

— The State of the County Address —

Randall declares the County caring, resilient, compassionate, and strong

BY LAURA LONGLEY

On May 20, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair-at-Large Phyllis J. Randall (D) gave her State of the County address, focusing on the challenges COVID-19 has brought to the world, our country, state, and Loudoun County. She emphasized the contributions of essential workers, the County's response to job losses and business distress, and the steps the Board of Supervisors has taken to deal with budget adjustments necessary to maintain Loudoun's fiscal health. Given limitations on size of gatherings, her remarks were recorded.

Could we have imagined COVID-19?

Randall began her address by recalling her parting words from last year's talk: "I'll see you next year."

"Could any of us have imagined that just one year later we would be in the middle of a worldwide pandemic that has shut down nations large and small, sickened millions . . . and worse, claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands, including 49 of our Loudoun citizens?" she said. "Or," she added, "could we have imagined that on a random Wednesday in March, all 84,761 Loudoun County students left their school buildings with no idea they would not return the next day, the next week, or the remainder of the year?" Among those students were 6,395 seniors who were looking forward to their graduations. [Randall then intro-



duced Loudoun County Public Schools senior class presidents who gave video remarks.]

"COVID 19 has redefined, or maybe just clarified, what a hero is," Randall observed. "Not someone who leaps tall buildings in a single bound, shoots a spider web from their hand, or flies an invisible jet. No, a hero is someone who does a job even while realizing that job could put them, and sadly their families at risk."

She went on to thank Loudoun's many heroes: hospital and medical staffs, es-

pecially respiratory therapists, grocery store workers, custodial staff, truck drivers, postal service workers, and County employees, many of whom work in such essential areas as Child and Adult Protective Services, Mental and Behavioral Health, Court Services, Emergency Management, and the Health Department. Randall made a special point of acknowledging First Responders, noting that five members of the Sheriff's department and nine of the combined Fire and Rescue system contracted COVID-19. (They

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— It seems to me —

Where do we find such men?

BY JOE LAFIANDRA

This was a phrase spoken by an American president 18 years ago about American heroes. The answer to the question is, heroes turn up at the right time in history because they are good people who want to solve a serious problem. You become a hero when you decide to take on a difficult task for the benefit of your fellow man while suffering personal hardships.

Well, the Town of Purcellville found its hero six years ago in the form of Mayor Kwasi Fraser. At the time, he was a little known businessman with no previous political experience who decided to run for mayor against a well-known

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Some Good News: June 2020

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Loudoun Valley and Woodgrove High School Commencements x 2

Yes, Loudoun County Virginia Seniors, there is a commencement in your future. In fact, look on the bright side: You'll actually have two of them.

First, in June, your teachers, family, and friends can salute you in a virtual celebration created by fellow students. As Sue Ross, principal of Loudoun Valley High School explained, "At this point we know there will be no face-to-face graduation, at least not through July 2020. At Valley, our typical leadership team in charge of graduation will head this up and will be ready to go once we are allowed to proceed. In the meantime, we are hosting a virtual 'senior celebration' event. This is a pre-recorded event that will be pushed out on social media for viewing at the same date and time—Thursday, June 11, at 9 a.m.—as our original graduation. We'll also put the link on our website."

At Woodgrove High School, Principal William Shipp said, "Our virtual celebration will be at our original date and time—11 a.m. on Friday, June 12. We will have an in-person graduation ceremony, but when that will occur has not yet been determined. Once we're able to establish a date—depending on when our campuses can reopen—we'll let everyone know."

Now, for your yearbooks We asked Valley's multi-award-winning adviser Martha Akers when students can expect them. "Yearbooks will not be in until sometime in July," she said. "We decided to change to a summer-delivery book so we could include some COVID-19 coverage. The students would not have been allowed to sign them on campus anyway. There will be an opportunity for them to sign up for a virtual signing opportunity. I'm happy to share that information on Valley's website as soon as I have more details."

As for the real thing, Superintendent Eric Williams has promised in-person graduation ceremonies. "We do not know yet when the ceremonies will be held, but each high school with a graduating class will hold a graduation ceremony. You have our word."

Those ceremonies will feature caps and gowns and all the traditions and ceremonies associated with graduation.

Some more good news:

Father's Day—Outdoors

You can get outside! Maybe you'll take dad for a lunch at a local restaurant – sitting outside, properly distanced – or up on the Short Hill or Blue Ridge, at Sky Meadows or Bear's Den – backpacks stocked with curbside-pickup sandwiches, water, and beverages ordered from a western Loudoun farmer's market.

You can even overnight at a campground as of May 21. But you'll need to reserve first. The fastest way to do that is to visit <http://www.reserveamerica.com/> and follow the prompts on the website. You also can call the res-

ervation center at 800-933-7275, but be aware that customer service representatives are working at capacity.

Statewide and park-specific operational plans have been developed to comply with group size limitations and social distancing requirements.

If you're planning to visit a park for the remainder of spring and through summer, you should anticipate changes to normal park operations. Some facilities remain closed, and other amenities may not be available.

Strict social distancing requirements will remain in place; park guests must keep at least six feet apart from other guests. Group sizes are limited to 10 people. Anyone who is sick or has symptoms consistent with



COVID-19 should stay home.

Following is a list of state park amenities and status as of May 14; they are likely to be updated over time.

Open:

- Trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use
- Tidal beaches (exercising, swimming, and fishing)
- Boat ramps
- Picnic tables and grills (open for groups fewer than 10)
- As of Memorial Day weekend:
- Restrooms
- Campgrounds (except at Twin Lakes State Park, where the septic system is being repaired)
- Camping cabins and yurts
- Boat and bike rentals (will vary by park)
- Chairlift at Natural Tunnel State Park (limited schedule)

Closed until further notice:

- Picnic shelters
- Playgrounds
- Cabins and lodges
- Swimming beaches
- Visitor centers
- Meeting facilities

Guidelines for day-use visits:

- Stay close to home and keep visits short.
- Bring your own soap and hand sanitizer to use during day-use visits.
- Groups and gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited; these restrictions will be enforced by

park staff.

- Keep a distance of at least six feet from others at all times. While on trails, alert others of your presence and step aside to let others pass at a safe distance.
- Parking fees remain in place. If entrance contact stations are not staffed, which is typical at this point in the season, self-pay is available. Bring cash or check for the daily fees.

Beaches:

As outlined in Executive Order Fifty-Five (PDF), public beaches (i.e., sandy beach located on a tidal shoreline) are closed except for exercising and fishing. The Virginia state park beaches impacted by this order include Belle Isle, Caledon, Chippokes Plantation, False Cape, First Landing, Kiptopeke, Leesylvania, Mason Neck, Westmoreland, Widewater, and York River.

In addition, the following parks' inland beaches are closed: Bear Creek Lake, Claytor Lake, Douthat, Fairy Stone, Holliday Lake, Hungry Mother, Lake Anna, Smith Mountain Lake, and Twin Lakes state parks. This decision was made for the safety of park staff and visitors due to the difficulty in maintaining strict social distancing at these locations.

Programs and Events:

All in-person programs and events scheduled through June 10 are canceled.

What You Can Do:

Keep in mind that you are in a public facility. While parks staff are making increased efforts toward sanitation, each surface is only as clean as the last person who touched it. Therefore, you should take steps to protect your health by following these guidelines provided by the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a time.
- Avoid touching your face.
- If you're sick with any ailment, stay home. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- When in public, maintain a social distance of at least six feet.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it away. If you don't have a tissue, use your elbow.
- Clean surfaces you touch regularly.

"I'm not going to leave this house!"

But what can you do for Father's Day if dad discovered he likes right where he's been for the past 10 weeks?

Just sit him down in front of a screen and click to YouTube's "SGN"—"Some Good News"—created and hosted by "The Office" and "Jack Ryan" star John Krasinski, who is occasionally Zoom-bombed by his spouse, Emily ("Mary Poppins Returns") Blunt. Meteorologists Brad Pitt, Robert DeNiro, and Emma Stone file their reports ("It looks good"), the cast of "Hamilton" performs, prom-goers dress up for their virtual big evenings, and graduation speakers Steven Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey share their wisdom. Lest we forget the most endearing guest of all, there's Aubrey, one of the many great kids whose



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— Just like nothing (else) on earth — Ridgeside Road

BY TIM JON

This time, there was no fog; I painfully recall my first attempt to capture this particular spot along the eastern side of the Blue Ridge – on what would – surely – have been a great morning for misty hill photography – but I ended up limping back to Bluemont on a flat tire from an unexpected chuckhole, spending an hour or so at the General Store on Snickersville Turnpike (and of course getting a story from the experience). Well, I missed the effects of the low-hanging clouds from that ill-fated morning, and I'd still like to get out there in that kind of weather, but my collection of images from my most recent trip reveal a partly-cloudy sky – and just a sprinkling of early-morning moisture hanging in the air. I'm sure the residents along Ridgeside Road (and that whole general area, for that matter) have gotten pretty used to seeing the ghostly, wraithlike wisps edging around the upturned landscapes on that end of the County; I – on the other hand – always got at least a little charge out of seeing this



Just the sheer gluttony of space always allows room for one's soul to wander a bit more – to my senses, anyway – than in just about any other terrestrial setting. I think even a former astronaut would enjoy the plentiful elbow room out in these parts. The relative silence sticks in the memory as well; the primitive dirt road keeps the local traffic down, and the distance from major highways, airports and shopping destinations reduces the general hubbub (even when 'social distancing') encountered in other parts of our locality. This can be a good setting for deep, long (and sometimes, even important) thoughts.

I've already mentioned the presence of animals and birds out here – and the list of possibilities includes deer in abundance, foxes, raccoons, opossums, skunks, squirrels and rabbits – as well as a stray chance of glimpsing a black bear or even a mountain lion (I have yet to spot either of the last two species in Virginia). My interest in the surroundings perks up when I can at least weigh the chances of encountering something wild.

The air itself represents another quality of that area that I miss as soon as I return to



natural manifestation of moisture slowly moving against the mostly green backdrop of the hills out there.

I learned quite early on to reap whatever emotional benefits I could from the sometimes-monotonous task of delivering mail in these rural settings; sometimes I had far more excitement than I bargained, or wished for – but I found that a little enjoyment can stretch a long way in keeping one focused on a lonely stretch of road, where you can find yourself talking to the cows, crows and other critters in lieu of a sympathetic ear. This most recent morning was no different; I recall encountering no other vehicles along the entire length of Route 765 - Ridgeside Road – as it runs between Foggy Bottom and Trappe Roads – under the shadow of the (usually) friendly Blue Ridge. And out here, I generally don't miss the other seven-plus billion souls inhabiting the planet; I always find enough in Nature's variety to satisfy my interest.

more 'civilized' environs; without subjecting the stuff to scientific scrutiny, I can at least say that whatever it is that I'm breathing out there, it smells – and feels – authentic. I often wish I had more of it at my disposal.

I have yet to take a nocturnal drive out along Ridgeside Road; I'm guessing this would be a solitary – possibly spooky – experience. The distance from more concentrated populations would certainly lead the night visitor along a dark path – outside the beams of your headlights, of course. The benefits of such an experience, though, would certainly be (under a clear sky) some great star-gazing; having lived on a small hobby farm outside a small town in south-central Minnesota, I often miss the nearly-nightly views of the far constellations. But, if I DO drive out there after dark – all those miles from my current home in the County Seat – I certainly don't want to come upon any unexpected chuckholes along the way!

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

My wife has decided that she does not want us to go to the beach for our annual big family beach gathering this



DR. MIKE

July because of coronavirus. Even though all of our extended family are just going to pile into a huge beach house rental, she's afraid that we or our kids will somehow "get sick and die." I think she's being completely crazy about the beach and everything else with the virus. She wipes down our delivered groceries before putting them away, she makes us all take showers after we return home from being outside in the yard, and she hasn't left the house one time since the late March. I, and our kids, will be very upset if we don't go. Help!

— *Upset in Loudoun*

Dear Upset,

Your wife isn't "crazy," rather she (like many people) is anxious about COVID-19. Anxiety, to anthropomorphize it, likes to be in control, and her need to be in control over what she can be in control of regarding COVID-19 is stronger than yours. In my opinion, this isn't really a matter of right or wrong inasmuch as her decision to not go to the beach is right for her and your wanting to go is right for you. As the old saying goes, "One's perception is one's reality," and to that point you're both right.

What I think you could do is ask her to give it some time before she makes her final decision since July is still some time away. We don't know where things will be with COVID-19 that far out, and she may see things differently if the virus continues to diminish. You could also work with her to put a game plan in place that in turn might serve to give her greater sense of control over her feelings. For example, you could agree to not go out or to restaurants while at the beach house. You could also agree to have contact only with extended family members at the beach house who assumingly quarantined like your family. In the end, if she remains adamant about not going, I think you need to respect her wishes. I suppose you could go alone or attempt to go with your children without her, but I think that would likely only increase your wife's anxiety and make things worse. The beach isn't going anywhere, and your extended family members will likely understand if you can't make it this year. Lastly, you can also work with your wife to plan a separate vacation for just your family at a later time this Summer or closer to

Fall, which might be a more reasonable compromise for her.

Dr. Mike,

Our 6-year-old daughter needs to sleep with us every night now. It's 100 percent because of the coronavirus since she's been sleeping by herself for years with no issues. She started by coming into our room at night crying about

"nightmares" and "scary dreams" a few weeks ago and now she needs to stay with us every night. When we've tried to get her to stay in her own bed, she cries non-stop. She's also resorting to baby talk when expressing herself, which is a new thing for us. When we try to correct that, she also gets upset. Am I doing the right thing by sandwiching her in between my husband and me for now or am I causing more harm? Should we just ignore the baby talk too? Help!

— *Upset in Loudoun*

Dear Upset Parent,

Regression, as a defense mechanism, is not uncommon for children when upsetting and/or traumatic events become too much to handle directly. Based on what you've written, your daughter is regressing to earlier stages of development to avoid the strong, negative emotions she's currently experiencing.

How to fix it? First, don't overreact or be too concerned inasmuch as these behaviors will happen and should go away with your support and in time. Second, regarding the baby talk, I recommend that you warmly point out and interpret what she is doing. You could say something like, "I've noticed that you've been speaking more in baby talk lately, and I wonder if it's because of all of the changes with the virus. This has really been hard on you for sure with not being in school and with not seeing your friends and we understand." By warmly acknowledging and clarifying the regressive behavior, you will be giving your daughter a mental space for her to begin to make sense of and correct her thoughts and feelings. Third, as far as her sleeping with you, I would also supportively acknowledge and clarify what is happening. I would let her know that you understand her need to be with you at night now, but as a big girl you are going to help her to feel better. I recommend that you put a plan in place where one parent stays with her in her bed until she feels that she is ready to sleep there by herself again. You can gradually stepwise things toward her having greater independence over time — e.g.,

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A transparent family squabble

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

I've spent a lot of time watching news these past three months and see that the current trendy word is "transparency." Politicians of all stripes say "we must have transparency," but as with most everything else they utter, it comes across as a poll-tested buzzword they have no intention of actually providing.

Let me tell you what's going on in land conservation circles and see whether I can be transparent or if I chicken out.

Save Rural Loudoun by Stopping Sprawl

Most people in western Loudoun detest "clusters," a land use which should feature small groupings of houses surrounded by open spaces. In the northwest of the County, generally from Snickersville Turnpike to the Potomac,

the zoning classification is AR-1, which requires at least 20 acres per house (the "base density"). Unfortunately, the developer-foxes got into Richmond's Capitol hen-house. After their lobbying, our zoning ordinance had to provide for clusters, which time has proven to be aesthetic blights and economic anchors around the county's neck. They are not quaint Waterfords in miniature, but slices of generic new subdivisions.

Worse, the County then gave developers a "cluster density bonus," requiring only five acres per house instead of 20 acres. (That's a *de facto* term describing the cramped nature of cluster projects, rather than wording from any official document.)

Bonus density costs us a mint's worth of money. Here's an example for a 20-acre lot: Instead of building one house on those 20 acres, a developer can build

four. These extra three houses will cost taxpayers \$93,000 in upfront costs, mostly for schools, and around \$15,000 in future expenditures every year, forever. Through the 2040 planning horizon, that's almost \$400,000 for the density bonus in my three-extra-house example. In fact, the cluster density bonus for western Loudoun is for *thousands* more houses.

The motives to save western Loudoun run deeper than just money.

Loudoun's signature asset is its picturesque rural west, with horse farms, vineyards and pastures against the backdrop of soft mountains. Its towns, villages and hamlets lend their own history, character and aesthetics. They also animate the history made here over the centuries, from early settlements by Quakers, Scots-Irish and German; to English troops marching up Old Waterford Road

in the French and Indian War; to early settlements by Quakers, Scots-Irish and Germans; and to Revolutionary and Civil War battles.

These are plenty of reasons to save rural Loudoun, but look how badly we're doing at accomplishing that. From 2013 through 2017 we have lost 12,860 acres of farmland. During the same period the generosity of landowners has saved 4,292 acres by conservation easements. These are the most recent figures I could find. Some groups have slightly different numbers but they all lead to a similar conclusion: Losing three acres to every one acre we save is not good news.

Flattening the Curve

Since bonus cluster development ties directly to the loss of land – especially farmland – much of the conservation effort has been to change the bonus density now given to developers. Instead of five acres per clustered house, how about fifteen? My guess is that this would save

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Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

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Support Rob Jones to beat Jennifer Wexton

Dear Editor:

On June 20th, Republicans in Virginia's 10th District will select their candidate to oppose Jennifer Wexton in November. The best candidate to reclaim that seat is Rob Jones.

When Rob's injuries in Afghanistan resulted in double above-knee amputations, he had a choice to make: give up or turn his experience into a new mission. He chose a new mission. Through his hard work, determination and persistence, he raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for his fellow veterans. Rob will bring these same qualities to serve the people of the 10th District.

Rob brings his unique skill set and laser-focused vision to find real solutions to the problems that affect the everyday lives of the people he will serve. He will put partisanship aside, build relationships and coalitions and work across party lines to do what is best for his constituents.

Rob's life experiences make him prepared with innovative solutions to issues facing us today. His ongoing, long and costly process for his wife, Pam, to become a legal U.S. citizen makes him knowledgeable to address the immigration crisis in our country today. His experience

in our country's healthcare system gives him a platform to discuss and make policy to insure a free-market system that remains the best healthcare system in the world. He has an innovative proposal to ease traffic congestion in the Metro area that is a win-win for the people and the Government. And he has long prioritized improving infrastructure, now also a priority for President Trump nationwide.

He will lobby to serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and pursue funding for infrastructure and conservation projects. This will restore economic vitality to our struggling economy due to the Covid-19 pandemic and improve the everyday lives of his constituents.

Rob is leading a professional campaign with a staff second to none! Fellow Republicans whom he has served alongside of are eager to work with him to beat Jennifer Wexton. On day one, his team will be single-mindedly focused on doing whatever it takes to beat her and restore the VA-10 seat to the Republican Party.

Cast your vote for Rob on June 20th, the best qualified and prepared candidate to represent Republicans to beat Jennifer Wexton in November.

Kim Schatz
Round Hill

Vote Matt Truong for Virginia 10th Congressional District

Dear Editor:

Friends, I'm asking you to vote for Matt Truong to be our Republican candidate to run for the seat in the US House of Representatives for the 10th District of Virginia. Nancy Pelosi's puppet, Democrat Jennifer Wexton, currently holds the seat.

Matt is a true conservative who will defend our 2nd amendment rights. Living in South Vietnam at the time, he witnessed gun confiscation as the communists went door to door after the fall of the South. One night, the police knocked down a neighbor's door and took his neighbor's father away; the man was never seen again. Matt witnessed the evils of socialism, so, in 1980, he fled communist Vietnam at the age of 12 with two sets of clothes and two words of English: 'yes' and 'no'.

Matt is pro-life and knows that life begins at conception so he will promote adoption as the alternative to abortion. Right now, it is much easier, cheaper, and faster to adopt a baby from other countries than it is to adopt an American baby. Currently Matt is working on crafting a bill to reverse this unfortunate situation so that willing parents can adopt American babies

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Muldowney Named Loudoun's 2020 Teacher of the Year

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Mark Muldowney, a fifth-grade teacher at Round Hill Elementary School, is Loudoun County's nominee for the 2020 Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award.

Enthusiastic letters from parents, teachers, and administrators throughout the school system showed his far-reaching influence on the educational community.

"What makes Mr. Muldowney a great teacher is his passion and enthusiasm for children," says Principal Andrew Davis, who was Loudoun's Principal of the Year in 2014. In a video about Muldowney, Davis adds, "He truly connects with the students on a personal level. He empowers his students to succeed and meet any goal set for them."

"One of my goals as a teacher," Muldowney says, "is to form relationships with each student. And I tell the kids all the time that I don't just have two kids at home, I have 31 kids I consider when I talk about my kids. I love these kids; they motivate me; they encourage me to come up with lessons that I do."

A telling example of his creative lessons is the class invention of a brake for the wheelchair of a preschooler at the school. "We no-



ticed that she couldn't reach the brake on her wheelchair. So as a class we got into groups, and the kids designed a brake that would fit onto her wheelchair. And so, every time she came in, they got closer to success. Then one day she came in, and we put the pieces together and she was able to use the brakes on her wheelchair."

One of the parents who spoke of Muldowney's contributions to learning is Kerry Van Der Post. "I have three children," she said, "and my daughter was here in fifth grade with Mr. Muldowney, and he would constantly say, 'You lift me up' whenever anybody in

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How are you holding up?

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

"I just went to the grocery store," my fiancée recently told me. "I don't like how, when everyone is wearing a mask, I can't see their faces."

She had a point. Wearing a mask changes the way we interact. So much of interpersonal communication relies on body language and facial expressions – without those context clues, a lot can be lost in translation.



Not to mention the barrier that is created by a mask – obscuring one's face makes it harder to recognize someone. It is as if this pandemic has chipped away at so much of how we identify ourselves, both socially and individually. Even after the threat of illness fades, the question remains: Will anything ever be the same?

I recently took my own trip to the grocery store and had a

similar experience as my fiancée's. While I'm thankful that most people are taking the necessary health precautions by wearing masks, it is certainly disorienting to see. I struck up a conversation with one of the cashiers at the grocery store. "People are so mean," she said, talking about a recent interaction with a rude customer. She also said that a family member, who worked on cars, had a customer who called—after the car was fixed—to say that a COVID-19 test turned up positive. It was after the work on the car had been completed that the customer revealed this information. "I'm checking into a hotel," the cashier's family member told her, where he would remain isolated for the next 14 days.

I asked another cashier if he was worried about his health. "I think you'd have to be short-sighted not to be..." he said.

He acknowledged that customers

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From listening to music to ordering groceries, almost all aspects of our daily lives are connected to the Internet in some way. Nearly a third of Americans say they're "almost constantly" online, with 81% using the Internet at least once a day.¹

But our always-connected nature can come with risks: The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center² averages more than 900 complaints a day; the center recorded \$2.71 billion in victim losses in 2019.³ Here are some ways you can help protect your family online.



RICHARD RICCI

1. Learn to spot imposter scams.

Have you ever received a call, text, or email purporting to be from your credit card provider regarding suspicious activity detected on your account? It could be a scammer trying to convince you to share sensitive information that would enable them to access your accounts.

Increasingly, these criminals may be able to spoof caller ID or an email address so it appears they are legitimate. When in doubt, do not respond. Instead, alert your provider about the suspicious communication. Learn more about how to spot common scams at www.wellsfargo.com/scams.

2. Manage and monitor your credit.

If your data has been compromised through a security breach, consider placing a fraud alert on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus. Visit <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft> for more information on identity theft prevention tips and resources you can share with your family.

Make a habit of reviewing credit reports for you and your child at least once a year. Look for unauthorized accounts that may have been opened in your names.

More than 1 million children were victims of identity fraud in 2017, according to one study from banking industry research firm Javelin Strategy & Research.⁴

3. Limit what you share on social media.

Thieves scour social media profiles for clues to security questions, passwords, and other information that could help them impersonate potential victims online.

First, set your profiles to *private*—and encourage your family members to do

the same. Also, restrict your social media contacts to people you know personally. Finally, watch what information you disclose. Revealing too much personal information in your social profiles can put you at greater risk of identity theft, especially if your bank or other companies use that information to verify your identity.

4. Protect your home network.

Create a strong password for your wireless network in your home. Consider using a unique phrase with a mix of letters and numbers. Avoid using any part of your email address or information shared on social media, like the name of your pet, favorite movie, or anything else someone could easily guess. When you are configuring your router, the Department of Homeland Security recommends choosing the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) setting, which is the strongest encryption option.⁵

5. Stay up to date.

Cybercriminals change their tactics frequently, so families should stay on top of the latest threats. Be sure to work with Wells Fargo Advisors and other financial providers to understand ways to protect yourself as you conduct financial business online.

¹<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/07/25/americans-going-online-almost-constantly/>

² <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>

³https://pdf.ic3.gov/2018_IC3Report.pdf

⁴<https://www.javelinstrategy.com/coverage-area/2018-child-identity-fraud-study>

⁵<https://www.ready.gov/cybersecurity>

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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Kuhn offers Westpark Golf Club land to Leesburg for \$3.4 Million

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Last September, the 50-year-old Westpark Golf Club was in limbo, languishing alongside Rt. 15 south of the 7-15 bypass. CalAtlantic Homes, later

merged into Lennar Corporation had put in a bid to buy the club's 134 acres and use the land for a 96-unit housing complex. But the Leesburg Town Council turned down Lennar's rezoning application. Enter Charles S. "Chuck" Kuhn, owner of JK Moving, land conservationist, and founder of the JK Community Farm in western Loudoun.

After discussions with Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk, members of the Town Council, and his attorney, David Moyes, on May 11 Kuhn presented the Town with a Letter of Intent, obtained by *The Blue Ridge Leader* through a Freedom of Information Act request. Kuhn is currently offering the Town the opportunity to purchase the former golf club's 134.2553 acres – less the commercially

zoned clubhouse site of 8.4247 acres – for \$3.4 million. Any plans Kuhn may have for the commercial acreage are on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a phone call, Kuhn told *The Blue Ridge Leader*, "We are very excited about the acquisition opportunity with Westpark. We think it will be a great property to put in a conservation easement to protect it from development, and we are hopeful that the Town is able to acquire it from us at a greatly reduced price to make into a park for the community. Mayor Kelly Burk has worked very hard to make this happen for the Town. I am hopeful that the Council will do what's in the greater good for the community."

According to Burk, a project advocate, "The Leesburg Town Council has an opportunity to create a legacy that will allow the residents of Leesburg to retain over 130 acres of green space for generations to come. We need to secure this property for our children's children and all the children to come in the future. It would be a real shame if we lost

this opportunity."

Conditions and/or contingencies include the drafting and execution of the purchase agreement by the seller, Kuhn, and the purchaser, the Town of Leesburg no later than July 1, 2020. Closing is also contingent upon Kuhn's placing of the non-commercial property in easement and recording the deed of easement in the Loudoun County land records prior to settlement. Each party is to pay their own legal fees.

The public is welcome to participate in Town Council discussions during petitioner comments.

"We will begin discussions on Tuesday, May 26," said Burk. "After that, we will have a much stronger picture of what is going to happen."

Follow-up meetings will be Tuesday, June 9, and Tuesday, June 23. Meeting agendas will be published on the Town's website the preceding Wednesdays. To access the meetings, visit Leesburgva.gov/agenda. The number and access code will be published there.

Judge dismisses lawsuit without prejudice in Fraley V. Town of Purcellville

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia issued its ruling Friday, May 22, on the case of Fraley v. Town of Purcellville,

et al. Kristopher Fraley, a former police officer for the Town of Purcellville, filed a lawsuit asserting thirteen claims against numerous defendants, including the Town, relating to his employment.

The Town and other defendants moved to dismiss all of the claims as unfounded and improper. The court found that all of Fraley's thirteen counts were without merit and failed to state any claims under Virginia or Federal law, and dismissed the case against all defendants. The dismissal was without prejudice, which means Fraley, if he chooses, has up to 30 days to attempt to amend his claims.

BOS to weigh density increase to Transition Policy Area – June 2

On Tuesday, June 2, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors will vote

on by-right density increases in Loudoun's Transition Policy Area to be included in Loudoun's revised Comprehensive Plan. The supervisors will consider increasing development in the Transition Policy Area by as much as 30 percent to get more units to meet the goals of the County's new Affordable Dwelling Unit (ADU) program.

On May 8, 2019, the last Board voted 7-2 (two absent) that there were two priorities for the Transition Policy Area: 1) the zoning ordinance and 2) "a

review of all policies and regulations to develop an Unmet Housing Need Strategic Plan. Such plan should include [but not be] limited to down-payment assistance programs, utilization of housing trust funds, and home purchase programs, and should be developed prior to the approval of any zoning map amendments requesting higher densities planned in the Urban Policy Area outside the Metro tax district, suburban policy area, and the transition policy area."

In April 2020, the Board of Supervisors' Transportation and Land Use Committee recommended allowing developers to voluntarily increase density in exchange for providing Affordable

Dwelling Units in the Transition Policy Area. The motion passed 3-2. Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), and Kristin Umstattd (D-Leesburg), opposed.

If approved, the June 2 vote allowing higher densities in the Transition Policy Area would conflict with a BOS decision taken May 8, 2019.

Loudoun citizens are welcome to weigh how the Board of Supervisors should act on a decision. They may recommend that the BOS wait until the Unmet Housing Need Strategic Plan is completed with a cost/benefit analysis of the various options.

To comment on this issue, email BOS@Loudoun.gov on or before June 2.

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Voting for Purcellville Thursday June 4 at Bush Tabernacle Skating Rink

Lovettsville Thursday June 4 at Lovettsville Game Protective Association

Middleburg Thursday June 4 at 10 W. Marshall Street

The Election for the towns of Lovettsville, Middleburg and Purcellville will be held on Thursday, June 4. Yes, we will be voting for the first time on a Thursday. Voters are reminded if they have applied for an absentee ballot, they need to mark it and get it in the mail soon.

All marked ballots must be received by the Loudoun County Office of Elections no later than 7 p.m. on June 4, Election Day, to be counted. If you prefer, you can drop your marked ballot off at the Office of Elections. If you let the office know you are outside, they can come out to get it or you can drop it into a locked box in the building lobby during our regular office hours or on the Saturday, May 30, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

For those who may not have applied, you can still appear at the Office of Elections in Leesburg on Saturday, May 30, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to vote an absentee ballot. All in-person voting at the Office of Elections will be done curb-

side.

There are signs outside that instruct you to call the office and staff will get your information, verify you are registered and eligible to vote, a bring the ballot to you in the car. They will look at your photo ID and then you will sign the absentee ballot application; mark your ballot and staff will return and deposit the ballot into the voting machine. If you don't have a phone you can simply honk your horn and they will come out to get your information.

Voters in the towns of Lovettsville, Middleburg and Purcellville are encouraged to vote by absentee ballot to avoid possible delays in voting on election day, due to social distancing procedures that will be in place. The Office of Elections encourages those who do appear to vote in person to please be respectful of your neighbors and the election officials by wearing a face mask or face covering.

Remember, the voting location for Purcellville town voters has been moved to the Bush Tabernacle Skating Rink located at 250 S. Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, the voting location for Lovettsville town voters has been moved to the Lovettsville

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



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Loudoun commits \$5.7M to COVID-19 Business Interruption Fund

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved \$5.7 million in additional grant funding for the COVID-19 Business Interruption Fund, to support small businesses adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. This funding was allocated from the \$36.1 million in federal funding made available to the county through the Commonwealth of Virginia from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

This funding follows an initial round of applications for the Business Interruption Fund that distributed \$1.4 million in grants to more than 200 randomly selected applicant businesses that met the requirements for three different tranches based on employee count.

The second round of funding will devote \$3.7 million to fully fund the first round, distributing grants of \$7,500 to the remaining 475 eligible businesses that were not randomly selected in a drawing on May 8. Those new grant recipients will be notified immediately on their selection and next steps.

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors allocated \$2 million for a third round of funding, which will be opened to provide 400 randomly selected applicant businesses with a \$5,000 grant. Applicants must demonstrate the following criteria:

- Have between zero and two W-2 employees (no limit on 1099 contractors);
- Have less than \$2.5 million in gross annual receipts;
- Have at least a 25 percent loss in revenue that can be attributed to COVID-19;
- Be licensed and operational in Loudoun County, Va.

The fund will open for applications at noon on June 3, and remain open for 72 hours, closing at noon on June 6. All submissions will be accepted based on the time stamp that the application was received, verified by county employees, and placed into a pool, where businesses will be randomly selected until the funding has expired. More information can be found at LoudounBusinessFund.org.

"The Board of Supervisors wanted to be responsive to the feedback we received from solo entrepreneurs and small enterprises that were left out of

the first round of funding. We're excited to offer this financial lifeline to thousands of additional businesses in the next round," said Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair at Large Phyllis Randall. "As we look ahead to recovery, we're taking the steps to get through this crisis and rebuild our economy."

The Board of Supervisors also allocated \$1.15 million from the CARES Act funding to replenish the county's Commercial Business Incentive Fund and Rural Business Incentive Fund and directed the Department of Economic Development to consider future rounds of recovery funding.

In total, the \$6.85 million earmarked by the Board of Supervisors and the \$250,000 contributed by the Loudoun Economic Development Authority to the Business Interruption Fund will support more than 1,000 of Loudoun's most vulnerable businesses without increasing the county's debt load.

"We know that many in our community are hurting as a result of COVID-19, but I'm pleased that the County is now able to help hundreds of more businesses as a result of this additional allocation by the Board of Supervisors to our Business Interruption Fund," said Supervisor Matt Letourneau (Dulles), Chairman of the Board's Finance, Economic Development and Government Operations Committee. "I'm proud of the work that our Economic Development team has done to assist our business community as much as possible during this unprecedented time, including all their efforts to directly distribute grants to those that need them."

Following approval from the Board of Supervisors, the Loudoun Economic Development Authority will administer the grant process and disperse the funds to selected businesses, starting the final week in June. The Department of Economic Development, Treasurer's Office, Commissioner of the Revenue, Finance Division and other county staff will assist in administering and vetting the applicants, as well as continuing to provide a wide array of business resources.

"The COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant and widespread impact on our economy, and we have tried to be as equally impactful in our response. The Business Interruption Fund is helping

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Loudoun County hosted free COVID-19 testing for all ages

Loudoun County hosted a free, drive-through testing for COVID-19 at Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park in Leesburg on Wednesday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The testing was open to all and closed early due to the site reaching capacity prior to the closing time of 6 p.m. Any vehicles beyond the cut-off point or that arrived between 2:30 and 6 p.m. were turned away.

By 1:16 p.m. 853 tests were administered via nasal or oral swabs, and the testing ended with more than 1,700 people receiving tests for COVID-19. There were no age requirements and anyone tested was asked to provide their contact information for the test results – available within a weeks' time.

This was a one-day event. While no other testing dates are scheduled at this time, additional COVID-19 testing events that are facilitated by the Virginia Department of Health are planned in Northern Virginia. In addition, Loudoun County is working with its community partners to make more COVID-19 testing available to the community. More information about future testing



Loudoun County Health Department Director Dr. David P. Goodfriend speaking with workers and volunteers.

events will be announced as soon as details are available.

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 LCCCOVID19 to 888777 to receive text alerts from Loudoun County about COVID-19.

Text LCCVIDESP to 888777 to receive text messages in Spanish 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.

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Warner Brook property under contract – scheduled to settle July 30

The Warner Brook property located north of Rt. 7 along Purcellville Road and across from the Mayfair subdivision in the Town of Purcellville – and also near Wright Farm and Chestnut Hills, both in the County – is under contract and scheduled to settle on July 30. The 118.81-acre property is under contract with Chuck Kuhn, president and CEO of JK Moving Services.

Another portion of the Warner Brook property, which consists of 12.48 acres, was purchased by local businessman Magic Kayhan.

In October 2018, the majority of the Purcellville Town Council voted to deny a request for annexation of the property. The proposal included 160 homes, commercial and industrial. The property is located in the County, and is currently zoned JLMA-3 – one house per three acres.

“We have a number of ideas for the property and we are working with the Town of Purcellville, and the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to determine what would be the best use for the property,” said Kuhn in a recent phone call with the Blue Ridge Leader.

St. Louis news: Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate environmental issues on proposed development

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Residents of St. Louis, Loudoun County's largest historically African-American village, are once again on the front lines of environmental justice and historic preservation in their efforts to protect their water supply, water quality, wetlands in the Goose Creek watershed, and historic properties.

The environmental and preservation threats come from a proposed development of 30 houses plus full infrastructure on 19.4 acres.

The parcels are located on the north side of Snake Hill Road, adjacent to historic Mt. Zion Baptist Church and opposite Banneker Elementary School.

The developer of the project called Middleburg Preserve I and II is Mojax, LLC, which is owned by John "Jack" Andrews. He is working with Loudoun developer Leonard "Hobie" Mitchel. Since the first filings for the development more than two years ago, Mojax has been cited several times for unauthorized grading and excavation of the wetlands. Mojax is currently renegotiating a Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Consent Order that incorporates a fine.

Meanwhile, the Friends of St. Louis organization is galvanizing conservation and preservation groups to join their appeals requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia DEQ reject Mojax's April 17 joint application for the permits they need. Mojax must assure the state that applicable laws and regulations pertaining to water quality are not violated. The Army



Corps must decide whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit. The Corps' decision will be based on what is called probable-impact evaluation, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest.

The relevant factors the Corps will consider are the wetlands integral to the Goose Creek watershed; the water supply, quality, and conservation; flood hazards, land use, and general environmental concerns for St. Louis, which has

contended with well failures for decades. The Environmental Protection Agency's "Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material" will also be applied.

Historic resources in St. Louis will be considered in the Army Corps' decision as well. "Preliminary review indicates that known properties eligible for inclusion or included in the National Register of Historic Places are in or near the permit area and would likely be affected by the proposal," the Corps states in its May 12 Federal Notice to Mojax. "Additional information might change any of these findings."

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, to consider and evaluate direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of Mojax's proposed activities. Anyone may request a public hearing to consider this permit application by writing to the district commander within 30 days of the notice date [May 12], stating specific reasons for the request. The Corps' district commander will then decide if a hearing

should take place.

At this time, area organizations are stepping up their opposition to the project. Among them are Friends of St. Louis, Unison Preservation Foundation, Lincoln Preservation Foundation, Loudoun Farm Bureau, Save Rural Loudoun, Piedmont Environmental Council, Mosby Heritage Area Association, and Loudoun Historic Village Alliance, which includes Aldie, Bluemont, Lincoln, Taylorstown, Unison, and Waterford.

June 13 is the deadline for comments on this project. Comments should be in writing. They may be sent by email to ron.h.stouffer@usace.army.mil, or by regular mail, addressed to: Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers, Northern Virginia Field Office, 18139 Triangle Plaza, Suite 213, Dumfries, Virginia 22026.

Those who have questions about this project or the permit process, may contact Ron Stouffer at 757-201-7124 or ron.h.stouffer@usace.army.mil.

Loudoun County postpones Independence Day celebrations

The Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services has announced the postponement of Independence Day celebrations. The action is in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with recommendations and guidance from the Office of Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We regret that these popular events hosted by Claude Moore Park, Franklin Park, Lovettsville Community Center

and Sterling Community Center cannot be held in July," stated Steve Torpy, Director of PRCS. "However, the safety of our citizens and staff is always our first priority. If Northern Virginia has entered Phase 3 of the Forward Virginia blueprint by Labor Day weekend, our plan is to hold community celebrations with fireworks," reported Torpy.

Currently, PRCS centers are closed under the Commonwealth of Virginia Executive Order No. 62. For more information, email prcs@loudoun.gov.

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Hillsboro Preservation Foundation expands Emergency Fund

The Hillsboro Coronavirus Emergency Fund seeks donations and provides financial aid to families and businesses in need

The Hillsboro Preservation Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, announces the expansion of its Coronavirus Emergency Fund. The fund, intended to support residents of the Western Loudoun community who have an immediate short-term need of financial relief, provides grants that range from \$250 - \$500 per family based on eligibility and selection criteria.

GOVERNMENT

The program has now been extended to include small businesses with 0 - 20 employees. The business grant distribution is for up to \$1,000 per business. “Small businesses, including self-employed contractors and consultants make up a large percentage of business in western Loudoun County. The success of the HCEF has made it possible to expand and include these small businesses. It’s really the generosity of the donors that makes this possible and we are incredibly grateful for

their support,” said Amy Marasco, Executive Director of the Hillsboro Preservation Foundation.

The online application is simple and requires applicants to answer two questions and provide contact information. “Our intent is to distribute funds quickly to have the greatest impact on the financial needs of the western Loudoun community. Eligibility and selection criteria have been created to support a confidential and swift application process. The funds are mailed out weekly, so applicants receive funds as quickly as possible,” said Marasco.

The program, launched in early April, has already generated over \$15,000 in donations and provides award funds of up to \$500 per family and \$1000 per business. All of the funds for the HCEF come from local, private contributions. Donations and applications can be submitted online at www.hillsboropreservation.org.

Loudoun County sells bonds at favorable interest rates

Loudoun County has completed a major bond sale with proceeds from the sale of general obligation (GO) bonds to be used for capital projects for the general county government and Loudoun County Public Schools. In advance of the sales, the nation’s top bond rating agencies reaffirmed the county’s AAA rating on its general obligation bonds, and the high AA+ and Aa1 rating on its lease revenue bonds.

GOVERNMENT

On Thursday, Loudoun County sold \$199.9 million in GO bonds at a favorable interest rate of 1.48 percent. The county received \$29.8 million in premium, a portion of which will be used for LCPS projects to reduce a future issuance. The bond sale also included refundings of two outstanding GO bond issues; 2009B, which will achieve savings of \$307,030 in FY 2021; and 2010B Build America Bonds, which will achieve savings totaling \$3,775,729 over the next nine years. Six bidders submitted offers for the county’s bonds. Morgan Stanley & Co, LLC offered the bid with the lowest interest rate, which the county accepted.

Proceeds from the GO bond sale will be used to finance the following capital projects:

County Government

- Animal Services Facility

- Crosstrail Boulevard
- Leesburg Volunteer Fire Department Expansion (Station #20)
- Lucketts Volunteer Fire Station Replacement
- Route 9/ Route 287 Roundabout
- Route 50/Trailhead Roundabout
- Shellhorn Road Improvements
- Sterling Boulevard/Washington & Old Dominion Trail Overpass
- Sterling Fire Station Replacement

Schools

- ES-23 Dulles North Elementary School
- ES-29 Dulles South Elementary School
- Independence High School
- Lightridge High School
- North Star School Renovations (Formerly C.S. Monroe Technology Center)
- Security Improvements
- Synthetic Turf and Track Resurfacing
- Waxpool Elementary School

Earlier this month, the nation’s top bond rating agencies reaffirmed the county’s triple-A rating on its general obligation bonds, and the high AA+ and Aa1 rating (AA+ by Fitch and S&P Global

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

Reopen LoCo holds rallies to open businesses; Loudoun meets four of six criteria to move into Phase I



A group of citizens aligned with Reopen LoCo, have been holding a series of rallies over the past few weeks at the Loudoun County Government building to express support for the safe reopening of local Loudoun businesses, churches, and schools.

The supporters of Reopen LoCo don't think Loudoun should have been grouped with the other Northern Virginia counties, and should have opened with the rest of Virginia on May 15. Reopening of Northern Virginia is currently slated to start Friday, May 29.

As of press time, Loudoun County has met four of six criteria to consider moving into Phase I of the reopening process.

Over the past 14 days the percentage of positive tests has moved downward, as well as hospitalizations. The County has met the standard for increased testing, enough hospital beds, and intensive care capacity. There are two unmet categories to date: tracing capacity and a sustainable supply of Personal Protective Equipment.

Currently, infrastructure is being put into place for the tracing capacity, and is anticipated to be met within the coming weeks. PPE for hospitals is sufficient, and although there is an increased supply of PPE for outpatient and long-term care facilities, and first responders – these areas continue to be challenged.

Loudoun County expands Rent Assistance Program

The Loudoun County government has expanded its rent assistance program for Loudoun County households economically impacted by COVID-19.

The Board of Supervisors has approved re-allocating \$480,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to expand the rent assistance program. The goal is to help ensure housing stability for low-income workers who have been furloughed, lost jobs or had work hours reduced due to the pandemic.

The terms of the program include:

Income eligibility based on household size for households earning up to 70 percent of the state median income (\$70,332 for a family of 4).

Direct payments made to landlords or property management companies on behalf of residents who qualify for the program.

Depending on funding availability, the program provides rent assistance up to \$1,000 per month for up to three months. Applicants need to apply for one month of assistance at a time; months do not need to be consecutive.

Residents must be current in their rent payments as of March 30, 2020.

The program will continue as long as the local emergency declaration is in effect and funding is available.

Residents who were current in their rent payments as of March 30, 2020, and who now need help paying rent, may submit a completed application form as well as eligi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

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Kakol promoted to Sergeant

The Purcellville Police Department has announced the promotion of Corporal Paul Kakol to the rank of Sergeant. Sergeant Kakol was chosen for his proven leadership, dedication, and commitment to not only the citizens of Purcellville, but also to those within the Department.

COMMUNITY

Sergeant Kakol joined the Purcellville Police Department in 2005, however he began his law enforcement career in 2002 as a member of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department (MWAAPD). During his time with the MWAAPD, Sergeant Kakol became a member of their bike team, worked with the drug intervention team, and was also a Field Training Officer. Prior to becoming a police offi-



cer, Sergeant Kakol served our country as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division of the United States Army.

As part of the Purcellville Police Department, Sergeant Kakol is the lead Firearms Instructor, a certified Crisis Intervention Team member, Bike Team member, as well as a Field Training Officer. In 2011, he was awarded the Valor Life Saving Award, and in 2017 he received a Bronze Medal of Valor. Sergeant Kakol embodies the definition of community policing, and is often found happily engaging with Purcellville businesses and residents, both young and old.

A public promotional ceremony will be held on a future date.

IT SEEMS TO ME, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

councilman. He ran on a platform of reform by reducing debt (it was about \$61 million), reducing taxes, and promoting slow growth. After being elected three times, and in spite of being betrayed by some council members who ran on the same platform, and an entrenched bureaucracy, he and like-minded members of the Town Council have achieved many of those goals.

The long standing establishment of developers, greedy land owners, lawyers, and corrupt politicians who drove Purcellville into unconscionable debt didn't like that he and a majority of the Town Council members were upending their cozy corrupted apple cart. They are now once again trying to replace him with a figure from the past. It will be the "good old days" once more. Mayor Fraser has had to endure unending attempts to load Purcellville with an amusement park, a cheap hotel, and vast numbers of houses, and strip malls. What do the land owners and developers care about the quality of life in Purcellville? They will take their millions of dollars just like they did in the past, and leave the citizens of Purcellville holding the bag.

And what is Mayor Fraser getting out of this effort to protect Purcellville's citizens? Just hard work, long hours at unending meetings, criticism from biased newspapers, and vicious attacks from land owners who want to make millions from selling their land to developers. These attacks reached a peak at one Town Council meeting I attended. After a land owner's request to be annexed into the Town was rejected by the Town Council, several members of the land owner's family discernably uttered personal obscenities at Mayor Fraser from the audience. Even though this conduct was shocking, Mayor Fraser didn't react and remained calm – the same calm and professionalism he always has displayed

at Town Council meetings. I don't think I would have had such restraint.

I would like to relate to you a little known incident that shows what type of man Mayor Fraser is. Before I start, you should know that I am not a resident of Purcellville, and the Mayor owes nothing to me. The story begins at the end of 2015, when I had a heart procedure and residual arrhythmia that left me somewhat weak physically. In January 2016, a major snowstorm was forecast, and I knew that if it occurred, I would have trouble getting out of the house, which is down a 1300 foot driveway. I had purchased the largest snow blower Home Depot sold a few years earlier, and knew it would be up to any snow storm. I even had it serviced before the storm, and parked at my neighbor's house at the end of the driveway.

I left and stayed at my relative's house to await the storm. After it was over and I returned to the end of my driveway, I saw that the storm had dropped 34



Halfway down the driveway, after much of the snow had melted.

inches of snow. It turned out that the snow had started to melt and the snow blower just wasn't blowing the snow away. It was later determined that the snow blower repair guy had only replaced one of the two worn belts on the machine.

I then called several snow removal companies to no avail. I was stuck at the end of the driveway. All I really needed was a narrow path cleared to walk to my house, and I couldn't do it myself. I made calls to several families who had teenagers and found one in my development who was available, and he was hired. After not getting anybody else, I remembered that Mayor Fraser had a teenage son, so I called him and found he was available. Since the streets had been cleared, the Mayor drove up minutes later with his son.

I figured that two teenagers and one-half working snow blower would be enough to get me to my house. They started and the going was tough. When Mayor Fraser realized that they weren't going to make it before sunset, he asked if he could assist. I was somewhat surprised, but accepted his offer. The three of them proceeded to cut a one foot wide path down the long driveway. I don't know how they did it but, exhausted, hours later, we reached the house. I have got say Mayor Fraser outdid the teenagers in shoveling the driveway. I told him I owed him a favor.

I was able to repay him years later when I was at a Town Council meeting where the former Town Manager and the Council were discussing repairing the Brownell Memorial clock which had been stuck at 4:30 pm for years. The repair proposal was \$15,000 for a clock the Town didn't even own. The Town Council wisely indicated that they would withhold judgment on the proposal. After the meeting, I asked Mayor Fraser if I could take a shot at repairing



Brownell Memorial Clock before it was repaired.

the clock – since I had a hobby of repairing old clocks, and an electronics background. To make a long story short, with the help of Mayor Fraser, the Town staff, and RCD Electrical Services we were able to get the clock working with zero cost to the Town; and it's still ticking to this day.

Why did I write this piece about Mayor Fraser? I wanted make sure the citizens of Purcellville understand how lucky they are to have him as Mayor. He doesn't need this job. Rather, you need him and his running mates (Bertaut, Milan, and Williams) to continue to maintain the quality of life in Purcellville.

Joe LaFiandra writes a regular column, "It seems to me" for the Blue Ridge Leader.

Preservation Virginia identifies Commonwealth's most endangered historic places

This year's list reflects importance of historic preservation in time of crisis and recovery and how, now more than ever, we can look to our history for encouragement.

A sacred Monacan Indian Nation site in Fluvanna County, a historic church more than a century old in Danville, and a 300-mile network of rural roadways in Loudoun County are among Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places for 2020 unveiled in May by Preservation Virginia.

Each May (National Historic Preservation Month) since 2005, the nonprofit releases a list of historic places across the state that face imminent or sustained threats to their integrity to encourage individual citizens, organizations, and local and state government to continue advocating for these places' protection and preservation.

Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places list for 2020 includes:

- Rassawek, the historic capital and sacred site of the Monacan Indian Nation, located at the confluence of the Rivanna River and James River in Fluvanna County.
- Alexandria Elks Lodge #48, a community hub for African American Elks and residents in the Parker Gray Historic



John Wolford Road

Photo by Douglas Graham

District for over 115 years.

- James Street Holiness Church, founded in 1891 in north Danville by African American preacher Bettie Thompson.
- Pine Grove School Community, a rural African American community of businesses, churches, cemeteries and homes of students who attended the Pine Grove Rosenwald School in Cumberland County.
- Western Loudoun County's Rural Road Network, a living museum of 300 miles of gravel roadways that traverse the Loudoun Valley.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 »

The members of the America's Routes project are pleased that Loudoun County's extensive and intact network of 18th and 19th century unpaved rural roads has been recognized by Preservation Virginia as both culturally significant and seriously threatened in their 2020 listing.

The America's Routes team of historians, educators, journalists, and preservationists works to inform the public about the value and historical importance of our unique system of old roads. Rural roads authentically capture the history of early settlement, battlefields, slavery, and freedom. Furthermore, they are still a valuable element of agricultural and hospitality industries.

The forces of rapid growth, increased traffic, suburbanization, and calls for widening, straightening, and paving severely threaten this unique and authentic historic resource – the largest such network in Virginia and possibly in the nation. America's Routes believes that proper maintenance of the old roads can provide safe and useful transportation while preserving their value, history and charm for future generations. Alternatively, poor care and misguided decisions may lead to their loss forever.

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BOS accepts Coronavirus Aid

On May 19 the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted to accept and allocate a one-time federal fund payment available to the County and Towns from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security.

The County's allocation of the Coronavirus Relief Funds is \$36,079,596 which is determined by population. Leesburg will be receiving \$4,797,036, and Purcellville is expected to receive \$891,932. Lovettsville's allocation will be \$187,372, Middleburg \$74,824, Hamilton \$56,496, Round Hill \$59,077 and Hillsboro \$29,997,734.

There are strict Federal and State guidelines as to what the funds may be used for. Some examples of expenditures to the towns include: purchase of personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitizing supplies and services business relief grants, utility bill grants, food vouchers, technology purchases and upgrades to increase teleworking and remote meeting participation.

Nonexclusive examples of eligible expenditures are:

Medical expenses such as:

- COVID-19-related expenses of public hospitals, clinics, and similar facilities.
- Expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, including related construction costs.
- Costs of providing COVID-19 testing, including serological testing.
- Emergency medical response expenses, including emergency medical transportation, related to

COVID-19.

- Expenses for establishing and operating public telemedicine capabilities for COVID-19-related treatment.

Public health expenses such as:

- Expenses for communication and enforcement by State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments of public health orders related to COVID-19.
- Expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment, for medical personnel, police officers, social workers, child protection services, and child welfare officers, direct service providers for older adults and individuals with disabilities in community settings, and other public health or safety workers in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities, e.g., nursing homes, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Expenses for technical assistance to local authorities or other entities on mitigation of COVID-19-related threats to public health and safety.
- Expenses for public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19.
- Expenses for quarantining individuals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



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Photo by Douglas Graham

PRESERVATION VIRGINIA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

- Historic Metal Truss Bridges state-wide. In 1975, Virginia had approximately 620 metal truss bridges; only about five percent remain today.
- Halifax Roller Mill, a three-story, flour and feed mill built in 1915 to use electric power rather than water in the Town of Halifax.

“We understand we are living through quickly evolving times during this pandemic. Life has changed, and our mission to protect and reuse historic places has become more challenging,” said Preservation Virginia CEO Elizabeth S. Kostelny. “While we continue to see historic places of all types remaining resilient across the state, our list highlights longstanding issues that need to be addressed and cannot be forgotten during times of crisis.”

For example, Kostelny said four of the seven historic places cited this year are connected to underrepresented communities. One is Rassawek, the historic capital of the Monacan Indian Nation. “Our capital city was a contemporary of Jamestown, but much larger and more complex, and it lasted as a community

far longer,” said Tribal Chief Kenneth Branham. “It is for us a sacred place of great cultural significance, and it is for all Americans a place of historical importance.” Now threatened by a water intake station, this sacred site is in peril.

Two of this year’s listings are transportation-related, reflecting the rate at which Virginia is losing bridges and roads important to its historic landscape, with significant efforts needed to foster these places before they are lost. With museums temporarily closed and future funding opportunities potentially in doubt, preservationists are now approaching their work in new and creative ways, said Kostelny.

“Over the next few years, as we adapt to the challenges of living in a post-pandemic world, Preservation Virginia will help to counter the specific threats identified in this year’s Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places list. In addition, we will demonstrate how – using proven tools of historic preservation as well as innovative new models and collaborations – Virginia’s historic places help recharge our spirits and restore local communities. Now more than ever, we can look to our past for renewal and strength.”

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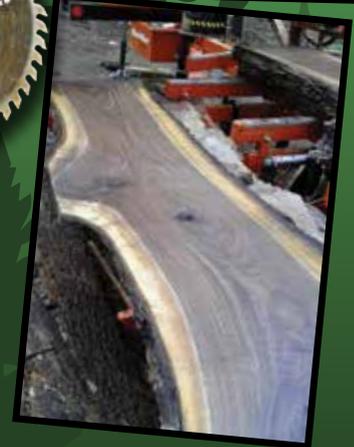
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LOUDOUN SELLS BONDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16 and Aa1 by Moody's) on its lease revenue bonds. The ratings agencies noted the county's strong operating performance and sound reserves, sizable and diverse tax base and moderate long-term liability burden.

Loudoun County has held the Aaa rating from Moody's since 2004, and

AAA from Fitch Ratings and S&P Global since 2005. A high bond rating helps the county achieve the best possible interest rates to finance capital projects, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

More information on Loudoun County finances and its triple-A status is online at loudoun.gov/BondRatings.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the classroom did something good.' Every child who goes out of his door says, 'What can I do to make the world a better place.' That's directly linked to what he has taught them."

"He was incredible at teaching math and science, but he also taught me how to be a better person," wrote former student Abby Doherty.

Fifth-grade teacher Dana Robinson wrote, "Not only does he dedicate his time to getting to know each student personally, he reaches out to families to form partnerships in the education of his students."

"Even before it was our division's mission, Mark was committed to fostering deeper learning through empowering all students to make meaningful contributions to the world," wrote LCPS School Improvement Supervisor Scott Meisenzahl.

Muldowney is noted for shepherding long-term academic projects. For example, in a class business called "Let Us Grow for You," the students grow lettuce hydroponically and harvest it for the school cafeteria and a local food pantry.



Muldowney started his LCPS career in 1999 at Sanders Corner Elementary. He came to Round Hill in 2004 as a first-grade teacher, and has been a fifth-grade teacher at the school since 2006. He has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the State University of New York at Old Westbury. Muldowney studied abroad at St. Patrick's College, Dublin, Ireland. Before coming to LCPS, Muldowney taught kindergarten and first grade at Lancaster Primary School in Lancaster, Penn.

MOORE-SOBEL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

had been rude lately, but "they are under a lot of pressure," he said. "I get it." He was smiling as he rang up everything in my cart and thanked me profusely for listening to his instructions. (He had specific instructions for when I could place my groceries on the belt, when I could approach him, and where to place my cart.) I was awed by these store employees and their courage – here they were, likely making a low wage, calmly facing the dangerous situation this pandemic has placed them in. Meanwhile, I have the luxury of sitting in my home, tucked away from danger. As I left, I thanked the cashiers for their work as unsung heroes of the pandemic.

It was an important reminder to me that even in the face of great challenges, life has continued to march forward. In large part, thanks to those who work on the

front lines – in grocery stores, in hospitals, and those in uniform – putting themselves at risk so that the rest of us can stay safe. Carrying out tasks that must continue, even if the pace of life has slowed.

Maintaining some semblance of normalcy is perhaps even more important that I realized. A few weeks ago, the pool in a nearby community was being prepared for opening. The top had been removed and the water filled to the brim. "Why is the top of our pool still on?" I overheard soon after from residents in my community. "Is our pool going to open?"

As president of the board, I had made the decision to halt pool preparations until the state's governor gave more information about the path forward. After all, who knew how long the pandemic would last, and even if the governor would allow pools to reopen this summer? I also wanted to avoid having the pool readied for open-

ing, only to have it closed weeks later due to pandemic restrictions. Yet hearing those residents' words helped me realize that perhaps I was missing the point – opening the pool could serve as an important sign of life commencing as normal; almost as a symbol of hope.

It was an important lesson for me about leadership. Sometimes the symbolism behind an act is just as important, if not more so, than the act itself. I think it is an important reminder for all of us to find symbols of hope along this journey. Even if we are stuck inside, we can still look out the window and marvel at the beauty of spring. And we can hope that perhaps, the empty pool will be filled with swimmers one day soon.

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

LOUDOUN COMMITS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

businesses to bridge the gap between closure and survival, and we're excited to extend that opportunity to almost 900 more businesses," Loudoun Economic Development Executive Buddy Rizer said. "We remain dedicated to a fair and transparent application process that saves as many #LoudounPossible businesses as we can."

Any first-round applicants that were disqualified for not having enough employees will be notified that they do not need to apply again. Visit the website now and sign up for a reminder email when the fund opens. The application, terms and conditions, frequently asked questions and additional information can be found at LoudounBusinessFund.org.

GOOD NEWS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

heart and humor have made it possible to get through this pandemic—at least so far. To quote a few viewers:

"John Krasinski became the best talk show host without ever having a talk show."

"Nobody tell John when the quarantine is over so he'll just keep doing these."

"Not gonna lie, this channel is probably my favorite thing to come out of this whole mess..."

"When they started singing 'Hamilton' I was like 'WHO IS CUTTING ONIONS!'"

Inside or out, have a great Father's Day!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

quickly, efficiently, and without burdensome costs.

Matt Truong has been a grass-roots activist since 2014. He helped a number of candidates in Fairfax, Loudoun, Frederick, and Prince William counties get elected in 2019. In addition, he has been a local leader in minority outreach since 2014. In the past years Matt has convinced and encouraged multiple minority candidates to run for state and local offices. He will evince the support of minority communities to come out and vote for him in November.

Matt has over 26 years of experience

in the business world, and will use that experience to get the economy back on track again. In fact, Matt is working on a number of single-issue bills that would put over 39 million Americans back to work. Matt has the background, experience, and relationship to solve the problems that we are all facing right now. In short, Matt has the experience, the effective ideas, and the record of accomplishments needed to beat Jennifer Wexton. Please support him at the Republican Convention on June 20 at Shenandoah University commencing at 8 a.m.

*Wanda Born
Haymarket*

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

you can later agree with her that you'll stay with her until she falls asleep and then leave the room, and she can always call you back if she awakes and needs you.

Lastly, I recommend that you provide your daughter with activities and opportunities that will support her sense of agency and her natural motivation to grow, learn and master tasks and moments again. I'm hopeful that

things will get back to normal for your daughter with these tips. If, however, her problems do not improve or worsen in time, I recommend that you seek to help of a child psychologist.

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

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

over \$650 million just by reducing new houses in the west from 7,500 (per the new General Plan) to 2,500. Salvation! Excitement! Political support! We're gonna win!

But maybe not

Key members of the Board of Supervisors were ready to submit a great Board Member Initiative to solve the cluster problem and believed they had enough votes to prevail. Then the County's legal department looked at the proposed resolution and said, "Whoa!" As I recall, their arguments were that there first must be an amendment to the new Comprehensive Plan, followed by an amendment to the new Zoning Ordinance being written now. "Three years" the lawyers concluded.

Lawyers, your logic was wrong. If something in the Comp Plan needs changing, it probably could be handled while the new Zoning Ordinance is being written. Do these things in parallel, not in sequence. The new Ordinance simply needs to be drafted with the wording "15 acres" instead of "5 acres" to reduce the cluster bonus. That would not add any procedural time to what the new Zoning Ordinance already requires.

The Unexpected Squabble

Aside from dealing with lawyers' neg-

ativity, things looked good. We thought the Board's sentiments were with us, as we expected the citizens to be. While some landowners would squawk about the loss of property rights, we could point to provisions in the State Code and our zoning ordinance that could protect them. Yep, we were on a roll. Then we were blindsided by three conservationists.

These three are very active in the conservation easement world. Two provide services for easements and are friends of mine. The third is a prominent citizen who has used conservation easements to amass acre upon acre of land while saving it from developers' bulldozers.

They presented a very simple warning to several influential supervisors: If clusters lose their zoning bonus, then conservation easements will have less appeal. Further, they said, if the Board reduced the density of clusters, there would be a rush of new subdivisions seeking approval while the current zoning ordinance is still in place.

Not just Simple, but Simplistic

Eliminate the cluster density bonus or continue it? Ultimately that's a political question and the politicians can weigh the issue using various criteria. The least-fair criterion is to decide a polit-

ical question in favor of those with the most money and influence. Being close to Washington, we see this daily, but I have great faith that our Supervisors will do better. Their question should be, "What's best for the County?" That adds some subjectivity (e.g., if we let the west get developed, how much is Loudoun hurt by diminished aesthetic appeal?) and subjective decisions are difficult. "What's best for the County," though, can be answered by economics.

An econometrician could help. If you don't know that profession, it's an economist who uses advanced mathematics to make projections. *The Blue Ridge Leader* does not have one on staff, and I bet the County doesn't either. Since economics was my collegiate minor, I'll offer my services instead. It's easy to demonstrate that while our new foes' arguments seem simple, they are simplistic and wrong. The Law of Supply and Demand, the most basic concept from Economics 101, is all that's needed to validate my points. Here's that Law in action: NFL stadium seating will be reduced next year due to the virus. With supply constrained, single-game tickets have already risen by an average of 51 percent on the open market.

If the cluster density bonus is jettisoned, an undeveloped parcel will yield

fewer lots. Exactly, but housing demand will stay constant or even rise due to the exclusivity factor, and the remaining lots will be more valuable when donating an easement. Since demand continues, the reduced supply of houses should increase the value of all our existing housing stock. Simply put, your house would be worth more. Here's a nearby example: Data center land. Demand has out-stripped supply and data sites are now offered in the \$2 million per acre range. Gadzooks!

Another claim is that an upcoming reduction in residential density will trigger a wave of new subdivisions. That's somewhat true, but it will also trigger a wave of new conservation easements since landowners will want to get site approval before the cluster density bonus elapses.

If it ain't Broke...

....then don't fix it, right? But when something important is broken, fix it! Losing three acres to developers' bulldozers for every one acre protected via an easement is diamond – clear evidence that the status quo is unacceptable. It's broken.

The Board of Supervisors can fix it.

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THE STATE OF THE COUNTY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have since recovered.)

Preparing for the unknown and unknowable cost to come

On the County's fiscal status, the Chair-at-Large reported that early in the pandemic the Board immediately froze most newly approved positions and all merit pay increases. In the budget process, the supervisors adopted a real property tax rate of \$1.035 (a dollar three and a half cents) per \$100 in assessed value, which is one cent below the current real property tax rate of \$1.045. Randall detailed the financials:

"If devaluation of the real property portfolio occurs due to the COVID-19 pandemic," Randall explained, "the new tax rate of \$1.035 will likely fall below the projected equalized tax rate for Fiscal Year 2021. On the advice of Loudoun County Treasurer Roger Zurn, the Board extended the date that personal property taxes are due by one month, to June 5, 2020."

Randall reported that the Board acted to reserve \$100 million in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. Traditionally, two-thirds of the County budget is allocated to fund the Loudoun County Public School system, while one-third funds County Government needs. The Board froze all base-budget increases, new money for the Board's Strategic Initiatives, funds reserved for Capital Facility Openings, and all unallocated budget balances. In total, the amount of money frozen on the County side of the ledger was \$40 million."

Randall reviewed how the decision was made to



Tracy Hamlin sang the national anthem.

freeze \$60 million of the \$72 million on the school side of the ledger. Over half of that money was allocated for teacher and staff merit increases. The remaining \$12 million will be transferred to our schools and will be available for projected increases to include welcoming additional student

The State of our County is caring, resilient, compassionate, and strong

The COVID-19 pandemic forced 29,000 onto the unemployment rolls. Randall discussed the Business Interruption Fund to assist small businesses with \$10,000

grants and other initiatives. Those include an information clearinghouse, assistance for businesses struggling with Federal Government Emergency Loans and Payroll Protection Program applications, a jobs portal, Take Loudoun Home campaign, and Loudoun Made, Loudoun Grown Marketplace.

Randall said she directed the staff to bring an item to the Board to review the requirement for acceptance of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, also called the CARES Act. As a body, the Board received that report May 19 . . . Our countywide allocation of CARES Act relief totals over \$36 million, with approximately \$6 million of that being reserved for our seven incorporated towns. On June 1, the County expects to receive \$30 million of CARES Act money. Almost \$7 million dollars of that funding is being used for grants to Loudoun's small businesses financially harmed by the COVID 19 Stay-at-Home

order. In addition, we will now be able to fund every small business that applied for and was certified for the first round of Business Interruption grants."

As she noted, by making prudent, long-term financial decisions such as reserving \$100 million in new County spending, "We safeguarded our triple-A credit rating."

In closing, Randall said, "I feel very secure in telling you the State of our County is caring, resilient, compassionate, and strong . . .

"Thank you, God bless you, and I will see you next year."

BOS ACCEPTS AID, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19-related public health measures, such as:

- Expenses for food delivery to residents, including, for example, senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
- Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.
- Expenses to improve telework capabilities for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
- Expenses of providing paid sick and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.

- COVID-19-related expenses of maintaining state prisons and county jails, including as relates to sanitation and improvement of social distancing measures, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
- Expenses for care for homeless populations provided to mitigate COVID-19 effects and enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.

Expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as:

- Expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.
- Expenditures related to a State, territorial, local, or Tribal government payroll support program.
- Unemployment insurance costs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise.

VOTING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Game Protective Association located at 16 N. Berlin Turnpike, Lovettsville, and Middleburg town voters will continue to vote at the 10 W. Marshall Street, Middleburg.

The Office of Elections would like to say "Thank You" to all the Election Officials that agreed to serve whether on

May 19 in Hamilton and Round Hill or on June 4 in Lovettsville, Middleburg and Purcellville to ensure town voters can exercise their right to vote in person on Election Day. On May 19, the Office of Elections actually counted more absentee ballots than ballots cast on election day, demonstrating absentee ballots do count no matter what.

RENT ASSISTANCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

bility documentation, such as a current lease and paperwork that shows a job loss, reduced income, or hardship due to COVID-19. This documentation will be verified to determine eligibility. Submitting an application does not guarantee financial assistance will be provided.

To download an application form and checklist, visit loudoun.gov/limitedrentassistance. To request a paper copy of the application form and checklist be mailed to you, contact the county's Information and Referral program at 703-777-0420.

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.

Text LCCOVIDESP to 888777 to receive text messages in Spanish 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.

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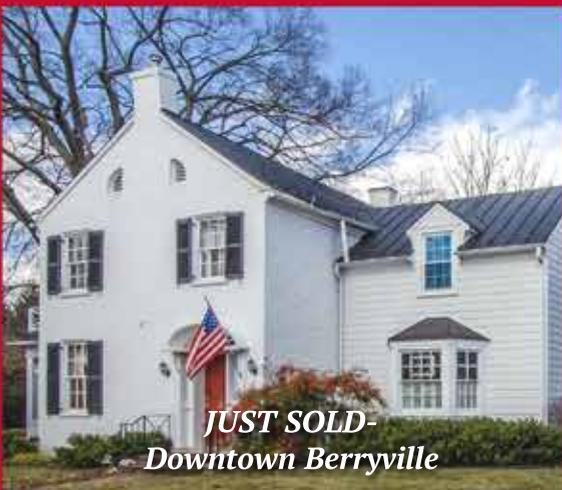
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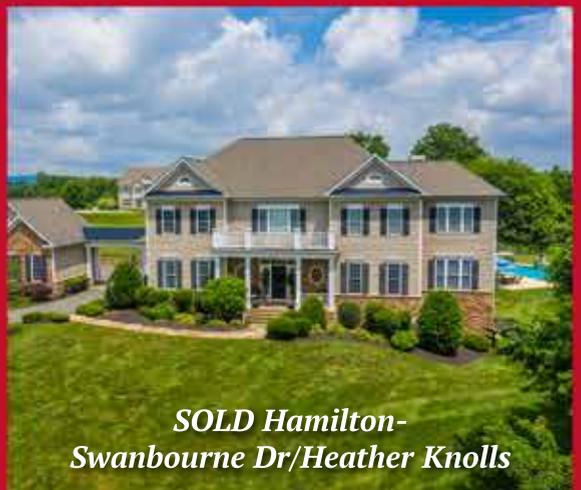
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