

Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

16th ANNUAL PURCELLVILLE TAG SALE See p.22

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SINCE 1984

Second lawsuit seeks \$9.1 million bite out of Purcellville's hide

BY VALERIE CURY

On Sept. 19, Purcellville Police Officer Kristopher T. Fraley filed a lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Loudoun County against the Town of Purcellville, former Interim Town Manager Alex Vanegas,

consultant Georgia Nuckolls, former Police Lieutenant Joseph Schroeck, former Police Sergeant Clark McDaniel, and Daryl DeBow, owner of Northern Virginia Pre-Employment and Polygraph Services.

The Fraley lawsuit – which

seeks \$9.1 million in damages – mirrors a \$16 million lawsuit filed by Purcellville Police Chief Cynthia McAlister in July, naming former Interim Town Manager Alex Vanegas, individually and officially, Georgia Nuckolls, the Town of

Purcellville, and six Purcellville Police Officers – individually and officially.

McAlister's lawsuit accuses various parties – including Vanegas – of “maliciously conspiring” to remove her as

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

The 9th Annual Purcellville Halloween Block Party



Thousands of people of all ages attended the Purcellville Halloween Block Party last year coming from all over Loudoun, Clarke, Fairfax County and beyond. This family friendly event promises to be even bigger and better this year with more planned activities. The

Block Party will be held Saturday, Oct. 26 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on 21st Street in Old Town Purcellville. The street will be closed to vehicular traffic and transformed into Loudoun County's largest Halloween Party.

They'll be fun Halloween

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Hardware Cafe ... yes, you read that right

BY ANDREA GAINES

Just when you thought that the 105-year history of Nichols Hardware – immortalized by the creative trio of Drew Babb, Sarah Huntington, and Peter Buck in the iconic film “Nichols: The Last Hardware Store” – couldn't get any more fascinating... it does.

Pretty soon when you pull up to Nichols to do your hardware shopping, as you are strolling through historic downtown Purcellville, or as you are looking for “a place to meet,” you will be able to pay a visit to the Hardware Cafe – fully stocked with all of the things that can satisfy your stomach, your desire to unwind, or your need for a little pick-me-up.

What a cool concept. A casual, quaintly modern, coffee, snack bar, and congregation spot attached to one of the most famous hardware stores in the region, if not in the country.

Stop in for a simple cup of coffee or a soda, enjoy a casual bite to eat with a friend, or take a little time to cozy up to your favorite book, checking your email along the way.

Centrally located in historic downtown Purcellville with easy parking, the cafe – which will occupy what is now an old appliance section of the Nichols store – will no doubt develop into one of the most popular places to be as you meet up with a colleague, or power your afternoon with a tempting bit of local pastry.

According to local veterinarian Valerie Campbell, who, with husband Don Nichols, and son Geoffrey is behind the cafe, this endeavor can serve as a way to help the whole Nichols Hardware complex do its part to maintain and renew 21st Street, the heart of Purcellville's historic downtown. “We hope to attract the bike trail crowd and some other sight seers that are looking for

the hidden gems in Purcellville,” she said.

Hardware Cafe will be a very unique kind of place. It is meant to be “a one-of-a-kind destination for locals and people visiting the area.” And, given the immediate area's day-to-day economic activity, tourism trade, impressive history, and plethora of antique, restaurant, small business professional, consignment, and other businesses, this just might be the place to make that happen.

“We will have a wi-fi hotspot and good internet, so people can check their email and read the paper and what not,” said Campbell. “We will also have some television for news or entertainment. After that, whatever the public wants, we will try to provide. Hours will likely mirror the hardware store.”

Hardware Cafe has secured some

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Franklin Park site of first-ever Bob Ross exhibit on east coast

BY ANDREA GAINES

"I like painting because it gives me total freedom ... and it's the only place in my whole life that I've total freedom to do anything ..."

Artist extraordinaire, and PBS star Bob Ross said this in 1993, and that wonderful creative sentiment is on full display at the Franklin Park Arts Center in Purcellville from now until Oct. 15, presented in partnership with Bob Ross, Inc.

Ross was a very different kind of painter, offering his artistic talents up as both a producer of beautiful images and as a teacher on a long series of public television shows. Franklin Park struck artistic gold in securing the rights to show a collection of his original works this fall – the first time his art

has been on public display on the East Coast.

An opening reception for the exhibit of Ross's work was held at Franklin Park on Sept. 15. Ross's work will be on display in the Art Center Gallery until mid October.

"This has been transformative for Franklin Park Arts Center," said Eliz-



Waiting in line to see the Bob Ross exhibit at Franklin Park Arts Center in Purcellville.



abeth Bracey, Managing Director. "Bob Ross is an icon in American culture and we are honored and thrilled to be hosting the first-ever full gallery exhibit. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and so many visitors have shared their personal stories

and connections with us. Bob Ross fans are so happy!

"It has been an amazing opportunity for the Arts Center to host this exhibit," Bracey continued. "To put it in perspective, last year we welcomed just over 30,000 visitors. During the Bob Ross exhibit, we expect to welcome

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Loudoun County Fall Farm Tour October 19 – 20

Don't even hesitate!

Put it on your schedule right now ... the 2019 Loudoun County Fall Farm Tour.

The tour runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the weekend of Oct. 19 & 20 and is a totally free, self-guided tour through western Loudoun County.

Everything you'd want for a beautiful fall weekend is here, including pick-your-own pumpkins, delicious refreshments, and fresh-pressed apple cider. There are animals, animals and more animals – from alpacas to piglets to sheep to horses. Sample local, respon-

Will I see you at the tour?



Photo courtesy of Donkey Meadows, one of the liveliest stops on the tour.

sibly-raised food, beer and wine, and more. And, as County promoters say, "Take your piece of Loudoun home." From farms, to B&Bs, to equestrian businesses, to arts and crafters, to wineries and breweries, this is western Loudoun County at its best.

For a Farm Tour map and additional details go to LoudounFarms.org. Sites on the tour include:

- Lovettsville Cooperative Market, Lovettsville
- Georges Mill Farm Artisan Cheese, Lovettsville
- Long Stone Farm, Lovettsville
- Homestead 1870, Hillsboro
- Hillsboro Country Inn, Hillsboro

- Virts Family Farm, Purcellville
- Butterfly Farm Store, Waterford
- Shepherds Corner Farm, Purcellville
- Equus to Educate, Purcellville
- Donkey Meadows, Purcellville
- Fort Bacon Farm, Purcellville
- Blooming Hill Lavender Farm & Gift Shop, Purcellville
- Three Bags Wool Farm, Purcellville
- Day Spring Farm, Middleburg
- Davlin Farm in Purcellville
- Wegmeyer Farms, Hamilton
- Hogback Mountain Pony Rides, LLC, Leesburg

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Purcellville Art Gallery announces Grand Opening Extravaganza

The Purcellville Art Gallery, which opened its doors on July 31, 2019 at 760 E. Main Street, will have its Grand Opening on Saturday, Oct. 12. Previously scheduled for Sept. 14, the gallery added more events to mark the Grand Opening day.

Gallery co-founder, artist Anne Stine confirmed, "the October 12 date was just going to work better for the new exhibit, the grand opening ceremonies and the Artists Market – all making for a big day at the gallery!"

Beginning at noon, the Artists Market will open in the area behind the gallery building. The Market runs

until 7 p.m. and will feature work from all artists (not just those residing in Western Loudoun). Original artwork such as functional pottery, jewelry, handmade accessories, artwork in all mediums and other handmade items will be available for sale. Extra parking on Saturday after 12 p.m., is available at Browning Equipment, Inc. located next door. The deadline for applications to participate in the Artists Market is October 3, 2019. Details and eligibility information can be found on the gallery's website: purcellvilleartgallery.com

At 6 p.m. the Grand Opening festivities kick off with

a Ribbon Cutting with Town of Purcellville elected officials. From 6 to 9 p.m. there will be an artist's reception to celebrate the start of a new exhibit in the gallery. The reception will be an opportunity to view the artwork, meet some of the artists and enjoy refreshments. New, juried artwork from Western Loudoun artists will be featured for the exhibit's length, running from Oct. 3 – Jan. 5, 2020. A call for artwork for the subsequent exhibit will then be announced in November.

Art classes in the gallery have been organized and

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Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth:

Gilbert's Corner Regional Park

BY TIM JON

I almost felt like I was flying – my feet, legs, entire body even – moving along just under the point of lift-off (yes, like when an object leaves the ground and becomes airborne), and had the sense that I could have indefinitely sustained this seemingly effortless movement; my spirit – at this juncture – began giving me signals that the ethereal portion of my being could, if I chose, leave behind its physical component and simply carry on by its own power and will. No this wasn't part of a government-sanctioned drug experiment, and no I didn't slip a little psilocybin in my morning coffee: I simply took a drive, then went on a brief, but invigorating walk. The whole experience was probably nothing more than a combination of an abrupt change in environment, a healthy dose of self-generated endorphins, some direct sunlight and an imagination that's been trained – over generations – to seek far horizons. I simply became an example of that lucky individual who stumbles upon gratification in their activities – when 'work' truly becomes play. Probably.

I found myself that morning (quite literally, you may realize) parking in the small lot and approaching the trail-head at the relatively new Gilbert's Corner Regional Park, just off Rt. 50 east of the highway junction bearing the same surname; the path seemed to consist of a simple mowing-swath of a good-sized bush-hog,



JON

maybe four feet wide (narrower where the encroaching foliage leaned in to say hello to passersby) and not very long – I completed the circuit (including a little tangent trail into the woods on the property) in just a matter of minutes. I truthfully would've wanted a much longer stroll had my schedule allowed, and timeliness may



have accounted for that morning's unusually brisk pace (I generally try to move with a sense of deliberation, barely a notch up from static contemplation, trying to apprehend the offerings of each moment, each step, each image), and I unintentionally worked up a bit of a lather on my brow, some deep breaths in the lungs and

a healthy pitter-pat under my ribs.

And this was the point at which we began the story, you and I, where our heroes were just reaching the apex of the last hill, toward the end of the walk, with the friendly-looking parking lot in sight, and thoughts of the day's remaining activities in mind; that's when all of the above factors fell into place and the universe joined in our movement (as it is now) or maybe we joined it, or maybe Albert Einstein proved that it is all one and, like the completion on the Sixth Day, I looked around and it was good. I imagine that this is how someone like William Shakespeare felt much of the time when he was 'working:' you should try it some-time.

For this place – Gilbert's Corner Regional Park, enjoys topography that affords distant views (including the Bull Run Mountains just to the Southwest), deep woods (and their corresponding insect life, in warm weather months) and, at least what felt like the healthiest air you could find this side of the Blue Ridge; you combine all these ingredients with a little gumption, and you've got the makings for simple inspiration (another wonderful contradiction in terms) not always so simple to procure or manipulate. But it's there for the taking.

And, allowing the spirit to truly leave this lump of clay, if only temporarily, as well as the hundred-fifty acres of today's story – I could well count myself

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My Solutions Architect Journey

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL



MOORE-SOBEL

Services offered by Amazon Web Services have been on my mind as of late.

S3, EC2, and VPC, just to name a few. Likely because I have spent the last several months studying on and off for the AWS Solutions Architect Exam.

This past spring, I worked my way through an online course, eager to obtain this certification. Upon completion, I took my first practice test. Much to my dismay, I received a low score. After that, I took another test, raising my score only by a few points. I felt like I lacked the technical knowledge and aptitude required to pass the test. I put away my study materials, resolving that passing this exam would remain out of reach.

Taking a test can be a daunting exercise. During my elementary, middle, and high school years, I would spend hours studying; yet, there were plenty of times when I felt like I could have performed better on a test. Test anxiety repeatedly got the better of me, causing me to second guess answers. So much of passing an exam involves quieting this anxiety. Knowing the right answers is often not enough.

Only when I got to college did something change. I no longer found tests to be intimidating, and I was able to perform at the level I had always envisioned. Yet I still feel a tinge of anxiety before taking a test. Approaching the Solutions Architect exam proved no different.

My story is not unique. I've encountered countless others who feel the same way. Whether it be about tests or other challenges, obstacles erected inside the human mind can sometimes prevent us from achieving our goals. A lack of confidence has the power to supersede raw potential or ability, holding us back as we ponder whether or not to reach toward what we aspire.

In the intervening years, I have also picked up a few test-taking tips. "Don't go back and change your answers," my brother said. According to him, my test-taking habits proved that I usually selected the right answer on the first try. A colleague suggested that I skip questions I found challenging, and go back and review them once I had made

my way through the test – a technique serving to build my confidence as I progressed through the exam, feeling buoyed as I encountered questions for which I was able to readily select the right answer.

Over the last few months, nearly every free moment was dedicated to this endeavor. I even referenced a document comprised of notes on my phone as I studied for this exam, reviewing it whenever I had a few seconds throughout the day.

On the day of the exam, I was nervous. I swatted away thoughts of failing, and instead, chose to reflect upon what I knew. There were things I didn't know, and questions I got wrong; but, the knowledge I did have was more than enough to carry the day.

When I was in high school and college, students often lamented the futility of testing. "There aren't tests in the real-world," was a common refrain, one to which I readily subscribed at the time. Until I ventured into the professional world, only to learn that tests were still a part of measuring and quantifying knowledge. Of achieving that promotion, or earning a higher salary. Tests matter, even well into adulthood.

Not to mention the personal satisfaction one can derive from learning. I studied so hard that I began to wonder whether the effort was worth it. But these thoughts completely dissipated the moment I passed the test. A feeling of euphoria swept over me, and I couldn't help but smile.

So, to the students currently in the throes of taking tests, the skills you are developing now will serve you well into the future. And, to all of those nervous test-takers out there, take heart. There are strategies you can employ to overcome your test anxiety. Previous test performance does not determine the future. You, too, can grow into a more confident test-taker.

The night after the test, I took one last look at the notes document on my phone. After having them open for weeks, I closed the document for good. Test completed; achievement attained. After a few moments of rest, it's on to the next challenge.

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

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How a developer thinks, or the lost forest

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

I bought a used paperback, “How a Developer Thinks,” hoping it might illuminate the homebuilders’ ways and wants, hoping I might find something useful in Loudoun’s wars against them. Nope. It focused on commercial projects such as the office buildings I devel-

OPINION

oped, rather than the cheesy production housing despoiling Loudoun.

The book brought back memories. One project I helped develop may reveal some similarities to homebuilders. If so, Mea culpa.

My Job

I worked for the country’s third-largest office building developer, based in Atlanta, running a development divi-

sion. I helped to develop over six million square feet of corporate and Class A office buildings. (That’s partly to brag and partly to establish credibility.) Fairly early in my career I quarterbacked the development of Glenlake, a 181-acre office park just north of Atlanta’s perimeter highway in the heart of executive-level suburbia. That last phrase is critical. Most developers choose the new and expensive areas of cities, like Loudoun County.

Growth Patterns

A city’s high-end residential growth is typically in one primary direction. Atlanta and Dallas, north. Houston, west. Nashville, south. Washington, D.C., west, including parts of Maryland but especially due west with Loudoun in the crosshairs. (Planners would often like to change these singular patterns,

but their profession is impotent. Nice, sincere people, but based on my experience with planners from Miami to New Orleans to Louisville and elsewhere, impotent.) That linear growth pattern makes Loudoun’s conservation movement difficult since the batteries of development artillery are aimed right at us.

Glenlake

Back to Atlanta and some points made in the book, which in many ways is a catalog of my career. Development is not a charity – the goal is making money, just as it is for other businesses. No apologies about that. Our chairman was close to the owner of a large, mature hardwood forest in a prime, wealthy Atlanta suburb and when the gentleman was finally ready to sell, we pounced. We saw profit. The \$6 mil-

lion purchase price seems ludicrously low today and frankly, was very low then. We needed two million more for a mile-long boulevard, several decorative retention ponds, huge amounts of landscaping, major signage, and the clearing of about 30 acres of prime old forest just to put in that infrastructure. Later, we took out most of the remaining woods as we put up office buildings.

We followed the “OPM” adage: Use other people’s money to do all this. Our plan was to increase the value of the Glenlake property far above its cost, and use the projected profit to bring an investor on board. Its cash would be used to buy the land and improve it. We’d then own the project with them as fifty-fifty partners and develop future buildings together. At this point we’d spent relative pennies of our own money.

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Please include your name, address and phone number.

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



Buffington listens to the citizen’s voices

Dear Editor:

I’m supporting incumbent Tony Buffington for re-election as our Blue Ridge Supervisor.

Tony aggressively represented the residents of the rural area during the recent debate over the Loudoun 2019 Plan.

Through his leadership and with the support of other Supervisors this vital component of Loudoun’s rural economy, heritage, and environment was largely protected. But the business interests which support a continued high rate of housing

LETTER

and development have not accepted the limitations of the Plan and will continue to press their case. The next four years will be critical in preserving the rural future the majority of us desire.

Therefore, I believe it is essential to re-elect Tony as he’s up to speed on the critical issues, has demonstrated his commitment to listen to the citizen’s voices, and will have the seniority and connections to get results with fellow Supervisors and, equally importantly, with the professional staff which will be processing development applications.

I have had the opportunity to work

directly with Tony where his leadership resulted in a favorable outcome. He worked hard to get a qualified rural resident appointed to the Zoning Ordinance Advisory Group (ZOAG) over formidable opposition, which has had a favorable impact on the work of the group. He played a key role in protecting the integrity of historic Aldie Village when the County wanted to build an out of scale modern fire/rescue facility in the heart of the village against the citizen’s wishes.

I am supporting Tony Buffington for

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LaRock attends to the needs of our community

Dear Editor:

Does anyone else sense that the level of political tension in our communities is getting out of control? Why is this happening? Maybe the more important question is, how far will this go?

I’ve loved my community here in Purcellville for many of the same reasons others do. Good neighbors care about each other, we’re not afraid to look at the person we walk past and might even venture to say hello to a stranger in the grocery store. We watch as babies turn into kids and then to young adults, and we mourn each other’s losses.

And then...

A few weeks ago my home, yes my safe place was violated. To my shock and

amazement, someone vandalized my property by throwing paint on my driveway and all over the Conservative political signs placed near it. How utterly uncivil.

Our nation’s laws, including our Constitution are rooted in Judeo-Christian principles. We are not wild things in a world where only the strong prevail, thank goodness. If we continue to drift away from these roots and discard the civility that respects the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception till natural death, the God-given liberty to be free from an oppression and the right to our own property which includes our income and possessions, as well as the right to protect ourselves, things in the future will not be pretty.

As we prepare to make our choices this Nov. 5, Election Day, I look for people who have demonstrated a strong respect for life, liberty, and property to represent me.

I have come to know Dave LaRock and his wonderful family since the first time he visited our neighborhood years ago. Dave and his family have servants’ hearts. His attention to the needs of our community doesn’t stop with education, or roads, it extends to those among us who are often overlooked.

Justice, mercy, and humility are what our community and our nation need more of. Dave gets this. I hope we will continue to choose Dave LaRock to represent us.

Teresa Maxwell
Purcellville

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Bob Ohneiser for Chairman

Dear Editor:

Unlike our federal government, or even our government in Richmond, the board of supervisors of Loudoun County is entirely composed of our friends and neighbors. The partisan divide that turns legislatures into competing blocs has proven itself destructive to our nation and our state. But that divide need not exist on the Loudoun board. That's because our board is made up of people who live together, work together, and have direct personal contact with the people that they serve. They are not distant politicians serving isolated areas. They are people that we

LETTER

know, who live here with us, and who have the same hopes and wishes we all share.

As a past member of the Loudoun board, I have worked with members of both our major parties, and with officials who are wholly independent. Party identity makes a strong statement, but it creates a degree of obligation that can conflict with the duties of a local government. I believe I did my best work as a member of Loudoun's board when I put party obligations aside and worked with other elected officials who could do the same thing. Over the course of four years, I came to rely on some of those officials to be constant sources of straight

information, worthwhile cooperation, and successful collaboration. Among those, none exceeded the skill, compassion, nor dedication to public service exhibited by one of the most independent thinkers I have ever known.

That is why I am endorsing Bob Ohneiser for chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. Bob is not a member of any political party. He doesn't even accept political donations. He is experienced, intelligent, and educated. He's a long time Loudouner. And he is unquestionably the best candidate of the field to lead a unified, service-oriented local government. I have run for

office in the past as the nominee of one party. But, over the last several years, I have supported members of both parties and also independent candidates, even when my own party fielded a nominee. That's because I know that community means more than party. My friend, Bob Ohneiser, knows that too.

I encourage the other citizens of Loudoun who put community first to join me in November, and vote for the one candidate who will serve us all: Bob Ohneiser.

Stevens Miller

*Past Member, Board of Supervisors
Broadlands*

Caleb for Catoctin

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to endorse my friend Caleb Kershner for Catoctin Supervisor. I have had the privilege of knowing Caleb and his wife Whitney for the last year. It is not just my friendship with Caleb that has prompted me to support him. His life and understanding of the issues Catoctin is facing have convinced me that he is the best candidate for the job.

LETTER

Caleb grew up on a farm in Frederick, Maryland sheering sheep and milking cows. He was an active 4-H kid and continued his farming work in Loudoun County where he sheered sheep to pay his way through law school. Caleb saw the struggles of his parents running the family farm and understands the problems that farmers face.

Caleb understands the issues. This

was obvious during the COLT debate on Sept. 16. When asked about the Transition Policy Area (TPA), the Democratic candidate Forest Hayes called for a moratorium on housing in the TPA, which Caleb pointed out is a violation of the 5th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Caleb clearly understands the law and correctly called out the unconstitutional policy.

When asked about guns, Caleb drew from his hunting experience to show the importance of defending the rights of gun owners while prosecuting gun offenders. Forest Hayes ignored this question and used it as a platform to talk about an issue unrelated to guns. Throughout the debate, Mr. Hayes made conflicting statements on Rt. 15. One moment he said he would expedite the already approved plan to adjust Rt. 15.

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Sam Kroiz, down to earth and above the fray

Dear Editor:

I want to be upfront and say that I have been supporting the independent candidate, Sam Kroiz, a fellow farmer and friend, to be our next Catoctin Supervisor. But I also want to say that I came away from the recent debate in Lovettsville between the three candidates with a favorable impression of Sam's responses to the questions that were submitted by citizens.

LETTER

As a farmer with a science degree from the University of Virginia and a married father of two young children, Sam was forthright about why he is running for the Board of Supervisors. He made it clear that with his wife Molly, they are reinventing how to make a

living on a farm that has been in Sam's family for eight generations. In other words, he lives it every day, which gives him a keen understanding of both the promise and vulnerability of rural Loudoun and its changing agriculture industry which the other candidates really cannot appreciate. He wants to be able to continue farming in the foreseeable future and wants to build a farming enterprise that his children can inherit and continue to farm in the next generation.

The other thing that impressed me about Sam was his "down to earth" answers and common sense. He made it clear that he supports the right of landowners to sell their land, but wants other good options made available.

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Serotkin is best

Dear Editor:

Ian Serotkin is without doubt the strongest candidate running to represent the Blue Ridge District on Loudoun's School Board.

His messaging is clear and he's run-

ning for the most appropriate reason: he cares. He has a single goal, to improve the school system that his children attend, and turn Loudoun County schools into the Country's premier school system.

To accomplish this, his platform is specific to Loudoun's unique needs, many caused by our rapid residential growth. Schools are built and almost immediately filled to capacity. The multimodal transportation infrastructure needed to ensure all students can safely get to and from school, in a distance that is appropriate and safe, whether

walking, waiting at bus stops, or being driven, isn't in place and needs prompt addressing. Classrooms in our newest buildings in the eastern section of our district are over crowded, and our older, beloved buildings in the west, which function well as neighborhood/community schools are under constant threat

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Vote for Mavis

Dear Editor:

Early in 2019 I was lucky to be invited to a question and answer session Mavis Taintor was hosting. I had just learned she intended to run again for Virginia House representative (district 33) and was both excited and curious about why.

LETTER

Several minutes in, I was listening as Mavis gently smiled and stated that she'd been encouraged to share her deeply personal dedication to ensuring the 33rd has a very different kind of representation than it currently has. She held up a picture of her son and explained that she lost him three years ago to a drug overdose, and she was dedicated to speaking and fighting for every person in the 33rd who still has the chance to avoid this outcome. The room collectively held its breath. She smiled again, set down the picture and got down to brass tacks.

It was this mix of the deeply personal, combined with a truly smart and methodical approach to the greatest needs of the 33rd, of which healthcare via insurance as well as brick and mortar ac-

cess are at the top of Mavis's list, that inspired me. Since then, every opportunity I've had to speak to Mavis and learn more about her successes and struggles have left me more sure that she's the best person to represent our district.

Her belief that experts in each field of concern, business, education, healthcare not just monied stake holders, have a voice in policy making discussions – is as refreshing as her wholistic approach to policy. For instance, Mavis explains teachers should be included in any discussion about changes in curriculum and state requirements, and to ensure students in the 33rd receive the best instruction, teachers deserve better compensation. And while many areas in the 33rd are financially strong, Mavis knows not all of her district is, making its needs wide and varying. Add to this a genuine love of her town, Waterford, and Mavis is wearing two hats, one a resident who wants her community to thrive, and another as a savvy policy maker who has a studied view of the needs of her district.

*Kacey Young
Purcellville*

Purcellville considering compact, innovative, 'vertical farming'

BY ANDREA GAINES

In early September the Purcellville Economic Development Committee had on its agenda consideration of early discussions regarding a company called Skyscraper Farm, and how they might play into Purcellville's plans for the Town-owned Aberdeen property.

GOVERNMENT

The Skyscraper vertical farm concept is a very innovative one – combing food production with the people and businesses consuming, and/or selling that food.

Once you see the concept in action you think, wow, why didn't I think of that? As described on the Skyscraper website, "Vertical farming is farming accomplished by stacking several high-tech greenhouses on top of each other ... we use forms of farming called hydroponics and aeroponics, which require 95 percent to 99 percent less water than soil farming and allow us to recycle the water that we do use. Rather than placing the roots in soil, they are placed in water with nutrients (hydroponics) or sprayed with a specialized nutrient mist (aeroponics) to supply the plants with all essential minerals required for optimal growth."

Skyscraper Farm uses natural sunlight to grow plants, which, according to the

company, "allows for energy-neutral, nutrient-rich crop production."

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser has made the comment that "God is not creating more land," meaning that humans need to innovate and invest in new ways to feed a growing world. "Vertical farming," he said, "Presents an enabling environment for sustainable farming and precision agriculture."

So, might the concept of vertical farming fit into that equation, and, would the Town-owned Aberdeen property present an opportunity to explore that on only five acres ... while providing much-needed revenue for Purcellville?

Skyscraper farm owner Nick Starling thinks so, and the Town seems willing to explore that idea.

Starling is an Iraq War veteran turned entrepreneur. His military service is exemplary, and, he is a member of the Board of the official United States Army Ranger Association, which, "promotes the prestige, honor, and 'high esprit de corps' of the Ranger regiment and the Rangers at large."

Starling became interested in Purcellville and the Aberdeen property after meeting with Mayor Fraser.

The company name, "Skyscraper" refers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Get your child back into the right mindset for the school year – in October



DR. MIKE

Our kids headed back to school over a month ago. And while a lot of children had no problem at all getting their academic groove on, the back to school transition has been difficult for others. “He’s addicted to technology” and “She’s missing assignments” and “She doesn’t even try” and “I can’t get him up in the morning” are just a few of the many concerning parental statements made in my work as a psychologist from just this past week. Every parent wants his or her child to succeed academically, and here are some tips to consider to get your child back into the right mindset.

Balance screen and technology time: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends limited screen time for children two years and younger, yet research shows that approximately 30 percent of babies under one year of age watch 90 minutes of TV and videos on average daily. And the time spent with screens increases exponentially with age with approximately 64 percent of toddlers reportedly watching TV and videos. Tweens (children between 8 and 12 years) spend over 6 hours daily engaging in screen and/or media activities, and teens are spending a mind boggling 9 hours daily with various forms of technology for personal use. Several studies have shown that excessive technology use can lead to learning problems, social problems, emotional problems, behavioral problems, ADHD and obesity. So, as parents we need to help our children and teens with technology use because the lure and temptation to over rely on it can be too great for them to manage on their own. The American Academy of Pediatrics offers a personalized family media use plan that has proven to be helpful for many of the parents I’ve worked with: go to www.HealthyChildren.org/MediaUsePlan.

Spend time together as a family: Academic success is associated with family time. Research studies have shown that consistent family dinners improve children’s vocabularies, reading skills and achievement scores and contribute to higher grades. Children who consistently eat meals with their families also have lower rates of smoking/vaping, alcohol use and drug use when compared to their

peers who eat meals with their families less frequently. In addition to meals, I encourage parents to set aside some time on weekdays to connect with their children. Being part of your child’s after school activities or simply spending 30 minutes of quality one-to-one time in the evening with your child to review or help with homework or to talk about the events of the day will serve to promote wellness.

Get Social: As human beings we are social beings, thus it’s not surprising that research studies have found a correlation between social competence and academic achievement. Whether your child is an introvert or an extrovert, getting him or her involved in both structured and unstructured activities with same-aged peers is a good thing. Limited or poor socialization could not only impact grades over time, but it could also lead to emotional, interpersonal and behavioral problems.

Get enough sleep: Research has shown that nearly 25 percent of children will experience sleep problems at some point during childhood, and children who have sleep problems have lower academic performance. Sleep research supports the notion that successful students tend to sleep more. When it comes to getting adequate sleep, experts in this area recommend that children between 3 and 6 years of age should get 10-13 hours of sleep per night. Children between the ages of 7 and 12 years of age should get 9-12 hours of sleep per night, and children between 12 and 18 years of age should get 8-9.5 hours of sleep per night.

Exercise: Forget about the old stereotype of the “dumb jocks.” Research studies have repeatedly shown that children who exercise and who are fit perform better academically than children who are less active and heavy. In addition to improved academics, children who engage in sports have higher self-esteem, do better socially, and have fewer behavioral problems. Athletes are also more likely to finish high school and college than non-athletes.

Eat healthy: According to research, healthy eating contributes to improved academic performance. So, try to limit or eliminate sugars, simple carbs and fast food, and replace those options with healthier ones whenever possible.

These tips should help to increase structure and promote balance, which in turn,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39 »

October events at Hillsboro's Old Stone School

FALL *in the* GAP

Eat, Drink & Be Literary!

Lecture Series with Constitutional Scholar Ben Lenhart

October 4 – Impeachment: A Constitutional Guide
October 11 – The Right to Vote: The Census and Citizens United

Doors open at 6 p.m. • Tickets available online

FRI.
OCT.
4 & 11

Dinner Under the Stars

Farm-to-Table Fall Feast

Hillsboro's own renowned foodie Alison Badger brings her remarkably tasty, locally-sourced menu back to the Old Stone School to celebrate this year's Fall Farm Tour in October. Badger's family-friendly fare features only products locally grown and raised here in Loudoun County.

Doors open at 6 p.m. • Tickets available online

FRI.
OCT.
18

Pop-Up Fall Garden Shop

Brought to you by Southern States

Southern States sets up shop at the Old Stone School, offering plants, pumpkins, décor, and supplies to get your garden ready for fall!

Friday, October 18: 2 – 7 pm
Saturday, October 19: 10 am – 2 pm

FRI.
& SAT.
OCT.
18-19

OSS Tag Sale

Community Yard Sale, 8 a.m. – Noon

Clear out your closets! Declutter the garage! We're having a big tag sale on the grounds of the Old Stone School. Get your stuff, grab a table and get ready to sell!

SAT.
OCT.
19

Boo in The Gap

Halloween Party, 5:30-9:30 pm

Join us for a family-friendly night of Halloween tricks and delightful treats on the grounds of the "Haunted" Old Stone School – with spook-tacular décor from Hidden View B&B. Decorate pumpkins, make candied apples, and dance to the music of GHOST PEPPER on The Gap Stage.

Suggested donation \$10 per person/\$20 per family

FRI.
OCT.
25

More information at OldStoneSchool.org



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All proceeds benefit the Old Stone School Preservation Trust



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES

Bob Ohneiser

Bob Ohneiser has lived in Loudoun County for 25 years and has recently retired from law practice. He spent 8 years on the School Board chairing the Finance, Health, Wellness and Safety Committees. For over a decade he served on the Good Shepherd Alliance Board, the Loudoun Crime Commission Board, and the Loudoun Bar Board. He lives with his wife Susan in the Lucketts/Taylorstown area and has three grown children, all of whom graduated from LCPS.



Blue Ridge Leader: Is there anything you would change with respect to the County's relationship with Richmond, and, if so, on what topics – taxes, zoning, transportation priorities/funding, school financing?

Bob Ohneiser: Unfortunately the relationship with the state has not been a healthy one for many years. There is considerable evidence Loudoun is seen more of a target of opportunity for state funding than part of a family of counties that make up the state. The composite index is a tool the state uses to extract sales tax funds which should be returned to Loudoun to support schools.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »

John Whitbeck

John Whitbeck has lived in Loudoun County for nearly 20 years. He graduated from Occidental College and attended law school at George Mason University. He practices law in Leesburg, where his firm provides legal services to families and businesses, and helps individuals affected by mental illness. He lives in Leesburg with his wife Laura and three children.



Blue Ridge Leader: Is there anything you would change with respect to the County's relationship with Richmond, and, if so, on what topics – taxes, zoning, transportation priorities/funding, school financing?

John Whitbeck: In terms of our relationship with Richmond, I believe that we need to expect more from our legislature in the way of tolls and land use.

First, tolls are a central issue in my campaign. And, with the current Greenway deal expiring in 2020, it is absolutely critical that we have a Chairman of the Board who can work with Richmond and get a better deal for Loudoun County commuters. The deal proposed in January by Chairwoman Randall for annual Greenway

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 »

Phyllis Randall

Phyllis Randall was elected in 2015 as Chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. She serves as Chair of the Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Resources sub-committee, and as Vice Chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, to name a few. Randall and her husband, Thaddeus, have lived in Loudoun since 2003 and have two adult sons.



Blue Ridge Leader: Is there anything you would change with respect to the County's relationship with Richmond, and, if so, on what topics – taxes, zoning, transportation priorities/funding, school financing?

Phyllis Randall: As the current Board of Supervisors addressed the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, we were required by Virginia Code Section 15.2-2226 to complete the Plan within 90 days. I don't think the General Assembly should put stipulations on how much time a county body should take to complete such an important land-use document. In addition, I believe the Dillion Rule should be relaxed to allow counties to have greater control over county own and property and procurement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

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Announcing the Western Loudoun Telecommunication Initiative

A working group of Delegate Dave LaRock, Supervisor Geary Higgins, Supervisor Tony Buffington, and The Hon. Randy Minchew

The focus of the Western Loudoun Telecommunication Initiative is to expedite expansion of privately-owned telecommunications infrastructure in underserved areas in western Loudoun County.

Goals of the Western Loudoun Telecommunication Initiative include:

- Proposing a telecommunications application fee reimbursement program to be funded and administered by Loudoun County for eligible projects.
- Maintaining a working group charged with improving processing time for infrastructure applications and accessing Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants.
- Interacting with state government to promote legislation and prioritize funding for and remove legal barriers to buildout of telecommunication facilities in western Loudoun County.
- Passing legislation to fund and facilitate the expansion of rural broadband.
- Working to fund a \$16 million middle-mile fiber network in Loudoun County's Capital Improvement Budget.



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BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT CANDIDATES

Tony Buffington

Tony Buffington has served on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors since 2015. He is also a member of the Board's Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee. He serves as the Board's liaison to the Coalition of Loudoun Towns; and he is a former member of the Northern Virginia Regional Transportation Committee. He lives in Purcellville and is the father of two children.



Blue Ridge Leader: Western Loudoun is booming with new event-based businesses in close proximity to homes. How do you protect residents from the noise and traffic that these businesses generate?

Tony Buffington: A strong rural economy is critical to our ability to maintain western Loudoun's rural, historic, and scenic character for the benefit of future generations. Our rural economy must be operated in a balanced manner that ensures a high quality of life for residents and businesses alike. As such, I've worked with Loudoun's Rural Economic Development Council to create a subcommittee for identifying recommendations to ensure this balance, as it is critical that our rural businesses minimize their impact on neighbors. I've also worked to ensure Loudoun County

Preservation and Conservation Coalition representation on the County's Zoning Ordinance Action Group (ZOAG) in order to ensure the voice of rural residents as ZOAG considers updates to zoning ordinances which could impact them.

Our rural businesses know that if we fail to strike the correct balance, the negative impacts of their neighbors selling to developers who would replace the areas' rural attractiveness with additional rooftops, would hurt their businesses, and eventually result in the overall loss of western Loudoun's rural, historic, and scenic character. For these reasons, it is imperative that we continue to strike a proper balance in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 »

Tia Walbridge

Tia Walbridge is a small-business owner and mother of two, raising her daughters on their small sheep farm in Round Hill. With deep roots in Loudoun County, Tia serves on the Virginia Agricultural Council, Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Loudoun County Farm Bureau, and is a founding member of Save Rural Loudoun. She also serves on the board of the non-profit Dandelion Meadow, which helps women battling addiction.



Blue Ridge Leader: Western Loudoun is booming with new event-based businesses in close proximity to homes. How do you protect residents from the noise and traffic that these businesses generate?

Tia Walbridge: We face the tough challenge in Blue Ridge of needing to demonstrate Western Loudoun's economic viability to the rest of the County so that we can maintain our rural character. While we've done well to create a booming rural economy, our notoriously lax zoning code has welcomed a number of event-based businesses that generate negative externalities of noise and traffic in traditionally quiet, residential neighborhoods.

We need to tighten our zoning code and then enforce it with sizeable fines, so that we no longer attract businesses who choose to set up shop here, because they

know we treat our zoning code as more of a guide than a rule, and treat violations with a slap on the wrist.

We also need to come together and have a conversation as a community about what we're willing to live with in order to improve our economic viability. This is a tough balance to strike, and we need as many voices at the table as possible to decide where we want to draw lines.

BRL: What is a priority/need common to the eastern and western residents of your district?

Walbridge: The issues that matter most to Loudoun residents all stem from our County's slow response to our break-neck rate of growth: Overdevelopment encroaching

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

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CATOCTIC DISTRICT CANDIDATES

Forest Hayes

Forest Hayes lives in Waterford with his wife Nicole and two children. He is a senior executive responsible for the realignment and redevelopment of all forms of publicly funded, affordable, and workforce housing for the District of Columbia. He also serves on the Virginia Housing Commission.



Blue Ridge Leader: Loudoun's new Comprehensive Plan is distinctly pro-growth, yet Loudoun citizens have consistently supported much stronger growth controls. Where does that leave us?

Forest Hayes: In a statement to the Board of Supervisors, I highlighted my desire to restrict greater density to the new Silver Line Metro taxing districts that were meant for that purpose, rather than encroaching upon residents that have chosen a rural existence. I asked, "Why are we spreading outwards, when we can be spreading upwards?" While the approved Comprehensive Plan is a marked improvement over the original plan, it is still not an example of smart growth. There is no balance. The plan calls for a significant increase in the County's population, with no consideration of the corresponding

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

Caleb Kershner

Caleb Kershner, lives with his wife Whitney and four boys in Hamilton. He grew up on a farm just over the Potomac near Middletown, Maryland, and has worked and lived in Loudoun for 25 years. He is currently a small business owner and partner of an 11-attorney firm in Leesburg.



Blue Ridge Leader: Loudoun's new Comprehensive Plan is distinctly pro-growth, yet Loudoun citizens have consistently supported much stronger growth controls. Where does that leave us?

Caleb Kershner: I think most Western Loudoun residents understand some growth will occur. It's really a question about how much, how fast, and where. Loudoun is unique because, unlike our sister counties to the east and west, we have a thriving suburban/urban area juxtaposed to a rural, open space, farming community. I am very concerned that if we fail to supply the housing pressure demand in Eastern Loudoun and the new Urban area, while at the same time increasing opportunity and incentives for conservation easements in the west, we will lose

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40 »

Sam Kroiz

Sam Kroiz is the eighth generation of his family to live and work on his farm, Georges Mill Farm, near Lovettsville. Sam and his wife, Molly, and their two young children make artisanal cheeses with milk from their herd of dairy goats, and are also well known for hosting visitors to their baby goats every spring and their monthly community barn dances the third Sunday of every month.



Blue Ridge Leader: Loudoun's new Comprehensive Plan is distinctly pro-growth, yet Loudoun citizens have consistently supported much stronger growth controls. Where does that leave us?

Sam Kroiz: This disconnect is why I am running for Catoctin Supervisor as an independent candidate. Hopefully, Catoctin District voters are as fed up as I am about getting consistently ignored by our elected leaders from both parties. There are powerful pro-growth forces at work, and the Catoctin Supervisor is only one person on a nine-person Board, but with the right leadership and an active and engaged citizenry, we can fight for the future that we want and win. We can

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40 »



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VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES CANDIDATES

Dave LaRock

Dave and Joanne LaRock have been married 37 years, and settled in Loudoun County 32 years ago. They have seven children and 14 grandchildren. Dave was elected as 33rd District Delegate in 2013, and serves on the Education, Transportation, and Science & Technology Committees.



Blue Ridge Leader: Name three of your legislative/policy priorities and why they are important?

Dave LaRock: 1. One of the reasons I first ran for public office was over concerns that too much of our tax money would be wasted on the Silver Line and other transit projects instead of fixing Loudoun's traffic congestion. I continue to have serious concerns that far too much of our transportation funding is going to developer-friendly transit projects instead of fixing the congestion we face each day.

This year, I researched and challenged the Northam administration's diversion of almost all of Loudoun's state transportation (SMART SCALE) funding for the next two years to a handful of projects within a stone's throw of Amazon HQ2, in blatant disregard for limits imposed by legislation I helped pass in

2014. Needless to say, I will press for new constraints to block this fiscal mischief in the future. I've also been fighting to pass reforms to reduce tolls on the Dulles Greenway, I-66, and the Dulles Toll Road, and have introduced legislation to ensure appropriate accountability for spending I-81-corridor revenues. There is still much to be done in this area, and I intend to press for improvements.

2. Rural Broadband Expansion: I am also rolling out a plan, outlining how we can remove barriers to private-sector rural broadband expansion. I've introduced and supported legislation to make affordable rural broadband available to the people in the 33rd District, bringing forward numerous pieces of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

Mavis Taintor

Mavis Taintor is a former teacher and businesswoman. She had a successful career in the financial industry, rising up through the ranks to run international divisions of Citibank, before founding and building her own company. Taintor retired to Western Loudoun ten years ago, and now runs a farm with her daughter in Waterford.



Blue Ridge Leader: Name three of your legislative/policy priorities and why they are important?

Mavis Taintor: Increase teacher pay/school funding: Virginia teachers make 31 percent less money than similarly educated professionals. We pay our teachers worse than all but two other states. This is no way to treat the professionals to whom we trust the development and future of our children.

I used to be a Head Start teacher, so I know how important it is that our kids get the quality of education and resources they need to succeed in their future careers and as citizens. I will stand up for Virginia's kids by finally giving public schools the funding they need.

Bring broadband to the 33rd District: Broadband is increasingly es-

sential for education, job searching, running a business, and much more. 660,000 Virginians, however, lack access to even a single option broadband option. In particular, our rural counties are being left behind, as the rest of Virginia enjoys the benefits of high-speed internet. That's not right and it's not fair.

This is a bipartisan issue. As a delegate, I will reach across party lines to bring broadband to the entirety of our Commonwealth.

Increase funding for addiction/mental health services: Over 1,500 Virginians a year are still dying from opioid overdoses. Last year's Medicaid expansion has been effective in helping curb addictions, but health services still

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »

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Big and beautiful – the unmatched, Creighton Farms lifestyle

BY ANDREA GAINES

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Here, you are surrounded by some of Loudoun County’s most cherished history and agricultural heritage, yet you enjoy a spacious, stylish, and perfectly modern home within a safe and secure gated community.

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The home’s 6 bedrooms are complemented by 8 full and one-half baths, with space, privacy, and comfort for everyone.

There is even a unique first floor master suite.

The immaculate – gourmet – top-of-the-line kitchen includes a breakfast area, and a butler’s pantry. Other special features of the home include a private in-



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 Beds/Baths: 6 bedrooms, 9 baths
 Total Acreage: 6+ acres
 List Price: \$3,395,000
 Agent: Marcy Cantatore, Associate Broker, Middleburg Real Estate and Atoka Properties
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SMALL BUSINESS GRAPEVINE

Fall Forward

– The Carved Tulip, Purcellville – Nostalgia, Purcellville –
 – Makeup by Melissa Franklin, Purcellville –

BY ANDREA GAINES

The most enduring fashion of all ... style

Nostalgia owner Silas Redd is a self-described fashion fanatic. He loves everything and anything having to do with style.

Said Redd, “The real source of my inspiration started from my great grandmother, Georgia. She was a seamstress and there were always copies of Vogue and Harper’s Bazaar laying around, as well as scraps of fabric. I would draw little doodles of women in these over the top gowns, and she would just ‘ooh and ahh’ over them.”

Redd also draws inspiration from classic movies. “I love the opulence of icons like Elizabeth Taylor, Diana Ross, Cher, etc., but a lot of the inspiration I relate mostly to are the women in Alfred Hitchcock movies – Grace Kelly, Kim Novack, Tippi Hedren.”

Between now and the end of the year, Redd says that there will be new things coming in almost daily ... so, stop in.

Nostalgia: 142 East Main Street in Purcellville, (540) 751-8252.

Everything in its beautiful place

Here we highlight a business called The Carved Tulip, run by a woman named Kathryn Kwiatkowski.

Kwiatkowski has been a practicing attorney for close to ten years. She took some time off and went into decorating – helping people “update their living spaces.”

“I started small ... helping friends and family update their living spaces over the past few years, and then this year I started The Carved Tulip and began taking on clients,” said Kwiatkowski.

She often starts with styling – “I adjust and position each item of decor – each picture, book, plant, and object ... so that it feels functional and balanced.

“I start by rearranging and ‘shopping’ their home to make the most out of what they already have. Then we discuss what sort of additional

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39 »



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Opioid crisis has local implications

Purcellville and others prepare to show ... the answer may be in the water

BY ANDREA GAINES

In 2018, Loudoun County joined the Commonwealth of Virginia, dozens of other states and hundreds of other entities in legal challenges alleging that the Purdue Pharma company had withheld information about the addictive potential of the drug OxyContin.

The result of the company's actions, according to the lawsuits, has been an ongoing national opioid epidemic, tens of thousands of overdose deaths, untold suffering, and, for counties and municipalities, gigantic fiscal burdens as they struggle to care for people afflicted with addiction, and their families.

In its lawsuit, the State of Virginia, for example, cited the fact that from 2007 to 2017, 7,890 Virginians died of an opioid overdose – 4,929 of them from prescription vs. “street” drugs. The epidemic has wide-ranging impacts and affects a myriad of local government cost centers, from social services, to mental health services, to the health department. The courts pay, too as does law enforcement. All patrol deputies within the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department are now equipped with Naloxone – brand name Narcan. Narcan can save the life of a person experiencing an overdose. Firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs, too, must now be prepared to administer the drug.

Loudoun County's lawsuit against Purdue Pharma has

a price tag of \$280 million, noting that the opioid epidemic “has resulted in economic, social and emotional damage to tens of thousands of Americans throughout virtually every community in the United States.”

As the courts sort out the liability issues surrounding the opioid crisis, localities like Loudoun County, and the Town of Purcellville must be in a ready position to demonstrate how opioid addiction has affected them. If settlement monies become available, what is a fair level of compensation for the particular community they represent?

According to Purcellville Mayor Fraser, in the case of the opioid crisis – like it or not – “There will be a need to divide up the money,” and, to make communities whole. And, in order to demonstrate current and potential, future impacts, a municipality must be able to show both the level of opioid use in their community and the resources they have been forced to budget in order to save lives and treat those afflicted.

One way to do that – believe it or not – is to monitor a Town's wastewater/sewer system for levels of particular substances that provide measurable indications of the local population's use of opioids.

Sounds a little big-brotherish.

But, such measurements, while blind to a particular individuals' drug use or problem do show local leaders what they might be dealing with in terms of opioid use/

abuse.

The mega non-profit organization Bloomberg Philanthropies is reaching out to the nation's mayors to help them solve their most vexing problems, including opioid dependency and overdoses.

For example, the City of Cary, North Carolina is one of four places that have received substantial Bloomberg grants to set up a system for the testing of its municipal waste water supplies in order to quantify what is happening in their community – what drugs are putting people at risk and how can we work together to climb out of the opioid crisis.

Cary has faced a 70 percent increase in overdoses in recent years. Sophisticated testing machines now measure the amount of “digested opioids called metabolites” to help the Town's leadership gauge the ongoing threats to their community.

The Purcellville Police Department was the first Loudoun County Town police department to supply its officers with Naloxone. The effort is part of a program funded by the United States Department of Justice.

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser said that approaches like this can “Make the solutions we develop and propose more accountable to our citizen-taxpayers.”

He is intrigued by the idea and is exploring ways for the Town to tap into this and other “best-practices” in the fight against the opioid epidemic.

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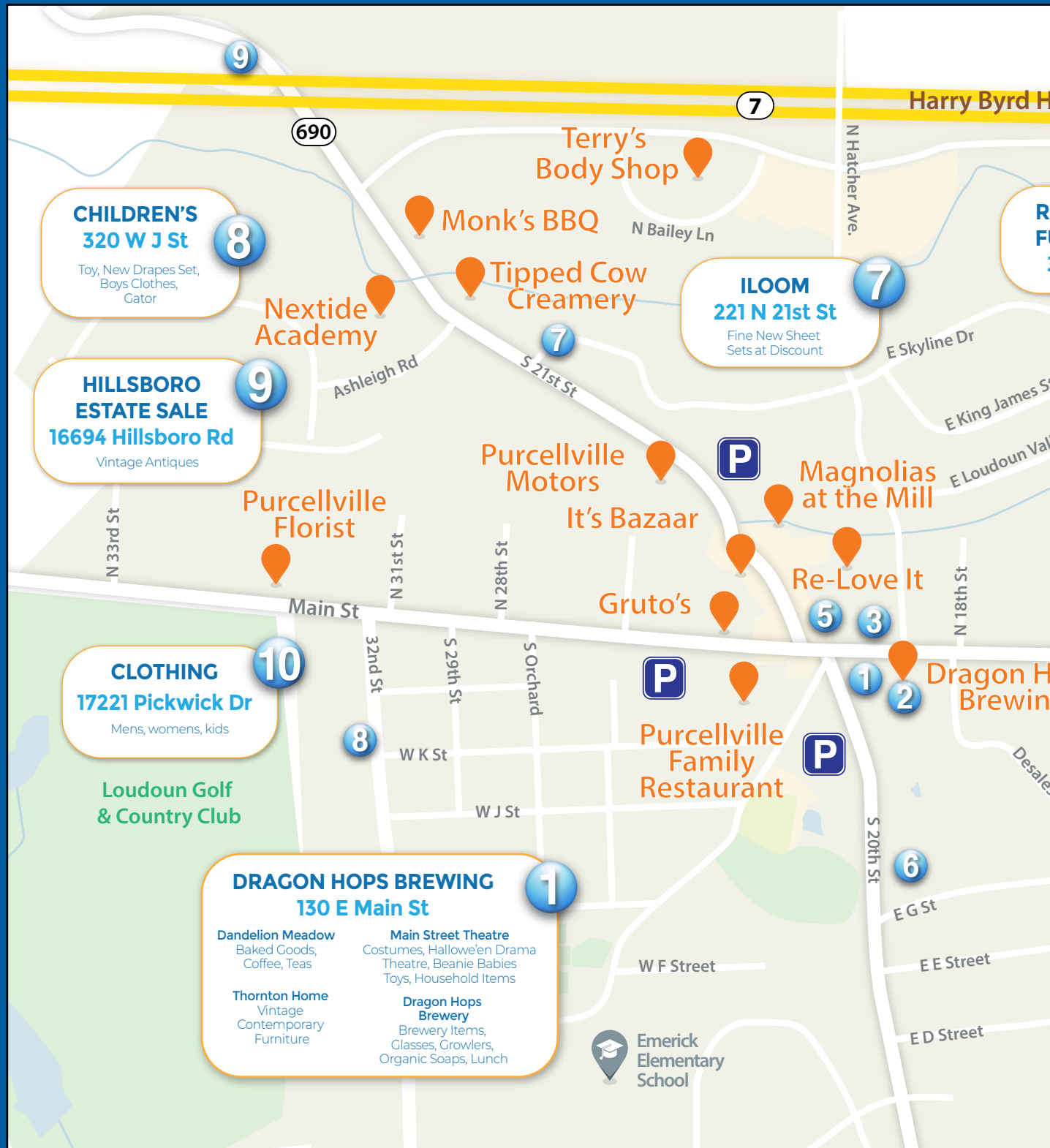
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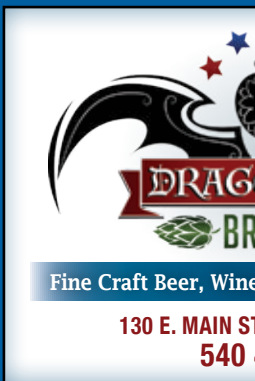


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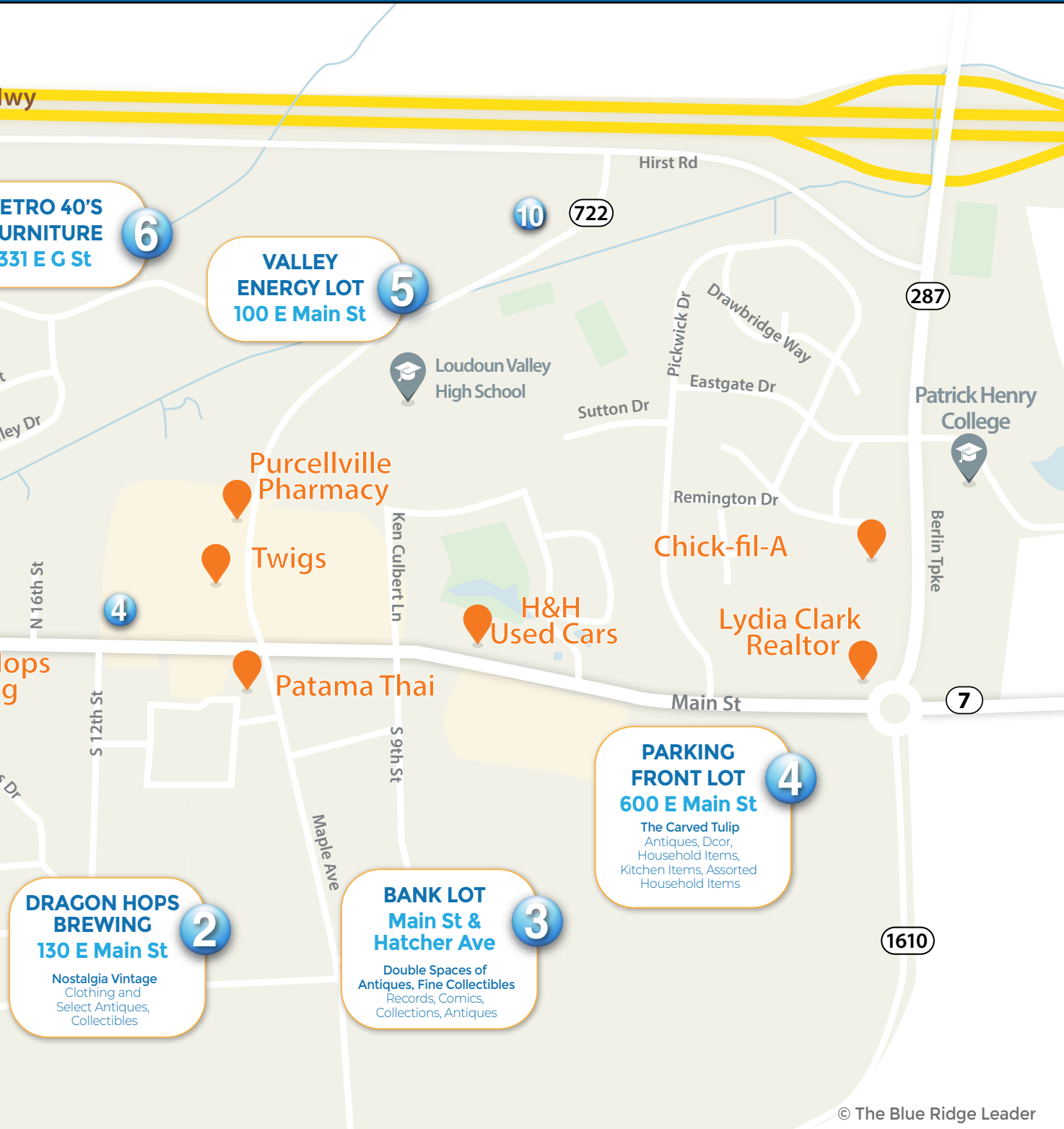
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Group announces Western Loudoun Telecommunication Initiative

A working group of Del. Dave LaRock, Supervisors Geary Higgins and Tony Buffington and The Hon. Randy Minchew announced Sept. 28, a collaborative effort called the Western Loudoun Telecommunication Initiative.

Delegate Dave LaRock said: "Bringing affordable broadband to Western Loudoun County is an urgent need. While some uses of the internet are optional, reliable internet access is a necessity for emergency services and K-12 education, which are shared responsibilities of the County and the Commonwealth. Local investment through this initiative can also help open doors for Loudoun to tap into Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants."

The focus of the western Loudoun Telecommunication Initiative is to expedite expansion of privately-owned telecommunications infrastructure in underserved areas in western Loudoun County.

The goals of the initiative include:

Proposing a telecommunications application fee reimbursement program to be funded and administered by Loudoun County for eligible projects

Maintaining a working group charged with improving processing time for infrastructure applications and accessing Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants.

Interacting with state government to promote legislation and prioritize funding for and remove legal barriers to buildout of telecommunication facilities in Western Loudoun County.

Passing legislation to fund and facilitate the expansion

Working to fund a \$16 million mid-

dle-mile fiber network in Loudoun County's Capital Improvement Budget

Supervisor Tony Buffington said, "Affordable, reliable, high-speed internet access for families and businesses is an investment. Decades ago, Loudoun County made a relatively small investment laying the groundwork for the data center boom in the east. The dividends are enormous. Now it is time to bring internet to the families and rural businesses in the west." Added Supervisor Geary Higgins, "Government must send a clear message to private internet infrastructure and service providers, that local and state government wants them to serve our county's internet needs and that elected leaders are committed to removing barriers to achieve that end."

The Hon. Randy Minchew said, "This is a surmountable challenge; it is possible to remove barriers which hinder expansion to rural Loudoun County. The law I passed in 2016, allowing placement of conduit under gravel roads, is already streamlining rural expansion throughout the Commonwealth, and there is a lot more to be done."

The application process for extending facilities to rural Loudoun County adds cost. The group is proposing buying down permit fees and passage of laws to improve access to existing easements, and stepping up collaboration with private companies to jumpstart activity. The group is relying on information from the Loudoun Communications Commission Wireless Gap Analysis report from September 2014, and other County research, to further develop the criteria which will be presented to the full Board for a final decision.



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Leesburg employees host food drive

In honor of National Customer Service Week, which is celebrated annually during the first full week in October, Town of Leesburg employees will be collecting non-perishable food items from Friday, Oct. 4 through Friday, Oct. 11.

Donations can be made in the lobby at Town Hall, 25 W Market Street, or at Ida Lee Recreation Center, 60 Ida Lee Drive, NW. Requested food items include dry beans, whole grain pasta, rice, cereal, mac

and cheese, canned meats, peanut butter, hearty soups, and oils.

All donations will be delivered to Loudoun Hunger Relief, which serves 8,000 Loudoun County residents a year. Almost half of that number belongs to Leesburg residents while 40 percent are children and 13 percent are senior citizens. Last year, Town staff donated more than 600 pounds of food to the local non-profit.

For more information, regarding the collection, call 703 777-2420.

TAINTOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

aren't spread evenly. People who need to receive treatment for addiction can't reasonably access it, even when they're entitled.

Three years ago, I lost my son Conan to a heroin/fentanyl overdose. I experienced first-hand the inadequacy of the mental health and addiction services in Virginia. It's why I'm running: I don't want any parent to have to go through what I did.

BRL: Why should voters favor you over your opponent, using specific examples of how you intend to accomplish those priorities?

Taintor: My opponent has unfortunately increased divisions between friends and neighbors in an already divisive time, both in his contemptuous treatment of his own constituents (especially women and LGBT Virginians) in public and on-line, but also in his voting record.

Mr. LaRock has ignored local needs and fought tooth and nail on behalf of a national conservative agenda against healthcare, education, and infrastructure funding. He voted against the Medicaid expansion seven times, has opposed public school funding at every step, and voted against expanding broadband to the 33rd District. He empowers corporations at the expense of our way of life here by supporting development projects our rural infrastructure can't support and by voting to exempt polluting companies from inspections. It's caused the people in our district to be left behind and marginalized by Richmond.

I'm not a career politician. I don't play by their rules. I will be a bipartisan voice of reason who will set partisan politics aside and fight for all Virginians. When I'm delegate, I won't just be representing one "side": I'll be working for all of us in the 33rd District.

My agenda: I will defend and increase the Medicaid expansion so that all Virginians can have access to affordable healthcare; use the existing money that's been provided for broadband expansion to bring broadband to the 33rd District; and provide a real living wage to our teachers, so that we can continue to attract the quality professionals our kids need to help them succeed in a rapidly changing world. Meanwhile, I'll stop giving corporate wel-

fare to already wealthy corporations, and keep them from taking advantage of our tax laws to avoid paying their fair share to the people of our Commonwealth, who, after all, make all their success possible.

Most of all, however, I will provide the 33rd District with the professional, effective, and respectful representative they deserve. I take public service extremely seriously, and would be honored to serve as your delegate.

BRL: If we looked ahead to the future, how do you see your policies affecting your constituents in the 33rd District; how do you see your opponent's affecting the 33rd District?

Taintor: When I am elected to represent you in Richmond, the days of our being overlooked by career politicians will be over. Throughout my career, I've fought for all Americans, whether as a Head Start teacher, businesswoman, or activist. That won't change when I'm your delegate.

In office, I will be a fighter for policies that will help all Virginians create and live the lives they want. I will be a tireless advocate who will fight for the progress we need here without selling out for the overdevelopment that we don't. We can improve our infrastructure and services without compromising the way of life that made so many of us choose our communities in the first place.

If my opponent wins another term, I predict another two years of our district losing out on opportunities that could allow our families to succeed -- all for the sake of Mr. LaRock's own ideological crusade against anyone who doesn't think as he does. He will continue to set neighbor against neighbor, while ignoring the lack of healthcare, education, and infrastructure in our district that hurts our quality of life.

Meanwhile, his cruel rhetoric will continue to hurt and shame his constituents, who will have to explain to their children why we tolerate and reward a man who gleefully insults the choices, perspectives, and even identities of huge numbers of his constituents. Public service is not about extolling our own biases at the expense of those who we represent, and we need a delegate who knows that.

We have a chance to send a clear signal this November that, once and for all, we have had enough of Mr. LaRock's brand of poisonous politics: let's not let it pass us by.

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BLOCK PARTY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

themed games for the kids, such as The Rubber Rat Toss, Pumpkin Bowling, Pin the Nose on the Witch, Pumpkin Tic Tac Toe among others. Every kid will win a prize. We'll also have music, face painting and scary storytelling to entertain everyone.

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Other contests include "Howl at the Moon" and "Most Horrific Scream" contest.

Come hungry! Delicious food by Magnolias at the Mill will be served at the Block Party.

Admission is free to the Purcellville Halloween Block

Groups	Judging Time	1st Place Cash Prize	2nd Place Cash Prize	3rd Place Cash Prize
Infants - 5 Years Old	5:30 p.m.	\$100	\$50	\$25
6 - 12 Years Old	6:00 p.m.	\$100	\$50	\$25
Pets - all types	6:30 p.m.	\$100	\$50	\$25
13 - 17 Years Old	7:00 p.m.	\$100	\$50	\$25
Adults (18+)	7:30 p.m.	\$100	\$50	\$25
Family / Group	8:00 p.m.	\$100	\$50	\$25

Party along with free parking throughout the town. For contest rules and more information visit our web site www.purcellvillehalloween.com find us on Facebook -



Purcellville Halloween Block Party or contact Michael Oaks via text: (540) 383-0009 or email: dpurcellville@gmail.com.

HARDWARE CAFE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

great coffee-making equipment. Also, notes Campbell, "We will be offering snacks, sandwiches, ice cream (Hershey's) and other delectables, including locally-sourced cupcakes and cookies."

"Decor will be topical," she said - i.e., hardware-related. And, it will be "local and historical."

"After 114 years of single family ownership and four generations, Nichols Hardware is now the oldest continuously operating hardware store in original ownership in the entire country."

Campbell's veterinary business, Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates, supports the pet rescue community, and she hopes to continue that tradition at the cafe. She also has plans to use the place for events, fund raising, and "general meet and greet" types of things.

Wow.

Imagine a place where you can take in the

scents of fresh-ground coffee beans while you dream about your next home-improvement project or shoot the breeze with a friend within a store environment that has been serving the Purcellville community for over 100 years. "We are trying to offer an experience into the past here!", Campbell said with great enthusiasm.

At the same time the Hardware Cafe is taking shape, the entire Nichols Hardware complex is being upgraded, with a fresh new roof, new wiring and lighting, and new floors and windows, where needed.

But, that's a whole other - and separate - story.

"When we do open the Hardware Cafe," said Campbell, "We will be having free coffee and such as an introduction. We are always open to new ideas if someone wants us to carry something. Hopefully we will fill a need and make people happy to stroll our historical commercial center in Purcellville."

One final note. According to Campbell, "Already the old regulars that hang out in the hardware store are excited."

CD's of "Nichols: The Last Hardware Store" film will be available. Again, wow. What could be a better harbinger of the success to come.

Nichols Hardware keeps on keep'n on Still 'The most dependable source of supply'

Nichols Hardware is undergoing major renovations - a modernization of sorts that will preserve the best of its authentic, we-have-what-you-need level of service while upgrading the building, maximizing the space, and making its unparalleled inventory more accessible to customers.

"We will be computerizing the inventory at the hardware store and restocking items that have been sold out or just overlooked," said Valerie Campbell.

"You will now be able to buy metal culvert, cement, wood stove pellets and all the mulch and plant soils people are used to buying there. We will be expanding the paint department and offering five gallon buckets along with mixing.

"Our new key machine will do smart chip programming and offer a large selection of

older keys. We will also be carrying more power tools and their accessories along with all the items that used to be there.

"There is a new manager and a lot of new staff - including some very sharp ladies that repair things like screens and windows.

"In the spring we will be opening a garden center in the old livery stable. After that we just need to get back in the business of having everything and being 'The Most Dependable Source of Supply' as the old motto went."

Said Campbell, "After 114 years of single family ownership and four generations, Nichols Hardware is now the oldest continuously operating hardware store in original ownership in the entire country."

Clearly, the family aims to keep it that way.

LAROCK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

legislation designed to remove barriers and expedite expansion of broadband in rural areas. Some examples: Cutting unnecessary, lengthy, and costly red tape on tower applications; allowing cable/fiber companies to have fair access to utility poles; allowing conduit to be run under rural roads; and funding for telecommunications grants. We are already seeing results from these efforts.

3. I strive to improve core government services without raising taxes, by growing our economy, increasing efficiency, stopping fraud and abuse, and just spending smarter. I've passed legislation to bring transparency and accountability to government IT contractor performance, and save local volunteer fire and rescue companies thousands of dollars a year in fuel taxes. Some of my other efforts, such as stopping fraud in public benefits, education reform, and more, have been killed by partisan opposition from our governor and legislators.

BRL: Why should voters favor you over your opponent, using specific examples of how you intend to accomplish those priorities.

LaRock: I have a track record of results and communicating my positions clearly and honestly, and have a solid record of achieving bipartisan results, even while serving with Democrat governors and slim Republican majorities in the legislature.

I've worked hard on policies which draw good-paying jobs to our community, while working across party lines to enable individuals to break out of government dependency and get the skills, education, and opportunities they need to become productive members of society.

Some examples are: I've successfully introduced and supported legislation to provide workforce credential grant funds for those in the foster system, establish the Drug Court in the Winchester area, streamline processes to ensure that in-

mates re-entering the workforce are instantly enrolled in Medicaid, make Naloxone more widely available, and rescinded the ineffective policy of suspending drivers' licenses for unpaid court fines and fees, leaving people in a better position to earn money to pay off their fines and fees while providing for their families.

In contrast, my opponent takes her policy positions straight from the most liberal extremes: taxpayer-funded abortion-at-any-time, forced union membership and dues payment, and more. My opponent offers empty promises which are of questionable validity. My opponent does not understand the people of the 33rd District; repeatedly referring to the people of the district as poor have-nots on her Facebook videos.

BRL: If we looked ahead to the future, how do you see your opponent's policies affecting the 33rd District; how do you see your policies affecting your constituents in the 33rd District?

LaRock: It's harder to say what life with my opponent in office would look like. As far as I can tell, there is not a value system guiding her policy positions. Instead, there is a variety of feelings and knee jerk reactions. She affiliates with a party that no longer has a middle ground: Anti-business, anti-life, bigger-government controlling huge segments of the economy, and more tax and spending that will crush families, especially those with low incomes. My opponent rejects thoughtful and deliberate approaches to public safety, and instead favors just doing something or trying anything, including taking away peoples' ability to defend themselves and their property.

My opponent, a professional stock fund manager, campaigns on stopping climate change, but recently reported to the Board of Elections that she is heavily invested in fossil fuel and energy companies which have paid billions in environmental penalties.

Similar conflicts exist between her

rhetoric claiming she will bring about positive change in the battle against opioid addiction, while currently profiting from holding huge stock positions in the companies that have admitted to deceptive practices which contributed significantly to the opioid crisis.

She says she wants to increase teacher pay, but supports repeal of right-to-work, which would force teachers to pay union dues. Overall, her policies would make us more like failing northern states, such as New York: losing jobs, high taxes driving people out, legislature celebrating late-term abortion, etc., destroying our business growth, job opportunities, and family budgets. Incidentally, my opponent currently owns a home in New York City, which she, as recently as 2018, listed as her mailing address in a report to the Federal Election Commission.

In contrast, I will work to improve our quality of life by making government more efficient, NOT by raising taxes; measuring progress with results, not spending. Efficient government leaves more money for things like roads, bridges, mental health services, and compensation for first responders and teachers. I'll look out for working folks' budgets by opposing schemes like Dominion Energy's investor-friendly broadband expansion in Southwest Virginia that was paid for with ratepayer money from across Virginia.

I will abide by my oath to the U.S. and Virginia Constitutions – respecting life, liberty, and property, and Judeo-Christian values, and help support strong families by respecting parents' rights, and reinforcing and supporting parents in their roles as parents. We will see increased quality of life through economic development and improvements to education and healthcare.

I will encourage individuals to respect and help each other, and support laws that increase opportunity for the disabled, low income people, and those trapped in addiction, to name a few.

'VERTICAL FARMING', CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

more to a way of growing than that of raw height of a building.

As Starling describes it, "I was sitting in my 2011 freshman class 'Intro to Human Geography.' The Professor put up a map of America and pointed to the coasts saying 'This is where everyone lives, and then pointed to the center saying 'And, this is where we grow all the food.' And, that is when the idea hit me: grow food inside 'skyscrapers.' I pulled out my Moleskine and started taking notes and made a few crude drawings to attempt to figure out how to get sunlight into the center."

Skyscraper Farm works with three building designs – each tailored to the place where it might be located, the place where it might fit in, including rural environments such as Purcellville.

Starling travelled back to his own personal roots in describing how he envisions his company could partner with Purcellville.

"I grew up in Virginia's suburbs and rural areas," he said. "I learned at an early age that rural likes to stay rural, and to truly appreciate the small town. Purcellville has received my utmost attention in this matter." If everything works, he noted, "We will be building our smallest buildings possible, only 40 feet, and ensuring that the architects keep the exterior in keeping with the town's feel."

Starling notes that his company is fairly new, but that Mayor Fraser has expressed an interest in being one of first locations for this kind of endeavor. "Mayor Fraser has had the foresight to capitalize on the tourism angle of the future of agriculture, realizing that there are water shortages all over the globe, and that 90% of the world's fresh water is used on agriculture," he said. "You can't fix the global water crisis unless you innovate in agriculture. The people of Purcellville are smart enough to get ahead of the global sustainable agriculture movement

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

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HAYES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

services and cost that it would require. There is no accounting for additional schools, teachers, fire trucks, firefighters, libraries, hospitals, road improvements, and so on. We are already paying too many taxes while our teachers, firefighters, and law enforcement officers are stretched thin, and are underpaid.

To discourage additional density in the west, I will call for a temporary moratorium on home building (which I am aware will require substantial amendments to the zoning ordinances) and the issue of building permits west of Rt. 15, until a new land-use/planning policy is created which truly balances growth and protects Catoclin's rural community. For example, some of our zoning ordinances need to be changed to reduce the amount of by-right housing that can be built in Catoclin. Catoclin is full. We have to first protect the quality of life of existing Catoclin residents before allowing newcomers.

BRL: What citizen priority in your district is not being addressed by the Board of Supervisors?

Hayes: The richest county in America should not have worse internet access than that of many third-world countries. In Western Loudoun, our residents have no universal access to broadband or cell service. These are basic necessities that every member of our community deserves access to.

I will fight to bring 5G data speeds in Western Loudoun, so that all families, small,

home-based, and agribusinesses can continue to thrive and compete with other businesses across our nation. We can connect Western Loudoun with the rest of the prosperity in our County with better internet and phone service. Doing so will allow us to grow our tourism industry, spotlight the efforts of our farmers, and give us the leverage we need to better preserve our beautiful rural spaces.

BRL: Do you believe the many developer-funded studies that say Loudoun County's economy will fall behind if we don't add tens of thousands of residential units to our housing stock?

Hayes: While I have called for no increase in density within the Catoclin District, and I have called for a temporary moratorium on home building and the issue of building permits west of Rt. 15, the key to economic growth in Loudoun County is diversity of housing stock in Eastern Loudoun near the new Silver Line Metro Stations. We must implement a workforce-housing platform which provides policies and funding sources designed to support low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) transactions, and attracts large-scale, multi-family rental and for-sale housing options for teachers, police officers, fire fighters, service industry workers, and County employees.

In addition to more workforce-housing, we should also invest in permanent supportive housing for disabled residents, senior housing, veterans' housing, and housing suitable

for a young, tech-savvy workforce. Diversity in housing stock is an essential ingredient for a healthy and vibrant economy. Loudoun cannot continue to grow or maintain its current standard of living without addressing the full spectrum of housing needs.

BRL: Do you support opening up the Transition Policy Area to more and more data centers?

Hayes: As Supervisor, I would be very careful about allowing more data centers in the TPA. You can't deny that they are huge taxpayers, yet I'd never want the TPA to be turned into another "Data Center Alley." But like any other development, we need balance. I would call for data centers to explore ways to build up and not out to conserve space, while also looking at energy efficient and sustainable ways of operating, to conserve resources.

The answer is to make data centers get special exceptions if they want to build in the TPA. No "by-right" data centers; each one that's proposed gets extreme scrutiny by the people and by the Board.

BRL: What is your approach to working with the Eastern Loudoun County Supervisors to get what you need for your district?

Hayes: First, there are countywide issues where we can all agree, such as the Emerald Ribbons trail system or the need for parks that builds our collegial relationship. Second, I would push carefully to get across the idea that each Supervisor gets an influential

say in what happens in his or her district. Lastly, all politics involves one-on-one negotiation or persuasion. My entire career was based on that, and I'm good at it. As I've often said "the job is getting to five."

BRL: What is the most interesting thing about you as a candidate and a person, that voters in your district should know?

Hayes: As a candidate, I would like to clarify a longstanding rumor about my fundraising. One of my opponents keeps saying that I accept campaign donations from developers. As is the case with most rumors, this is a half-truth. I accept contributions from my friends, people I have worked with for years, and people who want to bring workforce housing for our firefighters, teachers, returning college graduates, veterans, disabled citizens, and seniors – they all deserve a place in our County. Yes, this is a kind of affordable housing developer. I have also accepted contributions from those who want to build hotels, commercial, and mixed-use developments. These are also developers, but we desperately need all of these types of developments, but we need them near the newly constructed Silver Line Metro Stations to have a balanced housing portfolio.

The developers that I know, and accept contributions from, do not subdivide our farms to build 3,000 to 5,000 sq ft McMansions on five acres. The reason I got into this race is stop precisely that kind of unbridled

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »



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WALBRIDGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

on our green spaces and threatening our active agriculture, overcrowded schools built five years too late, and overburdened roads that result in unbearable traffic. The solution is not as complex as it might seem: We must plan for our growth and invest in our communities before we start digging, not after.

Proactively planning for our growth means building schools as we need them to prevent overcrowding; implementing conservation programs to preserve our land before it's sold for by-right development. It means planning thoughtful, well-connected communities, so we don't build houses without building the roads and infrastructure needed to support them.

BRL: Do you believe the many developer-funded studies that say Loudoun County's economy will fall behind if we don't add tens of thousands of residential units to our housing stock?

Walbridge: As a matter of fact, residential units are cash negative for our County. Each roof we add in Western Loudoun costs our taxpayers \$1.60 for every \$1 generated in taxes. Instead of building out the west, we ought to add density along major transportation corridors where water, sewer, and all infrastructure necessary for growth already exist.

If we're going to stay ahead economically, we must focus on attracting businesses that create jobs and pay taxes. Attracting more businesses like Orbital Sciences, which employs people right here in Loudoun, builds on our economic growth, and alleviates congestion by reducing the number of commuters in our County. By some estimates, more than 60 percent of our working-age population commutes out of our County for work every day.

BRL: Do you support opening up the Transition Policy Area to more and more data centers?

Walbridge: I do not support opening up the Transition Policy Area to more and more data centers. Data centers have been helpful in keeping our tax rate low, but we have reached our capacity for them countywide. Fifteen percent of our County's overall income is generated by data centers. It is risky to rely so heavily on an industry that only creates a handful of jobs and on a technology that is likely to become obsolete in the

near future. We must be strategic about our reliance on data centers, and have a plan to diversify our economy with other industries.

BRL: What is your approach to working with the eastern Loudoun County Supervisors to get what you need for your district?

Walbridge: We all choose to live in Loudoun for many of the same reasons: the ample green space, world-class schools, and great jobs. We make memories taking our children strawberry-picking at Wegmeyers, biking the WO&D trail, and bringing our friends from out of town to our local wineries and breweries.

We all have a stake in preserving Western Loudoun's economy and rural character. I've been working with current Supervisors and candidates from every district in Loudoun for over a year. We all want the same things for our County: to preserve our rural and suburban balance, improve our schools, and support our thriving economy. When our Supervisors put residents' interests before their own political interests, we don't have to choose between "Eastern" and "Western" Loudoun. We can make collective decisions that benefit our entire County.

BRL: What is the most interesting thing about you as a candidate and a person, that voters in your district should know?

Walbridge: I am not a politician. I'm running to represent our community because I understand first-hand how the policies made from our Board impact our families every day, from the farmers in Round Hill to the teachers and County employees in Brambleton.

Over the past several years, I've joined numerous boards and committees in an effort to get the best understanding of the issues that matter most to our community, to trace the root of our biggest problems and pinpoint the most effective, creative solutions. From my seats on Virginia's Agricultural Council, Loudoun County Farm Bureau, Save Rural Loudoun, and Soil & Water, I've accumulated an in-depth and comprehensive policy knowledge that makes me the best candidate to represent our beautiful and unique district as we fight to preserve our green spaces and active agriculture, improve our roads, and alleviate traffic congestion, and support our public schools.

HAYES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

housing development in Western Loudoun, where I live. I have a 20-acre farm, surrounded by many much larger farms. The last thing I want is for me or any of my neighbors to have our property subdivided by housing developers. I moved out here for a rural life. But whether we like it or not, people are going to try to move to Loudoun. I am someone who wants to and knows how to keep rural Loudoun rural. I know how to direct the density to the places where density is meant to go.

A part of my strategy for protecting rural Loudoun is to keep the development near the new Silver Line Metro Stations and pro-

tect the rural west. I have over 20 years of experience in government and economic development that I bring to this position, delivering capital projects, managing billion-dollar budgets, and bringing over 6,000 units of workforce housing to market. My goal is to implement a smart development strategy which facilitates the development of workforce housing and a diversification of housing types throughout the County, as we protect and grow our wine and tourism industry. Specifically, I want to implement a privately-funded Housing Production Trust Fund to close the gap on affordable housing financing, allowing it to be more abundantly produced and sold.

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RANDALL. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

BRL: How would you represent the citizens of the County as a whole, in light of the differing needs of residents in the east and the west?

Randall: One of the things that makes Loudoun County such a unique and special place to live is our three, soon to be four, distinct policy areas (Urban, Suburban, Transition, and Rural). Our rural west offers beautiful rolling hills, wineries, breweries, equestrian industry, farm to table restaurants, bed and breakfast hostels, and more. Eastern Loudoun is booming with excellent restaurants, retail opportunities, mixed-use communities, higher education institutions, sports facilities, and beautiful neighborhoods that house the bulk of our residents. These two areas complement one another. We should do all we can to ensure no additional residential growth in Western Loudoun, protect the rural roads, and environmentally sensitive areas. In Eastern Loudoun, we should reinvest in some of our older communities, and ensure they have equal amenities as other parts of the County. We should ensure the proper infrastructure is in place before approving any new homes, and offer homes at different price points. Finally, we should continue our strong economic growth and add to the 16,500 new jobs created during this Board's term, thus allowing our Eastern Loudoun residents to live closer to where they work.

BRL: Do you believe the many developer-funded studies that say Loudoun County's economy will fall behind if we don't add tens of thousands of residential units to our housing stock?

Randall: The unmet housing need is one of the main challenges facing not only Loudoun, but the National Capital Region. That need includes: low income, affordable, workforce, disability, senior, and veteran housing, or a combination thereof. There is no question we need more homes in Loudoun, the question is in what combination and where they will be located. (Workforce housing near a Metro, senior housing near a healthcare facility). Addressing the unmet housing need is necessary so that the people who serve our County, (teachers, firefighters, nurses, retail workers, etc.) are afforded the opportunity to live in the County where they work. In addition, if we are going to attract the workforce of tomorrow, we have to offer a diversity of housing stock and housing prices.

BRL: Loudoun County is an extremely popular rural tourism destination. How do you balance that with the urbanization marching from east to west?

Randall: Despite reports to the contrary, the current Board of Supervisors has not approved one new residence in Western Loudoun County; unfortunately many homes have and can be built through "by-right development." By-right development is not a legislative process voted on by the Board, but instead simply an administrative process. I believe by-right development is

the main threat to rural Loudoun County because it causes the loss of prime agricultural land. If we are to deter land owners from selling their land for by-right development, it's absolutely essential we find other ways for them to monetize their land. A strong conservation easement program, profitable farm uses, as well as other rural uses, such as a bed and breakfasts, are all tools to decrease and discourage by-right development.

BRL: How would you work with the eastern Supervisors to protect the Transition Policy Area and the Rural Policy Area, so you don't lose votes 4-5, like the True North Data Center vote?

Randall: The vote to put the True North Data Center on the Goose Creek, in the Transition Policy area, remains, for me, the most disappointing of the current BOS. I respect my colleagues who voted in favor of True North, but I simply do not understand how they could have reached that decision, given all the very logical information against a Data Center at this location. As decisions are made on the Board, I strive to encourage my colleagues to vote for what I believe is beneficial for Loudoun residents. Sometimes they agree, other times they do not. What I have never done, and refuse to do going forward, is vote-trading. Vote-trading is, in my opinion, not a productive habit, and would prevent me from always voting my conscious and constituency.

BRL: What is the most interesting thing about you as a candidate and a person, that voters in your

district should know?

Randall: Most people don't know that I've run for office twice before, in 2003 and 2007. After my second loss, I came to the conclusion that serving as a. elected official wasn't God's plan for me. Thus, I sought, and found other ways to serve. I continued to be very involved in LCPS, not only in my children's schools, but as Chair of Loudoun's Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee.

I also held the chairmanship of two state bodies: the Virginia Fair Housing Board and the Virginia Board of Corrections. I was happy, comfortable, and satisfied with my life when in 2015, I was asked to run for Chair of Loudoun County. After some convincing, and a call from Sen. Tim Kaine, I decided to seek the Chairmanship, and was extraordinarily honored to win that election. Serving in this position has been more gratifying than I ever imagined. I wake up every morning with the opportunity to Chair the best county in the Country. I bring to the position my experience as a mom, Chair of two state level boards, a community advocate for over 25 years, and a mental health therapist. I hope the people of Loudoun feel I have brought to the office: civility, respect, sound policy, transparency, responsiveness, and a willingness to work with my colleagues on the BOS. I appreciate the citizens of Loudoun trusting me to be their Chair, and on Nov. 5, I ask for your vote. Thank you.



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WHITBECK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

toll increases through 2056 is unacceptable. And, if elected, I will fight for lower tolls and distance-based pricing.

Second, we can do better in the area of land use, specifically by allowing for more proffers. When homes are built, it is critical that we have the infrastructure to accommodate the cars on our roads and the children in our schools. Currently, we have neither; and I would like to see more proffers so that we can at least start to make progress on these issues, and limit by-right development.

Good policy should be our priority; and I can work with anyone in our legislature regardless of party affiliation.

BRL: How would you represent the citizens of the County as a whole, in light of the differing needs of residents in the east and the west?

Whitbeck: I have a three-part approach to land use that I believe all residents support. First, we need to preserve our rural west. That means protecting our rural policy areas. The recent decision by the Board to take away open space for more density was wrong. Second, where we do build homes, we need to focus on attainable house. We can work on diversifying our housing portfolio to provide more affordable options to younger families and our seniors. Finally, we need to make sure that we have the infrastructure, roads, and schools necessary to accommodate new growth.

BRL: Do you believe the many developer-funded

studies that say Loudoun County's economy will fall behind if we don't add tens of thousands of residential units to our housing stock?

Whitbeck: Despite an apparent need for housing options, there are many factors that contribute to Loudoun's economic strength. Greater housing development comes with greater infrastructure needs, which can burden our economy just as a lack of housing can.

Our economy is not dependent on a single factor. While housing is an important, it is not the sole determining factor.

I believe our major crisis with housing is in the way of attainable housing. Teachers, first responders, and County employees often can't afford to live in the community they serve. While we need housing, housing-type is equally important. My strategy to address attainable housing needs is to support a diverse housing portfolio so people can afford to live in Loudoun County, entry level to retirement.

BRL: Loudoun County is an extremely popular rural tourism destination. How do you balance that with the urbanization marching from east to west?

Whitbeck: My vision is a balanced plan for development that preserves our rural west and our rural economy. My focus is on holding the line on our Rural Policy Area, building attainable housing units, and prioritizing the infrastructure we need for our current and future plans. I also support a Transfer of Development Rights program that would

help address the issues we have with "by-right" development.

BRL: How would you work with the eastern Supervisors to protect the Transition Policy Area and the Rural Policy Area, so you don't lose votes 4-5, like the True North Data Center vote?

Whitbeck: I have a positive relationship with many of our current Supervisors and will have a positive relationship with anyone who is serving on the Board. The citizens deserve a Chair who can work with anyone, regardless of party affiliation. I have been, and will continue to be an advocate for our critical interests in the west, like agribusiness, farmers, and more, so that our eastern Supervisors are well educated on how their

decisions impact our rural west.

BRL: What is the most interesting thing about you as a candidate and a person, that voters in your district should know?

Whitbeck: For ten years, I ran a pro bono mental health clinic, providing legal services to those seeking mental health treatment for loved ones. The clinic was so successful that Fairfax County brought the program to their County Attorney's office. I would like to see a similar position implemented in the County Attorney's office in Loudoun. As Chair of the Board, I will bring my passion for mental health care to the job, and support behavioral and mental health services in schools and a mental health position in the County Attorney's office.

'VERTICAL FARMING', CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

already in progress by working with us." Loudouners are certainly familiar with traditional farming, and, to some extent, hydroponic farming.

But, vertical farming is a newer concept, and with respect to the finer details of what makes the Skyscraper vertical farming approach so attractive, Starling said this: "We use both hydroponic and aeroponic growing systems to achieve an industry leading advantage ... Our buildings are unique in design in that we have figured out the most efficient way to conduct controlled environment agriculture. We use sunlight, and our buildings are energy positive ... others

use four times the amount of energy of a field farm by running grow lights all day and night. We are able to grow year round, so the term 'seasonal fruits and vegetables' will become a thing of the past. Imagine locally grown strawberries and tomatoes available fresh in mid-winter.

"Our buildings are positive pressure clean rooms, so there is never a need for pesticides, herbicides, nor fungicides.

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"Cities don't have a monopoly on innovation. I live on a mountain myself and fully appreciate the small town feel," Starling said.

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OHNEISER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

When I was on the school board, this amount of "TAKING" was over \$200 million per year.

VDOT is perennially underfunded, meaning the state does not carry its share of what overpasses cost Loudoun, nor does VDOT even meet its own minimum published standards for provisioning and maintaining the roads VDOT is responsible for.

As Chair of the Board of Supervisors, I would work with other Supervisors to coordinate a meeting with the Fairfax BOS to jointly demand VDOT be fully funded and the composite index be waived for two years so both counties could catch up with needed school construction. If this could not be done, I would obtain approval of our BOS to delay all high density residential construction approvals until the state met with Loudoun to work out these issues. Although the state is clearly addicted to income tax growth and sales tax growth it gets from Loudoun, we must be treated fairly.

BRL: How would you represent the citizens of the County as a whole, in light of the differing needs of residents in the east and the west?

Ohneiser: I believe that if fairness, efficiency, and community support are the focal points of discussion and policies, all citizens will understand and appreciate such decisions that are needed. Protecting farmland sounds like it is a western Loudoun only issue, but prime farmland that may still exist in other parts of the County needs to be protected as well.

Lower taxes should be a priority of the BOS, since we are already 33 percent higher than the rest of Virginia. The high density residential approvals in eastern Loudoun have caused the property tax rate to be too high for everyone in Loudoun. Traffic is spoiling the quality of life of all residents, especially the interstate commuting. This BOS hasn't even seen fit to pull the federal government into the solutions, yet interstate commerce is its domain. The BOS needs to focus

on actions that benefit residents, not the developers who have profited off Loudoun for far too long.

I have prepared a draft plan which I hope to discuss at the Council of Loudoun Town Forum in October, which affords Loudoun the first right of refusal to purchase prime farmland prior to it being developed into housing. This ensures current owners of prime farmland are not downzoned into losing their land value, and the County residents don't lose the farmland resource. The entire program includes self-funding components as well.

BRL: Do you believe the many developer-funded studies that say Loudoun County's economy will fall behind if we don't add tens of thousands of residential units to our housing stock?

Ohneiser: NO! NO! NO! Both my opponents openly seek and receive a great many large developer campaign donations. I do not. As former chair of the school board finance committee, I have personally studied this issue in depth. High density residential developments affect school crowding, force school boundary changes, cause traffic, cause upward pressure on our tax rate, and do not help our young professionals to live in Loudoun, since very few of these developments provide studios, or one bedroom, or anything that is inexpensive to buy or rent. They also lower the market value of existing homes in the County.

BRL: Loudoun County is an extremely popular rural tourism destination. How do you balance that with the urbanization marching from east to west?

Ohneiser: All of Loudoun deserves to have its quality of life protected. Traffic, taxes, under-maintained roads and non-credible politicians threaten that quality of life. Current contenders for Supervisor roles (especially the Chairmanship) can say anything to pander to voters, but both my opponents should be viewed from a fact-based perspective.

Neither one has done anything charitable in Loudoun as a longstanding volunteer.

I spent 10 years on the Good Shepherd Board helping thousands of homeless in Loudoun. I spent years on the Loudoun Crime Commission Board helping schools and the community improve safety. This was accomplished by giving various levels of policing and investigating organizations a platform to share information, techniques, and other involvements. Both my opponents enjoy tens of thousands of developer dollars to finance their campaigns, while making believe these developers don't expect a return on their investments.

The current Chair even voted for the comprehensive plan which clearly violated prior promises made to protect western Loudoun by protecting the Transition Policy Area as a buffer between urban and rural. The state, developers, and partisans who accept developer donations are all holding hands as they march to the West Virginia border, no matter what false promises they make to voters.

As a recently retired lawyer with decades of business experience, I can balance the needs of citizens without conflicts with clients. There are ethics rules regarding what lawyers in a firm owned by an elected board member can and should not do, which go well beyond just the board member recusing himself when there is a conflict.

BRL: How would you work with the eastern Supervisors to protect the Transition Policy Area and the Rural Policy Area, so you don't lose votes 4-5, like the True North Data Center vote?

Ohneiser: I am the only candidate who has been a member of each party. I have lots of friends and credibility with both parties and understand them far better than someone whose only experience was with one party. Both my opponents are known for being extreme partisans, which makes Board

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35 »

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OHNEISER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

cooperation including both parties even harder. In the last election I obtained far more votes running for Commonwealth Attorney (which I lost) than the current Chair got in a three-way race, which she won. This makes me the favorite, since she is the incumbent, and the Republican candidate has never won anything except highly partisan GOP leadership roles.

BRL: What is the most interesting thing about you as a candidate and a person, that voters should know?

Ohneiser: When I chaired the finance committee while on the school board for two terms, I installed better bidding techniques and better analytical tools, which literally saved taxpayers millions.

After spending four years successfully concluding a major commercial deal for one of my employers with the Chinese Government, I realized how valuable it would be for our students to have more access to different foreign languages. I was successful getting Mandarin installed as an LCPS course choice and the students who took this course did very well when it was time to differentiate themselves for college entrance. LCPS needs to run more efficiently.

I have volunteered for many County charities for decades, and understand how homeless, near homeless, and working poor struggle to live in Loudoun. I see the role as Chair as a full-time service role, not as some stepping stone to greater political callings – and as a retired lawyer I have no client conflicts.

Voters should make a real choice for Chair, and not based on a sense of partisan loyalty. We should all want to have a dedicated, full-time, service-driven, executive working with the BOS for the benefit of Loudoun residents, not special interests like developer clients or developers who donated to both my opponents' campaigns.

PURCELLVILLE LAWSUIT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chief of Police, and defaming her. Fraley puts forth similar allegations, in addition to what he describes as a “conspiracy by four members of the Town Council.”

The Fraley lawsuit states that four Council members voted to appoint Vanegas as Interim Town Manager, that Vanegas was selected over more qualified candidates, and that the goal was the removal of Police Chief McAlister. He also suggests that as a supporter of reform efforts by McAlister, he got swept up in the controversy and was also targeted for removal.

Vanegas was, in fact, appointed as Interim Town Manager by a unanimous vote of the Town Council.

The choice at the time was between Danny Davis – Assistant Town Manager – and Vanegas.

Davis was hired by then-Town Manager Rob Lohr in September 2015. Previously he was Chief of Staff/Assistant to the Loudoun County Administrator. He has a BA in Government from Patrick Henry College and a Master of Public Administration from George Mason. A smart guy, but far less experienced than Vanegas.

Vanegas – ten years Davis’s senior in terms of his service to Purcellville – was hired by Town Manager Rob Lohr in 2005, and started as Superintendent of Waterworks. He was promoted by Lohr in 2007 to Capital Projects and Engineering Manager, then in 2008 again promoted to Assistant Director of Public Works. In 2013, Lohr promoted him to Director of Public Works.

His education includes a Master of Arts/Organizational Management from George Washington University; he is also a certified Public Manager, and has a Master of Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia. He also has a Profession-

al Certificate of Environmental Planning from UVA – and a Bachelor of Science from Old Dominion University.

Vanegas’s initial investigation of the Police Department, while later found to be flawed, was not without foundation. Nearly half of the Purcellville Police force had come to him with departmental complaints. And, although the Town Council voted a unanimous “no confidence” in McAlister in November 2017, the Police Department remained under the purview and total direction of the Town Manager.

Ultimately, when John Anzivino, an experienced Town Manager, was brought on board, and the Town completed a thorough, independent investigation – conducted by retired City of Charlottesville Police Chief and Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia School of Continuing and Professional Studies, Timothy Longo, Sr., and the law firm Wilson Elser – all concluded that, the original Vanegas investigation of McAlister was flawed, and that the idea of a conspiracy between select Town Council members and Vanegas – or anyone else – was never at issue. In fact, the Longo/Wilson Elser team found no wrong doing on the part of Council.

The Town Council is the legislative body, and is not involved in day to day operations of the Town; that is the job of the Town Manager.

In the end, Longo and Wilson Elser pointed to a dysfunction of the Police Department going back years. “Our investigation revealed the existence of a cycle of complacency and mediocrity within the department that warrants immediate attention,” said their final report – an audit and investigation completed – July 30, 2018.

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BUFFINGTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

order to maintain a high quality of life for everyone, and a strong future for rural Loudoun.

BRL: What is a priority/need common to the eastern and western residents of your district?

Buffington: From reducing traffic congestion, improving school safety, and ensuring sufficient parks, trails, and recreational opportunities in the east; to preserving rural Loudoun, improving school safety, and ensuring sufficient parks, trails, and recreational opportunities in the west – our goal must always be to improve quality of life for the residents, businesses, and tourists of Loudoun County. As stated above, ensuring Board focus on the planning and funding a sufficient stock of public parks, trails, and recreational spaces is definitely a common desire of residents from both sides of the Blue Ridge District.

As such, I helped approve Loudoun's vision to build a County-wide interconnected trail system, and have worked with several towns and HOA's on trail and other bicycle and pedestrian improvements in and around their communities. I also helped approve County purchase of 280 acres next to an existing 600-acre state-owned parcel that Loudoun then gifted to the state of Virginia for use as a future 900-acre State Park in northwestern Loudoun. I worked to proactively purchase 106 acres to expand Franklin Park and connect it to

Sleeter Lake Park, and I continue to work proactively with my colleagues and County staff to identify and attempt to purchase other parcels throughout the District for use as future County parks, trails, and recreational sites.

I'm working with County staff toward construction of a future parks and recreation site between Woodgrove High School and Route 7, and I've worked with the Town of Hillsboro to support and fund multiple enhancements to their community and events center (Old Stone School). I've supported numerous other new parks and recreation facility projects throughout Loudoun, to include Hal & Bernie Hanson Park, Beaverdam Reservoir Park, Sleeter Lake Park, and several others. I've also worked with the Town of Purcellville, County staff, and my colleagues to ensure continued public use of Fireman's Field, and I led a successful effort to approve addition of a future Western Loudoun Parks & Recreation Center facility to the County's official project planning and funding list (six-year Capital Improvement Program). While this is not a comprehensive list of my work, it gives you an idea of the work I've done in the last four years to ensure sufficient parks, trails, and recreational facilities throughout Loudoun.

BRL: Do you believe the many developer-funded studies that say Loudoun County's economy will fall behind if we don't add tens of thousands of

residential units to our housing stock?

Buffington: Absolutely not. While I do believe Loudoun needs a sufficient stock of housing that is actually affordable so that more of our lower-wage workers can live where they work, I have told our development and business communities directly that the "unconstrained" George Mason University Housing Needs Assessment study stating that we needed 18,300 new homes to support our growing economy, was not based in reality, and was therefore a complete waste of time and money. Not only have I publicly disagreed with the report, but I've also publicly questioned the previous Board's wisdom in funding such an "unconstrained" study that was not based in reality. My position on this is evident to anyone who followed the recently completed Comprehensive Plan update process in which I successfully led the effort to greatly reduce the number of recommended new housing by thousands, upon thousands of homes.

BRL: Do you support opening up the Transition Policy Area to more and more data centers?

Buffington: Absolutely not. The decision to allow data centers as a by-right use north of the Greenway in the Transition Policy Area (TPA) was approved by the previous Board of Supervisors, before I was elected. And the decision to allow the True North Data Center just south of the Greenway was one that I fought very hard to pub-

licize and oppose; however, it did end up passing by one vote. That being the case, I worked successfully through Loudoun's 2019 Comprehensive Plan update process to limit the negative effects of that decision to five adjacent parcels (one of which is owned by Loudoun County) located just south of the Greenway, encircled by Sycolin Road and the Greenway. Thankfully, I was able to help approve this limit even though the Planning Commission had recommended a vastly larger area of the TPA to be zoned for by-right data centers.

BRL: What is your approach to working with the eastern Loudoun County Supervisors to get what you need for your district?

Buffington: Great question, because it takes five votes to accomplish our objectives, and only two of the Board's nine Supervisors directly represent western Loudoun. Therefore, proactive communication with eastern Loudoun Supervisors is critical to the continued success of western Loudoun interests. For this reason, I regularly communicate with all my colleagues in an open, honest, and respectful manner, and I routinely invite them to join me for both official and unofficial events throughout western Loudoun. I do this because observing western Loudoun's beauty for themselves is the best way to ensure they gain a healthy understanding

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37 »

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SEROTKIN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

of mothballing for buildings that while newer, won't serve the community nearly as well as the current schools do.

Ian also wants to increase STEAM opportunities for all students, and institute a Social and Emotional Learning program from which all students and staff would benefit. It is this last idea about which I am most excited. With all the concern for school safety, such programs are vital not only to our children's immediate safety, but the well being of our larger current and future communities. Ian also understands that our strongest classroom accomplishments come from allowing for adequate recess:

our children's bodies need to move and they need to interact socially so they can return to the classroom refreshed and ready to tackle the next lesson. That's why he worked to change Virginia's recess laws and, more than doubled the recess time our kids get in Loudoun.

Lastly, Ian understands that we cannot be the premier system if we don't support our teachers and staff accordingly by ensuring their salaries are commensurate with surrounding counties. I truly believe a vote for Ian Serotkin as Blue Ridge representative for Loudoun's School Board is in all of our best interests.

*Kristen Gorczyk
Purcellville*

BUFFINGTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

of why it's so important to all Loudouners that we continue protecting western Loudoun's rural, historic, and scenic character, indefinitely.

BRL: What is the most interesting thing about you as a candidate and a person, that voters in your district should know?

Buffington: I grew up along the Shenandoah River in neighboring Clarke County, where I graduated high school as a Future Farmer of America. I then served as a U.S. Marine from 1998 - 2002, and have since held a career as a federal law enforcement officer

in the Washington, D.C. area. I've lived in both the eastern and western portions of my District, and know both areas well.

Since being elected in 2016, I've had the honor of receiving special recognition by the Land Trust of Virginia for my work in conservation, being named "Friend of the Blue Ridge Mountains" by the Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains conservation organization, and being named "Favorite Public Servant" of 2017 by Loudoun Now. I'm a father of two outstanding young men being raised in Loudoun, and I very much love my soon-to-be fiancé, whose children I look forward to step-fathering!

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HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Politics Creates Value

We had two ways to increase the land's value. First, we deployed a crackerjack team of architects, land planners and landscape architects, civil and other engineers, traffic consultants, lawyers, and contractors of various sorts. The resulting design and economic forecasts increased the property's worth... but, not by enough. We had to create more value and we knew how: The land was still zoned for residential use, not offices. Rezoning was not just critical; it would produce the pot of gold we needed.

This was an obstacle we were experienced in overcoming. First, we schmoozed the county planners, emphasized the new tax revenues we'd pay, and the stellar buildings we'd produce. We worked to know these folks on a personal level and soon had their endorsement. On to the key step. We knew the chairman of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners pretty well and had donated moderate amounts to his campaigns and lesser amounts to those of other Commission members. These contributions were not large enough to emit a wisp of impropriety, but they were enough to get political access to tell

our story. We used that access and the politicians liked our rezoning request. Atlanta was – and is – a pro-growth boomtown that lacks land-use political quicksand like western Loudoun, where major conservation battles are guaranteed, so a pro-rezoning vote did not cost those Commissioners any political capital.

Despite that pro-development attitude, Glenlake was a major encroachment into a settled residential area, so there was citizen opposition from one large subdivision. Logic, energy and emotion were on their side. It was, though, too late for them... our cake had already been baked. We got our rezoning and Glenlake instantly became fabulously valuable. The new zoning increased our land value from \$6 million to about \$16 million.

Getting that OPM

With the new valuation, we persuaded a huge life insurance company to put in half of the \$16 million, which funded the acquisition and infrastructure costs, thus becoming our equal partner. Its cash in our hand, we closed on the property, paid ourselves a tidy up-front sum for our time and troubles, and marched forth.

Glenlake became UPS's world headquarters.

Other developers soon built their own large projects in the area, so we went back to the Board of Commissioners and got additional density to allow about four million more square feet of office space, with variances to build thirty-story buildings. That was like free money! It's also an example of what can happen after the camel gets his nose in the tent, as the True North Data Center debacle and the shift of land from Loudoun's Rural area to its denser Transition Policy Area may presage for us.

Lessons for Loudoun

While that's my personal tale, there are lessons for Loudoun. The most important: Developers' full-time business is to convert land into buildings, and they are better at offense than we are at defense.

Loudoun's next step is to write a new zoning ordinance, and I wonder if our conservationists are even playing defense.

Perhaps this image from Glenlake will motivate a few people. Felling trees is easy. But, to build structures a developer has to get rid of the stumps before he can start site work. Here's how we did it.

A Caterpillar D9 bulldozer pushed each stump until it was ripped from

the earth. Heavy equipment hauled the stumps to a huge trench, at the bottom of which was a long, wide pipe peppered with holes. The pipe connected to a big diesel-powered fan next to the trench. Stumps were dumped into the trench and set afire, and the pipe-fan device blew air under the stumps, superheating the fire and destroying evidence of... The Lost Forest.

That device had a name: "Destructo-Blower" and some of them may be heading our way unless we succeed in getting a decent zoning ordinance.

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

BUFFINGTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

re-election as our Blue Ridge Supervisor, but I want to note that his opponent in this election is also a sincere and dedicated candidate who shares many of the same values that the vast majority of us support for the future of rural Loudoun. My decision to support Tony Buffington for Blue Ridge Supervisor for the next four critical years is based on his proven experience and track record.

*Alfred P. Van Huyck
Round Hill*



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SAM KROIZ, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

With regard to schools, Sam made it clear that every child in the county must have equal access to a good education. He believes safety is the most critical issue with regard to addressing the congestion on RT. 15 and that good land use planning is the key to sound transportation planning, something that has been sorely lacking from past and current Supervisors.

Sam stayed above the fray the other two candidates engaged in with authentic answers that made practical sense. I for one came away quite impressed with Sam's demeanor and understanding of the key role of a supervisor, i.e., to gather good information, bring citizens together, and find the best solutions to whatever issue is critical to the time. Please join me in voting for Sam Kroiz Nov. 5.

*John Adams
Lucketts*

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

should get your child into that back to school mindset you've been concerned about as a parent. If, however, a problem (e.g., screen/technology over use) continues to impinge upon your child's approach to school and academics, I recommend scheduling a consultation with a child psychologist to determine if mental health treatment is advised.

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.

**GRAPEVINE**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

furniture and decor they would be interested in."

For The Carved Tulip, decorating and styling is a very down to earth process. "I would like my clients to think of me as a friend who is coming over to help them update their homes so that we are able to openly discuss ideas and maximize creativity. My ultimate goal is for my clients to walk into each room and feel at peace and in love with their surroundings."

The Carved Tulip: www.TheCarvedTulip.com

CALEB FOR CATOCTIN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Later in the same debate, he called it a do-nothing plan. I was taken aback when he called the Board of Supervisor's vote on Rt. 15 a sham vote. It was an official vote that will move the work forward. Unlike Mr. Hayes' double-toned statements, Caleb has been very clear that he supports the plan that was passed, and has been active in trying to ensure that it is executed properly.

Caleb's motivation to serve on the Board of Supervisors is in the best interest of the people of the Catoctin District and Loudoun County. This

ART GALLERY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

further information can be found on the gallery's website.

The gallery serves to support artists and promote locally produced artwork while enhancing the quality of life in the area. Being a volunteer driven venue, the Purcellville Art Gallery is looking for volunteers to help hang artwork, work in the gallery, and help with special events.

BOB ROSS EXHIBIT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

nearly 15,000 visitors just in one month! Imagine the impact this is having on us and how many people are discovering us for the first time. We hope that many of the Bob Ross fans will return for other performances and exhibits and support the arts all year.

"Bob's positive messages, his inspiration and his ability to make art accessible to everyone – these are the reasons I think he still resonates with so many people today. He never wanted to be known as a famous artist. He wanted to be known as a teacher, as a person who inspired creativity in others. One of my favorite quotes is "There is an artist deep down inside of every one of us." ... I completely agree!"

Ross led a very interesting life. He was raised in Florida and started painting as a young man while serving in the Air Force in Alaska.

In Alaska, he took a deep interest in the beautiful images of nature all around him – the ever-present snow, the

www.TheCarvedTulip.com, (703) 851-0935.

Made to shine

Melissa Franklin has an all-around beauty studio in Purcellville, with clothing, jewelry and more. It's called M. Franklin Studio and Boutique. She also has a thriving makeup-artist business called Makeup by Melissa Franklin.

There, Franklin says, "I've worked in the fashion and beauty industry in some capacity almost my entire life. I have always loved art as well, and paint in my

is in contrast to his opponent Forest Hayes who is a D.C. politician and has received \$78,000 in campaign contributions from Washington D.C. and Maryland developers. He says he wants to keep Catoctin rural and hold developers in check. These contributions make me wonder about his ties to these developers, and if he would be able to serve Catoctin's best interests.

I encourage you to vote for Caleb Kershner as your next Supervisor and help keep Catoctin the great place we call home.

*Judy Hall
Leesburg*

Currently, gallery hours of operation are Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The gallery sells original paintings, sculpture, crafted jewelry and other gift items.

For more information on the new Purcellville Art Gallery, volunteer opportunities, classes, and artwork submission forms, please see the website: purcellvilleartgallery.com

mountains, the rivers and waterways. He developed a robust business around that love of the landscape and of art.

That business was centered in Northern Virginia, and it is said that he was in the Purcellville area frequently, cultivating, also, his love of "antiquing."

Per the Bob Ross website, "It's quite poetic," says Joan Kowalski, President, Bob Ross Inc., "That his first major exhibit would be in Purcellville."

Franklin Park supporters and attendees coming to any one of the art center's performances while the Bob Ross exhibit is on display can see his great works and the performance of their choice on the same evening. The Art Center Gallery is open one hour prior to each performance. For a full schedule go to www.franklinparkartscenter.org.

For information about the artist and Bob Ross Inc., visit www.bobross.com. The Bob Ross name and images are registered trademarks of Bob Ross Inc. © Bob Ross Inc. Used with permission.

free time. But, makeup is my medium of choice. I use the power of makeup to help my clients feel beautiful on the outside, so they can shine from the inside.

Franklin says that the sentiment she lives by is Audrey Hepburn's quote that "Nothing makes a woman more beautiful than the belief she is beautiful," adding, "I hope to instill that in each and every one of the women that walks through my door."

Melissa's makeup sessions are for the most important for special occasions –

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

fortunate if – when that moment arrives I find myself (again, as I did in this nature walk) able to venture at will to all the places and times I experienced in my corporeal existence on Earth. Too ambitious? I would counter: now that's not only a contradiction in terms, but a pair of mutually exclusive words. I might even expand my imaginative eternity, just for a moment, of course, to include all the places, people and moments I've not hitherto experienced; my 'heaven' would be rich, indeed. Divine at the very least.

So, my little trip to this small oasis from development and private enterprise granted me a brief glimpse into limitlessness, a momentary experience of life without bounds; I'm not sure if that's what the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority had in mind, in preserving this acreage, but I think it's safe to say they've got my approval on this one.

Wonder what I'll find at some of their other local facilities; want to come along?

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FARM TOUR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

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weddings and graduations, for example. Or, any event or occasion important to you personally. The M. Franklin Studio & Boutique is located at 550 East Main Street in Purcellville, (703) 945-9750.

To have your small business featured in our Small Business Grapevine, contact Andrea Gaines via email at andrea@andreaagaines.com. The theme for November, Gentle Harvest, for December, Hearth & Home, and for January 2020, Be Bold.

KERSHNER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

our unique difference. I support a robust rural-use economy and taking a hard look at the specifics of our rural zoning policies in order to preserve farm land, open space, and unique Western Loudoun.

BRL: What citizen priority in your district is not being addressed by the Board of Supervisors?

Kershner: Improved transportation is the biggest priority for Catoclin. Our commutes are growing longer and more dangerous every day. Our children's school bus trips are excessive, and our quality of life is diminished as we sit in traffic and pay higher and higher tolls. We must get ahead of the curve, and be proactive rather than reactive to our road upgrades, and invest the necessary capital sooner rather than later. Route 15 needed an upgrade a decade ago, and there are a number of other transportation projects coming online that will need immediate attention and funding. As the Catoclin Supervisor, I will work hard to raise our quality of life by fighting for state, local, and federal funding to meet our transportation needs.

BRL: Do you believe the many developer-funded studies that say Loudoun County's economy will fall behind if we don't add tens of thousands of residential units to our housing stock?

Kershner: I do not believe our economy

will suffer if we fail to meet every housing demand that exists. Loudoun's economy is \$19 billion strong with a 2.4 percent unemployment rate. A strong economic development plan is the key to our continued economic success. We must make sure our infrastructure, schools, and public utilities are put in place, or ensure that we get the necessary proffers before adding thousands of houses. Debate during consideration of the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan offered insight into the difference between regional housing demands versus the housing needs of Loudoun's residents. We simply do not have the capacity to absorb the housing needs of the D.C. metropolitan area.

BRL: Do you support opening up the Transition Policy Area to more and more data centers?

Kershner: I do not support bringing data centers into the TPA. The original intent of the TPA was to create a series of real communities consisting of differently sized homes serviced by schools and convenience businesses mixed with open space and parks. Red Cedar is really the best example of this intended community in the TPA. The TPA concept did not, nor should it include light industrial zoning that would allow for data centers. I fully support data centers in Loudoun, but located in the right places.

BRL: What is your approach to working with the Eastern Loudoun County Supervisors to get what you need for your district?

Kershner: The Board must work together to support the needs of the entire County. If elected, I will support my colleagues on projects needed for Eastern Loudoun and would hope and expect they would do the same for me in Western Loudoun. I have worked on legislative efforts for most of my adult life. I have also litigated in dozens of Northern Virginia court cases for 15 years. Winning and getting things done requires maintaining excellent relationships, power of persuasion, and choosing your battles carefully. I will bring this background, experience, and training to the Board of Supervisors, along with my farming and small business experience, to fight for the needs of Catoclin and the preservation of rural Loudoun. Eastern Loudoun and Western Loudoun are a perfect combination. Most of our housing is in the suburban policy area, yet beautiful mountains and farms exist just a short drive away in Western Loudoun. This combination offers our residents the best of both worlds, and I will work to help solidify this vision with the other County Supervisors.

BRL: What is the most interesting thing about you as a candidate and a person, that voters in your district should know?

Kershner: I am farmer, and trained and highly experienced legislative and legal advocate.

I grew up on a local Middletown, Maryland farm, milked cows at six local dairies, was an active member 4-H kid for ten years, and I am a professional sheep shearer. My father was a cattle and sheep rancher, my mother was a dairy farmer, and my agricultural ancestry can be traced back to the Mayflower. Even today, I promote youth and agriculture as an executive board member of the Loudoun Fair and Associates.

I moved to Loudoun in 1995, and fought traffic and paid tolls for ten years, commuting to Capitol Hill, where I learned how to build coalitions and get things done in our nation's top legislative body. After going to school at night for eight years, I finished my finance degree at George Mason University and my law degree at George Mason Law School. I then protected our citizens as a Loudoun prosecutor for several years, before becoming a small business owner and now a partner at the law firm of Simms Showers in Leesburg.

I hope to bring my farming background, finance and legal education, and advocacy skill set to the Board of Supervisors to build coalitions, wisely manage our budget, protect our farming and agribusiness communities, and keep Catoclin the greatest place to live, work, and visit.

KROIZ, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

inspire folks in other districts to stand up for themselves as well, because no one wants increased housing density in their neighborhood anywhere in Loudoun. It is clear to everyone but developers and our elected leaders that we are growing too fast and are suffering the consequences, like high taxes, traffic, overcrowded schools, etc.

BRL: What citizen priority in your district is not being addressed by the Board of Supervisors?

Kroiz: The overwhelming majority of folks in the Catoclin District want to keep rural Loudoun rural. This includes folks that live in the rural area, but also those who live in the suburban parts of the Catoclin District and Loudoun as a whole. Folks realize how much easy access to farms, wineries, historical sites, breweries, and beautiful countryside adds to their quality of life. They also realize the magnitude of costs that are avoided by keeping rural Loudoun rural.

On average, for every \$1 that each house in Loudoun pays in taxes, it receives \$1.60 in services that we are all paying for. If rural Loudoun becomes suburbanized like the rest of Loudoun, it will send our taxes through the roof and probably bankrupt the County. Everybody says they want to keep rural Loudoun rural, but both parties are doing a poor job turning talk into action. Recently, both parties came together to take a big step in the wrong direction, moving the Rural Area/Transition Area boundary for the first time

since there has been a boundary. How will either of my party-affiliated opponents change this equation? We are losing rural Loudoun with business as usual, and we need to do something different.

Agriculture and rural Loudoun go hand in hand. Farms are what make rural Loudoun rural, and farms can't operate in an area that isn't rural. I understand the challenges facing agriculture and rural Loudoun because, as a full-time farmer, I live them every day. I'm the eighth generation of my family to live and work on our farm, but Molly and I had to reinvent our farm for the 21st century by starting our cheesemaking operation in 2013. We are raising our two young kids on the farm and hope that they can take over the operation some day, but they won't be able to be successful if rural Loudoun isn't rural anymore. We won't be able to move our farm equipment on the road between fields, and we won't have all the support services we rely on, like large animal veterinarians, lime and fertilizer spreaders, agricultural supply stores, etc. We are already having trouble finding these services. I fully realize the urgency of the situation, I'm the most qualified candidate to keep rural Loudoun rural, my livelihood depends on it, and Catoclin District voters can trust me to make it happen.

BRL: Do you believe the many developer-funded studies that say Loudoun County's economy will fall behind if we don't add tens of thousands of residential units to our housing stock?

Kroiz: No. The recent Comp Plan Review was driven by the number of folks that want to move here. It's nice that so many folks want to move here, but that shouldn't be the basis for our long-term planning. We should always treat the interests of current residents as the number one priority. The Comp Plan Review should have asked: "How many new folks can we accommodate without sacrificing our quality of life?" When they've exhausted all their other weak arguments, developers will often ask: "Well, what

about your kids, where will they live?" The fact is that if we sacrifice our quality of life and lose what makes Loudoun special, then our kids won't want to stay here anyway.

BRL: Do you support opening up the Transition Policy Area to more and more data centers?

Kroiz: Absolutely not. I've been active opposing data center development in places they don't belong. But I'm not opposed to data centers where they belong, which is where they are currently permitted and no further. I'm in favor of raising their performance standards to eliminate the noise, light, and other issues folks have had living near them. I'm also in favor of looking into the way we assess data centers to get even more tax revenue from them than we do today. I'm not at all scared of losing data center business to other areas. We are sitting on the backbone of the internet, every data center wants to be here, and we need to act accordingly.

My biggest problem with data centers is that we are using their windfall tax revenue to subsidize housing growth rather than to lower taxes and build a more sustainable future. One day the data center industry will move on or decline, but we will still be stuck paying for services for all the housing growth it is currently subsidizing. You often hear that \$0.30 of our tax rate comes from data centers, which is great. Our elected leaders drop the tax rate \$0.03 and pat themselves on the back about it. I'm asking: what happened to the other \$0.27?

BRL: What is your approach to working with the Eastern Loudoun County Supervisors to get what you need for your district?

Kroiz: As I explained earlier, keeping rural Loudoun rural is in the best interests of citizens not just in the Catoclin District, but in the County as a whole. Rural Loudoun contributes so much to quality of life for all of us and is a big

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KROIZ, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

part of what makes Loudoun special. No one wants to lose what we have, and no one wants to have to pay all the costs that would come along with rural Loudoun becoming suburbanized. I plan to lead with these facts, act like a human being versus a normal politician, get to know my colleagues, figure out what they want and how I can help them get it, hope for some reciprocity, and take it from there. I have no interest in playing partisan games, I want to solve problems, and I don't think our interests are adversarial at all. I have no doubt I'll get along just fine with the returning Supervisors and the new ones. I'll also be a powerful force on the Board as an independent. I'll be a swing vote on any issue, which means I'll always be at the heart of the conversation. If the Board ends up

with me and a 4-4 partisan split, which is a possibility in several different scenarios, I'll be in the driver's seat.

BRL: What is the most interesting thing about you as a candidate and a person, that voters in your district should know?

Kroiz: I was born and raised on my farm, but my aunt and uncle operated a horse boarding business on the farm at that time, so I didn't grow up farming and never would have thought I would end up being a farmer. I graduated from the University of Virginia, worked as a fish biologist and commercial fisherman in Alaska for seven years, traveled abroad, and spent time working a variety of other jobs, from being a janitor to construction to tree work to playing bluegrass semi-professionally, which I still do with my band the Short Hill Mountain Boys.

As the campaign has progressed and I've had some success, my opponents have started claiming that they have farms and they are farmers as well. There are many different types of farms and types of farmers, and it's not my job to say who is or isn't a farmer. But you can learn a lot about somebody by visiting their farm, and you can visit mine on the Fall Farm Tour on Oct. 19 and 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We have been on the Farm Tour every spring and fall since 2013.

Also, I don't accept any developer donations and my opponents are both accepting them by the \$10,000s. Check out all of our campaign finance info, along with every other Virginia candidate, through the Virginia Board of Elections, or more easily through the Virginia Public Access Project at www.vpap.org.



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