

Update on Loudoun Development: Growing Houses at Blue Mount Nursery

BY LAURA LONGLEY

As dogwoods go dormant at Blue Mount Nursery, this 20-year-old, family-owned, family-oriented garden center on Rt. 7 in Ashburn is about to grow things other than trees and plants. With an application for rezoning now in Loudoun County's Planning Department pipeline, the nursery's nearly 20 acres may soon grow houses—a lot of them.

The 485-unit community to be called Dogwood Farm Station is a project of U.S. Home Corporation, a subsidiary of Lennar Corporation, with Good Works, LP, the affordable housing development

firm headed by Kim Hart, who may be best known for his work with Middleburg's nonprofit Windy Hill Foundation.

Situated directly opposite the vast One Loudoun complex, the new project is set for departmental review, Planning Commission review, and a public hearing expected to take at least one year. It is predicted to be in front of the Planning Commission in February 2022.

Dogwood Farm Station's 485 units would reportedly consist of 165 affordable dwelling units (ADUs). The rezoning application that was filed with the County in mid-August, however, cites only 100 ADUs. At that number, the

project would just make the 20 percent benchmark of Loudoun's new Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan.

Approved for implementation by the Board of Supervisors on Sept. 8, the strategic plan calls for every new development in the County to meet that bar.

Supervisor Mike Turner (D-Ashburn) raised a warning flag at that meeting when, after thanking the County's planning staff for its work, he added, "I'm not sure the developers have figured out yet that the benchmark for new development is 20 percent in this plan. We really need to start holding their feet to

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

Purcellville winner in environmental quality Innovation Awards

Virginia Municipal League has named Purcellville winner in environmental quality in the League's Innovation Awards in Local Government.

In 2020, the Town Council of Purcellville decided to transform 93.38 acres of land owned by the Town, into the largest municipality-owned carbon sequestration and nutrient credit bank project in Northern Virginia. Engaging the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Town's management team applied for and obtained approval to develop the nutrient credit bank to support environmentally responsible development within the precious

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10th Annual Purcellville Halloween Block Party Oct. 30

"It seems like yesterday we hosted the 1st annual Halloween Block Party. It's with great pride that I put on the 10th annual Block Party for the people of Purcellville and our surrounding neighbors," said Michael Oaks, coordinator for the Halloween Block Party.

Discover Purcellville may have postponed the 10th annual Purcellville Halloween Block Party last year, but it's a go for this year. Set for Saturday, Oct. 30, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on 21st Street Old Town Purcellville. Michael Oaks,

coordinator for the Block Party, is anticipating a large crowd hungry for some long deserved Halloween fun.

Get your most clever, cute, scary, or wacky costume together, and enter one of six different costume contests. Cash prizes and trophies totaling over \$2,500 will be awarded in the following divisions: Infant to 5-years-old, 6 years to 12 years, 13 years to Adult, Family / Group, Pets,

Best Costume of the Night will be awarded \$500.

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I believe growing up in the DMV with a strong ethical background (and a military father) has contributed to my successful real estate career. Here are just a few of my 2020-2021 success stories and properties I had the privilege to work with:



Celebrate Purcellville going strong

Tag Sale is Oct. 9

The Town of Purcellville and its Parks and Recreation Advisory Board invite you join us for a week-long, town-wide event called Celebrate Purcellville which started Oct. 4 and ends on Oct. 10.

Use the Celebrate Purcellville Passport to visit participating businesses and organizations for special offers and a chance to win prizes. In addition to shopping and savoring local food and beverage options in Town, you will be able to enjoy a variety of other fun activities that are part of Celebrate Purcellville. Visit the Celebrate Purcellville web page for details.

Celebrate Purcellville Passport

The Celebrate Purcellville Passport will include a list of the businesses and organizations that are participating in the week-long event and provide details about the specials they are offering to those who present the passport to be stamped by the Oct. 10.

The passport will also include information about additional activities going on during the week. The Celebrate Purcellville Passport is available to download and print from the Celebrate Purcellville web page.

Copies of the passport will also be available at Town Hall (221 S. Nursery

Ave), the Bush Tabernacle (250 S. Nursery Ave), and the Purcellville Library (220 E Main Street). Passports with a minimum of 10 stamps can be turned in by Oct. 10 for a chance to win prizes that have been donated by participating businesses. Winners will be announced on Sunday, Oct. 10 during the event finale in Dillon's Woods. Though winners don't need to be present to win, it would be great to have those who participated in the Celebrate Purcellville Passport there.

Celebrate Purcellville Activities

Discover Purcellville's art project this year is *Words on a Fence*. The Town, the Purcellville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Purcellville Arts Council, and Discover Purcellville are jointly hosting a word search and story contest based on this community art project.

Thirty *Words on a Fence* painted by local artists have been placed in different spots throughout Purcellville. The Celebrate Purcellville Passport will include a page for people to write down the *Words on a Fence* they find during the week of Oct. 4 -10. The next step is a story writing contest. Elementary, middle, and high school students can use the words to write and submit a story for

a chance to win prizes. Get more information on the Great Purcellville Word Search page of the Town website.

On Friday, Oct. 8, the Bush Tabernacle and the Purcellville Library are partnering to host a Scooby Doo movie and trivia night at the Bush Tabernacle Skating Rink at 250 S. Nursery Ave.

The trivia game will start at 7 p.m. and the movie, *Scooby Doo, The Sword and the Scoob*, will start at 8 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Masks are encouraged and social distancing protocols will be followed.

As part of the town's Celebrate Purcellville festivities, the Purcellville Library is hosting a Scooby-Doo mystery weekend. You can go help Scooby-Doo and the gang find out who is causing trouble at the library. Solve the mystery through escape room activities and a tabletop game.

On Saturday, Oct. 9, listen to Dave Mininberg from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Purcellville Pub.

From noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 10, join the Purcellville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for live music and a variety of games and activities in Dillon's Woods – part of the Fireman's Field complex.

Featured performers include: Rick

Reaves Jazz Combo, Ben Demase, Side-tracked, Loudounettes from the Dance Academy of Loudoun, The Retrones, Bach to Rock, and The Darby Brothers.

The Purcellville Arts Council will continue their community art project for decorating tiles to create a display. A variety of games will also be set up. Beverages will be sold by American Legion Post 293, and food will be available for purchase.

People may also bring their own picnics and come enjoy a fun day in the park. Those who obtained at least 10 stamps in their Celebrate Purcellville Passport and turned it in will be entered into random drawings for prizes that have been donated by businesses that are participating in Celebrate Purcellville.

Purcellville Tag Sale

In addition to the activities that are

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Million dollar ribbon cutting for great spirits

BY ANDREA GAINES

Catoctin Creek Distillery had a happy, wholesome event on Sept. 20 as the distillery celebrated its \$1 million dollar expansion.

According to a press release by CCD

owners Scott and Becky Harris, the expansion has enabled the distillery to triple its capacity to "turn out Virginia's favorite spirits."

The Harris's Roundstone Rye is award-winning – the most awarded in

Virginia. And, their brandy, gin, and whiskey have "won fans and awards here and around the world ... In a few years ... after the next batches are done aging, there will be plenty more of those drinks to go around."

Event draws federal, state, and local officials

Attendees at the ribbon cutting event included United States Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Virginia), Tony Howard, President & CEO, Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, United States Representative Jennifer Wexton (D-10), and Virginia State Senator John Bell (D-13). Everyone seemed to enjoy the simple idea of celebrating the distillery's good fortune, and growing business success.

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L to R: United States Sen. Tim Kaine, Tony Howard, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Scott Harris, Becky Harris, United States Representative Jennifer Wexton, and Virginia State Senator John Bell.

Mark your calendar to see 'PUFFS' at LVHS

This fall, Loudoun Valley High School will put on the theatre production of 'PUFFS,' or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic', Oct. 28th-31st.

'PUFFS,' written by Matt Cox, follows Wayne Hopkins (played by Becca Little) as he navigates seven years in a mystical and magical school, but more importantly, friends, love, and a little bit of second-hand embarrassment.

If you have a heart of gold, a love of badgers, or you just wear yellow a lot, you'll love Valley's 'PUFFS.' Show dates and times at LVHS are: Oct. 28-30 at 7 p.m. Oct. 30-31 at 1 p.m.

For updated show dates/times, ticket information and Covid protocol, follow the LVHS Viking theatre website: <https://www.lvhstheatre.com/shows>.

Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth:

Unison

BY TIM JON

I remember feeling this way on several other occasions, as I'd prep myself to dive headlong into descriptive prose on the character of some particular (only partially-discovered, not to say unpopular) local gem; it may be its unique geography, architecture, historic significance, natural preservation, or even a jumble of indescribable intangibles (a tingle up the spine, a welling in the throat, a change in breathing patterns, or a significant pitter-patter in the old ticker) that seem to fill a hitherto void in the soul – to be found at this, and only this – set of terrestrial coordinates.

I probably sampled a good-sized grab-bag of all these sensations as I took an early morning tour of the little (minuscule, by most standards!) Village of Unison; my cross-country saga to get there – through fog-enshrouded, unimproved, little-more-than-one-lane roads had left me a bit breathless, and thankful for a chance to relax my eagle-talon grip on the steering wheel to finish my world-champion coffee.

And that was just it – this arduous journey: so much of the allure of the

place – for me stemmed from its very inaccessibility; this tiny, historic community lies far off the beaten path of most of area commuters (it's a bit of a jog on little, under-the-radar Foxcroft Road – from Unison - just to get to Route 611 – Saint Louis Road – where you'd run into anything like real traffic), but my pre-dawn run through the gauntlet was more than offset by the atmosphere found in a small gathering of peaceful, shaded, still, and utterly charming human habitations and other structures.

In fact, the transportation corridors one would choose to arrive in Unison (out in southwestern Loudoun County... let's see, do you know where Bloomfield is? No? Well, how 'bout Willisville? I already mentioned Saint Louis... no, not Missouri – this is Northern Virginia. Mountville, Philomont, Airmont? OK, Unison is northwest of Middleburg – you've heard of that – the place with the horses, right? And it's east of the famous Blue Ridge Mountains, but close enough to feel their mystique.) driving those roads, then, is sort of like follow-

ing a nest of old cobwebs in an ancient barn.

But if the gentle reader ever gets sufficiently lost, out there, in order to find themselves in Unison, they will be amply rewarded by the prominent (and historic) Unison Store, perched in the center



(geographically and emotionally speaking) of the community; the structure dates back to 1880, has enjoyed a storied timeline, and in recent years has undergone extensive renovation and preservation. The Store ceased operations as a retail business in the early 1990's, and the Unison Preservation Society has used the facility – off and on - for select special events.

Then, a bit further down the road, I

came upon another timeless edifice – the local Methodist Church – which proudly displays a founding date of 1832 on the front lawn. The brick structure features a prominent bell-tower and stands as a familiar landmark for the Village. A great counterbalance to the Store.

And, what about the overall history of Unison? Well, let's see: I believe Quaker settlers sort of gathered thereabouts and semi-tamed the acres of land in the early 1700's; the spot served as a Civil War battleground in 1862, and the Village gained status – in 2003 - on the National Register of Historic Places.

And, yes, that leaves a lot of gaps for significant events; thankfully, far more meticulous writers have carefully left a plethora of details on the website for the aforementioned Preservation Society. Since my beloved dogs – with little or no training - can now search the Google engine on their own, I trust the interested reader can proceed at his, or her discretion.

So – after all this time, having survived the centuries of settlement, modest commercial industry, martial upheaval, a couple of name changes (originally called Butterland – or even Greenville – and a later moniker of 'Union' took

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More Seinfeld, Please

BY SAMUEL-MOORE SOBEL

Some television shows take on a life of their own.

Seinfeld was never expected to be a hit. There was no guarantee that there would even be a sitcom in the first place. Apparently, Jerry Seinfeld only got a meeting with network executives because of the repeated efforts of his manager, George Shapiro. "Seinfeld hadn't the first idea what he'd do on television – his main career plan was to be a stand-up co-

median for as long as he could," writes Jennifer Keishin Armstrong in her book, *Seinfeldia*.

More *Seinfeld* tidbits and trivia are sprinkled throughout the book. Originally, the title for the pilot episode of the show was *The Seinfeld Chronicles*. The character Kramer was based on Larry David's real-life neighbor, a man named Kenny Kramer. Joe Davola - who appears in season 4 – was a real-life executive at Fox, who apparently was nothing like the character on the show. Larry David simply liked the name, Joe Davola, and wanted to include it in the show.

Reading the book *Seinfeldia* was a de-

light, mainly because *Seinfeld* is one of my favorite shows. There are so many memorable episodes. Some of my favorites include *The Chinese Restaurant*, *The Strike*, and *The Slicer*. My brother and I still recite lines from time to time, such as Kramer's memorable line, "These pretzels are making me thirsty." Another favorite is in Season 6 Episode 4, when Frank Constanza (Jerry Stiller), in conversation with George Constanza (Jason Alexander), claps his hands and loudly exclaims, "How could Jerry not say hello!"

For us, the family relationships on the show felt familiar. We had relatives like Uncle Leo, who would repeatedly insist on the importance of saying "hello!" The observations made on the show were so relatable. Who hasn't answered

a telemarketer call and wanted to say what Jerry says in Season 4 Episode 3, "I can't talk right now, why don't you give me your home number and I'll call you later?"

These episodes permeated my life as a teenager. Yet I didn't start watching *Seinfeld* until the mid-2010s, long after the show's finale aired in 1998.

What's fascinating about *Seinfeld* is the show's resonance even decades after being off the air. "Even as fans grumbled over the finale, they found comfort in watching *Seinfeld* after work, with dinner, during sleepless nights," Armstrong writes.

I fell into this category, watching episodes in the evenings after a long day. These days, I still watch episodes on

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

How to support our children during this school year

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

Our children are back in school, and everything's great, right? Yes and no.

Sure, there are plenty of positives to being in school again – our children can access academic material better, receive more personalized and direct instruction, form and maintain better connections, and they are less distracted. While research has shown that children learn more when they are in school, the return to school has been problematic for many.



DR. MIKE

The protracted changes, adjustments, and uncertainties of COVID-19 have been, and continue to be, the main emotional impediment to our children's success as students. There's a process of attrition to any system, and the restrictions and other in school modifications and inconveniences have certainly been wearing on our children.

Analogous to pounding a car over and over again with a hammer where it will eventually break down or not start, the same applies to the human mind. With COVID-19, our children have had to absorb hammer hit after hammer hit, and after a year and a half of hits, the engine, isn't running as smoothly as it once did.

Children and teens don't possess the internal resources to fully manage their negative emotions during a crisis, which is why research has shown significantly higher rates of all sorts of mental health and learning struggles for them now.

As a child psychologist in private practice, I've seen firsthand the significantly higher rates of mental health struggles

that have been reported this past year and a half for our children – increased depression, anxiety, self-harm, substance use, as well as various behavioral problems.

The topic of peer-to-peer negativity and physical fighting at school has come up a lot with the children I treat. The latter seems to be the case for adults these days too; news stories abound with people fighting on airplanes, and in various other public settings.

So, how can we best support our children this school year, especially when it doesn't appear that the omnipresent hammer hits of COVID-19 will be going away any time soon?

Foster A Positive Mindset. Research studies have repeatedly shown a strong link between positive thinking and emotional and physical wellbeing for children. Positive thinking can lead to increased grit/resilience, enhanced creativity, improved problem-solving skills, increased focus and concentration, greater achievement and stronger relationships.

Being positive doesn't mean being happy all the time; but, even during struggles or adversities, it's always a good thing to help your child to focus on the good. Explaining your values and morals, inquiring about positive experiences, encouraging, praising positive moments, are just a few ways parents can help their child take on a more positive mindset.

Volunteer. Helping others less fortunate or those in need increases your child's altruism and gratitude, as well as

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— View from the Ridge —

Purcellville voters are not fooled and will surely say so on Nov. 2

There's a special election in Purcellville on Nov. 2. The choice for voters – how to fill the Town Council seat vacated by Ted Greenly.

OPINION

Erin Rayner, who lost a Town Council bid in 2020, is running against Sean MacDonald. Whoever wins will complete a short Town Council term ending in November 2022.

MacDonald, endorsed by Mayor Kwasi Fraser, and Council Members Stan Milan, and Chris Bertaut, is the true slow-

growth-lower taxes tight budget candidate. He works for the Department of Homeland Security. Rayner is the Vice President of the Purcellville Business Association.

An apple is not an orange

In a recent letter to the editor, supporters of Rayner let loose on Fraser, and this newspaper, equating the four-term mayor's administration to an "ideological cult" ready to spend the citizens of

Purcellville into oblivion and sell off the Town's small-town character.

Sometimes, the bigger the untruth you tell, the more you think that people might just believe you. Fraser has stopped rampant growth in Purcellville and championed its small-town character since the day he took office.

But, an apple is not an orange. And, Purcellville voters, who have elected and re-elected Fraser four times by wide margins know this.

It's no wonder there are prominent

Rayner signs on the outskirts of Purcellville on land that has been waiting to be annexed into Town for years. Her signs are also on developer's land in Town properties.

These annexations are taxpayer money pits that only benefit developers. Often challenged by Fraser. They are gunning for him and for a Town Council majority, since the current Council is evenly split.

Blue Ridge Leader also targeted

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“Strange Times Are These ...”

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

“What do you mean by that?” Byne Rood asked her husband.

Robert Rood answered, “Plato wrote

ey, all those lives, twenty years – but we're worse off now than we started.”

“And not sure if the final chapters have been written,” observed Byne. “I hate the discord in the country, and even in Loudoun. I can't imagine living elsewhere, though.”

“Agreed,” said Robert, “but I have some gripes. Here's a trivial one.”

Coarsening of our Language

“Even educated people don't use proper grammar; they say things like “Bob took her and I to dinner,” or “Sally and me went to Purcellville.”

Byne gave him a quick smirk. “You're in your grammarian mode, so I bet you have more.”

He did. “I've given up on the incorrect ‘people that’ usage, and on non-words like ‘preventative,’ Robert responded.

“Trendy new words irritate me, for example, “I have little bandwidth to think about something.”

Byne added, “It's people ‘who,’ and ‘capacity’ is a better word.”

“Then there are profanities, Byne. When I was a boy, my grandmother would light into me when I said darn or dang. They offended her. She would have swooned upon hearing words used today, not just in casual conversations, but on today's television.”

Evolution of Beliefs

“I think that people's political and social beliefs can change. My father was raised in the south where segregation was part of life but as he grew older, he became a Stevenson-Kennedy liberal, and a local Democratic leader. Dad supported the civil rights movement and visiting activists often stayed with us. Dad's beliefs had evolved from his childhood.

“My brothers and I shared those liberal beliefs, but we later became conservatives, and I'm also a libertarian.”

“Yep,” said Byne, “Live and let live.”

Robert grinned and continued, “For most of my life I never thought one way or the other about same-sex marriage. The issue never came up. But take Tina; we like her, right?”

Byne replied, “Yep. And we like Penny, too.”

Robert went on, “That's my point. They are great people and I'm happy they got married. I don't have a single problem with that.”

The Sins of Our Fathers

Robert had more. “I just read a novel set in ninth century England. The protagonist was an anti-hero, a Saxon fighting Danish invaders. He was happy to kill, steal, lie, take slaves, all that stuff. Those

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Distinct differences between LaRock and his challenger

Dear Editor:

I would like to share what I see as distinct differences between our current Delegate, Dave LaRock and the challenger, Paul Siker.

LaRock has played a key role in forming the current plan to finance and bring high-speed internet to every home in rural Loudoun, Clarke, and Frederick counties. Siker supports rural broadband, but I found no record or claims of him advancing the solution.

LaRock is very engaged in fixing various congested roads, and intersections in western Loudoun. Siker takes no position on transportation.

LaRock has voted against all tax increases, pledges never to support a tax increase, and supports elimination of the grocery tax. Siker makes no mention of his position on taxation.

Siker takes no position on gun rights on his candidate website, and is endorsed by anti-gun advocates. LaRock supports

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Youngkin, Sears and Miyares – A Diverse Ticket in Every Way

Dear Editor:

Let's get back to good governance and end one party rule in Virginia with this fantastic line up:

Glenn Youngkin, is a homegrown Virginian who spent the last 30 years supporting his family, his church and building a successful business.

He has the endorsement of the Virginia Law Enforcement Sheriff's Organization.

He supports eliminating burdensome taxes on food and gasoline.

Youngkin vows to make Virginia the best job market, maintain excellent schools and the safest communities in America.

Winsome Sears built a successful business, and is a trained electrician. She served in the Marines, and was a member of the Committee on Women Veterans while serving as the first Black Republican woman elected to the Virginia General Assembly.

She was co-chair of the African American Advisory Committee to the US Census Bureau, and a former vice president of the

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Vote for Glenn Youngkin for Governor

Dear Editor:

On Nov. 2 Virginians have an important choice to make: who will represent them in the Governor's office for the next 4 years.

Glenn Youngkin, political outsider and successful businessman, is the bold leader who will restore Virginia's prosperity and lead us to a vibrant economic recovery.

LETTER

Glenn's Day One Game Plan will jumpstart our economy which ranks 44th in the nation for pandemic recovery. After zero job growth from 2013 through 2020, Glenn's plan will create 400,000 jobs and 10,000 startups by cutting regulations to create jobs and make it easier for innovators and entrepreneurs to get small businesses moving again.

He will launch #JumpstartJobs, an innovative initiative to develop talent, train workers, attract investment and make Virginia the best and easiest state

in which to start a business.

Glenn has been endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Business Virginia PAC, Associated Builders and Contractors Virginia (ABC-VA), and Virginia Contractor Procurement Alliance, three organizations representing thousands of Virginia small businesses. Virginia's small business leaders know that Glenn is the leader we need to bring economic recovery and prosperity back to the Commonwealth.

Glenn will cut exploding costs for families and relieve the burdens of rapidly rising inflation and taxes.

He will eliminate Virginia's grocery tax, suspend the recent gas tax hike for 12 months, end runaway property taxes by requiring voter approval for increases, cut income taxes by doubling the standard deduction and reduce taxes on our veteran's retirement pay, all putting real dollars back into the pockets of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 »

Glenn Youngkin? For Governor? Are you kidding me?

Dear Editor:

Fellow Virginians, we have seen this movie before, and it doesn't come with a Hollywood ending. A BS Candidate (Blank Slate) with no record of public service, not one vote ever cast for him, a bio thick on making lots of dough, paper thin on making things happen on behalf of fellow citizens.

LETTER

But he does possess a big hairy business resume. (Sidebar on business resume: I hate to break it to you, but government cannot be run like a business, because government is not a business. It's a government, with lots of dueling stakeholders).

But bottom line: Having walked away

with gazillions from the Carlyle Group makes Youngkin smart and lucky. It doesn't make him a good gubernatorial prospect.)

If this guy is elected, he's going to get to make appointments. He'll get re-appoint/don't re-appoint power over life and death. He's going to be CEO of a government serving eight and a half million people while asking those eight and a half million people to grant him some world-class on-the-job training.

So who's our alternative? Terry McAuliffe. Yes, I know what you're saying. Here's a bloke who gives high energy a bad name. All that optimism, all those boosterisms. Can we believe him or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 »

I'm supporting Paul Siker

Dear Editor:

Once again election season is upon us and as usual all sorts of promises and charges are flying around. And by now most people have made their minds up about the national political scene and what they believe or don't believe.

LETTER

But is any of this useful in deciding who to vote for to be our 33rd District representative to the Virginia House of Delegates? Where the incumbent David LaRock is facing a strong challenge from Paul Siker.

When I decide on who to vote for locally, I throw away party labels and ask but one question: "Which candidate will work to enhance our rural economy, pre-

serve the rural lifestyle and environment, and be open to hear our concerns about rural issues both pro and con that arise during the Richmond legislative sessions?"

Party labels mean nothing, but who will answer the phone, and take up the rural cause means everything.

In my volunteer preservation work I've found both Democrats and Republicans share the love of this unique and beautiful Countryside, our farms, the Blue Ridge Mountains, and historic villages.

This year in the 33rd District of the Virginia House of Delegates we have an opportunity to elect a new fresh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 »

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Vote Nov. 2 to reelect Wendy Gooditis

Dear Editor:

If you honestly care about quality, affordable health care, supporting our children's education needs and protecting our community's quality of life, you must vote on Nov. 2 to reelect Wendy Gooditis as Delegate for HD-10.

LETTER

It's stunning to realize – and challenging to summarize here – just how much Wendy, a mother of two and former schoolteacher for more than a decade, has accomplished for us all during less than four years in office.

Wendy has personally experienced the tragic consequences of being unable to obtain health care services for a family member, which inspired her to champion legislation expanding affordable health care for more than 550,000 working families and veterans. Those health benefits cover pre-existing conditions, provide dental coverage, lower prescription prices, and, importantly, expand access to mental health services across the commonwealth.

As the Delta Covid variant rampages across the nation, Wendy's opponent, Nick Clemente, a former coal lobbyist – whose campaign seems little more than a series of patently false claims

and Trump-like pronouncements to wreak havoc wherever possible – says he would eliminate those vital health protections, including for veterans, and promises to remove mask requirements for children returning to schools.

In contrast, Wendy has promoted quality education and safety first for our children, supporting mask requirements, helping provide \$220 million for Covid preparedness, increasing teachers' pay and delivering \$70 million to hire additional school nurses and counselors to help our children weather the educational problems arising from the pandemic.

Of particular interest to Western Loudoun, Wendy has improved regional transportation, serves as a leader on conservation issues, providing farmland preservation funding, protecting Virginia's agriculture industry and engaging with small rural communities endangered by inappropriate development.

She has done so much. She is sincere and trustworthy. We owe her our support to continue protecting our families and communities.

*Michael Zuckerman
Round Hill*

Let's reelect Dave LaRock

Dear Editor:

The people of Western Loudoun are wonderful folks. We welcome new people to come and live here, or just to spend the weekend.

As a small farm and trucking business owner, my husband and I know lots of people. We are very aware that having hard-working and trustworthy elected officials representing us can have a big effect on our lives.

I want our government to protect my rights and other people's rights, not trample them. I want a government that helps solve my problems, not create new problems. I want government and elected leaders to be honorable people.

Here are my thoughts on the two candidates for the 33rd.

Paul Siker's website has almost nothing to show me where he stands on issues. His Facebook campaign page is a who's who of the ultra-liberals and groups who advocate for things that so many of us oppose, like politicizing our kids' education and indoctrinating our children, high taxes, and gun confiscation,

yet he doesn't say where he is on these issues.

Siker even denies that Critical Race Theory is being taught in Loudoun schools when teachers say it is, and receipts for purchased curriculum have been published.

Dave LaRock, in contrast, has a comprehensive website making it clear he is very transparent and focused on quality education, better roads, and helping keep Loudoun small business-friendly.

It sickens me to see schools exposing children to things that are totally inappropriate. Dave is out in front on this issue demanding parents be part of the education process, and that education should focus on academics and vocational training.

LaRock is tuned into limiting development, and advancing broadband to help businesses and families like mine thrive.

In the mix of big issues, it is easy to miss that Dave LaRock provides an extraordinary level of customer service to the people he serves and that seals the deal for me.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 »


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Fighting the fire in Philomont

Residents remain hopeful about their fire station's renovation

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Exactly one year ago the *Blue Ridge Leader* shared news of a historic rural hamlet where, it's fair to say, the board of the local volunteer fire department had just lit a fire that quickly engulfed the community.

The blaze in the tiny village of Philomont began when the volunteers' leaders put out a newsletter announcing plans they had developed with Loudoun County Fire and Rescue to abandon the existing firehouse that is flanked by the old general store and historic community center for a big, shiny, new 18,500-square-foot firehouse. They planned to build it on a nearby field long dedicated to horse shows. Decades ago, the community had raised the funds to buy that seven-acre parcel and then transferred ownership to the fire department. In the newsletter, the board noted it intended to give the property to the County.

If they'd had no inkling of these plans, nothing prepared early Philomont voters for the bond referendum on the Novem-

ber ballot: to approve \$21.5 million in Loudoun taxpayer funds to build a new firehouse on the Horse Show Grounds.

Were the fire departments putting the cart before the horse?

Clearly, this move was viewed as a done deal. But the community pushed back and convinced the Board of Supervisors to approve a study examining the feasibility of renovating the existing facility rather than building a new one.

The 80-plus page study took 10 months to complete. It was submitted to the volunteer board and LCFR Chief Keith Johnson and staff in early July. Yet it was not shared with Philomont residents until late August, two weeks before LCFD officials gave a Power Point presentation to the community and conservation groups.

Despite the length of the study, the community wondered why, if the consultants could develop two bird's-eye views of large stations surrounded by asphalt, they could not go the distance and produce floor plans and elevations that would illustrate whether a renovation

could meet operational standards.

Changes from the plans that had been presented the year before were few—except for the addition of a “temporary” facility budgeted at another \$2.5 million. This facility, to be located at the Horse Show Grounds, would be used for at least five years given the anticipated 2026 completion date of the new station. Why, residents wondered, was a costly temporary structure needed when the existing station was perfectly serviceable as is?

A Loudoun County Supervisor's questions

In the event the Board of Supervisors decided to build the new station, questions began to arise about the disposition of the existing firehouse and ownership of the Horse Show Grounds.

Loudoun County Supervisor Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) posed questions about those issues to PVFD Chief Rick Pearsall.

“If Loudoun County decides to utilize the Horse Show Grounds for construction of the replacement fire station, would the Volunteers transfer ownership of the

Horse Show Grounds to Loudoun County at no charge to the County?” Pearsall: Yes.

“If Loudoun County decides to utilize the existing station property for construction of the replacement station, would the Volunteers transfer ownership of the existing station property to Loudoun County at no charge to the County?” Pearsall: No.

“If not, what amount would the Volunteers request from the County in order transfer ownership of the existing station property to the County?”

Pearsall replied, “PVFD has not conducted a market analysis of the current fire house and grounds, however we estimate the property with the current annual cell tower revenue of \$55K (Note: we have had offers that exceed \$500K for the purchase of the cell tower leasing rights) and the building improvements made over the last 2 years would justify a higher than normal assessment value. PVFD estimates the 2.2 acre site with its improvements and the cell tower contracts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 »



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Go to our Facebook and Instagram pages for more information. You can also call the Park Office at (540) 338-7603

Beyond the Short Hill—a cell tower battle at Mickie Gordon Park

BY LAURA LONGLEY

At press time, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors is preparing to vote on whether to permit AT&T to construct a 125-high cell tower on the Short Hill Mountain.

Even if their vote results in a win for the County's conservation coalitions and western Loudoun community, Loudoun's cell tower battles are far from over. That is due in part to an August 2020 Master License Agreement between Loudoun County Public Schools and Milestone Towers.

Consider the ongoing troubles at Middleburg's Mickie Gordon Memorial Park, off Rt. 50, with its lighted baseball field, three soccer fields, three baseball fields, two tennis courts, a Little League field, a picnic pavilion, and a small pond for fishing. Last spring Milestone proposed locating a 185-foot cell tower right behind the batter's box on the baseball field. The proposal was approved by the LCPS

School Board in May.

Milestone Towers and LCPS

Based in Reston, 20-year-old Milestone Towers has constructed more than 130 towers to date, including installations in Fairfax, Fauquier, Prince William, and now Loudoun counties.

Milestone's business model is built around master licenses like its Loudoun agreement, which lock up school districts, and therefore the land their schools occupy. Without the obstacle of finding and buying private property, the company can move forward with a lead carrier such as AT&T and construct a tower tall enough to accommodate future, secondary carriers such as Verizon or T-Mobile.

In the case of Mickie Gordon Park's tower, Milestone anticipates three additional carriers, which will require more transmission and reception antennas at the top. Milestone also offers FirstNet to improve communications with fire, res-

cue, and other public safety units.

Among Milestone Towers' selling points to Loudoun residents who might see their lives and property negatively impacted by a tower is the \$40,000 site fee paid to LCPS and the 40 percent of gross revenues that the public-private project promises to yield for the school district. According to Milestone, that amounts to a \$30,000 to \$40,000 annual contribution to the school—not a number, however, that will make much of a dent in a school district budget of \$1.5 billion.

The location for the new Middleburg area tower was determined by (a) availability of the 99-acre open field with surrounding trees that Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services leases from its owner, LCPS, and (b) AT&T's aim of enhancing service—and adding customers—between the park location and Middleburg. There is already an AT&T installation one and a half miles west, near the water tower on the Middleburg Community Charter School

property.

Community Engagement Counts

News of cell tower projects often surprise neighbors because projects are initiated between the school district and Milestone.

For starters, the source of information is difficult to find unless you're familiar with the tower development process. In the case of the Mickie Gordon Memorial Park tower, you have to dig into the LCPS website to its Planning Services page to click on "Future School Sites/Facilities" webpage at <https://www.lcps.org/Page/227914>

The process begins with Milestone's site proposal and assessment followed by LCPS review and approval by the LCPS Finance and Operations Committee.

From there the application goes through the County land-use process and Board of Supervisors approval, site license agreement, and site development. Along the way, Milestone Towers sends

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

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Christina is wearing our signature Fit & Flare stretch denim with our distressed denim "Savage" jacket.

If you've got it, flaunt it.
Anja is wearing our new star studded, acid washed, distressed denim duster in a way that is unmistakably Miss Dick.



"Finding the Fantastic"
Colleen is wearing 2021's hottest trend, the oversized shirt in plaid with asymmetrical hemline and black denim patches. We paired it with our ultra cool black denim jogger and Eyetopia sunglasses by Anne et Valentin



Pure Sunshine
Suzanne is in our white pleated maxi with empire waist and open lace sleeves paired effortlessly with our "Queen Bee: beaded clutch and our delicate ultramarine blue AV sunglasses.



The Bond Girl
Mindy is seen in our chic dark denim trench worn "flasher style" as a dress with our Jimmy Choo denim sunglasses



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Too Hot!
Vanessa is stunning in our sexy girl, midi length faux fur leopard vest, ribbon mesh leggings and cold shoulder black tunic all paired with our HOT sunglasses by Barton P.



ReHumanize Yourself
Monica is wearing our ultra-soft "HUMAN" hoodie paired with our unisex pajama soft denim joggers and our custom teal lensed Italian sunglass.



Stylin'
Jillianna is wearing our color block, balloon sleeve sweater and our black athleisure legs paired with our limited edition AV sunglass.



Feeling Rose'
Erica is wearing our hot pink romper with halter tie neck and flare legs paired with our beaded Rose' clutch and our sized just right, Giuliani sunglasses.



Shake it off!
Jennifer is wearing our blanket soft wrap sweater top with our skinny distressed denim pull-on jeans and our nude Dita sunglass.



Eyeglass Whisperer
Paige is wearing our asymmetrical zip top tunic with white leather trim and pocket. She has paired it with a rose gold and black Dita unisex aviator.

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Fiery second debate in the hot race for Virginia Governor

BY ANDREA GAINES

With the race for Virginia's governorship heating up, Democratic candidate Terry McAuliffe and Republican Glenn Youngkin faced off in a second and final debate on Sept. 28.

Short but not so sweet, with Libertarian Party candidate Princess Blanding interrupting the proceedings at one point, the debate lasted just one hour. Blanding repeatedly shouted: "I should be on stage" ... having been excluded from this debate and the first one.

The hour saw McAuliffe and Youngkin facing off on a wide variety of issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine requirements, right-to-work policies, the minimum wage, paid sick leave, climate change, taxes, housing, and more.

The debate was hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Schar School of Policy and Government, NBC4 and Telemundo 44, Capital One, and the Northern Virginia Community College.

First debate sets the tone

An earlier gubernatorial debate was held Sept. 16 at the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, in southwest Virginia. That debate was moderated by the Washington bureau chief of USA Today, Susan Page, and characterized as heated and contentious, touching on issues from abortion to COVID-19. Terry McAuliffe served as Virginia Governor from 2014 to 2018. Glenn Youngkin is a former co-CEO of the investment firm The Carlyle Group. Princess Blanding, running as a third-party candidate was not part of either debate.

Both candidates fought hard to get to be their party's nominee, with McAuliffe emerging victorious in a five-way Democratic primary, and Youngkin doing so in a seven-way Republican primary.

Both candidates, also, appear to have "money in the bank."

But, the race is close, with Virginia a key battleground state and bellwether for the 2022 elections.

No punches pulled in debate two

In his opening statement, the obvious challenger to the status quo, Youngkin took a very folksy approach and was also harsh on the state-of-the-state, saying "I ask you to hire me to go work for you. I'm a husband. I'm a father ..."

"I'm a man of faith. I'm a job creator. And, I'm a homegrown Virginian. Over the last eight years, Virginia has seen itself fall behind, seriously behind ... [The state's] schools [are] failing, murder rate rising, cost of living sky-rocketing, and our economy and job machine stalling ..."

Youngkin also addressed his opponent's record directly, saying: "His so-called plans will cost Virginians \$16 billion, \$5,400 each in a tax increase. It's recycled, failed policies. My fellow Virginians, tonight, I'll share my vision for lower taxes, for the best jobs, for the best schools, for the safest ..."

McAuliffe, of course, focused in his opening statement on his prior record as governor, saying: "... I was honored to be

your seventy-second governor. ...

"And, if you remember when I took office, I inherited [an] economy that was in chaos. I got to work. I got out of bed every single day, fighting for you. I worked in a bipartisan manner. And, guess what? We created 120,000 new jobs, personal income went up 14 percent. But, now, we have COVID. So, we've got new challenges."

"So, I've got 20 very serious plans of how I will lead us out of this COVID pandemic. I talk about raising the minimum wage, paid sick days ..."

Questions and answers

Specific debate questions focused on the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine requirements.

COVID, as moderator Chuck Todd noted, has infected 840,000 Virginians and killed 12,000. Youngkin encouraged people to get the vaccine, and noted that he and everyone around him had been vaccinated. But, he continues to resist

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

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Career Change Checklist: Are You Prepared?

If you're considering a job or career change, it's important to do some homework before you make the leap. Many benefits from your current position could be tied to specific dates and time frames. Gathering the right information can help you strategically time your exit and set yourself up for greater success. Consider these steps before you resign:

1. Decide if you'd prefer to quit now or wait until you have an offer. This decision requires you to factor in how unhappy you are in your current position and whether you're able to live off your savings for a while. If you're in a traditional industry, such as sales, it might be better to find a new opportunity while you're employed. But if you're in high-tech, biotech, private equity, or a similar industry, there may be less risk in taking some time off.

2. Check your employment contract and non-compete agreement. Have a labor attorney review any legal documents you signed when you were hired to evaluate their terms and enforceability. Some contracts may require you to pay back relocation money, education grants, or bonuses if you don't stay for a certain

period of time. Others include "golden handcuffs" that mean you will lose unvested options, restricted stock, deferred compensation, and other benefits upon resignation. Still others may require waiting for a specified length of time before taking a job with a competitor.

3. Review your retirement benefits. Check the vesting schedule for your employer's 401(k) contributions and profit-sharing contributions to see how long you have to work to claim your portion of the money. Many plans require you be employed on the last day of the plan year to get employer contributions for that year. You may want to wait until after the plan year ends before you terminate employment so you don't lose those contributions.

4. Check the terms of stock options, restricted stock, or other forms of non-salary compensation. You may want to delay your departure if a valuable number of options will vest in the near future. If you're already vested, find out if you're still subject to the same trading windows and how much time you have to exercise your vested options once you resign. In many cases, options expire if they aren't exercised within a certain time frame—typically 90 days after your departure.

5. Spend your FSA accounts. If you put pretax money into a flexible spending account (FSA), try to spend down the account before you resign. FSAs typically operate on a use-it-or-lose-it basis (though you may be able to extend with COBRA). In contrast, if you have money in a health savings account (HSA), that money is yours to keep.

6. Consult a financial advisor. Whether you're planning to take some time off or go right into to a new job, an advisor can provide valuable financial guidance through the transition.

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

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RICHARD RICCI

Public input sought for Liberty Street Parking Lot

Leesburg Town staff will hold a public input meeting at the Liberty Street Parking Lot on Thursday, Oct. 7 at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit feedback on the potential redevelopment

of the parking lot.

The Liberty Street Parking Lot is a 2.03-acre parcel of land, owned by the Town of Leesburg and currently used as a public parking lot. In August, the Leesburg Town Council directed staff to begin exploring potential re-

development options for the site. The parking lot is zoned B-1 Community (Downtown) Business District.

Additional information, including an aerial photo, a link to detailed information about the site's zoning, and an online comment form, is available

at www.leesburgva.gov/Liberty-Lot. Online comments will be accepted through Friday, Oct. 22.

For more information, contact Russell Seymour, Economic Development Director, at 703-771-6530 or rseymour@leesburgva.gov.

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Northam announces grant program for local food, farming infrastructure

Gov. Ralph Northam has announced a new grant program designed to support equitable and sustainable local food systems for small-scale agricultural producers, farmers markets, and food hubs.

GOVERNMENT

It is a new component of the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund. Local governments can apply for grants to support farmers markets and small-scale agricultural facilities through Nov. 15

This Infrastructure Program competitively awards matching grants of up to \$25,000 in partnership with local governments for community infrastructure development projects that support local food production and sustainable agriculture. Special reduced match requirements are available to projects in economically distressed localities, underserved communities, and for those benefiting multiple small-scale producers.

"Ensuring equitable access to healthy and affordable food for all Virginians has always been a priority of this administration," said Gov. Northam. "One of the best ways we can do this is by partnering with local governments to make strategic investments in our local food systems. The local infrastructure created by this new program will enable Virginia's small-scale farmers and food producers to thrive,

grow local economies, and improve food access."

"One of the greatest strengths of Virginia agriculture, the Commonwealth's largest private sector industry, is its diversity," said Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bettina Ring. "I am pleased that the new Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Infrastructure Program provides another economic development tool for localities. These resources make funding accessible to communities that need it most, and benefit farmers and producers, as well as our local food systems."

Del. Sam Rasoul's House Bill 2068 created this grant program during the 2021 General Assembly session. The legislation authorizes the Governor to award grants of up to \$25,000 to political subdivisions.

The reimbursable grants are primarily for capital projects at new and existing food hubs, farmers markets, commercial kitchens, and other value-added facilities such as those for the processing and packaging of meats, dairy products, produce, or other Virginia-grown products.

Small farmers, food producers, local food systems advocates and others interested in building their community's local food and farming infrastructure are encouraged to learn more about the program and work with their localities to identify and develop suitable projects.

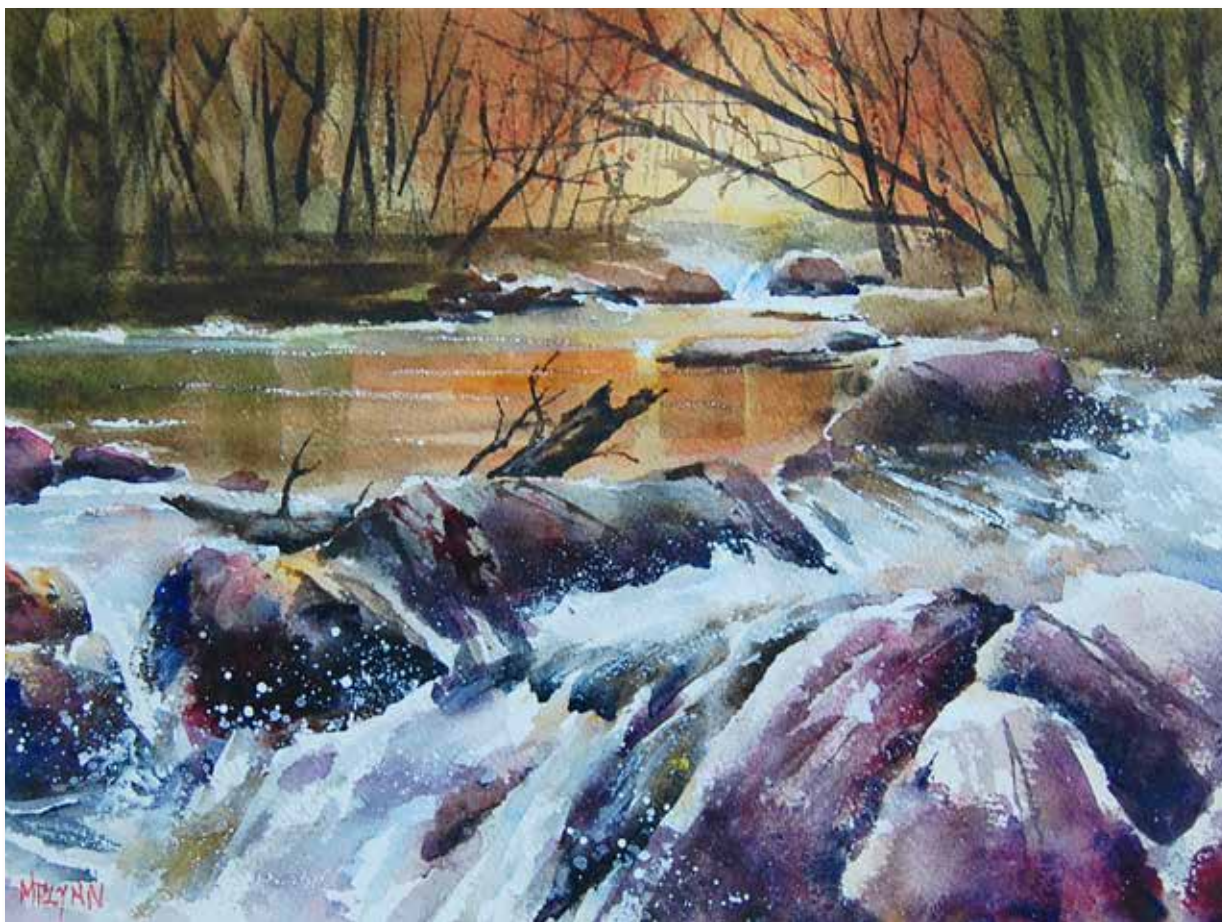
Applications for this funding can be submitted through Nov. 15. Final award announcements will be made no later than Dec. 31.

"The Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Infrastructure Program, with its focus on supporting local food and farming, benefits both our communities and farmers," said Delegate Rasoul. "The money spent with local farmers and growers stays close to home and is reinvested with the businesses and services in our communities."

The new Infrastructure Program joins two other Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development-funded programs, all of which are administered by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The Facility Grants Program is a Governor's discretionary economic development incentive for new and expanding facilities that, in addition to creating new jobs and investment, add value to Virginia-grown products. The Planning Grants Program funds a wide range of activities that support agriculture- and forestry-based industries more broadly, and is designed to empower localities to develop creative solutions tailored to their unique needs.

Questions about the program and upcoming application workshops should be directed to Jennifer Perkins at vdacs.virginia.gov.



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Loudoun Medical Reserve Corps seeks volunteer vaccinators

The Loudoun Medical Reserve Corps is issuing a call for volunteer vaccinators—especially for those who are comfortable with vaccinating young children—to help in protecting the community's health as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

GOVERNMENT

The County anticipates an upcoming increase in demand for the COVID-19 vaccine, which will require additional support from the Loudoun MRC and the medical community.

In the coming weeks, it is expected

that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will recommend that children ages 5 to 11 receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Shortly after this occurs, it is expected that the Virginia Department of Health will authorize local health departments to begin administering vaccines to this age group.

"Vaccination is critical to keeping our children safe and our schools open as we head into an expected winter surge in cases," said Loudoun County Health Director Dr. David Goodfriend. "Loudoun MRC volunteers who are comfortable

vaccinating young children will be valuable partners to the county as we work to meet the demand for vaccination of those who are unable to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through their pediatrician or local pharmacy."

Registered nurses, nurse practitioners, licensed practical nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists and physicians with a current Virginia license who are comfortable vaccinating children as young as 5 years old are needed now to ensure there are enough vaccinators available as soon as the

Loudoun County Health Department is authorized to begin administering the COVID-19 vaccine to this younger age group.

"We encourage anyone with the prescribed medical training and some extra time to volunteer to sign up to support this important vaccination campaign to keep our children safe," said MRC Coordinator Francis Rath.

More information about the MRC, including an online volunteer registration form, can be found at loudoun.gov/mrc.

Open burning regulations for fall and winter

The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office reminds residents that effective Oct. 1, through midnight Feb. 14, open burning is permitted for the burning

of leaves and trees, brush, yard, and garden trimmings generated on-site, except where always prohibited. Note: all fires must be called into the Loudoun County Emergency Communications Center at 703-777-0637 prior to ignition and when the fire is extinguished.

GOVERNMENT

If current weather conditions for open burning deem it to be a high-risk activity, additional restrictions may apply. Burning is always prohibited in urban or built-up areas throughout Loudoun County, the Town of Leesburg, and within the town limits of Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville, and Round Hill.

Fires must be constantly attended by a competent person(s) at least 18 years of age, with means to control and extinguish the fire. If unattended and/or a means of extinguishment is unavailable, the fire must be fully extinguished.

Open burning may be no closer than 50 ft. from any structure and pose no hazards to a roadway.

Bonfires are allowed, but must consist of neatly piled seasoned wood, can be no more than 5 ft. in diameter by 5 ft. in height, and must be at least 50 ft. from any structure.

The burning of household trash, garbage, refuse, household waste, commercial waste, construction waste or debris, combustible liquid, hazardous waste, impregnated lumber, junk, rubber, stumps, products of salvage operations, plastics,

tires, tar-based materials, oil or petroleum-based products, hazardous materials, chemicals, animal carcasses and similar materials or waste is prohibited countywide (Incorporated towns included).

Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions, or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous, open burning shall be prohibited.

Agricultural burning, such as clearing of a field or fence row, is limited to materials generated on-site. The burning may be no closer than 50 ft. from a structure and 1,000 ft. from an occupied structure unless prior permission has been given by the occupant and poses no hazard to highways and airfields.

All land clearing (pit burn) operations by contractors/landowners for development purposes shall be approved by the FMO. Burning of trees, stumps or brush may require a permit from FMO and the State Air Pollution Control Board.

Warming barrels at construction sites shall be approved by the FMO. Only clean lumber can be burned, in a barrel or similar container, that is screened or covered to prevent flying embers, and is not within 15 ft. of any structure.

The Loudoun County FMO may impose regulations, at any time, based upon a complaint, atmospheric or other environmental circumstances, to restrict or extinguish any fire that is otherwise permitted according to these guidelines. For additional open burning information, call the Fire Marshal's Office at 703-737-8600, or visit www.loudoun.gov/openburning.

Is the COVID-19 Vaccine Safe?

Let's Talk Facts:

The **Pfizer vaccine** has received **full approval** from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The other vaccines are also seeking full approval.

What Does this Mean?

The vaccines have gone through the **most rigorous safety testing in the world**. And after approval, vaccine safety monitoring continues. So you can be sure the vaccine is safe.

If you have questions, talk to your local health care provider and visit www.StayWellNoVa.com to learn more.

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Loudoun's PRCS earns National Accreditation

The Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services joins the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies and the National Recreation and Park Association.

GOVERNMENT

This distinguished accomplishment was awarded during the 2021 NRPA Annual Conference.

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community.

Fewer than 200 agencies in the United States hold this distinction, which indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

As part of the accreditation process, PRCS had to demonstrate compliance with 154 recognized standards and document all policies and procedures. Often the process helps identify efficiencies and heighten areas of accountability, all of which translate into higher quality service and operation to benefit the community.

"According to the 2021 NRPA Engagement with Parks Report, close to 90 percent of survey respondents agree that parks and recreation is an important service provided by their local government.

"At PRCS, we are dedicated to creating community through people, parks and programs," stated Director Steve Torpy. "I believe CAPRA accreditation is the foundation to launching exceptional programs and services. We always strive for excellence and the standards support our efforts to create the best possible community for Loudoun County's residents and visitors for years to come."

The process for accreditation involves a formal application, self-assessments, a site visit by a team of trained visitors that results in a written report, and a hearing with the commission to grant accreditation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, visitations were held virtually. Once accredited, the agency must uphold the standards by submitting an annual report, and undergo review again in five years.

The Commission is comprised of representatives from NRPA, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, the International City/County Management Association, the Academy for Leisure Sciences, the Armed Forces Recreation Network and the Council of State Executive Directors.

For more information about CAPRA accreditation, visit www.nrpa.org/CAPRA. For more information about PRCS programs and services, visit www.loudoun.gov/prcs.

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David Street is new Loudoun County Chief of Staff

Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet has announced that David Street will be the new Chief of Staff in the Office of the County Administrator, effective Oct. 1.

Street has served as a project manager in the Office of the County Administrator since 2017 and has also served as the staff liaison to the Board of Supervisors' Transportation and Land Use Committee.

"David is very knowledgeable

about the processes and procedures of the Loudoun County government and has gained valuable experience through his work in my office, which will serve him well in his new position," said Hemstreet.

The Chief of Staff's duties include serving as the liaison to the Board of Supervisors' offices, supervising the Clerks Division within the Office of the County Administrator, and serving as the point of contact for



CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

Loudoun Chamber BizVotes candidate questionnaire results released

The Loudoun Chamber of Commerce has released the results of its 2021 BizVotes Election Questionnaire. This year, 13 candidates across the seven Virginia House of Delegates districts that cover portions of Loudoun County responded to the questionnaire, which focuses on economic recovery, issues facing our workforce, and right-to-work legislation.

Since 2003, the Loudoun Chamber has conducted its BizVotes Election Education Campaign and ques-

tionnaire to educate the Loudoun business community on the positions held by these candidates on the Chamber's top public policy issues. The questionnaire, which is released in odd years, is created by leaders from within the Loudoun Chamber's Public Policy Committee, and is based on the policy positions approved by its Board of Directors each year.

"Virginia continually ranks as a top state for business. This is in no small part due to business-friendly regulations that create an ideal environment to start

or relocate a business in the Commonwealth. Through our questionnaire, we seek out the candidates' responses on the issues we believe will have the greatest impact on all aspects that contribute to a business's ability to prosper," said Loudoun Chamber Vice President of Membership & Government Affairs Grafton deButts.

The Loudoun Chamber will hold two more election education events this month, including the Oct. 13 Virginia Attorney General Debate at The National Conference Center in Leesburg, and the Oct. 19 House of Delegates Candidates Forum also at The National Conference Center. Registration for these events can be found at www.LoudounChamber.org/events.

Visit www.LoudounChamber.org/BizVotes to view the BizVotes Candidate Questionnaire results, and learn more information about voter awareness.

MacIntyre hired as Middleburg's Director of Business Development

The Town of Middleburg has hired Alexandra "Ali" MacIntyre as its new Director of Business Development and Community Partnerships.

MacIntyre brings nearly three years' experience as Member Relations Manager at the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, and five years' experience as the General Manager at Briar Patch Bed and Breakfast, just outside of Aldie. MacIntyre began her role with the Town on Sept. 7.

"We are thrilled to have Ali join our team at the Town of Middleburg," said Danny Davis, Town Manager. "She

has demonstrated a keen ability to build relationships, provide support to our business community, and assist in the strategic initiatives of the Town Council."

The Town's economic development function has been recently refined to focus on business and community partnerships, business support services, communications and marketing, and events management and tourism support.



MacIntyre will also implement key strategies defined in the Economic Development Strategy completed by Camoin Associates in March 2020 and updated in November 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am truly excited to join the Town of Middleburg organization," said MacIntyre. "Having lived in Northern Virginia for the past 8 years, Middleburg has a warmth and a familiarity that feels like home. I am

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 »

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BOS endorses study of impact of Segregated Schools and 1940 Forced Sale of Douglass School Property

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has voted in favor of studying the harm caused by Loudoun County's past discrimination against Black students and to seek out ways to rectify disparities.

In addition, the Board approved a review of the forced sale of land to the County for a school to identify possible recommendations for addressing that injustice. The Board's action begins dialogues on the topics, but does not indicate reparations or any other remedy.

GOVERNMENT

The Board will consider recommendations prepared by the Joint Board and School Board Committee in the future.

The initiative was introduced by Algonkian District Supervisor Juli E. Briskman following the September 2020 letter of apology for the operation of segregated schools, which was issued by the Loudoun County School Board and the Board of Supervisors.

"I said at the time that the letter was just a start of how the County can right these wrongs," said Supervisor Briskman. "I believe that racial disparities are not a result of individual failings but due to systemic racism over generations, which we now have an opportunity to address through this careful study of our history of discrimination of Black students in Loudoun County."

Board Chair Phyllis J. Randall introduced a specific initiative for the Joint Committee to study: a review of the forced sale of eight acres of property in 1940 by the County-Wide League, a

group comprising the parent-teacher associations of all the Black schools in Loudoun County.

The league raised funds to purchase land for a Black high school and had purchased property in Leesburg for \$4,000. In December 1940, that property was conveyed to Loudoun County for the nominal sum of \$1 for the purpose of building the Douglass High School. The Board requested the identification of possible recommendations for addressing the injustice contained in that property transaction.

"These initiatives will start an important community conversation," said Chair Randall. "Systematic racism has existed in Loudoun County, and we have a moral duty to acknowledge it and to examine how we as a Board and we as a greater community can appropriately respond to the injustices of our past."

The next steps include bringing these initiatives the Joint Board and School Board Committee, which will determine how to study these topics in the coming months and to develop recommendations responsive to the Board's request.

The joint committee will return its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in the future for consideration. The Joint Board and School Board Committee is currently scheduled to meet next on Nov. 1, at 5 p.m., at the Loudoun County Public Schools administration building. Documents prepared for the meeting will be posted in advance at loudoun.gov/bosdocuments.

Portion of Edwards Ferry Road, NE closed at night for water and sewer connections

Edwards Ferry Road, NE is closed at night from 114 Edwards Ferry Road, NE to East Market Street in order to install water and sewer connections for the Loudoun County Courthouse Expansion project.

GOVERNMENT

Work will take place Sunday through

Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. The closure will run through Oct. 14, weather permitting, and detour signs will be in place. There will be no work performed on Friday and Saturday evenings.

For questions, please contact the Inspection Supervisor Brian Lloyd at 703-771-2782.

Unexpected diagnosis compels woman's advocacy for annual mammograms

For decades, Susan Dial routinely got her annual mammogram. Usually, she received an "everything's fine, see you in a year" communication from her doctor. Things changed in 2014.

COMMUNITY

"I had just moved to northern Virginia from South Carolina and my mammogram was due," Dial said. "I made an appointment with a new health care provider."

"In fact, the initial images looked ok as I understand, until Dr. Brian Godinez, a Fairfax Radiology Center radiologist, compared them to images from a mammogram I had in South Carolina the year before," she explained. "There was one very small area that didn't look the same, and that's why a biopsy was recommended."

Dr. Lee Spangler, FRC Radiologist, Breast Imaging, performed the biopsy.

"I will never forget the moment Dr. Spangler told me the news," Dial said. "He looked into my eyes and said, 'It's cancer.'"

"I didn't really react at all for a min-

ute or longer, so Dr. Spangler asked, 'Mrs. Dial, are you all right?'"

"I didn't tell him at the time, but I was having another conversation in my mind. I was not frightened, worried or panicked," she recalled. "I was asking, 'Lord, how are we going to handle this?'"

Dial is a woman of strong Biblical faith.

"I am never alone," she said. "I was fully persuaded that everything was going to be all right."

"The type of cancer was an invasive ductal carcinoma, one of the most common kinds of cancer that we diagnose," said Spangler. "It is a perfect example of why routine screening is so important: routine screening has been shown again and again to find cancers early."

Dial was in her sixties when the cancer was diagnosed.

Contrary to what many women think, they should continue to get mammograms into menopause and for years beyond.

"Breast cancer risk continues to increase as women age," Spangler ex-



plained. "More than half of breast cancer diagnoses are in women aged 50-69," he said.

"However, getting screening mammograms sometimes takes backstage to other health issues," he continued.

Spangler performed the diagnostic work up for Dial, and also performed her biopsy.

"We walked through the steps of diagnostic mammogram and biopsy together," Spangler said.

"I had every confidence in my doctors, and felt an immediate bond with them," she said. "I love them."

"All of my colleagues in the Breast Imaging Section have advanced subspecialty breast training," Spangler said. "We choose to exclusively practice breast imaging because we feel strongly about making a difference in women's lives and health."

Statistics affirm Dr. Spangler's position that expertise matters. Fairfax Radiology Centers consistently exceed national and regional breast cancer detection rates, measured by the National Mammography Database, American College of Radiology.

The cancer found in Dial was half the size of the average cancer detected by a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »

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Remembering Jane Williams Wortman

Jane Wortman, age 90, passed away Friday, September 17, 2021, at Blue Ridge Hospice Hospital, after battling heart disease and a short but aggressive fight with cancer.

Wortman was born on December 17, 1930, in Henderson, North Carolina. She joins her husband, Wilbur (W.J.) in heaven. Jane and W.J. were married 68 years and raised a loving family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Clarence Emory and Thelma Scoggin Williams; a half sister, Betty Taylor; and two brothers, Jack and Bill Williams. Jane is survived by four children: Debbie Carter (Richard) of Berryville, Va.; Sandy Bruner (Roy)



of Hamilton, Va.; Kim Adams (Dave) of Philomont, Va; and Scott Wortman of Alexandria, Va. Wortman is also survived

by four grandchildren, Michele Normoyle (Bob) of Dickerson, Md.; Erin Bruner of Atlanta, Ga.; James Bruner (Emily) of Charles Town, W.Va.; and Chloe Adams of Philomont, Va., nine great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Wortman moved to Loudoun Heights, Virginia, affectionately known as 'Between the Hills,' after World War II and married

her life-long love, W.J., in 1948. They were a part of the Valley community for over 68 years.

After raising four children, Wortman returned to the workforce and found her calling as the Activities Director at the Loudoun Long Term Care Nursing Center, in Leesburg, Va.—a role she kept for 20 years, before retiring.

She cared deeply for the residents and her co-workers and the feeling was mutual—they loved her dearly. After retiring, Wortman enjoyed traveling, spending time with family and friends, and participating in community activities in the Valley.

Following her husband W.J.'s death in 2016, she moved to Mary Hardesty House, a senior living apartment, in Berryville. Wortman, a social butterfly, quickly made new friends with fellow residents. While there, she enjoyed bible study, card games, reading, and

book clubs.

Wortman loved the Lord and her church families, Ebenezer United Methodist Church and Duncan Memorial UMC. She made it her life-long ministry to serve others, and care for those in need. She was truly a servant of the Lord and lived her life by His example.

The family will hold a private, graveside memorial for Jane, at Ebenezer UMC in the coming weeks (to that end, Jane didn't want anyone to make a fuss over her passing). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Blue Ridge Hospice, 333 W Cork St. #405, Winchester, Va. 22601, Ebenezer UMC, 11592 Harpers Ferry Rd., Purcellville, Va. 20132 and Duncan UMC, 210 E. Main St., Berryville, Va. 22611.

Remembering Jonathan Nesselrodt

Jonathan Nesselrodt, 51, of Round Hill, Virginia passed away on Sept. 12, surrounded by family and loved ones at Lansdowne INOVA Hospital.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Rebecca Nesselrodt of 27 years. He also is survived by his oldest son Brett Nes-

selrodt his partner, Kaitlyn Lehan and their son Tucker Lehan; middle son, Braden Nesselrodt and partner, Holley Smith; and youngest son Brodey Nesselrodt. He is also survived by his mother, Nancy Nesselrodt and father, Charles Nesselrodt; two brothers, Jay Nesselrodt

and Josh Nesselrodt; his sister, Tansy Wetmore; as well as many other countless family members and friends.

Nesselrodt was born and raised in Lovettsville, and attended Loudoun Valley High School. After high school, he began working in construction which led him to own and operate his own construction businesses for several decades.

He enjoyed cooking delicious meals and spending time with family and friends. He had quite a collection of cars that many people enjoyed riding with him in on his many adventures. His witty personality,

jokes, and stories will be missed by all who encountered him. Nesselrodt never met a stranger.

In accordance with his wishes there will be a private ceremony to spread his ashes on his much-loved family farm in Franklin, WV. There will be a Celebration of Life on Sept. 25 from 11am to 3pm at Coaches Corner 100 Purcellville Gateway Dr. Ste A, Purcellville, VA 20132.

In lieu of flowers, if you would like to memorialize Jon, you can donate at the following link <https://go-fund.me/ab59721b> which will contribute to a fund to help Jon's youngest son, Brodey further his education.



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Lovettsville Co-op Market groundbreaking set for Oct. 9

The Lovettsville Cooperative Market is inviting the public to its upcoming grocery store groundbreaking event Saturday, Oct. 9, from 12n to 3pm, at the Lovettsville Square South, in Lovettsville, Virginia.

LCM incorporated in 2011 and is community-owned, and member-governed. Profits go back into the community through support of local farmers, producers, and vendors, as well as job opportunities and taxes. This will be the first community owned co-op in Northern Virginia.

The full-service grocery store will be a place where everyone is invited to shop for healthy food and local products. Plans include a deli and grab-and-go meals. The Co-op will also serve as a community hub, sponsoring programs and events focused on local needs and interests.

LCM launched its member loan campaign this past February, and has raised \$1million dollars to date from members. These funds will be used to: hire a general manager; help design and construct the store; purchase equipment; and provide working capital for the continued

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

Roots Grow Wings gets a glowing report card for its first year

BY LAURA LONGLEY

When my four-year-old son checks the mail and his new Imagination Library book is in the mailbox, his whole face lights up and he runs inside to read his new book immediately. Every book he has received so far has beautiful illustrations that capture his attention and a story that he wants to read over and over again. —Sarah Bascom

Sarah Bascom is but one of a growing number of western Loudoun parents who thank the lucky stars that led them to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Loudoun—Roots Grow Wings.

The early childhood reading program took off last January when a group of Purcellville-area teachers and mothers, already coping with home schooling due to COVID-19, decided that all local children would benefit from reading more.

For inspiration, they looked to Dolly Parton's phenomenally successful Imagination Library program and formed a partnership with the Rotary Club of Leesburg. They called it Roots Grow Wings, and, like Parton's project, its goal is to inspire a lifelong love of learning by fostering greater connections and compassion through reading.

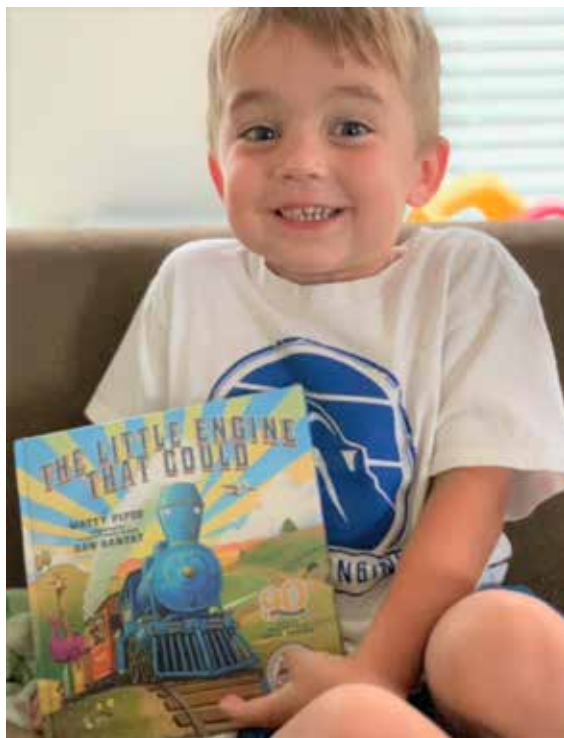
Like Dolly Parton's parent organization, Imagination Library of Loudoun strives to get free books into the hands of all children from birth, which in turn gifts confidence and understanding as the little ones walk through classroom doors at age 5.

When the group opened registration in two zip codes last April, says Kristin O'Rourke, a Loudoun cofounder, the teachers and mothers could count only a handful of enrolled children, mostly their own. But growth came quickly. Within six months they'd grown their base to six western Loudoun zip codes—20132, 20117, 20141, 20158, 20180, and 20197.

"We currently have 269 children enrolled and 16 children who turned 5 and graduated from the program," O'Rourke explained. "We registered 65 children in September alone."

Fundraising has grown apace as well. "Our first GiveChoose campaign with

the Community Foundation of Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties was very successful," said O'Rourke. "We raised over \$9,000." That gave them the two years of operating capital they needed to participate in Parton's program. "Since then," added O'Rourke, "we've received a grant from The Robey Foundation as well as private donations. We hosted an art auction and sale at Sunset



4-year-old reader Elijah Bascom

Hills Vineyard. Our next fundraiser—a plain air event, garden party, and silent auction—takes place at Purcellville's beautiful Black Oak Farm on Oct. 17.

Roots Grow Wings leaders are aiming to bring in \$10,000 between ticket sales at \$75 per person, an amount that will fund a minimum of one year of books for one child for each ticket sold. The silent auction offerings are sure to command lively bidding. They include a beachfront stay in the Outer Banks, a round of golf at Stoneleigh Country Club, a King Street Oyster Food Truck party for 20, a Seven Springs golf getaway, and local artisans' artwork, jewelry, and quilts.

In the coming year, while building its base of sponsors, the organization will focus on community outreach to spread the word about the program through local preschools and pediatricians' offices.

Roots Grow Wings has no paid staff and very limited administrative expenses with volunteers managing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

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VIRGINIA GOVERNOR DEBATE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

mandates.

McAuliffe supports mandates in select circumstances.

Virginia's murder rates came up, along with issues such as gun rights, law enforcement policies – including qualified immunity, abortion, women's rights, the state budget, and more.

On the issue of crime and law enforcement generally, McAuliffe defended himself this way: "We had the lowest crime rate of any major state in America when I was governor. Not the second lowest, not the third lowest, not the fourth lowest, the absolute lowest. That took a lot of work." But, Youngkin returned to the murder rate issue again and again, and also emphasized the support he has earned from law enforcement circles, saying at

one point: "Mr. McAuliffe doesn't seem to care, because the murder rate went up 43 percent when he was governor and the rape rate went up every year. "Law enforcement has universally supported me," he continued.

"Fifty sheriffs have supported me. Four sheriffs have joined the Republican party. The Fraternal Order of Police endorsed me yesterday. The Police Benevolent Association has endorsed me. The law enforcement community wholeheartedly trusts that I will do the right thing, will invest in law enforcement, will protect qualified immunity, will invest in a broken mental health system, will make our community safe again."

A lot was packed into the hour. Contentious at times, a very well-rehearsed political event.

LOUDOUN'S CHIEF OF STAFF, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

the Board's agenda management process for the Board's business meetings, committee meetings, public hearings and special meetings.

Street has served multiple roles in various departments within the Loudoun County government, beginning his service as a tax compliance officer in the Office of the Commas-

sioner of the Revenue in 2015, and moving to the position of management analyst in the Department of Management and Budget later that year.

Street earned bachelor's degrees in history and political science from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a master's in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

CELEBRATE PURCELLVILLE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

part of Celebrate Purcellville, visitors and residents will also be able to enjoy the Purcellville Tag Sale on Saturday, Oct. 9. This separate but complimentary event will be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.purcellvilletagatagsale.com.

Celebrate Purcellville is hosted by the Town of Purcellville and the Purcellville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board,

and sponsored by the Bank of Clarke County, Bayside Professional Services, Bush Tabernacle, Discover Purcellville, Longhouse Architects, Loudoun County Economic Development, Purcellville Business Association, Valley Energy, and ReLove It.

For more information, visit the Celebrate Purcellville page of the Town website at www.PurcellvilleVa.gov/Celebrate-Purcellville.

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

communication and social skills.

Running or walking a 5K for a good cause, tutoring younger students, participating in a neighborhood cleanup, working at an animal shelter, serving the homeless, are a few ways children can give back on their own or with their families and head into a new school week with purpose and positivity.

Model positivity. Our children learn, in large part, from what they observe us do as parents. Developmentally, they internalize our statements and behaviors in forming their own burgeoning identities.

So, if you want your child to be positive, you need to practice what you preach. Modelling positivity, however, doesn't mean protecting your children from the curve balls of life.

Age appropriately, I encourage parents to acknowledge and discuss their own negative situations and feelings with their children when they arise. Discussing your problems toward a more positive or productive solution or outcome, can give your child the emotional space to safely practice with conflict-resolution moments, which in turn will serve to increase their own problem solving and emotional resilience.

Help your child set and achieve goals. Setting goals will help your child attain greater confidence and personal mastery, which will in turn lead to increased positivity. For children, I am a huge fan of the WOOP (Wish, Outcome, Obstacle and Plan) strategy, developed by academic psychologist, Dr. Gabriele Oettingen.

The strategy involves mental contrasting with implementing intentions. So, for example, if your child wishes to join a club at school as a goal but is anxious about it, you could ask him to visualize the outcome of that goal. How would he feel? What would that look like? Once

he's done that, you could ask him to identify the obstacles that he will need to overcome to achieve the goal.

After that, you could ask him to come up with a plan to overcome those obstacles. What will he do when the obstacles present themselves? Visualizing, planning, and practicing in this structured way will help your child achieve goals.

Make yourself available. While most children are happy to be back in school, the stressors of COVID-19 are present for them daily. Parents should keep in mind that younger children don't often have the insight and self-awareness to talk about what's troubling them, and even older children who do, can still struggle with discussing their problems openly. Thus, our children need us as parents to be available now more than ever.

Being available can involve discussions around a social, academic or emotional problem your child might experience at school. Being present can also mean spending quality time together such as having meals together, planning vacations together, reviewing schoolwork together, and playing board games or video games together.

We keep hearing that COVID-19 won't last forever, but the ongoing changes, adjustments and uncertainties continue to be stressful for our children at school and beyond. As parents, it's my hope that fostering a positive mindset, volunteering, modelling positivity, helping your child set and achieve goals, and making yourself available will altogether support your child toward a positive and productive, but not quite normal, school year.

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.

ROOTS GROW WINGS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

subscriptions, book orders, and other day-to-day operations. Through its partnership with the Rotary Club of Leesburg Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, donations are tax deductible.

Your donation directly impacts a child's life. For just \$25, you can provide a book a month for a child for the entire year. For \$126, you can sponsor a child

through the entire program.

Giving is easy: just visit the website at www.rootsgrowwings.org and go to the Donate page where you can click the donate button and contribute to the Imagination Library of Loudoun with a credit card or PayPal account.

Then think of that four-year-old's smile upon opening the mailbox and discovering a book inside.

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- George Bernard Shaw

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Wheatland Concert Series Nov. 20

The Wheatland Concert Series at Shiloh Manor Farm will hold its second quarterly baroque chamber music recital on Nov. 20, at 8 p.m. at 14781 Berlin Turnpike, Purcellville VA. Tickets are \$70 each and may be purchased on their website at www.shiloh-manor.com. Seating is limited.

COMMUNITY

Their repertoire includes pieces of the baroque era, featuring compositions of Dieterich Buxtehude, Johann Sebastian Bach, Thomas Augustine Arne, Henry Purcell, Arcangelo Corelli, Johann Pachelbel and Marin Marais.

The pieces are presented by an internationally known string quartet led by Professor Dan Zhang. Dr. Zhang has performed in many prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Teatro Centro Cultura Kirchner in Buenos Aires, and NHK Hall in Tokyo.

In recent years, she has performed with the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and Naples Philharmonic.

Professor Mark Janello will be playing the harpsichord. An active composer, performer, and scholar, Dr. Janello was appointed chair of the Department of Music Theory at the John Hopkins Pea-

body Institute in 2015, having served on the theory faculty since 2002.

His areas of specialization include counterpoint, temporality in music, and historical improvisation. Dr. Janello has performed as a harpsichordist with the Baltimore Symphony, the Post-Classical Ensemble, Bach Sinfonia, and the Georgetown University Chamber Singers.

Continuing the Wheatland Concert Series tradition, Shiloh Manor Farm will be serving period masterpieces with exquisite period food, prepared by Chef Erik Foxx Nettnin of The Polished Foxx. The menu for the evening includes a pate en croute, pate froid d'aloutte (lark pie with cognac apple glace), venison saddle, with sauce grand veneur, followed by a scrumptious dessert of crême tartes, les poires au vin (fresh pears poached in red wine) and peasant pudding, all served with a selection of paired local wines.

The goal at the Wheatland Concert Series at Shiloh Manor Farm is to make the highest quality chamber music available to Western Loudoun County, encouraging a safe, COVID aware community engagement, around beautiful music and exquisite food, in the intimate setting of a fully renovated 230-year-old stone and timber Quaker barn.

Loudoun has historical records intact

On July 27, Ketocin Chapter, NS-DAR Regent, Kecia Brown and chapter members joined Gary Clemens, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Loudoun County, on the steps of the old Courthouse for a Press Conference. Also present were Circuit Court

COMMUNITY

Historic Records manager, Eric Larson and others from his department and Al Van Huyck representing his family.

Clerk Clemens commented that "Loudoun County is one of the few jurisdictions in Virginia that has all their historical records intact since the origin of that respective county or city." Said Clemens, "So we have a real fiduciary responsibility to make sure we are protecting, we are preserving, and we are promoting the value of our historical records here in Loudoun County."

This work has been accomplished through the Court's Historical Records Division, managed by Eric Larson and his team. This preservation effort

has been funded in partnership with grants from the State, local donors and organizations like the Daughters of the American Revolution. Over the past four years Ketocin Chapter, NS-DAR has made donations of nearly \$25,000 to preserve Minute Books and most recently, the 1773-1786 Tithable Book.

Van Huyck, representing his family, made a donation of \$12,000 through the Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties which was used to digitize records.

When presenting the check for \$8,511 to Clemens, Ketocin Chapter Regent, Kecia Brown said, "Along with my fellow Daughters, we are so proud to have played a role in helping, repairing and preserving this part of not only Loudoun County and Virginia history, but of American history."

"We are delighted to be ongoing partners with you in this endeavor."



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CELL TOWER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

out notices to neighbors, briefs the public—in this case remotely—and conducts a balloon fly to determine tower visibility from various vantage points.

The balloon fly, conducted by Milestone at Mickie Gordon Park this past summer, neighbors contend, failed to provide accurate sight lines and exaggerated distances, making everything tiny, and thus misleading. They point out that the superimposed tower was not realistic, having just one set of antennas instead of four or five. The vantage points, too, appeared to the residents to have been tweaked to use the tree lines to block the view wherever possible.

Many affected residents also report

frustration with the small windows of time available for public comment before School Board approval and prior to a Board of Supervisors vote. In May, for example, Middleburg Mayor Bridge Littleton appealed to the school board to reject the tower proposal, and yet board members approved it unanimously that same day. Only discussions in a closed call months later—on August 25—appear to have moved the needle and perhaps the tower by several hundred feet.

In that meeting, Milestone Director of Development Matt Penning fielded written questions from neighbors, among them John E. (Jeb) Benedict and his brother Scott Benedict. The Benedicts pointed out that that at 185 feet—the height of an

18-story building—the proposed tower would stand 125 feet above the tree line and be visible for miles, likely even requiring aircraft warning lights.

“The Board should consider lower height and different placement,” the Benedicts wrote. “If LCPS concludes Mickie Gordon Memorial Park nonetheless is the appropriate location, it should at least mitigate the impact of the extraordinary tower. It should (a) ensure a lower overall tower height (namely, 120 feet or less) and (b) move the site about 700 feet to the northwest.”

So far, the community has succeeded in pressing Milestone and AT&T, its lead carrier, to lower the structure by 30 feet to 155. Penning has indicated Milestone

might be able to lower the tower further and still provide the required service and have room for additional carriers’ equipment.

Milestone also has agreed to move the tower to a spot northwest of the soccer field, well away from its original location at the baseball field. That move would please Mickie Gordon, the man who organized and coached Middleburg’s Babe Ruth team.

To keep up to date on the Mickie Gordon Park project, visit <http://www.mickiegordonparkwireless.com>) To check on tower projects that could be coming to a schoolyard near you, visit <https://www.lcps.org/Page/227914>.

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

were simply the norm of the times. I have Anglo-Saxon DNA, so should I be judged by that barbarism? Nope.”

“Not my kind of book,” said Byne, “but I see your point.”

Robert had another example. “Alexander Albon is a young race car driver. His mother went to prison for fraud. Should he be judged by her crime? Nope.”

“I see where you’re going,” Byne concurred.

“Here’s the sensitive one: Should southerners be judged by what their

forebears may have done over a hundred years ago?” Robert asked.

“No,” answered his wife.

“Here’s a better answer.” Elaborated Robert, “We’re not responsible for our fathers’ actions, but we should want all every individual to be uplifted to the highest potential.”

Byne saw complexity. “The question is what do we, as a society, do to make sure that happens? Take schools as an example, do we penalize achievers to help underachievers?”

“Good question.”

Passing Judgement

Byne had another point. “So, we should follow the Golden Rule, ‘Do under others as you would have them do to you.’ And from Dr. King, ‘I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by their character.’”

“Yep” was Robert’s simple reply.

Woke Culture

Byne added to her diatribe. “Woke culture is nihilistic. It’s a substitute for real thought. It won’t consider any other ideas. It’s based on unearned outrage. It’s a religion without empathy.”

Robert agreed, nodding vigorously, “Here’s more of Plato’s quote: ‘Strange times are these in which we live when old and young are taught falsehoods in school.’”

Byne interrupted him, “True, but let’s talk about LCPS after I’ve had some wine.”

“I like debating politics, but discussion is impossible with woke people. Their rages are probably projections of inner demons and repressed anger,” Robert stated, “It’s probably best to ignore them.”

“Or avoid them,” Byne added.

Race

Robert moved to his last topic. “I’d talk about race but I can’t get my thoughts to coalesce. Maybe instead we discuss cultures, or sub-cultures. Races can have sub-cultures, and those would lend themselves to characterization, perhaps even to a generalization.

Look at Charlestown, a neighborhood in Boston, mostly white and significantly Irish. It’s known as ‘America’s bank robbery capital,’ which is a frequent vocation there. So, Charlestown has a culture and it’s defined by the common criminality of its residents.”

Byne said, “I see your point. Wouldn’t there also be some good cultures, like Seattle for coffee or Charleston for manners?”

“Sure,” answered Robert. “But it’s the bad cultures that we typically notice.”

Byne wrapped things up, “And that was the essence of Dr. King’s speech. You should read it in its entirety.”

That night, Robert Rood looked up the speech and was moved.

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



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LOVETTSVILLE CO-OP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

success of the Co-op.

While the grocery store has taken some time to reach groundbreaking, LCM has been involved in community service since its inception: adopting a portion of the Berlin Turnpike as part of VDOT’s Adopt-A-Highway program; sponsoring the Lovettsville Community Garden since 2019; hosting a seasonal market each year in support of local producers and residents; participating as a member of the Brunswick Chamber of Commerce;

hosting dozens of workshops for canning, sourdough bread baking, making beeswax wraps, cooking, pie baking, and flower arranging.

The Co-op’s Board will provide a short presentation and answer questions. Local food vendors will be on hand to showcase and sell their products. A prominent local winery will be on site to pour.

Learn more at www.lovettsville-grocery.com. Follow the Co-op on Facebook @LovettsvilleGroceryCoop and Instagram @lovettsvillecoop.

To advertise, email us at advertise@blueridgeleader.com

DISTILLERY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The first distillery in Loudoun since Prohibition

That's right. We don't think about it much now, in 2021, but alcohol was a no-no in many places for a long time. Catoctin Creek is the first legal distillery in Loudoun County since the beginning of Prohibition. As a general principle, Prohibition made it illegal to manufacture, store (in barrels or in bottles), transport, sell, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages. Restrictions varied a lot, but the first half of the 20th century saw periods of prohibition in many countries, as well as the U.S.

Said Purcellville Mayor Fraser after the event: "Catoctin Creek Distillery is a pillar in our historic downtown Purcellville."

"Scott, Becky, and team epitomize local action and global vision, with their award-winning whiskey being sold in nine other countries and 40 states. "Our businesses continue to thrive in Purcellville as we advance from Covid-19 recovery to economic expansion. With this expansion, Catoctin Creek Distillery has tripled its production capacity to 300,000 bottles per year.

"Purcellville's prosperity is measured by how long it takes a dollar to circulate and leave the Town, we thank Catoctin Creek Distillery for making it difficult for

dollars to leave our Town by committing to service excellence and contributing to a circular agricultural economy."

Following the dream

In a tale of simply following their dream, before diving into Catoctin, the Harris's were engineers.

What a journey from engineer to a running a distillery now selling spirits in 40 states, Mexico, Canada, Singapore, and six European countries. "In order to keep providing whisky to all these places, we have to be sort of fortune tellers," Scott Harris said. With the years it takes for a whiskey to be ready to sell, distillers like Catoctin Creek

have to anticipate where the market will be four or five years in advance. "So, it's a little bit of skin, it's a lot of bit of a scary thing, to basically build something for a market that's not actually there yet."

It is really encouraging to know that CCD uses all American and local products as much as possible. This includes the grain, the white oak barrels, and glass bottles. The bottles come from Pennsylvania. Who knew?

There is a lot to this, from navigating the problems of Covid-19, to Federal excise taxes, to trades wars, but, the Harris's look to be on their way, creating local jobs in the process.

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UNEXPECTED DIAGNOSIS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27
mammogram.

“It was 5mm in size,” Spangler said. “The average size breast cancer found on a mammogram is 10mm or 1cm.”

“The cancer in Mrs. Dial was found quite early and is a testament to how early detection can decrease burden of treatment and increase rate of survival.”

Dial and her medical team chose surgery to remove the cancer, followed estrogen-blocking medication. Fellowship-trained breast surgeon Costanza Cocilova M.D. performed the surgery at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Today, Susan Dial is more than five years cancer-free. She is living in northern Virginia in a cottage on her son’s

farm. Dial is an ordained minister and makes it her mission to counsel and pray for those who are sick.

She credits Dr. Godinez for finding “the smallest cancer he ever detected” and Dr. Spangler for expert care.

“Women need to know that having mammogram images for their doctors to compare from year to year is so important—it’s why they caught the cancer in me so early,” she said.

Today, Dial leads an active lifestyle, fulfilling “her calling” to the nation’s capital.

“I speak at churches, Bible schools, and other groups,” she said. “Ministering to others is something that I do every day.”

Dial has this advice for women who are age 40 and older: “Get your annual mammograms on time, every year, without fail because preventive care could save your life.”

Established in 1965, Fairfax Radiological Consultants, PLLC is the largest subspecialty radiology practice in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

During 2020, a joint venture between the physicians of Fairfax Radiological Consultants, P.C., in conjunction with Fairfax Radiology Centers, LLC, and Inova/Radiology Imaging Associates expanded to include over 90 subspecialized radiologists and 800 employees.

FRC provides leading-edge medical imaging at more than 20 outpatient lo-

cations throughout Northern Virginia and Southern Maryland. FRC works with local hospitals and health care providers to deliver an excellent patient experience and top quality specialized care.

Fairfax Radiology Breast Centers are recognized as an American College of Radiology Breast Imaging Center of Excellence in Mammography, Breast Ultrasound, Stereotactic Breast Biopsy and Ultrasound-Guided Biopsy.

The radiologists at Fairfax Radiology Centers are affiliated with the region’s top-ranked hospitals and are consistently selected as “Top Doctors” by *Northern Virginia* and *Washingtonian* magazines. For more information, visit www.fairfax-radiology.com.

VIEW FROM THE RIDGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

This newspaper has been reporting on these development pressures for years, and Rayner supporters and developers don’t like it. A private Facebook group called Purcellville Matters Uncensored, started by a developer, has gone so far as to splice Town Council videos to make opponents look bad.

But again, an apple is not an orange.

Purcellville voters are not fooled. Fraser will have a slow growth partner with MacDonald on Council, but not with Rayner.

Oh, boy

It is hard to overstate the ridiculousness of the recent letter to the editor by supporters of Rayner.

They claim that Fraser’s “slow growth, innovative solutions and small town charm” rhetoric is basically a scam. “These are phrases that Purcellville residents have heard over the past few years,” they say.

“Mayor Kwasi Fraser’s campaign and the Town Council members that ran with him use these slogans incessantly to convince us that only their agenda can protect us from an inevitable fate – being overrun by development and becoming the next Leesburg or Ashburn.”

We stick by our reporting and our opinion

The Blue Ridge Leader said in a recent editorial that Purcellville is fighting for its life.

Purcellville voters know their Town is fighting for its life.

We stand by our opinion that the Town Council seat on the ballot on Nov. 2 will determine whether Purcellville continues its progress towards fiscal sanity, or flips over and succumbs to projects such as Vineyard Square, which would transform historic downtown into a mini-Miami Beach.

Supporters of Rayner don’t like it when we describe the six-story commercial and residential development that way. But, do we really need an outdoor fountain and six stories across from the old Nichols Hardware store, or a big box structure on Hatcher?

Rayner supporters do have one thing right, though.

They say that there is “more that unites

the Town than divides it ...”

We agree.

Vote Nov. 2

This is the state of affairs in Purcellville politics.

Voters, old timers and new comers, have consistently supported the slow growth, reduced taxes, and lower debt of the Fraser administration.

Mayor Fraser’s record of reining in tax increases is solid. Mayor Fraser’s record of slowing down excessive development is solid.

Mayor Fraser’s record of doing the voters’ will is the strongest of them all.

But, with developers and others constantly nipping at his heels, he needs to maintain a majority on the Town Council.

Fraser’s record, for the record

Reduced over all Town debt from \$61.6 Million to \$53.9 Million.

Town will receive over \$1 million from the sale of nutrient credits – over 900 percent return on taxpayer’s investment, and planted 110,000 trees for environmental and economic value for generations to come.

Completed multi-million dollar infrastructure improvements on 21st Street, which is leading to business growth on 21st Street.

Welcomed over 400 businesses to the Town of Purcellville.

Rejected three major annexations. Maintained AAA credit rating.

Insulated residents from multi-million dollar increases in sewer debt payment, through refinancing and restructuring of inherited debt.

Advocacy with National League of Cities and Congressional leaders, to obtain \$10.5 million from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Established a Makerspace, on a previous vacant dilapidated Town facility.

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

action by the General Assembly to finally, forevermore choose ‘Unison’ as a formal place name) and a quiet, twisting trail through recent decades, Unison represented for me – on the morning of my latest visit – a unique place in our much-varied (and increasingly – for many of us – hectic) Loudoun County – where I could relax long enough – in a

sufficiently hushed setting - to listen to the mist fade into the sunrise.

And I have a strong feeling that the quiet little Village will remain much as I found it – long after I’ve joined my predecessors in local literary exploration. And, you know? It wouldn’t be a bad place to spend at least part of eternity – as long as ‘word’ doesn’t travel too far. Maybe I’ll see you there.

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VML AWARD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

In May 2021, the Town of Purcellville planted 111,000 trees on the property. Based on current pricing of nutrient credits, the Town of Purcellville Nutrient Bank project is estimated to obtain over \$1 million of net revenue for the Town. In addition, this project will enhance air quality in Purcellville and Northern Virginia, provide suitable habitat for wildlife and insect species native to Virginia and this physiographic region, and invite passive recreational activities for citizens and visitors.

Here’s what the judges said, “This was a great project that took minimal local resources to create an environmentally and financially successful project for the town. To generate a source of revenue from open land, and then use those funds to assist in your other utility needs is a great idea. With the continued impacts of storm-water regulations, this is also an economic development asset for the town. Great idea and definitely something that can be duplicated elsewhere.”

Said Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, who has spearheaded the program for years, “It’s an honor for Purcellville to receive the VML 2021 Innovation Award for Environmental Quality.

“This innovative project will result in environmental and economic value for Purcellville and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and represents delivery on my campaign promise of innovation. With 111,000 trees planted, the Town recently received a first payment of \$400,000 from the sale of some of the nutrient credits generated. That is \$400,000, that we will not have to raise utility rates or taxes to achieve.”


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BLUE MOUNT NURSERY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the fire. So the word should go out to the development community: ‘You’d better be looking at 20 percent aggregate affordable here.’”

At the same time, however, he also put responsibility for achieving that goal on Supervisors and staff. “This is not going to be on the backs of the developers alone. Just asking them to do so much percentage is not going to cut it anymore. We have to put substantial financial skin in the game to meet the affordable housing plan.”

More large development applications

Meanwhile, with recent changes in the County’s Comprehensive Plan that allow for more residential density in areas with ready access to the Loudoun Gateway Station of Metro’s Silver Line, applications for large developments are increasing.

One recent application was filed by Retail Properties of America, Inc. Better known as RPAI, the developer wants to rezone land and reduce entitlements for 450,000 square feet of unbuilt commercial office space. The aim: to develop nearly 2,000 residential units, which, given COVID’s impact on office occupancy and the County’s residential needs, makes all kinds of sense for RPAI. The residences would occupy nearly 80 acres close to Rt.

7 and Loudoun County Parkway.

South of Leesburg’s Heritage High School, Loudoun developer Leonard “Hobie” Mitchel is moving forward with the Village at Clear Springs on Evergreen Mill Road. He has looked forward to breaking ground in 2022.

Mitchel filed his plans for the 246-acre project with the County in June. Among the 1,230 units he plans for the site are 203 single-family detached homes, 585 single-family attached homes, and 450 apartments. At this point in the process,



he has set aside only 180 units as affordable housing—a far cry from 20 percent of units in new developments that the County’s Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan calls for.

What also may factor into approvals for the Village at Clear Springs is the project’s location—nearly 10 miles shy of Loudoun’s Washington Metro Silver Line station.

Silver Line proximity and County caution signals

Proximity to the Loudoun Gateway Station promises to be a key factor in County approvals of large-scale developments. As Supervisor Juli Briskman (D-Algonkian) pointed out, “COG”—the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments—is really pushing jurisdictions to build in high-capacity transit areas and activity centers, and to make sure we have multi-modal forms of transportation, including bike paths and walk sheds...To me, this precludes some of the larger applications that are coming in that aren’t anywhere near Metro. And in some ways I think it might give us a little bit of leverage to rework, reconsider, or even turn down some of these larger applications because they’re not near the high-capacity transit area.”

Supervisor Turner, who led the Board’s Transportation and Land Use Committee through its labors on the strategic plan, is focusing on measures that promote transit integration.

“I am supportive of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, which calls for a mix of commercial and residential along Rt. 7,” he says. “We have several large developments going in along this corridor, and, as the Transportation and Land Use Committee chair, I’m trying to ensure they all integrate with each other to

ensure we develop a walkable, bikeable, connected community concept. The recent completion of the Riverside Parkway and, hopefully, the Russell Branch Parkway someday, would make circulator transit along the corridor a possibility as well.”

Back to Dogwood Farm Station: What’s in a name?

The development application for Blue Mount Nursery in eastern Loudoun is filed with the County as Dogwood Farm Station—a name likely to confuse at least a few western Loudouners who know Dogwood Farm as Loudoun’s last dairy farm, owned and operated by the fourth generation of the extended Potts family of dairy farmers.

In 1950 Loudoun could count 405 dairy farms; in 1978 it was down to 76. By 1990, the Potts family was among the very few still in the dairy business. Today only Dogwood Farm near Lincoln remains. Perhaps there’s something to be said for honoring the integrity of a name associated with Loudoun’s history of Holsteins and daily milk runs to Washington on the W&OD Railroad. How? Maybe finding another name for a housing development?

If you’d like to learn more about Dogwood Farm, the dairy farm, visit <https://www.facebook.com/pottsdaleholsteins/>.

FIRE HOUSE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

to be worth on the order of \$2M to \$2.5M. For planning purposes, Loudoun County should assume the price to the county to acquire the existing fire house property to be \$2M.”

And where will that money go?

Meanwhile, community members are raising this question:

“Have Loudoun fire officials given project architects LeMay Erickson Willcox the opportunity to flex their creative muscles?”

This same Reston-based firm that has designed more than 125 public safety facilities, including many of the new stations in the County, is also recognized for its award-winning renovations.

Locally, cofounder Paul R. Erickson designed Middleburg’s renovated station. According to *Firehouse* magazine, the existing station was “a severely un-

dersized and outdated facility compromised with a structurally failing roof and regular water damage in the apparatus bays” and cramped residential wing into “a compact 16,000-square-foot design with a new two-story wing, providing space for 14 semi-private bunkrooms. With the bunkrooms on the second floor,” *Firehouse* explained, “the main level is dedicated to operational spaces and a shared training/community room. The apparatus bays were retained and expanded with new bay support spaces and a training mezzanine.

“The exterior character of the building,” noted *Firehouse*, “benefits from a simple, yet carefully considered palette of residential materials intended to blend into the neighborhood, while subtly announcing its presence as a civic building.” Total Cost (in 2014 dollars): \$4,306,000.

Perhaps the firm’s most ambitious

and ultimately exceptional renovation is the transformation of Engine Co. 16 in Washington, D.C.

The District of Columbia retained LeMay Erickson Willcox to provide a major interior renovation of this historic flagship station of approximately 25,000 square feet.

As the firm’s website explains, the work included major demolition of the interior of the fire station with a new floor plan design and new building systems, including mechanical and electrical systems. There was no increase in floor area. Work on the exterior of the building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was limited to widening the bay doors, window and roof replacement, and stabilization of existing masonry elements.

In addition to modernizing the facility, the design returned the 80-year-old structure to its former glory as a civic

landmark. Specific features included recreating and installing the lost original copper weathervane, replacing the copper vaulted roof vents, repointing the brickwork, replacing all the windows with divided lights, and refurbishing the stately cupola.

Knowing the capabilities and creativity of this firm, which holds a master license agreement with Loudoun County, the residents of Philomont and members of the region’s conservation and preservation organizations are left wondering why the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Department and Philomont Volunteer Fire Department board did not invite the architecture firm’s principals or staff to put on their thinking caps.

The community still hopes that the Board of Supervisors will consider renovation design options from this leading international firm to which they have already given their full faith and funding.

MCINTYRE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

grateful and excited to immerse myself in its culture and begin building relationships with those who live, work, and play here. The kindness and hospitality of the Town is unmatched, and it is an honor to join the Middleburg family.”

More information about the Town’s economic development activities can be found at www.middleburgva.gov.

BLOCK PARTY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Trophies will be awarded to the winners of A Most Horrific Scream, and Howl at the Moon competitions.

Nancy Prestipino will be entertaining the little ones with her Halloween participation music show.

Lots of fun games for the kids to play and ghost stories to be told. Dance troops will perform unique routines

along with a Magician performing a 2-hour show. Face painters, and free balloon animals will be located around the block party.

The American Legion will be serving food along with adult beverages. Hardware Café will have their delicious sandwiches and coffee drinks. Chef Erik and his Polished Foxx catering will be serving scrumptious delicacies. So

come hungry and have dinner at the Block Party.

For more info, go to www.PurcellvilleHalloween.com or email dpurcellville@gmail.com The 10th annual Purcellville Halloween Block Party is coordinated by Discover Purcellville a 501(c)(4) community nonprofit. Face Masks are recommended for your safety.

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LETTER: DIVERSE TICKET, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Virginia Board of Elections.

Jason Miyares has a unique perspective ingrained in him by his mother, who fled Communist Cuba for the U.S. in 1965. Miyares was the first Cuban American to win a seat in the House of Delegates and is a former prosecutor.

He was assistant Attorney General in Virginia Beach, and worked to keep the streets safe from violent criminals. He served on the Virginia Board of Veterans, and has the support of the Virginia Police Benevolent Association.

This is a trifecta I will be supporting at the ballot box. I hope you will too.

*Katy Wheeler
South Riding*

LETTER: ARE YOU KIDDING ME? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

is this just a perpetual pitch?
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LETTER: VOTE FOR YOUNGKIN CONTINUED FROM P. 8

Glenn prioritizes keeping Virginia open while keeping Virginians safe, protecting lives and livelihoods. His leadership and commonsense policies will do that while making Virginia the best place to live, work and raise a fam-

MOORE-SOBEL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Hulu. Watching *Seinfeld* feels familiar and fresh at the same time. The episodes are layered enough to experience a whole new meaning the second, third, or fourth time around. There is an element of the show that encapsulates the human experience, even as modern technology has advanced far beyond the landlines, taxi cabs, and payphones that fill the scenes of many episodes.

Jerry Seinfeld famously turned down an offer to produce a tenth season of the show (despite reportedly being offered \$5 million dollars an episode). Selfishly, I wish Seinfeld had decided otherwise. Think of all the plotlines that remain unwritten. What about Kramer trying

to use a computer for the first time? Or George going to work for another sports team, maybe the New York Giants? We get a taste of what could have been while watching the "Seinfeld reunion show" that took place over a few episodes of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* in 2009 (where in my humble opinion, they finally got the finale right). But alas, it was not meant to be. We'll never know what would have happened if *Seinfeld* lived on for a few more seasons.

Regardless, fans can still catch reruns and dissect the true meaning of each episode. The internet abounds with blogs dedicated to exploring the show. *Seinfeld* has even spawned Twitter accounts with large followings –

LETTER: DISTINCT DIFFERENCES, CONTINUED FROM P. 6

repeal of all anti-gun laws which violate the Constitutional rights of citizens.

LaRock opposes Critical Race Theory indoctrination in public schools. Siker published an Opinion Article saying: CRT is not being taught in public schools.

LaRock twice passed School Choice for low income and special needs children, only to have it vetoed by McAuliffe.

LaRock supports keeping schools open, and focusing on core academic and vocational education, and he introduced legislation to prohibit divisive political indoctrination in schools. LaRock supports merit-based teacher pay increases. Siker has no education positions on his candidate website. He is endorsed by the

LETTER: SUPPORTING SIKER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

representative, Paul Siker who has made his commitment to supporting our rural lifestyle and economy the centerpiece of his campaign.

His opponent, David LaRock has been largely focused on national issues by joining those who question the outcome of the 2020 Presidential Election, participating in the Jan. 6 rally, and speaking out against Covid-19 man-

dates, but has not found time to be an advocate for the rural interests and values of our District.

Therefore, I'm supporting Paul Siker in the 33rd District campaign this year. We need a champion in Richmond for our rural interests, and he has convinced me that he can be that leader and spokesman we need for years to come.

Alfred P. Van Huyck
Round Hill

Siker embraces the endorsements of McAuliffe and others who favor forced

unionization. LaRock supports preserving Virginia's competitive edge, and employee freedom by opposing forced unionization and dues.

Siker is endorsed by Democrat Sen. John Bell, Terry McAuliffe, Mark Herring, and Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton. LaRock's key endorsements include a 100 percent rating by Virginia Family Foundation, the Virginia Farm Bureau, the NRA, Virginia Citizens Defense League, and the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

I hope people will see the importance of voting for the person who best represents their values.

*Steve Oberlander
Lovettsville*

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Virginia.

If we are to believe him, McAuliffe's second term will focus on cleaning up Covid (GY is squeamish on vaccination mandates, paying teachers a living wage, and continuing to raise the standard of living).

Meanwhile, though it's pretty hard to draw a bead on GY's positions. You can

pretty much bet the ranch that he'll try some don't-tax-the-wealthy shenanigans.

To give this letter a dollop of balance, he will present well. He's of that tall, lean, slightly horsey Mills Godwin/Bill Battle/George Allen mode. He'll serve up that "aw shucks" schtick 24/7.

McAuliffe has a history in government

by which to judge him. We Virginians love history. It's our thing. It's in our DNA. Let's go with the proven Governor, not the untried amateur.

P.S.: McAuliffe is a pretty successful businessman himself. You can look it up.

*Drew Babb
Fauquier County*

ily again. As he says, 'We have a lot we need to get done here in Virginia, and we need to start strong.' Let's start strong in restoring our beloved Commonwealth to prosperity by voting for Glenn Youngkin for Governor on Nov. 2.

*Kim Schatz
Round Hill*

LETTER: RE-ELECT LAROCK CONTINUED FROM P. 10

My husband and I have asked Dave LaRock for help for an elderly family member, and have been very satisfied with the response we received.

I cannot trust someone who hides their personal convictions and in-

tentions like Siker does.

Let's stick with the tried and true by reelecting Dave LaRock. When we do, we can be comfortable knowing we have elected someone we trust, who cares, and will deliver results.

*PJ Bramhall
Lovettsville*



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Pictured Left: Sam & "The Toddler" (2021) | onthemarketwithsam@gmail.com



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Sold Lovettsville \$1,130,000



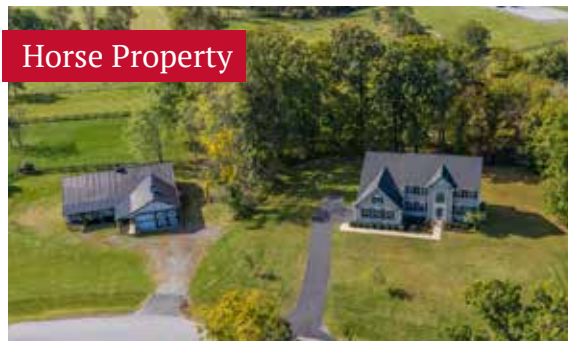
Sold Hamilton \$970,000



Sold Waterford \$1,260,000



Sold Hamilton \$849,900



Horse Property

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Sold Purcellville \$860,000



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