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Hillsboro Rt. 9 road closure to begin about May 4

The Town of Hillsboro announced an agreement with VDOT for the acceleration of planned full closures of Rt. 9 within the Town to coincide with Governor Northam's ongoing "stay-at-home" executive order, which has resulted in a significant reduction in daily traffic. A full closure of Rt. 9 within the Town and implementation of local and regional detours will begin on or about May 4 and last into mid- to late-June.

Hillsboro Mayor and *ReThink9* Project Manager Roger Vance said, "During this extraordinary time of sheltering in place, shuttered schools and businesses and a dramatic reduction in traffic on Rt. 9, taking this action now will lessen the impacts to residents, schools, businesses and motorists later."

"We are extremely pleased with the cooperation and coordination we've

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

—View from the Ridge—

Purcellville, the choice is yours

BY UTA BROWN

In a time of crisis, a time of sequestering, and the wearing of masks, the citizens of the Town of Purcellville are approaching a critical decision concerning the future direction of the Town. Fortunately, this is not a crisis of time. Many of us are spending hours at home with our kids, playing games or watching movies.

Hopefully we are also taking the time to vote absentee or plan to vote in the Town of Purcellville elections at the Bush Tabernacle – to reelect Mayor Kwasi Fraser and for Town Council Chris Bertaut, Mary Jane Williams and Stan Milan.

The pandemic will pass. More

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Environmental Justice: Will It Prevail for Loudoun's St. Louis?

BY LAURA LONGLEY

"There is a history of environmental violence against communities of color in this country and we must ensure Virginia does not repeat past mistakes ... Governor Northam recently signed HB 1662 into law, which will make environmental justice one of the DEQ's purposes. While the law does

not go into effect until July 1st of this year, there is nothing preventing DEQ from pursuing environmental justice now and enacting appropriate penalties." – Virginia 10th District Delegate Wendy Gooditis in her April 1 letter to James Datko, P.E., Virginia DEQ Regional Enforcement 77.

For more than three years, the resi-

dents of St. Louis in western Loudoun County have been fighting against a by-right development of 30 houses on 19 acres. The developer is Mojax LLC, owned by John A. "Jack" Andrews, who is working with Leonard "Hobie" Mitchel. Mitchel has developed such major

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A Big shout out to our healthcare heroes at Inova

“

As others lean out, we here at Inova Loudoun Hospital lean in; we are here to care for patients, just like we've done for over 100 years and we want the community to know that you are in good hands. The Inova Loudoun Hospital team is doing an excellent job, providing world-class care to each person, with or without COVID-19, that we are privileged to serve. They truly are healthcare heroes. Thank you for the many ways you are supporting us during this time; we are humbled and amazed by your generosity. Together – we will get through this,” said Deborah Addo, President, Inova Loudoun Hospital.



Nurse accepting more community donations



Critical Care Team



Supply chain



ER



Nurse and facility dog Jeremiah



Blessing of the House



Nursing leaders



ER nurses appreciate community support



ICU nurse



Respiratory therapy department



Postpartum nurses



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Respiratory Unit



Inova Loudoun Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Makersmiths responds to COVID-19

Makersmiths, a 501(c)3 non-profit makerspace in Loudoun County, is building and providing personal protective equipment to health care workers and elder care facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The all-volunteer organization is focused on 3D printed solutions that members and friends can print at home and drop off at their workshop facilities in Leesburg and Purcellville where select volunteers inspect, assemble, and

package the components.

“So far about 120 face shields have been distributed to the Loudoun Medical Group, a Purcellville dentist office, Leesburg assisted living center, and North Carolina hospital” according to Makersmiths President John Dubelko. “We also have 25 members in the process of filling requests from other local medical organizations and hope to eventually provide about

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Purcellville Volunteer Rescue Squad received 35 face shields.



Photo: EMT Robin Davis

Catoctin Creek Distillery ends sanitizer production

Catoctin Creek Distillery has ended its production of hand sanitizer because of the lack of supplies of ingredients. The distillery located at 120 W. Main Street in Purcellville had made 2,050 gallons of sanitizer to help combat the coronavirus. The distillery made the sanitizers available to first responders and front-line workers, as well as the general public. Bulk ethanol and denaturing agents became hard to come by, so Catoctin Creek is selling the remainder of its sanitizer on its online store until it is sold out.

Its sanitizer initially went to the following: The City of Winchester, Fairfax County, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Prince William County, Clarke County, Leesburg Police Department, Loudoun County, Virginia Social Services, Virginia Health Department, Clarke County Sheriff's Office, the Fed-

eral Aviation Administration in Leesburg, and the Purcellville and Leesburg Post Offices, among other governmental institutions. Then Catoctin Creek opened sale to the general public.

Since Becky and Scott Harris, who founded Catoctin Creek Distillery in 2009, had the permits to deal with alcohol, the Harris' used their business to make hand sanitizer in “the battle against COVID-19,” according to their website. They quickly got their sanitizer approved by the FDA for sale to the public. Catoctin Creek opened its doors three times for sale of its sanitizer to the general public in April – and long lines of hundreds of people formed in the early morning hours to purchase it.

Thank you, Scott and Becky Harris and the Catoctin Creek Distillery team!



Sterling Rotary partners with Firehouse Subs and Salvation Army to Feed 300

Feed 300 is a project that came to Rotary as a community service project to feed people in the County who were suffering food insecurity due to lost jobs over the COVID-19 pandemic. Marc Engelking and his wife Margaret, owners of Firehouse Subs, were looking for a way to feed people during the time of the economic shut down in Loudoun.

His first call was to Rotary Club of Sterling. Lynne Ast, President of the

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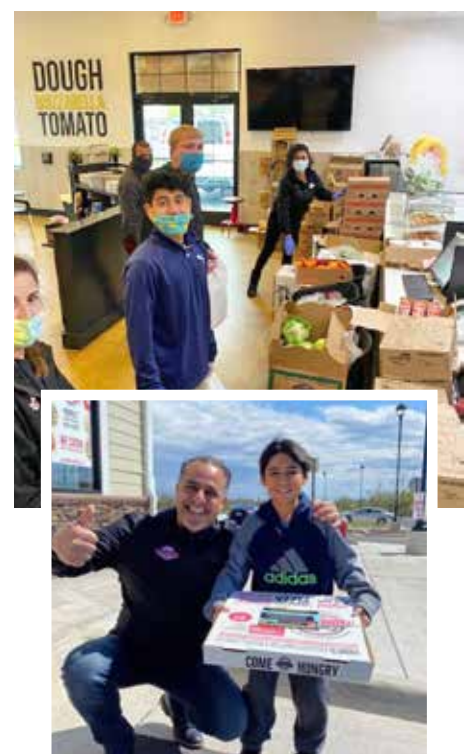
Captain Pardeep Ramaji with the Salvation Army.

Manhattan Pizza keeps on giving

When the COVID-19 crisis began, a lot of people were laid off – and, as usual, Manhattan Pizza owner Jack Azar jumped in. “We work closely with the teacher-parent liaisons at the schools; and the teachers identify the students that need help. They know the families, they come in and receive the food when they are hungry,” said Azar.

“We give Turkeys for Christmas, and we work closely with Tree of Life and Loudoun Hunger Relief,” he said. “If you are hungry without

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

Five Tips to help you get through the quarantine

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

While no one knows when the coronavirus will end, it appears that the virus and quarantine will continue for now. This has been a very difficult time for us all; and, for many across the U.S. our social, work, school, and financial lives have been upended beyond belief.

I wholly appreciate that the coronavirus and the quarantine have impacted us all differently, as I've learned that from many of my patients. An adult patient recently said to me "This is the best thing that's ever happened to me," adding that the moment has helped her to better balance her work and personal/family life in a number of positive ways. However, several of my other patients have struggled tremendously. Regardless, there's no denying that the U.S., and the world, will be forced to endure the impact of the coronavirus and the quarantine for several more weeks and perhaps months to come.

Although nothing anyone says will make the current problem disappear, I hope the following five tips will help.

Focus On Your Locus Of Control. Psychologist Dr. Julian Rotter coined the term "locus of control" as part of his work to understand how humans self-evaluate. Dr. Rotter's research showed that individuals with a strong internal locus ('location') of control believe that they have great control over their actions and outcomes in life; not surprisingly, numerous research studies have found that these individuals are psychologically better adjusted. So, during the quarantine, you will likely feel better if you focus on controlling what you can control.

Strengthen Your Self-Efficacy.

Self-efficacy, a concept first proposed by psychologist Dr. Albert Bandura, is a person's belief that he or she has the ability or capacity to overcome a problem and achieve success. The concept is related to locus control but not exactly; people with a strong internal locus of control believe they have control over a certain situation and people with strong self-efficacy believe they have the capacity or ability to succeed in a specific area of life. Individuals with strong self-efficacy are able to recover from setbacks and disappointments, are more committed to their interests, and interpret challenging problems as tasks to be mastered. Dr. Bandura cites mastery, social modeling and social persuasion as the main factors for increasing self-efficacy. If you want to get in shape during the quarantine, for example, create a manageable diet and exercise regime that you can accomplish. Regarding social modeling, exercising with your partner, or working out with an instructor and an on-line class, will provide you with a shared workout experience. Lastly, verbal encouragement and praise help people to improve self-efficacy.

Maintain Positive Thinking. Is your glass half full or half empty during the quarantine? Research has repeatedly shown that people who view their life experiences, even their challenging ones, positively have fewer emotional and relational problems, and are happier. Research studies have also shown that thinking positively can improve your immune system. Some strategies for positive thinking include: focusing on the good in the moment, reminding yourself of all the things you still have, doing something selfless, having a sense of humor, putting yourself around positive people, and

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Dining with Freud

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

The Embassy Reception

Valets in lederhosen opened the car doors for Byne and Robert at the Austrian Embassy. The Roods walked up to the tall bronze doors and then inside. Byne murmured, "This'll be a nice break from the land-use wars."

A string quartet was playing. "A Hayden concerto," Byne whispered to Robert just as he was startled by a hug. It was Sofia Bremer, Byne's sophomore roommate at the University of Vienna, now a senior economic officer at the embassy and a frequent visitor to the Rood's farm near Hamilton. After some conversation, Sofia led them around the ballroom, introducing them to guests, lastly to a man standing alone.

The Roods fought to keep straight faces – the man looked identical to Sigmund

Freud. Sofia introduced him as "Dr. Freud." The Roods almost didn't hear Sofia's "excuse me" as she disengaged herself, leaving them with the odd man.

Meeting Sigmund Freud

Robert's thought the man was a mime, like those imitating Beethoven or Strauss in Vienna's *Innerstadt*. "Freud's" wig, his balding head, crisp gray beard and piercing eyes were all spot-on.

Robert asked, "Is your given name 'Sigmund'?"

"Yes."

Robert blinked mischievously at Byne, meaning "This is weird." Rood turned to the man, "What brings you to Washington, Dr. Freud?"

"A conference on Environmental Psychology, which examines the roles of 'place' in our lives and tries to understand our attachments to home. I'm actually a Social

Psychologist, but there is overlap in those specialties.

"Psychology? I thought you were a psychiatrist," Byne asked.

Freud smiled. "You mean my great-great grandfather. My full name is Sigmund S. Freud, IV, plus several honorifics, including M.D. and Ph.D. My beard and bald pate suffice. Most people react as you did. It's actually marketing."

Robert wanted to learn more about "Environmental Psychology" and asked, "May we take you to dinner, Dr. Freud, and talk more?"

"That would be nice," Freud replied. "When did you have in mind?"

Byne answered, "This is just a reception, not a dinner. We could leave now if you wish."

Robert added, "If that doesn't work, we're coming to Vienna later this month."

Freud affably replied, "Let's eat now. Perhaps later we can meet again in Vienna."

In a Belgian Restaurant

"What do you do, Robert?"

"Investments, specifically private equity." "Thus, you think linearly. Some of these concepts may not be intuitive. And you, Byne?"

Byne said, "I give some riding lessons but focus on showing my horses."

"Ah, your right brain should grasp things quickly."

Robert moved to the subject on his mind. "A few Sundays ago, for a change of scenery, we went into DC and aimlessly drove around Northwest. I wanted to see some upscale neighborhoods; Glover Park was like some of my old neighborhoods in Georgia, though with smaller lots. It wasn't just the houses but the manicured landscaping that signified wealth. Then I had a thought, or maybe it was a feeling."

The Viennese nodded.

Robert continued, "I told Byne that those people probably had a high sense of self-importance."

"Interesting," said Freud as he spread Belgian butter on a slice of rye. "I know the neighborhood and you could be right."

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Please include your name, address and phone number.

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



Inmates fight to be safe

BY JOHN P. FLANNERY

Aman Singh Lail, from Loudoun County, is an inmate at Deerfield Correctional facility and we've asked for a pardon from the state so that he may avoid the deathly virus infecting our prisons and jail.

Aman is one of many in our prisons and jails at risk because the coronavirus has made these facilities unsafe.

I've asked the State to release Aman

There is this "quaint notion" that one is innocent until proven guilty but more often than not, bail is used as a way not to assure an appearance, or protect anyone, but to break the accused, to demean him, to compromise his ability to consult with counsel, or to prepare his case.

How can anyone justify exposing any inmate, or person merely accused, to this virus no matter the sentence rendered nor the crime charged?

The Governor is releasing some inmates based on the fact that they have less than a year in custody.

What about those inmates who have more time than a year and who have heart and lung disabilities like Aman who has high blood pressure and asthma?

ma?

What about those accused of crimes, and not convicted, who are vulnerable in one way or another like my client in the local jail.

Aman says that the "tension" where he's lodged at Deerfield "is at an all-time high. Contractors come into the facility daily. Inmates are being forced to work at other facilities that currently have cases of Covid-19 and then they return here. Officers sick and

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from prison since they can't protect him from the disease.

At our local jail, and jails across the Commonwealth, authorities are releasing some inmates who are serving time while leaving in custody those who are only accused of committing a crime.

We might consider the fact that very few crimes either charged or resulting in conviction provide for severe illness or death as an appropriate punishment.

Ode to the Gravel Road

With heartfelt
apologies to
Robert Frost

Dear Editor:

LETTER

Whose road this is I think I know.
It's owned by all who cherish slow;
They will know I'm stopping here
To honor with steps the stones below.

Once a deer and Indian track
Now mottled gravel, not asphalt black.
Toil of commerce, blood of war,
Have flowed across its noble back.

Its rural strengths with us will stay:
Connection, reflection, nature's way.
Lacking oil and tar, this road will give
Things much needed in lives today.

The name of progress gets roads covered,
And who we were, and are, is smothered.
Some say these paths are too much trouble;
They thrive through time when gently mothered.

This road is lovely, warm and sweet,
But needs our promises to keep
The miles of joy we wish to meet,
The miles of joy we have to keep.

John B. Denegre
Middleburg

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One Loudoun

BY TIM JON

I learned – just a few days prior to my father’s funeral service – that one of his predeceased sisters, Dora, had written a brief history of their family (having emigrated from Russia just prior to the Revolution, no less) and she said of my Dad: “The day Samuel was born there was a circus in town. At times I think some of the circus rubbed off on Samuel.”



JON

Now, my Dad was 36 years old by the time I came along, so I got to witness less of the clowns, tigers and three rings than my three brothers and my Mom – but I can still recall some priceless shenanigans orchestrated by my progenitor. Like the time he handed the mechanic working under a car a wriggling salamander instead of the wrench he requested – or when he placed a live chicken in his buddy’s vehicle – all just for laughs, you understand. I have great memories of his chasing us kids around the house after supper – him imitating a rabid bear or Frankenstein monster – but never quite able to catch us – and we – screaming like a flock of geese – riding that edge of fear



and fun – in the greatest spirit of play.

Other times, it was simply an ability to see the humor in things instead of just bleak, tragic loss. Like the day he chuckled about a visit from the local Fire Crew (of which he served as Chief) due to a grease fire in our house, started by my Mom. Or, his similar reaction when she accidentally mowed down a couple of gas pumps at the local filling station (owned and operated by Dad and his father-in-law – who, incidentally, displayed a sense of humor with the frequency of a Haley’s Comet appearance).

I bring all this to bear because I value the education in ‘positivity’ I received

from a man who may have shown me otherwise; he served as a bombardier and tail gunner on a seaplane during World War II – based on Guam – 600 miles from Japan. One of their duties came in rescuing survivors and recovering bodies from the greatest Naval disaster in US history- the USS Indianapolis. Another memory which haunted him was his pulling the body of a young girl from a frozen river in our hometown – after some of the other local authorities had botched an earlier rescue attempt.

So – I’m sure that Dad could have taught me that life was pretty hopeless, without a whole lot to laugh or even smile

about. But that’s not what I remember; I recall a lot of activity, much hysterics and a family that enjoyed spending time and doing things together.

And, yes – I know I’ve said a mouthful of personal history, but this is my story – and that’s my prerogative. I’ve lived my life in the belief that fun – even the madcap, circus kind – is important. And I believe it more as time goes on; just look around.

Now, every summer that I can remember I drive by the carnival set-up at One Loudoun along Route Seven in Ashburn. And, yes, I’ve been to the Alamo Draft-house, covered at least a few miles at the World of Beer, and had some very tasty meals at several different restaurants – all within walking distance of any part of that complex. I’ve taken driving tours of the residential (and commercial) building sites mushrooming up – seemingly overnight – on the outskirts of One Loudoun – and I’ve thought about who would come to live and work there.

And I’ve considered the local motto (used so often in advertising real estate (and just about everything else) “Live work and play;” I get the feeling that the

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Everybody Wants to be (Tiger) King

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

“Let me show and tell the whole thing, because then you’ll get it,” Joe Maldonado-Passage (a.k.a. Joe Exotic) tells the audience at the beginning of the new Netflix series, *Tiger King*.



MOORE-SOBEL

After watching all eight episodes, I’m not so sure I do.

The popularity of this series cannot be overstated. According to *Business Insider*, it is estimated that over 34 million “unique viewers” in the United States alone watched this series over the first ten days following its release. Perhaps aided in part by the onset of Covid-19 (which has forced many of us to stay home), Joe Exotic unwittingly found a much bigger audience than he ever could have imagined. Watching this series feels a bit like watching a train crash. Disaster is lurking around every corner – but it’s hard to look away.

“There are more captive tigers in the U.S. today than there are in the wild throughout the world,” an anchor from

CBS *This Morning* reveals within the opening minutes of the documentary. The seventh episode of the documentary ends with this startling statistic: “Five thousand to 10,000 tigers live in captivity in the U.S.,” while “fewer than 4,000 tigers remain in the wild.”

As alarming as these statistics are, somehow the plight of the animals is overshadowed by Joe Exotic. His larger-than-life personality leaves little room for anyone else, whether animals or people. Charismatic one moment and downright cruel the next, Joe Exotic is a loose cannon. It’s like he was made for television: his brash and outlandish behavior draw us in for more.

If anything is true about Joe Exotic, it is his deep loathing of Carole Baskin. Baskin bills herself as an animal rights activist, and she runs an animal sanctuary called Big Cat Rescue. At first, it appears as if Baskin is the story’s heroine and Joe Exotic is the villain – until the audience sees the cages where her animals are kept and hears the allegations that she may have been involved in the

mysterious disappearance of her late husband. While some controversy has arisen over her portrayal in the documentary, I think it’s fair to say that she doesn’t end up being as sympathetic a character as she initially seems.

That’s just it – as the series unfolds, a heroic figure is hard to find. Nefarious characters fill the series. Doc Antle – another zookeeper who runs the Myrtle Beach Safari – comes off as a womanizer who may also be euthanizing tigers once they are no longer helpful for moneymaking. Jeff Lowe is portrayed as a greedy businessman with an open marriage. The list goes on and on. It’s hard to find someone to root for.

In the newly-released eighth episode, more disturbing details about Joe Exotic are revealed. “Joe was terrified of big cats,” Rick Kirkham, the one-time producer of Joe’s former internet show, reveals, along with a harrowing story about Joe’s alleged mistreatment of animals.

Kirkham appears to be one of the few people involved in the series who is willing to express regret. “About three

months in, I began to see him [Joe Exotic] do things to animals that I knew was wrong,” he said. “And, as I have admitted, I sold out my own journalistic integrity by not going to the authorities.”

It’s hard not to wonder how much damage could have been prevented if someone had simply contacted the authorities. Or let someone know what was happening inside the gates of the G.W. Zoo.

Tiger King is certainly a cautionary tale. It contains warnings of the danger of enabling a disturbed, charismatic leader. The warning can get lost in the drama of Joe Exotic’s ongoing performances. But the consequences of remaining silent in the face of wrongdoing still exist. Perhaps the lesson we can take from this strange tale is that courageous action is necessary, and standing up for the truth matters—no matter the consequences. Especially when lives are at stake.

After all, we’re talking about tigers, right?

Samuel Moore-Sobel works in the tech industry by day and is an author by night. Find out more by visiting www.samuel-moore-sobel.com.

I'm supporting slow growth

Dear Editor:

Living in Purcellville for decades, I've witnessed countless campaigns to embark upon a "modernization" of the town. Without fail, this argument, when whittled away, reveals only the same growth plans, led by the same tenacious developers, their investors, and their candidates, again and again. Communities and towns once uniquely distinguishable by notable features – and their small town charm – become recognizable only by different street and neighborhood names, once these would-be change-makers get a hold of them. These communities become places people want to leave, after their kids are grown and graduated.

Purcellville is special. It is different. People visit, move here, and get inspired here because of its rural and agricultural charm. Consequently, when citizens speak up, they reject the generic pass-through plans constantly lurking in the wings. They demand walkability, small business-

es, safety and charm. They reject the sort of weary brand of modernization that presents itself as the same generic styles and designs we endure mile after mile when we drive east of our pretty town.

Purcellville, we're in election season. We're experiencing a pandemic. We're bearing this together. What we also bear together, is the responsibility to see for what it is, the special interest community's attempt to seize the means to force on us their version of change; of wild reckless development and "modernization." Well, I and many people I know don't want this unsightly growth – what they call "change." We don't just want to live here; we want to stay here – and we don't want to lose our small town.

In this spirit, I support Mayor Kwasi Fraser for reelection. He exercises the fortitude to stand up to the growth special interests. He dedicates himself not to his own enrichment, but to fortifying Purcellville with inclusive governance solutions, outreach, collaboration, and

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LETTER

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Purcellville weighs participation in nationwide COVID-19 testing

BY LAURA LONGLEY

With the COVID-19 pandemic and the deficit of mass testing capabilities, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser has reached out to Biobot Analytics of Boston to explore participation of the Town's wastewater treatment plant for a new research program mapping and analyzing the spread of the coronavirus through wastewater.

GOVERNMENT

Biobot is collaborating with Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, and Brigham and Women's Hospital. All of the teams are working pro bono. If approved by Council, Purcellville would join other jurisdictions in collecting a minimum of 8 samples for a total contractual cost of \$2,540. At Biobot labs, the samples would be processed to concentrate and inactivate the viruses, then tested. Results would be sent back to Purcellville.

Fraser sees this initiative as a low-cost opportunity to transform the wastewater infrastructure of the Town into an

observatory and monitoring center for public health. It's Fraser's vision to obtain federal funding for this and future research efforts.

Last year, in efforts to extract value from the Town's wastewater treatment plant, which accounts for the majority of the Town's debt, incurred by a prior administration, Fraser recommended working with universities to expand the plant's lab into a training center for individuals seeking careers in the field of wastewater treatment operations. The concept was to make the lab available to students for hands-on training during the plant's off hours, and the university would pay the Town for its use.

The use of wastewater, Biobot points out, allows their technology to generate public health data that is naturally anonymous and yields insight into the health of communities without collecting personal identifiable information.

The current study was prompted by the discovery of COVID-19 in the sewers of a large, unidentified Massachu-

setts city in March. Biobot's preliminary tracking of the spread of the coronavirus through the sewage data suggests the metro area may have had exponentially more positive cases than the 500 that were reported.

Speaking to ABC News' Dr. Nancy Anoruo of the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Eric Alm, professor at the MIT Center for Microbiome Informatics and Therapeutics, and scientific director at Biobot, said, "This kind of technology may be key in figuring out when we will flatten the curve. In the future, it may help us stop epidemics from happening at all."

"Wastewater data may become more reliable than individual testing, especially if hospitals become overwhelmed," Dr. Alm said. "We hope to use this kind of data to stop outbreaks before they reach epidemic levels so we

will never find ourselves again in a situation like we are in today."

Thus far there are two counties in Virginia that are participating in this program – Arlington and Stafford. Forty states are also engaged in the program with hundreds of counties waiting. Purcellville would be the first town to participate in Virginia.

"This is an opportunity for the Town of Purcellville to join in enhancing nationwide testing capabilities for COVID-19 and future pandemics – for the health, and safety of our citizens," said Fraser in an email.

As of press time the Purcellville Town Council had not taken up the matter. They will be discussing it at their work session on April 28. At that point the majority on Council would have to agree to move this proposal forward.

"This is an opportunity for the Town of Purcellville to join in enhancing nationwide testing capabilities for COVID-19 and future pandemics – for the health, and safety of our citizens."

—Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser

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Town of Purcellville candidates gather online for virtual forum – Friday May 1

Local YouTube channel presents town election candidates for voter interaction online

Purcellville resident Marcos Salinas of Purcellville Spotlight – a local YouTube channel that promotes art, business, culture, and civic participation – will hold a second “Virtual Candidate Forum” with the candidates for the Mayoral and Town Council election, on Friday, May 1, 2020 starting at 7:30 p.m. The forum will be streamed simultaneously to YouTube and Facebook

Town of Purcellville residents are encouraged to participate by going to Facebook.com and searching for “Purcellville Spotlight”. Viewers who do not have a Facebook profile can go to YouTube.com and search for “Purcellville Spotlight”. Residents can submit questions to the candidates at either site. Those who cannot view the forum live, can still ask questions of the candidates by sending an email to purcellvilspotlight@gmail.com.

“The residents asked some great questions of the four candidates: Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Mary Jane Williams, Chris Bertaut, and Stan Milan – all of whom

participated in the first forum on April 21. It was a disappointment that Beverly Chiasson, Mary Lynn Hickey and Erin Raynor declined the opportunity to join their fellow candidates. Having all seven candidates participate in the same forum would have been a great way for the citizens to see the differences between the two teams’ platforms which are running for Mayor and Town Council,” said Salinas. “I am looking forward to our second forum, May 1, with Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Chris Bertaut, Mary Jane Williams, and Stan Milan, and still hope that Chiasson, Rayner, and Hickey will accept my invitation.”

For the May 1 forum, Salinas has invited all candidates by posting invitations to six of the seven candidates on their campaign Facebook pages. Candidate Mary Lynn Hickey had asked Salinas not to contact her again, so Salinas asked Chiasson and Rayner to share the invitation with her. Both Chiasson and Rayner removed Salinas’ invitation, and have yet to reply.

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Town Council



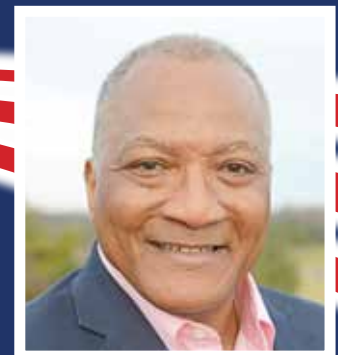
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Kwasi Fraser**



**Christopher
Bertaut**



**Mary Jane
Williams**



**Stan
Milan**

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Town Elections moved to May 19 – Voters encouraged to vote absentee

Purcellville election at skating rink –
250 S Nursery Avenue

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam has pushed back the date of municipal elections in the state by two weeks, to May 19, and is encouraging voters to cast absentee ballots by mail. In Loudoun County, the towns of Hamilton, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville and Round Hill will hold elections May 19, for the offices of mayor and town council members.

The Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration also encourages voters to cast absentee ballots in the upcoming elections. Anyone seeking to vote absentee in the May 2020 elections may choose the reason “2A-My disability or illness” for absentee voting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Voters who choose the absentee option should do so as soon as possible so they can get their ballots in time to return them by mail by election day. The deadline to apply for an ab-

sentee ballot is Tuesday, May 12, at 5 p.m.

In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, social distancing measures are in place for in-person absentee voting at the Office of Elections and Voter Registration, 750 Miller Drive SE, Suite C in Leesburg, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only curbside absentee voting is offered. There are signs directing voters to contact election officials upon their arrival. Voters will not be permitted in the office to vote.

The final day to vote an absentee ballot in person is Saturday, May 16. The Office of Elections and Voter Registration will be open May 16 for curbside absentee voting, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Voters do not have to apply in advance to vote absentee in person. Call 703-777-0380, or email the office at vote@loudoun.gov with any questions.

More information about the upcoming election, including links to sample ballots, may be found at loudoun.gov/TownElections.

Open burning ban takes effect May 1

The Loudoun County Fire Marshal’s Office reminds our residents and visitors that open burning is prohibited in Loudoun County between May 1 and Sep. 30. These regulations prohibit open air fires or open burning with the following considerations:

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

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

On a year-round basis, open burning (to include campfires) is

always prohibited in the town limits of Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville, Round Hill and all subdivisions (“urban or built up areas”) throughout the county.

The Loudoun County Fire Marshal may impose regulations, at any time, based upon complaint, atmospheric or other environmental circumstances, to restrict or extinguish any fire that is otherwise permitted according to these guidelines.

Any person who violates the fire code could be convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor, which carries a penalty of a fine up to \$2,500 and up to a year in jail. Further, if convicted, a person may be required to compensate the locality for the full costs of fighting a fire.

Questions regarding open burning regulations should be directed to the Loudoun County Fire Marshal’s Office at 703-737-8600 or you may access this information on the following webpage www.loudoun.gov/openburning.



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Loudoun's Leaders discuss County's fight against pandemic with Sen. Warner

BY VALERIE CURY

Virginia U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) hosted a conference call April 15 to discuss Loudoun County community and business needs to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. "What in the CARES bill [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act] met your needs and what fell short?" asked Warner.

Warner pointed out that the package was put together in five days, and was \$2.2 trillion but "in reality it was a \$6.2 trillion package." As of April 14, the number of deaths was a total of 195, and said Warner the "next 10 to 12 days will be some of the worst for us."

Warner pointed out that the three things were "first and foremost on my mind: there is enormous amount of economic uncertainty which is unprecedented, when are businesses going to see the money that was promised in the bill, and also there are challenges in unemployment benefits, and thirdly – regarding the health care numbers in Virginia – will they continue to rise? Why didn't this country join with other countries, and "accept the international standard on testing?" "We should be 60 days ahead on testing," said Warner.

"With all this stress, and I am sure we are all feeling it on a personal and professional basis, obviously health care providers are feeling it in the extreme," he said.

Sen. Warner was joined by Chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Phyllis Randall (D-At Large), President and CEO of Inova Loudoun Deborah Addo, Tracey White, Vice President of Community and Government Relations for StoneSprings Hospital Center (sitting in for StoneSprings Hospital CEO

Matt Mathias, who had to drop off the call), Anne Kress, President of Northern Virginia Community College, Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tony Howard, and Janelia Research Campus Executive Director and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Vice President Ron Vale.

Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall pointed out that Loudoun County has \$150,000 in food assistance programs for food pantries. The County has 16 more families every three days at the pantries. The County has put \$200,000 into rental assistance programs and \$1 million in grants to small businesses broken up into \$10,000 apiece. The County is working on the application process. "Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy," said Randall.

Randall has directed the County flag to be lowered to half-staff each Monday to honor the people who have died in the pandemic.

Randall said there are two hotspots in the County: Falcons Landing had 19 residents who tested positive, along with seven staff members, and a total of three deaths. Waltonwood Ashburn had some positive testing, along with one death. Thirty staff members there have walked off the job.

"What we need most, like everyone else, is testing ..." said Randall. But, said Randall, in the Capital metro area Loudoun is doing better than most.

Warner, Virginia's senior Democratic senator, said that he is working with Johns Hopkins on a data base on the spread of the virus – and is working to do the same on testing, and that it should be coming online shortly.

Deborah Addo with Inova Loudoun said that as of April 14 there were 5,200 tests completed, with 1,214 positive and



3,537 negative, and 220 COVID positive patients hospitalized. There have been 31 deaths as of April 14. (In Virginia, there have been 324 deaths as of April 21, according to WVIR in Charlottesville.) Addo said that Inova is well prepared with its resources and resource allocation. Across the Inova system of five hospitals it has more than 300 ventilators – and 66 negative pressure rooms in Loudoun. "We feel like we are prepared for the surge," said Addo. She made sure to thank Inova's team "who show up every day."

Tracey White with StoneSprings Hospital Center said that the hospital has an adequate supply at the moment because "of our sophisticated supply chain." She said they have been working on surge planning for a long time. "We have additional ventilators we can put into the area," said White. At the moment, reduced surgeries are creating a challenge. White said that people are out of work

and concerned about losing their health coverage.

Ron Hale with Janelia Research Campus said they are developing diagnostics to allow for lower costs in that area. They are working with a bio tech firm in Sterling – Aperiomics – and have received 1,000 test kits from them. Aperiomics is also making face shields.

Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce President Tony Howard said that the chamber is moving online with meetings and work shops as people are staying at home. He said that small businesses are having trouble processing applications and getting money from the CARES Act.

Anne Kress from Northern Virginia Community College said that 50 percent of students are financially needy. They are also offering two free summer classes to high school seniors for six credits. They would like to receive funds for job retraining.

Virginia colleges and universities receive \$156 million in CARES Act funding

More than 120 Virginia colleges and universities, both public and private, have received federal monies to support their students while the schools are shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic. The more than \$156 million in federal funding is part of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund established under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

In a joint statement, U.S. Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine said, "This critical funding will help colleges and universities provide Virginia students with the support they need during this unprecedented time" ... "We are pleased to see these resources go towards helping provide emergency financial aid for Virginia students, and

we will keep fighting for the additional resources our educational institutions need in a future package."

The CARES Act established a nearly \$14 billion Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Of this amount, approximately \$12.6 billion is allocated for Direct Grants to Institutions of Higher Education. Of this amount, half must be used "to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus." The U.S. Department of Education has made available the first half of the \$12.6 billion that must go directly to students attending colleges and universities nationwide, the two Virginia Democrats noted in their statement.

Of the total \$312.9 million in funding that Virginia

institutions will receive in Direct Grants to Institutions of Higher Education, this initial \$156.5 million must go directly to students in the form of emergency financial aid grants to help cover costs associated with the closures of Virginia's institutions due to COVID-19, including course materials, food, health care, technology, housing, and other basic essentials.

Of the monies Virginia schools received for their students, George Mason University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Northern Virginia Community College each received more than \$10 million. Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Epci University, Old Dominion University, Liberty University, James Madison University, Tidewater Community College, and University of Virginia each received more than \$5 million.

GOVERNMENT

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Happy Mother's Day 2020!

BY LAURA LONGLEY

This Mother's Day will surely be one to remember.

You may be able to replicate your Mother's Day traditions with, say, a tasty brunch thanks to curbside pickup at your favorite restaurant, a lovely bouquet delivered, touchless, to her door, or a family Zoom party. But given the nature of this particular year, we thought a more lasting gift of remembrance might be in order – like a tree. After all, Mother's Day is about love, and as Victor Hugo wrote, "Love is like a tree, it grows of its own accord, it puts down deep roots into our whole being."

COMMUNITY

So, we called our local nurseries for their recommendations, information on delivery and planting, gift certificates and Covid-19 policies. Here's the good news.

In and around Purcellville and Hamilton, as well as in Leesburg and Ashburn, our nurseries offer a wide range of trees, many in stock now or scheduled to come

in before Mother's Day. All of the nurseries also offer gift certificates at whatever amount you'd like.

Watermark Woods on Hamilton Station Road extends a special invitation to make an appointment and have the nursery all to yourself while shopping. A good outing for you and your mother to choose her living gift? Owner Julie Borneman says her top three tree choices are dogwood, redbud, and serviceberry, which produces lovely white flowers in June followed by edible berries that can be used in jellies, muffins, and much more.

Watermark Woods offers curbside pickup and a safe environment: the staff wears masks, regularly wipes down the carts, and practices social distancing. 540-441-7443, watermarkwoods.com

At Southern States in Purcellville, Leslie Fields suggests ornamental or weeping cherry, a hydrangea tree, hibiscus, or maybe wisteria for an arbor. Crape myrtle will be in stock before Mother's Day. You can arrange curbside pickup; delivery is \$56, whether that's for one tree or

more. While Southern States does not plant trees, there are several firms they recommend, such as Wildwood Landscaping. Southern States follows social distancing and surface sanitizing. If you visit the Garden Center, ask for Carol Peffer, who is manager, or for Leslie.

On Short Hill Road, Loudoun Nursery's Lou Nichols likes redbuds and Japanese maples. He says the best way to shop is to come to the nursery and look around –and maintain social distancing. Loudoun Nursery can deliver your tree but at a fee; most trees, he says, can fit in a full-size SUV or a pickup truck. There's a form on Loudoun Nursery's website for gift certificates.

David Lohmann, owner of Abernethy & Spencer in Lincoln votes for Virginia's state flower, the dogwood. Abernethy does deliver and will plant your tree. With five acres to roam around, social distancing should not be a problem if you visit. 540-338-9118, abernethyspencer.com

Blue Mount Nursery in Ashburn suggests flowering cherries, either – Kwan-

zan or Yoshino. Arborvitae – Emerald Green or Green Giant –are also good choices. At Blue Mount, you can browse in the store as well as outside, but you must be in small groups and wear a mask. 703-729-6600, bluemountnursery.com

Meadows Farms in Leesburg also recommends arborvitae and dogwood. You can arrange for delivery and planting. Helpfully, the nursery provides all of its information related to Covid-19 on its voice mail and website. 703-777-1900, meadowsfarms.com,

Ivendale Farms on Ivendale Road in Hamilton has a selection of beautiful trees. Owner/arborist Frank Bredimus asks that you make an appointment before visiting. 571-334-2278, ivendalefarms.com

An important note: In these unpredictable times, the nurseries' days and hours are subject to change. Before you go, we recommend calling or checking the website, where you can find full addresses and directions.

However you choose to celebrate, have a great Mother's Day!



Words cannot express our ongoing gratitude to our health care, law enforcement, child care, food service, utility/retail sector, fire & rescue and other essential workers who are on the front lines every day.



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Hemby receives Virginia Tech's Medallion Award

Abigail Hemby, daughter of Jay and Nancy Hemby, and a 2016 graduate of Loudoun Valley High School, was named the 2020 Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Phi Kappa Phi Medallion Award winner. Hemby is one of seven recipients within the University to receive this prestigious award, as each College selects one individual to recognize their academic achievements and commitment to service.

COMMUNITY

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is a society established in 1897 to recognize and encourage superior scholarship without restriction as to area of study and to promote the "unity and democracy of education." The Medallion Recipient Ceremony for Hemby and six other recipients was held virtually on Wednesday, April 29. Presented by the faculty, advisors and the Virginia Tech's Phi Kappa Phi for friends and family, the University is striving to honor the achievements of their graduates virtually for the Class of

2020 during this unprecedented time.

Before her senior year at Loudoun Valley High School, Hemby attended the Virginia Governor's School for Agriculture, a selective summer residential program at Virginia Tech. It was there that she developed a love for agriculture, and continued pursuing it during her senior year by attending CS Monroe Technology Center, now known as The Academies of Loudoun – studying Environmental Plant Sciences. Hemby then went on to attend Virginia Tech and majored in Agricultural Sciences and minored in Civic Agriculture and Food Systems, Leadership and Social Change, and Horticulture.

While at Virginia Tech, Hemby held leadership roles in Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority, Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, and served as a Residential Advisor, where she was named the Residential Advisor of the year, 2018-19. She was also involved in Collegiate Young Farmers, Collegiate 4-H, the Inspiring Women in Life-long



Leadership Cohort, a College of Agriculture Peer Mentor, and worked for the Office for Learning Partnerships, her Department Office, and returned to the program where her passion for agriculture began as a Governor's School Leader.

Hemby was selected to serve as the On-site Director for the Virginia Governor's School for Agriculture for 2020; however, the program was canceled due to COVID-19. Despite the virus interrupting her original plans, Hemby said, "I look forward to empowering the next generation of agriculturists and hope to work in the inspiring and important field of agricultural education."



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\$309 million in relief funds for airports across Virginia

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA) applauded \$309,729,392 in federal funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide economic relief to 47 airports across the Commonwealth.

"The COVID-19 crisis has affected every aspect of our economy and our airports are no exception. In fact, the necessary precautions we have taken to slow the spread of the virus have hit our airports especially hard," said the Senators. "That's why we're glad to know that airports across Virginia will be able to count on some economic relief so that they can continue critical safety projects. These funds will also help make sure that once this crisis is over, airports can safely resume serving Virginians and individuals traveling in and out of the Commonwealth."

The CARES Act, which was supported by Sens. Warner and Kaine, includes \$10 billion in funds for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)'s Airport Improvement Program (AIP) to provide relief for eligible U.S. airports affected by the prevention, preparation, and response surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding will be distributed as follows:

Locality	Airport Name	Funding Amount	Locality	Airport Name	Funding Amount
Abingdon	Virginia Highlands	\$69,000	Manassas	Manassas Regional/Harry P Davis Field	\$157,000
Arlington	Ronald Reagan Washington National	\$85,708,037	Mattaponi	Middle Peninsula Regional	\$30,000
Ashland	Hanover County Municipal	\$30,000	Melfa	Accomack County	\$30,000
Blacksburg	Virginia Tech/Montgomery Executive	\$69,000	Moonlight	Emporia-Greenville Regional	\$1,000
Brookneal	Brookneal/Campbell County	\$1,000	Newport News	Newport News/Williamsburg International	\$4,135,878
Charlottesville-Albemarle	Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport	\$6,279,972	Norfolk	Norfolk International	\$19,847,270
Chesapeake	Chesapeake Regional	\$69,000	Orange	Orange County	\$30,000
Chesapeake	Hampton Roads Executive	\$69,000	Quinton	New Kent County	\$30,000
Chesterfield	Richmond Executive-Chesterfield County	\$69,000	Richlands	Tazewell County	\$20,000
Culpeper	Culpeper Regional	\$30,000	Roanoke	Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional/Woodrum Field	\$20,709,748
Danville	Danville Regional	\$69,000	Smyth (County)	Mountain Empire	\$30,000
Dublin	New River Valley	\$30,000	South Hill	Mecklenburg-Brunswick Regional	\$30,000
Dulles	Washington Dulles International	\$143,395,227	Spencer	Blue Ridge	\$69,000
Farmville	Farmville Regional	\$30,000	Stafford	Stafford Regional	\$30,000
Front Royal	Front Royal-Warren County	\$30,000	Suffolk	Suffolk Executive	\$30,000
Halifax	William M Tuck	\$20,000	Sutherland	Dinwiddie County	\$30,000
Highland Springs	Richmond International	\$18,814,584	Tangier	Tangier Island	\$20,000
Hillsville	Twin County	\$20,000	Tappahannock	Tappahannock-Essex County	\$30,000
Hot Springs	Ingalls Field	\$20,000	Timberlake	Lynchburg Regional/Preston Glenn Field	\$6,647,475
Isle of Wight	Franklin Regional	\$30,000	Warrenton	Warrenton-Fauquier	\$69,000
Jonesville	Lee County	\$20,000	Weyers Cave	Shenandoah Valley Regional	\$2,652,201
Leesburg	Leesburg Executive	\$69,000	Winchester	Winchester Regional	\$69,000
Louisa	Louisa County/Freeman Field	\$30,000	Wise	Lonesome Pine	\$30,000
Luray	Luray Caverns	\$30,000			

CARES Act funding will allow airports to meet ongoing needs including retaining workers, managing operation and maintenance, and paying for cleaning supplies in the midst of severe financial challenges brought on by COVID-19.



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Loudoun allocates funding for emergency food assistance programs

Loudoun County is allocating \$150,000 for emergency food assistance programs in response to the increased need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Supervisors approved the funding to help local food assistance providers that serve Loudoun individuals and families.

GOVERNMENT

Local food banks are reporting a significant increase in the numbers of people who are seeking emergency food assistance; in some cases, double or triple the number of people asking for help prior to the outbreak of the new coronavirus. For example:

- Loudoun Hunger Relief reports spending \$15,000 more per week above its normal weekly budget since the effects of the pandemic took hold.
- The Dulles South Food Pantry reports serving 114 households a week, up from 86 households.
- The Tree of Life Center reports an

increase from an average of 8 families to 42 per week.

- LINK reports an increase from 20 families a week to 83 families a week.

In addition to approving the allocation of funds, the Board established criteria for organizations to be eligible for emergency funding. They must be:

- Located in Loudoun County.
- A 501(c)(3) nonprofit or a religious institution.
- Provide food assistance on at least a bi-weekly basis to Loudoun residents.
- Follow established federal food safety protocols.

Applicants also will be asked to supply documentation of the costs per client in addition to information about their typical service level prior to the pandemic and their current level of service.

The Board directed the Department

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

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- Judith Regan



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VIEW FROM THE RIDGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

urgent for the future of our Town is who the citizens choose for the Town's leaders – for not only its mayor, but for the next Town Council who will be serving us for the next two and four years respectively. If we make the wrong choice, skyrocketing taxes and debt, traffic jams, noise and a drastic lowering of our quality of life will follow our choices and will shape our future with permanent changes many of us may regret.

Let me give you a brief history of why Crooked Run Orchard is not a development of 120 single family houses with a shopping center – or over 300 town houses – and why we are blessed by birds, butterflies and bees, abundant wildlife and wooded areas and have recently sighted two rare great white cranes along the creek – well I can't explain that one.

In the fall of 2002 offers from developers started arriving in my father in law's mailbox. Howell Brown was 94 at the time. Richmond American Homes offered him \$7.5 million for the acreage along Main Street. Carter Braxton offered him \$12 million for the entire farm. There were other offers.

Howell had no intention of selling the farm off from under his sons' feet, particularly because although Tim had no interest in keeping the land, Sam was already planting strawberries and asparagus and starting orchards of sour cherries and apples.

Howell died the next April in 2003, just short of his 95th birthday. We were able to buy Tim out by putting the land Sam owned in a conservation easement. We later put the entire farm in an easement – gone hundreds of town homes, gone motels and conference centers.

In 2007 Robert Lazaro started his tenure as mayor. In his four terms, he completely changed the landscape and character of the Town. He also zoned the west portion of our farm for a motel and conference center. The growth of the Town exploded. He annexed large tracts of land. He approved hundreds of houses and a few shopping centers. He took land running through our farm by eminent domain and built a road that destroyed a large swath of woods, and half our apple orchard. He and the other members of the Town Council assured the citizens that the Southern Collector Road would take traffic off Main Street even though VDOT did a study that said it would take off only 2.54 percent of traffic.

VDOT was right. The traffic continued to get worse. The Town debt went from \$11 million to over \$61 million during his tenure.

And that is exactly what is going to

happen if Beverly MacDonald Chiasson and her friends take over. Remember MacDonald Chiasson ran on no annexations and did the opposite once elected – and this went on for 12 years during her reign. Growth does not and never has paid for itself in Loudoun County or anywhere else.

Development often destroys wooded areas. It is doubtful that building commercial (that is what the developer wants) along Hirst Road will decrease pollution and toxic run off into the wetlands, let alone what it would do to the residences nearby.

We have been very fortunate for the past six years to have had a very steady and consistent civil servant who maneuvered the chaos and the incessant partisan bickering within the bureaucracy, all without an agenda. It is a rare person who would be willing to continue maneuvering between the petty rivalries and consistent disputes. This takes patience and a certain kind of detachment, which most of us don't have.

There is an unending assault by builders who continue to submit plans and argue about how much revenue the projects will bring in – an argument all our previous pro-growth mayors and council members used while the Town's debt and traffic continued to increase.

Those of us who simply go about our daily business have no idea what a mad house this position can put you in. And rarely does a person like Kwasi Fraser come along and willingly subject himself to the confusions and never-ending dissatisfactions of the constituency of public life. There is one thing about Fraser I am certain of; he is not and never will be a politician. He is truly an honest citizen occupying a temporary office for the purpose of accomplishing several crucial objectives concerning the health, safety, and wellbeing of this Town.

Fraser's primary interest is to limit unneeded development, to keep the peace, to present a welcoming green entrance to the Town, to relieve the traffic on Main Street by realizing the only project that can accomplish this – the 690 Interchange – that the County has talked about for decades, and to make sure it is familiarity that greets you, not a bulldozer scraping all the landscape of greenery away for a building blocking out the sunset.

It is important that Fraser's running mates, Chris Bertaut, Mary Jane Williams and Stan Milan are elected with him to preserve Purcellville – the Town we have all come to love.

Uta and Sam Brown are the owners of Crooked Run Orchard at the eastern edge of town.

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Painted Benches around Purcellville are here!



The first of 40 Painted Benches was unveiled Friday, April 24, on Main St. in Purcellville – featuring a very timely design. “Heroes” by local Artist Anne Stine – depicts some of today’s professionals working on the front line during this trying time.

Discover Purcellville, a community nonprofit, will have 39 additional benches around town in the next month. We’re still seeking individuals and businesses to sponsor a bench. If interested email Michael at dpurcellville@gmail.com.

ROAD CLOSURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

had with VDOT and our contractor Archer Western to adjust the schedule and sequencing of work to make this possible,” Vance said. “By continuing to use a data-driven decision-making process, the managers at VDOT and the Town project team are ensuring this will not only allow higher productivity and efficiency, but most critically it will improve the safety for residents, workers, school children and motorists.”

Town officials stressed that construction workers are considered “essential” and their health and safety are paramount. “We have been assured by Archer Western that strict social distancing and COVID-19 safety protocols have been and will continue to be practiced,” Mayor Vance said.

Archer Western has committed additional resources to ensure the necessary materials, equipment, subcontractors and labor are in place and ready to go for the early May full road closure launch. Nearly 100 detour and construction signs, including several remotely controlled electronic message boards, will be installed across Loudoun and Clarke counties and into West Virginia.

During the full road closure, the Town will also complete installation of new drinking water mains to replace temporary above-ground lines necessitated by a series of main breaks that occurred in early April. The Virginia Department of Health has urged the Town to prioritize the water main installation to protect public health.

Mayor Vance noted, “With three-week’s advance notice, we are confident our local and regional partners and the traveling public will be well informed and prepared for this change in plans.” He said the Town will be holding several

virtual meetings in the coming days with residents and businesses to provide logistical details and to answer questions.

Vance said the Town has a wide-ranging information effort underway to ensure coordinated messaging locally and across the region. “We’ve reached out directly to our residents, businesses and local and regional officials, and will have extensive information available on our website, *ReThink9.com*, and across social media prior to the closure.” He added that the full closure implementation at this time has been enthusiastically received by area businesses, residents and officials, noting, “This is a great example of common sense and nimble decision making.”

With the full road closure, traffic will be restricted to Town residents, first responders and delivery trucks. Through truck traffic will be directed to use the Regional Detour of Rt. 7 and Rt. 340. No through trucks will be permitted on the Hillsboro Local detour, consisting of Stony Point Road, Woodgrove Road, Allder School Road and Hillsboro Road.

Local traffic only will be permitted to use Cider Mill Road. All motorists originating from west of Hillsboro will be directed to return to Rt. 9 eastbound via the Hillsboro detour rather than following Rt. 719 into the Town of Round Hill.

Detour maps, project updates, traffic alerts and project details are posted on *ReThink9.com*, where visitors can sign up for email updates.

The 428-day *ReThink9* Traffic-Calm-ing and Pedestrian Safety project officially kicked off on March 4. Hillsboro’s Safe Drinking Water Project Phase 1-A, which has been under construction by Shirley Contracting since late summer 2019, is anticipated to be completed in early May.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Loudoun communities as Lansdowne on the Potomac and Crescent Place in Leesburg. NV Homes of Reston holds a multimillion-dollar contract to build the 30 homes in the development called Middleburg Preserve.

While residents in other Loudoun communities have opposed similarly dense development, not so in St. Louis where what's at serious risk are wetlands, wells, safety, and the heritage of this historically African American village.

As Delegate Gooditis explained, the developer has destroyed wetlands in St. Louis, "a serious violation that should be appropriately punished." She described a DEQ fine of \$27,500 recently put forward in a draft consent order as "insignificant" and, "consequently, will not deter Mojax nor other developers who may threaten the Commonwealth's wetlands in the future. I would ask the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to pursue a stricter penalty and require Mojax to address the damage it has caused."

Gem Bingol of the Piedmont Environmental Council has also urged Virginia DEQ to strengthen the project consent order and to provide greater consequences for Mojax's unpermitted activities that resulted in unnecessary damage to onsite wetlands.

In the past few weeks, a host of other environmental organizations have joined PEC in appeals to the DEQ, as well as to Loudoun County Director of Building and Development Alan Brewer and Zoning Administrator Mark Stultz. Among them are the Loudoun County Farm Bureau, Save Rural Loudoun, the Unison Preservation Foundation, and Loudoun Historic Village Alliance, which was formed to represent the villages of Aldie, Bluemont, Lincoln, Taylorstown, Unison, and

Waterford in the County's rewrite of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Why the Wetlands Matter: St. Louis's Fragile Ecosystem

"We are citizens of a small, rural community... [with] a problematic water supply," the Friends of St. Louis explained in a letter to Loudoun County Zoning Administrator Mark Stultz.

"The County has long known of the sparse potable water supply in St. Louis, which is evidenced by a significant number of dry, low yielding and extremely shallow (many under 50' or less) wells in the area," the group noted. "The vast majority of the residents in and around St. Louis are of modest means who do not have the financial resources to move or drill another well should the high-density development adversely impact the yields of their wells. . . .The St. Louis community includes two groups of Habitat for Humanity houses (a total of 9), as well as a large number of modest homes, which in many cases have been inhabited for multiple generations.

"Mojax plans to drill 30 wells; it asked for a waiver of the required hydrogeological survey, which the County denied. Residents then asked that the County require the developer to examine all the surrounding wells, but the County responded by claiming that it does not have the authority to require such an examination. Under normal circumstances a high-density housing development such as Middleburg Preserve would be accompanied by a community water system or a community well system."

Action in April

Mojax's pace of activity picked up recently after an

April 1 flurry of letters before DEQ's comment period was to close.

On April 6 - 8, 2020, Friends of St. Louis reported that "Mojax proceeded to clear and excavate areas in the far western end of the property (behind the Mt. Zion Church) . . . Residents immediately contacted the County and DEQ, which had earlier suspended all investigations due to the global pandemic."

On April 8, Loudoun County issued a Notice of Violation to Mojax in an attempt to address the inadequate erosion and sediment control measures, as well as the illegal entry in wetland areas.

On April 14, Friends of St. Louis again addressed the water issue in an appeal to Stultz, asking him to revisit the subject of a Mojax hydrogeologic study—or lack of one.

On April 15, DEQ issued its own Notice of Violation to Mojax for unlawful impacts to wetlands and indicated that it is considering the public comments under the consent order and associated corrective action plan.

On April 15, coincidentally, Loudoun County posted notice for public comments about the upcoming comprehensive plan to address pollutants in the Goose Creek watershed. The watershed that Mojax has bulldozed is part of that larger, vital watershed.

History Matters

Saint Louis is the largest historically African American village in Loudoun. It was established in 1881 after former slaveholder Thomas Glasscock subdivided land he owned and sold one-acre plots for \$20 apiece. Many of the buyers of the plots were emancipated. Charles McQuay, who returned to the area from St. Louis,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 »



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ST LOUIS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Missouri, to purchase a plot, inspired the village's name. Another resident, Wormly Hughes, grandson of Thomas Jefferson's gardener who had been enslaved at Monticello, helped establish the St. Louis New School Baptist Church. Many residents were the stable hands and jockeys at the nearby horse farms. The village gained a reputation as an equestrian center, establishing the St. Louis Horse Show in 1900.

Today Banneker Elementary School, built in 1948 as a segregated school for African American children from St. Louis, Mountville, and Middleburg, as well as the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, built in 1929, are still in operation. Still standing behind that church is Mt. Zion Old School Baptist Church, built in the mid-1880s. Nearby is a cemetery with some 50 graves, many of them unmarked, which, after community appeals to the County, would be protected from surrounding Middleburg Preserve development by a 50-foot buffer.

The increasingly vocal opposition to the development comes as little surprise in light of 1) the just-passed law on environmental justice, 2) the developer's unpermitted destruction of wetlands, 3) St. Louis's longstanding water table and well problems unaddressed by Loudoun County for decades, and 4) St. Louis's heritage as a historically African American community

As Tara Connell, president of the Unison Preservation Society, wrote to the DEQ, "What is particularly galling is that the offense [destruction of wetlands] occurred in an historic community – and in an historic African American community no less."

She added, "The unfortunate tradition of negligent official oversight in such communities should make your agency particularly sensitive and opposed to this developer behavior. Further, the [DEQ] consent order takes no note of a pattern of this particularly evasive

behavior by this developer, something your agency is required to consider.

"[The developer] began his [wetlands] damage on a holiday" – in the sub-freezing temperatures of New Year's weekend 2018 when the County's offices were closed – "and had carried out significant destruction before anyone could react.

"Over a year later, after commissioning a wetlands delineation, the developer dug channels on the property in an apparent attempt to drain the water from the wetlands and avoid DEQ or USACE [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers] involvement, further proof of his utter disdain in this regard.

"Finally, and most importantly," Connell concluded, "the remediation ordered fails to make whole the damage done to the ecosystem of St. Louis. The wetlands were an important buffer against flooding to the community and are an important source of water for their wells."

Environmental—and Historical—Justice


Charles Thompson, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, took a historical view in a *Loudoun Times-Mirror* op-ed: "History has a way of repeating itself. This [St. Louis] land once deemed not very useful has now become a prime target for developers.

"Now, progress and development are knocking loudly to build new housing and eventually price some of the long-time residents out of the homes and land their ancestors were given..."

As of press time the County has approved the first 9 homes, but DEQ has yet to weigh in. This brings us back to Virginia's new law on environmental justice. Said Governor Northam, "It's past time, to ensure communities are directly involved in the decisions that affect them most and to help prevent vulnerable Virginians from being disproportionately impacted by pollution, climate change, and environmental hazards."




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LETTER TO THE EDITOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

community-building. He's a dignified person with grace and humility, who strives to represent us all, and preserve why we love living here. Mayor Fraser understands that true modernization – that yields a strong, healthy and resilient community – requires a leader who represents us all and our vision of Purcellville's future. I also support the three candidates running with Mayor Fraser, who share his views: Chris Bertaut, Stan Milan, and Mary Jane Williams.

The choice is ours: either we will vote for these four candidates and preserve Purcellville; or we elect their opponents, and live with the growth consequences engulfing our eastern Loudoun neighbors. Please join the thousands of voters who have stood with me for four decades, in slamming the doors to developers and their wild and reckless proposals. We all know just how bad one election will change Purcellville forever.

*David L. Eno
Purcellville*

FUNDING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

of Finance and Budget to develop and oversee the process for qualifying food assistance sites to request funding and to ensure that there is equitable distribution of funding among the organizations.

To apply, food assistance programs should complete and submit the online application.

Members of the public who are seeking assistance for basic needs, such as food, housing and other needs, may find resources posted on the county's website. Residents who would like to help the community in various ways should visit the

county's website to view options for how you can help.

Loudoun County encourages residents to stay informed about COVID-19. Visit loudoun.gov/coronavirus for more information about how to protect yourself and your family and to sign up for email and text updates on COVID-19. Text LCCOVID19 to 888777 to receive text alerts from Loudoun County about COVID-19. Residents with questions about COVID-19 may call the Loudoun County Health Department's information line, 703-737-8300, or send an email to health@loudoun.gov.

MAKERSMITHS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

500 face shields to the community. All of this is being done out of pocket by volunteers, some of which are currently out of work," Dubelko added.

For those wanting to help but unable to directly participate, Makersmiths is accepting tax-deductible donations to offset the cost of 3D printing and production supplies. Donations can be made through their website at <https://makersmiths.org/donate>.

STERLING ROTARY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

club, was able with help from Judy Brittle – past President and former Salvation Army staffer – to make that connection, the final link to the folks in need. "This partnership is the trifecta" said Ast. "Rotary led the fundraising, Firehouse Subs made meals, and Salvation Army delivered them. It was perfect!!" It illustrates how three strong brands, coming together for the greater good, can make a difference.

MANHATTAN PIZZA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the means, your meal is on me." Azar pointed out that the statement is even "on the back of our menu."

"I decided to do this first event, so I called US Food, and I partnered with them to buy food that was sitting on their shelves – since restaurants were closing down and not placing orders. They had an abundance of food," said Azar. He decided to feed between 40 and 100 families a week. As a kid, Azar was a recipient of these kinds of "gifts". Azar continued, "We really tried to give fresh produce, fresh milk, eggs, lettuce,

tomatoes, apples, oranges (not just any oranges, but blood oranges), potatoes, onions, and whatever product they have to offer – even toilet paper. And don't forget – a fresh large hot Manhattan Pizza!

"I love my business. We started in Leesburg, and rotate between Leesburg, Ashburn, and Purcellville. It is important to know that this is what makes Loudoun so special. When tragedies happen, we all step up. It makes me feel great to put a smile on someone's face. Generosity is never forgotten," said Azar.

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

spirit of the latter of those three activities is critical – especially in the formative years of all the offspring that our County is also famous for. So – I'll just send along my recommendation to all you employees and residents who will

spend a significant portion of your lives in a relative stone's throw from the nearby annual Carnival site at One Loudoun: you could do a lot worse than to allow some of that circus to rub off on you – and on your kids.

It seemed to be a pretty good thing for my Dad, and for his kids.

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Robert replied, "That led to questions: Why do some people prefer older houses and others want new? What does the size of a house imply? Aside from commuting, how do people choose where to live? Even in the country, some people want a small lot while others want as much land as possible? Same thing for the size of the house."

"I'll settle for a thousand acres," Byne interjected with a smile.

Freud smiled back, "Interesting topics. May we order some mussels?"

A Ten-Sided Rubik's Cube

"There are thousands of academic papers on those subjects. I've read a handful of them and many abstracts. The ultimate answer is, 'It varies.' One cannot generalize, but it's amusing to speculate. Some of the variables jump out: Stage of life, education, income. Social class has been studied *ad infinitum* but it does not always produce consistent postulates. Class also varies geographically: It means one thing in Las Vegas and quite another in, say, Atlanta. Self-image is a critical factor, as are emotional security or insecurity. Freud went on, "Here's an example of the complexity. A Rubik's cube has six sides. Not easy to work but you *can* do it. Now imagine a ten-sided cube. Solving it would be most difficult."

Robert snorted agreement.

Freud said, "Let's come up with ten sig-

nifiers that influence housing choice. Age, income, social class, education, stage of life. Byne, how about some more?"

"Sure, Hometown, schools, family size, leisure pursuits, taste."

Freud said, "That would make our ten-sided cube. There would be many other factors, too."

Robert chimed in, "There'd be more permutations than I could permutate! Sigmund, how well do you know American housing types and development patterns, like new subdivisions?"

"Very. I earned my M.D. at Emory in Atlanta."

Robert had an idea. "Byne, do you have your tablet?"

She took it from her purse. Robert tapped away. "I'm getting images of some Loudoun County houses and want us to speculate on who lives in each. It'll be a game, nothing scientific. Here's the first one, from eastern Loudoun." It was a standard McMansion on a wide boulevard and nicely landscaped. "Who lives there? I say it's a successful couple in their mid-forties with two children in middle school. Byne?"

"Nope. It's a 54-year-old divorcee with blonde hair. She goes to the gym and trolls."

Freud chuckled, "The aesthetics of that house are dreadful. A gable here, a dormer there. The windows don't match. What's the next one?"

It was a restored two-story frame Colonial

on an unpaved road. Three large maples and some azaleas constituted the landscaping.

Byne started, "The shine on that black BMW gives it away. The place belongs to a middle-aged unmarried lawyer who also has an apartment near Dupont Circle."

Robert played it straight. "A retired diplomat, mostly stationed in Europe. Went to Princeton and is an avid fox-hunter. Your turn, Sigmund."

"A semi-retired New York Times columnist and his fifth wife. Has a drinking problem."

The third image was a cluster subdivision on Old Waterford Road. "Oh, dear," groaned Freud. "A 43-year-old manager with a computer company. Every house on that street is identical, down to the paint color. Interesting, though. I'll posit an engineering degree from somewhere. Not imaginative enough to feel insecure."

Byne added, "Slouches in his recliner watching replays of baseball games."

Fourth up was a grandiose mansion in an obviously expensive subdivision. Spotlights slathered the house and so many inside lights were on that the house seemed to glow. "I'll start," said Robert. "New money bragging about itself. And then bragging some more. Possibly a pro athlete. It makes my stomach churn."

"I won't even look at it," stated Byne.

Freud simply put his hands over his face in mock horror.

Next up was Morven Park. "Sigmund?"

That elicited a low whistle, "Stunning. It looks old but has been reworked over the years. The Greek Portico is probably not original. This...mansion... exudes success and power. The front landscaping is just a huge lawn, which suggests the owner was very confident and emotionally secure. And very well off. Ah - Is that where you live?"

"Nope," said an amused Byne. "It belonged to two governors and is on our National Register of Historic Places. It's owned by a foundation."

Freud asked, "Do you have a photograph of your home?"

"No," lied Robert. "but the next time you're in America, stay with us for a few days."

"I will, but let me make a suggestion. You said you're coming to Vienna soon. I have a flat above my practice on Berggasse, just north of the Rathaus - our city hall. Our primary residence is just outside Modling in the Vienna Woods."

Robert said, "We've booked our hotel near the Volksgarten. That should be fairly close."

"It is. Call me when you get to Austria and we can decide. By the way, would you mind if I used these house images in my work? I'm getting bored with Rorschach tests."

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



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IMATES FIGHT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

coughing are still coming to work and some may even be asymptomatic and knowingly spreading COVID-19.”

The disease has been found in our local jail as well.

Both clients have righteous causes to be released to home with GPS ankle monitors. So do many others.

We are on notice that more infections and deaths will follow from what we've observed in other prisons and jails across the nation. The feds have an infection rate of about 7% of the confined population. In Michigan, the infection rate remains about 8%. Philadelphia is going to release up to 1,800 state prisoners because of infections and deaths. There is hardly a jurisdiction that hasn't released inmates because the prisons and jails can't protect the inmates from the virus.

The statewide strategy for prisons and jails in Virginia is to release some, to limit somewhat those who may get sick or die, but, at the same time, accept the fact that others not released will get sick and some will die.

Our prisons and jails don't have the tests they need, nor

the PPE (Personal protective equipment), nor the masks, nor the gloves, ventilators, medical staff, nor the hospitals to take care of these inmates.

We've seen what happens in nursing homes, retirement communities, cruise ships, even on a military ship; it's happening in our prisons and jails.

We have had lulling assurances since January from persons who knew better when they made false assurances, giving the virus license to grow; all the belated efforts and apologies come too late for those who become infected, deathly ill and die.

The standard of civilization is how we treat our own. Prisons and jails have not done well in the histories and studies that have proliferated over the centuries. And I'm not saying there haven't been efforts to rebut the worst practices. But they've hardly been effective. Nathaniel Hawthorne once described prison as “the black flower of civilized society.” His metaphor begs the question out of what soil does such a flower emerge. For our purposes that soil might be called “deliberate indifference” to the safety of inmates and staff.

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The U.S. Supreme Court in a case titled, *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97 (1976), held that to ignore a prisoner's serious medical needs can amount to cruel and unusual punishment, because “[a]n inmate must rely on prison authorities to treat his medical needs; if the authorities fail to do so, those needs will not be met.”

The Estelle court concluded that “deliberate indifference to serious medical needs of prisoners constitutes the ‘unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain.’”

These punishments, not rendered by a court, nor properly tolerated by one, are incompatible with “the evolving standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society.” *Trop v. Dulles*, 356 US 86, 100-101 (1958).

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

following a healthy lifestyle. Many people find reading affirmations, praying, meditating or simply self-reflecting in the morning to be great ways to get into a positive state of mind.

Practice Patience. There's an old saying, “Good things come to those who wait,” and research on patience has shown that patient people do benefit in a number of ways. More specifically, research studies have shown a link between patience and good emotional and physical health, and patient people tend to be happier and better

liked socially.

Have Compassion. Research studies have repeatedly shown that those with higher levels of compassion do better physically and emotionally, and they tend to enjoy a longer lifespan. Over the past month, several of my patients have shared that their spouses aren't taking the coronavirus, or social distancing seriously enough, while other patients have complained that their spouses have taken things too seriously, both of which in turn has led to great upset and fighting. To improve things, I've recommended that compassion is much more important in this moment than being right or being wrong. I en-

courage you to be more compassionate with your family members, friends and work associates during this time, and you will find that doing so will pay off well after the virus has passed. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Compassion is a muscle that gets stronger with use.”

Hopefully practicing these tips will help you to get through the quarantine, and also help you to come out the other side a stronger and better person.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. is a clinical psychologist in private practice. He can be reached at 703-723-2999, and is located at 44095 Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn.

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