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NOVEMBER 2020

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Fate of land at entrance to Purcellville under discussion – Thinking outside the box

BY VALERIE CURY

The Purcellville Town Council held a joint meeting Oct. 6 with Purcellville's Economic Development Advisory Committee to listen to a presentation by Chuck Kuhn of JK Land Holdings, LLC, along with developer Hobie Mitchel. The presentation addressed uses for the 118.81-acre Warner Brook property, located at 17110 Purcellville Road. Kuhn bought the property on July 31, for \$3.25 million.

Kuhn has also purchased property – called Purcellville West – across from the Loudoun Golf and Country Club along Business 7 west of Town.

This parcel is not in the Town limits, and is zoned JLMA-3, one house per



Front to back: Chuck Kuhn and Hobie Mitchel.

three acres. Kuhn and the County are considering putting a western recreation center on 20 acres of that 100-plus-acre

parcel.

An individual named Magic Kayhan purchased part of the Warner Brook property – 12.48 acres – on Aug. 26, 2019, for \$900,000. This property has the original Warner house, along with several old farm structures.

The 118-acre Warner Brook property is in the County, and is zoned JLMA-3, which allows for approximately 42 residential homes.

During the presentation, Kuhn said, "We don't have a set agenda for the property," pointing out that he has 511 acres that border the Town of Purcellville. "Tonight, we would like to talk about approximately 240 of that 511 acres, and we really come to you with



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a little bit of a blank canvas." Kuhn said he didn't want "to push more homes in Loudoun County." Later reiterating, "We don't need more rooftops in western Loudoun; we don't need more rooftops in Loudoun."

Continuing, he said he wanted to do what is in the best interest of the Town of Purcellville and the County. "Of course I am interested in my own interest, but I don't have a driving agenda I am trying

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Sheriff Mike Chapman considering the big leap: from LoCo Sheriff to Governor of Virginia

Michael L. Chapman, the popular, outspoken, and very forward-thinking Sheriff of Loudoun County, is considering a run for the governorship of Virginia in 2021.

The Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today interviewed Sheriff Chapman in late October.

While Chapman had not made a final decision about his possible run, he did not hold back, providing at least one example of how another sheriff, in another state had succeeded in making the leap from chief law enforcement officer to governor. The Loudoun County Sheriff is an offi-

cial "Constitutional Officer."

Power and influence in Loudoun County

Chapman made clear that he is very bullish about law enforcement and its dedication to citizen service and "professionalism."

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This Winter is the Ideal Time to Make the Switch.

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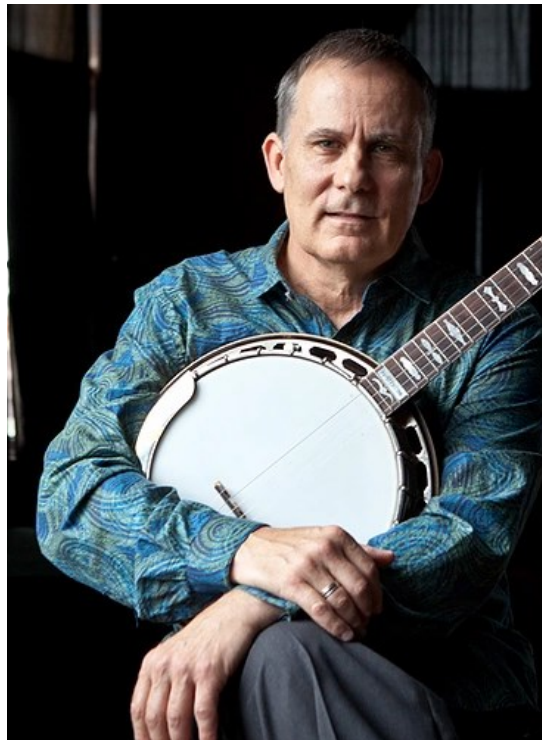
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Franklin Park Arts Center

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John Bullard's Bach, Banjos and The Hero's Journey

Thursday, November 12 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$10 in-person; \$3 Virtual*

John Bullard uses the metaphor of the hero's journey to tell his own story and to introduce a captivating program of classical music on the banjo. In this interactive program John engages the audience and invites them to reflect on their own hero's journey in life and in music. He has gained international attention for his work in developing and transcribing classical repertoire for the five-string banjo.

This performance is partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

*once purchased, the virtual online ticket allows you to watch the performance LIVE via private link.

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Quentin Walston Trio

Saturday, November 7 @ 7:00pm

Tickets: \$20 www.quentinwalston.com/tickets

Quentin Walston is returning to the Franklin Park Arts Center stage with his Trio! The jazz pianist will play alongside drummer Daniel Kelly II and bassist Ben Rikhoff. Quentin is excited to premier new compositions as well as revisit selections from his album, "Play" and Daniel Kelly's recent E.P. "The Gathering".



Sheila Arnold "Invisible Threads"

Sunday, November 15 @ 3:00pm

Tickets: \$5/person

www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Sheila Arnold shares stories on race and life and threads that bind us to family. Sheila says "My parents had race defined in their history, but they determined that race would not define the history their children would have." With this as her thesis statement, Sheila takes us on an exploration of race in her life, her parents and finally in the life of her son. This performance is partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



FRIDA KAHLO:

A Film by EXHIBITION ON SCREEN

Sunday, November 8 @ 3:00pm

Tickets: \$8/person

www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Who was Frida Kahlo? Everyone knows her, but who was the woman behind the bright colors, the big brows, and the floral crowns?

Take a journey through the life of a true icon, discover her art, and uncover the truth behind her often turbulent life. Sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center.



Tanglewood Marionettes: Sleeping Beauty

Wednesday, November 18 @ 10:00am

Tickets: \$5

www.franklinparkartscenter.org

(Ages 2+) A charming tale which appeals especially to younger children, Sleeping Beauty begins in King Felix's great hall where guests

from across the land have gathered to celebrate the birth of Princess Aurora. The party goes awry when the wicked witch arrives and curses the baby princess. Will the curse come true? Will someone with a "true heart" appear?



NEW!

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Bring the Arts to your doorstep! Three months of hand-made, created items from Loudoun artists, artisans and performers. At a curated value of \$250, these exclusive boxes include functional art, music, and tickets to a Franklin Park Arts Center event for a purchase price of \$180 for the 3-month subscription.

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 January- **NEW BEGINNINGS** and February- **LOVE AND JOY**.

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Local student Patrick Donovan's new film is released

Seventeen-year-old Patrick Ethan Donovan of Waterford and a senior at Loudoun School for Advanced Studies, is on Vimeo starring as Huck Finn in the James Franko production of Thomasina Sawyer. The film can be seen at vimeo.com/ondemand/thomasina/462019034.

The film is a modern remake of the classic Mark Twain tale, featuring Shay Rudolph as the principal Thomasina. When Thomasina and Huck Finn witness a murder, they initially swear an oath of secrecy out of fear of reprisal. However, when they see that an innocent black man is about to be convicted, they put their fears aside and stand up to do the right thing, even though the killer is now focusing his ire on them.

No stranger to stage or camera, Donovan has been acting since age six, when he was the fairy Mustardseed in Not Just Shakespeare's production of Midsummer Night's Dream. Donovan received his first professional recognition, when at age nine he was selected as an overall winner at the Barbizon 2012 competition.

After that, he garnered several gigs on Investi-

gation Discovery, where he played both twins on Evil Twin, and has appeared on Bill Maher Live in Washington, D.C.



Forefront: Patrick Donovan as Huck Finn, and Arthur RedCloud as Joe, Huck Finn's dad.

He has performed with Fauquier Community Theatre, Sterling Playmakers, The Castaways Repertory Theatre, and Loudoun Central Theater. Shortly after playing Puck in Midsummer Night's Dream, at the age of 11, he was selected for a best actor award by D.C. Metro Theatre Arts Best of List for 2014.

Los Angeles presented many more opportunities in television and film, so Donovan and his family have logged several years there, seeking more opportunities. Having done a few movies, lots of theater, and several television pilots in Los Angeles, Donovan has come home to focus on his academics and local theater. He still swordfights with Sterling Swordplayers, and is active in community theater, and auditions regularly for professional opportunities.

Donovan is grateful for all the opportunities he has had over the years. "I have lived an entire life and yet have an entire life yet to live," he said. One thing for sure, he is happy to be able to spend more time with his dog Tucker, and the family cats, now that he is back home.

Calling all military vehicle enthusiasts for spring tour

A group of veterans and military vehicle enthusiasts gathered Oct. 24, at the Natural Mercantile in Hamilton for a fall tour. They typically drive Loudoun's dirt roads – roads that are less traveled in the western part of the county. The tours last about four hours, which includes a lunch break half way through the tour. Their lunch stop this tour was in Unison.

Most of the group were from Leesburg except for Mat Curtis, who is from Purcellville, and Lee Phillips who is from Hamilton. Two others were from Arlington, and decided to join in on the fall tour. The vehicles pictured here are from the 1940's and 50's – World War II and Korean War time period.

The group puts together two tours a year – one in the fall, and one in the spring. These tours came about through discussing the idea at the Memorial and Veterans Day events in Leesburg several years ago, where most of the group got to know one another.

If other military vehicle owners would like to join the spring tour, contact Lee Phillips at leehvfd@aol.com.



Pictured and not in order: Lee Phillips, Paul Puff, Jeffrey Phillips, Eric von Schilgen, Larry Tucker, Taimur Kahn, Dave Ostrander, and Mat Curtis.



Hillsboro student gets the cover of Hutch Magazine

Pictured here is 12-year-old Harrison Hayden, doing what he loves to do – draw.

In 2019, Hayden's fourth grade class collaborated on a short story and picture book. His art was picked for the cover of the book. Hutch Magazine published the story in July 2019, and then invited Hayden to submit his own story and art for their next issue.

Hutch recently shifted from a bi-annual to an annual publication. In its 2020 issue, which was just released, Hutch re-published the class story, this time including Harrison's cover art. Additionally, the magazine published his short story, "The



Forest of Dreams," and the accompanying art.

"I've loved any form of drawing ever since I could pick up a crayon. I also like sculpting with clay, using water color, and acrylic paints," said Hayden.

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Fifth Annual Turkey Pardoning – Nov. 7 noon Town Hall Purcellville

Come celebrate the Fifth Annual Turkey Pardoning at the Purcellville Town Hall, 221 S. Nursery Avenue, Purcellville – at noon, Saturday, Nov. 7, Join Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser and the Town Council in pardoning a very lucky turkey named Stoney.

Stoney is originally from Purcellville, and is so thrilled to go

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Kurt Gerner with Stoney (left) at Stonehaven Farm in Purcellville.



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Hope in the midst of loss

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

The holiday season is often a time where we stop to reflect and consider all that we're thankful for. This year, however, might feel different from previous years. Are you feeling grateful this holiday season?



MOORE-SOBEL

It's been a hard year for all of us. No one expected 2020 to unfold the way it has. Its effects are far-reaching, especially for children and young adults. How will they come through this experience? How are they handling the realities of social distancing?

Recent numbers suggest teenagers have been hit especially hard by the restrictions put in place as a result of the pandemic. "The pandemic has affected everyone, but mental health experts warn that youth and teens are suffering disproportionately, and that depression and suicide rates are increasing," according to EcoWatch.

I'll never forget the first time I encountered a teenager struggling with suicidal thoughts. In high school, I was involved in a program called PEER (Positive Experiences in Educational Relationships). One of our responsibilities was mentoring middle school students. Through the program, I was asked to mentor a quiet and thoughtful middle school student. I asked him an array of questions to get to know him better, but to no avail. Until one day, he told me he often thought about taking his own life.

Upon learning this news, I was overwhelmed with sadness, especially at the thought of this young man never having the chance to live his life.

When speaking to groups, I often share about my own suicidal thoughts after suffering second- and third-degree burns to my face and

arms. Trauma has a way of invading the mind. I lacked the life experience to know that my unhappiness would change in time. My grief over what had occurred seemed all-consuming. I couldn't fathom waking up one day and not being in pain.

Eventually, though, the pain did lessen. My desire to live increased, because I realized I had so much to live for, even if it didn't always feel like it. I found a way through my pain and used the experience to inspire others through the recent publication of my book. Yet the happy ending wasn't always assured. It makes my heart break all the more to read about teenagers struggling with mental health during these unprecedented times.

When my mentee told me what was on his mind, I didn't know how to react. I couldn't offer a simple remedy. All I could do was listen and urge him to keep going, even if it felt impossible to carry on. He asked me to keep what he had revealed a secret. The rules of the program dictated that I had to report what he told me. "You did the right thing," my teacher told me after I informed her of what had happened.

The experience helped me see my own struggles from the perspective of my parents. Years later, I asked my mother, "Is that why it hurt? When I thought about suicide?" In response, she said, "We felt like we lost you once because of the accident, why would we want to lose you again?"

2020 has been a year of loss. But my hope, as we end what is being referred to as the "lost year," is that the pandemic's losses will decrease. That those who are struggling will find hope. That those who need help will find resources. One resource that I have been a long-time supporter of is the Ryan Bartel Foundation—a non-profit

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

The psychology of your vote 2020

A person's political beliefs are determined by several factors. How you were raised, your life experiences, your current circumstances, your age, and other things, all contribute to your values and beliefs and the choices you make in life – including how you vote.



DR. MIKE

But what if political issues, or at least how you feel about them, are actually not entirely in your control? What if the vote you cast on Nov. 3 turns out to be influenced more

by your gray matter than by campaign ads, debates, career records, or bus tours? Scientific research over the past several years has revealed some fascinating findings regarding the intersection between our biology, and neurology, and the way we vote.

Similarities across several well-conducted research studies have revealed a distinct trend when comparing the neuroanatomy of conservatives and liberals. Using structural MRI's to assess political attitudes, a study published in Current Biology found that conservatism is correlated with increased volume in the amygdala, and liberalism is correlated with greater activity in the anterior cingulate cortex.

The amygdala is the region of the brain that is associated with emotions including fear, disgust, pity, anger and aggression, in processing information involving subjects or events. Think fight-flight response for the amygdala. The anterior cingulate cortex, on the other hand, is the area of the brain that deals with conflict monitoring, error detection, and weighing out competing parts of a problem

toward a solution. Evolutionarily, the amygdala is considered to be an older part of the brain, and the anterior cingulate cortex is housed in the frontal part of the human brain, which is considered to be the more recently developed part of the brain.

These findings could loosely support the gross stereotypes that conservatives in general tend to process information on more of a reactive level, and liberals tend to think more deliberately, and with their hearts.

Additional research may support these stereotypes. For example, a study that examined new car purchases conducted by Strategic Vision found that conservatives are the top purchasers of trucks, large SUVs, pickups and luxury cars – arguably emotional purchases – while liberals tend to purchase more hybrids and smaller, practical vehicles – arguably rational purchases involving reward anticipation, empathy and decision making. Conservatives are also much more likely to own guns in their homes than liberals, which could be considered a decision that is rooted more in fear and aggression, than empathy and reason.

Conversely, other research on biology and political orientation found that conservatives are more likely to experience higher levels of self-esteem and happiness, and reported having larger social networks than liberals.

Research results on the genetics of political partisanship and ideology, as well as political participation, challenges the traditional idea that how you vote is mostly related to environmental factors. While no one study has yet to locate the

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Transparency

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Two Sculptures

On Saturday Sept. 31, our Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a Board Member Initiative proposed jointly by an unexpected pairing of supervisors, one, the most conservative Board member and the other, the most liberal. The BMI – their proposal – would have the County commission two sculptures, one of Ronald Reagan and one of Jane Fonda. Most in the audience in the Board Room weren't paying much attention. Others looked on with puzzlement. The mythical statues were paired in one co-sponsored BMI and were approved by the Board

That paragraph is fiction, made to illustrate a point. With a 6 to 3 Democratic majority, perhaps the Fonda statue could have been approved by itself

and the GOP icon dismissed. So, why the compromise? It was probably simple horse-trading. I'm guessing, fictionally, that the two supervisors had struck an arrangement on another matter and as a result one owed the other support on something else, like the make-believe sculptures. We don't expect public officials to sit silently in a bubble, not talking to their peers. Most of us probably accept that officials *will* talk privately. It's the shady "back-room deals" (as they say in Washington) that we want illuminated. Loudoun solves some of this through televised and archived videos of its many committee meetings and by compliance with FOIA. Overkill? Or is something missed? Regardless, it's foolish to think that two officials don't talk privately about issues.

Some readers may still think all this actually happened. Nope, look at some clues: The Board does not meet on Saturdays. There are only 30 days in September. The second paragraph opens by saying the first one is "fiction" and that the sculptures are "mythical." Got it?

We tend to rely on a fair press to sniff these things out for us.

Faw - E - Yuh

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) exists at the Federal, state and local level. It's usually taken seriously but I strongly suspect that sometimes FOIA strictures are purposefully dodged. A few years ago, Amazon considered Loudoun for its mammoth satellite headquarters, which would have set off an explosion of sprawl. That bothered me, so I filed a FOIA request about it. The response was carefully worded to claim an exemption from FOIA. I kept at it with more requests, none of which were honored. My final request was simple: "I request copies of documents that discuss Amazon's potential impact on roads in the area." Simple, but I got this amazing answer: "No such records exist." Ridiculous!

I finally gave up.

There are a number of exemptions from FOIA, such as health records or items related to negotiations about real estate or contracts. (Congress exempted itself from FOIA, by the way. Typical.) Somewhere in the recesses of my hippocampus is a memory of a FOIA exemption for conversations between just two

officials. Is that exemption real? Please use the comment feature and let me know.

I strongly suspect that the two-person exemption is used, even if that exemption is a chimera. For the fictional Reagan - Fonda statues, the sponsoring Supervisors would first have talked at length with each other, followed by a series of negotiations with their colleagues. FOIA mandates transparency but what would that have meant in this instance? Some wonks would have followed every conversation. Others would not have cared. Again, we have to rely on the media.

Other matters have great importance, such as budgeting. There, I think the more transparency the better. Our Board of Supervisors does a good job of providing a detailed agenda of upcoming meetings, followed by an open meeting that's also televised and archived. Good, though there's probably much background horse-trading that we never see. I accept that, just as I'm happy to eat sausage but don't want to see it being made. After all, the final documents get public hearings. If we don't like the result, sooner or later we get to vote

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Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

Publisher & Editor
Valerie Cury

Creative Department
Pam Owens, Layout/Design

Advertising
Sabine Bibb Tonya Harding
SabineBibb@gmail.com THarding455@gmail.com
571-437-9953 703-314-5200

Here's How to Reach Us

Advertising:
Email advertise@BlueRidgeLeader.com
or call 540-338-6200

Editor:
(letters to the editor & press releases)
editor@BlueRidgeLeader.com

Special Editorial:
Andrea Gaines – andrea@andreagaines.com

Hot News Tips:
Valerie Cury, 703-943-8806 – tipline@BlueRidgeLeader.com

Webmaster: webmaster@BlueRidgeLeader.com

Mailing Address:
PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325

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Please include your name, address and phone number.

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



— It Seems to Me —

If you accept a lie ...

BY JOE LAFIANDRA

If you accept a lie told to you, it changes you. You own the lie and it becomes part of your personality. Denying the truth and accepting lies corrupts you. If you think accepting lies is a passive activity, think again. If you accept one lie, there is no turning back, you will accept more, it's a positive feedback loop. Furthermore, if you repeat the lie, you expand your circle of corruption to others.

Most people will not accept lies from their children, spouse or boy/girlfriend, yet they accept lies from the media and the politicians who ultimately make the laws that effect their very lives.

OPINION

Usually the justification for accepting the lies from political sources is, we must get rid the other guy because he is "evil" or he won't do what I want him to do. This is "The end justifies the means" logic. Tyrants throughout history have used this logic to gain and hold on to power. History has shown that the use of unethical means corrupts the original end. This was a favorite saying of the Marxists when they took over Russia and installed Communism,

Look what happened there.

In addition, lying includes not telling the whole story. This is a lie of omission. Throw in the practice of taking things out of context and just making stories up and you have a good summary of lies that are told to you. These types of lies are standard tactics that the mainstream media and politicians use when the truth doesn't fit their narrative.

Lies can get those who lie to you in more trouble than just telling the truth. Look at what happened to President Clinton. He was essentially impeached for lying about sex although that's not what the articles of impeachment said. Of course the Democrats used similar tactics; "Obstruction of Congress" and "Abuse of power", all lies, to impeach President Trump. It's payback time in Washington. Every House and Senate member who voted to impeach Trump (and Clinton) accepted a lie for political ends. There was no Trump campaign collusion with the Russians. The only collusion was with Hillary and the Democrats with the fake dossier. Congress knew the truth but, accepted the lie. That's probably why Congress's approval

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Aliscia Andrews deserves our vote

Dear Editor:

America faces challenging times as a nation. This is a time to unify and protect our neighbors, our economy, and our nation. This is not a time for partisan bickering. Aliscia Andrews brings the priorities of a mom, a community volunteer, and a Marine who appreciates our nation and the sacrifices necessary to preserve it. Aliscia Andrews is the kind of leader and fighter we need in Congress, rather than the current rubber stamp for Nancy Pelosi's partisan agenda.

LETTER

Andrews' priorities are to rescue Virginia workers endangered by the lockdown, get our children safely back in school, and support our law enforcement. These are things that Wexton and Pelosi have failed to do. In defiance of science, Wexton, Pelosi and Northam have Virginia locked down, and our children suffering in "virtual school." These policies harm everyone, but they are particularly devastating to low income and minority students who have less access to technology and less help at home. And it is minority communities that are being ravaged by ANTIFA/BLM looters and arsonists.

Gun sales are skyrocketing because it is clear that Democrats have no intention of

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Native Loudouner, proud to vote Democrat in 2020

Dear Editor:

I grew up in Loudoun when Round Hill was still a small, sleepy farming town. People had political differences, but we operated from a common set of facts learned from the same newspapers, and the same network TV coverage. Today, we need to work harder to reach outside our cable news, talk radio, and social media bubbles. One way of cutting through the noise is to go straight to the source.

Covid-19 disrupted the Republican National Convention, so the GOP kept the 2016 platform and promised a new one in

2024. Essentially, Republicans promise to continue to support President Trump, who has not articulated any specific goals or agenda for a second term.

In contrast, the Democrats have proposed detailed, credible plans for protecting the environment, creating green energy jobs, rebuilding infrastructure, and investing in our communities and education. These plans are all available online at joebiden.com/joes-vision/.

Anyone learning about these plans exclusively through conservative media will not get the full picture. For example,

they may think Democrats will raise taxes on average Americans, while proposed funding comes from raising taxes only on income over \$400,000 per year. The American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank, estimated that the Biden tax plan would result in lower taxes except for the richest 5 percent, increase revenue by \$2.4 Trillion over 10 years, and reduce the GDP by less than 0.02 percent. Goldman Sachs (not exactly radical left) said a Democratic victory would boost the economy, and spur job growth.

The Democrats' plans for the future give

me hope. I want leaders who will listen to science on fighting Covid-19, and protecting the environment. I want leaders who will give everyone in this country access to affordable health care, and protect those with pre-existing conditions. I want leaders who will work to find solutions to systemic injustice. I want leaders who will support our international allies. I want leaders who will make our country safer, stronger, more equitable, more prosperous, and more respected in the world. For all these reasons, I have cast my early vote for Joe Biden, Mark Warner, and Jennifer Wexton.

Susan Stowe
Round Hill

Gade is my choice for Senate

Dear Editor:

Voting has started and election day will arrive swiftly. "We the people" are charged to select the civil servant who will represent us in the U.S. Senate. This is a crucial election, and control of the Senate is at stake. Our choice will clearly reveal the values, and morals of the residents of Virginia. For too many years lawmakers on the Hill have failed to serve their constituents, and instead pursued partisan agendas. It is time to make a change.

Daniel Gade has the integrity and commitment that we need to serve Virginians. He understands the meaning of loyalty, duty, selfless service, and personal courage.

He and his family have made many sacrifices to defend this great country. His leadership is greatly needed in this time.

We need someone that will work across the aisle with all members of Congress to solve the hard problems. That is how our government is supposed to function. Unfortunately, Daniel Gade's opponent, Mark Warner, has been a rubber stamp for super-partisans Pelosi and Schumer. Warner went along with the corrupt Russia Collusion hoax, the first partisan impeachment in history, and voted against the second round of COVID relief because it did not include a bail out of debt-ridden blue states.

Daniel Gade will not be partisan, and he will help Virginia and America recover from COVID. Not only will he ensure our economy gets back on track, but he will ensure it stays there by supporting limited government regulation, secure borders, American energy in-

dependence, and bring our pharmaceutical supply chain back from China. We need to return to the days when "Made in America" means quality and a prosperous America.

Daniel Gade is not a career politician, and is committed to supporting individual liberties and civil rights for all Americans. As a career soldier, he has worked with, and led people from all walks of life. He will work to ensure our nation's children have every chance to succeed, and that starts with safely reopening schools and providing parents and students with every option available. His next priority will be to get employees back to work, and to get small businesses thriving again. Daniel Gade will spur economic growth by keeping taxes low, and he will make health care a top priority. Daniel Gade is the man Virginians need in the Senate.

Ric Terrazas
Purcellville

Biden, Warner, Wexton, have my trust

Dear Editor:

Before we know it, the future of our nation will be decided. President Trump has officially been running for office since Feb 2017 so, yes, I am exhausted by all the rallies.

I hope that I can contribute to the discourse by endorsing, as a retired library assistant and ordinary voter, Joe Biden, Mark Warner, and Jennifer Wexton.

Joe Biden has demonstrated his honesty and deep knowledge of the issues with his long and successful record of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »

Return Jennifer Wexton to Congress

Dear Editor:

When I moved from California to Virginia thirty-four years ago, I knew I was moving to a "red state". To be honest, it didn't even factor into my decision because politics in the '80s wasn't the blood sport it seems to be today. Truthfully, I was more of a moderate Democrat – happy to vote for the candidate that made sense to me on issues I cared about – economics, education, environment, land use – if that candidate was a Republican or an Independent, that was fine.

For over twenty years politics was something I could discuss with friends and debate politely with neighbors. Then the

Republican party started to change – and today, the people and politicians that are running the GOP, seem to have an agenda driven by greed, fear, hatred, and division. Why, as a nation, would we support an administration that does not seem to truly want to help the American people? Why would an administration ask us to turn our backs on centuries of science and education? Why would they continually tell us to be afraid, to be aggressive, to be prejudice?

Trump holds rallies that seem more like standup comedy routines than political gatherings – he hurls insults, encourages

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

Keep winning with Trump-Pence

Dear Editor:

Election day is fast approaching, and it will be one of the most impactful in our lifetime. As a citizen, it is your right to participate in our Democracy and vote for who will represent us in Congress, and lead the nation as President. However, this right also comes with a sacred responsibility. Your civic duty is to put your personal feelings aside, and vote for the person who will put the nation's interests first, and do what is needed for our country.

This decision is too important to be swayed by petty arguments over personality or leadership style. This isn't

high school, and we aren't voting for Prom King. The decision must be made on who has the most effective policies, and who has shown that they can take action and make things happen to serve our country. President Donald J. Trump has demonstrated that he is not afraid to lead and put America first.

Recovering from the pandemic-induced economic downturn and getting people back to work so they can earn a paycheck and support their families are essential. A vibrant economy is the most important element in keeping our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

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A 17-year career of successful home sales, numerous awards, accreditations and some of the highest % to list statistics in the region, are not what I reflect back on . . . it is the client's referral of me and knowing what their level of satisfaction was after my guidance. A strong, inherent suit of mine is how I assist my clients in preparing their home for sale (with my team, if needed) and in providing crucial advice and my personal staging tips. Staying educated on the market trends and the wants of the current buying pools have proven to benefit my clients. My services and guidance are a part of my extensive listing services AND at no additional charge. Clients are able to present their home proudly, and I sell it successfully for them using my areas of expertise in extensive marketing well beyond the industry standards. It is I who then takes great pride in seeing my client's satisfaction after the sale has closed - and they have moved on with their next life's plan. I am a long-term professional who embodies a background in real estate that is as strong as it is unique. Whatever aspect of the sale or buying process you may need guidance on, you can reach out to me.

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What's up with our high school seniors during COVID-19

The kids are all right—but have a lot on their minds

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Ever since their proms and graduation ceremonies were canceled due to COVID-19, we haven't heard much about how Loudoun County's high school seniors are doing. Wanting to find out, Laura Longley talked with Geri Fiore, Woodgrove High School's director of counseling. Here's what she shared with us about seniors' anxieties, opportunities, college plans, and challenges in a very challenging year.

Communications

The good news is that students are comfortable communicating with counselors in the virtual world. For us, I think the biggest obstacle is just being disconnected from the students. In a normal year, every day we'd have so many interactions with students. They might pop in the counseling office first thing in the day, or we'd have little sidebar conversations in the hall. That's probably the biggest thing we're missing. These informal interactions are often the ways we get to the core of what's bugging them.

Access to Technology

We worry about families that don't have good access. So we're trying to be creative and work with families one on one. We've opened the library here at Woodgrove as an internet café; we're the western site in Loudoun County that is providing this service. Typically, teachers are reaching out to us. This summer we also got our social worker, athletic directors, and more counselors involved in helping families link up with hot spots. And if students can't come to our internet café, LCPS transportation will them up and bring them here. We'll also print out materials and drive paper packets to families. We want to meet them where they are and meet their need.

Anxieties

Scheduling SAT tests—This was a major worry. To alleviate those concerns, we had one day in September, another in October for testing, which allowed us to serve 250 students.

What path to take: college, working, internship, gap year?

—In their senior surveys this year, we have seen more students planning for a gap year. The percentage of students planning for two-year programs also has gone up. Some students are focusing on a path that takes them directly to a career. For example, they might choose to spend a year or two at Monroe Advanced Technical Academy. (Monroe offers 27 career pathways. Among them are firefighter, veterinary science, auto collision repair, administration of justice technology, biomedical technology, and television production.)

Partnering with parents—When you're working with a student about their next step, you want their family to know that we're in a partnership: the student, the family, the school. And we always keep in mind that no student or family is alike economically or culturally.

Money

Parents—Even with COVID and possible loss of income, parents don't seem to have changed their focus much. Most parents still see a four-year college education as leading to a more stable future for their child. But they also realize they might have to adjust their plans and see their child stay closer to home or combine studies and work to help with finances. Maybe the student will think about going to George Mason University instead of an out of state school.

Students—As you might imagine, money is a major stressor for the student. Most students do not want to come out with \$100,000 in loans. We might help them look into programs that will let them go right into a career when they graduate. That way they'll have the income to pay back the loans. We may encourage them to look in state, but if the in-state schools don't have the program that meets their needs, we might look into the Academic Common Market. [The Academic Common Market is a tuition-savings program in 15 states for college students who may want to pursue degrees that are not offered by their in-state institutions. Students can enroll in out-of-state institutions that offer their degree program and pay the institution's in-state tuition rates.]

Even before deciding on their path forward, we urge all students to fill out the FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid. We help them complete that application and then help them begin applying for scholarships. For the kids facing financial need, we have systems in place, including waivers for applications. It helps that we have good contact with NOVA (Northern Virginia Community College).

We also encourage students and parents not to rule out private schools. Northern Virginia students are considered very desirable by colleges, and I've seen many times where the scholarships a student may obtain will make a private school as affordable as a public one. That's why it's important that parents are engaged in the college application process.

Applications

We're processing more applications earlier this year. That's a major hurdle because it's so important for a counselor to have relationships with students. The connections are different this year. What we've tried to do over the past few months is keep communication lines open with students. We just want students to know they will have counselors walking alongside them and following up with them. We let them know, "Here's the process, here's how we can help you."

College Visits

This year it's not easy to visit schools, but we encourage visits. I don't think there's any substitute for getting information firsthand. You'd never buy a car without a test drive or a house without a walk-through. With a college, you want to make sure it's an environment where you can flourish. In the past, usually during spring break of your junior year, you'd visit schools. But this year universities have had to do things differently. Unfortunately, in many cases, students have to visit schools virtually.

Moving Forward

Students and their parents are worried about safety at college, remote or hybrid classes, living arrangements, social life. So, we're encouraging students to do backup plans. We urge them to plan for the best but have a Plan B in place.

What more can we do to help them move forward? Last year at this time students wanted help with organization, time management skills, and healthy activities. This year it's managing stress. We're creating lessons and working with students on that and also on developing healthy relationships.

Our goal is to develop resilience in them. We want them to learn how to take a little control back, focus on where they want to be in five years, and think about paths for getting there.

TRUMP-PENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

nation safe, strong, and secure. It provides opportunity for every citizen. Who better to make that happen than the experienced New York businessman who knows how business and the economy work in the real world, and who presided

over the strongest economy in our nation's history? He did it before and he has the expertise, passion, love of country, and energy to do it again.

President Donald J. Trump has been very effective in dealing with the bureaucratic morass in Washington. In a

recent Gallup poll of registered voters, 56 percent of respondents said that they were better off now than they were four years ago under Biden-Obama. The choice is yours, go backward with a Biden-Harris administration, or keep winning with Trump-Pence.

Do your duty and focus on the accomplishments of the last four years and re-elect Donald J. Trump as the candidate who has proven he will do the best job for you and your neighbors.

Mark Flanagan
Sterling, Virginia

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Wexton/Andrews debate classic match up

BY ANDREA GAINES

Jennifer Wexton (D-VA 10) and newcomer Aliscia Andrews debated in an in-person meeting at The National Conference Center's West Belmont Place on Oct. 15. Wexton serves in the US Congress. Andrews is a former Marine who now serves as a cyberspace security consultant.

The debate was part of the Loudoun Chamber Policymaker Series. It was moderated by Loudoun Chamber President and CEO Tony Howard, with about a dozen questions put to the candidates by a panel of three local business leaders: Tracy Baynard with McGuireWoods Consulting, Joe Zmitrovich with Bank of Clarke County, and Stacey Metcalfe with



Aliscia Andrews

Inova Loudoun Hospital.

From the Loudoun Chamber's website: "More than any year in recent history, 2020 has shown us the importance of having representatives in Congress that prioritize the needs of the business community and keeping Americans employed ..."

Focus on business

As a Loudoun Chamber event, and, as Howard made clear, the group was – indeed – there to talk business.

Rather than restricting the nature of the discussions, however, the event touched on issues far and wide. President Trump and hot-button issues such as the right to life, the Supreme Court, urban violence, and police/community relations, etc. got no air. But, in the end, the Wexton/Andrews debate gave you at least a sense of each candidate's take on just about every other topic swirling around in the political winds these days, including: taxes, the COVID-19 virus, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the economy, traffic, transportation, the stimulus, the fate of a new Potomac River Bridge, and workers' rights, to name a few.

A candidate-directed affair

The broad array of subjects covered, coupled with the varied resumes and

public service credentials of each candidate – Wexton as a sitting member of Congress and former prosecutor, and Andrews as a former Marine and cyberspace expert – made for a very lively discussion.

Both are originally from the area. Wexton lives in Leesburg, and Andrews in Aldie.

Each campaign might have anticipated – even welcomed – having a dynamic back-and-forth on issues such as the wisdom of putting forth a second round of Federal stimulus, local vs. Federal control of land use decisions, Federal infrastructure bills, the so-called "digital divide," and the question of when public schools should re-open, etc.

But, while the debate got to just about



Jennifer Wexton

every issue imaginable, each candidate's personality, as it were, came through. Each seemed quite in control and eager to show their real selves.

The CORONA virus (including how it relates to the re-opening of public schools, and each candidate's own family) came up, as did the

economy – often in the context of workers' rights and collective bargaining – as well as the need (or not) for a second round of Federal stimulus.

Both creatures of Washington?

The 10th District is different.

In many ways, both Wexton and Andrews are creatures of Washington. As noted, they are both from the area.

And, that fits.

The 10th Congressional District is a place where issues such as a new bridge into Washington, D.C., how to fund Metro, safety at Dulles Airport, the area's "electric power grid," how to partner on the spending of local, state, and Federal tax dollars, cyberspace security, and other issues with a regional flavor were frequented discussion.

In closing remarks, when everything you thought might have come up already had, there were some sparks. Andrews took direct aim at Wexton's experience as a prosecutor, saying she had worked to "protect

the guilty," and was "soft on crime."

Wexton, for her part, pointed out her ability to "work across the aisle" in Washington, D.C. ... something quite rare, by anyone's measure, in today's American capitol.

Andrews – stay safe and focus on the people

Both candidates were asked to "grade" the Federal response to the CORONA virus.

Here, Andrews emphasized the negative aspects of the restrictive economic

and public school policies some areas and states had put in place, noting that children were being "left behind."

She also said that both parties were to blame for the unsuccessful efforts to effect a second Federal stimulus.

On the issue of cybersecurity, which Andrews clearly relished addressing, the candidate urged vigilance, calling threats to our national security in the area "known and unseen."



CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



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Ironically-named “Trail’s End”

Large commercial structure pushing onto WO&D

BY ANDREA GAINES

The Purcellville Board of Architectural Review (BAR) on Oct. 20 voted 3 to 2 to grant a Certificate of Design Approval for the Chapman property on Hatcher Ave. BAR Chair Pat Giglio, and members Jim Gloeckner and Dan Piper voted yes, and Beth Goldsmith and Mark Ippoliti voted no.

Casey Chapman is proposing a development called Trail’s End, a 54,285 square-foot, three-story building with retail and commercial on the main floor and 34 residential units on the two top floors. He wants a parking lot with 48 spaces and an additional nine spaces on Hatcher Ave.



Casey Chapman at BAR meeting in September.

The proposed building is an “L”-shaped plan with 196 feet of wall fronting along Hatcher, and 124 feet of wall fronting along the W&OD Trail. The building is designed “to evoke a neo-traditional commercial and row house feel,” according to the staff report.

Before her vote, Goldsmith said, “I stand by my comments at the last meeting ... I find this aesthetically pleasing, I do not find it aesthetically pleasing in that location. I feel it’s over powering ... I used to live in Old Town Alexandria, while I get old meaning new – I feel this shadows everything on that street. If it was something smaller, more quaint, maybe not as big of a complex as it is, maybe it might be more in keeping. I feel



Rendering of Trails End

like it is so modern and it just doesn’t fit Purcellville. It looks like Reston got put in Purcellville to me.”

Architectural vernacular

However, Giglio said, “If you take a look at some of Leesburg’s construction in Leesburg’s Historic District, it mimics a lot of that architecture ... it is something that blends – the color palate, the materials, relate to that context of downtown.” Goldsmith then asked, “So where would that be, so I can get a visual?” Giglio then said, “... The answer is the architectural elements, and the features that are there, are those things that are compatible ... This does not have context directly related to 21st Street.

“It’s relating to the vernacular language of downtown, but it does not have to mimic; and that’s why as we discussed at the last meeting, why this design works. I think it’s a great design, and I think it speaks to while new, it speaks to the architectures.”

According to the staff report, “Staff recommends a site plan should be resolved before a Certificate of Design Approval is sought through the Board of Architectural Review.” But Chapman applied for it before submitting a site plan.

Also Chapman has not completed the lot consolidation process. He needs to consolidate the three properties into a single parcel to address this issue. Lot consolidation is a “subdivision” process which is approved by staff, and does not

require any public meetings. This process must be completed and recorded prior to approval of a site plan for the proposed development.

The importance of a site plan

For the project, Chapman, with Martinsburg Plaza LLC and Loudoun West Investments LLC, has proposed to demolish the three homes on Hatcher, 141 built in 1956, 151 built in 1925, and 161 built in 1910 (this house abuts the WO&D Trail).

The zoning district in this area is C-4, Central Commercial. Dwelling apartment is allowed in the C-4 District, but not dwelling multi-family. This section of Hatcher Ave. is comprised of single-family homes that have commercial/

residential use.

Chapman has filed demolition permits for the properties; as of press time, the permits have not been issued, but they are expected to be approved shortly.

The BAR is not tasked with ruling on whether a particular land use is permitted; it deals with design guidelines. These properties are not within the Town of Purcellville Historic Corridor Overlay District.

The Town of Purcellville Design Guidelines state that “...[Rules] are applicable to all non-residential and non-agricultural development within the Town limits of Purcellville as well as historic residential structures in the Historic Overlay District. Scale, orientation, relationship, and character of the built environment make up its context. The existing makeup of the Town, its buildings, streetscapes, and landscaping, all assist in establishing a frame of reference for context and compatibility. Submissions to the BAR should take the following into consideration: a) Scale, placement, and character of proposed buildings ... should blend well with its neighboring structures.”

The newly-adopted Town Comprehensive Plan wants this area to “limit the bulk of redevelopment and infill in the district to small footprint buildings similar to existing buildings.”

History was made here, and money is made here

The area where Trials End would be built includes some of the best and most well-preserved parts of Purcellville, including the old 1905 mill that is now Magnolia’s at the Mill restaurant, the old Purcellville Train Station, 1904, and the end of the WO&D Trail.

And, of course, the regional small business icon known as Nichols Hardware, thrives here. It is a regional mecca for visitors.

Purcellville’s crown jewel

The pathway known as the WO&D Trail (associated with train service that ran through the area going back to the mid-1800s and the Civil War) was originally designed to take coal from the Appalachian mountains to the Port of Alexandria.

There are many, many historic spots along

the Trail’s 45-mile route, including Dunn Loring, Hunter Station, and Loudoun County’s Paeonian Springs.

But, with its terminus point in Purcellville, the WO&D can only be described as this Town’s crown jewel.

Experts estimate that the WO&D is used by 1.7 million people annually. People coming here spend money on the things western Loudoun County is known for: great restaurants, antique shops, fresh farm produce, historic spots, and the like. Only five percent of Trail users come from counties adjacent to the W&OD.

This National Recreation Trail, and its terminus in Purcellville, is a huge economic driver for the Town, and all of western Loudoun.



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Year-end planning checklist

Taking these ten actions before year-end will help ensure you're still working toward your financial goals—and that you're prepared for the upcoming tax season.



RICHARD RICCI

1. **Review** your portfolio with your financial advisor to help ensure your allocation still aligns with your goals.
2. **Ask** your financial advisor for a realized and unrealized gain/loss report to assess the income and/or capital gains you should expect this year.
3. **Determine** whether the 0 percent capital gains rate will apply to your situation this year.
4. **Review** tax-loss selling strategies if you have capital gains. If you wish to realize a loss but keep your exposure to a depreciated sector or security, remember, November 30, 2020 is the last day to double up a position to help avoid a wash sale.
5. **Meet** with your tax advisor to

prepare preliminary tax projections and evaluate whether to defer income or accelerate expenses.

6. **Determine** if any adjustments are needed to tax withholding or estimated payments.
7. **Make** maximum contributions to your employer retirement accounts; if contributing to your IRA, the deadline is April 15, 2021.
8. **Develop** a plan to complete charitable and family member gifts by year-end.
9. **Consider** funding an HSA before year-end, if eligible, to claim a 2020 deduction. Also, review HSA/FSA balances and note that over-the-counter medications are now a qualified expense starting in 2020.
10. **Prepare** for filing tax returns by organizing records or receipts for income and expenses.

Wells Fargo Advisors is not engaged in rendering legal or tax advice. If legal or

tax assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

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

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— Just like nothing (else) on earth —

Hillside Park

BY TIM JON

Not everyone likes surprises – I’ve come to find; perhaps ironically enough, I seem to actually enjoy change – even upheaval and turmoil – more and more as I advance in years. Now, having written quite a large number of stories in this series over the past decade and more, you can rest assured that I like to have most locations at least scouted out and noted down somewhere for quick reference; having said that, I’m always on the lookout for hidden little gems – many of which are strewn across this varietal County of ours – and I allow myself to feel a little more aligned with the greater universe whenever I make a new discovery (hey – simple pleasures).



Upon clicking some morning photos at a couple of spots in Eastern Loudoun, I made the happy mistake of somehow losing my trail of bread crumbs on the way back to Leesburg – by way of some of the newer neighborhoods in the Ashburn area; being in unfamiliar territory on a Sunday morning just past dawn, my driving was at the pace where my failing eyes could read the small print on the local road signs: I was ‘crawling.’ No great revelation, then, that I spied the sign for Hillside Park in plenty of time to turn into the ample parking area and assess the possibilities: some open sports fields, a few noteworthy tall trees, and – beckoning off to the right, a trail! After a few shots of the panoramic views and Mother Nature’s arbor vitae, I

followed the call of the ‘wild’ – or at least, to me, unknown – and plowed ahead onto the paved corridor, looking for adventure.

In what seemed like no distance at all along the path, I topped a modest rise in sea level and found myself in a dead face-off with a very dear old friend: a hockey rink. Now, when I was a tyke, growing up in a small town in Southern Minnesota, one of our beloved annual pastimes (heck, sometimes for what seemed like most of the year!) was gathering at the local ice rink and getting involved in a pick-up hockey game – or two, or three – who’s counting? I’m not even sure who ‘ran’ our old community skating facility: we had a very primitive warming-house (with an ancient, smelly and noisy stove – lined with wooden benches for changing), and – during the last few years of my adolescence – a wooden-boarded hockey rink (even though we had no formal leagues or even played as a school sport).

My hometown memories were quickly humbled as I scoped out the 21st Century layout at Hillside Park; obviously used for roller blades instead of the old-fashioned ice variety, this Loudoun Inline rink was decked out with all the bells and whistles – official lines in brilliant paint, solid-looking fencing, complete with penalty boxes and team seating areas, even accommodations for spectators. When we were kids, I can’t remember anyone ever watching us play hockey – except for a few parents or siblings (admittedly, they would have been experiencing a Minnesota winter through their hindquarters).



We may have had few or no fans, but as I walked the playing area at Hillside Park, I could recall much of the exhilaration, the teamwork (or lack thereof), the exhaustion and perspiration (funny how sweaty you could get, despite freezing temperatures) and the overall sense of joy in movement (many of us were really very good skaters, and could build up an incredible pace, doing laps around the rink); so much of my personal ice hockey history made a return that sunny morning in Ashburn, that I almost felt winded as I completed my collection of images and made my way back to the trail, through the woods, and – once again – to my car.

I was a little sad to leave the rink behind, knowing that I may never return to the community park off Wax-pool Road – having ‘more important’ professional duties taking up most of my time and energy, elsewhere in the County. I still get that feel of standing on a field of battle – or at least competition – as I go through the set of photos captured that day. And I have a great store of refreshed memories: playing one of my favorite sports, with my Dad and brothers, and friends and strangers.

I’d like to think that just maybe – someday, somehow – we could do it all over again. And you know? Maybe we just did.

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CDC and HHS wastewater testing

What's in it for Purcellville?

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Last spring, Purcellville became one of the first places in the country which began testing wastewater for coronavirus, after Mayor Kwasi Fraser learned of a new process developed by Boston-based BioBot labs in collaboration with researchers at MIT, Harvard, and Brigham and Women's Hospital. The Town Council approved the plan and Purcellville's testing was underway.

What the low-cost test provides is a big picture of how much virus is present in the community overall by measuring the level of the virus's genetic material—RNA—in human waste.

Think of it as an early warning system for a community. But the alarm has been turned off in Purcellville.

According to Fraser, the testing program was suspended due to Town funding considerations. He expects to look into funding from the federal government's CARES Act to revive the program.

Fraser said, "Now that it's proven that the virus sheds in stool before symptoms are shown, this surveillance can be an early warning indicator for communities across the United States. I encourage citizens to let their elected officials get on board with wastewater-based epidemiology.

"I saw it as an early warning indicator, absent of the ability and resource to ramp up testing. This wastewater-based epidemiology surveillance provides a window into the health of our community.

"I believe that the more information you have to protect the health of a community like Purcellville, with its 10,000 residents, the greater the likelihood of preventing spikes in COVID-19 cases."

It has also been Fraser's vision to leverage the initial Purcellville testing program to obtain federal funding for this and future research efforts following the results of the BioBot program.

That opportunity for federal support—possibly ongoing—may have just appeared on the horizon.

On Oct. 23, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, announced that they are initiating the National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) in response to the pandemic. As with the data generated by Purcellville's testing, NWSS intends to help public health officials better understand the extent of COVID-19 infections in communities. According to the announcement, the NWSS will be seeking research and community partners for data collection.

CDC is currently developing a portal for state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments to submit wastewater testing data like that developed by Purcellville for a national database. The database would allow for summarizing and interpreting data for public health action. Participation in a national database would ensure data comparability across jurisdictions.

Wastewater testing data are, of course, not meant to replace existing COVID-19 surveillance systems, but are meant to complement them by providing an efficient pooled community sample, data for communities where timely COVID-19 clinical testing is underutilized or unavailable, and data at the sub-county level.

Under Purcellville's program, the Town contracted with Inboden Environmental Services of Mt. Jackson, Va., to take two samples a week and ship them to Boston at a cost of \$2,540 a month. BioBot labs

produced the data.

"There is a series of calculations that they do to actually quantify the amount of cases based upon the amount of flow that the facility had that day," Mark Inboden told WUSA9

He explained that this technique is called wastewater epidemiology. To do it, his team takes a small sample, which represents the entire town's sewage

for a day. The RNA genetic markers of COVID-19, non-infectious at that point, pass from the body and remain in water flushed down the toilet.

From Purcellville's first week of testing, BioBot was able to estimate 50 cases in Purcellville. That estimate spiked to 320 cases a week later, but went down to 65 by the end of the month.

As the U.S. launches a wastewater testing program, an increasing number of countries around the world are monitoring sewage systems for signs of coronavirus levels. They include Canada, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Finland, and Hong Kong.

Loudoun County Cold Weather Shelter Opens Nov. 15

The Loudoun County Cold Weather Shelter will open Sunday, Nov. 15, for adults in the community who are experiencing a housing crisis resulting in homelessness. The shelter, which provides a warm indoor sleeping environment, meals and shower facilities, will be open 7 p.m. - 7 a.m., seven nights a week through March 31, 2021.

The Cold Weather Shelter will be located at the Loudoun Homeless Services Center, 19520 Meadowview Court in Leesburg. A photo ID will be required for admittance to

the shelter. Personal bags and belongings must be limited; all bags will be searched and stored in a locked room for security during the night.

Additionally, the following COVID-19 safety measures will be required for admittance to the shelter:

- Face coverings: A face covering will be provided for anyone who does not have one.
- Temperature checks: Temperatures

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

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REAL ESTATE

Ideally located on two acres just a half mile from Rt. 7 and minutes from Purcellville, Leesburg, and the Greenway, the house features two-story, vaulted ceilings, curved walls, custom beams and trim, four fireplaces, five bedrooms, and six full baths.

The welcoming kitchen-dining area is lined by windows and fitted with granite counters, stainless steel appliances, and built-in cabinetry. A cozy area with bookshelves and wood-burning fireplace sits opposite the kitchen area. From this space, French doors open to the formal dining room overlooking the pool, which can be reached by a tiered deck. Together, this is a wonderful space for indoor/outdoor entertaining. And you'd be hard-pressed to find a more convenient setup for quick party cleanup or a post-swim shower than the combination walk-in pantry, laundry room/mudroom, and full bath off the kitchen.

The main level also includes the master bedroom with a three-sided fireplace, an amazing walk-in closet, access to the back deck, and a private study—another space especially useful for today's living/working arrangements. The master bath has been updated with newly installed quartz countertops, modern 12 x 24 porcelain tile, and a soaking tub.

Upstairs are three additional bedrooms with three full baths. The bedrooms sport lofts that kids will love for play or study time.

The spacious walkout lower level offers a range of uses, including separate living quarters with a bedroom, full bath, recreation room, and fireplace. There's also space for an exercise room, yoga studio, or home school.

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Governor announces \$22 million for Virginia Covid-19 vaccination program

Gov. Ralph Northam has announced that \$22 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding will be used to create a statewide program to distribute COVID-19 vaccines when the vaccines are approved for public use. The Virginia Department of Health's estimates the vaccination program will cost approximately \$120 million. Virginia's draft vaccination plan was submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in October.

GOVERNMENT

Several companies are working to create COVID-19 vaccines, which are expected to be approved for distribution in the coming months.

"We look forward to the day that a safe vaccine for COVID-19 is available for public use, so that we can get closer to living normal lives," said Governor Northam. "We want to be ready to help Virginians get that vaccine as quickly, efficiently, and safely as possible. This funding will support the Virginia Department of Health's vaccine preparations, so distribution will go more smoothly when a vaccine becomes available. I encourage Virginians to get this vaccine when it is available. That is our best way to end this pandemic."

The \$22 million allocation of CARES Act dollars will support the Virginia Department of Health's vaccination preparation and planning through the end of 2020. The Commonwealth will identify additional sources of funding to continue to support the vaccination program in 2021.

The plan outlines key components for preparing and implementing a COVID-19 vaccination program including:

- Assumptions, variables, and scenarios that can impact vaccine planning
- Measures to identify and estimate critical populations and establish vaccine priority groups
- Measures for provider recruitment, enrollment, and training
- Processes for vaccine allocation, ordering, distribution, inventory management, and reporting doses administered
- Guidelines for appropriate vaccine storage and handling
- Methods for second dose reminders to ensure compliance with vaccine dosing intervals (most COVID-19 vaccines require two doses separated by 21 or 28 days) and achieve optimal vaccine effectiveness
- Systems for vaccine safety monitoring
- Procedures for vaccination program monitoring, including online dashboards
- Efforts to build confidence and inform the public about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, working with trusted community partners

The Virginia Department of Health, like health departments in other states, is following guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in preparing for vaccine distribution, and will ensure that a vaccine is distributed equitably. It is not currently known what vaccines might ultimately be approved, which means the Virginia Department of Health's planning must be flexible.

It's time to give on #GivingTuesday, Dec. 1

First there was Black Friday, then Cyber Monday and, beginning in 2012, #GivingTuesday, the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. It's a day set aside to encourage people to do good, think about others' needs, collaborate, celebrate generosity, and give.

In light of the worldwide COVID pandemic, this year #GivingTuesday is focusing on those people who have lost jobs, businesses, and savings, and may be suffering food insecurity, homelessness, or mental health issues.

Amy Owen, president of the Community Foundation of Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties, says,

"There has been good news for many non-profits as generosity and grant funding continues in Loudoun County—but if you give, please keep giving. Our local food pantries have seen a 300 percent increase in need; the pleas for help with rent and utilities are exponential; and domestic abuse levels are unpre-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

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This year, have the best and worst Thanksgiving ... ever. It's tradition!

BY ANDREA GAINES

As everyone knows, the Thanksgiving meal brings out the worst and best in us.

The best comes out thanks to those who decide, ahead of time, that this is going to be the best Thanksgiving ever. They are going to cook their little hearts out ... and welcome everyone.



The worst comes out when someone decides that, dagnabbit, this year I'm not going to hold back when the political discussions start. And, people are going to eat my sweet potato and marshmallow casserole ... and they are going to like it.

Trials and tribulations ... overcome

Many people who, when asked about Thanksgiving 2020, have nothing to say.

They don't know where it is going to be. Nor do they care.

They don't know who will be coming, or who will be going.

But, others welcome Thanksgivings as an opportunity for growth. It has been a bad year, but I'm still here!

One friend revealed how one year the power went out and she was forced to cook the entire dinner on a BBQ – never having hosted the family for the holiday before. But, they ate by candlelight on the back porch, and the food was crispy and well-cooked. Delicious ... and romantic.

Another shared with me the year she learned where turkeys came from. A school bus took her, as a four-year-old, to a local turkey farm. The turkeys were meeting their maker that day, and one of her classmates was dancing around with turkey feathers in her hair. "I learned to love birds that day," she said wistfully.

Trials and, ultimately renewal, you see, follow Thanksgiving with great vengeance.

Savor the fun of it all

Like I said. Trials and, ultimately re-

newal, follow Thanksgiving with a vengeance.

So, rejoice in what, actually might be a far more simple Thanksgiving 2020, and, ultimately, a more joyful one.

Remember the funny dishes. The funny circumstances. And, the lessons Thanksgiving has to teach us.

Some people might be missing. Gratefully ... some really weird dishes (like the one here) might be missing. But, you will still be with people you love, if only in spirit.

Bologna Cake (sorry if I offend)

You are either going to hate this or love it (and think me a snob).

Bologna Cake is garden variety bologna meat layered (or stacked) and iced (or decorated) like a traditional sweet cake.

It does not require any baking or cooking experience. A five year old could do it.

One person I spoke to said that this was a "low rent" appetizer. Another person said it was a "kick butt football game snack."

It is all over the internet. Enjoy. I guess.

Ingredients: One block of softened cream cheese, one bottle of ranch dressing, a large package of plain old bologna, cheap crackers or bread, sliced olives (who cares what kind).

Assembly: Mix your softened cream cheese with your ranch dressing to an icing-like consistency. Chill. On a large round platter, put down a thin layer of bologna (several slices), ice the bologna with about ¼ inch of the cream cheese mixture and repeat – bologna and icing, bologna and icing, bologna and icing until you build a cake maybe 5 or 6 inches high. You then ice and decorate (with sliced olives) the whole stupid thing just like you'd ice a decorate a cake. Serve it by using it as a dip of sorts, or as a sandwich on toast.

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Anytime Fitness Re-Opens



Anytime Fitness held a ribbon cutting at the beginning of October, at their new location at 609 E Main Street in Purcellville. Mayor Kwasi Fraser joined members of the business community and council members to celebrate the opening.

Let's talk Loudoun farm-raised turkey

BY LAURA LONGLEY

But first, let's talk coronavirus because it sure is upending traditional Thanksgiving plans for most of us. There's bad news: no adorable grandchildren at the groaning board. There's good news: no Auntie Hannah with her sorry attempt at Mama Stamberg's cranberry relish.

And then there's the big question: What about a turkey?

Do you go small or big or have one at all? How many socially distanced people can you serve and still stay safe? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends a few low-risk options:

COMMUNITY

- Have a small dinner with only people who live in your household
 - Prepare traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and deliver them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others
 - Have a virtual dinner and share recipes with friends and family
- Even if you opt for the virtual feast, be kind to yourself and get a fresh bird. There are way too many Loudoun County farms raising high quality poultry to miss out on Thanksgiving's main event. To locate an organic turkey farm, just visit the Loudoun Made, Loudoun Grown website—loudounfarms.org—where you'll find a list and map of all the farms from Aldie to Upper-ville, Bluemont to Lucketts, Lincoln to Lovettsville.

The newest poultry farm on the Loudoun map is Kurt and Pam Gerner's 10-acre Stonehaven on Boly Road two miles south of Purcellville. The Gernerds have been growing and selling Christmas trees for several holiday seasons, but this year they decided to branch out. Their four dozen turkeys range from 15 to 20 pounds, sizes that should give you plenty of leftovers from your smaller, lower-risk gathering. Priced at \$5 per pound, they will be available two days before Thanksgiving. Stonehaven offers no-touch delivery

within 10 miles of the farm or pickup at Total Pools at 730 East Main St., Purcellville. For ordering details, contact Kurt at 540-454-7251 or visit Stonehaven's Facebook page at facebook.com/GernerChristmasTreesandHoney. There is also Fields of Athenry Farm located in Middleburg. They can be reached at FieldsofAthenryFarm.com or call 703-300-5765. Their turkeys are delicious. One more option before you resort to the grocery store: If you have the proper licenses (see dwr.virginia.gov) and know the lay of our local woodlands, turkey hunting in Loudoun County is mighty fine this time of year. Have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

There is also Fields of Athenry Farm located in Middleburg. They can be reached at FieldsofAthenryFarm.com or call 703-300-5765. Their turkeys are delicious.

One more option before you resort to the grocery store: If you have the proper licenses (see dwr.virginia.gov) and know the lay of our local woodlands, turkey hunting in Loudoun County is mighty fine this time of year.

Have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

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Lovettsville Co-op announces new grocery store location

The Lovettsville Cooperative Market has announced updated plans to locate its future grocery store in downtown Lovettsville in the undeveloped space across from the Town Center. The Co-op's Board of Directors recently signed a letter of intent to lease a 7,000 square foot property that will be home to its long anticipated, full-service grocery store. Lovettsville Co-op Market will be open seven days a week, serving members and non-members with 75% of their products being natural or organic, and sourced locally whenever possible. LCM will also have a deli offering grab-n-go meals, serving both lunch and dinner. Local wines and beers will be available.

Like other grocery co-ops across the country, LCM is locally owned and member-controlled. A local grocery store will offer convenience to residents who often have travel to Purcellville or across the Potomac river to Brunswick, Maryland for their shopping.

Just as importantly, LCM will benefit the community as the largest pri-

ivate employer in Lovettsville, with an expected 25 employees, while returning over \$1,000,000 to the local economy each year through local purchases, salaries, and taxes.

Over the next ten months, the Co-op will work with a store designer and architect to develop detailed store plans. The developer, Lovettsville Square South, LLC, will work on its designing, engineering, and permitting for the overall site, with the construction scheduled to begin in the second half of 2021. The goal is to have the store opening in the third quarter of 2022.

The Lovettsville Co-op Market will be the only grocery co-op in Northern Virginia. It hopes to attract customers from around the metro area, and to build upon Lovettsville's reputation as a small town destination for agri-tourism. The Co-op is actively recruiting members. To learn more about the Lovettsville Co-op's plans or to become a member, visit www.lovettvillegrocery.com. Follow LCM on Facebook and Instagram.

Toys for Tots seeking monetary donations

This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Loudoun County Toys for Tots program will be purchasing toys, rather than collecting toys. Although this is a change from the usual Loudoun County Toys for Tots program, the goal remains the same – to ensure that each child receives a new toy for Christmas.

The best way to support the Loudoun County Toys for Tots program this season is through monetary donations. To make donations by check, make them payable to Toys for Tots and mail them to: Toys for Tots, c/o Marine Corps League, P.O. Box 162, Purcellville, VA 20134. Checks may also be dropped off at the Leesburg Town Hall, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg. Additional locations for checks to be dropped off will be posted on the Loudoun County Toys for Tots website as they become available.

To donate online, visit the local Loudoun County Toys for Tots website and click on the "Donate Local" red button on the top right of the home page <http://loudoun-va.toysfortots.org>

To allow enough time to order the toys and have them shipped out, ideally, donations should be received no later than mid-November.

Businesses and other organizations collecting \$3,000 or more should email Loudoun.VA@ToysforTots.org, and, if they wish, a Marine in Dress Blues and Santa Claus will visit their location to accept the donations. A W-9 form will be provided to businesses donating by corporate check.

Each season, approximately 300 volunteers sort, count, pack, and distribute 26,000 to 30,000 toys, assisting more than 8,000 children. But this year it is not possible to have groups of volunteers working together in the ware-



house, which is critical for the Toys for Tots program to be successful. In addition, the Loudoun County fire stations, which have been the largest public toy drop-off locations, currently restrict access to on-duty personnel only.

So, this season, Loudoun County Toys for Tots has partnered with four local non-profit organizations (Help for Others, LINK, Mobile Hope, and The Salvation Army).

Other non-profit organizations and individual families requesting toys are provided information on how to register through one of the above four partnering organizations.

Once registration is completed, each of the four partnering organizations will provide Loudoun County Toys for Tots with their total number of children signed up.

Loudoun County Toys for Tots will then order the toys on line, and/or work directly with local stores, and have the toys shipped directly to each of the four partnering organizations, and/or have the toy orders ready for pick-up by the organizations at one of the local stores.

Loudoun County Toys for Tots representatives will be present to check the toy orders when they are received or ready for pick-up to confirm that they are correct.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »



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IT SEEMS TO ME, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ratings are in the teens.

Politicians routinely lie to get legislation passed. For example, the Affordable Care Act, a big lie in its very name since it is not really affordable because its large deductions and higher premiums. Remember what President Obama said, "You can keep your plan", "You can keep your doctor" and "It will only cost you \$2,500 a year". All lies. Politicians also lie to get elected with some recent examples of Biden saying he is against fracking and then saying he is not against fracking. And not answering the question whether he is for or against packing the Supreme Court. We all know that if he gets elected with a favorable

Congress, he will pack the court. How about Democrat candidates saying the violent riots in large cities are "mostly peaceful", while we watch rioters and looters on television burn buildings and destroy property.

Then there are the half truth lies. For example, it is true that there are a small number of cops that are racist but the vast majority are good people who sacrifice their lives to protect the public. The few bad cops are used as the example why the police should be defunded. A half-truth is really a full lie.

You will have the chance in this election to decide what type of society you want to live in. If you chose liars to run your government, expect the consequences of that decision.

Virginia turkey production among nation's highest

American turkey production may be heading for another downturn, but Virginia turkey producers are poised to stay ahead of national trends.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service reported in September that Virginia farmers are expected to raise 16.3 million turkeys in 2020, an increase from 16 million in 2019.

By contrast, the number of turkeys raised nationally is forecast to decrease to 222 million in 2020, dropping from last year's 229 million.

National production last increased in

2017, when U.S. farmers raised 254.2 million birds.

"Virginia is the original turkey production state, and our farmers continue to be major producers in the U.S., despite shifting market trends," said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "Local consumers can count on Virginia-raised turkeys to be fresh and readily available throughout the year."

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, turkeys are commercially raised on 448 Virginia farms, most of which are in the

Shenandoah Valley and the northern Piedmont.

Virginia ranked sixth nationally in turkey production in 2019, and while pound production dropped slightly, cash receipts rose from \$231 million in 2018 to \$258 million last year.

Hobey Bauhan, president of the Virginia Poultry Federation, credited the increased value to industry advancements that have allowed consumers to purchase smaller birds, turkey parts, and processed meats.

"There was a time when turkey was just a holiday treat at Thanksgiving, Christ-

mas, and Easter. We're far beyond that time, though turkeys are still at the center of most Thanksgiving tables. Now the industry has developed such that people can enjoy nutritious turkey products in numerous ways," he said.

Though many holiday celebrations are likely to be scaled down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bauhan noted that Virginia farmers have produced "a bounty" of turkey products to accommodate gatherings of any size.

"We're still very excited about the Thanksgiving holiday that's upcoming, knowing that most Americans are going to be enjoying the bounty that our industry produces," he said.

WEXTON TO CONGRESS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the crowd to taunt and ridicule other Americans, makes decent people the butt of his crude jokes. Is Trump, and people who support him, the future of the Republican party? Maybe it is time for more than two political parties in the U.S., but right now I believe we only have one choice in November, to get us back to being the America so many people fought and died for.

I think we need to choose science, ed-

ucation, decency, kindness, inclusion, hope, and compassion. For the Virginia 10th District, that means returning Jennifer Wexton to Congress to fight for all of us, as she has done for the past two years. She has shown that she works for all her constituents – not just the ones that agree with her. There is a lot more she can do for Virginia, and she will do it with fairness and integrity.

*Kelley Ahern
Purcellville*

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

and voting works. After some atrocious actions in 2004 by a cabal within the Board (led by a controversial guy named Tulloch,) at the next election the cabal members were ousted.

Opacity

The Loudoun County School System (LCPS) has a long and well-deserved reputation for purposefully being opaque. Many feel that the System's executives often contrive to leave the School Board in the dark, while both the System and the School Board do the same to our Board of Supervisors. Eric Williams has been Superintendent since 2014 so perhaps it's not fair to paint him with that brush. His predecessor, though, was publicly spanked by a former Board of Supervisors Chairman: "Edgar Hatrick has served this county well for many years, but we are now in the 21st century. Many things have to change. And unfortunately, sometimes in order for change to happen, change has to first happen at the top."

Hatrick inspired the first letter I ever wrote to an editor, after he said that people here weren't paying enough in property taxes and that New Jersey's higher tax rates were more appropriate. My letter was short and characteristic: "Hatrick, who says we should pay more taxes, should be run out of town on a rail." Not sure if the paper printed that letter, but I was right.

Williams has not upset me, unless he was in charge during the whiteboard scandal: As a fiscal year was ending, LCPS had a surplus. That would never do, so it immediately bought enough electronic whiteboards to soak up that money. This technology is now ubiquitous, but at the time such devices were an expensive luxury.

Fire!

A public agency that fails to be transparent or to respond to citizens can get burned. Our Fire-Rescue Department is

clearly guilty. It says the Philomont Fire Station needs to relocate and expand, so our Nov. 3 ballot asks if we should issue bonds of \$29,516,000.00 to build a new station. Worse, that new station would be built on the grounds of what was a well-respected horse show for 62 years.

Remember the recent fight over a similar fire station in historic Aldie? Its outraged citizens forced Fire-Rescue to choose another location. For Philomont, emails went unanswered and COVID was used as an excuse to avoid meetings. Finally, one meeting was eventually held, but Fire-Rescue refused to answer pointed questions. Transparent? No way.

Please vote "NO" on that bond until this is resolved.

Water and Sewer

A new proposal would extend public water and sewer into part of our rural area to serve a County facility, but has sparked an uproar among conservationists. They feel that this would give developers a big step towards full public utilities in the west, bringing sprawl all over western Loudoun. While this *contretemps* is out in the open, true transparency would disclose who is behind this effort very bad, bad idea. The media needs to get to work. To residents, I say Faw - E-Yuh.

COVID

What do I think? In concept transparency is a good idea, but in reality, much of any disclosure is boring, or might not matter all that much. Elections do give us the final recourse. We should always push for openness and candor, though not expect to see every single thing. Most times I really don't care that much, and count on our newspapers to report the facts. Fortunately, I respect our Board of Supervisors and never have any sense that something is amiss.

I'll blame my passivity on COVID overload.

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

#GIVINGTUESDAY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

dented. For so many of our neighbors, the holidays will be difficult."

To assist in meeting COVID-related needs, the Foundation created its Community Emergency Relief Fund in March to accept and strategically disburse funding for emergency response and relief efforts. Recently, the Foundation board set aside \$20,000 for non-profits assisting vulnerable households and individuals.

Meanwhile, Loudoun Cares, which joined #GivingTuesday last year, welcomes contributions as well.

Funding it receives goes to pro-

grams that support the work and capacity-building of local non-profits.

To boost its efforts, visit the Loudoun Cares website at loudouncares.org and click on "Donate."

For more information on the Community Foundation, contact Amy Owen at (703) 779-3505 or amy@communityfoundationlf.org. You'll find a "Give Now" link at communityfoundationlf.org.

If you'd like to give directly to a favorite cause or non-profit, now is a great time to do it. Just go to their website, click on the donate button, give, and know that you're doing good.

SHELTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

will be taken with a no-contact thermometer.

COVID-19 symptom screening: Questionnaires will be administered verbally by shelter staff. The county will provide free transportation to the shelter with shuttle buses departing nightly at the times and locations below. Personal bags and belongings must be limited and no bicycles will be allowed. Face coverings, temperature checks and COVID-19 symptom screenings will be required to board the bus.

- 5 p.m. – Williams Watters House, 22365 Enterprise Street, Sterling

(near Loudoun County Transit Local Bus Route 82 bus stop)

- 6 p.m. – Douglass Community Center, 405 East Market Street, Leesburg

On weekends and holidays, the county will also provide a morning shuttle drop-off from the shelter to each of the stops noted above. The shelter is operated by Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas under a contract with Loudoun County. The shuttle bus transportation is operated by ECHO under a contract with Loudoun County. More information about services available to those experiencing homelessness in Loudoun County may be found at loudoun.gov/CoC or by calling 703-777-0420.

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WEXTON/ANDREWS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

In this way, Andrews seemed to take a more folksy approach to answering questions. Not surprising as, while she holds clear positions on the specific legislative initiatives of her opponent, this is her first time running for public office.

Andrews made clear that if she was sent to Washington by the voters she would work on traditional Republican issues, such as keeping regulations in check.

Andrews, like Wexton, expressed her desire to “work across the aisle” on legislative issues. She was animated and presented with a very heartfelt effect, adding to her common man/common woman persona.

With respect to how the ACA might be improved, without being specific, Andrews said there were some parts that needed to be improved.

Andrews also made one of the most interesting comments of the debate when asked how to combat the rising cost of housing in the country. Andrews equated that to a “local issue for the BOS” (Board of Supervisors).

Collective bargaining and workers’ rights came up, with Andrews focused on protecting workers by supporting the business community and the role of a “competitive workforce” plays in the equation.

The need to work across the aisle was highlighted by Andrews when it came to the role a good education plays in one’s employability, that and “public/private partnerships.”

And, on another steamy subject – our national infrastructure – Andrews focused on “the digital divide,” giving the example of how ridiculous it was for parents to have to travel to a fast food restaurant or other wired place to get their kids’ schoolwork done.

Andrews seemed to pick up on Wexton’s “Get out of the way” comment about the Federal government’s role in some things by urging a focus on people’s ability to pay their mortgage in the era of COVID ... rather than the health of the airlines.

Andrews didn’t seem to like Wexton’s promotion of solar power for the 10th District, suggesting it might interfere with Loudoun’s wineries’ ambiance. “Let business tell government what to do” on the topic of the electric grid, she said.

Wexton – I get things done

As noted, right out of the block, both candidates were asked to “grade” the Federal response to the CORONA virus.

Wexton said that “COVID didn’t need to be this bad,” and bemoaned the slowness with which Federal funds were reaching local schools and communities.

Wexton provided lots of details on what she saw as her specific legislative accomplishments, and her role as a member of several key Congressional committees.

She expressed repeated concern about the CORONA virus and how it was affecting families.

She, like Andrews, clearly wanted people to see her human side, and echoed Andrews’ repeated reference about working across the aisle, while also offering a vigorous defense of the ACA. Referring in part to the many lawsuits being brought against the ACA, she said: “Protect and expand the ACA ... not tear it down.”

Wexton also offered support for a second – and quick – round of Federal stimulus.

When asked about the cost of housing, Wexton pivoted to her work on the U. S. House Committee on Financial Services. Here, she pressed for Congress to take a holistic approach to the issue. Here, she suggested,

government had a Federal, state, and local stake in the issue. But, that once funding was secured, the Fed should “get out of the way.”

When the topic of collective bargaining and workers’ rights came up, Wexton said she was looking for policies “that support the middle class.”

With respect to the role of a good education and one’s employability, Wexton, again, sighted specific legislative accomplishments, here, in the areas of STEM education, college affordability, and migratory workers.

And, here again was another steamy subject ... our national infrastructure. Wexton, again, went into detail on sub-issues such as roads and bridges, the electric grid, repairs to the local American Legion Bridge, rural broadband, and the 5G implications of increased telecommuting.

When asked about the health of the airline industry, Wexton, also referred to the COVID-related needs of workers as more important, as well as the specific needs of workers in Northern Virginia, including the difficult commutes to Washington, D.C.

On the issue of the reliability of local electric power, Wexton favored an “All of the above” approach, promoting data centers, which now take up a lot of Loudoun County land, as places where solar power might be generated.

The 10th District

The 10th District has a population of slightly under 1 million. It is a high-income area, is mostly urban – but, with a strong rural representation.

It, today, includes Clarke, Loudoun, and Prince William counties, as well as the independent cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, and Winchester.

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ANDREWS DESERVES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

protecting American citizens in their homes and businesses. To make matters worse, Wexton and Northam's priorities are to make it harder to own a gun, and protect yourself. Aliscia Andrews will focus on fixing the problems we face; Wexton and Pelosi are fixated on attacking Trump with a Russia collusion hoax, and the first totally partisan, crimeless, impeachment in history.

Aliscia Andrews wants to keep our taxes low. Aliscia Andrews wants to keep our economy and jobs strong by continuing deregulation and maintaining our energy independence. Wexton wants to regulate our economy, cripple our energy sector, and invest billions in

wasteful "green energy."

Aliscia Andrews will fight for Virginia and get things done, not waste her time "resisting" the executive branch. Wexton and Pelosi delayed the new trade deal with Canada and Mexico and so far, they have killed plans to help our workers. Aliscia Andrews will put Virginians and American first and not the globalist, Democrat agenda.

This is a time for Americans to pull together and keep our eye on American priorities not partisan politics. Aliscia Andrews will fight for us. Once a Marine, always a Marine. Aliscia Andrews deserves our vote.

*Roy Mattson
Purcellville*

BIDEN, WARNER, WEXTON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

public service. He has grown with each election; as a Congressman, a Senator, and our Vice-President. His previous campaigns for the Presidency give him a unique, broad understanding of the entire nation. He will use those many connections to our benefit in serving as President. He has earned our trust. I know he will work with the world to address climate change. I want a leader who works with the world to solve problems.

Mark Warner has been a Senator who has proven his ability to work with everyone. He is a moderate and his calm demeanor belies his accomplishments in the business world, and in elective office as a popular Governor and stalwart Senator. He has our back on healthcare.

Finally, we come to Jennifer Wexton. She must be the hardest working person in Congress, ever. I voted for her based on her legislative record in Virginia but she has proven to be exciting, determined, and so responsive to constituent needs. She is the best.

There is too much to criticize about Donald Trump, but the most pressing issue is the constant lying. No President can please everyone all of the time, but Trump uses lies, and attacks to intentionally divide our country for his own benefit. This is un-American, dangerous, and unacceptable.

Joe Biden, Senator Mark Warner, and Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton have my trust and my vote.

*Laura Berish
Hillsboro*

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Republican or Democrat gene in determining voter outcome (if such a gene or genetic markers even exist), the research findings in this area of study concur that there is a very real relationship between genetics, heritability and voting.

A study in the Journal of Applied Social Psychology found that liberals tend to be more open (i.e. creative, imagining new things and liking new ideas) compared to conservatives, and conservatives tend to be more conscientious (i.e. being organized and liking plans and details) in relation to liberals. So, perhaps "Make America Great Again" resonates more with conservatives who are not as open to change, and would like to keep things the way they are, or are nostalgic about the good old days.


Certainly, research studies that examine biology, psychometrics, physiology, heritability, gene association and political decision making have revealed compelling results; however, this research is still in its nascence.

In my opinion, the one thing these research findings can do, is

help us to be more patient, tolerant and understanding of others during a time when we are so politically polarized as a nation. So, the next time an acquaintance, friend or family member disagrees with you about a hot topic – climate control, the economy, affirmative action, gun control, Medicare, immigration, etc. – keep in mind that what they are thinking and feeling is complicated by many factors – some conscious and some unconscious. Instead of getting upset with that person, I recommend that you take a deep breath, and focus on compassionately accepting your differing opinions in the support of your relationship.

"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future." – John F. Kennedy

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D., "Dr. Mike," 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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- George Bernard Shaw

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CHAPMAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He criticized the backlash taking place in some American communities as a result of what he sees as actions of just a handful of law enforcement officers – including backlash in some state legislatures, including the Virginia House of Delegates.

“No one takes this kind of job for the money,” he said, speaking of the professionalism the great majority of law enforcement officers exhibit. He said it is simply untrue that the great majority of “law enforcement officers are not professional.”

Earlier this Fall the Virginia House of Delegates approved a bill to make it easier to sue law enforcement for violating an individual's Constitutional rights. Such trends make the job of individual members of law enforcement more and more difficult, according to Chapman.

With respect to this issue, he pointed to action by the Virginia General Assembly in January turning law enforcement's immunity from prosecution into “qualified immunity,” also questioning just how “civilian review boards” and other factors might impact the profession. There are so many “moving parts” to this job, he said, we need “sensible leadership” on the subject. He sees some discussions as circulating around what he called a “false narrative,” as far as law enforcement is concerned.

This, in fact, is probably one of Chapman's main motivators as he considers a run for the governorship. He also sees Virginia as “less safe.”

As for a possible governor's run, Chapman told us he is looking at “every aspect” of the issue. It's a big decision.

Earlier this fall the Virginia House of Delegates approved a bill to make it easier to sue law enforcement for violating an individual's Constitutional rights.

Such trends make the job of individual members of law enforcement more and more difficult, according to Chapman.

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office – largest in the Commonwealth

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office is the largest full-service office in the State of Virginia.

It directs the county-wide law enforcement activities, the jail system, and the courts system, and employs approximately 800 people. Those 800 include 600 sworn deputies and 200 civilian employees. They serve an area of over 500 square miles.

In a 2020 paper entitled *The Rise (and*

Fall) of Elected Sheriffs, PHD student Cameron DeHart traces “the historical process that led Americans to begin electing sheriffs in the 18th and 19th centuries ...”

DeHart looks at the development of modern efforts to “reverse” the trend that made sheriff an elected office. Some people want the sheriff to be accountable to the voter, some don't. Some see it as tradition, and some as a relic of the past.

LoCo Leadership

The leadership of Loudoun's Sheriff's Office includes Sheriff Chapman (elected sheriff in 2011), Colonel Mark Poland – a 23-year veteran, Lt. Colonels Christopher Hines (joined office in 1984), and Eric Prugh (former Field Deputy), and Majors Michael Cox (joined department in 1995), Bobby Miller (joined department in 1996), Charles Richardson (31 years in law enforcement), and Christopher Sawyer (joined department in 2005).

According to the Office's website, “... Mike Chapman ... directs operations for the largest full-service office in the State of Virginia which handles county-wide law enforcement, the jail and our courts. During his first term in office, Sheriff Chapman expanded the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) to include both Elementary and Middle Schools, established a Cold Case squad; enhanced media outreach through integrated technology and a restructured website; introduced on-line reporting; professionalized the Human Resources and hiring processes; and improved training, accountability, and efficiency.”

According to Chapman: Sheriff's Office vs. Police Department Study, July 2020

Table 1.1 in this study notes the following: “Level of impact/Risk of each of the following in creating a County-wide Police Department vs. staying with Sheriff's Office [according to Chapman] “HIGH” – 1) Reduction of State funding (LCSO currently receives \$8.1 million in annual funding, PD would get \$6.2 million); 2) Liability insurance (LCSO's paid by State, PD

“No one takes this kind of job for the money.”

– Sheriff Mike Chapman

liability, not paid by State); Liability limitations (LCSO, limitations by law of \$1.5 million, PD, no limitations); Office space (for both LCSO and PD, additional space required); Equipment (LCSO, no cost, PD, re-outfitting of vehicles, uniforms, etc.)” The study also notes that a Police Department would require \$10.1 million in annual funding for personnel, and the arduous process of the selection of a Chief of Police.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

FATE OF LAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to push down the Council's throat." He pointed out that the Town has inherited economic challenges. "We need to find ways to get more of a tax base into the Town of Purcellville" ...

Commercial/light industrial opportunity?

Kuhn said there is "a real shortage of industrial ground; there is a shortage of commercial ground," presenting a concept layout of the property consisting of 26 proposed industrial/commercial parcels.

Mitchel added, "There are not a lot of small opportunities around eastern Loudoun, even around Leesburg. There is a huge need for light industrial ground. How do we create a tax base that won't overwhelm existing communities?"

Kuhn said that creating more industrial/commercial would also clean up Main Street – pointing out that Main Street is not the best use for industrial "as a whole." Council member Chris Bertaut asked what kind of light industrial is on Main Street, and Kuhn said businesses such as "a gym, a tire repair shop, and a lawn mower repair shop."

"It's time for us to move forward," said Kuhn. He said he could move forward with residential, but, "I'd like to look at other uses for this property."

Mitchel pointed out that if they could get the commercial/industrial zoning for the Warner Brook property it would generate \$101 million in assessed value, and would bring in \$224,000 in annual income for the Town, to include an additional \$140,000 in "sewer and water uses as well."

Kuhn said the Town could say it was "not interested. And we'll approach the normal procedures of going through the County for rezoning and moving forward." Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser later said, "A note of assurance for the citizens in Purcellville and our neighbors in Wright Farm: it is not an easy process to go through a Comprehensive Plan amendment with the County to get light industrial development in that area ..." Fraser said it was rare that someone would come before Council "before they even think about development." "What you are doing is asking us for our interest in partnering with you

with an opportunity" ...

"The challenges that we face can be summed up in our waste water treatment facility that was upgraded in 2010 ... I do see the waste water treatment facility as an asset that can be monetized, and the way you monetize a waste water treatment facility is by getting more users. But, with more users comes more traffic, and more burden on our infrastructure," said Fraser.

He pointed out that another option would be to get a user that "would not be a burden on our infrastructure. And those are ideas I would like us to start looking at."

What it might look like

Council member Stan Milan asked what type of light industrial did they envision; and Kuhn said it could be warehousing, distribution, and manufacturing. Milan was concerned for the Mayfair community, and the traffic impact on that residential community. "How would you mitigate that traffic?" he asked. Kuhn said he could do a traffic study. "We would have to look at by-right housing [42 homes] versus light industrial ..." Kuhn said that land costs in eastern Loudoun "are getting so high ... that it doesn't make sense to have a moving company storing furniture in eastern Loudoun County with the price per acre ... myself for example ... there is nowhere for me to go in Loudoun."

Kuhn said, "I am not introducing, asking, or proposing data centers in western Loudoun ... the only thing we can't do is leave it [Warner Brook] like it is today. That land is not good for conservation; the economics are such that it doesn't work well on Warner Brook."

He said he can move forward with light industrial/commercial in the County without annexation by the Town. Mitchel said that with commercial, onsite treatment could be done, if "that was permitted with the State."

Wright Farm resident Lydia Clark asked Kuhn, "What data did you use to come up with the lack of commercial/industrial in western Loudoun?" She expressed concern with the potential light pollution, traffic, noise, and one entrance in and out of the proposed plan. "Western Loudoun, Purcellville specifically, has spoken very loudly over the

last couple years about annexing property, whether residential or commercial."

Kuhn said it was "purely land cost ... land in eastern Loudoun can range for light industrial from \$500,000 to \$2 million an acre. So, it's getting too expensive for services ... A lot of rezoning from industrial/commercial to residential [Toll Brothers] further diminished" available land. "Kids are getting on school buses next to dump trucks, moving trucks, and tractor trailers."

Clark said, "You just made my point. You talk about a Toll Brothers community being right next to industrial. They don't want it in Ashburn or Sterling; I am pretty sure that people are not going to want it out here in Purcellville."

Just a discussion

This is just a discussion, said Fraser. "There is no request for annexation ... I know the folks hate the word data center. Ninety percent of the data in the world today was created in the last two years. There will come a day of reckoning on where the data centers go. Back in the 70s and 80s, AT&T and the Bell Atlantics of the world were able to put data centers in communities – whether they buried them or made them look like mansions ... or homes ... If you can make a data center look like a barn, and you can eliminate the issue with noise, pollution, and all of the other things, that makes folks not like data centers – I will say, look at it ... again, it needs to look like a barn or a mansion, and we have to take care of the issues with lighting, pollution, and noise pollution."

If it is light industrial, it needs to be a user that would not put a burden on our infrastructure; and a user that would drive a lot of revenue to the Town. Today, that user is a data center; tomorrow it may not be," said Fraser.

Kuhn said that the Town and County can not continue to build residential growth. Every residential dwelling "costs the County, the State, the Town \$33,000 in infrastructure costs."

"Every time a toilet flushes in the Town of Purcellville, we are losing money ... if this were a private business I owned, I would be scared to death, and I would be bracing for bankruptcy."

Fraser disagreed and said the Town

Varying points of view

Kuhn presented the same proposal to the Purcellville Planning Commission Oct. 15. Kuhn said that with the Warner Brook property – he didn't need to use all the 118 acres for commercial/industrial, "We have a tremendous amount of land to create open space." He also cautioned that one couldn't say they don't want commercial or industrial. "It is going to be something ... it is not going to be open space."

Planning Commissioner Stosh Kowalski said Kuhn's proposed buffer was a problem, as well as moving trucks going in and out of the area.

Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman said in both the County and Town's Comprehensive Plan – the vision for this part of the County is to retain its rural heritage. "The idea was for the eastern part of the County to accommodate this kind of industrial, more dense growth, and the west would ... be more of a transition area." He said the zoning in this area is "what the people of our Town and County want."

"All I am saying about this, is that it needs to be much more imaginative than these options. We need to go to the citizens and say this is not a status quo solution, and not moving the vision of eastern Loudoun County into the western rural area ... I am not sure citizens are opposed to one house for every three acres on that land. I think what the people are opposed to is the idea of putting density, tightly packed buildings in that area ... I am not sure our Town wants industrial," said Ogelman.

was strong financially; and he repeated this at the Oct. 13 Town Council meeting. In 2023, the Town has a payment due of \$1.3 million, due to the increase in water treatment debt. "So, no, the Town is not on a fiscal cliff, and we are not close to bankruptcy. We have stellar ratings; we are managing our financial affairs well; and we are moving forward with initiatives to add to our revenue stream."

fulfilling career path. I hope he found someone to love and built a life he's proud to live. I hope his story, like mine, got better with time.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is the author of Can You See My Scars? His book is available on Amazon. For more about the Ryan Bartel Foundation, visit www.ryanbartelfoundation.org

TURKEY PARDONING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

back to Stonehaven Farm and play with the grandkids – where he is one of their favorites. One of his best pastimes is doing the gobble, gobble, gobble, and stretching his lungs. His favorite dance tune is actually Ludwig van Beethoven's Opus 76 *Song of Thanksgiving*. He likes to slow dance to it as a warm up

for his more hyper dance music, *Dueling Bangos* – and boy can he dance.

The event will be following guidelines established by the CDC in relation to COVID-19 including social distancing and the wearing of masks. We ask that all attendees follow the guidelines.

Hope you can make it.

MOORE-SOBEL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

organization dedicated to the prevention of youth suicide. Organizations like this one are available to those in need of support. Please reach out if you or a loved one needs help.

Even after all these years, I still wonder about my mentee. I hope he made it through middle school. I hope he went to college and embarked on a

CHAPMAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

Chapman has consistently opposed the idea of moving from a Sheriff's Office system to a Police Department system in Loudoun County.

A public safety empire

Chapman runs a very tight ship and is responsible for heading, among other things, an adult detention center, Ashburn, Eastern Loudoun, and Western Loudoun sheriff's stations; the Dulles South Public Safety Center, and the sheriff's administration building (in Leesburg).

The Sheriff's Office maintains a constantly-changing website, featuring links for Citizen Feedback, Report a Crime, Become a Deputy, Records Services, Crime Map Statistics, and Report a Traffic Complaint.

It also welcomes citizen complaints, questions, and concerns, and donations. Towing and traffic complaints are welcomed, too ...

A Donations Fund supports things such as "flowers for funerals of employee family members, retirement events, appreciation plaques, and good will activities for Sheriff's Office employees."

Donations are also accepted for specific initiatives such as Project Lifesaver – an "electronic- based tracking program," for people with Alzheimer's, autism, and other medical conditions; the McGruff Safety Camp for kids, and the office's School Resource Officer, Crime Prevention, Community Resource, and Auxiliary units.

A broad perspective

The more roles a person as prominent as Chapman has assumed in his lifetime, the more natural a decision like running for governor may actually be.

Chapman has worked in both the public and private sectors, including a Washington, D.C. consulting firms, and the DEA, and, he has decades of experience in law enforcement.

He has worked in Texas, California, Maryland, and now, Virginia. He has seen things from the perspective of an American private/public sector employee, but has also worked in Korea, Thailand, and Europe.

He also comes from "a family of service," with many of his kids following him into the public sector, and some taking the private sector route.

HILLSBORO STUDENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Hayden and his family relocated to Hillsboro from Washington State.

Hutch is a kids' magazine and is published under the direction of Peter H. Reynolds. The magazine focuses on art, poetry, book reviews, and feature stories. Reynolds has a non-profit foundation, The Reynolds Center for Teaching, Learning and Creativity. The first issue of the magazine was published in 2008.

TOYS FOR TOTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Each of the four partnering organizations will then distribute the toys to the families on their scheduled distribution dates.

Our communities have generously supported the Loudoun County Toys for Tots program each year, both by donating toys and with monetary donations, allowing all toy requests to be fulfilled.

"Our mission is simply that every child deserves a Christmas," said Frank Holtz Toys for Tots Coordinator for Loudoun County.

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