." The amount of food donated nearly doubled the total collected in 2018.

Donations from Food for Fines went to Loudoun Hunger Relief, Loudoun County's largest food pantry.

"This is now our second-largest food drive of the year," said Erika Huddleston, Associate Director of Loudoun Hunger Relief.

"Having a drive this time of year is really beneficial, because it gives us the chance to stock up before summer."

According to a LCPL press release, "Loudoun Hunger Relief representatives said they typically have their highest demand in summer, when families with school-age children sometimes need extra support in lieu of school-based meal services ... This year's drive was organized by Christyna Hunter, a Lovettsville Library staff member, and Karen Warner, from Purcellville Library's circulation department. They said Food for Fines not only helps the library recover lost items, but, more importantly, it offers a chance for customers to clear their accounts — and feel good about doing it."

"Our goal is to encourage people to use the library again. Often times, when you have fines, you don't want to come back to the library," Hunter said. "It's important for people to know that no matter what, we want them in the library."

All nine LCPL branches participated in Food for Fines.

Available Scholarship programs for eligible students in western Loudoun County

A-1 Auto Transport, a well-known car shipping and moving company with offices in Virginia would like to extend their scholarship programs to eligible students in western Loudoun County. These annual scholarships are renewable and are often awarded in the sum of \$250, \$500 or \$1,000.

To qualify, students must be currently enrolled at an accredited college, trade school, or university. They must maintain a 3.0 GPA as well. If interested in A-1's scholarship programs, students may write an essay of 1,000 words or more on the auto transportation industry. Any of A-1's shipping services may be used as a topic for these essays. All essays

must be original and unpublished elsewhere.

The deadline for all essays is March 10, 2020. Submissions can be emailed to scholarships@a1autotransport.com and must contain the student's name, mailing address, email address, phone number, and school name. Once all essays are reviewed by the Scholarship Committee, the winners will be announced on A-1's website sometime at the end of March 2020. Winning students will also receive an email notification. Awarded scholarship money is sent directly to the financial office of the student's school.

For more information, check out: www.a1autotransport.com/a-1-auto-transport-scholarship/.

COMMUNITY

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Meet the Chefs behind the 2019 Taste of Blue Ridge Root to Table Culinary Series

The Taste of Blue Ridge Root to Table Culinary series is a voice for chefs, farmers, and local foodies who support sustainable food sourcing. The events will take place in the northern Shenandoah Valley and the panhandle of West Virginia.

Upcoming events welcome two returning chefs from the series, and a new partner chef to host in these beautiful locations. The locations and chefs are:

- **Bavarian Inn Resort and Brewing Company, Executive Chef, Jeff Ault**

Our European Roots to Our Appalachian Table– May 2nd at Bavarian Inn Resort and Brewing, Shepherdstown, WV

This dinner is about a “sense of place” comparing and contrasting the roots of our Inn in Europe with our location in the Shenandoah Valley. The similarities in seasonal ingredients as well as cooking styles will be showcased in our new updated dining space.

- **Lansdowne Resort and Spa- Executive Chef and Director of Culinary, Marcus Repp**
An Italian Farm Dinner – May 31st at Lansdowne Resort and Spa, Leesburg
Come join Taste of Blue Ridge at Lansdowne

Resort and Spa for an Italian inspired al fresco farm dinner where we will combine healthy local ingredients, vino, music and good vibes to kick off the summer.

- **Magnolias at the Mill Executive Chef, Erik Foxx-Nettlin**

Summer Solstice and Virginia Seafood – June 23 at Walsh Family Wine at Northgate, Purcellville

This dinner centers around the wonderful seafood that is raised, harvested, and then consumed right here in Virginia. Executive Chef Erik Foxx-Nettlin and Magnolias at the Mill will be hosting this dinner at a top winery in Loudoun County.

These locations/hosts will also welcome fellow Taste of Blue Ridge Top Chefs:

- **Steve Ferrell (Executive Chef)** - Hillbrook Inn & Spa
- **Abby McAllister (Chef and Farm to Table Specialist)** – Schenck Foods
- **Michael Ritenour (Executive Chef)** – Massanutten Resort
- **Sandy Gallagher (Chef in Residence)** – Audley Farm

- **Mavin Swaner (Executive Chef)** – The George Washington Hotel / George’s Food & Spirits

Handpicked guest chefs to participate per event:

- **Justin Cherry – Half Crown Bakehouse (Guest Chef to Bavarian Inn)**
- **Daniela Williams – Cucinamore (Guest Chef to Lansdowne Resort and Spa)**
- **Britt Shyrene – Chef Britt Shyrene Culinary (Guest Chef to Magnolias at the Mill)**

Said Shyrene, “I believe in this mission so much. Such amazing work to get involved in! Proud to be in a community where I am surrounded by such wonderful ingredients, and near people who care, love food, and showcase its true beauty.

“What an opportunity to learn and get involved in the community, while sharing knowledge and experience around a table.

“This is food itself as a community. Food brings us all together; it’s an opportunity to experience something beautiful. Looking forward to seeing how far we can take it, and so excited to be a part of this! Very grateful to Chef Erik for including me as his guest chef on this project!”



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Data center debate rages in Fauquier County, too

BY ANDREA GAINES

In mid-April the Fauquier County Planning Commission delayed action on a proposal that would replace a previously approved 198-home subdivision with a large data center.

The 139-acre complex – which would be located at the corner of Business Rt/ 15 and Rt. 29/Lee Highway in Remington – includes six data center buildings, an electrical substation and an above-ground, one-half million-gallon water tank for “fire suppression and possible irrigation.”

The proposed complex – Convergent Technology Park – is a project of Convergent VA LLC, a McLean-based company. Convergent says it will invest \$1 billion in the project.

April public hearings in Fauquier brought neighbors opposed to the project out in force.

As with the Loudoun County neighborhoods of Willowsford, Red Cedar and others, opposition centers on fears about declining property values.

People also question the wisdom of locating what is a very intensive commercial activity in fragile environmental areas. This, of course, was the concern about the True North data center, recently approved for a site along Goose Creek in Loudoun County’s Transition Policy Area.

Local leaders region-wide, including those in Loudoun and Fauquier Counties are earning big political points from business interests, including the developer community

and local chambers of commerce, for securing the millions and millions of dollars in tax revenues that data centers represent.

Politicians also see data centers as a way to help pay for the big fiscal deficits brought on by runaway growth. But, for the neighbors of these industrial sites, it is a different story.

Fauquier County Board of Supervisors Chair Chris Butler is on record in support of the data center, indicating he was elected to increase the tax base of his county and is working to do just that.

The project is being promoted as a way to eliminate the “190 rooftops” of the previously approved subdivision, and the “strains” that places on public infrastructure.

The arguments presented by both sides mirror the debate raging in Loudoun County over how many data centers – which require industrial/business park-style zoning – any one area can absorb, and where to put them.

Fauquier approved a Canadian company’s request to rezone 234 acres for a similar, 1.5 to 1.8 million square foot data center complex – Remington Technology Park – in March 2018.

Complicated construction projects, data centers of this kind take many years to build.

Construction on Remington Technology Park will need to be phased in over some five to seven years. If approved, the second data center project will have a similar timeline.

Loudoun County opens temporary overnight drop-in center

Loudoun County is operating an overnight drop-in center for people to take care of their basic daily needs, including meals, access to shower and laundry facilities, and other resources.

The drop-in services will be provided temporarily at the Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise Street, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The county will provide free transportation from the Douglass Community Center, 405 East Market Street in Leesburg, to the drop-in center with a shuttle bus departing nightly at 9 p.m.

The drop-in center is open to adults, 18 years of age or older. A photo ID is required. People in need of assistance should call 703 777-0420.

Drop-in services will return to their permanent location at the Loudoun Homeless Services Center in Leesburg when renovations to that building are complete in May 2019.

Loudoun County oversees the operation of the drop-in center in partnership with the Loudoun County Continuum of Care (CoC). The CoC is a coalition of public, nonprofit and faith-based organizations that provide a variety of shelter and support services to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Staff support for the CoC is provided by the Loudoun County Department of Family Services.

Members of the community who are interested in supporting the county’s efforts to serve people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness may call 571 258-3033.



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And the winner is ... an old dirt road – America's Routes project takes prestigious Edward R. Morrow and Gold Addy Awards

BY ANDREA GAINES

In recent months one of Loudoun County's most important, homegrown historic preservation efforts – America's Routes – won two nationally and internationally significant awards in the areas

COMMUNITY

of documentary film-making and marketing/graphic design. The awards include the Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for "Excellence in Video," the Gold ADDY marketing and graphic design award.

Jay Korff of WJLA, a local affiliate of ABC in the Washington D.C. area, photographer Douglas Graham, and drone operators Richard Chamberlain and Alex

"America's Routes wants to impassion people. To care about our roads, their history, their value. To appreciate their unique place in our world. To take action to preserve them, before they disappear."

Brauer, also of WJLA are regional winners of the Edward R. Murrow award for their work on the documentary "The Long Road Home."

Graphic designer Nathaniel Navratil,

of NNBrand.com, who designed the project's logo, branding, and award-winning brochure, is the winner of the Addy. That award also honors the work of Graham, copywriter Danielle Nadler, and Knight Printing.

The America's Routes team also includes editor Emily Houston, preservationists Jane Covington and Mitch Diamond, and educator and historian Richard Gillespie.

America's Routes is a volunteer-run effort of the Mosby Heritage Area.

The goal of the project is to protect and conserve Loudoun County's 300 miles of historic country roads by revealing and documenting their beauty and significance – to history, to the people of Loudoun County, and to the County's economy.

Elements of the project include video and photographic documentation of "the beauty and evidence of history" along these cherished routes, and storytelling of "the day-to-day life that continues to unfold on the farms and villages these by-ways connect."

The project also has its sights set on the possibility of getting Loudoun's 300 miles of dirt roads recognized by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the National Register of Historic Places.

America's Routes is also providing "tours for visitors to experience Loudoun's countryside, whether by car, bike or on foot."

Upcoming America's Routes events

A Presentation at the Lucketts Community Center
Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Special presentation by America's Routes photographer Douglas Graham.
- Representatives from Keep Loudoun Beautiful (KLB) on hand to discuss how you can help keep Loudoun's back roads clean.
- Light refreshments.
- No admission charge, but donations appreciated.
- All proceeds benefit the America's Routes project.
- This event is sponsored by the Lucketts Community Center and the Lucketts Ruritan Club.



Photos By Douglas Graham/WLP



The Pickwick Players Perform Anne of Green Gables, the Musical! Internationally Beloved Canadian Classic

The Pickwick Players will perform *Anne of Green Gables, the Musical!* You'll enjoy the portrayal of this classic story and long-running musical based on the L. M. Montgomery novel.

Main character Anne is an orphan sent to help with work at Green Gables farm, set in Cavendish, Prince Edward Island, in the fictional village of Avonlea. Aging Matthew Cuthbert suffers a heart attack during the harvest of 1903, and his stern sister, Marilla, decides to adopt an orphanage boy to help them with farm work. The orphanage mistakenly sends Anne, who quickly endears herself to the people of Avonlea with her wit and talkative manner.

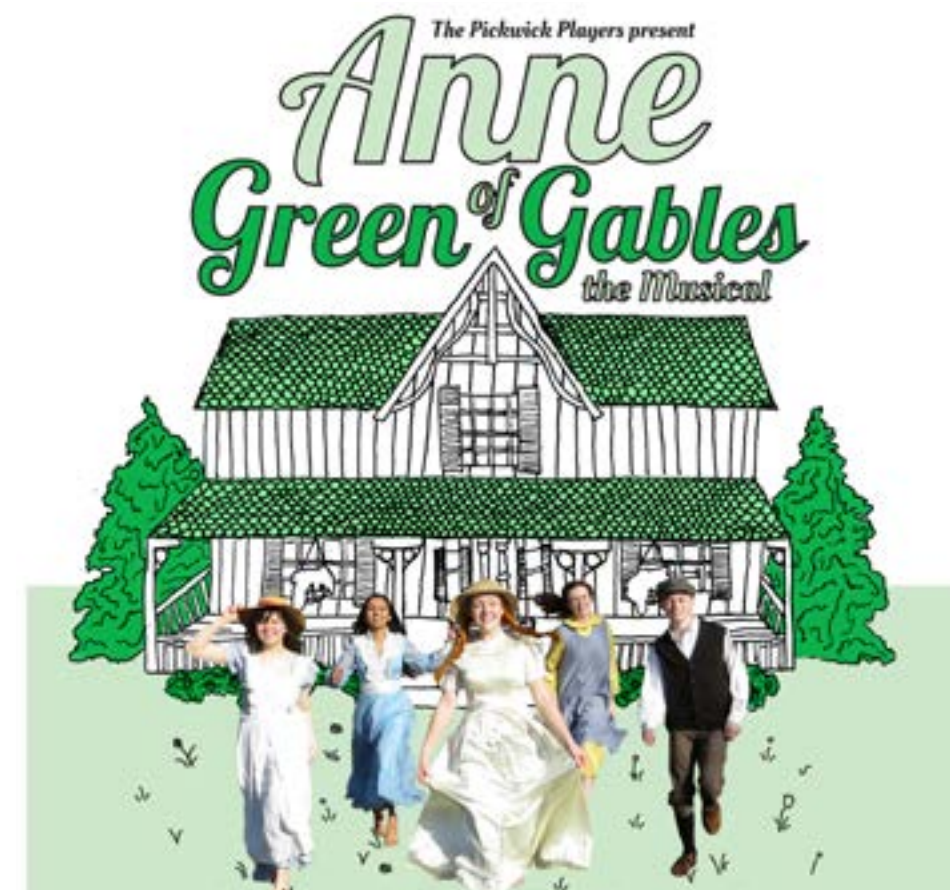
Even Marilla, initially determined to return her to the orphanage, finds herself endeared to Anne and to the vibrancy and laughter she brings to their close-knit community.

"People know the story, but many don't know the musical," says the Pickwick Players' Board of Directors President, Michele Reynolds. "It's a very big ensemble show with wonderful energy and humor."

The role of Anne is double cast with local teens Bethany Folks and Alyssa Van Landingham starring as Anne. Pickwick's Marilla Cuthbert, Beth Schultz, recently moved from Canada and is the cast's resident expert on the show.

Come to the Pickwick Players' production of *Anne of Green Gables, the Musical!*

The show runs Friday May 17 and May 24 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays May 18 and May 25 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Farmwell Station Middle School, 44281 Gloucester Parkway, Ashburn. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children and seniors. For tickets and information, go to thepickwickplayers.com.



EDAC promotes Cannons baseball and local businesses

Dan Van Buskirk, with the Purcellville Economic Development Committee, has been working on a prototype of a large baseball card mock up, in preparation for the Purcellville Cannons 2019 baseball season. Van Buskirk came up with the idea to promote the Cannons, the

businesses and the art community. These large baseball cards will be displayed with various Purcellville businesses throughout the town. Initially, EDAC will start with five. Anyone interested in sponsorship can contact Nedim Ogelman at NOgelman@purcellvilleva.gov.



Dan Van Buskirk and EDAC Chair Sarah Stratton with a Cannons baseball card mock up.

Ride Free on Loudoun County Transit to Metro Stations in May

Beginning Wednesday, May 1, and continuing through May 31, passengers will ride free on Loudoun County Transit buses that provide connections to the Wiehle-Reston East and West Falls Church Metrorail stations.

The free rides will be available on all Loudoun Transit routes that serve Metrorail stations. Bus schedules can be found online at www.loudoun.gov/bus-schedules.

The free bus rides are part of the ISHARE66 Commuter Choice program designed to reduce traffic congestion and promote alternative modes of transportation through the Interstate 66 corridor.

Anyone who currently drives alone to work on I-66 inside the Beltway may be eligible to receive other ISHARE66 commuter incentives by switching to a carpool, vanpool or transit. In

addition to the free bus rides, other commuter incentives include:

- \$100 gasoline cards for new carpools; cards go to drivers and passengers;
- \$500 a month for three months toward expenses for new vanpools; and
- Up to \$300 in Smartrip® cards for new Premium Commuter Bus riders.

Details about the incentives are available at ishare66.org.


Anyone interested in exploring better ways to commute to work is encouraged to contact Loudoun County Commuter Services, which provides personalized trip planning for anyone looking to save time, money, or reduce the stress of commuting. More information is online at www.loudoun.gov/commute or by calling 703 771-5665.



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COMP PLAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**Loudoun 2040.**

COLT's blueprint goes directly at the over 28,000 new homes called for in the draft, the fiscal impacts of those homes, the weakening of the Transition Policy Area and the Rural Policy Area, and the dramatic expansion of potential data center sites. It also gives the BOS point-by-point alternatives to what it described as the PC's "developer-centric" plan.

Indefensible data

Middleburg Mayor Bridge Littleton spoke first, and said that the PC plan "puts Loudoun's future at risk" and "lacks a sustainable plan grounded in defensible data," including market demand for the 28,000 additional homes the Planning Commission wants the Transition Policy Area to absorb.

According to Littleton, the PC draft "misrepresents regional housing market demand as a 'crisis.'" Littleton was referring to a developer-supported housing study showing huge deficits in "affordable housing" that has been hard-wired into the plan, with no real attempt to deal with its fiscal implications.

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser said that the draft plan was "not fiscally responsible and not sustainable," impressing upon the BOS that, as written, the new plan would "continue to impose massive infrastructure needs [with costs] that far outstrip any positive fiscal impact accruing for the growth."

Said Fraser, "We need to catch our breath, and deliver to our citizens the investment in infrastructure we have promised and what they deserve, with a plan that is resident-centric rather than developer-centric."

More housing does not equal affordable housing

Round Hill Mayor Scott Ramsey spoke to another point, noting that so-called workforce housing is not



"We believe the proposed plan is not in accord with the prevailing views and desires of our constituents and those expressed by thousands of citizens during the Envision Loudoun process of public input."

– COLT

just Loudoun's responsibility, but also, a regional issue. "Affordable housing is not guaranteed simply by building more housing," he said. The draft plan presents a "distorted and unrealistic view of our need for another 28,000 dwelling units on top of the 48,000 homes our existing plan allows." He also noted that the population increases forecast by the Planning Commission exceed the County's own numbers by 100,000 persons.

Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burke spoke about the County's need to focus on "smart urban areas" – in the Suburban Policy Area and the Urban Policy Area – versus unwanted development in the TPA.

Hamilton Mayor Dave Simpson said, "I believe the proposed plan is a recipe for fiscal failure and irreversible degradation" of Loudoun County. With respect to the TPA, he said, "T" does not stand for temporary." He called the new Comp Plan "a complete contradiction" of the public's desire to preserve Loudoun County.

No net loss of farmland

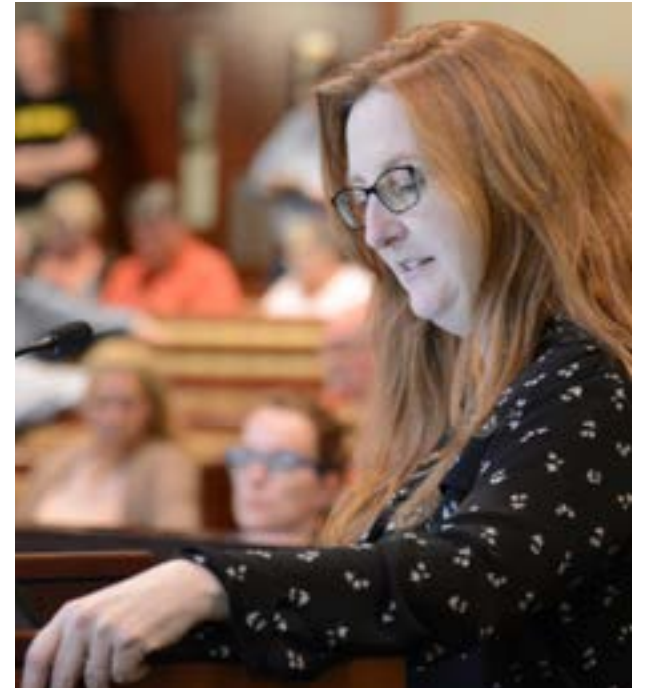
Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance promoted the idea of Loudoun's rural lands as a resource and birthright of every citizen – east, west, north and south. He advocated the "unleashing of every available tool to permanently conserve open spaces and stimulate the expansion of productive farming."

Lost farmland, threatens the "extinction of our rural economy," he said.

The Department of Agriculture has reported that

"It should be disheartening to all of us to find that the plan proposed for adoption by the Planning Commission has so thoroughly disregarded, and indeed largely negated, the public's input."

– COLT



Loudoun lost 10 percent of its farmland – 20 square miles – from 2012 to 2017. Loudoun is losing farmland at a faster rate than the state as a whole, and at a faster rate than in the previous five years.

COLT's *Blueprint for Loudoun 2040* is asking Loudoun County to make a commitment to no net loss of Loudoun County farmland.

'The closer' and others take to the podium

Lovettsville Mayor Nate Fontaine, who described himself as "the closer" in COLT's presentation to the BOS, summarized the 10 principles contained in COLT's Loudoun Way document, among them, to "temper growth," to "plan comprehensively," to "commit to the permanence of the Transition Policy Area," and to "Establish a bold 'zero net loss of farmland' policy."

COMP PLAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

Amy Marasco, Hillsboro Vice Mayor, spoke directly about the fiscal implications of the draft plan, and the influence developers have had on the process.

“Quite honestly,” she said, “I cannot justify the numbers ... [the plan is] financially unsustainable, and I would go as far as to say some of it is irresponsible ... [it is] “grounded in data that is not defensible, [and] at its core is transparently developer-centric.

“It is tone deaf to the voices of your constituents ... of which I am one.”

TPA neighborhoods, former planning commissioners take to the podium

The PC draft – which proposes huge housing increases in the TPA and greatly expanded data center uses – has drawn well-organized and compelling opposition from neighborhoods all across that area.

Katie Patru, who lives in the Willowsford community, presented the Board with a petition of 1,100 signatures opposing the PC’s increased housing densities and expanded “industrial uses” – in the form of data centers – in the TPA.

Red Cedar, a TPA community off



Derek Tomlinson

Evergreen Mill Road, produced a second petition of 367 signatures. An online petition in the same neighborhood has registered 617 signatures so far. All are against increasing the density in the TPA and the draft plan’s intent on locating potentially dozens more data centers there.

Derek Tomlinson, a resident of Red Cedar, spoke on April 27 and said, “I’m against this plan as it stands.” Alluding to the Washington Metropolitan Area’s current data

“The proposed plan is a green light for unconscionable overdevelopment, an invitation to target sensitive areas, and, if permitted, would exacerbate exponentially the current deficits in public services and transportation infrastructure, threatening our economy and eroding the quality of life for residents.”

– COLT

center boom, he encouraged the Board to remember what happened to the Midwest cities of Cleveland, Toledo, and Detroit. “When the cash dried up from their industries, all that was left behind were empty concrete husks that only serve to add to an urban blight.”

Former Planning Commissioner Gladys Lewis advised the Board to “throw out the growth that is going to require 10 lane roads ... ” Al Van Huyck, Chair of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition, said that he supports additional density at the Metro. But, “What we don’t support,” he said, is the extra 25,000-plus houses to meet the “unconstrained” demand. “The proposed housing would add [an] additional 85,000 cars, generating 250,000 daily trips,” he said.

The Dulles Area Association of Realtors, the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, and other industry groups that have dominated the planning process from its inception, effectively controlling the output and recommendations of the Envision Loudoun Stakeholders Committee, the Zoning Ordinance Action Group, and others, spoke and indicated their wholehearted support for the PC draft plan.

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HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

to do with Mother's farm outside Purcellville. Then he wrote, 'The conservation movement needs to be aggressive and combative.' He's also no fan of the Piedmont Environmental Council, which he said has done only one easement in Loudoun since 2013."

"A lot of my Middleburg clients whisper the same sentiment," agreed Robert.

"Here's an ironic one, Robert. This Houston Op-ed was an open letter to Jeff Bezos asking that Amazon stay away from Loudoun. The letter says that we are too congested, the major roads are in gridlock and that there's a severe labor shortage. Thank heavens Amazon's not coming here ... but I doubt Bezos read that letter."

"Maybe Houston should have started it with a caution to Bezos about taking revealing selfies," observed Robert. Byne sniggered.

"What else ... He despises the Planning Commission. Calls one of them 'the dork from planet Ork.' In another issue he riffs on *Dante's Inferno* – with the worst commissioners at the bottom level of Hell ... with Satan!"

Remembering that piece and its imagery; Robert cracked a wide smile. He cited the famous quote from Julius Caesar's classic, "'Veni, Vici, Vidi' could

apply to developers. 'They came, they saw, they conquered.' They plot and plan, organize, gather resources and so on. We don't do those things and that's a problem."

Byne replied with a cheerful comment, "At least we have the things in this Op-ed titled 'Reminders.' It seems to be a compendium of all the things we like about western Loudoun; the visual beauty of farms, old villages, mountains, rustic roads, green pastures. Then other senses, like the sound of nickering horses, the taste of farm-ripe food, the smell of sweet hay and clean air. Here, read it for yourself."

Robert took some time reading the article. There was a slight quaver to his voice when he said, "For now. I love living here, the way it is."

"We love living here," Byne reminded her husband. "Since this is an election year and we need to work really, really hard to get a slow-growth Board of Supervisors. Yard signs and all that, but mainly money. We can donate to races other than in our Catoctin district, too. You never know when one vote or one donation might make a difference."

"Yeah, Byne. Ask Al Gore about Florida."

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

ENVISION LOUDOUN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

stages and public meetings, 80 percent of comments were focused on preservation and conservation. Respondents, from all over the County, overwhelmingly expressed a desire for less residential growth and no changes made to the Transition and Rural Policy Areas of the County.

Higher taxes, more traffic, and less open space have been the biggest concerns of Loudoun residents for the last 20 years that I have lived here. The public has a vested interest in shaping projects in their community. Those who chose to live here made the most significant investment of their lives. Collectively, we should consider everyone in Loudoun a neighbor – and be good neighbors

through our policy and decisions.

With so many developments going up so quickly, and so little concern given to our quality of life by the current draft Envision 2040, it must be revised until it reflects the residents' input. It is time to stop making decisions based on a financial Ponzi scheme. There are thousands of more residents who vote than developers, so our Board of Supervisors needs to listen to the electorate that placed them there, and preserve the high quality of life we have all come to enjoy.

Karen Jimmerson served on the Purcellville Town Council from 2014 to 2018.

GRAPEVINE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

containers adorn the stone steps. An assortment of lavender plants sits to the right of the building, and an inviting garden sits up the hill behind.

Many beautiful things await you inside – including lavender products, natural wreaths, "unique plants and everlasting," and USA-made statuary and garden décor.

As the farm's owners, Cyndie and Peter Rinek, will tell you, the farm is in absolute love with lavender, featuring 1,000 lavender plants in some 100 different varieties. Peter Rineck is also an accomplished and well-known area artist. His treasured prints, cards, and more are available for sale.

Spring, summer, fall, and holiday season at the farm are filled with special events, talks, and more. The farm is located at 19929 Telegraph Springs Road in Purcellville, and open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., April through December. Other days by appointment; (703) 431-0079.

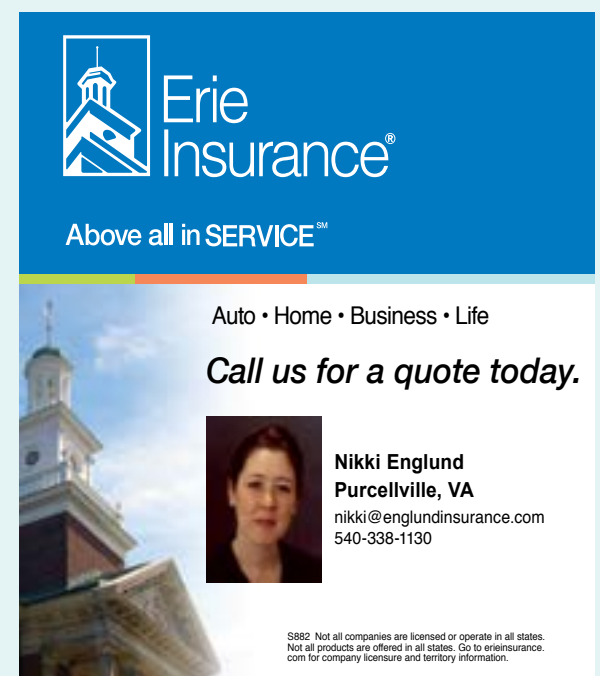
Just over the garden horizon

Fields of Flowers – you'll know it when you see the iconic red barn painted with a giant sunflower on Rt. 287 just outside Purcellville – is planning on opening for the season in mid-May, May 11 to be exact. Fresh flowers can be frail things, especially in the spring. And, they will not be rushed ... either. Fields of Flowers is owned by Patty and Nat Craley, and, according to Nat, "Our planned opening date is Saturday, May 11. This date is really not up to us as much as it is to mother nature and the status of our peonies, so perhaps you can say 'planned opening date' ... with nature permitting."

Fields of Flowers is located at 37879 Alder School Road in Purcellville, (540) 338-7231. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., daily. Visit them on Facebook or go to www.loudounfieldsofflowers.com.

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CAR SHOW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We contacted the broader car community in preparation for this article and the outpouring of assistance, raw enthusiasm, and “auto energy” was amazing.

Said Eric Grey – a self-described ‘casually uninformed enthusiast/amateur

The Academies of Loudoun is a part of the broader Loudoun County Public School System. AOL holds regular fundraising activities to help support STEM education. For more information go to www.lcps/AOL.



Troy McBain's 1949 Ford F1 Pickup

collector’ – “I’m always happy to talk more about my love of cars and my journey. Cars are my first love and most expensive hobby.”

Grey owns a very unusual 1992 Honda Beat. The tiny car was never sold in the US – Grey got his through special order.

Joseph Yeglic, who lives and works in Leesburg, will feature his 1981 Delorean in the show.

“This will be my first car show,” he said. “I’ve only owned my car for a year. And, I have no idea what I am doing.

“Leesburg is a great town. We have lived here for about 4 years and we really love

it. Our kids are 4-1/2 years old (twins) and we are settling here. Great schools and great community. Everything about this place has been wonderful.”

John Bennett has attended the show as a spectator for many years. 2019 will be his first time featuring a car. “I have a 1967 Chevrolet Corvette convertible,” he said. “Still needs some work, but not bad for a car that was given to me ...”

Troy McBain has a great story about a pickup truck that will be in the show. “I have a pretty rad 1949 Ford F1 Pickup that my dad and I started building from the ground up when I was 13. I original-

ly got the truck in 2010, as a surprise for my birthday. Over the span of 7 years, my dad and I essentially built this truck from the ground up. The truck had many rusted-through panels, no floors, no interior, no drivetrain, etc. We had a blank slate to create what would ultimately be my dream truck. Over the next 7 years, I saved up money from lawn mowing, detailing cars, and any other small jobs so that I could finish what had become my baby. I didn’t know it at the time, but this project, would instill hard work, determination and would ultimately bring us closer together as more than just father and son, but as best friends. In 2016, when I proposed to my now wife, I knew I needed my truck at my wedding. We thrashed in the garage every day for



Spectators check out the cars at a recent show.

almost a year before the big day arrived. The night before my wedding, I had all of my family (extended included) out in the garage helping me. At 2 o’clock in the morning, we had finally finished and loaded it up in the trailer for the following day. Seeing my beautiful bride and my truck together that day was a dream come true and is something that I will never forget.”

The 32 Annual Leesburg Classic Car Show will be in downtown Leesburg on the evening of Saturday, May 11, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Cars will have been pre-staged at Tuscarora High School between 2:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. Participating vehicles will then parade to the downtown area beginning at 4 p.m., parking in their assigned spots.

The awards ceremony will take place at the intersection of King and Market Streets at 8 p.m. For more information go to www.lcps.org/carshow.

The Rotary Club of Bailey’s Crossroads (BXRC) will be at the show, too, showing off a fully restored 1966 Ford Mustang convertible that they are raffling off for charity. Catch them at the show or go to www.bxrrotary.org/2019/MustangRaffle2019.pdf for details.

ESCALANTE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

the anointing that occurred on Sept. 26, 2018. After the anointing, the mother sent a thank you email to Father Escalante and four other church employees, including the assistant pastor, on Oct 1, 2018, saying, “Thanks, again for your prayers. It is so appreciated!! And thanks so much for the Anointing of the Sick, Father Escalante. Within 24 hours of that, [the teen] had a major turnaround, and was no longer needing major medication. It was really amazing.”

Then eight weeks later, on Nov. 20, 2018, the same family made their allegations to the Diocese. On Nov. 21, Father Escalante was instructed to vacate the rectory at SFDS.

As the friend recounted, the young woman making the accusations said that “six weeks [after the event], her parents came out of the parish office after a meeting with the assistant pastor, and stated that they were now very upset, and that for the greater good of the parish, they ‘needed her [their daughter]

to say that her pastor crossed a boundary when he anointed her in the back of the church ... ‘my parents were making me say something happened that did not happen.’”

The accusation was made despite both parents being present at the anointing.

According to the friend, the young woman’s mother “also instructed her daughter to go to the school clinic multiple times a week to talk about this violating issue. The frequent trips to the clinic were causing her additional stress because she had to miss class and school work. She also said that her mother was upset, since there were supposed to be other families in this with them, but no others would go along.”

The friend, also a minor and someone who is not a member of the church, came to the Blue Ridge Leader with her parents’ support, because, as she said, “It was my duty to always rise up and share the truth. I know that not coming forward with this information is morally

wrong.”

The Blue Ridge Leader called Angela Pellerano, Director of Media Relations for the Catholic Diocese of Arlington for a comment on reporting that indicated that the young woman making the accusations against Father Escalante had told her friends that her parents coerced her into making up the story.

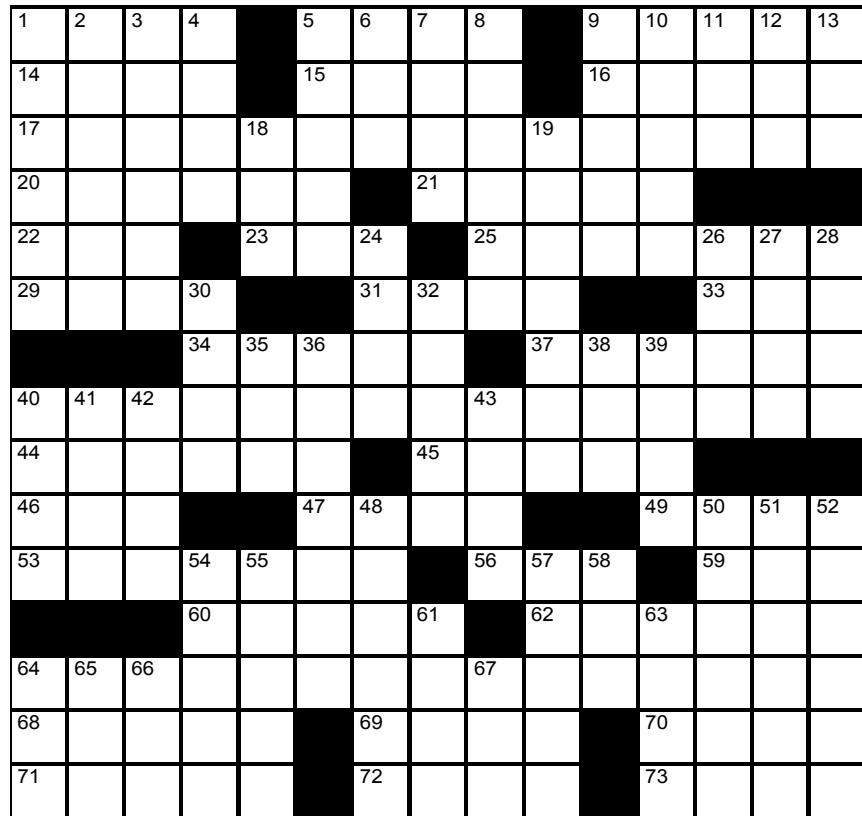
On April 23 that the Blue Ridge Leader received a response from Pellerano.

Per Mr. Billy Atwell, Chief Communications Officer at the Diocese of Arlington, the church was not at liberty to release any details with respect to the accusations against Father Escalante, as the individual making the complaint was a minor. The Diocese also chose not to address any possible financial improprieties it was now investigating with respect to Saint Francis de Sales, nor would it comment on the status of the now nearly six-month long suspension of Escalante.

Support
L·O·C·A·L
Business
see pages 28-29

Founding Fathers Crossword

By Myles Mellor and Sally York



ANSWERS ON PAGE 32

Across

- 1. Jiffs
- 5. Drive-___
- 9. Adhere
- 14. Car bar
- 15. Fruitless
- 16. Former enemy capital
- 17. Chief drafter of the Declaration of Independence
- 20. Gorge
- 21. Slow times
- 22. Barley brew
- 23. "___ over!"
- 25. Remnants
- 29. "Frasier" actress Gilpin
- 31. Mineral residue
- 33. Rainbow
- 34. Relish
- 37. Bliss
- 40. Only active clergyman to sign the Declaration
- 44. Overacts
- 45. Highly skilled
- 46. 50-50, e.g.
- 47. Jot
- 49. Falling-out
- 53. Final parts of operas
- 56. Bonkers
- 59. Sharer's word

Down

- 1. Small-time dictator
- 2. Terry McMillan's "Waiting to ___"
- 3. It may have four leaves
- 4. Half: Prefix
- 5. Image maker
- 6. "The ___" (Uris novel)
- 7. Cambodian money
- 8. Roll out
- 9. Beach souvenir
- 10. Anklebones
- 11. Electees
- 12. Bill's partner
- 13. Reunion group
- 18. Cuckoo
- 19. Crease
- 24. Sean Connery, for one

- 26. Crime boss
- 27. Beethoven's "Archduke ___"
- 28. Glance over
- 30. Ain't correct?
- 32. Buddhist who has attained Nirvana
- 35. Miracle response
- 36. Guest
- 38. Cooking meas.
- 39. Decides
- 40. Sharks' rivals
- 41. Exclude
- 42. Field worker
- 43. Cheese in a ball
- 48. Wildcatters
- 50. Sulking one
- 51. Sky lights
- 52. Chic
- 54. Kind of alcohol
- 55. Believe in
- 57. Auto pioneer Citroën
- 58. Spicy stew
- 61. Airport pickup
- 63. Campsite sight
- 64. Clod
- 65. Engine speed, for short
- 66. Chinese "way"
- 67. Carried out

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Crossword answers from puzzle on p.31



MOTHER'S DAY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

... sort of ... but also letting us find our own way, and helping feed our minds ...”

One-to-one time

Other friends shared with me the intimate, but personal and casual nature of Mother's Day, and how that reflected on their relationship with their moms.

“I always either called or drove down to see her for an actual visit,” said a friend.

“I'd take her to her favorite restaurant –Tony's On the Pier for a cup of clam chowder. She loved when her children visited her, and I tried to get down there every Mother's Day.

“I miss her so,” he said. “Mother's Day now includes sadness, when I reflect on her being gone.”

We talked to moms themselves, too.

Said one mom, “I ask for a family bike ride if the weather cooperates ... and it usually does. If we're lucky, the day also includes a picnic.”

And, a reader shared this enthusiastic story, when we asked her to share her most cherished Mother's Day memories.

“What a sweet topic!,” she first

said.

“My mother loves to garden. So, on Mother's Day, we would make brunch, lounge around, and then garden. It was nice to see her so happy and relaxed, without me annoying her all day long (or at least I'd try not to!).”

Laundry in the back of the car

I'll leave you with this thought: the absolute dedication mothers have for their children.

It's another story from my brother, who reminds me that there was always “laundry in the back of the car.”

For a while growing up, we didn't have a washer dryer at our house.

So, week-in-and-week-out my mom would load the family laundry in the back of our station wagon, and drag us kids off to the laundromat.

I remember being bored at the prospect of taking that seemingly endless weekly trip.

But, we always had clean clothes, and food on the table, and everything we needed – courtesy of mom – and dad.

Love you both, and Happy Mother's Day to all.

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BADMINTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

He also provides diagnosis and treatment for illnesses such as high blood pressure, diabetes, thyroid problems, asthma, emphysema, and others.

The message on the website says: “Dr. Idrees' practicing philosophy is to look after his patients with a loving and caring attitude. He believes that this approach, which comes from his heart and mind, puts his patients at ease and leads to successful treatment. According to him, a successful medical practitioner is one who is not driven by monetary considerations, but rather takes satisfaction from curing his patients and seeing them hale and hearty

after the treatment is over.”

On a personal note, Idrees is also not shy about letting you know a little more about himself via his website. He is “a devoted father.” He “leads a happy life in Leesburg.” And, “in his spare time he likes to read and play badminton.”

Badminton and blessings for all. *That says it all.*

The Virginia Medical Center and Urgent Care facility is located at 200 North Maple Avenue in Purcellville. The facility is open seven days a week and the number is 540 338-0032. New patient forms and more information can be found at www.virginiamedcenter.com.

NEW PUB, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

larger, more open, and expansive spaces. ambiance – there will be some surprises there, too, at the Purcellville Pub.

Bednarz, in addition to his 25 years of experience and expertise in the restaurant business, is also an artist.

He plans on using some of his own works to help create a unique ambiance in the pub's

larger, more open, and expansive spaces.

“Art has always been my passion on side,” he said. “And, I'm actually going to be hanging some original art in the pub in Purcellville.”

The Purcellville Pub, which will open in June, will be located at 745 East Main Street in Purcellville.

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