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JULY 2019

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Purcellville Planning Commission draws the line on East End Gateway

BY VALERIE CURY

On June 6, the Purcellville Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Purcellville Draft Comprehensive Plan, as part of a nearly three-year process to reflect community goals and aspirations with respect to community development and the Town's vision for its future.

DEVELOPMENT

Residents and developer representatives sparred; setting up the next phase in the process – the June 27 Purcellville Planning Commission Work Session.

On June 6, Purcellville resident David

Eno asked the Commission to “give us a plan we can understand,” adding, “I think the plan is loaded with words that would set this Town in the gun sights of developers and people who could care less about maintaining Purcellville as it is. This Town

“I just want to remind the Commission it's your responsibility to recommend a plan to the Town Council, not community members.”

– Attorney, developer, and developer representative Mark Nelis

would look like Fairfax 5.0,” – referring to the draft which is called Version 5.0.

Sam Brown said that he is opposed to more commercial on the east end of Town.

“Enough is enough ... My concern is that we don't get another 7-Eleven, another Ca-toc-tin Corner – we have enough of those.”

Attorney and developer Mark Nelis weighed in. Nelis said the plan “lacks muscle in statistical analysis ... There is nothing in this plan to support affordable housing.” Pointing out that there is not enough acreage for affordable

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Loudoun County Fair flies into action July 23 to 28

Rescue dogs, cows, rabbits, human kindness, and more are the stars of the show



Marvelous Mutt Wee-la (retired) was originally adopted from a rescue group in Ohio.

BY ANDREA GAINES

The Loudoun County Fair opens to the public at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 23 at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds.

COMMUNITY

The fairgrounds is a nonprofit organization created to give Loudoun County 4-H youth a place to showcase their animals and support the County's

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Cannons' Travis Keys heads to Valley Baseball League All-Star game July 7

BY ANDREA GAINES

The Valley Baseball League – “Gateway to the Majors” – has announced its roster for the 2019 All-Star Game.

COMMUNITY

The game features the 25 best players from the league's North and South Divisions. Purcellville's left-handed pitcher Travis Keys will be there, representing the North Division.

Keys' recent 2019 Cannons season wins have included a 6-1 victory against the Front Royal Cardinals on June 4, a 5-4 victory against the New Market Rebels on June 15, a second 8-4 win against the Cardinals on June 22, and a second 8-5 win against the Rebels on June 28.

Keys faced a total of 79 batters, and earned a total of 15 strikeouts across the four games.

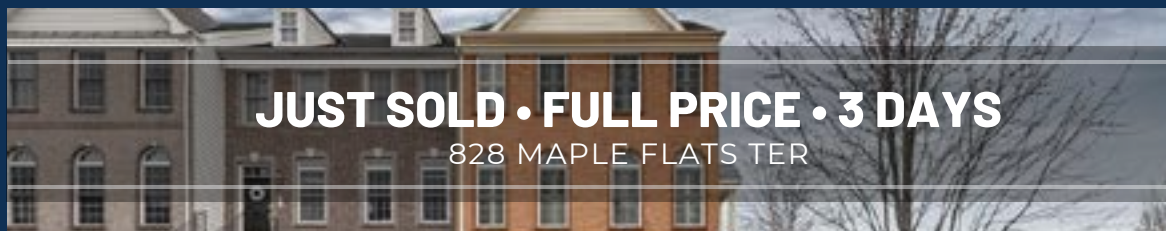
The Cannons press office described the June 28 win this way, as Keys and his pitching partner, Blaze Pontes, brought the Rebels down: “After scoring six runs in the first two innings, the Cannons never gave up the lead to win 8-5. Travis Keys ... earned the start on the mound after having his nod pushed back one day due to yesterday's rainout. He pitched four innings, giving up six hits, five runs, [and] two walks, while striking out two. Blaze Pontes ... took over from there and earned the win. Pontes went 2.2 innings, giving up no hits, and no runs, walking

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Willem Herbruck Bonin
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Rachel Sinclair Baldock Bryant
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Katie Elizabeth Chandler
Guangbo "Sam" Chen
Taewon "Joey" Chung
Paul Maguti Deya
Kayla Taylor Dowell

Liberty Conchita Edmundson
Luke David Finkbeiner
Jonathan Paul Finn
Kristen Choquette Guiney
Noah Robert Hale
Spencer Michael Harman
Ava Victoria Harrington
Yuchen "Eric" He
Chaeyoung "Sally" Hwang
Yutong "Betty" Jiang
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Annabelle Grace Lassiter
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Haile Alyssa Morton
Thomas Christos Mossburg
Sara Alexis Rheintgen
Ethan Daniel Rosenfeld
Adam Thomas Sanfacon
Myoungju "Melissa" Son
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Shaowen "Carol" Weng
Marcel Alexander White
Haowen "Jack" Xu
Jinhao "Max" You
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Our Class of 2019 graduates will be attending these colleges and universities

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Babson College
Beloit College
Douglas Education Center
Elizabethtown College
Excelsior College
Flagler College
George Mason University
High Point University
Indiana University at Bloomington
James Madison University

Lawrence University
Lord Fairfax Community College
Lycoming College
McDaniel College
Northern Virginia Community College
Old Dominion University
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Suffolk University
The American Musical and Dramatic Academy
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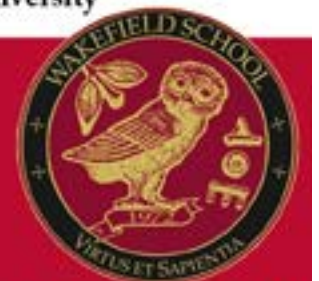
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Loudoun native launching himself into the music world

BY ANDREA GAINES

Sweet, haunting, and uplifting. Smooth and melancholy with the unmistakable feeling that the person behind the music has a real yearning for the possibility of a beautiful life to come.

This is one way to describe the music of 22-year-old singer/songwriter Grant Frazier, a 2015 graduate of Loudoun Valley High School currently in his 4th year at the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Virginia.

Frazier was the top winner and scholarship recipient out of the 12 students selected for recognition in the Loudoun Times Mirror Future Leaders program the year he graduated from LVHS.

The following year, in 2016, he released his debut album – “Runaway.” He was named a Top Ten Artist in Charlottesville by TheOdysseyOnline that same year, and has earned much more critical acclaim, since. His music can also be found on iTunes and Spotify.

Take a listen to some of the songs on Runaway at GrantFrazierMusic.com – songs like *Bury Me in You*, *Stay Now*, and *Fly* – and you’ll instantly understand why the people who know Frazier’s music can’t wait for album number two.

How to listen to, and support Grant Frazier

YouTube Crowd Funding link to support Grant Frazier: <http://bit.ly/2GqBGT1>
 First album, Runaway: find it on www.GrantFrazierMusic.com, iTunes and Spotify
 YouTube Crowd Funding link to support Grant Frazier: <http://bit.ly/2GqBGT1>

A dedicated artist, Frazier is really going after, not fame, but the joy in exploring his musical talents and what can be found in that beautiful life to come. And, he has attracted the interest of some pretty big names in the music world in the process.

“I’m currently crowd funding money for my upcoming second record under the production of producer Daniel Levi Goans of the award-winning folk band, Lowland Hum,” said Fraiser in an email promoting his work.

“I start production this summer down in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and signed on with the producer a couple weeks back. This opportunity comes with high distinction as the producer only produces two to three records a year in which only the best artists are picked.

“I’m also using my brother Neill Frazier’s startup company, called Alma Mater, to raise the money. His startup serves as the platform for me as an artist



Lyrics from “Bury me in you,” by Grant Frazier

*Well I feel lost again
 Need some oxygen to bring me back to life
 Oceans rising but I feel the waves pushing through my heart tonight
 Don't know where to go
 I'll just let the stars decide
 Before I felt it all, then I hit a wall
 But I'm still by your side
 All I wanna do is be stuck with you, I need you by my side
 So bury me in you
 Bury me in you*

to reach out to my fans, family and friends to crowd fund the new record.” Brother Neill is also a graduate of Loudoun Valley High School – class of 2013.

We asked Frazier how this music thing works. How is a singer/songwriter like you “born?” What kind of musical

instruction did you have? How do you come up with the money to produce an album like this? Where do you find collaborators? And, when you are ready to make an album, where is the actual recording and mixing work done?

Said Frazier, “Well, even as a kid ‘I

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BRMS National Science League 2019 Team Achieves National Recognition

Blue Ridge Middle School’s 7th and 8th Grade National Science League Team ranked first in the national competition. Aaron Apfeldorf, an 8th grade student at Blue Ridge, earned the rank of highest scoring student across the nation.

The top 10 individual scores in each school represent the school’s team score. This year around 35 schools from around the country participated in the competition. The Blue Ridge Team is listed below.

Grade: 7th/8th

50 Points	Name
47	Aaron Apfeldorf
43	Edwin Kyle
42	Sean Baxter
41	Ellie Vest
41	Jack Thornton
41	William McFadden
39	Jacob Morroni
39	Griff Boehnlein
39	Amy Wood
38	Logan Moseley
38	Sara Stanley
38	Matthew Weisse

Grade: 6

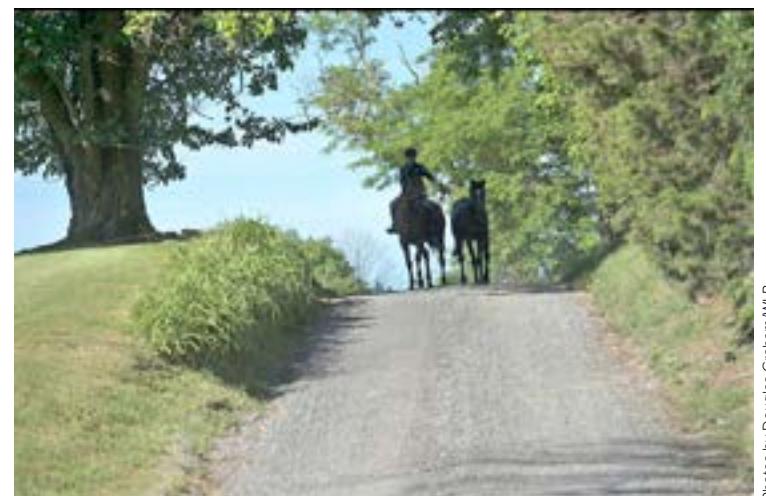
40 Points	Name
37	Maxwell Riley
36	Isabella Hortega
35	Rebecca Alvarez
35	Roberson
35	Ted Lantow
34	Daniel Leskiv
34	Marie Pyhtila
34	Meredith Kula
33	David Bailey
33	Mircea Nemes



Aaron Apfeldorf earned highest score across the nation.

The National Science League test, which consists of 40 (6th grade) and 50 (7th/8th grade) “General Science” multiple choice questions, is based on factual knowledge

as well as students’ understanding of the scientific processes. The test is open to all students and is administered in April of each school year.



Photos by Douglas Graham/WLP.

America’s Routes documentary wins Emmy

America’s Routes photographer Douglas Graham, and ABC7/WJLA reporter Jay Korff have won an Emmy for their documentary “The Long Road Home” about the America’s Routes project.

The two journalists teamed up on the 8-minute documentary, which captures the beauty and significance of Loudoun County’s unpaved roads and the fight to preserve them.

The documentary introduces viewers to America’s Routes, a team of journalists, historians and preservationists who are leveraging stunning images, meaningful storytelling, and historical research to encourage the public to hold on to this nearly 300-mile rural road network.

“These dusty byways tell the stories of pioneers, wars,

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A joyous Fourth

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

The Fourth of July is my favorite holiday.

I love the pageantry surrounding the celebration of our nation's birthday. It transcends the barbecues and parties, the hot dogs, and the day off from work. On this day each year, we can come together as Americans, regardless of political identification, ethnicity, or religion, to celebrate our collective identity.



MOORE-SOBEL

While much has changed since the founding of our nation, we celebrate how our Founders once envisioned. Fireworks to commemorate the birth of our nation were originally championed by our second President, John Adams. "I am apt to believe it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival..." Adams wrote to his wife Abigail, in a letter dated July 3, 1776. "It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade...and illuminations from one End of this continent to the other from this Time forward forever."

I often wonder what the Founders would think of the current state of our nation, if they were alive to see what America has become. Would they be distressed by the problems threatening the state of our union?

It's tempting to believe that our current state of affairs is unlike any that came before. Yet history repeats itself. Our nation's current partisan rancor has

precedence. For example, as Americans prepared to celebrate our nation's birthday in 1826, "the era of the Founders was almost over, and the United States had been mired in a period of partisan disunity," according to The Washington Post.

Perhaps the same could be said about our current time; undoubtedly, we are mired in a period of disunity.

That year, the 83-year-old Thomas Jefferson, despite various ailments and financial woes, penned beautifully patriotic words in what would be one of his last letters. "All eyes are opened, or opening to the rights of man," he wrote. Such sentiments transform this day into more than simply a celebration. America's birthday presents an opportunity to expound upon the vision of the Founders, serving as an exhortation for the continued pursuit of liberty for all. "For ourselves let the annual return of this day, for ever refresh our recollections of these rights and an undiminished devotion to them," Jefferson wrote.

Indeed, the pursuit of liberty and justice for all is nowhere near over. Our Founders, however well intentioned, were flawed men, much like our current leaders. For example, Jefferson wrote about freedom in The Declaration of Independence, despite the fact that he owned slaves. We have come a long way since, but each succeeding generation must ensure that powerful ideals are followed by continued bold and creative actions.

As for the road ahead, much remains to be done. There are injustices to correct, opportunities to create, and flawed leadership to adjust. Our nation, much like its Founders, is far from perfect. More than two centuries later, the work of improving our imperfect democracy lives on, offering every American an opportunity to pick up the torch of our predecessors, and carry it forward to right the ways in which their vision fell short. No one ever said it would be easy.

In the same letter that Adams wrote to Abigail in July 1776, he said, "I am well aware of Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States." While he was likely referring to the war with Great Britain, his statement is no less true today. The success of a democracy hinges on the careful and intentional actions of its people, those willing to get up every day and go about the hard work of building a more prosperous tomorrow. Despite the looming challenges, Adams was not without hope. "Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory," Adams wrote.

This July Fourth, 243 years after Adams penned those words, may we, too, believe that "through all the gloom," we can see rays of light and glory. And that alone is a reason to celebrate.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a freelance writer. To read more of his work, visit www.holdingontohopetoday.com



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Purcellville's green assets worth millions, says Fraser

BY ANDREA GAINES

At the June 25 work session the Purcellville Town Council discussed the possibility of using the "carbon, nutrient, and wetland credits" present in Town-owned assets, including its 1,200 acre watershed property, to offset its debt.

GOVERNMENT

In earlier decades, the Town had assumed a reduce-the-debt-through-growth posture, planning to pay down its debt by building more homes, and gobbling up the added water and sewer fees that came with those homes.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser has taken the Town in a different direction, setting up mechanisms to pay down the debt by "monetizing" Town assets; put simply, drawing on the cash value naturally present in the Town's many underutilized assets - whether the idea involves renting Town-owned land, selling carbon and nutrient credits, or in some cases selling off assets no longer needed.

The carbon sequestration credit

concept - and related nutrient and wetlands credits - represent the monetary value the market places on a variety of environmental assets, including wetlands, clean water, forested land, open space, and the like.

These places will never be developed, since they are permanently dedicated to other public uses: land preservation, parks, wetland preservation, wastewater treatment processes, watershed protections, or open space.

And, Purcellville, according to Fraser, has millions of dollars worth of the green assets available, if the proper mechanisms are in place, to pay down the Town's debt.

With respect to localities, Virginia House Bill 2485, which goes into effect July 1, 2019, allows for the formation of an Industrial Development Authority, or IDA to aggregate land owners towards creating a market for the sale of carbon sequestration credits. Fraser has been researching this program for

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“Planning, is Good”

Envision Loudoun vignettes from a person who was paying attention

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

I now turn the microphone over to Emil Faber of Faber College. If “Faber College” eludes your memory, it was the fictional setting for the film, *Animal House*. Chaos reigned there, just as it has here in Loudoun for nearly four years.

My First Envision Meeting

Citizens wandered around looking at maps on easels, each attended by fresh-faced County staffers. We were soon at tables, each with a County “facilitator,” talking about what we wanted Loudoun to be. Slouching, be-suited mystery men and women ringed the room, patronizingly watching. Consultants! That was the first tip-off

that this planning process would be bad. These sessions were mainly to check the “citizen input” box, but someone eventually tallied the responses. And, surprise!

Citizen Input

If consultants, planners and Supervisors may have wanted a citizen sentiment for more growth, or at least something neutral; they were sadly mistaken. I circulated around the easels, eavesdropped at other tables, and listened carefully at ours. Every comment was against congestion and residential growth. Some were general and some were more specific, like “save the old bridge on Featherbed Lane.” I sensed a lot of underlying anger and

hostility.

Statistics support anger. For the past few decades, the County has frequently commissioned a Survey of Citizens, and in every survey the top two comments were to stop the growth and ease the congestion. Yet, during that time the population has grown from around 100,000 to over 400,000. Wasn’t anybody listening?

Tricky Ricky

The Envision Loudoun project was run by the Director Planning, a bow-tied bureaucrat named Ricky Barker. 10,000-plus comments on EL ended up in his department, panicking an upper level bureaucrat (perhaps him?) to screech, “We can’t show these to the Board! We

have to do something!”

Finagling was easy, so Tricky Ricky explained things to the Supervisors this way, “17 percent of citizen comments strongly supported EL. 18 percent did not. 65 percent offered specific suggestions [a la Featherbed Lane’s bridge] and their engagement with the project indicates support. Thus 82 percent of citizens like Envision Loudoun.” That statement stretched the truth so far that Barker’s nose fell off before amazed Supervisors.

Some months later the word around the Government Center was that Envision “had come off the rails.” Barker was soon fired.

Two Long Years of Stakeholders

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Action is needed on Gable landfill

Dear Editor:

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) adds its voice to the chorus of organizations and private citizens who are concerned about Loudoun County’s failure to adequately regulate private landfills in the county. The mission of ASNV’s 4500 members is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth’s biological diversity. The County’s failure to prevent the

creation of such landfills, which have masqueraded as personal recreational fields or been approved under rough grading permits, has the potential to cause significant irreversible damage to the environment

Based on public reports, the Gable landfill or “personal recreational field” in Hamilton, Virginia contains more than 500,000 cubic yards of waste, including liquid waste. Because the County does not monitor surface water or groundwater the landfill has the potential to cause substantial environmental damage not only to the property in question but to properties adjacent to the landfill due to runoff into the watershed.

Municipal and private landfills are subject to regulations. There is no reason why private landowners should be able to evade such oversight by pretending that they are not creating landfills.

The creation of a private landfill on the Gable Farm tract is even more objectionable, given that the site may have received tax reductions under Loudoun County’s Land Use assessment program, which is intended to encourage property owners to keep their land in farm-related use and preserve open space. Aerial photographs of the site clearly show that the property has been

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Data centers, water, energy, and Loudoun’s future

Dear Editor:

How do data centers in our County affect climate change? Big boxy data centers are springing up across the County, seemingly overnight, on every vacant lot. Loudoun County houses the highest concentration of data centers in the world. Seventy percent of global Internet traffic passes through Loudoun. Data centers, which allow browsing, streaming, and communication using the Internet, cater to global needs. But, unfortunately, they also demand an inordinate amount of local water and power resources.

Energy for Loudoun Data Centers

Each data center requires local energy and local water to operate, run, and cool its equipment. Most of the energy comes from Dominion Virginia Power, the state’s largest utility. Dominion’s current Integrated Resource Plan calls

— View From the Ridge —

Loudoun County’s heart-breaking conundrum

BY ANDREA GAINES

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has finally approved the 2019 Comprehensive Plan.

The document will be tweaked and modified in the coming days. And, the County’s all important Zoning Ordinance will be adopted, filling in the details of how wide new sidewalks need to be, how tall that new office building will stand, how many parking spaces will be dedicated to that new mixed used residential/commercial center just approved, and so on.

County Supervisors say that the plan is a balanced one; protecting the best of Loudoun County and its historic communities and its irreplaceable natural spaces, while leaving not one cent of the billions of dollars worth of

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Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth:

Round Hill

BY TIM JON

Just as the mercurial James Dean reportedly felt he could play certain pivotal movie scenes once only, I – in approaching this piece on a charming, little western Town - have an inner sense that I need to pay homage to a dear friend, now gone from our midst - at least in the physical realm.



JON

I first met Chris King as the life partner of Dene (Flodene) Hill - the kind soul who had hired me - back in the summer of 1997 - as the News Director at the local radio station in Leesburg - AM 1200 WAGE. Now Chris was working for another station at that time, but I

remember him from my first visit to their home in Round Hill (one of the old railroad buildings on Main Street) the very first weekend I spent in Loudoun County. I learned that Chris was – like myself- a retired professional actor (is there ever such a thing, really?), and he loved Shakespeare, great music and wonderful food. With these impressions in heart and mind, I learned little more about Chris until the wheels fell into place for him to ‘transfer’ to our station - a couple of years into my own tenure at Wage. I vividly recall one of his first actions: we had suddenly gone off the air – the radio signal was on its back, legs aloft – one of those crisis times when everyone else was jumping up and down, pulling their hair out and



screaming. Chris calmly and quietly sat down at the board (ground zero of the controls), flicked a few switches, maybe looked up a bit of information – then essentially cleaned out the carburetor, turned the key in the ignition, and we were back on the air. He exhibited not the least bit of excitement at this turn of events, slowly got up – and (I don't

remember this part but I'm sure it happened) opened the back door and lit himself a cigarette. Yes, Chris loved to smoke; he and Dene shared a passion for tobacco – among many other far less harmful pursuits. Their mutual spirituality offered strong leadership at their local church - the inclusive, Unitarian Universalist in the historic little chapel on Gleedsville Road. Chris and Dene loved humanitarianism, sharing many local activities of good causes and good times.

I remember Chris, the late Paul Draisey and I on September 11th, 2001. Paul's shift was supposed to end at nine o'clock that morning; well, you couldn't have gotten him out of that

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Should your teen get a job?

At what point does getting a job make sense for you and your teen? In Virginia, teens as young as 14 years of age can work, albeit in a limited capacity, but it's not uncommon for teens between the ages of 16 and 19 to have a part-time job – both during the summer and the school year. The benefits to working for teens are numerous, and I've listed the main ones here:



DR. MIKE

- Having a job as a teen pays off academically. Research in this area of study has repeatedly shown that teens who work actually do better in school. More specifically, teens who work between 10 and 15 hours a week have higher grades than teens who don't work at all. One study even found that teens who work in high school earn higher salaries later in life compared to their non-working high school peers.
- Having a job builds confidence in teens, which in turn contributes to an increased sense of responsibility and independence – all needed qualities for life after high school.

- Having a job as a teen teaches time management, which is also important to learn as your teen ages out of childhood and transitions into young adulthood.
- Teens learn more about the value of a dollar when they have to work for that dollar. Having a job teaches teens how to save or budget and spend money more responsibly. From contributing to car expenses and a college fund, and to everything in between, having a job teaches teens about money management.
- Having a job as a teen helps with the development of interpersonal and social skills. As human beings we are social beings, so having a job forces teens to learn how to successfully manage themselves with others in a work setting.
- Having a job as a teen helps with structuring time more responsibly and constructively. Beyond managing time with school work with a job, having a workplace commitment means less down time in the afternoons and evenings for

your teen. As the old saying goes, “Idle time is the devil's workshop,” and this can be very true for many teens.

It's important to note that your teen may not be ready to work when you'd like him or her to be; thus, being sensitive to your teens social/emotional bandwidth and level of maturity developmentally is important before filling out those applications. If you feel your teen is too socially anxious to hold a job, for example, perhaps having him or her take on some volunteer work first would be good practice and more manageable.

Lastly, if your teen is reluctant or slow to the moment with applying to jobs, you may want to assist in the application process. We as parents and adults know that getting a job doesn't mean filling out an online application to just Top Golf or Game Stop only to wait and wait and wait to hear back. In my opinion, your teen should fill out a lot of on-line applications, and also walk in to places that have posted help wanted signs. And yes, most applications are on-line these

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

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BOS kicks Leesburg water system out of Town's Land Management Area

BY ANDREA GAINES

"It is extremely unusual for the BOS to make such a significant and important change without any input from the affected governing body, the public, or the business community."

GOVERNMENT This is what Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk said about the recent move by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to make Loudoun Water the preferred provider in the Leesburg Joint Land Management Area, or JLMA.

Spearheaded by Ralph Buona (R-Ashburn), the decision began with a motion that reads: "Due to the proximity of central system water and wastewater systems to the Leesburg JLMA, and in order to avoid out-of-town utility rates for County residents and businesses, the central system shall be the presumed utility service provider in the Leesburg JLMA for new service put in place after adoption of the Loudoun 2019 Comprehensive Plan. In the event central system water declines or is unable to provide utility service to the Leesburg JLMA, or any portion thereof, utility service may be

provided by the municipal system."

After minor changes, the motion passed 5-2-2, with Supervisors Tony R. Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), Ralph Buona (R-Ashburn), Matthew F. Letourneau ((R-Dulles), Ron Meyer (R-Broad Run), and Suzanne Volpe (R-Algonkian) in favor. Geary Higgins (R-Catoctin) and Chair Phyllis Randall (D-At Large) abstained, and Supervisors Koran T. Saines (D-Sterling) and Kristen Umstatt (D-Leesburg) opposed.

Shortly after the vote, the Coalition of Loudoun Towns, the leadership of which includes Mayor Bridge Littleton of Middleburg, Mayor Kwasi Frasier of Purcellville, Mayor Scott Ramsey of Round Hill, Mayor Roger Vance of Hillsboro, Mayor David R. Simpson of Hamilton, Mayor Nate Fontaine of Lovettsville, and Burk said this in a letter to BOS Chair Randall:

"The Coalition of Loudoun Towns (COLT), representing the mayors of all seven towns in Loudoun County, strongly objects to the motions recently passed by the Board of Supervisors that would drastically change

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

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As an early lead-in to the local November elections including those candidates running for the Board of Supervisors, the Blue Ridge Leader interviewed local businessman John Whitbeck, who is running for Chair of the BOS.

John Whitbeck, candidate for Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, has been a resident of Loudoun for nearly 20 years. John and his wife have three daughters who attend public school in Loudoun County. He started his small business, Whitbeck Cisneros McElroy, P.C., in Leesburg, a law firm where John practices family and mental health law. John is running for Chair to advocate for the local issues affecting Loudoun residents.

GOVERNMENT



John Whitbeck and family.

Blue Ridge Leader: What made you decide to run for Chair of the Board of Supervisors, and how does your past experience prepare you for this role?

John Whitbeck: I have been a resident of Loudoun County for almost 20 years. My wife Laura and I have three daughters who attend Loudoun public schools. As a small business owner and a member of numerous local

organizations, both private and public, I have been intimately involved with the issues affecting our County.

I decided to enter the race for Chair because the issues affecting our elderly, our working families, and our children are important to my family. Issues like taxes, high tolls, land use, and school safety affect every resident of this county. This position is, I believe, the best place to

make an impact and improve the quality of life of all Loudoun residents.

BRL: The Comp Plan 2019 dramatically increases housing densities, transfers land from the Rural Policy Area to the Transition Policy Area, and changes zoning to provide more land for data centers. Where do you stand on each of these issues?

JW: As Chair, I will be committed to a balanced plan for development that will put infrastructure first, provide more attainable housing for our elderly, working families, and the next generation, while preserving our open space in the west.

I am committed to preservation of our rural west. I support a transfer of development rights program that reduces the amount of “by-right” development in western Loudoun. My opponent led the effort to convert Rural Policy Area to the Transition Policy Area for greater

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »

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New Comp Plan a roadmap to massive growth

BY ANDREA GAINES

On June 20, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted to approve a new Comprehensive Plan.

The 8 to 1 vote – with Leesburg District Supervisor Kristen Umstadd the sole dissenter – came after a tumultuous, three-year Envision Loudoun process.

As the draft document on the Loudoun County website notes, the County’s original “Choices & Changes” plan – adopted in 1991 – was “written when the county was largely undeveloped.”

“By 2001,” the authors say, “The County was feeling the effects of a 97 percent population increase ...”

In adopting the 2019 Plan, the BOS was clearly intent on not only addressing that dramatic population increase, but, urged on by the development community, welcoming whatever growth might come the County’s way, decades from now.

Warning shot

Loudoun’s self-governing towns, including Leesburg, Round Hill, Hamilton, Purcellville,

Middleburg, Lovettsville, and Hillsboro suffered a warning shot just days before the Comp Plan vote.

In a sweeping and unexpected move, the BOS wrested control of water rights in the Leesburg JLMA (Joint Land Management Area), making the County’s Loudoun Water system the preferred provider in the area, pushing out the Town’s long-standing municipal system.

The move by the County has broad, if uncertain, implications for how the newly approved Comp Plan will play out. Any new development in Leesburg, for example, is now mandated to be served by the County water system.

It is unclear how the 2,200 acres in the Purcellville JLMA, the 1,450 acres in the Round Hill JLMA, or other undeveloped areas around Loudoun’s western towns will be impacted.

How big? No one knows.

From the beginning, BOS Chair Phyllis Randall (D-At Large) pledged to produce a plan that took everyone’s interests into consideration.


CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »



ALL FOR THE UNION
Written by Meredith Bean McMath
When neighbors become enemies and enemies become soldiers - True stories of Loudoun heroes in Confederate Virginia
Directed by Jenna Powell
Run Rabbit Run Theatre
Image by Penny Houffe

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Wexton hosts gun safety town hall

BY VALERIE CURY

Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (VA-10) hosted a gun safety town hall meeting on June 22 at J. Michael Lunsford Middle School in Chantilly. The event was attended by over 150 people, and featured a panel of three – David Chipman, former special agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and now senior policy advisor at gun-control lobbying group Giffords; Christian Heyne, former legislative director at the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and now vice president of policy at gun-control lobbying group Brady; and pediatrician Dr. Barbara Boardman, assistant

GOVERNMENT

his mother did not. Boardman pointed out that although firearm courses are beneficial, she believes they are not appropriate for all age groups. She said that studies show that among younger students such classes could increase dangerous curiosity.

Wexton has introduced a new bill called Empowering Law Enforcement for Safer Firearm Transfers Act. The bill would allow local law enforcement to block sale or transfer of any weapon that is regulated under the National Firearms Act.

This proposal would also ban gun suppressors. Suppressors (silencers) are used to mitigate the sound produced when a firearm is discharged. Opponents

Wexton said she supports firearm safety courses and training for concealed carry permits.

The owner of GirlOnFire, a personal safety and firearms training academy, Jody Makia, said it's all about prevention. "It's about prevention, not aftermath. I talk to schools every day who are not willing to put in metal detectors ... I talk to legislators, and it's more about the rhetoric than solutions."

Some members of the audience said that guns should be allowed in gun-free zones, so that gun holders could protect

the public in case of a shooter. One person called gun-free zones "nothing but killing zones" because if there is an active shooter, an armed person on the scene is really "the first line of defense. The police are minutes away when seconds count," he said.

Attendees expressed different and sometimes heated opinions on how to handle prevention of gun violence. Wexton acknowledged that it is an issue people feel strongly about, but emphasized the need to work together to find solutions.



professor and clinical instructor at Georgetown University and George Washington University.

"Recently what happened in Virginia Beach shows just how prevalent this issue is, and how we need to find a solution," said Wexton. "Today is about raising awareness, having an honest conversation, and looking to find solutions to the challenges we face," she said.

In Chipman's segment, he said a high school senior can attend a gun show and purchase the same type of rifle that SWAT teams use without any vetting. Most striking in Heyne's segment, was a personal anecdote he related to the audience of how gun violence affected his family. Fourteen years ago, both his parents were shot by a neighbor. His father survived the incident, but

of the measure say that it is unnecessary, since real-life suppressors are far less effective than those commonly seen in movies. Currently, any person who wants to own a suppressor must obtain approval from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, pay a \$200 tax, pass a background check, and notify the chief law enforcement officer where the applicant lives. A suppressor was used in the Virginia Beach shooting which killed 12 people.

Wexton also said that it is the first time in decades that there are universal mandatory background checks, and that there is an appropriations bill that includes \$50 million to research gun violence.

A question from the audience dealt with putting educational classes on firearms and safety in the schools.

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THEME FOR AUGUST

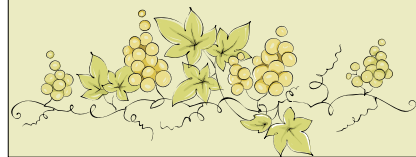
“Stay Cool”

THEME FOR SEPTEMBER

“Teach Your Children Well”

THEME FOR OCTOBER

“Fall Forward”



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BUSINESS

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The company specializes in stand-up paddleboard and kayak tours and instruction. You rent the equipment and Paddle NOVA guides/instructors show you how to use it in a safe and fun

manner.

Your experience can last for a few hours or longer depending on the package you choose. Families, singles, kids and groups are welcome based upon eligibility criteria designed to keep every safe and secure.

The company’s instructors and tour guides have a plethora of experience – from the Baja Peninsula in Mexico to Virginia Beach.

Call Paddle NOVA at 571 293-1191, to start your excursion. Details on offerings, and camps – including yoga on the river! – can be found at www.paddlenova.com.

Active in the river

River Active is a Berryville company offering river tubing and kayaking.

For tubing, adventurers check in at the River Active location and are then taken to the location where you will enter the Shenandoah River and float back down to the company’s private riverbank access point.

The company also offers kayaking trips by reservation. Single and tandem

kayaks, and three different trip options are available, based on your experience and “desire for adventure.” The kayak trips also come with shuttle service.

River Active is located at 3322 Lockes Mill Road in Berryville. 888 906-9789, www.riveractive.com

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Wow. A zip line right along the river with a beautiful view of the Potomac and surrounding mountains.

That’s one of the more special offerings of a company called River Riders – in addition to rafting, and tubing. They also have an Ariel Adventure Park and offer lodging and meals. Mountain biking can be a part of the outdoor adventure mix if you like, and fishing. Lodging can take the form of RV or tent camping, campground cabins, vacation rental homes, or accommodations at the River Riders Resort at Clarion Inn.

River Riders is located at 408 Alstadts Hill Road in Harpers Ferry. 304 535-2663, www.riverriders.com, trips@riverriders.com.



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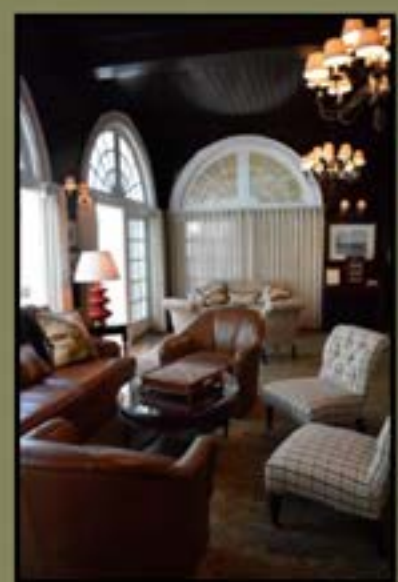
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2486 Longmarsh Road

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BY ANDREA GAINES

The original owners of the custom-built log home at 2486 Longmarsh Road in Berryville, had a dream.

Let's take these beautiful 124 acres and make it our own. And, not just for us – but for the cattle, and the nature, and the history that we want to share this space with us.

So, they built an inviting and expansive log home crafted of northern pine from Massachusetts – with an open-concept kitchen and living room, a wood-burning fireplace and heatator, a main level master suite, and a guestroom/office/nursery. They used reclaimed barn wood for paneling, and put in a loft overlooking the main level. They added more bedroom areas, beautiful baths and multiple laundry rooms, and a gorgeous stone patio. And, they put in top-notch appliances, heating and cooling systems, and windows to complete the package.

Then, they turned 2486 Longmarsh Road into the one-of-a-kind property that it is by adding hundreds and hundreds of feet of fencing, state-of-the-art livestock watering systems, cattle guards, outbuildings, wells, corrals, pastures, and a loafing barn and feed room. An insulated chicken house was built, along with a Wedgecore 50 x 100 steel building, a

24 x 48 “north barn,” and other farming amenities.

And, finally, they pulled it all together, gave it a sense of place, and added more functionality by highlighting historic Revolutionary War stone walls already present on the land, preserving and enhancing a year-round pond, adding a private gated entrance, and building a three-car detached garage.

In 2007, the owners added a new master and large upper bedroom with an enormous closet, and a larger bathroom.

The property has been used for a 40-head cattle operation, and has all of those extra features really prepared property owners will appreciate – including back up heat sources, an underground cistern with hand pump, a solar powered well in the pasture, a windmill for pumping water to the cows, steel security gates, and 19”-thick exterior walls on the home.

For people who understand what it is like to live on a modern-rural piece of property of this size, with these kinds of amenities, it's not just what has gone on here before that intrigues ... but how this property might fit into their own family's future dreams.

Come take a tour with John Constant of Atoka Properties, 703 585-6278.

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'They don't do the job; I, do' Nigel Preece, Premier Computers

BY ANDREA GAINES

Every small business has its own niche. That special something thing that sets it apart from its competitors and keeps clients and customers coming back. Keeps its customers loyal.

For Nigel Preece of Premier Computers, that something is very simple: problem solving. Problem solving through expertise, getting to the root of what is bothering your personal computer, or your business's communications system, or the connection between your computer and phone – "all of it," says Preece.

Preece attended Monroe Technology, earning an A+ Certification there.

He opened his first small business in the technology arena when he was just 21 years old.

According to this techno-geek, the best companies out there, even small ones like his, step in and solve peoples' problems when others have, in effect, left them in the dust.

"Our niche?" said Preece, "Well, we get called when other companies have tried to solve a customer's problem, and failed.

"We handled 1600 service calls last year," said Preece. "We've got capacity. We also have a high retention rate – customers stay with us."

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They do the things that get a little trickier and can cost you a lot of time and money if you get it wrong – such as data recovery, or setting up a new back-up system.

And, they do the things that most people and business owners would consider to be totally outside of their expertise – such as the transference of



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| Computer Upgrades | Computer Memory Upgrades |
| Computer Training | Reload Operating System and Drivers |
| Computer Setup | Home Network Setup/Configuration |
| Consulting | Wireless Network Installation |
| Hard Drive Install | VOIP Solutions |
| LCD Screen Replacement | Quickbooks File Sharing |
| Malware "Spyware/Virus" Removal | VM Ware |
| Modem Troubleshooting/Replacement | Service Agreements |

data, and the hard-wiring side of things – including wireless network setup, LCD screen replacements, and cable runs.

Some of Preece's local clients include Purcellville Auto and Tire, Country Termite, Cabinet Showplace, and Farr Construction.

He also serves the home computer user, and people who sometimes tele-commute, relying on a home office to get their work done.

Whomever the client, Preece says

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »





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Display campaign signs with care in Loudoun

Throughout the election season, Loudoun County reminds residents of the importance of following the rules and guidelines covering campaign signs.

Location: Generally, signs may be displayed on private property with permission of the property owner.

GOVERNMENT Unauthorized removal of campaign signs is considered a crime. No signs are permitted in a Virginia Department of Transportation right of way or within five feet of the right of way. Signs placed in the right of way are subject to confiscation and disposal by authorized personnel.

Permit Process: Campaigns should apply for a zoning permit for the placement of campaign signs throughout the county. Campaign signs are designated as "temporary" signs per Section 5-1204(D)(5)(a) of the Revised 1993 Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance. As part of the Zoning Permit Application, a graphic is required showing the dimensions of the signs along with a map of the property showing the location of the sign on the property as well as the distance from the right of

way and property lines. The maximum size of a campaign sign is 32 feet. The fee for filing a Zoning Permit Application is \$10.

Questions about campaign sign permits may be submitted to the county through Loudoun Express Request.

Safety: Loudoun County reminds everyone of the importance of calling 811 before digging. Virginia state law requires anyone who digs to notify Virginia 811 before digging to identify the location of underground cables, wires and facilities. Damage caused by improper digging can be dangerous and costly. More information is online at va811.com.

Live in a Town: Sign regulations may differ within Loudoun County's incorporated towns. Contact the appropriate town offices regarding placement of campaign and other temporary signs within towns.

More information about campaign signs and other campaign materials can be found at loudoun.gov/CampaignSigns. More information about the upcoming election is online at loudoun.gov/JunePrimary.

Loudoun County Short-Term rental registration opens July 1

Operators of short-term residential rental property in Loudoun County are required to register their property every year with the county. The registration period begins July 1, 2019. Annual registrations will be active through June 30, 2020.

Short-term residential rental properties that were registered in 2018 or properties that have not yet been registered must be registered during the registration period that begins July 1, 2019.

There is no cost to register a short-term rental property. Operators who fail to register may face a fine of \$500

per violation.

If a property was registered as a short-term rental in 2018, but is no longer being used for that purpose, operators do not have to re-register or take any further action.

A short-term residential rental is the provision of a room or space that is suitable or intended for occupancy for dwelling, sleeping, or lodging purposes, for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days, in exchange for a charge for the occupancy.

A link to the registration form and more information about the registration process may be found at loudoun.gov/ShortTermRentals.

Unmarked graves and burial sites to be given a name

BY ANDREA GAINES

A new online tool debuted by the County in June will give residents, historians, genealogists, and educators a way to electronically search a list of

the more than 200 active and historic cemeteries and burial grounds already identified as present in Loudoun.

It will also enable individuals and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 »





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Local officials celebrate grand opening of Kirkpatrick Farms Fire and Rescue Station

Officials from Loudoun County Fire and Rescue, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and County Administration joined first responders, residents and other local leaders on Wednesday, June 26, for the official Grand Opening Ceremony for the newest of the County's 20 fire and rescue stations.

GOVERNMENT

The Kirkpatrick Farms Fire and Rescue Station is located at 41380 Gardenia Drive in Aldie on a 6.94-acre parcel of land. The 17,874 sq. foot facility houses an Engine, Advanced Life Support Ambulance and Tanker that are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

County Administrator Tim Hemstreet emceed the event with Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall, Blue Ridge District Supervisor Tony Buffington and System Chief Keith Johnson addressing the crowd. Each speaker touted the hard work of all the County agencies involved



in the construction and opening of Kirkpatrick Farms Fire and Rescue Station No. 27 and thanked all of the first responders that will call this station home.

In lieu of a ribbon cutting, Fire and Rescue personnel and County leadership participated in a traditional "uncoupling ceremony" replacing the standard ribbon and scissors with two sections of fire hose. A bronze plaque memorializing the dedication date, current Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and County Administration, along with the design team was presented to Chair Randall. The

plaque will be permanently displayed at the lobby entrance of the Kirkpatrick Farms Fire and Rescue Station.

"The Kirkpatrick Farms station will provide round the clock emergency services to the residents and visitors of this rapidly growing corridor of Loudoun County," stated Chief of the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System, Keith Johnson. "The addition of this station will increase emergency coverage and reduce response times to the new and existing housing developments, schools and businesses in this area."

The Orion Anderson story

On June 19 Loudoun County unveiled its first ever memorial to a lynching victim. The ceremony was performed on the day, more than 150 years ago, that all enslaved people here found out that they were free – in 1865.

The memorial commemorates the life of 19th Century Loudoun County resident Orion Anderson, a 14-year old African American teenager murdered by an angry mob on the day before Halloween, Oct. 30, 1889 in Leesburg.

GOVERNMENT

The 14-year old had been accused of "scaring" a white girl. Arrested and held in jail before his trial, newspaper reports from the time say that a mob of some two-dozen people took Anderson by force from the jail where he was being held, hung him and shot him at a nearby freight station. That station no longer exists, but Anderson's memorial will now forever mark the spot.

Anderson was from the village of Hamilton. Relatives and descendants of Mr. Anderson still live in Northern Virginia.

It is not often described. But, the profoundly violent act of lynching was as grizzly as it was common for a certain period in American history. According to scholars, nearly 4,750 people were lynched between 1882 and 1968 in the United States, including 3,400+ African Americans and more than 1,290 whites, as mobs took "justice into their own hands" and murdered people accused of a variety of crimes – mostly black – bypassing the criminal justice system.

Mr. Anderson's memorial will now forever stand as a reminder to everyone who passes by the spot of what he and his family suffered. His is the first of three lynching memorials that will be installed to mark victims of documented lynchings in Loudoun County.

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– Actor’s profile –

Rachel Louis, Suzy Alden, and Rosemary Thoburn of “All for the Union”

BY ANDREA GAINES

“What you hope in casting a show, is that actors will bond with each other during the run. What Director Jenna Powell and I have in this production is an entire cast with those skills – in particular three leads who take acting seriously, are seriously talented, and know how to come together to create an excellent production.”

This is how Meredith Bean McMath, Managing Director of Run Rabbit Run Productions, Inc.

COMMUNITY and the playwright of *All for the Union* described the wonderful dynamic

between actors Rachel Louis, Suzy Alden, and Rosemary Thoburn in the theatre company’s powerful drama, *All for the Union*.

The true-to-life play tells the story of Virginia’s first female journalists – sisters Lida and Lizzie Dutton and friend Sarah Steer – and the small, pro-Union newspaper they started during the Civil War, right here in Loudoun County.

Lida Dutton met her future husband during this time. Lizzie Dutton lost her fiancé to the war. And, Sarah Steer became a teacher, serving the children of former slaves, at what we know today as Waterford’s Second Street School.

As McMath told us, the three actors who bring the stories of these three women to the stage, also “know how to bring the audience with them through pinnacle scenes of love, loss and other

challenges.”

So, who are these talented actors? ...

Rachel Louis, as *Lida Dutton*

Louis in her own words: “I’m about to start my senior year of college. I’m at Shenandoah Conservatory double majoring in both the Acting and Stage Management BFA programs. Next May I’ll finish the acting degree, and then one more semester to finish the Stage Management program.”

How does Louis see her character, *Lida Dutton*. Who is she?

“Lida is a woman ahead of her time,” said Louis. “Witty, clever, a gifted writer and speaker, and a not-so-secret romantic, Lida leads the girls in creating *The Waterford News*. Lida is a true patriot, ready and willing to sacrifice comfort and safety to further the Union cause, the abolition of slavery, and the reformation of the Union. Upheld by her Quaker morals and a strong sense of family, friendship, community, and country, Lida does exactly what she sets out to do ...”

Does this character parallel your own life and/or interests in any way, and what is your favorite line in the play?



Photo by Craig Thoburn

L to R: Mrs. Dutton (Penny Hauffe), Lida Dutton (Rachel Louis), Lizzie Dutton (Suzy Alden), Sarah Steer (Rosemary Thoburn) and Annie Dutton (Isabella Krimsky).

“The theme of a divided nation, brother against brother, resonates strongly in today’s political atmosphere. As Lida hopes that her writing will help boost the Union soldiers’ resolve, I hope our play and my performance do the same for our audience. My favorite would have to be one of Maggie’s lines. Maggie’s fiancé is a Confederate soldier. When he and Lida’s fiance, a Union soldier, pull their guns on each other, Maggie says to him ‘You’re asking me to hate what you hate! I’m asking you to love what I love!’

Suzy Alden, as *Lida’s sister, Lizzie Alden* in her own words:

“I graduated from college a few years ago and have since been pursuing a career in performing arts. For the last two and a half years, I have been working professionally as an actor and scenic artist in the D.C. metro area. I also work as a teacher, living history interpreter at museums, and as a real life

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

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Ladies board of Inova awards scholarships

The Ladies Board of Inova Loudoun Hospital has recently awarded 45 nursing scholarships, totaling \$104,050, to nurses who live and/or work in Loudoun County. Recipients are enrolled in LPN, BSN, MSN, and DNP programs at 17 different schools, including The Academies of Loudoun. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$2,850.

COMMUNITY

Since the nursing scholarship program began in 1959, The Ladies Board has awarded nearly \$1,875,000 to over 1,200 applicants. The program began with a single grant of \$400 and was started to provide supplemental funds to worthy nursing students. The Ladies Board has offered more than \$100,000 each year for more than a decade.

Scholarship applications for next year will be available at www.ladiesboard.org in January 2020. Applicants must live and/or work in Loudoun County and be enrolled in or accepted by an accredited school of nursing.

Scholarships are funded by The Gift Shop at Inova Loudoun Hospital, Twice Is Nice thrift shop in Leesburg, the Lights of Love remembrance program, and the Annual Ladies Board Rummage Sale.

"ALL FOR THE UNION", CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

princess and tea party hostess! But, my life isn't all just about being an actor. I love exploring the outside, being with my family, and learning about dinosaurs."

How does Alden see her character, Lizzie Dutton. Who is she?:

"Lizzie Dutton is the oldest of the Dutton girls, and therefore tries to be the most responsible. She is certainly the most grounded, head-out-of-the-clouds, practical of the sisters, but still likes to poke fun and use her wit as much as any Dutton. She is fiercely loyal and protective. She also doesn't tolerate people of a weak constitution, or those who take advantage of others. But Lizzie loves life and people, which is why she has trained herself to be a doctor."

Does this character parallel your own life and/or interests in any way, and what is your favorite line in the play?

"My character Lizzie and I are very different in our pursuits, and she is much more hotheaded than I am. However, I like to hope I have half of her courage and boldness.

I also try not to suffer rudeness and those that put down others. I really love Lida's line, 'I wish to take life as it is, a real matter-of-fact thing, and do it justice.' If you're asking for a line from Lizzie, I'd say I enjoy, 'My dear sister, being engaged is only half a wish. And, it isn't hard to win a Union soldier. They stand us up next to the rebel girls and see right away we have all our teeth.'"

Rosemary Thoburn, as Sarah Steer Thoburn in her own words:

"I am Dean of Students at Fairfax Christian School, a private K-12 school founded by my grandparents in 1961. When I was cast for the role of Sarah Steer, an aspiring schoolteacher, I was able to pull from my own family's deep passion for education. I have taught children to read, managed classrooms, and worked alongside all different types of teachers."

How does Thoburn see her character, Sarah Steer. Who is she?

"Sarah Steer is the eldest of the three writers of the Waterford News. I see Sarah as the foil to Lida. Lida is gutsy, Sarah is timid. Lida is

driven, Sarah is uncertain. Lida is passionate and romantic, and Sarah is more practical ... Her character arc helps to illustrate just how far these women were pushed emotionally in the trials of war."

Does this character parallel your own life and/or interests in any way, and what is your favorite line in the play?

"I've been told that I naturally give off a schoolteacher impression. When I read Sarah's lines for the first time I fell in love because she also appreciated good grammar and writing. One of my favorite lines comes when Sarah is trying to get Maggie's Confederate beau out of the house, so she insists that he walk Maggie home. He rightfully becomes concerned of what the neighbors might say. In response, Sarah says, 'rest assured the subject has been discussed at length.'"

All for the Union will be a part of the Capital Fringe Festival, July 14, 16, 20, 25, and 26 in Washington D.C., and will also be staged at the historic Aldie Mill, Aug. 2, 3, and 4.

For tickets and details go to the Run Rabbit Run Theatre website: www.RRRtheatre.org.

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COMP PLAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Public comments from various Board members highlight what they describe as a balanced outcome. And, the introduction to the plan itself, a nearly 500-page document, states: "Envision Loudoun proved to be an unprecedented public engagement effort for the County."

But, while the public has strongly and consistently supported limits on development, the Plan, as approved, is more of a detailed roadmap of how, where, and when to grow, rather than an answer to the key planning questions: How big does Loudoun County want to be? And what is the real fiscal impact of what the BOS just agreed to?

Key points

The new Comp Plan increases housing densities by thousands and thousands of residential units – above and beyond the 45,000 residential units already approved and in the pipeline.

The two places targeted to absorb that growth are the newly created Urban Policy Area (UPA) – centered on the Silver Line Metro Station – and the Transition Policy Area (TPA).

The TPA itself will be forced to accommodate residential densities far beyond what it was originally designed to do. It will also be forced to absorb more commercial, including development

projects in the light industrial category – data center land. This will, essentially, extend what is now known as Loudoun's data center alley, in the Suburban Policy Area (SPA) to the TPA.

Hundreds of acres in the Rural Policy Area – a full square mile – were erased from the County's future agricultural production potential, and moved into the TPA.

"While the public has strongly and consistently supported limits on development, the Plan, as approved, is more of a detailed roadmap of how, where, and when to grow, rather than an answer to the key planning questions: How big does Loudoun County want to be? And what is the real fiscal impact of what the BOS just agreed to?"

Some 2,600 acres will be devoted to development around the new Silver Line Metro Stations, designated as part of the UPA.

And, the tens of thousands of acres in Loudoun's Joint Land Management

Areas were turned into a political football as the County asserted more and more control over the level of development that will be permitted in these places, and who will provide utility services to the people and businesses locating there.

Is the transitional middle at risk?

The final plan approved by the County addresses each of Loudoun's four policy areas: The new, 2,600 acre UPA, the 48,000 acre SPA, the 24,000 acre TPA, and the 230,000 acre RPA. The Plan also addresses the JLMAs.

One of the most consequential decisions County leaders made at the time of the 2001 Plan was to put in place an east-middle-west growth management strategy.

The idea here was to concentrate development in the east – in the SPA, and create a lower-density area in the middle of the County – the TPA, that would serve as a buffer between the suburban east and the RPA.

Early on in the Envision Loudoun process, as the "vision" for Loudoun's new Comp Plan was being developed, language referring to these three distinct areas was purposefully deleted.

Language in the Plan seems to indicate that the changes to the TPA – including increased residential

densities, and the expansion of lands now available for intensive uses such as data centers – were necessary to protect the rural west.

But, advocates of the County's suburban east, transitional middle, and rural west growth management strategy remain unconvinced.

A market-driven plan

Loudoun County has tens of thousands of approved but as yet unbuilt housing units. They are in addition to the thousands more the BOS has approved as part of the 2109 Comp Plan.

Residential units cost the County \$1.62 in services for every \$1 they pay in taxes. As a consequence, other tax revenue sources, including the multi-million dollar data center industry, are extremely attractive to Loudoun County's number crunchers – the people responsible for keeping the County's fiscal house in order.

The County's strategy in this regard seems to be to try to stay one step ahead of fiscal insolvency by growing, and growing quickly, particularly with respect to the new residential units that will ensure that companies wanting to do business here will have adequate workforce housing, and big tax revenue opportunities like data centers.

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HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Supervisors appointed 27 people to a Stakeholders Committee, tasked with producing a draft Comprehensive Plan, which would be then sent upstream to the Planning Commission.

The Stakeholders were primarily pro-growth zealots. I don't want to write about all its noxious propositions but thankfully the Stakeholders' tone-deafness amused me a few times. The Supervisors offered guidance on some issues, prompting Stakeholders Vice Chairman Kathy Blackburn to tell the Board to "stay in its own lane." Later, in response to a Board plea to hurry up, the Stakeholders said, "We're done when we're done," or something along those lines.

Most famously, a Stakeholder, perhaps Chairman Jumpin' Jeff Salmon, told the Board that there should be something like 18,000 new houses built in the Transition Policy Area. Supervisor Matt Letourneau retorted with the best quote of the entire 3-1/2 year process, "What planet are you from?"

The Stakeholders ultimately produced a draft plan but I wonder how much it was discredited by members' attitudes.

Young woman at the dais

Developers wanted a plan that allowed for extreme housing growth but were shrewd enough to know that dog wouldn't hunt. Instead they used the mantra "Affordable Housing." Their storyline was that if more houses were built, the law of supply and demand would kick in and housing prices would fall to affordable levels. Though a preposterous perversion of economics, it sounded better than "make me rich."

Actual begging could be done by others. Standing at the dais, a young woman said to Supervisors, "I was born and raised in Loudoun and now I'm 24 and I can't afford to live here." I wanted to give the poor child some new ideas – like apartments, older houses, and especially the concept of a roommate.

Fishy Business

The ultra-successful Ford's Fish Shack also shilled for developers. "We have 64 employees and not a

single one lives in Loudoun," its owner proclaimed. I was tempted to shout, "Then pay them more."

Ford's has apparently solved its staffing problems as is now venturing into the food truck business.

Tony Howard Nixes Housing Growth

As Commandant of the Chamber of Commerce, a guy named Howard just re-stoked the push for more new houses, after the Board of Supervisors had seemingly settled the matter with the new Comprehensive Plan.

In the movie Wall Street, Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) famously said, "Greed is good." In remarks to the Board just before it approved a massive reduction in new housing, Howard essentially bloviated, "Greed is God." He lost but now he wants to resurrect those houses – and more. His

message invites disdain.

Gekko's declaration was an ode to capitalism as practiced on Wall Street. (A hard-nosed version, I'll grant.) Howard's sputterings were almost carnal pleas for political influence that would guarantee riches to his flock. It was unseemly.

The Battle for Loudoun Continues

Envision endeth, but the Battle for Loudoun has entered a new phase.

Some Supervisors suggest that the new Comprehensive Plan was a success because both citizens and developers could accept it.

That concept of balance works in business, but not here. The only successful plan would have seen citizens dancing in the streets. Instead I sense two attitudes: Relief that this process is over, and anger at many of the Plan's specifics. While the Plan does contain some good things, many problems need fixing.

There remains confusion about how much new housing will there be, where will it be, and of what type. I doubt if the fiscal impact is really known. Most frighteningly, this Comp Plan will get translated into a new zoning ordinance. That's the document that determines what will really happen, and where. Expect a war. My mind is not quite ready for that.

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

GABLE LANDFILL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

turned from farmland into a wasteland while the property owner may have received millions of dollars in revenues from allowing the dumping of waste on the site.

ASNVA understands that the Gable "personal recreational field" is subject to a stop work order and is currently inactive. However, issuing a Notice of Violation for exceeding its approved elevation is not enough. The environmental damage has already been done. Now is the time to install monitoring wells and to prevent this from happening again. The County should adopt new regulations to prohibit the creation of private landfills and take a more proactive role in overseeing the uses to which the property in the County is put. If it does not, western Loudoun County runs the risk of being turned from a bucolic rural paradise to an environmental disaster area.

*Thomas L. Blackburn, President
Audubon Society Northern Virginia*

DATA CENTERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

for decreasing fossil fuel usage by 2030 by only 2 percent. Since it aspires to increase the amount of electricity it generates by 29 percent by 2030, the net effect will be an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, not a decrease, as called for by the Paris Climate Accords.

Dominion is actively pursuing fossil fuel sources, especially the \$7 billion Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), which will deliver fracked gas into Virginia and North Carolina and further lock Virginia into relying on fracked gas. Fracking is a hotly debated technique of extracting oil and natural gas from far below the earth's surface, opponents of which cite numerous negative environmental effects.

How Are Data Center Owners Responding?

The largest cloud computing data centers in Virginia are Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft, and Google – AWS dominating, with at least 55 data centers and more planned. The addition of its second headquarters makes it the largest consumer of electricity in the County. In 2014, Amazon pledged to power its data centers with 100 percent renewable energy (RE), but gave no deadline. By 2016, it added 132 megawatts of RE in Virginia. However, since 2017 (while building 23 new data centers in Loudoun), it added 0 megawatts in RE. The new data centers added 626 megawatts of energy demand, the equivalent usage of 1.4 million U.S. homes, while AWS data centers in Virginia are powered by only 12 percent RE – too little, too slowly. Although AWS could influence the state's strategy on RE, despite its public statements, it seems to be doing less than it should.

According to an in-depth study by the nonprofit Greenpeace, of 15 companies having data centers in Virginia, nine have made some sort of renewable energy commitment. But, only five – AWS, Microsoft, Facebook, Salesforce, and Apple – have some renewable power sources for their Virginia operations. Of these five only Apple, with the smallest requirement of 20 megawatts, has reached the 100 percent level.

The tech giants that own the data centers are Dominion's customers. So, perhaps they should be the ones hounding Dominion for RE sources. According to UtilityDive.com, ten tech companies sent a letter to Dominion criticizing the company for "continuing to plan for the development of additional natural gas infrastructure." The companies included Apple, Microsoft, AWS and seven others, though neither Google nor Facebook.

The Bottom Line

Who are the losers if this trend continues? Tech giants will continue to build data centers and profit from them. Power companies will continue to produce energy and profit from doing so. The citizens of Loudoun and the world – we and future generations everywhere – will see the effects of climate change – flooding, droughts, mega-storms – with damage to homes, crops, roads, water supplies, and loss of life. Finding and using RE sources is a global problem, which requires global as well as local solutions. Given the rapid growth of data centers and the tremendous amount of energy they need, it's critical that we find ways to encourage them to transition away from fossil fuels as rapidly as possible.

Jane Miley

*Leesburg, with thanks to Marcia Carlyn, Robin Kent,
Ibrahim Moiz, and Greenpeace*

Supervisor Matt Letourneau retorted with the best quote of the entire 3-1/2 year process, "What planet are you from?"

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PURCELLVILLE COMP PLAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

multi-family units, Nelis encouraged the Commission to add a higher story threshold to the plan, so that there could be more density throughout the Town. "There's a large emphasis on comments of the community members and they are quoted in here. They are helpful, I think; they are very interesting, but every so often they slide into your recommendations. I just want to remind the Commission it's your responsibility to recommend a plan to the Town Council, not community members.

"I found six different places in the plan recommendations where the 'community recommends.' You know this is not a document of direct democracy."

But, Purcellville resident Uta Brown said, "I would just like to make a plea for people to stop and think about what do we pay for growth. It seems to me that the citizens in this Town have made their decision – they like the Town the way it is. They do not want to change it too much." Ms. Brown continued, "It's worth it not to grow sometimes ... and the worst of the growth is the debt that we are going to leave our kids. Developers do not pay for roads and schools, period ... So let's get a grip on this, and let's be the people that say no, and enough is enough."

June 27 Planning Commission Work Session

At a June 27 Planning Commission work session, the Planning Commissioners reviewed the public's comments on the Purcellville 5.0 plan.

The PC focused mainly on the Eastern Gateway.

The area is comprised of two properties currently zoned Transition X, allowing for agriculture, assisted living of one to eight individuals, bed and breakfast, single family homes and equestrian facilities, to name a few.

The properties are the DiPalma-Kipfer property located at 38038 West Colonial Highway, next to Catoctin Corner, and the O'Toole property, located at the southeast corner of Rt. 287 and Business 7 near the traffic circle on Main Street.

The property owners, who have actively attended the three-year planning process, want MC-Mixed Use Commercial, as this would give them the most money for their property and the highest density options.

The results of the work session were summed up by Planning Commissioner Chip Paciulli, who said, "We have gone full circle," meaning that, over the three-year Comprehensive Plan review process, the Commission has gone back and forth and back and forth on these two properties. First the properties had agricultural commercial use designations – the same as their neighboring property, Crooked Run Orchard, a Virginia Century Farm.

With each additional review, the PC agreed not to revisit the decision. Purcellville Town Council Member Tip Stinnette – Chair of the Planning Commission – would however, bring up the issue again,

Purcellville's Draft Comp Plan

The draft plan includes some of the following categories:

- **Multi-Family** – two-to-three story buildings and "larger format buildings may be appropriate as part of planned developments nearer to the highway. Parking garages or lots in the interior of the development" are also allowed. (Page 40).
- **Mixed-Use Neighborhood Scale** – to include commercial, retail, office, institutional, and multi-family residential in the upper stories of buildings; two-to-three-story buildings being common. (Page 41)
- **Mixed-Use Medium Scale** – commercial, retail, office services, and multi-family to include adult housing, residential and town homes; two-to-three-story buildings being common. (Page 42)
- **Commercial Neighborhood Scale** – retail, office, services, lodging, and restaurants. Buildings are typically one-to-two stories. (Page 43)
- **Commercial Medium Scale** – retail, office service, lodging, and restaurants. Buildings are typically one to two stories, but may have larger footprints, and story heights than in the neighborhood-scale commercial areas. Residential use is encouraged over the first floor of commercial buildings. (Page 44)
- The Planning Commission added the use of multi-family and senior housing to the Hirst East focus area map in the draft comp plan.

each time pushing for more intensive uses on the properties.

For example, at a July 26, 2018 Planning Commission meeting, Stinnette again raised the issue of adding more density to the properties. Paciulli reminded Stinnette that, "We already went through this, and we made all the changes, and we were told we can't keep on revisiting this."

At the end of 2018, the area was proposed for Rural Transition designation with commercial intensions, including a conference center of two stories or less.

At the June 27, 2019 work session, the Commissioners agreed to designate the parcels as agricultural, addressing consistent citizen sentiment that, as the eastern most gateway to Town, both the properties should remain relatively green, to also avoid saddling the area with traffic problems that more commercial activity would bring.

Said Planning Commissioner Nan Forbes, "It was clear that many people in the public hearing don't want commercial in this area. We have a lot of commercial in the area now."

Forbes also noted that the previous Planning Commission did not approve the Catoctin Corner development, and she said, "I suspect for a very good reason." She noted that many people in the Town "are telling us they want what is nice to stay that way." "If the goal is to keep it green, then you don't put in buildings, and you don't pave it over," said Forbes.

Stinnette said, "We are in the business to come up with a plan that represents the will of the community at large," adding later, "At the end of the day, the property owner does have some vested rights with their property to try and make something out of their vested property."

Forbes responded, "There are no vested rights. There are ownership rights." She added, "Our job is to figure out what's best for the Town and what we want this to look like."

Ultimately the planning commissioners at the June 27 work session, agreed to give the area an agricultural designation.

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GREEN ASSETS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

over a year.

Said the Mayor, "Economic value from green space in the Town of Purcellville, I see this as a significant opportunity for the Town and western Loudoun County to contribute to environmental sustainability, while at the same time obtaining revenue to fund our utility enterprise, and pay down our debt. I will encourage our Economic Development Advisory Committee to research and draft a Request for Proposal that will position Purcellville to benefit from its inventory of green assets under HB 2485."

Importantly, HB 2485 allows a municipality to "aggregate" or bring landowners together to attract investment capital for the purchase of these carbon or environmental credits.

For example, Purcellville has 1,200 acres in its watershed property, and the nearby Town of Hamilton owns, let's say 500 acres of undeveloped land. Under IDA rules Purcellville and Hamilton can come together and have 1,700 acres of credits – worth millions of dollars – to sell to investors. These investors are major corporations and organizations such as Duke Energy, or Google, or The Dulles Airport Authority who need carbon sequestration credits, nutrient credits, or wetland mitigation credits to offset environmental losses from developing elsewhere.

Other Purcellville-owned assets include the 15.49-acre Bowman Park,

8.8 acres north of the wastewater treatment plant and the 40-plus acres of the plant itself, the 6.5-acre Jeffries property, the nearly 20 acres at the Fireman's Field/Dillons Woods complex, the 12.5-acre Susan Kane West Side Reserve land, the 11-acre Susan Kane East Side Reserve land, and the 5-plus-acre Community Garden property, all of which will never be developed, can serve as, in effect, the depository of those credits.

At the June 25 work session Town Manager David Mekarski echoed Fraser's support of the idea, relating the story of a farmer with 500 acres who received nearly \$5 million dollars through carbon sequestration credits. He said this could "really move the needle on our debt."

Purcellville's RFP on the issue would be targeted towards companies in the business of establishing industrial development authorities and matching the sellers of carbon credits to the potential buyers of carbon credits.

From Mayor Fraser's perspective, carbon sequestration credits, wetland mitigation credits, and nutrient credits present ways to further monetize what he estimates are the \$129-plus million in assets owned by the Town. They include the 1,200-acre watershed property, and the 189-acre Aberdeen property.

Said Fraser, "Asphalt should not be the last crop in Purcellville."

PREMIER COMPUTERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

"It's all about helping people stay connected and well-equipped technology wise, whether it's a home computer set-up, difficulty dealing with an ISP server, or establishing a simple line of sight for a satellite system."

One simple paragraph on the Premier Computer website expresses an idea that makes this company truly special

JOHN WHITBECK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

density near the Town of Leesburg, and I will work to reverse that mistake.

My wife and I lived in an Affordable Dwelling Unit when we first moved to Sterling nearly 20 years ago, so when I say that I am committed to attainable housing, I mean it. The attainable housing that Loudoun had 20 years ago allowed me to start my family and business. I fear this type of opportunity no longer exists in Loudoun.

As for data centers, they have been an asset for Loudoun County, generating revenue to boost our economy and fund essential services, such as our education system. However, I will work to ensure data centers are placed in the right locations outside our Rural Policy Area and away from land better used for residential development.

BRL: How would you protect western

in a world of technology providers ... not all of whom, get it.

"We believe in offering better advice, parts, systems and turnaround time than our competitors, and we believe in being honest. We offer the best support to residential and commercial clients alike. We believe in adding value to a persons life ... not taking it away."

Loudoun and the Transition Policy Area?

JW: I am committed to maintaining the character of our rural west. In order to do that, we need Supervisors that are committed to maintaining the Rural Policy Area as is. I support a transfer of development rights program, and I will also reverse the recent transfer of open space to high density housing around Leesburg.

I am also committed to a redistricting plan that ensures western Loudoun maintains two Supervisors on the Board that represent rural areas.

BRL: You proposed, along with Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman, to expand our School Resource Officer Program. Why?

JW: Our School Resource Officer Program is a nationally recognized program that protects our middle schools and high schools.

ALL-STAR GAME, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

three and striking out four." Cannons batters played a role, too, bringing in those eight, hard-fought runs.

James Madison University's Veterans Memorial Park will host the All-Star Game.

The North squad is comprised of players from Front Royal, New Market, Purcellville, Strasburg, Winchester, and Woodstock. The South squad consists of athletes from Charlottesville, Covington, Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro. Each squad initially included nine pitchers and 16 position players.

Per the announcement from the Valley Baseball League, "The North team will be managed by Strasburg's Brock Moss, and the South by Waynesboro's Zac Cole. Managers of the rosters were determined by the highest teams in the standings at the conclusion of games

through Friday, June 28.

"Batting practice and autograph/photo sessions for young fans will take place 3:10-4:45 p.m. The 60-yard dash contest will be held at 4:50 p.m., and the Home Run Derby at 5:20 p.m. Player introductions will be at 7:15 p.m., with first pitch set for 7:30 p.m.

"The evening will also feature the fourth class of the Valley Baseball League Hall of Fame, which will be introduced at 7:00 p.m."

With the appearance of Travis Keys and the Hall of Fame ceremonies, it will be a great afternoon and evening for Cannons fans at George Mason.

A traveling All-Star team – representing the league's top-rated prospects for the Southern Collegiate Showcase was yet to be announced as of press time. Cannons fans are hoping Keys will be among the players selected.

VIEW FROM THE RIDGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

economic growth knocking on our doors ... unspent.

And, that is Loudoun County's heartbreaking conundrum. How to resist the cold, hard cash that is being offered to us in exchange for the destruction of things that can never be brought back once bought and paid for – productive farmland, historic structures, essential wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, quality of life.

The new Comp Plan leaves no stone unturned with respect to the County's development potential. If anything, the Plan is telling us how much we are worth. No scrap of land has gone unaccounted for in the planner's inventory of possible places to use to meet "the market's" demands.

But, what do we as a County, want to be?

In April 2109 we reported on the tremendous success of a Loudoun-based project known as America's Routes.

The project documents the life of Loudoun County's 300 miles of historic country roads – assets, by the way, which are worth millions and millions of dollars in tourist revenue.

The film, photography, and homegrown historic preservation effort won two nationally and internationally significant awards – the Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for "Excellence in Video," and the Gold ADDY marketing and graphic design award.

More recently, the project was awarded an Emmy. Loudoun's dirt roads were awarded an Emmy.

There are billions of dollars worth of economic growth knocking on our doors.

There are also incalculable treasures right here – treasures worth their weight in gold – waiting to be protected.

Maybe sorting through all of this isn't necessarily a heart-breaking conundrum. But perhaps a search for the better choice.

It's time we gave the same protection to our teachers, staff, and students in elementary schools.

Not only do these officers protect our schools, but they also develop a positive rapport between the community and the sheriff's office. This is a crucial and often overlooked aspect of the program. As trained professionals, they are well equipped to assist administrators with bullying, behavioral issues, and other scenarios that are common in our schools.

BRL: Tell us something about yourself, something that people may not know, that makes you suited for this job.

JW: Mental health has been a passion of mine my entire career, spanning almost 20

years. As a mental health attorney, former Adjunct Professor of Mental Health Law, and former Special Justice for mental health cases, I have worked hard to ensure individuals have access to the care they need.

I ran a pro bono mental health clinic, which was so successful that the Fairfax Board of Supervisors took it over, and funded a full-time position in their County Attorney's office. As Chair, I will bring this program to Loudoun.

Candidates rarely, if ever, campaign on mental health, and our elected officials are not doing enough to address this crucial issue. I will make this a major part of my work as Chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

GRANT FRASER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

was a saver' ... I was always putting a little bit of money away. Maybe for something like this.

"At age 4 or 5," he continued, "I took up violin – and I learned that by ear. I've also played trombone, I picked up the guitar on the way, and also took up piano my freshman year in high school. That's also when I started writing, too – around my freshman year in high school."

As for the production of Runaway, Frazier is incredibly modest about that record, with music and lyrics that are both as polished and unique as they are simple – like listening to the original album of what most of us describe as our original favorite artist.

"The first one, Runaway, I kept it pretty clean," said Frazier. "I

recorded the album at a recording studio in Purcellville called M80. I think I was the first artist to record an album there.

"Every artist has their own path," he continued. "When I started, I wanted to produce music that was vulnerable, and open. That's how I wanted to begin my career. To show people who I was through my music.

"I grew up listening to John Mayer and Ed Sheeran," said Frazier. "They were a big inspiration for my first album. I've also gotten a lot of inspiration from the jazz ensembles I've played with. Miles Davis and Bruce Hornsby are also two people who have inspired me tremendously." Today, Frazier still plays in a jazz ensemble, and performs in connection with events at UVA.

He also plays "the bar scene," as he describes it. "Charlottesville has a pretty cool music scene," he said. "And, I also play at the Southern Café & Music Hall."

Frazier's mom lives in Purcellville. His dad lives in Aldie, and his brother Neill is spreading his own wings in Boston.

Frazier has a full lineup of appearances in the area this summer.

Upcoming concert dates:

Acoustic on the Green, Leesburg, August 3, 7 p.m.
 Quattro Goombas Brewery, Aldie, August 16, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 The Barns at Hamilton Station, Hamilton, Sept. 13, 5:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
 Greenhill Vineyard, Middleburg, Sept. 15, 2 to 4 p.m.

AMERICA'S ROUTES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

slavery and the struggle for freedom, the coming of the automobile, and the modern era existing beside traditional farms," Korff said in a press release.

"Rather than allowing rural Loudoun and its roadways to turn into anywhere America, this initiative seeks to document, commemorate and educate about this irreplaceable resource. And, most importantly, its mission is to invite others to experience these roadways themselves, whether by car, on foot, bike or horse.

"No one with America's Routes wants to discourage Loudoun's success. On the contrary, members believe the region's economy thrives thanks to the county's bucolic charm."

In recent months the homegrown

historic preservation effort won two nationally and internationally significant awards in the areas of documentary filmmaking 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.

The 61st Emmys were presented by The National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences on Saturday, June 22, at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center.

Watch the video, and find America's Routes' photos, short stories, and a history tour that can be done on foot, horseback, bicycle or by car at AmericasRoutes.com.

For more information, visit AmericasRoutes.com or call 540 687-6681.

UNMARKED GRAVES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

organizations to help the County build and refine the list – based on historical research, and individual family histories previously shared only around the kitchen table, or, as a memory of a long-lost loved one's passing. Many sites are virtually invisible to the naked eye – with no tombstones, or markers, or identifying features.

The new online tool – a publically accessible database – was developed by Loudoun's Office of Mapping and Geographic Information (GIS), in consultation with the Department of Planning and Zoning.

According to County mapping professionals, most of the cemeteries identified are on private property. As a

result, the database will be helpful to County planners and others working on specific development projects.

The County worked with a wide variety of individuals and organizations on the mapping effort, including local historians and property owners and other nonprofit and government entities, including the Thomas Balch Library and its Black History Committee, and the Loudoun Freedom Center.

Virginia law protects both the rights of the property owners upon whose land any grave or burial ground is located. It also protects the rights of historians and descendants to access the site to pay their respects to loved ones and ancestors, or conduct research.

Office of Mapping and GIS Director Kristin Brown made one of the most important points about the effort,

COUNTY FAIR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

agricultural heritage.

As the fair opens, "Rabbit Showmanship" will be getting started in the Green Barn Area, and Milking Demonstrations & Facts About Cows will be underway in (of course!) the Dairy Barn.

You'll find the Marvelous Mutts dog agility show performing daily, as well as the Team Rock Ninja Experience, and the Agracadabra and Hypno Show with Brad Machette.

Over the course of the week, there will be "Who's in the Barnyard" guided tours and Horse Showmanship demonstrations.

Fair dinners will be offered every night, sponsored by a local 4-H youth group. These include the 4-H Goat Club (tacos), the Beef Club (roast beef and burgers with all of the trimmings), the Sheep Club (BBQ lamb), the Poultry Club (grilled chicken), and others. The dinners are a real highlight of the fair and help support the cause.

Chicken Poop Bingo is sure to attract a crowd.

"Whether you are an entertainment buff, a parent looking for kid-friendly activity, or just curious to see what a fair is all about, there is something for you."

And, here are a few words in support of the canine show called Marvelous Mutts – a spectacular show of dog agility and human kindness. According to the Marvelous Mutts website – which describes this dog agility show, its origins, and its support of youth education – "All of The Marvelous Mutts were adopted from shelters and rescues, and do their best to show that rescued dogs can thrill audiences everywhere they perform ... The fair is an opportunity for a community to come togeth-

Fair tickets and schedule details

The Loudoun County Fair runs from Tuesday July 23 to Sunday July 28. A full, day-by-day schedule can be found at www.loudouncountyfair.com. It's the best way to plan your day and visit to the fair. There is a \$5 (in cash) parking pass fee that is good all week.

Purchase tickets at www.tickets.loudouncountyfair.com for a single day or a full week. Children under five are always free. Single day adult tickets (and children 13 and up) are \$12, kids over five, \$5. Full week adult tickets (and children 13 and up) are \$35, kids over five, \$12. Tickets can also be purchased at the gate and credit cards are accepted. Prices may vary. Tuesday is Seniors' Day; Wednesday is Children's Day.

A few friendly notes: The Loudoun County Fairgrounds is private property. Firearms are not permitted. Only sworn law enforcement officers are exempted from this policy. No pets are allowed on the fairgrounds. Service animals are welcome.

The Loudoun County Fairground is located at 17558 Dry Mill Road, Leesburg.

er and promote youth agriculture education, have fun, and have some friendly competition."

Marvelous Mutts was funded by Kara Gilmore and Nadja Palenzuel. Trainer and performer Christina Curtis works right alongside them today.

Said Palenzuel, "We are very excited to be performing at the Loudoun County Fair!"

Other performances, entertainment, and educational opportunities during the week include the Stoney Roberts Derby, a watermelon-eating contest, a classic kiss-a-pig contest, and a Loudoun County Firefighter's Competition.

And did someone say ... lawnmower races? Yes.

There will also be absolutely awesome music from Mountain Highway, Bluetrain Bluegrass, and others. And, the 2019 Miss Loudoun County Fair Pageant will also take center stage.

Love it all ... don't miss it ... eat your heart out ... and here's to those doggies!

including the inherent difficulty – but importance – of codifying this information.

"We faced a number of challenges in this project," said Brown. "The socio-economic status of Loudoun residents varied widely in the 17th century, including enslaved African Americans, poor tenant farmers, and wealthy property owners. As a result, burial traditions varied. People were often buried on private property, sometimes with engraved monuments or headstones, but often with wooden markers that have since disintegrated."

"The interactive map is intended to serve as a tool for documenting history and future land use planning," said Brown. "It's important to identify the sites, but we also encourage residents to follow the law."

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ASK DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

days, but that doesn't mean that your teen can't stop into a place (after applying on-line) to introduce him or herself to a potential employer. An on-line application will certainly get things going, but following up with strong in person introduction can be what's needed to separate your teen from the larger pack of on-line applicants to secure that job.

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

chair with a crowbar, and the three of us shared incoming facts, mutual feelings, interviews with rattled officials, and at least a few tears as we learned more about the scope of that day's tragedies. I was (and still am) very grateful to have had those guys around during that time. Fast forward a few years: I still recall the look on Chris' face - this was in the spring of 2007 when we learned - seconds before going on air - that the number of fatalities in the Virginia Tech shooting was not eight, as we'd been previously told, but more than 30.

"We can do this," Chris' eyes and set jaw seemed to say. And we did.

And so much more: a lifetime of memories, sitting down and talking to that guy at the mike; instead of just reading the news stories - Chris (and Paul, and others) would 'pump' me - during their live segments, for the interesting stuff in whatever

local issue was on the block. This often led us to deep and murky, but very interesting waters.

I remember the only time I saw Chris really cry; later in the spring of 2007 the new owners were letting most of the on-air talent go, and he literally staggered under the weight of emotions, into the news room (where else was I gonna be?), and tried to gently break the news. He couldn't form the words; here was this supercool guy coming in to offer sympathy at a time when he knew it was needed. That meant more to me than all the explanatory equivocation I received from the powers that be.

Well, Chris lost Dene to cancer several years after we all left the radio station; I recall the devastation in his face when he told me of her condition; many of us believe he never fully recovered from the loss (yes, theirs was true love), and we gathered for Chris' services, as we had for Dene's, at the

Here's to your teens restful, fun and productive summer.

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

little chapel on Gleedsville Road: Andrew McKnight, Les Thompson and others shared music that had Chris not already been among us in spirit - I felt he would have thoroughly enjoyed.

Looking back on my time with Chris, probably my favorite of all memories would be him in that soulful, baritone voice on a sparkling spring morning outside of Wage studios, reminding me that the mockingbirds' songs we both enjoyed came to us simply due to their feeling 'amorous.' Now, that's not the word Chris actually used; you may need to consult a thesaurus on that one.

And I must say to end at the beginning, that whenever I watch *Rebel Without a Cause* I get goosebumps when the late, beloved James Dean screams 'I got the bullets!' after the police have shot his friend.

These moments and memories I carry with me on every trip to Round Hill, Virginia.

LEESBURG WATER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

the decades-long policy language contained in the County's Revised General Plan that designates the Town of Leesburg as the utility service provider in the Joint Land Management Area ... The Board passed these motions hastily, based on comments from developers made not in a public meeting."

The COLT letter continued: "Reversing a decades-long policy in a single meeting, with no input from Leesburg and no objective analysis of the impact of this change on Leesburg utility customers and Leesburg's infrastructure investments affecting the JLMA is the very opposite of a town/county partnership with transparent governance ... These motions affect not only Leesburg but set a troubling precedent for all Loudoun County towns and our future relationships with Loudoun County."

In public testimony before the BOS, COLT members described the Comp Plan as it existed at that time as "indefensible," "irresponsible," and "transparently developer-centric." The Loudoun Water vote seemed to reinforce their assessment.

Commenting via email on the issue, Purcellville Mayor Fraser said: ... "with the recent surprise motion and vote to allow Loudoun Water to be the sole provider of water and sewer to Leesburg's JLMA, this begs the question as to where the true interest of the BOS lies ... Years ago, Leesburg made a decision to invest in their utility enterprise in anticipation of extending service to its JLMA. Given the County's recent vote, Leesburg will not be able to recoup that investment unless it merges with Loudoun Water. As the rest of the Mayors in Loudoun County, we will need to carefully watch any further advancement by Loudoun Water westward with the support of the BOS into the RPA [Rural Policy Area] and other JLMAs. Whoever controls water and sewer controls development."

In a June email exchange, Round Hill Mayor Ramsey asked Blue Ridge Supervisor Buffington to explain his vote in favor of giving Leesburg's JLMA over to Loudoun Water.

Said Ramsey: "The change to replace the Town of Leesburg with Loudoun Water as the primary utility provider in the Leesburg JLMA without warning, with no notification to the Town or the public [that] it was even under consideration until the last minute, with no staff report, with no fiscal impact analysis, with no public disclosure of the private communications between the Board and other individuals that drove this decision, and no consideration to the substantial public investment already made by the residents of the Town of Leesburg in infrastructure, was not one of a thoughtful body acting transparently in the public eye mindful of a long-term relationship with the Towns, but instead as a raw exercise of power displayed petulantly in a heat of passion. That is not how to repair a damaged relationship - it requires engagement, not an act of aggression."

Ramsey added, "I was sad and disappointed to see your name next to this type of behavior ... Will Round Hill get more than 48 hours' warning when you come after us? That is, unfortunately, the question I find myself asking right now."

Buffington responded to Ramsey, saying he was "unaware of the pending motion until only hours before it was made by Supervisor Buona."

He also said he had "received a call from him [Buona] prior to the meeting concerning strong-handed tactics being taken by the Town of Leesburg, requiring quick action to avoid the loss of several large companies from investing in Loudoun." In the end, said Buffington, "I did feel the need to support the motion."

That exchange indicated the Board of Supervisors' desire

to play both sides of the fence; considering major changes to the Comprehensive Plan, while at the same time entertaining development proposals, including data center projects that stand in conflict with current zoning law.

Pro-growth advocates on the Board have been displeased with Leesburg's managed growth approach to the rewrite of the County Comprehensive Plan. Leesburg has advocated for more limited residential development in its JLMA, and has also pushed back hard on the Board's increasingly immovable stance on bringing into the County as many data centers as possible. Data centers bring hundreds of millions of dollars into the County coffers. However, they are also huge consumers of water.

According to Mayor Burk, the recent vote signals that the BOS is more concerned with getting those tax dollars than thinking through how this kind of development may impact a town such as Leesburg. The vote also strikes at the heart of maintaining a cooperative approach to Loudoun's JLMAs - around towns such as Leesburg, Purcellville, Round Hill, and others.

Referring to Leesburg, she said: "While the County is frustrated that the Town charges out-of-town rates, that is something we have been doing for 10 years or more, as have so many other towns in Loudoun and Northern Virginia. Nothing changed on our part. The change has come from the BOS side, without looking at the financial impacts to the Town. They seem more concerned about the development community than the Town of Leesburg and its residents."

A week later, the Leesburg Town Council officially responded to the BOS Loudoun Water decision. In a unanimous vote, they approved the drafting of a resolution that considers steps to begin full annexation of the JLMA. If carried out, such action would remove the JLMA from County control.

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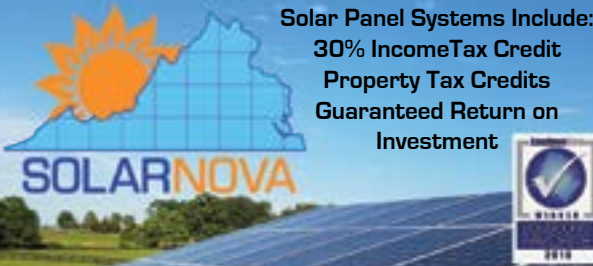


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