

# Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

FEBRUARY 2020

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## What will the gateway to Purcellville look like

BY VALERIE CURY

The Purcellville Town Council held numerous special meetings in January to review the Town's Comprehensive Plan draft.

One of the main focuses of the plan is how to treat the "east end" or "gateway to Purcellville." Today, as you enter Purcellville on Rt. 287, you pass Patrick Henry College on the left and the Harris Teeter Shopping Center on the right. Despite rapid development, a good deal of agricultural heritage still exists in this area. The question is, will the majority on Town Council protect it ... or give way to dense commercial development.

Specifically, the big discussion concerns two undeveloped properties in

this Purcellville Gateway area – currently zoned Transition X – which is an interim zoning designation allowing uses such as agriculture, single family dwellings, or Bed & Breakfasts, to name a few.

The East End properties are the Di-Palma-Kipfer property located at 38038 West Colonial Highway – next to Catoc-tin Corner – and the O'Toole property, located at the southeast corner of Rt. 287 and Business 7 near the traffic circle where Rt. 287 meets Main Street. The property owners have attended many of the meetings within the Comprehensive Plan process. Both owners want their properties to be up-zoned to MC-Mixed Use Commercial – since this would give them the most money for their land and

the highest density options.

The Planning Commission – following Vice Mayor and Planning Commission Chair Tip Stinnette's lead – has spent years going over these two properties, revisiting them over and over. At Stinnette's suggestion, the PC unanimously decided to give the two properties an agriculture designation. But, once the decision got to the Town Council for review, Stinnette then said, "The agriculture designation is a non-starter for me."

In the end at the Town Council level, the property was designated agriculture tourism commercial – with Council Members Joel Grewe, Ted Greenly, and Chris Bledsoe strongly favoring the

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## Attention artists – painted benches around Purcellville is back

Painted benches around Purcellville is back. Discover Purcellville a community 501(C)(4) nonprofit is seeking artists to paint a bench that will be displayed around Purcellville all summer and early fall. Benches will be auctioned in the fall with proceeds helping to fund the Purcellville Art Gallery along with other community projects. For info please

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## Hats for babies on Valentine's Day

Can anyone imagine a sweeter, more heart-moving combination than a lovely retiree named Norma Waitman, hand-knitted red caps for Valentine's Day, and newborn babies in the hospital?

Waitman is a resident at the Waltonwood Ashburn senior living community.

At 87 years old, she has found something very special in life; a really fun and satisfying hobby, a way to express herself in an exquisite homemade craft, a way to give back, and a way to help babies.

She is not a life-long knitter, of baby caps or anything else.

But, about four years ago, Waitman connected with some ladies who loved to knit, learned how to do it herself, picked up some knitting needles, selected her yarn, and went to town ... eventually,

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## PROPANE COSTS TOO MUCH!

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# Hard Swimmin' Fish gathers no moss ... in or out of water

BY ANDREA GAINES

The Frederick, MD band known as Hard Swimmin' Fish fits perfectly with that old proverb "a rolling stone gathers no moss."

That 16th Century term, which refers to people who are always moving ... no roots in one place ... no responsibilities or cares ... has taken on a more modern meaning: rolling stones are people driven "to stay active to avoid stagnation."

That idea sums up the personality and musical style of the Hard Swimmin' Fish band.

According to Dan van Buskirk – band member Demi-an Lewis' stepfather and the band's most ardent promoter – Hard Swimmin' Fish plays about 40 to 50 gigs a year.

Lewis plays guitar and performs vocals. Waverly Milor is on harmonica and also performs vocals. Randy Ball is the band's bassist. And, Jason Walker is on drums and percussion.

The music that comes out of Hard Swimmin' Fish is soulful, romantic, moody, and rockin' ... all at the same time.



Left to right: Waverly Milor – harmonica/vocals, Jason Walker – drums/percussion, Randy Ball – bassist, and Demi-an Lewis – guitar/vocals.



The band's website describes the group as "An ensemble deeply rooted in the traditions of American music. Our down-home roots sound pilfers from the best that early American music has to offer, including blues, jazz, funk, and swing, and churns it all up into a spicy brew that is familiar yet uniquely our own."

Lewis and Milor draw their early influences from "the blues traditions of the American south ... Conjuring the wails of Howlin' Wolf, RL Burnside, and Bukka White."

Randy Ball, continues the website, "[has an] unyielding pursuance of the groove that has led him to study with luminaries Chuck Rainey and Victor Wooten."

And, finally, "The rhythmic engine of the band is Jason Walker. His knowledge of musical traditions from

Africa, its extension into the Caribbean, and their culmination in New Orleans in the American drum set, rumbles, growls, and speaks in tongues through his cajon (box drum) based contraption set."

The personal, business, and musical talent present in these four guys is beyond belief, as is

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# Romantics near and far bidding their hearts out in the Great Virginia Wine Country Travel Auction

BY ANDREA GAINES

In 2010, travel writer Nancy Bauer and her husband and photographer Rick Collier set out on a "150 Virginia Wineries in 150 Days" tour, researching and photographing wineries for a new project – the Virginia Wine in My Pocket smartphone app, "One of the first travel apps," according to Bauer, "created in the new world of travel technology."

Part of the absolute brilliance of the app is the way it connects wine lovers to the special experiences available to them in the so-called off-season. So-called, because people who know Virginia – and Loudoun County – know that many of the wine, outdoor, and quilts-and-comfort-related experiences of the year happen as the snow falls and the winds blow and the early daffodils show their colors.

This year – right now, actually – that connection is taking the form of The Great Virginia Wine Country Travel Auction.

Running from Feb. 3 at 8 a.m. to Feb. 10 at 9 p.m., the

**Just several days left – auction runs from Feb. 3 at 8 a.m. to Feb. 10 at 9 p.m.**

Don't curl up in your romantic easy chair – start bidding. The sassy auction website [www.auctria.com/auction/VAWineTravel](http://www.auctria.com/auction/VAWineTravel) advises, "The bidding window on certain items closes sooner than others, so pay close attention to items you really want to make sure you get your bids in on time!"



Casanel winemaker Katie DeSouza Henley ... a beautiful view of Winery 32 ... selections from Corcoran Vineyards.



auction features "one-of-a-kind getaways, experiences, and special offers" at dozens of Virginia wineries, many in combination with locally-owned lodgings and B&B establishments.

Loudoun's Corcoran Vineyards, Casanel Vineyards, and Winery 32 are participating in this Valentine's Day 2020 love fest with tour packages and gift certificates. Other wine and brewery-related businesses include Cork & Keg Tours, with dozens and dozens more Virginia winemakers vying for the auction bidders favor, statewide.

With an auction theme of "Peace, Love, and Yum," and packages referencing a "Weekend in the Tropics," a "View-ti-ful Weekend," a "Valentine's Wine & Chocolate Pairing," and the chance to "Sparkle All Day" ... seriously, who can resist?

The packages that bidders will be sorting through are wonderfully creative.

They include everything from complimentary tickets to exclusive wine festivals, tailgate wine picnics, weekend getaways, the opportunity to jump in and become a "crush monkey" – punching down (as they say) on the fruit-of-the-vine, those Valentine's-themed wine and chocolate pairings, participation in "methode champenoise" (sparkling wine) production, lunch at local cafes, and more. Also featured are simple gift certificates to winery gift shops.

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# Ketterman's to relocate ... just in time for that special day

It has been an absolute Leesburg icon, and gem and jewelry lover's destination for over 30 years.

But, the family-owned Ketterman's Jewelers is not leaving us. They are just moving to a new location so they can give us

more to love about them. On Feb. 12 at 2:12 in the afternoon, Ketterman's will open their new doors to the public at 212 Catoctin Circle, SE in Leesburg – welcoming one and all to their Grand Opening celebration ... just in time for Valentine's Day.

The famous Ketterman's Jewelers started in nearby Vienna, Virginia, in 1951 when Richard and Neysa Ketterman opened a card and gift shop called Vienna Variety. "A chance diamond sale" lead the Kettermans to transform the shop into an

upscale jewelry and gift shop. Thirty-five years later, Ketterman sold the business to his son, Dan. Dan and his wife Tammi now run the shop with the help of several of their daughters and other skilled jewelry crafters. Ketterman's has always taken a very traditional view of the jewelry

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# Five Considerations for Investors as the 2020 Elections Approach

2020 is going to be an interesting year. In the months leading up to the Nov. 3 elections, we can expect to be inundated with news and speculation around potential changes in leadership and policy that could influence the direction of the economy.



RICHARD RICCI

And there could be substantial change: Along with state elections and the presidential election, all 435 House seats and roughly a third of Senate seats will be decided in November. The winners could help shape tax and spending policies, which could have far-reaching effects on economic growth, inflation—and your investments.

For investors, the key is sticking to your investment strategy, says Paul Christopher, CFA, Head of Global Market Strategy at Wells Fargo Investment Institute. “We’re still advocating keeping things diversified and balanced through a well-thought-out risk-management

process,” Christopher says. “This is a time to be cautious and to avoid jumping to conclusions.”

Here, Christopher describes five important considerations that may help investors prepare for increasing uncertainty as the 2020 elections draw closer.

## 1. Focus on managing risk.

Volatility tends to increase as major elections approach, as potential changes fuel uncertainty. That may especially be the case in 2020, as so many major economic and political events unfold. No matter what happens, Christopher says, you should stick to your investment plan, stay disciplined, and focus more on managing risk, as your tolerance might shift.

“Conservative doesn’t mean defensive,” Christopher adds. “Defensive would mean being like a turtle, pulling into your shell, selling equities and going to cash. Conservative means taking better account of risk and reward. Know

what’s risky, and if you’re expecting volatility, focus on addressing the things that are going to upset your stomach and keep you up at night.”

## 2. Consider boosting your emergency fund.

Increasing your emergency fund may help ensure you don’t have to sell off investments during a downturn to meet expenses if something especially dramatic happens. Christopher suggests putting aside an amount equal to six to 12 months of expenses, depending on your risk tolerance. Do this, and you’ll be better prepared to wait for a potential recovery, he says.

## 3. Avoid the temptation to speculate.

It may be tempting to speculate on areas of the market poised to benefit from a certain party or candidate, or to hedge against a potential policy that you’re worried about. “We hear a lot of questions about, ‘What do we want to buy now in case candidate X wins next

year?’” Christopher says. “We’re advising against that kind of speculation, since the number of possible congressional and presidential election outcomes is still so large and varied. Instead, stay close to your long-term allocations.”

## 4. Focus on quality.

Today, Christopher suggests looking for quality in both stocks and bonds. “Election outcomes are important but still very uncertain, but we also believe that the economy is late in its expansion.

That could matter more in the next year. When the end of the economic cycle does come, quality instruments may decline—but potentially not as much as other parts of the market,” he explains. That means focusing on companies with strong cash positions, especially in the information technology, financial and consumer discretionary sectors.

Dividend-paying stocks can also be an attractive way to generate income. With-

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# A Love Story for the Ages

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

What constitutes the perfect proposal? This question had been on my mind in the waning months of 2019.

I’d known for some time how I wanted to propose to my girlfriend: at my favorite memorial in my favorite city. The very same place where I had told my girlfriend, Megan, that I loved her for the very first time. This time, though, I would be taking her there on New Year’s Eve – to ask the most important question I might ever ask.



MOORE-SOBEL

We had dinner at one of our favorite spots before I informed Megan of a surprise visit I had planned to the Lincoln Memorial. “If you hate it, we can just leave,” I said.

As we approached the memorial, we saw a huge group of people huddled together, standing around candles on the ground. Megan leaned over and asked me quietly, “Is there a vigil going on?” I told her I didn’t know, which was the

truth. I didn’t know who these people were. I hadn’t planned this part.

Most of us have stories about situations in life that didn’t go according to plan. After all, some of the hardest things in life can come at us without a moment’s notice. But some of the most meaningful events in life can also happen rather unexpectedly. This was one of those moments.

The crowd in front of the memorial began to back away as we approached. I heard whispers, quietly exclaiming, “That’s them!” That’s when Megan first caught sight of the nearly 400 candles adorned with rose petals spelling out, “I love you Megan.”

I led her up to the top of the stairs of the monument. I retrieved a letter from my pocket and began to read, as the crowd looked on from the bottom of the steps. I could have heard a pin drop; it was so quiet as everyone watched in anticipation.

I finished the letter and dropped to one knee. The crowd began to cheer. I

asked Megan to marry me. “Yes,” she said, before wrapping me in a kiss. The crowd continued to cheer, and, turning to the crowd, I said, “She said yes!”

Everything seemed to slow down. It felt surreal. I could hardly believe I had found someone to love me, especially someone as beautiful as Megan, inside and out. The moment I once thought might never come had suddenly arrived.

Remarkably, dozens of strangers played a part in this story. I had sent my brother ahead with the candles and flowers, entrusting him with setting up before Megan and I arrived. Others quickly pitched in, helping him light candles and creating that wall we saw upon our arrival, preventing the wind from snuffing out the candles.

After the proposal, we were warmly greeted by strangers, eager to offer their heartfelt congratulations. A man and his wife shared that they had traveled into the city to visit the zoo lights with their young son. Yet the zoo lights were closed, so they had decided to visit the monuments instead. “This was way better than the zoo lights,” the man said. Many others declared, “This was the best New Year’s

ever!” I could hardly agree more.

Such kindness exhibited the goodness of humanity. In the midst of strong cultural and ideological divides currently encompassing our nation, people could come together unprompted in one of the most partisan cities in the world to play a part in a celebration of love. Proving once again that even in this divisive age, love still has the power to unite.

I’d be remiss if I failed to offer a heartfelt thanks to my brother, Noah, who went above and beyond. And to all the strangers we met that night – thank you. Whether you know it or not, you made a difference.

Most of all, a special thank you to my beautiful fiancée, Megan. “I’m glad she said yes,” someone said after the proposal. “Otherwise it would’ve been a cold night.”

I have no doubt these are simply the beginning chapters of a love story for the ages.

*Samuel Moore-Sobel could not be happier to have found the love of his life. He cannot wait to spend the rest of his life with the girl of his dreams.*

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# Six Signs your teen isn't ready for college

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

A number of high school seniors have already received their college application decision letters, while most will get the news by early spring.



DR. MIKE

For those who are planning to head off to college in the fall, this both an exciting and anxiety producing time. Parents also experience a wide range

of emotions for their older teens like sadness, pride and joy. Parents can also experience anxiety, doubt, and concern for their teen's first year, especially when there are signs of unreadiness.

How do you know if your teen is ready for college? An impressive GPA and strong SAT scores, alongside well written essays, and a well-rounded application with extracurricular activities are the things college admission departments are looking for. But sometimes a good application isn't enough. In my experience the following 6 signs could lead to teens failing and returning home:

**Immaturity:** If you are the parent of a teen that is smart enough to get into

school, please don't assume that your teen is mature enough to succeed there. I have worked with a number of teens, some of whom have gone to some of the most elite colleges and universities; but a number of them couldn't manage being fully independent and autonomous away from home. Getting to classes, staying on top of work, and time management, can be too much for some.

**What you should do:** Your teen could get a part-time job, manage their own bank account, save money for college, do their own laundry and/or volunteer. The abovementioned ideas should help your teen to become more confident and mature.

**Weak or poor academics:** If your teen isn't doing well in school, they will very likely not do well in college since the course work will be more demanding. If your high school senior isn't attending classes, isn't completing and handing in assignments, isn't speaking to the teacher when struggling with material, they probably aren't going to change those things at college.

**What you should do:** If your teen

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# Water, McDonkey & Salle de Loux

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Les Saintes de Pins are two islands south of Cannes, about twenty miles into the Mediterranean. Gros Saintes is, naturally, larger than Petit Saintes, but only slightly. They are separated by a narrow channel, Le Aiguille (the “Needle” in English). Each island is about the size of Loudoun County, with a rolling topography much like ours.

For centuries, these bucolic islands were home to shepherds and fishermen. Each one had a small port with a smattering of ancillary establishments – inns, dry goods stores, ships’ chandlers, liveries and so forth. Les Saintes de Pins were not considered worthy of mainlanders’ attention until the 1960s.

Though administered by the Alpes-Maritime Department (like a U.S. state), the Saintes had largely been left

to their own devices. Gros and Petit have chosen different paths over the past six decades. The former wanted money; the latter wanted to be left alone. Gros Saintes made arrangements with immobiliers (real estate firms) in Cannes, Nice, St. Tropez, Marseilles and Paris, promoting itself as a more relaxed alternative to the crowded Cote d’Azur. It worked.

## Chasing Development

Gros Saintes first opened its seaward southern side, building roads, and laying electrical cables and water lines. It then offered estate properties along the beaches and on the bluffs overlooking them. The parcels were snapped up by Hollywood and minor European royalty. Booming with its new residents, Gros Saintes let developers have their way with its mainland side, this time for smaller lots and houses. Thousands of them. The island’s boom became an explosion.

Most of those on Petit Saintes still clung to their island’s agrarian, neighborly character. Sure, a few new houses were slipped in here and there, but Petits Saintes remained stable, rural, content.

## Disasters

In 2020, wells began drying up on the

fully-developed Gros Saintes. Each developer had supposedly performed a hydrologic analysis of his own property, but no one had looked at the island as a whole. The avocats clogged the courts with lawsuits over the dry holes, but physical laws trumped laws of the state.

The Petit Saines islanders’ detachment turned to horror as disaster next struck them. No one, nary a resident nor an engineer nor a bureaucrat had truly studied Le Aiguille. While its waters separated the two islands, its shallow bottom hid an aquifer upon which both islands depended. Then, wells on the rural Petit Saintes began running dry and brackish. Development on Gros Saintes had depleted Petit Saintes’ water.

Zounds! What could be done? Hydrogeologists had no answer, nor did government. One surefire solution was tendered by a cranky old soul on Petit Saintes: Demolish half the homes on its larger neighbor. Neighbors cheered.

## This May Happen in Loudoun

I’m sure our own aquifers have been surveyed, probably by the U.S. Geological Survey. Unfortunately, I doubt if any developer has ever been required to study critical groundwater resources outside

the boundaries of his parcel. Homebuilders cause no end of problems – from traffic congestion to overcrowded schools to higher taxes and to the loss of what made Loudoun beautiful. They did those things even while complying with the County’s Zoning Ordinance, Land Subdivision and Development Ordinance, and the Facilities Standards Manual.

Most conservationists who’ve read these documents conclude that developers are unfortunately not required to study groundwater effects over a wider area. I think they missed some words and phrases that could help us.

## Sucking St. Louis Dry

St. Louis is an old and historic African-American community on Rt. 611 just west of Middleburg. Two controversial developers have formed something named MOJAX LLC to build 30 houses on a about 15 acres. This density and its tiny lots were grandfathered under current zoning. This company needs a new name, so I’ve invented one: McDonkey. (Author’s note: The paper nixed my first choice – MOJACKASS.)

Most of St. Louis has poor wells, and occasionally neighbors have had to borrow a bucket of water from the folks next door. That is sad.

McDonkey says it drilled test wells that flow as much as 50 gallons per minute,

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



## It has been an honor to serve

Dear Editor:

It has been an honor and a humbling experience to serve the County of Loudoun, and specifically the citizens of the Catoclin District. The past eight years have been some of the most rewarding and challenging years of my life. I want to thank my colleagues for their service to the County, and the County staff for all their work as well. We have an outstanding County staff; and there are so many that have helped me along the

## LETTER

way.

Eight years ago, when the last Board was elected in 2011, Loudoun County was facing some serious challenges. We were pretty much a bedroom community for the Metro area; our commercial/industrial tax base was at about 17 percent; we did not have a viable economic development plan; we had the highest residential property taxes in the region (and one of the highest in the country); we had just cut the school budget (not the ask, the budget) two years in a row; and we had

## Arts for all Loudoun

Dear Editor,

On January 1, VSA Loudoun officially changed its name to Arts for All Loudoun, in order to clarify our purpose and agree with our 501(c)(3) title. Our organization has legally been Arts for All since 2011, but doing business as VSA – Loudoun, as a part of VSA International.

While the name has changed, our mis-

## LETTER

sion remains the same, and we will retain a membership in VSA International. Since our nonprofit’s founding in 1989, we have provided creative opportunities for personal development for all, including those with disabilities, in an inclusive community through the performing and visual arts.

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social network addresses can be found through [www.ArtsforAllLoudoun.org](http://www.ArtsforAllLoudoun.org). Donations should now be made to Arts for All. Note our new Email Addresses:

[Admin@afaloudoun.org](mailto:Admin@afaloudoun.org) – Jody Rodgers and Joannie Satterfield, Co-Presidents, [Treasurer@afaloudoun.org](mailto:Treasurer@afaloudoun.org) – Karen Brown, Treasurer, and [JoinList@afaloudoun.org](mailto:JoinList@afaloudoun.org) – Lynn Jarman, Membership.

We look forward to working with you.

—Jody Rodgers, and Joannie Satterfield  
Co-Presidents – Arts for All Loudoun

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »

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# Loudoun County Supervisors to Richmond: transportation is underfunded, zoning must remain local, the Dillon Rule needs relaxation, and more

BY ANDREA GAINES

As the Virginia General Assembly begins its yearly legislative session, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors communicates to that body its own legislative and policy priorities.

County BOS Chair Phyllis Randall (D-At Large), and BOS Vice Chair Koran T. Saines (D-Sterling) traveled to Richmond recently as part of this process, as did other returning and new members of the BOS.

The Virginia Association of Counties is a big player, here, too, facilitating communications and initiatives between individual counties and Richmond, and drawing on the expertise of the individuals who serve on the Boards of Supervisors of the Commonwealth's nearly 100 counties.

## The big picture

Loudoun's legislative priorities cover a wide variety of topics, from transportation to land use to what kind of taxing authority and state funding Loudoun County is looking for.

From a big picture perspective, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors' 2020 Legislative Program document, a kind of bible for what the County wants from Richmond, states "The Board supports relaxation of the Dillon Rule, and legislation maintaining and enhancing local authority and autonomy in matters including land use and procurement..." It also, continues the program document, "opposes legislation that erodes local authority."

The County's 2020 Legislative Program is broken down into four parts: Part 1 – Priority Statements on Transportation, Land Use, Taxing Authority, and State Funding; Part 2 – Legislative Initiatives; Part 3 – Policy Initiatives; and Part 4 – Policy Statements. The document is a sweeping look at how County politics and policy relate to what goes on in the Virginia General Assembly.

Here are the details behind Part 1 of the program – the County's priorities statements -- and a look at the topics in Parts 2 to 4.

## Priorities, Transportation

On the issue of transportation, Loudoun County is looking for more state funding and smarter state funding. According to the Board, the Virginia General Assembly

is failing to keep pace with the transportation needs of fast-growing Loudoun County. Specifically, says the BOS, "The continued economic vitality of the region and the quality of life of its citizens require greater state investment in transportation infrastructure; and existing revenue sources are no longer adequate to keep pace with the County's transportation needs." On this point, the County has asked for three things:

1. Restore funding levels for the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority that existed prior to June 2018;
2. Develop state-level legislation designed to maintain Richmond's commitments to mass transit – including Metro – and do not require localities to fund a greater share of transit-related projects;
3. Support SMART SCALE, a statewide program that helps evaluate and expedite the transportation projects that have the greatest potential to reach specific state transportation goals.

## Priorities, land use

On planning and zoning, Loudoun County wants to maintain both authority and flexibility "in the area of land use," particularly with respect to how it calculates and applies cash proffers, non-cash proffers, and impact fees. County leaders oppose initiatives on the state level that "erode" local control over land use. Here, the

### These critical facts, as reported in the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors' 2020 Legislative Program, frame the County's relationship with Richmond:

County population growth of 143 percent since 2000; population 2000 Census – 169,599, population 2010 Census – 312,311, population 2019 estimate – 412,684.

Number of households, 2019 estimate: 134,380 (up from 104,583 in 2010).

Student population growth of 138 percent 2000 to 2018; student population forecast for September 2021 – 86,142.

Number of schools (in 2016): 89 (up from 84 in 2013)

FY 2020 School budget: \$1,317 million

Operating budget: \$597.3 million

FY 2019–FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program budget: \$2.449 billion

FY 2019 debt service expenditures: \$183.4 million (per capita, \$4,190)

Registered voters (Aug. 1, 2018): 252,038

Virginia is a "Dillon Rule" state vs. a "Home Rule" state. Dillon Rule states take a more restrictive view of the rights of local governments to act on certain issues. Local governments can act only if they have been given express authority to do so by the Virginia General Assembly.

BOS has laid out legislative priorities with respect to proffers and impact fees, pressing for: "flexibility" to address critical infrastructure needs that result from growth; the right to require "non-cash" proffers from developers; the right to decide whether cash proffers and impact fees are better in a particular situation; the authority to treat by-right and rezoning projects "in an equitable way," so each bears "a fair share" of the costs that come with residential development; and, impact fee frameworks that "accurately reflect the true cost of development."

## Priorities, taxing authority, and state revenues

Loudoun County supports "maintaining its existing taxing authority" and revenue streams – including the real property tax, Business Professional Occupational License revenues and other local tax sources, and state monies that flow to the County from a variety of places. In priority order, the County wants:

1. The funding levels for the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority that existed prior to June 2018.
2. Community Service Board funding for mental health and other services based on population numbers vs. a "flat distribution to all 40 state CSBs."
3. State monies that help the County retain and recruit teachers.
4. Authority to impose fees for hotels, campgrounds, summer camps, and restaurants equal to the fee charged by the state.
5. Additional monies to eliminate waiting lists for Medicaid.
6. Budget allocations (in FY2021-FY2022) for the Regional Science Center.
7. Additional funding for VDOT operations that support local land use review and maintenance,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19 »

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# Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth: Lovettsville Road

BY TIM JON

“Wow, that’s gotta be an old structure ... and this thing looks like it’s been here a really long time. ... oh boy, that crumbling foundation over there’s been in place for eons ... and this – whatever the heck it is, seems even older ... but these rock formations look downright ancient, well, literally geologic!” I could pretty much just leave it at that in trying to describe a recent easterly drive along Lovettsville Road – from the historic ‘German Settlement’ of the same name toward Point of Rocks. Abandoned or preserved farmsteads, tangen-



JON

occurrence after traveling some of the more twisty, vertically challenging corridors in the area. Of course, I’d been to this spot on previous explorations (within a stones’ throw - literally - of the Point of Rocks Bridge), so I quickly returned to my vehicle for the return trip to Lovettsville - with a couple of stops planned along the way.

I remarked to myself at the time how peaceful it all seemed, with little or no traffic on this short stretch on a weekday morning, and much less of an overall sense of hustle and bustle compared to some of our other more congested areas to the southeast. I can still recall hearing sounds of birds, and the wind through the trees, and the simplicity of a relative auditory hush – with less industry and air travel (at least temporarily, to my ears) in the immediate vicinity; speaking of air, the substance itself felt markedly fresher and more invigorating than the stuff I’d been breathing earlier that morning.

It felt good to be alive in that particular place and time, enjoying Nature’s



tial dirt roads, river bluffs riding herd to the north, churchyards predating the Revolutionary War, and an undulating topography that makes for interesting navigation, as well as difficulty in man’s otherwise constant altering of the landscape: these were the images and impressions left on the insides of my eyelids as I wended my way homeward after what was my first trip down this curvy two-lane blacktop.

I noticed – in making the obligatory stop at the Potomac River access just west of Rt. 15 – that my legs were less confident than normal in judging up or down hill; I find this a fairly frequent

offerings. I think I may have even forgotten my usual Northern Virginia tension, and actually (partially) relaxed – simply taking in the moments.

Then, just before re-entering Lovettsville, I turned into the parking lot of the cemetery for what’s now the Saint James Church in town; I read that the original German Reformed Congregation organized prior to 1750 in the little settlement. “Now this is some real history,” I thought, as I entered the walls of the churchyard. I noted many familiar local names on prominent tombstones – names we still see on country road

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 >

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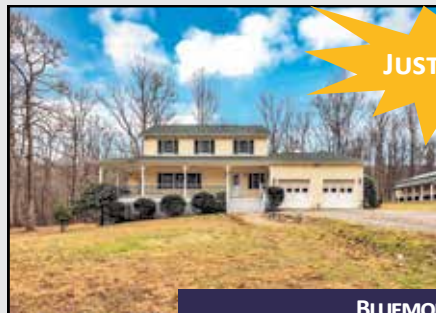
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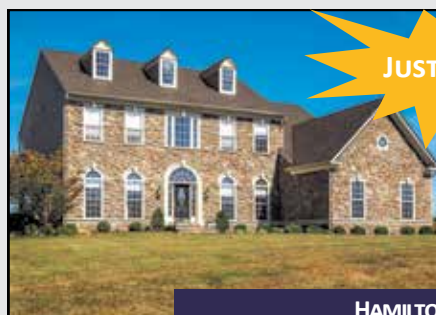
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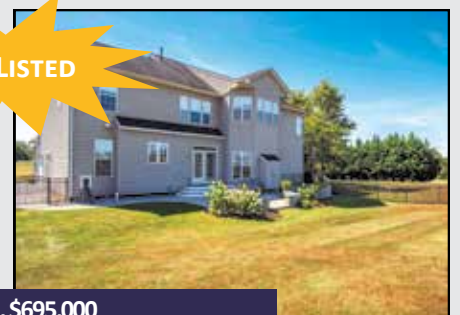


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# Vance announces 428-day timeline for Rt. 9 construction project

## Micromanagement ... is good

BY ANDREA GAINES

Mayor Roger Vance has announced Hillsboro's official time frame for the Town's Rt. 9 Traffic Calming & Pedestrian Safety Project – ReThink9. Initial contractor bids – evaluated, rejected, rebid, and ultimately agreed to in close cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) – have taken a three-year project duration and reduced it into an extremely well-organized and compact 14-month time frame, according to a mid-January press release from the Town.

Hillsboro is the official manager of the roadwork, and Archer Western, part of the well-known Walsh Group, is the lead contractor on the project.

According to Vance, the 14-month effort – starting in March 2020 with “substantial completion” in May 2021 – will not come without pain. “I don’t want to downplay the impact the effort will have,” said Vance, “It will be a rough ride ... and not on pavement at all times.” But, he said, “We’ve taken

the time and care to reach out to all of the affected groups and to coordinate with Archer Western to create a schedule that will address many of the needs and concerns – and still get the job done on time and on budget ... While any construction schedule must be fluid, we believe the schedule framework presented is solid and expect completion within the contract’s 428 days.”

Everything about the project is designed for speed, efficiency, public safety, and support for the vibrant Hillsboro/western Loudoun rural economy.

According to Vance, the Town is determined to aggressively promote the brewery, winery, B&Bs, shops, and recreational and other businesses that form the backbone of the Rt. 9 corridor’s visitor hotspots. “We are going to make sure,” said Vance,

“that people know what is here and how to get there, road construction, or not.”

The project’s two roundabouts – one at the eastern end of Hillsboro and one at its western end – will be

built to maintain two-way traffic with potential for flagging operations, and are due to be operational in just over 200 days, at which time, according to a Town press release, “one-lane operations and partial closures will begin, and the local Hillsboro detour and the Regional detour will be activated.”

Importantly, during periods of partial closure, eastbound morning traffic will continue to flow, uninterrupted, from 4 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. In addition, said the press release, “On Fridays at 2 p.m., travel through the Hillsboro work zone will be opened to one-lane westbound and remain open until Sundays at 6 p.m. to accommodate the Town’s businesses and the region’s visitor economy ... The one-lane operation will then revert to eastbound beginning at 6 p.m. on Sundays through Monday mornings until 9:30 a.m.”

Consistent with public safety, sidewalk improvements and ongoing improvements to the Town’s water system will be completed as the road work advances.

With respect to Part 4, when Rt. 9 within the Town is closed, any time construction professionals anticipate that for even short periods of time full road closure will be necessary, Hillsboro, its citizens, its regu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

### Rt. 9 Traffic Calming & Pedestrian Safety Project Timeline

Part 1, Preparation & Mobilization, Jan. to Feb. 2020, to include potential flagging operations

Part 2: Construction Under 2-Way Traffic, March to late summer/early fall 2020

Part 3: Construction with Partial Closure, late summer/early fall 2020 to mid-spring 2021

Part 4: Construction with Full Closure, intermittent periods as the project dictates

Part 5: Project Completed under 2-way traffic flagging operations, late spring 2021

## Catoctin Creek Overlook Farm is looking for a new lease on life – and you

BY ANDREA GAINES

As you drive through western Loudoun County, the land seems to stretch on endlessly.

But, the truth is, this area is a more and more attractive place to live and run a business. The real estate market is nothing short of red hot.

For people in the market for land, and that special place to call home, as the old June Carter Cash and Carl Smith song goes ... Time’s a Wastin.’ When the beloved, 114+-acre Catoctin Creek Overlook Farm at 14670

Creek Lane in Waterford sells, lots of people will be kicking themselves for not having looked at it.

RE/MAX Premier real estate agent Sharon Buchanan describes this property as “an exceptional offering.” And, that is not just agent-speak.

The property has two homes on it: a simple 3-bedroom, 2-bath 1,040 sq. ft. structure, and a solid brick 4-bedroom, 3-bath 4,000 sq. ft. split-foyer residence built in 1970.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15 »



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Directions: From Leesburg, take Route 7 West and make a right on Route 9. From there, make a right on Clarkes Gap Road, a left on Factory Street through historic Village of Waterford and past Old Brick Mill, a right on Clover Hill Road, and a left on Creek Lane. Catoctin Creek Overlook Farm is located at the corner of Creek Lane and Clover Hill Road.



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# Purcellville Mayor pushes for a Sister Cities partnership ... It's free

BY ANDREA GAINES

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser is challenging his Town Council to take advantage of the rich – and free – rewards of a global organization called Sister Cities International.

## GOVERNMENT

The non-profit SCI is one of the oldest organizations of its kind in the world.

It was founded by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 with a simple goal: create one-to-one relationships between the leaders of small and large communities – everywhere – to share ideas, promote commerce and trade, build community, and apply what has worked in one place to solve the problems in another place.

## The spark

The Sister Cities network uses the volunteer hours of tens of thousands of “citizen diplomats” and professionals in nearly 500 member communities, leveraging over 2,000 partnerships in more than 140 countries. Fraser spent the first 11 years of his life in the South American country of Guyana.

A 2019 state visit to Purcellville and Loudoun County by Dr. Riyad Insanally, CCH, Guyana’s Ambassador to the United States sparked the idea of forming a Sister Cities relationship between Purcellville and the community of Linden in that fast-growing country.

## Historical connections, modern needs

Within the Sister Cities concept, sometimes the two communities have an historical connection, sometimes the partnership has a more modern aspect. With Purcellville and Linden, both are present.

In a Sister Cities discussion at the Jan. 28 Purcellville Town Council meeting, and in a follow-up email Fraser made the following point: “During War II, aluminum from Linden’s high-grade bauxite was used to produce roughly two thirds of Allied aircraft manufactured during the war years. And, Atkinson Field, just outside of Linden, is where the United States Army Air Force’s 430th Bombardment Squadron 9th Bombardment Group was stationed from November 4, 1941 to October 31, 1942, and flew anti-submarine sorties in Douglas B-18 bombers.”

As the Blue Ridge Leader noted in reporting on the original 2019 state visit, the governments of both places are also jointly committed to developing their economies with three key goals in

mind: “preserve your essential social, cultural, economic and community resources while you grow, approach everything in a fiscally responsible way, and, most importantly take your lead from the citizens you are here to serve.”

Mayor Fraser said he was inspired by that 2019 Ambassador’s visit and saw a multitude of opportunities for a Sister Cities partnership on issues related to education, projects related to how community centers and operations in both places function, how faith-based organizations contribute to the social fabric, and, more specifically, how the comprehensive plan process underway in Purcellville might help communities in Guyana.

## The economics of it

Fraser recently returned from a personal trip to Guyana, and saw more possibilities for Purcellville to become a Sister City to Linden. That trip was paid for by Fraser himself, at no cost to the taxpayers of Purcellville.

Fraser has emphasized that Sister Cities is not a “governmental program” but an organic, community-to-community partnership that benefits both places. For example, the effort has at least three exchanges annually in the areas of arts and culture, youth and education, business and trade and community development.

Guyana is on the verge of an economic boom due to its natural resources-rich landscape, and wants to develop in a sustainable way.

Linden, Guyana, noted Fraser, has not done any comprehensive plan “mapping” for a good 50 years. “They can learn from us,” he said, “and we can learn from them.”

Fraser then said this with respect to Sister Cities next steps:

“I am looking forward to garnering the support of my fellow Town Council members regarding this global engagement effort between Mayors, which will open our academic, business, and faith-based communities to another culture and a potential trade partner.

“A single visit to Guyana resulted in a quote for lapel pins from a local Loudoun County business, keen interest in distance learning, collaboration about computer programming/coding among schools, and a donation of twenty bibles from the Purcellville Baptist Church to a ministry in Guyana.”

At the Jan. 28 Town Council Meeting Fraser also noted that he would be

# Fraser to give State of the Town Feb. 10



Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser will be presenting his State of the Town address on Monday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 221 S. Nursery Ave. in Council Chambers.

The State of the Town will be published on the Town’s website

the following day. This presentation is free and open to the public – citizens and local businesses are strongly encouraged to attend.

If you have any questions before or after the presentation, contact Mayor Fraser at [KFraser@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:KFraser@purcellvilleva.gov).





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## Milan announces run for Purcellville Town Council

Stanley J. "Stan" Milan, Sr, is running for the May 5 Purcellville Town Council election. Milan says his priorities reflect his values of civic service and commitment to family and community. Milan's focus on the Town Council would be to use sound judgement based on facts, and what the citizens want. Milan has a track record of balanced reasoning in the face of tough decisions, and this quality reinforces his confidence that he would be an asset to the Purcellville Town Council.

While serving as First Class Missile Technician aboard the USS Alaska (SSBN 732) from 1990 to 1993, Milan held two positions, one as Leading Petty Officer supervising the maintenance, weapons systems readiness, training,

advancement, and personal growth of the Weapons Department (Missile and Fire Control Technicians) of the United States Navy. Milan also performed duties as First Lieutenant supervising the training, advancement, and personal growth of the Deck Division of the United States Navy.

Milan also served as a career counselor and command financial counselor to his peers, and junior personnel in the Navy. Milan in 1985 received the distinction of Master Training Specialist at the TRIDENT Training Facility in Bangor, Washington.

Following over two decades of military service to our country, Milan then served his Kitsap County, Washington community as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff, and later, in



CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »

## Amazon snaps up another 100 acres of Loudoun land

BY ANDREA GAINES

Loudoun's real estate economy – any place, actually that is looking at fast population growth – is marked by highs, and lows.

The highs have gone on for a long time now in Loudoun County, as the super-hot Washington, D.C. real estate market, and the equally hot Fairfax and Prince William County markets push themselves north, south, east, and west.

Big residential developments are part of the mix, as are mixed use residential/commercial developments, and town center complexes with gas stations, convenience stores, bus stations, large parking areas, and the like.

But, this mega-bucks-land-deal phenomenon is no more clear than in the race by tech companies such as Amazon, Google, and others to buy up still mostly rural land here – a good amount of which is in the Transition Policy Area – to feed their companies' need for data center and office space

expansion.

In late December, Amazon paid \$73 million for 100 acres of land in Chantilly. That land was assessed at a mere \$3.5 million. But, that did not seem to matter to Amazon. The company that sold the land to the tech giant had owned it since 2004. Take a look at that profit margin; land assessed for \$3.5 million sold for \$73 million.

Amazon's Chantilly land will likely be used for the construction of a new data center, following the huge market for such structures that has anchored itself in Loudoun.

Loudoun County is home to approximately 70 data centers, and the economic powers that be, including the County Department of Economic Development, are doing all they can to grow that number.

Most Loudoun County data centers are located in the Ashburn corridor that has become known as "Data Center Alley," or "Silicon Valley of the East."

As reported by [www.datacenterdy-](http://www.datacenterdy-)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

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# Remembering Dorothy Abbott Wiseman

Dorothy Abbott Wiseman, 92, of Mount Gilead, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 7, with her family by her side.

She was born April 4, 1927 to the late Frank and Lizzie Abbott, in Bedford County, Virginia. She was a homemaker and beloved wife of 56 years to the late Charles Everette Wiseman. She graduated from New London Academy in 1944.



Dorothy is survived by two sons, David Neal Wiseman and wife Beth, of Taylorstown, Mark Edward Wiseman and wife Debra, of Bluemont, and step daughter, Deborah Wiseman Bennett, of Hatteras, North Carolina. Dorothy also leaves two grandchildren, Andrew and Kevin Wiseman; two step grandchildren, Patrick Bennett and wife Maria, and Sarah Bennett Pobjanowski and husband Jeff; and four great grandchildren, Erin and Ann-delyn Bennett, Rhett and Felex Po-

janowski. She was predeceased by her sisters Kay Ingram and Frances White, and her brother Joseph Abbott.

She managed three boys throughout her married life: her two sons and her husband, and was the center of the happiest family for which any of them could have hoped. Her patience, her keen intellect, her fairness were only surpassed by her quiet, gentle kindness to everyone she touched.

She was a member of Bethany United Methodist Church in Purcellville, where a memorial service was held Saturday, Jan. 18. A private interment ceremony will be held at Ebenezer Cemetery in Bloomfield, Virginia at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bethany United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 487, Purcellville, VA 20134.

# Remembering Kimberly Rinehart Merline

Kimberly Rinehart Merline passed away at her home in Purcellville, on January 24.

Kimberly was born in Kansas City, Kansas, to Dr. Donald and Marilyn Rinehart on March 27, 1962, and grew up in Perrysburg, Ohio. She received her bachelor's degree in English at the University of Michigan, where her future husband was also attending (but whom she wouldn't meet until years later). She received her Master's degree in English from the University of Toledo. When she came to Washington for a journalism internship in 1989, she met her husband, John, and after marrying on July 6, 1991, they had three boys, Jack, Matt and Joey.



love learning as much as she did. She shared with them her love of God. She encouraged them to pursue their passion, whether film, music, or computer programming. She was a steady moral guide. She poured out her love for them.

Anyone who knew Kimberly knew she was thoughtful, caring, generous in spirit, with a forgiving heart and an infectious laugh. She was loved by so many. Kimberly is survived by her parents, her brother Greg Rinehart, her husband and her three boys.

A memorial service was held for Kimberly at Hall Funeral Home in Purcellville, on Thursday, Jan. 30. A funeral mass was held at St. Francis de Sales Church in Purcellville on Friday, Jan. 21.

In lieu of flowers, her family asks that donations be made to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. <https://afsp.org/>.

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## Deadline for applications for Governor's Fellows Program – March 9

Gov. Ralph Northam has announced that applications for the 2020 Governor's Fellows Program will be accepted through Monday, March 9, and he has invited Virginia college students to apply. Since 1982, the Governor's Fellows Program has offered participants first-hand state government experience at the highest level of Virginia's executive branch.

**GOVERNMENT**

Fellows are placed with a member of the Governor's Cabinet or with a member of his personal staff, providing a unique opportunity to learn about the work and decision-making in the Office of the Governor. Governor's Fellows also hear from special guest speakers from the Northam Administration and participate in site visits to state government agencies.

"Each year, our Fellows bring new energy, enthusiasm, and unique perspectives to their service," said Governor Northam. "The Governor's Fellows Program is designed to give young Virginians a front row view of the inner workings of state government, helping them develop a deeper understanding of the

issues that are important to our state and the policies that will shape the future of our Commonwealth."

Qualified applicants must be rising college seniors, graduating seniors, or graduate students. All Virginia college and university students are eligible to apply, regardless of state of residence. Virginia residents who attend out-of-state colleges and universities are also eligible. Both public and private college and university students are encouraged to apply.

The selection of Fellows is based solely on merit. The deadline to apply for the Governor's Fellows Program is Monday, March 9. The program directors will hold interviews between March 16, and April 3, and will advise on decisions by April 10. The program runs from Monday, June 1, to Friday, July 31, 2020.

To apply, visit the Governor's Fellows Program website and send the required recommendation letters and transcripts to: Governor's Fellows Program, Post Office Box 2454, Richmond, Virginia 23219. Email questions to [govfellows@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:govfellows@governor.virginia.gov).

**CATOCTIN CREEK FARM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10**

The conservation easement on the land allows for a family farm with three homes. With 90 acres in pasture, the over 114+-acre land is also the perfect locale for a winery, brewery, or other venue.

There are good, deep soils here – with excellent drainage. The property borders beautiful Catoctin Creek and includes lovely, mature hardwoods. The super-long-range views are beyond belief, as you see here in the magnificent panoramic shots provided by the agent. And, the land itself is interesting and diverse – with meadow, the creek frontage land, and forested areas.

The farm has featured a very suc-

cessful beef and hay operation for a number of years.

Ideally located just outside of the Village of Waterford, the property now waits for you.

It is just minutes to Leesburg. Washington Dulles Airport is only 30 minutes away, and Washington, D.C. just one hour away. This property is looking for the buyer who will love it ... and care for it ... as much as the current owners have.

See details at MLS#: VALO399388 and contact agent Sharon Buchanan, RE/MAX Premier-Leesburg at (703) 727-1172, [MyLoudounHomes@gmail.com](mailto:MyLoudounHomes@gmail.com).

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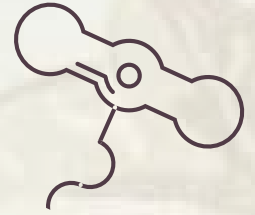
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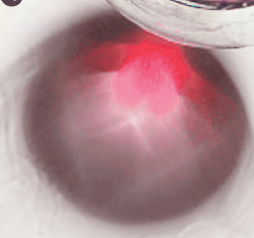
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# 10th Annual Loudoun Grown Expo

**Feb. 19, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**Historic Bush Tabernacle**  
**250 South Nursery Avenue, Purcellville**

The Loudoun Grown Expo has grown into one of western Loudoun's most successful annual events.

Organizers invite all to join them for one of the event's most significant milestones to date.

**COMMUNITY**

The Loudoun Grown Expo will celebrate its 10th Anniversary this year, and all manner of new activities are planned.

Approximately 40 vendors will be showing their most beautiful spring-is-coming colors for the event – with fantastic presentations and products from local wineries, breweries, distilleries, farms, farm stands, artisans, and the like.

There will be “hands-on” activities for both children and adults, as well as new educational content.

Children will be invited to have their “kids passport” stamped at vendor booths. “Bring your friends and family for a fun-filled day,” say organizers. Admission is just \$2 per person or \$3 per family.

The Bush Tabernacle – and nearby Dillon's Woods – is one of the most historic venues in the western part of the County.

On the National Register of Historic Places since 2010, and used as a social, cultural, political, “temperance,” and religious venue for over 150 years, as soon as you enter the Bush Tabernacle you know you are someplace special. Come and experience it ... along with everything western Loudoun has to offer.

For event details go to [www.loudoungrown.org](http://www.loudoungrown.org).

## Update on western Loudoun Recreation Center

A Western Loudoun Recreation Center is in the works, but you can't dive into the pool just yet.

Supervisor Tony R Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), who has been working on the project since 2016, told the Blue Ridge Leader recently, “Western Loudoun deserves a full size state of the art recreation center like those in eastern Loudoun.”

**GOVERNMENT**

With support from my colleagues in 2018, I was proud to have this added as a new project to the County's six-year Capital Improvement Plan with funding in future years, and I will continue working to identify land and seek project acceleration of this much anticipated project.”

Buffington envisions the center to be on 18-20 acres near Purcellville, and to have many of the same amenities as Leesburg's Ida Lee Recreation

Center. While design work has yet to begin, Buffington said that the County's current standard for a recreation center includes meeting rooms, classrooms, administrative office space, gymnasium, kitchen, fitness center, multipurpose rooms, running track, aquatics center with 50-meter pool, leisure pool, pool seating areas, wet classrooms, and associated locker rooms.

He added that the Western Loudoun Recreation Center will complement Franklin Park by offering a variety of indoor activities not currently offered at Franklin Park – between Purcellville and Round Hill.

Addressing concerns about disruptions that the recreation center might create for nearby communities, Buffington said, “It's always my goal to ensure appropriate buffers where needed.”

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# Loudoun County kicks off shared bikes, skateboards and scooters pilot program

Loudoun County launched the Shared Mobility Device Pilot Program on Jan. 1, to provide a framework for the operation and use of dockless SMDs for hire within the county and to evaluate their impact. SMDs include motorized skateboards and scooters (e-scooters), electric-assist bikes (e-bikes) and pedal bicycles.

The Board of Supervisors approved the SMD Pilot Program in December following legislation recently passed by the Virginia General Assembly allowing SMD operators to conduct business in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Under the legislation, Loudoun County may establish further guidelines and restrictions for SMD use within the County.

In addition to establishing SMD regulation, the pilot program furthers Loudoun County's 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan objectives to provide comprehensive access and mobility, and better quality of life for residents, workers and visitors to the county.

The pilot program limits the number of SMDs for hire within the County to a maximum of 1,000 devices and restricts their operation to within the designated SMD Pilot Program service area, located within approximately three miles of the Ashburn, Loudoun Gateway and Dulles International Airport Silver Line Metro-rail stations.

"The County is committed to providing transportation choices that connect people to their communities, employment centers, educational institutions, activity centers and other amenities," said Joe Kroboth, director

of the Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure, which is overseeing the County's pilot program. "This program is designed to test how SMDs as a mobility option can support this goal and to evaluate the impact of this technology on the county."

The pilot program will continue at least six months following the opening of Silver Line Metrorail stations in Loudoun County, which is expected in mid-2020.

The County is currently seeking SMD operators to provide shared mobility devices for hire during the pilot program. Interested operators are required to sign an agreement with the County and obtain a permit for their fleets, including paying a one-time fee for each device type. Permit applications will be accepted until the 1,000-device limit has been reached.

During the program, DTCI will monitor SMD operations and operator performance. In addition, the department will engage the public to gather important input from residents that will help develop regulatory recommendations for the Board of Supervisors to consider.

Members of the public will be able to rent the devices once the first authorized SMD operator successfully completes the permit application process. Authorized operators and their contact information will be listed on the Loudoun County website.

To learn more about the pilot program, including the operator permit application process, and to view a map of the Shared Mobility Device Service Area in Loudoun County, visit [loudoun.gov/SharedMobilityDevices](http://loudoun.gov/SharedMobilityDevices).

## New Names for section of Evergreen Mills Road & Shreveport Drive

Two road segments in the Arcola area of Loudoun County are being re-named. Effective Thursday, Feb. 27, the southern section of Evergreen Mills Road, from the intersection near Strickland Drive south to Loudoun County Parkway, will be known as Arcola Mills Drive.

The road name changes are necessary due to development in the area that resulted in road improvements. The changes reflect a new, continuous alignment of Evergreen Mills Road and will promote easier navigation for the vehicles that travel Evergreen Mills Road, which sees an estimated 20,000 vehicle trips per day.

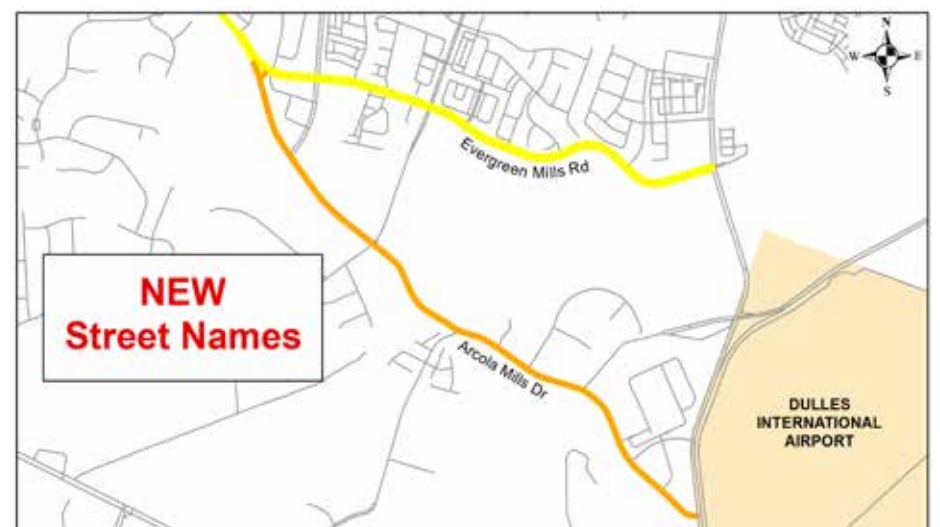
In addition, the road name changes help assure adequate public safety responses. The County's road naming and renaming process is outlined in Chapter 1020: naming of Streets of the

Loudoun County Codified Ordinances.

Letters will be mailed to owners of 97 affected parcels this week to notify them of the road names and address changes and the effective date. The property owners were initially notified of the planned road realignments in the spring of 2019 and were invited to participate in the process of selecting a new name for the section of Evergreen Mills Road through Arcola.

More than half of all property owners eligible to vote participated in the renaming process. A total of 40 properties will require a change to their addresses. For a detailed look at the impact of the road name changes, visit the Evergreen Mills Road/Shreveport Drive interactive map.

Questions about the new names and addresses should be directed to the Loudoun County Office of Mapping and Geographic Information at 703-771-5778 or [mapping@loudoun.gov](mailto:mapping@loudoun.gov).



### HATS FOR BABIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

working out an arrangement where she would knit baby caps and donate them to the birthing center at INOVA Loudoun Hospital. She has made several hundred baby caps in the last four years. What a spectacularly beautiful thing – sweet little bundles of hand-fashioned yarn that fit snugly, provide warmth, and look so, so pretty ... or handsome ... on a brand-new life.

A knitting friend of ours describes Waitman's knitting work as "stockinette" – alternate rows of knit and purl stitches. We just marvel at the simplistic beauty of the caps.

This lovely lady's baby caps take about four hours to make; each a labor of love.

For Valentine's Day, and February, she will be knitting red caps for babies and in honor of American Heart Month. Imagine that you are the new parent looking at your precious one's head covered in red-knitted love.

We all think of things such as knitting, and crochet, and simple crafts a something that "keep seniors busy in their older years." But, the hours, and sense of community, and family duty Waitman puts into her hand-knitted caps cannot be described as busy work.

No.

This effort is the kind of thing that defines community. And, in this case, comfort, care, and warmth for this tiny little thing known as a baby that has just come into the world.

Maybe that is the true definition of community – work and effort and togetherness that benefits ... everyone.

P.S. We've just come off of National Hobby Month, which took place in January. Waitman takes the idea of a "hobby" to a new and loving level. Thank you, darling Norma.



The masterful Norma Waitman and her beautiful caps.

**SUPERVISORS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8**

and help maintain medians and right of ways on major state roads.

- 8. Restoration of funding for conservation grant programs in the areas of land, farmland, Virginia battlefield conservation, and easement-holding agencies.

**Legislative initiatives**

County legislative initiatives seek changes to current law and/or request that the state put forth new legislation to address a variety of topics, from traffic management, to the actions a locality might take with respect to its Comprehensive Plan, to the rules that apply to affordable housing loan applications. Often quite technical in nature, 2020 initiatives include requests for legislation that will:

- Allow traffic incident-management vehicles owned or operated by the Virginia Department of Transportation to use flashing lights and sirens.
- Increase the small purchase limit for goods and non-professional services.
- Increase renewal options from four additional one-year terms to five, or allow for five-year term contracts (no contract renewals).
- Increase the projects performed in a one-year contract term for architectural and engineering services for localities with certain population levels.
- Allow local governments additional time to take action on locally initiated comprehensive plan amendments.
- Modernize "Library Public Record Exclusions" related to materials that patrons have borrowed or accessed.
- Amend the Virginia Code as it relates to FOIA Exclusion for Affordable Housing Loan Applications.

**Administrative initiatives**

Like legislative initiatives, administrative initiatives can be quite technical in nature.

For 2020, the County's administrative initiatives seek to:

- "Work with agencies such as the Virginia Department of Transportation and the State Corporation Commission to address issues related to identification of companies/utilities placing fiber optics in and outside the right-of-way..." and help resolve delays related to this work.
- Update VDOT cut-through traffic and traffic calming policies.
- Work with state agencies to "update regulations and policies that waive land-use permit (LUP) fees for local jurisdictions which are contributing local funds to construct improvements on roadways under VDOT's control, ownership, or jurisdiction."

**Policy statements**

Policy statements also seek state-level legislation designed to meet County goals on a wide variety of issues, and/or make changes to current regulations, and/or the Virginia Code.

For 2020, the County has prepared policy statements on issues related to:

- Animal welfare, including dog and cat licensing fees and pet reunification.
- Broadband and cellular coverage and availability.
- Economic development, including housing options and workforce development.
- Education, including full funding for state mandates.
- Elections, including absentee voting.
- Employment and benefits, including nondiscrimination in public employment.

General government policy statements that address affordable housing.

Health and Human Services policy statements that address efforts to combat Lyme disease, behavioral services for inmates, and other County concerns.

Finally, policy statements that address issues of land use and zoning, predatory lending, public safety, tax issues – including the meals tax – transportation, including a "New River Crossing," revenue sharing, and VDOT staffing levels.

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**GATEWAY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

alternative Mixed-Use Commercial designation.

**Important Highlights**

The agriculture tourism commercial designation could provide for the following uses, for example: an 8,000 sq. ft. restaurant, a country inn, a farm store/market, accessory retail, an art gallery, a corporate retreat, and assisted living for up to eight people.

Said Council Member Nedim Ogelman, “We have what citizen input we have from the elections that brought us here and from the surveys ... from the whole cluster of data, including the data in the Comp Plan, and we owe it [to the residents] to try and stick to that ... There are reasons that people have said gateways should look a certain way ... There are reasons people are concerned about traffic. To me, it’s not about the size of the parcels – it’s about ... what the concept was – what the citizens have said.”

Ogelman – answering Grewe, Greenly, and Bledsoe’s concerns about property rights – said, “Our discussion about private land rights, if we are consistent with that, then we should just have a big free for all, sort of like the wild west ...” Ogelman pointed out that the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens must be considered.

Bledsoe said that the Council should consider corridor-based zoning. “Don’t go parcel by parcel,” he said.

Ogelman responded, “We are in a situation where there is a plot of land owned by a single owner [the DiPalma-Kipfer property]. It could be subdivided ... so it’s in Transition X as a land-use category. It has institutional public on one side [Patrick Henry College] and mixed-use commercial on the other side – across the street, it has a farm – in an area that used to be residential ... it is a parcel.”

Stinnette pointed out that a portion of the “corridor is commercial.” Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser responded by saying, “Crooked Run Orchard is over 90 acres and it is agricultural commercial.” Fraser noted that the gateway is a “corridor by itself.” At one point, Stinnette advocated for mixed-use neighborhood scale which would add mixed uses up to three stories including commercial, retail, office, and multi-family.

Ogelman responded, “The property was meant to be a rural gateway to the Town ... and it was disrupt-

ed,” meaning that previous Mayors and Town Councils defied what the citizens wanted.

“We need to rectify this,” said Ogelman. “To me, the thread of continuity that was disrupted on the east end was that it was meant to be a rural gateway to the Town. And that was disrupted against the input of the staff, and that is how we ended up with this parcel ... What happened on that corner defied what people said at that time and what people continue to say. I want to do something that rectifies that ... We have to do what our citizens have consistently said in that area, [that] ‘It needs to have that rural component and a gateway component.’”

Fraser said he was looking at this as a corridor, “When people enter the Town of Purcellville, it’s a gateway. Many times, I talk about this seal behind me with the bushel of wheat, the library, and the key. Purcellville is a welcoming community, with continuous learning and our agricultural heritage.

“I see this gateway as where that seal is realized. And, as I look at the overwhelming development of commercial, I see a push for an encroachment on the last bastion of agriculture ... an entranceway to Purcellville. I continue to see the need to not further encroach or further diminish all the remaining agriculture we have.”

Fraser said that the circle is “inundated with traffic; I hear complaints every day. Going down the hill to Hamilton – coming up the hill is treacherous. I do not want us to put potential uses there that would increase traffic flow – from the perspective of the health, safety, and welfare for our citizens.”

Referring to Grewe’s comments for affordable housing in that area, Ogelman said, “... Affordable housing, I see that as just a foil to say ‘Let’s get some development in here.’ If I thought that getting more development in here would be a cure-all for our problems financially and traffic-wise, I would support that. But, all I see ... is a subsidy to developers – a subsidy from the citizens of the Town to the developers.”

Bledsoe said he was concerned “about any effort to down-zone any property.” Ogelman asked for a point of clarification, “You said downzoning from the potential multitude of uses that it could hypothetically have?”

Bledsoe admitted that his statement was inaccurate. “In my view ... I am in favor of a more intensive

use ... I am less concerned about green space ... I do not believe that limiting potential uses for that property is necessarily in the best interest of the Town.”

Ogelman said, “Why do we do zoning? My understanding ... is because it’s for the health, safety, and welfare of the community ... What we are doing as a public body ... We are part of a society. There are social benefits and economic benefits.”

Fraser concluded by noting that the elected official’s duty was “to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens.” He said he was making the same argument used by the Planning Commission; “I have a major concern with traffic,” he said. “There is a blind spot coming up hill from Hamilton; and to add more intense commercial on any portion of this circle, I think it would be irresponsible.”

Greenly said he was in favor of “putting mixed-use commercial there, yeah, commercial mixed, I would push Catocin Corner [Catocin Corner shopping center] there in that area 2 [DiPalma-Kipfer property].”

Walt Peters, a representative for the O’Toole property, said that not to give the property a mixed-use commercial designation would not give the two owners the retirement they want. Council Member Ryan Cool said, “... I thought the Town government’s job is not to insure your retirement.”

*Editor’s note: Cool also noted that after the Jan. 23 work session had ended, he was told that three Council members were talking about the O’Toole property uses with Walt Peters; and this was concerning, because if it happened, it constituted a violation of FOIA meeting regulations.*

*After the public meeting had ended, Peters went up to the Council table and continued to lobby Council Members Grewe, Stinnette and Greenly – with all three Council members speaking to him. This was an apparent violation of the rule that no more than two Council members can discuss Town business – without the discussion being open to the public. When this apparent violation was brought to their attention, both Stinnette and Grewe denied that Greenly – a third Town Council member – was involved in the conversation. When they were told that there was a video of the three of them actively talking about the east end zoning uses with Peters, Grewe and Stinnette (Greenly was absent) admitted the apparent violation, saying that they had forgotten that Greenly was involved.*

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# Franklin Park Visual & Performing Arts Center – Purcellville Arts Council Cabin Fever Film Fest filled with good films



Franklin Park's Elizabeth Bracey and Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser.

The third annual Purcellville Cabin Fever Film Festival kicked off Jan. 24 and 25 with a slate of films that highlighted local tales and talent. The focus this year was on short films, documentaries, and student productions, all shot by Purcellville area residents.

## COMMUNITY

The first night focused on three films: One Nation Under a Groove – an uplifting musical by Mike Ellison – followed by A Brush with History – a documentary about the Torpedo Factory Arts Center in Alexandria – by Nora Kubach and

Anthony Istrico

The evening ended with United We Stand – a poetic documentary about eminent visual artist, Charles McGee – by Mike Ellison. Each day's film series was followed by questions and answers with filmmakers. A reception and recognition presentation ended the evening with a presentation by Mayor Fraser.

Saturday mornings film's included The Lost Forest – an urgent message about the disappearance of Old Growth Forest, by Andrew Ouellette; The Long Road Home – fighting to save Loudoun County's historic gravel roads, by Jay Korff; Overreach from the Oval Office – 2020 candidates must explain how they will prevent what the Founders most feared: a dictator, by Thomas McKenna; Emerick Film Club Movie Ideas – in which the elementary school students share their movie ideas, by Maddy Wade; Josie's Movie – an ode to movies from a teenager's perspective, by Thomas Youngs;



Electric Jenny – the story of a girl's need for a new set of wheels that leads to a mysterious encounter, by Matt Leonard; Rise – The Bradley Hintze Story – a documentary of overcoming challenges, by H. Shane Hintze; Crunch – A Tragedy – on living with a life-changing illness, by Maddy Wade; Kindness Club – in which members of charitable club face trouble, by the Wade Sisters; Unexpected Delivery – in which a couple receives an unexpected delivery from a carpet company, by Penny Hauffe and Phil Erickson; and Covalence – the story of the African-American Roots of Techno Music, by Mike Ellison.

Cabin Fever Film Fest movie directors/producers l to r: Anthony Istrico, Thomas McKenna, Nora Kubach, Matt Leonard, Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Phil Erickson, Maddy Wade, Andrew Ouellette, Mike Ellison, Penny Pauffe, Purcellville Art Council Chair Liz Jarvis and Franklin Park Manager Elizabeth Bracey.



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**RT. 9 CONSTRUCTION**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

lar commuters and the businesses that use Rt. 9 will be given a minimum of two weeks advanced notice. Full closure periods are tentatively scheduled for early November, early December of 2020, and mid-April 2021.

The contractual relationship between Hillsboro and Archer Western includes financial incentives to minimize the periods of full road closure and accelerate completion of the project. The timeline is also designed to impact just one school year, and prohibits construction work on 2020 election days and all federal holidays.

Said Vance, "Law enforcement has committed additional resources for the Rt. 7 corridor and the local Hillsboro detour route. First responders are working with the Town on specific plans – by phases of the project – to ensure access to and through Hillsboro at all times."

Rt. 7 improvements – taking place now – are also expected to ease the regional flow of traffic detoured around Hillsboro via U.S. Rt. 340. In nearby Clarke County,

for example, two Rt. 7 improvements, currently underway, will be ready prior to the beginning of construction in Hillsboro.

Communications Specialist for the Town of Hillsboro Christi Maple noted that everyone impacted by the change in traffic flow, periodic road closures, and alternative routes will be kept in the loop through the project website ReThink9.com and ReThink9 Dispatch email alerts.

Vance said "Our project website, ReThink9.com, will be the best source of project information, and I urge everyone to sign up for the ReThink9 Dispatch for real-time alerts." An email newsletter from the dispatch currently reaches nearly 1,250 people.

Additionally, in December, the Town extended invitations to 20 individuals, businesses, and residents to join a ReThink9 Compass Advisory Group. These individuals will be the project management team's on-the-ground "scouts," meeting regularly to report specific concerns raised by people who use Rt. 9 and/or live in-and-around the well-traveled road.



## Ribbon Cutting Jan. 31 Bank of America in Purcellville

"This latest expansion in the Greater Washington DC market demonstrates Bank of America's commitment to being where our customers are. We're looking forward to serving all of Western Loudoun with our new financial

center in downtown Purcellville," said Hasan Oberoi, Virginia Regional Executive & Senior Vice President, Bank of America. The new financial center is located at 1010 East Main Street, Purcellville.

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## Kindness week wraps up at Lincoln Elementary

Jan 30, a small group of Lincoln Elementary students selected from each class kindergarten through fifth grade, delivered tokens of thanks to the fire and police stations in Purcellville.

### COMMUNITY

Students brought treats, cards, and banners made by fellow students to express their gratitude for the service the first responders provide to the commu-

nity. Both stations gave the students a tour and additional education about the services they provide.

Kindness week kicked off with students making kindness placemats to give to a senior center, and cards for service men and women. They wrapped up the week making essentials bags for children served by the Loudoun County Homeless Shelter, and for City of Refuge in Baltimore, MD.

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## February Carver Events

200 E Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville

**Monthly Movie:** Green Book – Tuesday, Feb. 4, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Friday, Feb. 7, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. For Friday's showing, reserve your lunch at least 24 hours ahead of time by calling 571-258-3407. Lunch is by donation for those 60 and older, \$4 for those age 55-59. Non-members attending either day's showing will be charged a \$2 drop-in fee.

**Valentine's Day Card Making Extravaganza** – Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Show your loved ones how much you care by joining us for a fun Make-Your-Own Valentine's cards. \$2 drop-in fee for non-members.

**Carver's Got Talent** – Wednesday, Feb. 12, 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Featuring Alice Power and David Gerwig performing a 1940s style song and saxophone session with a Valentine theme.

**February Monthly Birthdays** – Wednesday, Feb. 12, 12:15 p.m. Celebrate Carver seniors who have February birthdays with cake, ice-cream and fun musical entertainment.

**Voter Registration** – Thursday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Loudoun County Office of Elections will be onsite offering absentee ballot applications and sample ballots for the March 3rd Democratic Presidential Primary Election. The registration deadline (if you are not already a Virginia registered voter) is Feb. 10, 2020. To register to vote, visit [www.vote.virginia.gov](http://www.vote.virginia.gov).

**Fire Safety Presentation**

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Officers from Loudoun County Fire and Rescue offer a Jeopardy-style presentation on Fire Safety.

**Leap Year Celebration** – Friday, Feb. 28, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

What does Carver do to observe an extra day in 2020. They celebrate of course. Join in for an exciting afternoon of fun and entertainment to really mark the occasion.

### HARD SWIMMIN' FISH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

their reach and their impact on the local and regional music scene.

Randy Ball is, according to Lewis, "a recording studio wizard." He also does all of the band's graphic design work. And, he has a company called Ball Amps.

Now, wait. Ball Amps is no ordinary company. Featuring "Hand Wired Vintage Inspired Tube Amplifiers," it is one of a kind musical endeavor. Take a look at [www.BallAmps.com](http://www.BallAmps.com). We're not sure we can do justice to describing what a modern amplifier made out of vintage suitcases, TVs, and other electronics looks and sounds like. We can't!

The band's website – a beautiful piece of art in and of itself – says this: "If you've seen us, you know we use some strange equipment on stage. Most notable is the telephone that Waverly uses as his harmonica microphone. He prefers phones from the 1950's and 1960's, basically anything he can get cheap and turn into a microphone. By using the old speaker element in the phone as the mic diaphragm, it gives him a cool lo-fi sound that works well with the band."

The website goes on to talk about how Lewis' and Milor's amplifiers are built from a Zenith tabletop radio from 1938. "The original electronics were removed and replaced with a clone of a 1950's Fender Champ," it says. "Since Demian is a little harder on his equipment, his amp was made from a 1950's Samsonite suitcase.

### Where can you experience Hard Swimmin' Fish?

As January wrapped up, the band was appearing at Hershey's Restaurant and Bar in Gaithersburg, MD.

Early February saw them at Dirty Nelly's Pub in Charlottesville.

JoJo's Restaurant and Taphouse in Frederick, MD will host the band Feb. 8.

HSF will be at The Hamilton in Washington, D.C., Feb. 15, and The Camel in Richmond Feb. 28.

Lucky for us, locals will be able to catch the band at Monk's BBQ in Purcellville on March 13, and again at The Hamilton in Washington, D.C., March 28.

For a full slate of performances go to [www.hardswimminfish.com](http://www.hardswimminfish.com).

The amp circuit in [Demian's] suitcase is also a clone of a 1950's Fender Champ. Both are only 5 watts, but that is more than enough power for most venues, when also run through a PA. The amps were built by bassist Randy Ball, and they were the first two he built ..."

Now, before we pass this band on to you, let us provide a note about Dan van Buskirk, who does so many wonderful things behind the scenes for the band. Buskirk has talents that go from running trollie services locally, working for the Chamber of Commerce, and running a handyman business.

We love everyone associated with Hard Swimmin' Fish. These are guys who love music as much as they love hard work.



**LETTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

How did this happen? These things didn't happen by accident. They happened with good solid conservative leadership.

We developed and implemented a viable economic development plan. We established a gov't reform commission, and we worked with business leaders to reduce the regulation burden on Loudoun businesses. We implemented many of their ideas and suggestions to make Loudoun attractive to business. And, we resisted the temptation to raise taxes every time someone had a "good idea".

At the new Board's first meeting, I heard rhetoric that "lowering taxes has put us where we are now" with regards to the recent class and compensation study and the current Board's desire to increase the competitiveness of our County salaries. Let me be clear, the compensation policy that the Board is now addressing is also a legacy of prior Boards that raised taxes to record levels and cut the school budget. The last two Republican Boards have spent eight years digging out of the hole that was dug by the Democrat controlled Board's that preceded them.

Sound financial policy takes patience and now is the time to address

the competitiveness of the salaries by classification, but it doesn't have to be done all at once. Our employees have already received substantial increases over the last two years to get competitive with other counties, and the current class and comp recommendations can be broken into pieces and phased in without raising taxes. In closing, I would offer these last thoughts to the new Board that has just taken office.

Please don't take the County's successes for granted. As I said above, these things don't happen by accident, they happen with good governance. One doesn't have to look very far to see that most of the jurisdictions around us have ignored economic development, run off business and had to raise taxes. For a perfect bad example, just look across the river to Montgomery County, MD, in this same economy, they are looking at a \$100 million budget short fall this year.

Be patient, deliberate and remember Loudoun's motto, "I byde my time."

— *The Honorable Geary M. Higgins*  
*Former Catocin District Supervisor,*  
*Loudoun County Board of Supervisors,*  
*and Former Catocin District School*  
*Board Member, Loudoun County Public*  
*Schools*

**MILAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12**

Fairfax County, Virginia, as a Fairfax County Sheriff Reserve Officer. Milan honed the skill discipline of restraint under pressure while serving as a law enforcement officer. In addition, he cultivated character traits of collaborative problem solving and resiliency, while advancing the goal of serving and protecting the community.

Milan's employers have included the top five defense contractors in the nation, working as Information Security System Officer (ISSO), and Industrial Special Security Administrator (ISSA) – including six-and nine-month deployments to Afghanistan.

In his free time, Milan studies yoga, and is a 5th degree Master Black Belt in Hapkido and a 4th degree black belt in Taekwondo. He has taught self-defense classes at Loudoun Valley Yoga and is an instructor at a DoJang in Herndon, Virginia.

Milan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Education from Southern Illinois University. He served as a High School Tutor

Coordinator in Silverdale, Washington; an early STEM program in which military base sailors and government contractors, tutor local high school students in math and sciences.

Milan believes Purcellville needs his voice on the Town Council, and will benefit from the wisdom he has gained from volunteer and professional positions held in a lifetime of service to our nation, and the communities in which he has lived.

"I am running to maintain our small town atmosphere and charm, which is why I moved here with my family. I am committed to slow growth, transparent government, and finding innovative solutions for Purcellville. I look forward to meeting the citizens of Purcellville as I campaign. My primary message to them is that I will keep my campaign promises," said Milan.

Milan is a father of six grown children and lives with his wife Jona in the Old Dominion neighborhood. He can be reached at MilanforPurcellville@gmail.com.

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Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

with others drawing 30 or 40 GPM from the aquifer. That's for each McMansion. So, multiply that by 30. Salle de Loux or whatever they might name the subdivision has the potential to suck St. Louis dry. It conjures up a vision of an elderly villager sneaking to a new swimming pool, dodging automatic water sprinklers and leaving with a full water bucket in each hand. That is worse than sad.

### Opposing MOJAX

This project needs to be stopped. It's a grotesque use of land and puts lower-income people, in a nationally significant historic area at extreme risk. McDonkey is gaming every angle, and probably even finessed the several County Stop Work orders they've received.

There are a handful of County ordinances a developer must obey. It's generally accepted that hydrologic investigation and concerns are limited to areas within a parcel's boundary. However, the Facilities Standards Manual seems to have a few sections that refer to area-wide effects. The County may not be able to deny subdividing Salle de Loux into lots. But, it may be able to deny the wells. How's that, McDonkey?

This is worth pursuing, as is the litigating that would follow. Those legal fees would be taxpayer money well spent.

### Banbury

On the other side of Middleburg is a larger project of 38 planned houses. It has

a pretentious name which I will alter appropriately. Before I reveal it, let me paraphrase a ditty from Mother Goose:

"Ride a cockhorse to Banbury Cross,  
To see a realtor of course;  
But the horse, it stumbles,  
And the rider, he grumbles."

Neighbors oppose "Grumble's Bumble," and the Piedmont Environmental Council has tendered a meek letter against it. To my knowledge, though, the PEC has not issued similar support for St. Louis. Perhaps a letter is in the works, but until PEC takes a public stand on St. Louis, it will be tainted as even more elitist, or worse.

Grumble's Bumble and Salle de Loux are two of a kind – horrid subdivisions that depend on flaws in our land use regulations. The new Board of Supervisors can change things for the better.

### Disclaimers

The French islands and their story are fictional, but I hope they led you to the end of this polemic. "Salle de Loux" is an Anglo-French concoction where "Loux" is a pun on the English term for a bathroom ("loo"). Thus, McDonkey named its project "Bathroom." Its McMansion buyers will never know. I used French here and there to add the appearance of reality, but I cannot read nor write it. I do, though, know how to use Google.

*Charles Houston developed office buildings in Atlanta, and has lived in Paeonian Springs for 20 years. He owns a donkey named "Dill."*

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KETTERMAN'S, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

business, with bridal and designer offerings, all manner of beautiful jewelry, accessories and gifts, diamonds (yes ... diamonds), and more. Reviews on the website [www.WeddingWire.com](http://www.WeddingWire.com) give them 4.9 out of 5 stars.

The store's new location, in many ways, honors Leesburg's past. The business recently completed a two-year renovation of the old Southern States – and later, Loudoun Motor Sports building – on Cattoctin Circle. According to the company,

"The renovation has a nod to the past with an eye on the future."

Ketterman's does lots of great community work, and will continue to do so, donating, for example, 10 percent of receipts on the first business day of the month to charitable causes.

The store also features designer showcase meet-and-greet events, trunk shows, estate jewelry buying and evaluation events, and more. They also offer custom design, repairs, and engraving.

SISTER CITIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

meeting with the owner of Cattoctin Creek Distillery to brainstorm ways to introduce his product to the Guyanese market – a market projected to experience an 86 percent growth in GDP this year.

"The Sister Cities undertaking will be community service-based. As a three term Mayor and a business professional, I have amassed a wealth of knowledge and experience in the areas of comprehensive planning, community engagement, economic development, and utility infrastructure management.

"Without creating any financial or operational burden upon our town management, I can freely share this knowledge

and experience with another Mayor in the global arena. We already have a precedent for doing this – another Town Council member with expertise in governance has shared his knowledge in Canada. It would be encouraging to have the Town Council's full support for this Sister Cities global ambassadorship," said Fraser in an email.

Fraser continues to make the case for Sister Cities. As he has stated: "This effort is not intended to use any staff resources. The 'teenage car' argument, that once this proclamation is declared, there may be future cost to the Town that has yet to be revealed is unfounded. In establishing this Sister City arrangement, we can specify that there will be no funding required from the Town."

**DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

is struggling academically, encourage him to speak to his teachers to request help or get tutoring. You could structure your teen's time with reasonable academic expectations. Remind your teen that meeting with professors, getting help if needed, and studying at the library, are realities for college students. You could also set a realistic GPA benchmark. Going from a GPA of 2.5 to 3.0, would show your teen that hard work matters. If your teen can't get their lower GPA up, perhaps college should be reconsidered.

**Alcohol and/or substance use:** According to studies, 60 percent of college students between 18 and 22 years reported drinking alcohol within the past month, and the majority of them reported binge drinking. Cannabis is the most widely used illicit drug on college campuses, and nearly 40 percent of college students reported using it. This is followed by prescription pills, ecstasy, and cocaine as the most popular recreational drugs used by college students. If your teen is struggling with alcohol, there is a good chance that their use will increase at school.

**What you should do:** If you have concerns about your teen's alcohol or drug use, have them evaluated by a psychologist or psychiatrist. Even if your teen is only occasionally drinking or using drugs, this is an area that you don't want to play around with. The temptation to drink and use drugs at college may be much greater, given its increased availability.

**Socialization struggles:** Humans are social beings, and the social demands at college will be much greater. Fitting in, establishing connections, making new friends, dating, and dorm life can be challenging. Prob-

lems emerge when social relations are avoided or become a distraction. If your teen struggles socially, they may have added challenges going to a place where they don't have social connections.

**What you should do:** Your teen could be experiencing social struggles for a variety of reasons; emotional issues such as depression, anxiety, and family struggles may be factors, while personality style or differing interests could also be the problem.

If your child is an introvert in a social circle that is comprised more of extroverts, then fitting in would be difficult. If your teen isn't athletic, while most teens in his school are, finding agreeable social common ground would also likely be challenging. Sometimes an undiagnosed condition can lead to socialization struggles. I recently diagnosed an older teen with High Functioning Autism, a condition that is most often diagnosed in early childhood. That individual had lifelong social problems that weren't understood until he was properly diagnosed.

**Video game or technology overuse and preoccupation:** We live in the digital age, and teens more than any other group use technology. If your teen is unable to use technology in moderation in high school, there is a very good chance that they will continue to struggle with it in college where very real problems could emerge – academic problems, and emotional problems.

**What you should do:** If your teen is struggling with technology over use, implement structure at home. A plan and schedule to complete school work before screen time could be practiced. Wi-Fi could also be turned off at a reasonable time in the evening. If your

teen is in an afterschool club, on a sports team, or volunteering, they will be engaged in life more. I strongly recommend an evaluation with a psychologist or psychiatrist to determine if there is a need for treatment if the problem persists.

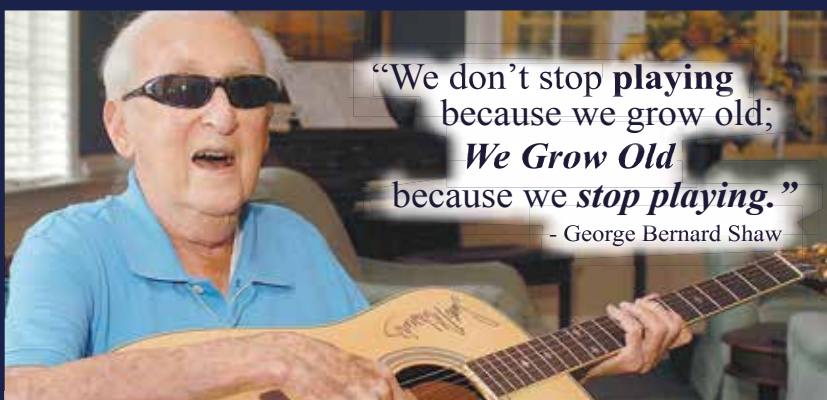
**A lack of passion:** Lacking passion for something is an area of concern for a lot of the parents I've worked with. Parents frequently ask me, "Why doesn't my child have passion for anything?" or "She doesn't want to do anything" or "He says 'no' to everything." College life will be difficult to manage for teens who don't engage in activities they enjoy.

**What you should do:** Oftentimes teens don't have passion or strong interests because they are preoccupied with technology. Alcohol and/or drug problems or mental health problems could also be factors. If your teen previously had a passion for things, but no longer does, scheduling an evaluation with a psychologist or psychiatrist could prove beneficial.

Sending your teen off to college unprepared is a bad idea. You have a solid seven months to address what needs to be addressed, if they aren't ready now. If problems persist, remind your son or daughter that the four-year college they may want to attend isn't going anywhere. A lot of teens benefit from a gap year, or from initially attending community college.

*Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D., "Dr. Mike" 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.*

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- George Bernard Shaw

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**AMAZON**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

nameric.com, Amazon has built up to 40 data centers in the area surrounding Washington, D.C. And, the company is building a second headquarters – HQ2 – in Arlington County, breaking ground on the 2.1 million square foot development early this year.

In July of last year, Vadata Inc. (Amazon's data center subsidiary) acquired approximately 90 acres near Arcola from a Colorado company – NOVA WPC LLC – for a little over \$116 million. NOVA WPC LLC had purchased the land the same day in July 2019 from John Mosby Highway LLC for nearly \$99 million – which had purchased the land for \$20 million in June 2018.

As reported by the *Washington Business Journal*, Amazon has spent up to \$250

million for land in Northern Virginia.

As data center and tech headquarters projects come in, local planning officials are often forced to scramble to get the public infrastructure in place to support them – including roads, utilities, and schools.

But, the market for data center land is hot, and it is lucrative, offering investors tens of millions of dollars in profits virtually overnight.

As a consequence, the routine is, often, to take advantage of the tax dollars data center projects bring in first ... and worry about how to service them from a public infrastructure perspective, later.

In the not too distant future the competition for the land available for data centers, headquarters, and office space available to this tech sector will cool.

But, right now, the race is on.

**RICCI**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in fixed income, consider high-quality, investment-grade corporate bonds, municipal bonds, and preferred stocks.

**5. Stay focused on diversifying.**

The yield curve inversion in the summer of 2019 raised concerns about a potential recession and, with it, the idea of boosting allocations to “safe haven” assets, including gold. Christopher says to stick to a well-balanced portfolio instead. “Loading up on one market or product potentially puts your savings at risk in one place. We consider it more risk than a long-term investor needs to take,” he says.

Instead, now may be a good opportunity to rebalance your portfolio. “A disciplined approach to pruning and then

reinvesting—even as equity prices are weakening—can be a successful tool to increase return potential when political and other uncertainties create equity market swings,” Christopher says.

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*This article was written by Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Richard Ricci Financial Advisor in Washington D.C. at (202) 364-1605.*

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**PAINTED BENCHES**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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on their website: [PurcellvilleArtGallery.com](http://PurcellvilleArtGallery.com) under Artists – call for Art: they can't wait to see your work.

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**TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9**

signs, and on quite a few mailboxes – up in that part of the County. It felt genuinely reassuring and quite calming, to me, to be visiting these gravesites; to borrow a phrase from the Irish lyricist Van Morrison, I could almost 'listen to the silence,' walking among them. Truly, it seemed to me, that these individuals had arrived at the 'peace that passes all understanding.' Perhaps in some sort of empathy with these souls, I can – even in writing – distinctly recall an absence of compelling emotion; I felt no particular joy, anger or fear: I simply was, and it was good. I allowed this mood to settle all the way down into my shoes, then unhurriedly made my way back to my 21st Century transportation unit.

Then, returning home again through Lovettsville, I once more appreciated,

as I always have, the number of historic structures that remain standing in that community: not just the many well-preserved homes, but the often more innocuous: mysterious-looking sheds (what ancient human activities occurred here?) more mundane-appearing chicken coops, and bygone places of industry or merchandising. I nearly always apprehend a sense of individual character in each of these remembered images, similar to well-weathered faces that've survived many tests of time. And, if someone had later asked me where I'd been and what I'd done that morning, I might have said – instead of, "Just took a drive up on Lovettsville Road," something more like, "I spent a little quality time with some old, but dear, friends."

And I can't wait to see them again.

**VIRGINIA WINE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

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According to Virginia Wine in My Pocket's Bauer, more than 25,000 wine travelers have downloaded the app since it was launched, and another 60,000 or so regularly use the Virgin-

ia Wine in My Pocket website "To help them plan visits to Virginia's more than 300 wineries, cideries, and meaderies."

Said Bauer, "Virginia Wine Country is a balm for our over-busy, urbanized minds and bodies ... disappearing into the state's fragrant green back roads and occasional wrong turns can turn us into better, more patient, appreciative, and happy people." We like that Valentine's message, now, and any time of the year.

*The Virginia Wine in My Pocket app can be found on iTunes and Google Play as a free app. Bauer is the author of the book Virginia Wine Travel Journal. She also writes about Virginia wine travel for Washingtonian Magazine and other local and regional publications.*

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