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AUGUST 2020

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Interview with Sheriff Mike Chapman

BY VALERIE CURY

The recent vote by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors favoring the County move to a county-wide police department, rather than the current Sheriff's Office, prompted this Blue Ridge Leader interview with Sheriff Mike Chapman. The BOS has since decided to have a study conducted on the matter. Such a change would ultimately have to be put to a referendum by the voters. Chapman was elected Sheriff in 2011, and is currently serving his third term, which began in January of this year.

Blue Ridge Leader: What is the difference between a sheriff's office and a police department?

Sheriff Mike Chapman: The two main differences between sheriff's of-

fices and police departments are the scope of services each provide, and to whom chiefs and sheriffs report.

In Loudoun, the sheriff provides full service – meaning he or she has primary responsibility over enforcement, the Adult Detention Center, and the Courts. This integrated effort enables seamless coordination between practically all law enforcement matters – to include crime prevention, education, enforcement, school safety, community outreach, court security, mental health services, and re-entry programs to reduce recidivism for individuals released from incarceration. This interoperability and the sheriff's professional staff largely explain Loudoun's success in having the lowest crime rate in the Virginia Metropolitan-D.C. area, and its near-90 percent citizen satisfaction rating. The Council of Governments for



the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area determined that Loudoun County has had a 32 percent reduction in serious crime over the past eight years.

Police departments, conversely, handle only duties related to law enforcement, including crime prevention, investigations, school resource officers, and traffic enforcement. These respon-

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

Ready, set, learn!

BY LAURA LONGLEY

School is about to start, and despite all the unknowns, teachers and staff are ready for almost anything.

"We've been incredibly busy with training," said Wyade Byard, Loudoun County Public Schools spokesman. "As we speak, staff is at Culbert Elementary School learning the proper way to wear PPE—personal protective equipment."

Until mid-July, just like you, the school district was anticipating either a full return to school or a hybrid program—two days in class, three days at home learning remotely. The teachers had been fully trained for both approaches. The district's communications team had even prepared "day in the life" videos of fictional students—fourth-grader "Sebastian" and high schooler "Anna." Even though the school district will begin the year with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24»

Middleburg at a Historic Crossroad?

Town Planning Commission postpones decision on Banbury Cross development

BY LAURA LONGLEY

On July 27, after three hours of discussion in a high stakes meeting to determine the fate of a by-right, 28-lot cluster subdivision with 10 rural economy lots, the Town of Middleburg Planning Commission decided in the end to postpone. The proposal, which is called Banbury Cross Reserve, is located north

of Rt. 50 and east of Sam Fred Road.

In a unanimous vote (with Commissioner Mimi Stein absent), the Commissioners elected to give developer Andrew Hertneky, Middleburg Land 1 LLC manager, two more weeks to address remaining questions and make any adjustments necessary to the preliminary plat.

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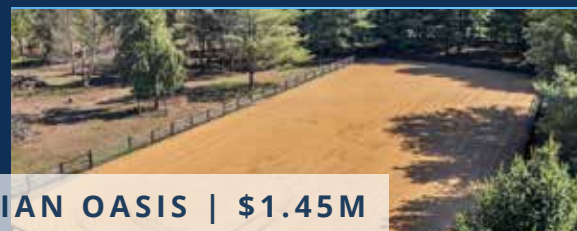
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21523 ROSEDOWN CT | MIDDLEBURG
Sold | \$1,005,000



5 RAMSDELL CT | ROUND HILL
Sold | \$810,000



36420 DWYER CT | ROUND HILL
Sold | \$775,000



18273 WILD RASPBERRY DR | PURCELLVILLE
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43248 CAVELL CT | LEESBURG
Under Contract | \$715,000



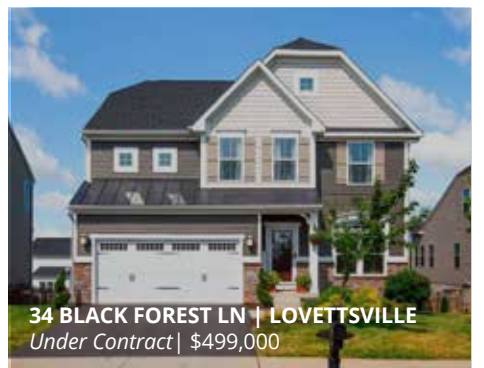
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39687 WENNER RD | LOVETTSVILLE
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Loudoun's Black History Matters, Part II

The Beginnings of Black Education in Loudoun

BY LAURA LONGLEY

If you think this is the most challenging time for America to provide a good education for all, just look back 155 years to the end of the Civil War, and imagine creating a brand new, fully functioning system to provide millions of Black Americans with schools, teachers, and the time to learn.

Tapping the resources of the Black History Committee of Friends of Thomas Balch Library chaired by Donna Bohannon, the Edwin Washington Project led by Larry Roeder, historian and mapmaker Eugene Scheel, and the "Nest of Abolitionists" blog on the Quakers of Goose Creek by Lee Lawrence, we've pulled together this brief introduction to that era.

The Freedmen's Bureau and Loudoun's First Black Schools

In 1865, nothing was in place for the creation of schools. Therefore, Congress created an agency, not surprisingly short on funds and personnel, called the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, it became known as the Freedmen's Bureau. Later assessments are that its political and economic initiatives fell short, but the Bureau managed to open 1,000 Black schools; and overall, it enrolled more than 90,000 formerly enslaved African Americans. One of them was a boy named Edwin Washing-

ton, whose feelings about school speak volumes.

In a talk before the Loudoun Branch of the NAACP, historian Larry Roeder told Edwin Washington's story, found in long-forgotten documents of Loudoun County's education archives. "In June 1867, a 'colored' 16-year-old boy named Edwin Washington worked in a hotel in Leesburg, Virginia for five dollars a month, plus board, with the 'privilege of coming to school' in between errands," Roeder recounted. "Unfortunately, this meant he couldn't attend school on a regular basis, or at all during Court weeks. Still, he went to class whenever he could." And he began to write. Making his first attempts at composition, Edwin wrote the following, titled "Going to School":

I think it is a very good thing to go to school and learn to read and write. It is the first opportunity we ever had, and we ought to make good use of it. I think it will be a great improvement to us. We ought to love our teacher and mind her and respect her; and if we love her she will love us, and we ought to love and respect everybody. Signed Edwin Washington.

Today, the Edwin Washington Project, using unearthed lost records, is documenting segregated schools in Loudoun County. To learn more and volunteer, visit <https://edwinwashingtonproject.org/volunteer/>.

School's In

Leesburg opened three Freedmen's



Students and teachers at Waterford's Second Street School.

Schools within a year of the war, one of them was run by Richard Bailey, an African American educator. Elsewhere in western Loudoun, schools for Black students opened in Hillsboro, Waterford, Middleburg, Brownsville (Harmony/Hamilton), Woodgrove (Round Hill), Willisville, and Goose Creek.

The Quakers of Goose Creek, renamed Lincoln in 1865, had supported high quality education since arriving here in the mid-1730s. As of 1815, their one-room Oakdale School served the children of the village and surrounding farms, including Black children. The first public school built for African Americans, on land donated by the Quakers, was called Lincoln Colored School B. (At that time, schools for Blacks were designated by letters, schools for whites by numbers.) A two-story, two-room structure where children in grades one through seven

were taught now exists as a private residence.

The Teachers Arrive

Because the Freedmen's Bureau had so few staff and little money, it worked with northern benevolent organizations and African American communities to place northern teachers in freed people's schools in the South.

The American Missionary Society and the American Freedmen's Union Commission recruited and paid teachers. The Freedmen's Bureau then assigned the teachers to schools and provided them with transportation. The local African American community typically contributed room and board.

Three teachers are known to have taught in Loudoun under the supervision of the Bureau. Two were in

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Tree of Life Clothing Closet opens doors



The Tree of Life Clothing Closet, located at 119 N. 21st Street (next to Nichols) opened its doors with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, July 11. Delegate Dave LaRock (R-33) joined Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Loudoun County Chamber President and CEO Tony Howard, members and supporters of Purcellville's Tree of Life for the ribbon cutting.

Groundbreaking for Round Hill Trail & sidewalk projects

Loudoun County and the Town of Round Hill held a groundbreaking ceremony for the start of construction of the Round Hill to Franklin Park trail and the Main Street enhancement

project Tuesday, July 28, in front of the pavilion on East Loudoun Street.

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At

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Purcellville one step closer to forming police advisory committee

BY VALERIE CURY

The Purcellville Town Council at its regular meeting on July 28 unanimously voted to create a

Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC). The task force – established during the last Town Council meeting in June – moved forward to explore citizen interest and options for creating the committee, which would form to enhance communication among Purcellville's Town Council, police department, businesses, and residents on issues relating to the police and public safety.

"The committee will focus exclusively on Purcellville," said Mayor Kwasi Fraser. "This is not new to our nation; the final report of the Presidential Task force on 21st century policing emphasized the importance of citizen involvement in policing, as a strategy to improve trust

between law enforcement and the public. With the Community Policing Advisory Committee, we are establishing an open culture between a public agency and the community it serves," said Fraser.

"CPAC's mission," said former Councilman Nedim Ogelman, who is a member of the task force, "should be to build upon public trust and the integrity of the Town's law enforcement personnel, to provide public input on how the Town's public safety mission may be better accomplished." "Its role," Ogelman continued, "should not be adversarial, but complementary to the work and dedication of Purcellville's men and women in blue."

The task force also includes local residents Zach Franco, Molly Magoffin, John Payne, Pastor David Milam, and local businessman Eric Lyles. "It was

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Back to School: Preparing your child for virtual learning

To the dismay of many parents, the hybrid option to the academic school year for our children is no longer an option in Loudoun County Public Schools. Is exclusive virtual learning truly the best option? While parents are split over the decision, I don't think there really is a best option; we're in a global pandemic, and living with restrictions and compromises is the new normal.



DR. MIKE

There's no denying that our children will miss out on a lot this year; and it's safe to assume that there will be a lag in learning for a lot of children as this drags on. The U.S. Department of Education has already posited that virtual learning could lead to more students repeating a grade – low income families and minorities without adequate resources, will likely be the group that struggles most. I think it's important to keep things in perspective. Yes, our children will have what appears to be a less than optimal fall quarter, but what our children miss out on academically can always be made up later.

As a child psychologist, virtual learning is presently the number one topic in my practice with so many parents scrambling to prepare themselves and their children for the start of school year. I offer the following tips:

Embrace your inner teacher. Okay, so you likely aren't a credentialed teacher, but as parents our children learn a lot from what we say and do; and with virtual learning, they will be looking for guidance and instruction.

Join a learning pod. Many parents are getting together to form small groups to enhance learning. Some are paying tutors to further support instruction during the school day. Children can remain in one home or rotate homes. I think learning pods are great; they allow for additional attention and structure with in-person academic support, and they provide an opportunity to share resources.

Create a great space to work. To get your child excited, encourage their involvement in creating a fun working space. Your child is going to be in front of a computer for hours, so purchasing a comfy office chair, a good lamp and some new accessories may serve to jump start a positive frame of mind.

Take breaks. While our children had some exposure to virtual learning this past year, they are not used to the more intensive virtual learning that awaits them. Having a sustained focus for learning is important, but your children will get bored if they sit in front of screen for too long.

Exercise. With virtual learning and with a lot of sports cancelled, your child is not going to be as active as usual this school year. Research studies have repeatedly shown that children who exercise consistently do better academically, socially and emotionally. So, keeping your child physically active this year is important.

Make a daily schedule. Children do best when they know what's expected of them in advance, and thus daily structure and a schedule can be very helpful. I'm a big fan of breaking the day down into sections where there is a morning routine, a daytime routine and an evening routine.

Say "yes" more than "no." Research has already shown increases of mental health conditions for the U.S. population as a result of the pandemic, and our children are bound to experience more emotional upset with virtual learning this fall. Thus, I think it's important for parents to be more flexible and patient in their parenting, especially for social matters. So, the next time your child asks to play video games more with their friends on-line, I recommend giving him or her a little extra time. Our children will be missing out on so much this coming year, and giving them more of what they are wanting and needing, seems to me to be the loving thing to do.

In summary, exclusive virtual learning this fall is not ideal, but I don't think much anything is during a pandemic. Home-schoolers and children who attend private school face similar and different challenges, but we will get through this. As the entertainer Jimmy Dean once said, "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." Here's to adjusting our sails.

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

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Sheep

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

"I am going to bleat," declared Byne Rood.

Robert looked up quizzically from his morning coffee. "Wouldn't a whinny be more appropriate for you?" he jested.

OPINION

"No. 'Bleat.' I feel like we're just a bunch of sheep."

"Care to explain, B?"

"It's land preservation. I saw a sign on Telegraph Springs yesterday, 'Acreage. Great for Clusters.' I wanted to run the damn thing over but Finnegan was in the horse trailer so I couldn't do an off-road raid. It makes me sick to think of the crappy houses some greedy developer would build there."

"I'll go back with you tonight and trash the sign if that would help."

She gave her husband's hand a quick

squeeze. "That was just the straw on the camel's back."

Robert's eyebrows arched.

"Look at what we've done this year - basically nothing. The Board of Supervisors were eager to push a Board Member Initiative that would have removed the density bonus that clusters get. You know, if they cluster the lots zoning, that lets them build four times as many houses on a given piece of property."

"We're simpatico on that problem," said Robert.

Byne went on, "Then one of the County administrative guys said they'd first have to amend the Comprehensive Plan, and after that apply for a rezoning, which might prompt lawsuits. I know the zoning documents pretty damn well and he was blowing smoke, especially when he said the process might take three years. Here's the way it could really work: Pass a Board Resolution now that directs Planning Staff, which is drafting the new zoning ordinance, to make cluster density the same as base density. Thus, no extra houses, no free bonuses, more land

saved, simply by adding a sentence or two into the new zoning ordinance. Public hearings and so forth would cover the entire new zoning document, including the changes on clusters. You'd be done in half the time."

Robert followed Byne's logic, "So administration played the Board?"

"Yep, and that tells me that staff bureaucrats try to manipulate the Board into doing just the things staff wants to do."

"I bet there's more bugging you," said Robert.

"Yep. The next deal was a Board Member Initiative that endorsed a plan to preserve prime agricultural soils. Right now, developers are putting houses on the best land because septic sewer works better there and costs less. The key sentence from the Board said something like 'X-percent of the prime soils can't be built on.' The Board should have specified how much that off-limits amount would be, like 80 percent. Instead somebody on Staff will call a developer for his thoughts and a few days later plug in

some small, meaningless number, like 10 percent. The Board's intent will have been gutted, and we'll then have to gird up for a battle to change that one number.

I'm tired of fighting like this. We're always on defense. The Board of Supervisors is excellent. We have almost 100 percent support for the west. I just feel whipped. You know, just let it go and concentrate on riding Finnegan."

"That sounds bleak, Byne."

"That's why I am going to bleat," she answered.

"Are things that bad?"

"Well, there are three or four major problems around Middleburg and a handful of folks have taken the lead in fighting the developers. They've raised money, gotten a lot of followers, hired engineers and I think they have a real shot at winning. I'm not happy that they have problems, but I'm glad the entire west is now involved in fighting to save our land. I'm also a bit envious that the Middleburg folks have good leaders and

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— It Seems to Me —

The wild west at the Hamilton Recycling Center

BY JOE LAFIANDRA

Yes, it's really the Wild West at the Hamilton Recycling Center, officially known as the Central Western Loudoun Recycling Center. The photo shows the results of how the "honor system" is working when it comes to following the rules of recycling.

Anybody who has used the center knows that many people follow the rules exactly, but there are many who disregard them completely.

Despite numerous posted signs and instructions, the lack of any type of enforcement at the site has invited uncontrolled dumping of all types of garbage including large cardboard boxes that clog up the recycling bins.

So why are recycling centers like this important in this time of other seemingly more serious issues like Covid-19 and crime? The answers are both simple and complex.

The simple answer is society just can't bury everything it no longer needs in landfills; we're running out of places to bury things. In addition, things we used to bury can be reused; metal, glass, plastic, and paper can be all recycled. It's socially and economically irresponsible not to recycle as much as possible of our waste material.

Believe it or not, Covid-19 also factors into the recycling equation. With people staying at home, there is a tremendous increase in ordering products on

line, which means a large increase in shipping boxes that have to be recycled. The same holds true for food pickup containers, which have replaced dine-in restaurant meals.

What about disrespect for the law? If the rules that are posted and not enforced, this needs to change.

So, what about enforcement of the rules? From my quires to the Sheriff's and the County Administrator's Offices I am including excerpts of their responses.

From Glen Barbour, County Public Affairs and Communications Officer: "...General Services has established guidelines concerning public use of these facilities. Recently, the County has begun a renewed public outreach campaign that includes new signage at the centers, informational brochures, and updates to our website content. My office is working closely with General Services to help raise awareness about



Overloaded recycling container at the Central Western Recycling Center.

the protocols in place at our recycling centers, such as the type of materials that are accepted, in an effort to increase compliance among those who visit our centers.

"It is important to understand that these sites are unattended. The County relies on the honor system, which means our expectation is that users of the

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37986 Kite Lane, Lovettsville

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Tucked away at the foothills of the Short Hill Mountains a property to prize awaits you. Even getting there is a pleasure. From picturesque Purcellville, you travel Berlin Turnpike through the quaint village of Morrisonville, Picnic Wood to Kite Lane, passing vineyards, ponds, and pastures populated with cattle and horses, and then—wow! There at the end of a scenic drive sits a handsome colonial-style home that, like its 29-acre landscape, promises casual living in classical style.

Upon entering this exceptional home, you are greeted by a dramatic, two-story foyer that reveals a circular stair to the upper level, a large living room on the right and an inviting dining room with adjoining butler's pantry on your left. Walk through and discover an awesome space with jaw-dropping views of the mountains and fields. Here you'll find a comfortable eat-in kitchen with a center island, peninsula

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 »



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How To Pick and Choose

One of the great benefits of your employer's retirement plan is that you get to pick and choose among



RICH RICCI

the various investments your plan offers. If you're not sure what you want to accomplish, selecting investments can be intimidating.

Breaking down the process into a series of steps can make it easier to choose investments that are right for you.

Consider your final goal

You know you're going to need money for retirement. But how much money? Think about how you want to spend your retirement years. Are you planning to downscale? Or hoping to live it up? Will your home be paid for? Do you plan to retire prior to having access to Medicare? Depending on your plans, your expenses could be lower — or higher — after you stop working. Knowing how much you'll need should influence the investments you choose.

Look at the whole picture

Other than the money in your retirement plan, what other financial resources do you have? If you own assets outside your plan account it might influence the plan investments you choose. For example, if you have stock investments on the outside, you may want to concentrate your retirement plan portfolio more heavily on bond and money market investments.

Think about your time frame

How many years do you have before you plan to retire? If you have a long time, you may be willing to invest more in investments that potentially offer the highest possible long-term returns, such as stock or mutual fund investments. Investors

with a longer time frame will likely have time to recover from a downturn in the stock market.

But, if retirement is only a few years away, you may want to concentrate a larger share of your portfolio in investments that are more likely to hold their value, such as bonds and money market investments.

Consider your comfort level

Think about how comfortable you are with investment risk. Will you lose sleep if your portfolio's value drops even a little bit? Or do the market's ups and downs not even faze you? Your tolerance for risk should also influence the investments you choose.

Evaluate your options

Spend some time learning about the investments your plan offers. Before you make a decision, you should understand the objective, investment strategy, performance history, and risk/return potential of each investment you're considering.

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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A love letter to my beautiful bride

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

August 1 marks the first day of the rest of my life. The day I marry the love of my life.

She appeared when I least expected it. I first laid eyes on her from the back of a church. She was at the front. I could not help but linger on her beautiful face. She wore a light top and brown skirt, the image of her was linked indelibly in my mind. I fell in love with the woman who would one day be my wife that day from across the room. Before I heard her voice ... even before we met.

It is one of those things I can hardly explain. If you are single, you're likely familiar with the common trope friends in relationships often share. "You just know when you know." I used to question the concept. "How will I know?" I wondered. But when I saw her, I suddenly knew. I'd been looking for her all along.

We met months later, after that first time I saw her, through the help of a mutual friend. And now, after we have had a romance of 20 months, we have finally arrived at the day I had long hoped we would reach. Even if I didn't know how the story would unfold in between.

It turns out that there were a few twists and turns along the way. We faced adversities and resistance. But we've also shared boundless joy. Megan brings a sense of delight to my life I never thought possible. Winning her heart was the greatest accomplishment I have ever or will ever achieve. She is the only girl I see, the only one who will ever have the key to my heart. She is my soulmate.

As I look excitedly towards the future and the life we have worked so hard to build together, I anticipate that our marriage will be nothing short of a fabulous adventure.

I want our marriage to be a passionate love affair that lasts for decades. I want Megan to be the only woman I call my wife. I want her to be the mother of my children. The woman who loves me even when I am not at my best, and wants to stay in our marriage even when the going gets tough. I have no doubt that we will be together through it all. For as long as we both shall live.

In light of that, I've been thinking about how to have an extraordinary marriage. To keep the flame of our love burning bright, long after August 1. So

that we can look back on that day as the foundation upon which we built a family. So when we tell our story to our children, grandchildren, and hopefully great-grandchildren, that they will be reminded of the love Megan and I share. And that they would have something to emulate, and be richly blessed as a result.

There is this scene in "Runaway Bride" (a favorite movie in my family) that I think epitomizes the danger beneath the surface of any relationship. Ike Graham, the irascible columnist, talks with his ex-wife, Ellie, about the dissolution of their marriage. "Did I just not see you?" He asks her. "No. No, you



didn't," she says.

With this in mind, one of my many goals in marriage is to see my wife. To love her regardless of the circumstances. To treasure her strong intellect and her heart of gold. To never lose sight of her, regardless of what life brings. Through kids and jobs and family stresses and everything else. To put her and her interests first above all else, even if that requires much sacrifice. To treasure each and every moment we get together, until death do us part. And to have as beautiful a marriage as we have a wedding day (in spite of the adjustments we have had to make to our original wedding plans in light of Covid-19).

For marrying the love of my life will be a joyous day, regardless of the circumstances. Times may be uncertain, but I believe we have what it takes to create a beautiful life together. That is worth celebrating, each and every day.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is the author of Can You See My Scars? His book is available for purchase through Mascot Books and on Amazon. To learn more about the author, visit www.samuelmoore-sobel.com.

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Hillsboro celebrates completion of Safe Drinking Water Project – End of two-decade boil water notice

On Tuesday, July 21, the Town of Hillsboro dedicated its new municipal well and waterworks and marked the completion of its nearly \$4 million Safe Drinking Water Project.

GOVERNMENT

Moments before the well dedication ceremony began, Hillsboro Mayor Roger L. Vance received a special announcement from Kyle McCammon, District Engineer, Virginia Department of Health which stated “It is my great pleasure to tell you that you may lift the boil water notice that the Town has been under due to the dis-

official public waterworks in 1953.

The spring was deemed as being under the influence of surface water in the 1990s. The Town has operated its waterworks under a series of Virginia Department of Health Consent Orders since then that ultimately required the spring’s disconnection from the municipal system. Meanwhile, the Town worked to develop a well source with adequate capacity.

“After two decades of planning, design and close cooperation with our partners at the Virginia Department of Health and Loudoun County, and the past year of construction, the Hill Tom Spring has been permanently retired from its service to the Town of Hillsboro, and a modern waterworks and completely new distribution system has been brought on line,” Vance said.

The ceremony recognized all of the Town’s partners in the project, including Virginia Department of Health officials and Loudoun County Supervisors past and present, including former Board Chair Scott York and current Chair Phyllis Randall, former Blue

Ridge Supervisors Jim Burton, Janet Clarke, and current Blue Ridge Supervisor Tony Buffington. Also recognized were Loudoun Water, Emery and Garrett Groundwater Investigation, the project’s design engineer firm Hazen and Sawyer and the construction company, Shirley Contracting.

“Today’s celebration came about because of the hard work and tireless hours of many. The individuals and organizations we recognized were instrumental in supporting the Town’s commitment to improving the quality of life for all of our citizens, boosting the potential of all of our businesses and ensuring the health and safety of thousands who visit and attend Hillsboro events,” said Hillsboro Vice Mayor Amy Marasco.

“Thanks to all who braved the heat and practiced social distancing to mark this extraordinary accomplishment and historic milestone in Hillsboro,” Vance said. He also acknowledged all guests enjoyed a glass of Town water at the event while caterer Michelle McIntyre of Dinner Belles Kitchen Cupboard provided personally packaged foods and an extra glass of celebratory sparkling wine came from Breaux Vineyard.



Hillsboro Mayor Roger L. Vance.

connection of the GUDI spring from the Town’s water system. The progress the Town has made over the past couple years has been wonderful, and we are all looking forward to continued progress over the coming years. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.”

“It’s been a long and difficult journey to overcome this vexing public health issue,” said Hillsboro Mayor and project manager Roger Vance to the nearly 30 invited guests at the ceremony, “but finally we are now ready to lift a glass—of safe, clean water!—to mark this important milestone in Hillsboro history.”

The Town’s new drinking water source supplants its venerable Hill Tom Spring, which has served the community for more than 180 years. Situated on Short Hill Mountain high above the Town, the spring was named for the legendary free African American known as Hill Tom who owned the spring and shared it with the Town. In the early 19th century, the spring was connected to the Town using hollowed logs. In 1858, the Hillsboro Water Company was formed, and the logs were replaced with iron pipe, serving public pumps along Hillsboro’s main street, Charles Town Pike. It became an

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Remembering Thomas R. Sanftner

Thomas R. Sanftner passed away at his home in Round Hill, on July 17, 2020, at the age of 80.

He was born in 1940 in Swea City, Iowa, the son of the late John A. and Florence R. Sanftner. In 1964, he earned his Law Degree from the University of Iowa. That same year, he joined the U.S. Navy and served as a Naval officer for 25 years. In 1970, during his Naval career, he obtained his Masters Degree in tax law from George Washington University. He retired from the Navy in 1995 as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Sanftner enjoyed a long retirement, spending his days doting on pets and caring for outdoor critters and wildlife that surrounded his home. He was a Purple Martin landlord for over a decade, and a member of the Purple Martin Conservation Association. In recent years, he became involved in the preservation of the Monarch butterfly, both breeding and releasing numerous generations. He was also a member of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy.




He loved to read, talk politics and discuss current events. He was a thoughtful, caring soul, and was always mindful and considerate of the needs of others. He sought to lift up those around him and he had a way of making people feel appreciated and accepted. He was always able to bring a smile or a chuckle with his sense of humor and witty comments. Spending time with family made him especially happy.

He was preceded in death by his older brother, John E. Sanftner, of San Anselmo, California.

He is survived by his wife of almost 30 years, Joanne; three daughters, Stephanie Whiteside (William) of Alexandria, Virginia, Jennifer McGraw (Robert), of Slippery

Rock, Pennsylvania, and Erin Locke (Johnny) of Manassas, Virginia; five grandchildren, Matthew and Sarah Whiteside, and Danielle, Rianne, and Morgan Locke. He will be sadly missed by relatives, friends and neighbors.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date at Cool Spring Cemetery, Berryville, VA.



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Purcellville Business Interruption Grants available soon

The Town of Purcellville will have Business Interruption Grant applications available soon.

The Purcellville Town Council recognizes the significant economic hardship Town businesses are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the \$891,932 Federal CARES Act funding received by the Town, over \$600,000 has been allocated by the Town Council for the establishment of grant programs to provide support for business interruption and to support local non-profits.

Business Interruption Grants will be the first program rolled out by the Town. The support to local non-profit grant program will be introduced in early September.

To be eligible for a Business Interruption Grant, businesses must meet the following criteria:

- For-profit business, operating from a physical location within the Town of Purcellville before March 1, 2020
- Must be current on all Town taxes, licenses, and permits as of the

grant submission date

- Have a maximum of 50 hourly or salaried employees
- Must be able to demonstrate a minimum of 25 percent business interruption or loss in revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Less than \$2.5 million in annual gross receipts, for the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years
- Home based businesses are eligible to apply

The grant program and webpage are under construction. We recommend interested businesses use this time to begin compiling information to demonstrate business interruption or loss in revenue, as a result of COVID-19. The application and additional information, to include grant terms and conditions, will be available on the Town website, once published.

The Town remains dedicated to providing relief and support to the local business community and the Town is committed to executing the Business Interruption Grants in the most expedient manner possible. More details to come.

Two Inova Loudoun Nurses selected as 2020 Star Nurses finalists

Two Loudoun Inova registered nurses, among the tens of thousands in the Washington metro area, have been named 2020 Star Nurses finalists. Erin Brand and Pamela Kravatz are among 91 nurses at area hospitals named as finalists in the new program co-sponsored by the American Nurses Association and the Washington Post.



Erin Brand



Pamela Kravatz

COMMUNITY

The program honors nurses who were nominated by patients and peers as among the best in the Washington region.

The Star Nurses program was established to recognize nurses from Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of their patients, their community, and their organization. More than 600 nurses were nominated. The six winners will be announced on Sept. 1, at the first-

er "Nightingale Award" event.

"These nursing professionals work on the front lines of healthcare, and represent the epitome of skill, professionalism, and compassion. And they are experts in the field," said Maureen Sintich, Chief Nurse Executive of Inova hospitals. "I am proud beyond description of these amazing professionals, and often think about that special characteristic that separates great nurses from the best nurses. Inova is proud to have so many of the best." Sixteen nurses at other area Inova hospitals were also named finalists.



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Blue Ridge Wildlife releases sibling Bald Eagles

On July 24, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center released two juvenile Bald Eagles after a successful recovery at the center. Admitted to the center in May by the Department of Wildlife Resources,



Photo: Blue Ridge Wildlife Center

COMMUNITY

the sibling Bald Eagles had fallen from their nest and could not be returned. After several months at the center, they were released at Widewater State Park in Stafford, VA. where they were found.

For more information about Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, visit www.blueridgewildlifectr.org.

A Changing of the guard

July 18 was a sunny day in Leesburg when Mayor Kelly Burk joined five sculptors in Raflo Park to unveil their works on the Arts PARKS sculpture trail.

Two days later, in the wee hours, the Daughters of the Confederacy, coordinating with Loudoun County, removed



CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 »

CHAPMAN INTERVIEW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sibilities are not directly interwoven with other elements of the criminal justice system.

While a chief is appointed, Loudoun's sheriff is elected by and directly answerable to the citizens. This community involvement provides transparency and ensures that law enforcement matters are handled by professionals, and are not improperly influenced by the motivations or political agendas of other elected officials. Additionally, citizens have the option to choose their chief law enforcement officer every four years.

The sheriff is also accountable to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), the County Attorney, and County Human Resources.

Authorized Full-Time Personnel:
773 (632 Sworn/141 Civilian)

Annual Budget:
FY21 \$105,951,052

Service Area:
520 Square Miles

Divisions:
Administrative/Technical Services
Corrections
Court Services
Criminal Investigations
Field Operations
Operational Support

Every year, a sheriff must present a budget to justify department needs for personnel and equipment, and to answer Board questions in an open, public forum concerning its actions, performance, procedures, and policies. Quarterly, the Sheriff's Office provides a significant activity report. Loudoun's sheriff also coordinates all serious disciplinary matters and resolutions with the County Attorney's and Human Resource Offices to ensure fair and consistent discipline for police misconduct.

A police chief, conversely, would be appointed by the County's BOS, a county administrator/executive, or a combination of both, and would be answerable directly to those who appointed him or her, not to the public at large.

BRL: Which is more political – a department run by a sheriff or one run by a police chief?

Chapman: The Loudoun County Sheriff is a Constitutional Officer elected by Loudoun's citizens – he or she is not appointed by the Board of Supervisors or a County Administrator. This provides voters with ownership of the selection process allowing them to personally evaluate, vet, and choose who they want to serve as their chief law enforcement officer. While this process is political, it promotes direct, unfiltered contact between the Loudoun's sheriff and his or her citizens – and removes the middleman. It ensures that the sheriff answers to all 413,000 members of the public, not a select interest group that may have a

political agenda or some other motivation. It also holds the sheriff directly accountable to the public for any questionable actions the sheriff's office may perform.

What is being proposed by some members of the BOS is to change the current system, remove enforcement authority from a sheriff's office, and transfer that authority to a chief of a yet to be established police department. While the chief would answer to the County Administrator, the Chair of the Board – an elected official to whom the Administrator answers – would heavily influence or direct the actions of a police chief. This would make the chief's position more (not less) political, partisan to the leanings of the BOS, and not answerable to the public at large.

Further, the formation of an entirely new, unnecessary organization would cost at least \$20 million to start. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) has been nationally recognized for Crisis Intervention Training, School Resource and DARE Programs, has helped produce the lowest crime rate in the Northern Virginia area, and has been designated a "Model Agency" in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Consequently, the only motivation that can be derived by the BOS's proposed action would be for the BOS to control the decisions, policies, and actions of a police chief – usurping the public's direct involvement in the process. It would decimate a highly successful and well-run organization, provide no measurable improvement, and would likely increase Loudoun's citizens' taxes.

BRL: With Loudoun's growth, is there a tangible benefit to a police department over a sheriff's office?

Chapman: Several members of the Board of Supervisors have cited Loudoun's growth and the fact that neighboring jurisdictions have police departments as their reasons for changing our form of government in Loudoun County.

First, it should be noted that there are 25 sheriff's offices nationwide larger than the LCSO. Consequently, the population of a county should not be a factor when considering creating a police department. Further, the growth of the Sheriff's Office has been commensurate with the County's population. Its performance and professionalism have improved over time, and the LCSO has far fewer "use of force" incidents than its surrounding "police" jurisdictions.

It is also worth noting that personnel from 17 law enforcement agencies in our region, including Loudoun's Sheriff's deputies, attend training at the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy (NVCJTA) located in Ashburn. NVCJTA includes agencies such as the Arlington

County and Alexandria Police Departments. If the BOS were to establish a police department in Loudoun, those officers would receive exactly the same training as they do now. Our training, both basic and in-service, meets or exceeds nationally recognized best practices.

These and many other areas were examined during a similar discussion of establishing a police department in 2012, when the Board of Supervisors established a Government Reform Commission (GRC) to review the implications of transitioning from a sheriff's office. The commission unanimously recommended against creating a county-wide police department in Loudoun County, stating the GRC "strongly recommends that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors maintain the current structure of a Sheriff's Office without adding a Police Department." The commission's 2012 findings and an internal study conducted by the LCSO in 2020 found no reason to create a police department in Loudoun County. Studies have shown that the conversion process would be complex, extremely disruptive, and costly to County residents.

BRL: To make such a change, how much would this cost our citizens?

Chapman: Several members of the Board of Supervisors have indicated the costs of creating a police department would be limited to changing the uniforms and the markings on our vehicles. This is completely inaccurate and was an obvious attempt by BOS members to mask the actual cost, disruption, and impact that the creation of a police department would have. Creating an entirely new agency, conservatively, would cost of over \$20 million to staff personnel, office space, and equipment. Other complicating factors include pay, benefits, job classifications, position assignments, and computer systems and access. Loudoun County would also see reductions in state funding, a reduction in Virginia State Police assistance, an increase in liability insurance, and no limit as to what a County police department could be sued for. The limit for sheriff's offices in Virginia is \$1.5 million.

Finally, the BOS has already announced that the County anticipates a \$100 million budget deficit in this fiscal year alone, mostly because of COVID 19. Loudoun has many other critical priorities right now; and pushing for a politicized police department should not be one of them.

BRL: There has been talk about a citizen review committee. What is your stance on that?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 »



We Back Blue rally in support of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office at the Loudoun County Government Center July 21, before the Board of Supervisor's meeting.

Board majority moves to study replacing Sheriff's Office with County Police Department

BY VALERIE CURY

Despite what appears to be overwhelming opposition from constituents, a majority of the Board of Supervisors has voted to fund a study on the merits of replacing the County Sheriff's Office with a police department headed by an appointed chief.

On July 11, Supervisor, Mike R. Turner (D-Ashburn), sent out a press release announcing he would introduce a motion at the July 21 Board of Supervisors business meeting asking the Board to petition the Circuit Court to place a referendum on the Nov. 3, 2020 ballot allowing citizens to decide if they wanted to change Loudoun County's form of government and implement a County Police Department.

At the July 21 Board meeting, Turner apologized for his "knee jerk" decision, and the Board passed his substitute motion to do a study of changing the Loudoun County form of government and look into creating a County Police Department. The motion was seconded by Matt F. Letourneau (R-Dulles). The motion passed 6-3, with Tony R. Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), Caleb A. Kershner (R-Catoctin), and Kristen C. Umstadd (D-Leesburg) voting no.

Initially, the single motion consisted of two parts: first the study and then the motion at the second BOS Business Meeting in July 2021 calling for a vote to petition the Circuit Court for a referendum for the County to create a Loudoun County Police Department to be placed on the ballot in the November 2021 general election. Letourneau asked to split the motion into two separate motions. The second motion was withdrawn due to lack of a majority. Said Buffington, "The motion says we are going to decide now before the study is even done to go ahead with it ... This is a power grab."

Tim Hemstreet, County Administrator of Loudoun County, said he did not know the cost to hire a consultant to do a study on creating a County Police department. Leo Rogers, the Loudoun County Attorney, said from a legal and administrative standpoint, it would take time to create a police department.

The motion on whether or not to do a study generat-

ed passionate discussion. Kershner said, "We received a lot of emails ... emails supporting change of the police department [amounted] to six percent of the emails I received." He said the emails he received supporting a study of a police department amounted to about 14 percent. Then he held up a large stack with over 500 emails he received from residents that wanted to keep the sheriff's office as is.

"Now I would say the people have spoken on this particular matter. This is not about one man ... it's really about a question about whether we want bureaucracy or democracy to make decisions on our law enforcement.



Supervisor Caleb A. Kershner (R-Catoctin) holding up a stack of emails in support of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office.

Kershner said that he was more qualified than "anyone in this room to speak on this subject." He said he has represented over 1,000 officers, police departments, and sheriff's departments. "I have seen it all. I know how these departments work ... I have seen problem after problem after problem [with police departments] ... [more] than what I have seen in the sheriff's departments ..."

Kershner reminded the Board that six months ago they signed a proclamation designating constitutional officer's week. He said the constitutional officers in Loudoun are setting new standards of service to residents, innovative service delivery, and responsiveness - "and yet tonight what are we doing? We are voting

on a motion that completely changes the form of government we have in Loudoun County ... a change that would end the right of the people of Loudoun County to elect the person who would lead their law enforcement and protect us. Did our declaration six months ago mean nothing?"

Continued Kershner, "This motion is about who controls the reins of power ... When it comes to the sheriff's office, who do we trust more to keep us safe and secure?" He asked, "Do we consent to be governed by unelected bureaucrats who are appointed by the County Administrator, as great as he is, or the Board of Supervisors? Or do we consent to be governed by those we elect who are directly accountable to the people ...?"

Supervisor Sylvia R. Glass (D-Broad Run) said it is time "to look at alternative forms. In the end, it is going to be up to the citizens of Loudoun County whether or not we create a police department." Glass noted that the County has grown from 170,000 in 1997 to approximately 420,000.

Juli E. Briskman (D-Algonkian) said that the County staff will get accurate information for the people.

"I am not in support of the motion," said Buffington. "Since this issue came up, my staff counted today, 555 emails, and 549 do not support moving to this police department form of law enforcement in Loudoun County." He said most wanted to keep the sheriff's office with full law enforcement duties.

Umstadd said she appreciated Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large) and Turner "slowing this down a bit and going to a study phase." But she said she "was not supporting this at this time of massive governmental instability, social instability. We need to be stable in Loudoun County. This is not an action that will increase stability; it is going to decrease stability. This is the wrong time to be moving in this direction. When I look at our great financial needs, we've cut our school budget by \$60 million." She noted that the County budget was cut by \$40 million.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 »



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51st annual Bluemont Fair selling quarantine t-shirts

Organizers of the 51st Annual Bluemont Fair previously scheduled for the third weekend in September have decided to commemorate their now-cancelled event by producing a limited-edition t-shirt to memorialize this extraordinary year.

The winning poster art was submitted by 14-year-old Loudoun student, Emma Fajans, and the design is a wreath featuring many of the region's pollinators and their flowers.

COMMUNITY

The t-shirt reads, "I would rather be at the Bluemont Fair ... Quarantine 2020," and is available in male and female styles in three attractive colors.

Shirts can be purchased through pre-ordering, only, at \$20 each plus optional shipping. The sale ends August 15.

Proceeds from the sale, like all Bluemont Fair proceeds, will go toward paying for the village's streetlights,

scholarships for graduating high school students pursuing higher education, preservation and village beautification, and aid for neighbors in need. For more information and to order a t-shirt go to: <http://www.bluemontfair.org/announce/quarantine-2020-non-fair-commemorative-t-shirts/>.



REAL ESTATE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

seating, and 42-inch-tall cherry cabinets.

Just off the kitchen is the 42- by 28-foot tiered deck with an awning and multiple spots for dining, grilling, and relaxing. Step back inside and just off the kitchen is the open family room with fireplace, as well as a sunroom with spectacular views, home office, and half bath. A sizable laundry room features cabinets, counters, and a sink.

Upstairs you'll find four bedrooms and three full baths. A true haven, the master suite is comprised of a seating area, bedroom with fireplace, spa-like bath, and an unexpected and delightful master balcony.


What more could you ask for? Try a lower-level suite with its own walk-out entrance, kitchen and bath, bedroom that can double as a second office, and recreation area. Also on this level, is a large storage area as well as a space for a work-out or work room. Let us not forget the spacious side-load garage.

If riding is your passion, you and your horses have found your ideal home. The 48- by 36-foot red barn has four 12- by 12-foot stalls, a center aisle for grooming up to two horses at a time, water and electric service, extra wash area, and a tack/feed room. Above is a 48- by 12-foot hayloft.

The additional 50- by 30-foot red equipment building has a 50- by 10-foot roof awning, which could be converted to stalls; the building interior is a great space for additional hay/lawn vehicle storage. Horse lovers also will appreciate the RAMM paddock fencing, which is one of the best and safest systems available. Inside one of the paddocks is a 24- by 12-foot Amish built run-in shed for quick shelter from an afternoon rain or snow shower.

From this stunning property, it's only 15 minutes to Purcellville or Leesburg, 20 minutes to the Greenway toll road, 35 minutes to Dulles Airport, and 60 minutes to downtown Washington, D.C.


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2020: The Year of the Un-Fairs

State of Virginia Fair Follows Loudoun by Putting Safety First



Yes, Flossie, you heard it right: Just like the Loudoun County Fair, the Virginia State Fair has been canceled because of Covid-19.

The Farm Bureau team tried to make it work, but the State Fair of Virginia—scheduled for Sept. 24 to Oct. 3 in Doswell, Virginia—is not going to happen (with a few exceptions).

There were a million different scenarios that the organizers considered: social distancing at the carnival, waiting for restroom sanitizations regularly, standing in line for food or merchandise, wearing face masks in hot weather, limiting crowd sizes at concerts, one-way

aisles, and making hand sanitizer with the proper alcohol content available.

The good news is that a modified 4-H Livestock show will go on, as well as the scholarship program. Check the website at statefairva.org/ for further details.

The Loudoun County Fair has already had their livestock auction, and they have awarded their scholarship. A shout out to Craig Damewood for his auction talent and his tech savvy.

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Ballparks closed, but peanuts still score

Skip the Cracker Jacks, and pass the peanut butter. We're eating sandwiches and watching baseball at home this year – according to the Virginia Farm Bureau.

In-shell peanuts are integral to the American ballpark tradition. Major and minor league fans typically consume up to 7 million bags of peanuts annually. Though COVID-19 restrictions will keep fans away from the abbreviated 2020 baseball season, this year's supply of peanuts will still hit a grand slam with other products – especially peanut butter.

"The ballfields are a big part of in-shell processors' business, and something they count on every year," said Dell Cotton, executive director of the Virginia Peanut Growers Association. "They have to make adjustments considering the circumstances, and sell supplies elsewhere."

Cotton said most in-shell peanuts sold at ballgames are grown in Virginia and North Carolina. The country's leading in-shell processor, Hampton Farms, is

just across the state line in Severn, N.C.

The processors also sell peanut butter, "which is going through the roof," Cotton said, suggesting that stay-home orders and an unsteady economy have consumers buying a lot more of the inexpensive, shelf-stable product. "Those things seem to put a spur in peanut butter. It's been hard for some manufacturers to keep supplies."

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, commercial processors experienced a 75 percent higher demand for peanut butter in March, when coronavirus concerns initially surfaced.

Farmers' income won't be affected by the market fluctuation, Cotton said, as the peanuts were contracted to be sold before planting.

He noted this season's peanut supply is high-quality. "When you have to find other ways to use the product, it helps when you have a great product to start with," he said.

He added that in-shell peanuts are available in the produce section of local grocery stores for those craving that ballpark-style crunch.

COMMUNITY

up to 7 million bags of peanuts annually.

Though COVID-19 restrictions will keep fans away from the abbreviated 2020 baseball season, this year's supply of peanuts will still hit a grand slam with other products – especially peanut butter.

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PURCELLVILLE POLICE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

encouraging that the Town Council was willing to listen to the members of our task force; and that they voted unanimously to start the process to create the committee. I really enjoy working with other community members of varied backgrounds, to create a way for the town to be proactive in ensuring its policing is as community-driven as possible", said Magoffin.

The task force is recommending that the committee's duties include holding regular meetings to solicit public input regarding law enforcement services and programs, and will report directly to the Town Council. The task force also recommends that the committee be made up of nine members, who may research and review matters brought to the committee's attention, during the course of public meetings.

The task force has emphasized that CPAC should be primarily advisory in nature, and should not have access to information of a confidential or personal nature. All members should be town residents, and the council should make appointments on the basis of inclusiveness and diversity, according to the task force document Ogelman and Magoffin presented to the Town Council. The task force also recommends that a non-voting council liaison should be a member of the committee.

The committee's mission, according to the document, should be to enhance open communication and trust among

the Town's residents, businesses, and visitors, and the police department; to identify public safety issues, communicate those issues to the council, and to craft solutions to community safety concerns in collaboration with community leaders, organizations, and all of its residents. It recommends the committee should hold regular meetings to solicit public input regarding law enforcement services and programs. Based on best practices, the task force also recommends that current Town police officers should not be members of the advisory committee.

The task force further recommends that the Town Council periodically review the committee's function and activities, to determine whether it is fulfilling its original purpose. The resolution, that the Purcellville Town Council unanimously adopted, states: "The purpose of the Community Policing Advisory Committee shall be to: (a) advise the Town Council on matters related to police-community relations, police training, and police protocols; (b) improve public trust of police by increasing communication and transparency; (c) raise awareness about injustices in policing in Purcellville; (d) promote public education on policing matters; and (e) promote the fair and equal treatment of all citizens by the police."

The Town of Purcellville will hold a public hearing on the Community Policing Advisory Committee ordinance Sept. 8.

CHAPMAN INTERVIEW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Chapman: As your elected Sheriff, I ensure that we answer all questions and concerns from our residents. We meet with all community groups, host quarterly station meetings, hold two Citizen Police Academies each year, and provide updates and resources through our social media platforms to keep our citizens informed.

I answer directly to 413,000 residents here in Loudoun County, and am not opposed to taking advice and

listening to the concerns of any citizen group or individual within the County. All citizens of Loudoun have access to all publicly releasable Sheriff's Office information and have a voice in the way we serve. Loudoun's citizens serve as our review board. Daily, we address citizen concerns and complaints and receive compliments regarding our employees' professionalism and service. Our compliments, over the past several years, have consistently outweighed our complaints by a ratio of 4:1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

another sculpture—"Silent Sentinel." The Confederate soldier, who has been manning the post in front of the Loudoun County Courthouse for 112 years, had been removed by the Daughters of the Confederacy in coordination with Loudoun County. The move was possible only after the July 1 repeal of a Virginia law. As the primary funders of the sculpture early in the 20th century, the Daughters of the Confederacy claimed ownership and stepped in to remove and store it.

Meanwhile, settling in at Raflo Park were the five sculptures by local artists. They include: "Low-Poly Open Heart (R.I.D.E.)" by m.l. duffy, sponsored by Larkin Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors; "Unbroken Circle #4" by Sally Myers, sponsored by Rotary Club of Leesburg; "Kintsugi Heart" by Kim Pourciau Kim, sponsored by FOLPA; "Sun Flower" by Alyssa Imes, sponsored COPA, and "Welcome, the Iconic Hand" by Brian Kirk, sponsored by Keane Enterprises.

All five seem right at home in the 21st century.

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

“We have growing needs as unemployment hovers around ten percent in this County ...To put any funds into a study that I think does not need to be done now, I think is the wrong use of taxpayer dollars,” she said.

“If you look at the Chief of Police in Seattle ... she was ordered to abandon the east precinct station ... she had to pull all her officers out ... This decision was imposed on her by elected officials on the city council ...crime increased tenfold ... Politics can infect police departments.”

Letourneau said he needed time to engage the public ... “Let’s get the facts; the county administrator will do a good job.

Vice Chair Koran T. Saines (D-Sterling) said it was time to review “our government and our structure and how we do our law enforcement in our county.” He said the vote would go to the citizens.

Randall said that the Board has had discussions about the Police

Department for a long time. “I believe in collective bargaining, compensation, benefits, and retirement. I want our law enforcement to be able to be in the room where it happens ... law enforcement needs a voice in their careers.”

Turner said the issue of law enforcement has been percolating in the County for at least 12 years. He said he is doing this because of what has been happening in law enforcement for the past three months. “I feel it’s an important discussion to have within the national landscape.”

“I want to remind everyone who is voting yes on this tonight,” cautioned Kershner: “We stood together in a press conference the day after the election [last November] and [you] made an announcement: ‘We are going to look at getting rid of the Sheriff’s Office’ ...So it’s clearly political. You don’t do that the day after an election, and don’t suggest to me that, hey, it’s only been the last three months that we’ve decided to look at this because of what’s happening throughout the nation ... police departments are having police free zones.”

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MIDDLEBURG, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Should Middleburg decide not to approve the subdivision plan, the Town should expect a lawsuit, said Hertneky's land-use attorney Nicolas V. Albu, partner of Reed Smith.

Stephen C. Price, principal of McCandlish Lillard, representing Smithwick Farm LLC, pointed out omissions on the plat. "Because a portion of this project is within the Town subdivision ordinance area, the preliminary plat should show all facts relevant to this," he said. Thirty of the proposed Banbury Cross Reserve cluster lots are located within the one mile subdivision ordinance area. He said the plat does not meet two of the 26 preliminary plat subdivision requirements. Price reminded the Commissioners that the purpose of the Town's subdivision ordinance is to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare.

In a letter to the Middleburg Planning Commission dated July 27, Price noted that the preliminary plat does not show a "preliminary layout of provisions for collecting and discharging surface drainage." It also does not include "whether it will have an adverse impact on Wancopin Creek's ability to handle the Town's wastewater discharge." The creek is just to the west of the proposed subdivision.

Price also pointed out, "The Plat fails to locate approved wells for all lots within Middleburg's Subdivision Control Area for the simple reason that the applicant does not have approved wells for all these lots." There are 21 lots that do not have approved wells, and "The Town's subdivision ordinance requires that approved wells be located for each proposed lot on Preliminary Subdivision Plats."

Price's client, Smithwick Farm LLC, is the owner of Sunny Bank Farm, directly across Sam Fred Road from Middleburg Land 1. Originally a Quaker farm, Sunny Bank has remained in the Smithwick family since 1779.

In 2005, Smithwick put 1,076 of its 1,650 acres into easement, making the cattle and horse farm one of the largest conserved tracts in Virginia.

Middleburg Mayor Bridge Littleton also expressed concerns about land use. "I am very concerned about where this development is going," he said. "We are worried about water and the impact on this area as the gateway to Middleburg. But there is a bigger problem here—that this land would be taken out of agricul-

ture, and put into uses not originally intended."

Save Rural Loudoun's John Lovogrove, who is also a member of the Loudoun County Facilities Standards Manual committee, was more specific. "This development alone will remove 2.5 percent of the remaining prime agricultural land in Loudoun. It's Type 1 soil. This developer has chosen to cluster on the best soil in Loudoun County. The soil makes it easy to develop, no rocks." It's worth noting, he added, that the Board of Supervisors has chosen to make cluster development the highest priority in the zoning rewrite.

Nate Chambers, a resident of Zulla



Citizens waiting to speak in person.

Road and a real estate developer himself, emphasized how the cluster development is failing us as a county, how it will destroy western Loudoun as we know it. "As a developer, I can tell you that every time I go for an approval, I'm asked if there is a precedent. I can tell you that in the future, every time a developer goes for approval of a cluster, they'll use this one as precedent."

Uses of the 10 rural economy lots also raised questions. According to the County's Facilities Standards Manual, "the Cluster Subdivision Option allows for the subdivision of a tract of land with a more compact residential design," plus in this case, 10 large lots suitable for rural economy uses. Communal water and sewer systems may be used for such developments." In this case, the 10 rural economy lots can be used for some commercial uses in this residential area.

"Once this plat is recorded as a subdivision," one of the speakers noted, "you can put in almost anything." Among the approved operations, some with special exceptions, are a farm machinery establishment, a sawmill, telecommunications antenna and monopole, kennel, airport landing strip, event facility, conference center, and many more. The 10 large lots range in size from 25.25 acres to 69.48. Contiguous, they total 414.37 acres with access to both Sam Fred Road and Carters Farm Lane.

Other concerns centered on water,

safety, and historic aspects of the property, such as slave building and burial plots.

"An adequate water supply is the greatest human need," said Evan McCarthy of Round Hill, speaking on behalf of the Piedmont Environmental Council. David Blanchard, a resident of Carters Farm Lane near the Banbury Cross property, and Jim Nichols, who lives on Sam Fred Road, both raised concerns about safety, citing the dangerous intersection of U.S. Rt. 50 and Sam Fred Road.

Jennifer Moore, president of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, pointed out that the developer has not adequately addressed historic battlefield areas, including the Battle of Middleburg and a historic church on the property, which is eligible for inclusion on National Register of Historic Places.

John DeNegre, who lives within a quarter mile of Banbury Cross on Sam Fred Road, believes the development will devastate the community. He added, "No one comes to Middleburg to see Fairfax. This looks like the perfect storm." Addressing Town staff, he said, "Please carefully assess water demands ... Banbury Cross looks like a very clear vote of 'no' for Middleburg."

Two residents of Carters Farm Lane, Breanna Gunnell, who is married to one of the heirs of the property and Audrey Wilde, expressed their support for the development. Gunnell is in favor of more housing options and contends those opposed are making up issues to block the project.

Hertneky's attorney Albu emphasized one point: "By right. By right. By right. This is a preliminary subdivision plat for a by-right development. By all relevant law, this plat satisfies the requirements."

To further complicate matters, on the date of the meeting, a lawsuit was filed by a member of the Gunnell Family Dynasty Trust, which, it appears, has ownership in this property. The lawsuit is asking for, "equitable relief for the benefit of all Trust beneficiaries, to include a prohibition on further transfer or encumbrance of the real property in which the plaintiff claims an interest by virtue of her status as a Trust beneficiary."

The Town of Middleburg Planning Commission takes up the Banbury Cross Reserve development application again on Aug. 10.

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

up here in the north, we don't."

"You said that before. No improvement?"

"Nope. The Preservation Coalition is moribund. All it does is share information, from butterflies and history to trails and parks. On land use, which is the most important issue of all, it's on record as saying it will not take any advocacy position. Moronic! The PEC is similar - butterflies and streams, good information on current zoning applications and a letter or two, but that's it. No power. Save Rural Loudoun is by far the best of the groups, but it's small. I get depressed."

"I feel the same way, to be honest," said Robert. "So, what are you going to do?"

Three Weeks Later

"I've got a quote for you, Robert. 'A thousand lions led by a sheep will always lose. A thousand sheep led by a lion will always win.' That's Alexander the Great."

Robert smiled at that, "I bet you have some news."

"Yep," Byne grinned. "I've gotten to know a Supervisor since she began her campaign. Good person. Last week she told me that her duties were eating way too much into her time at her medical practice, not to mention her family time. She's not disillusioned, just tuckered out, so she won't run for reelection."

"She must really trust you to tell you that."

"There's more," Byne said. "She told me that she had talked to some of the other Supervisors and they've agreed to support a specific person as a consensus candidate in the next Supervisor's election." She had a Cheshire cat's grin.

"Uh-oh."

"Yep, Robert, their consensus candidate is me. I'm going to run for Supervisor."

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

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**LOUDOUN'S BLACK HISTORY**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Leesburg—William Robey and Caroline (aka Carolyn) Thomas, who taught young Edwin Washington. The third was Waterford's Sarah Steer. Thomas, who was born in Philadelphia, spent a year in Leesburg, then moved to Lincoln.

In this period, Lincoln also gained Isabella Skillman, who was graduated from one of the earliest women's colleges in the country, New York's prestigious Rutgers Female Institute. Wanting to make a difference with her degree, she left Manhattan for rural Lincoln.

Jim Crow Arrives

With the 1868 signing of the 14th Amendment that established civil rights for all U.S. citizens, including "due process" and "equal protection" under the law, the future looked promising. But in 1872 the Freedmen's Bureau folded its tent in the South, and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the states, not the federal government, had the power

to enforce civil rights guaranteed under the 14th Amendment. Next, the second Civil Rights Act prohibited discrimination in public places, transport, and jury selection—but not in schools. The Supreme Court also limited the federal government's ability to stop mob violence against Blacks in the South.

As of 1877, just 12 years after the end of the war, all federal troops had been withdrawn from Virginia. It was the end of Reconstruction, and the beginning of ever-increasing limitations on the rights of African Americans.

In 1883, after a mass meeting of African Americans protesting lack of rights, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the main provisions of the 1875 Civil Rights Act. In 1896, in Plessy v. Ferguson, the Court legitimized the "separate but equal" doctrine. Finally, in 1902, Virginia passed a new constitution that restricted voting rights, while adding the requirement for segregated schools in state law.

But the Black community in Loudoun continued

to make vigorous efforts toward equality. They established the Emancipation Association, the Willing Workers' Club "to assist in providing proper educational facilities for the colored children of Purcellville," and in 1933 the County-Wide League of families to press for better schools. In 1940 the community formed the Loudoun Branch of the NAACP. The following year Loudoun County opened the Frederick Douglass High School for African Americans.

Not until 1954, when the U. S. Supreme Court declared segregated schools unconstitutional, did educational equality seem achievable. But the "victory" was short-lived. With Sen. Robert Byrd, Sr.'s "massive resistance" to integration, Virginia schools would stay segregated until 1968.

In September, for teachers and parents who are educating middle and high school students with in-school and remote learning, we'll share Virginia's "Essential Understandings" of Black history, and talk about Emancipation Day in western Loudoun.

LAFIANDRA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

centers will break down boxes and only place listed items in the containers...

"General Services recognizes that there is abuse at some of these centers from time to time and the department is experimenting with video surveillance at problematic sites ... The county is in the process of implementing video surveillance at the Sterling Park center; however, we have not yet established a system to monitor the Central Western Loudoun Recycling Center.

"As Mr. Troxell pointed out to you in section 1086.05 of the code, General Services has the authority under the code to enforce compliance with the code. I'll also point out another relevant code, section 1086.11:

"... It shall be unlawful for any person to litter or deposit solid waste at any recycling drop off center. No person shall deposit any waste or material in any recycling container that is not specifically

marked to accept such waste or material. No person shall cause the discharge or spilling of recyclable material from any container nor place recyclable material outside the designated container ...

"If an individual is identified as violating the code, General Services would work closely with the Sheriff's Office as appropriate to gain compliance through the use of criminal and civil penalties allowed in the code. Typically, the county would first work to gain voluntary compliance whenever violators can be identified and contacted ..."

When contacted, Kraig Troxell, Director, Media Relations and Communications for the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, said there were "no calls for service to the Western Loudoun Recycling Center ... in the past year." He also indicated there were no summons "for violations of local ordinances issued for this location."

Troxell indicated that the enforcement of regulations is under the author-

ity of the Director of Solid Waste Management.

So there you have it, the reasons why the recycling center is jammed up, no surveillance and no enforcement; so anything goes. The County does say it will work closely with the Sheriff's Office if an individual is identified as violating the code.

So what does that mean? Since there are no normal patrols or video surveillance of the recycling center, you as a citizen must spot a violation of the rules and call the Sheriff's Office to report the violator. I assume you should use the non-emergency number.

So what's wrong with that? Well, two things: for one, by the time the police respond to a non-emergency, the violator may be long gone; secondly, there is some risk of a confrontation.

It seems to me that the best thing the County could do to solve the problem is to install motion-detection activated

video surveillance. The video recording can then be downloaded to a central location daily and analyzed for violations. The system would pay for itself in no time and deter offenders.

Another thing that can be done is to have sheriff deputies make a pass through the recycling area when they fill up their cruisers nearby. That doesn't take them out of their way, and would be a deterrent to violators.

Finally, you sometimes wonder what people are thinking when they try to stuff large boxes in a crowded recycling container. Don't they realize that if someone else did the same thing before they got there, they wouldn't be able put their boxes in the container? I guess all they care about is getting rid of their garbage. Well, that's what law enforcement is for.

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

GROUNDBREAKING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Large), Supervisor Tony R. Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), and members of the Round Hill Town Council were on hand for the ceremonial breaking of ground, kicking off a construction project that will bring increased pedestrian connectivity and safety improvements to parts of western Loudoun.

The project will construct sidewalks and a shared-use path that will link the center of Round Hill to Franklin Park, and concrete sidewalks along both sides of Main Street from Loudoun Street to the location of the former W&OD railroad station. Additional Main Street enhancements include curbs, curb ramps, retaining walls and a new storm drainage system. When the project is completed, pedestrian connectivity between Round Hill and Franklin Park will be established, and pedestrian access and safety along East Loudoun Street and Main Street will be improved.

Construction is expected to be completed in spring 2022. The budget for this project is \$7.04 million. More information, including a link to sign up for updates on the project, can be found at loudoun.gov/roundhilltrail. For information on other Loudoun County transportation and facility projects, visit loudoun.gov/capitalprojects.

READY, SET, LEARN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all classes conducted remotely, the videos on the LCPS website give a good idea of how a hybrid schedule works.

The school district also covered these bases so everyone is ready for full time in class or hybrid:

- Arranging classrooms to support physical distancing
- Developing plans that ensure no more than 10 students would be assigned to a classroom
- Establishing routines for proper face covering use, physical distancing, handwashing, and other preventive measures
- Learning to use touchless thermometers
- Practicing cleaning protocols, and training staff in the use of the Virex cleaning solution
- Installing Plexiglass shields in the reception area of the main office
- Creating signs that describe preventive measures and safety routines for hallway travel, handwashing, bus dismissal, drop-off, and pick-up
- Preparing online information for parents and

- guardians on proper use of face coverings
- Providing an on-site health clinic specialist and a resource nurse for oversight and support
- Conducting N95 mask “fit testing” by the Loudoun County Fire Department for nurses and health clinic specialists

That’s how your neighbors and friends who work for LCPS have spent their “summer vacation.” Meanwhile, you’ve spent yours on a roller coaster ride trying to figure out how to juggle your lives come what may.

Superintendent Eric Williams acknowledged the struggles of uncertainty. While visiting Culbert Elementary one morning to prep students’ meals for delivery by LCPS buses, he said, “Everybody’s serving in multiple roles, and with each of those roles there’s a different set of worries. I’m deeply grateful to everyone for their patience and flexibility.”

He added, “You know, while driving here this morning, I heard the term ‘community care,’ and I thought, wouldn’t that be better than ‘social distancing’? It means following the proper health protocols—all of the things we’re doing to keep each other safe.”

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