

Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

NOVEMBER 2021

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Loudoun Freedom Center and Microsoft partner in NoVA Datacenter Academy

BY LAURA LONGLEY

In June 1867, shortly after the Civil War, a 16-year-old African American youth named Edwin Washington worked in a hotel in Leesburg for \$5 a month, plus board, with the “privilege of coming to school” in between errands. Unfortunately, this meant he couldn’t attend school on a regular basis or at all during court weeks.

He became literate, though, and in his brief essay called “Going to School,” Washington spoke for many in his generation when he wrote, “I think it is a very good thing to go to school and learn to read and write. It is the first opportunity we ever had, and we ought to make good use of it. I think it will be a great improvement to us...”

Leap forward 155 years, from Edwin Washington’s opportunity to gain basic literacy to today and a new educational and economic game changer for Loudoun County’s African American community and other underrepresented residents. Few learning and training opportunities could be more timely or valuable than gaining the IT knowledge, skills,

and access to rewarding employment in Loudoun’s booming tech industry.

In a new partnership announced on Oct. 29 by Loudoun Freedom Center’s unstoppable founder, Holy and Whole Life Changing Ministries Pastor Michelle C. Thomas, Microsoft will join the six-year-old nonprofit—perhaps best known for preservation of African American cemeteries—in advancing Loudoun’s equitable education movement through a groundbreaking NoVA Datacenter Academy. Set to launch in early 2022, the Academy will be located near the Ashburn Metro.

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall applauded the new program. “I am pleased that Microsoft has chosen to locate their NoVA Data Center Academy here in Loudoun County,” she said. “Teaching the next generation of students about emerging opportunities through STEM is key to providing them with the tools to succeed in the 21st century economy. I look forward to hearing great things about this partnership between Microsoft and the Loudoun Freedom Center.”

Expanding on the collaboration, Thomas added, “The Freedom Center will develop and deploy unique education, certification, and job training opportunities to establish a pipeline of IT professionals from underrepresented communities.”

Nationwide, employment statistics

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »



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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

Discover Purcellville “Words on a Fence” auction Nov. 13



Discover Purcellville presents this year’s community art project auction “Words on a Fence.” Twenty-nine uplifting words painted by local artists who donated their creativity and time.

The Words were displayed around Purcellville this past summer and fall. Asked why the Words on a Fence project was chosen this year, Michael Oaks responded that he wanted something uplifting, positive and something

that would put a smile on your face when you drive by them. To make them easy to display each word is mounted on an eight-foot section of wooden fence.

The auction is set for Nov. 13, 7 p.m. at the Purcellville Skating Rink 250 S, Nursery Ave. Tickets are only \$12. in advance available at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5289405> ticket price includes beer, wine and lite food.

You can also bid online at www.DamewoodAuctioneers.com. See all the “Words on a Fence” on the Discover Purcellville Facebook page. info email dpurcellville@gmail.com. Money raised through the auction will be used for future Discover Purcellville community projects.

Join Middleburg’s Turkey Trot 5k

Middleburg’s Turkey Trot 5K is presented by Salamander Resort and Spa on Nov 25 starting at 8:30 a.m. The address is 500 N Pendleton Street in Middleburg.

The cost is one canned food item to be donated to Seven Loaves Services in Middleburg. Join the fun on Thanksgiving for a fun 5K run or walk. Questions call the Fitness Center at 540-326-4060.



PROPANE COSTS TOO MUCH!

This Winter is the Ideal Time to Make the Switch.

“So very happy we switched to Hunt Country. My only regret is that we didn’t do it sooner. How much money we would have saved...However, we finally made the right choice about our propane. For years I have been receiving offers from other companies offering low rates, only to find out you have to enter a contract with them. It never made sense to me that you could drive around town and shop for fuel for your car, but not for your home. It’s nice to see that a business owner understands this and caters to the customer. We received our first delivery this past Saturday and the owner himself brought it out. The service was excellent. Of course, I’m not surprised, as the initial account set-up was easy and the lady in the office was so pleasant!” —Caroline T.

“I have been buying propane from Hunt Country for about a year now. My previous propane provider was much higher priced. The staff was rude and didn’t seem to care if you gave them business or not. When I was shopping around for a new company, thankfully I found Hunt Country. The staff is friendly, professional, knowledgeable and genuinely cared that you gave them your business. Hunt Country prices are consistently lower than their competitors. I highly recommend that you call Hunt Country Propane, if you don’t, you’re making a BIG(\$) mistake. Thanks Hunt Country!” —Ed, Leesburg



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COMING SOON

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For a Complimentary Market Analysis, Email Mary at RobergeMary@gmail.com



BetterALife charity hosts Inaugural Fundraising Gala



Left to Right: Elaine Stone, Fundraising, Elizabeth M. Ford, President and Founder, Kellyn Kellogg, Chairwoman, Arlene Thorpe, Treasurer, Nikkia Glover, Secretary (Not Pictured).

Loudoun County, a place that is often associated with having great wealth, still has many children who are food insecure, and are not certain when or what their next meal will be.

BetterALife's mission is: "To leave no local child hungry. We believe a child will study more and have more opportunity for success if they start their day with a full belly versus thinking about if they will have a next meal."

What sets BetterALife apart from other organizations that feed the hungry is that we realize there are some who do not have the means to get to a food pantry for help. BetterALife partners with Title 1 schools providing food and other donations and also goes door-to-door delivering bags of food.

President and Founder, Elizabeth Ford established the organization in 2016. She ran it on her

own with a few small donations, but mostly with money out of her own pocket for a few years. However, she realized how much greater an impact she could make by providing more to the hungry with a larger team. So, she established a new Board of Directors this year, and really changed things up.

The Gala, held at Stoneleigh Golf and Country Club, on Thursday, September 30th was a smashing success! The primary goals of the Gala are twofold: first, raising funds to purchase a mobile delivery unit that will also be used for "CookForALife" (a program aimed at teaching children how to safely cook healthy meals with the food donations they receive); and second establishing regular, monthly subscription donations to support ongoing operations of the organization.

Want to help the cause? Make a difference and consider becoming a monthly donor. Visit our site to make your tax-deductible donation now: <https://www.betteralife.org/donate>.

History in the form of barns

Barns in the form of a new Loudoun County calendar

BY ANDREA GAINES

Growing up in one of the last rural areas of Long Island, New York, barns always fascinated me.

One of my most treasured things is a dining room table my dad made out of wood from an old barn. The barn was no longer useable; but the wide-planked barn wood, probably from the area's original forests, was priceless.

Old farm houses typically had an old barn on the property. Follow the history of the barn and you follow the history of the house, the community that once thrived there, and the families that worked the land, tended to livestock, and hacked a living out of all of it.

In recent times old barns and other agricultural remnants have been turned into restaurants such as Magnolia's at the Mill, charming B&Bs, markets, and homes.

But, their inherent charm as a place of work, craftsmanship, a shelter for animals, or a place just to store stuff is an historic record of the way farm life was.

Former businessman Roger Lancaster, who worked as an association director for many years, has turned his love of history into a fabulous new calendar documenting Loudoun County's old barns.

The old Loudoun and new Loudoun

With his calendar and his website, Lancaster has drawn a contrast between the many beautiful old barns in Loudoun County and the fact that we now handle some 70 percent or more of the world's in-



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ternet traffic.

He has also noted that Loudoun has more gravel road miles than any county in Virginia, many of them are strewn with old barns.

Again, it is all about the history. As Lancaster's website states: "In western Loudoun, many barns were burned during the Civil War. However, some remain. You will notice that many barns, especially those in the northern part of the County around Lovettsville and Waterford have [are] of German origin. The story goes that a group of German builders built many of the barns around Reconstruction, thus the German design..."

The barn history that Lancaster has preserved with his photos is remarkable, documenting the lives of barns and the people who worked them for Loudoun, to Fauquier, to Clarke County and beyond.

The barn photo shown here is one of Lancaster's favorites. As the photographer himself told the Blue Ridge Leader: "The photo was taken just south of Lovettsville. It is part of a project I have going to do a photographic inventory of old barns in Loudoun County. To date I have photos of over 80 barns. The project was generated by a request to take barn photos in Loudoun for an article in *Wander Magazine*, a new free journal devoted to life in Loudoun ...

"There are very few pre-Civil War barns in Loudoun as most were burned during the Sheridan raids of the Civil War. Many were rebuilt in the foundations of the burned barns, many by German carpenters living in the Lovettsville

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

Crops for kids Go Loudoun farms

BY ANDREA GAINES

Where does our food come from. Well, with the help of the Virginia Farm Bureau more and more kids will be able to answer that question.

Before our economy moved from an agricultural one to a more industrialized one – rural vs. urban in many ways – most kids had first-hand experiences working a farm. They knew where their food came from, as it was, literally farm-to-table.

What the numbers say

Farming and agriculture in general have been a big part of Loudoun Country for a long time. The Loudoun County Department of Economic Development, reporting on the United States Department of Agriculture's recent "farm census" notes that we are number one in the number of acres of grapes under

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One Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom project involving a 4-H Club made suggestions about how to incorporate pumpkins in school curriculum. Themes included exploring the lifecycle of the pumpkin, and the idea that pumpkins are not just for Halloween.

Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth:

Hamilton

BY TIM JON

I would have thought – and felt – that I'd have paid homage to this little, iconic Town long before this point in this (by-now) quite lengthy series of local 'adventure' stories; it has served as my home, location for the subject matter of numerous news events covered in my previous 'lifetime,' and has represented a treasured spot in both the geography of the physical Northern Virginia region, as well as my heart.

Having driven roughly a thousand miles to my new home in Loudoun County in the summer of 1997, I crossed the Blue Ridge on Route Seven from the west and descended 'the mountain' (as I later came to learn this lovely colloquial terminology) toward my destination of Leesburg; my first stop (due to a combination of exhaustion, curiosity and some other, nameless physical requirements) brought me to what was then (and, is, perhaps now, still) the "C Store" in the charming community of Hamilton.

I was thoroughly won over by the entire community package: historic structures, a quiet main street, mature shade trees, and (after spending a recent year



TIM JON



in New York City) what I would have described as a quaint overall size.

Though much smaller at that time (I think the population of the Town was around 750 in the late 1990's), the Town reminded me – in multiple ways – of the small, midwestern 'burg' I had grown up in and around: at least some dirt roads (and many more scattered about the outskirts), an old-fashioned water tower, several iconic businesses that did not follow the pattern of any national chain, houses that were built with individual character (not part of a development), a Post Office visited by as much foot traffic as that from motor vehicles, and what I came to appreciate as a profound sense of just plain "peace and quiet."

The 18 months or so I eventually came to reside in Hamilton are forever etched in my inner memory book; I considered myself very fortunate (in those days)

to have secured a series of rooms in a local landmark I came to call the "Edward Hopper House" just off North King Street – quite near the fire station.

The apartment had a back porch which led to a rambling ravine (complete with wild raspberry and blackberry bushes!) which remained green seemingly all 12 months of the year; I had permission to garden (this, before I had discovered that Virginia clay is not Minnesota black soil), room to relax and a small Town in which to take exploratory afternoon walks. And this was at a time (prior to some of the developments about the community) when you could open the

bedroom window and hear the 'moo' of milk cows – instead of the hiss of traffic, the roar of aircraft or the general buzz of a larger city.

I recall days visiting the Community Park off Colonial Highway (Hamilton's Main Street), walking in any direction: north, south, east or west – and just moving my feet until I'd reached the edge of Town (try that in Manhattan, unless you're by the River!), and paying visits to the official Town Office, just a matter of yards from my front door.

These simple acts were balm to the soul for one who'd lived far afield,

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A Realistic Optimist

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

"If there's something you know you can do...and your mind keeps throwing up roadblocks, just know you can drive right through them."



MOORE-SOBEL

This was said by Michael J. Fox, when he appeared as Dr. Kevin Casey in a guest role on *Scrubs*. *Scrubs* was my favorite sitcom as a teenager, and I could think of no better combination: my favorite actor on my favorite sitcom, offering optimistic words of hope.

Fox references this guest role

on *Scrubs* in his most recent memoir, *No Time Like the Future*. The episode marked the beginning of his return to acting. He had declared his retirement in the year 2000 at the age of 40 due to his Parkinson's diagnosis. Yet that didn't keep him down for long. If there is anything true about Michael J. Fox, it's that he has a penchant for second acts. "In retrospect, I may have jumped the gun," he writes.

Despite his ability to continue acting, his life is still dominated by Parkinson's. But Fox has proven that he is not defined by his diagnosis. "After thirty years of

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Six steps toward your retirement goals

What should you consider today to help you move forward?

You want retirement to be your chance to get out of the rat race and have time for the things you've always wanted to do. That's great, but what exactly does that mean? Travelling? Volunteering? Spending time with family and friends? Starting a business? Simply doing nothing?



RICHARD RICCI

You may think your plans are just like everyone else's, but that's unlikely. They're as unique as you are.

As we'll discuss, exactly how you want to spend your time will definitely affect what you should be doing now to prepare for it. However, there are steps that everyone should consider taking today regardless of their retirement goals. Here are six of the most important:

Have a plan

If you haven't gathered your ideas about retirement together and distilled them into a cohesive investment plan, that's a great place to start. Or if you have a plan stuck in a drawer somewhere, you need to revisit it.

Whether you want to start a second career, travel the world, or just do nothing will make a big difference when it comes to what you'll need to cover your expenses. The better you can define precisely what your goals are and which are most and least important, the better your plan should be.

An asset allocation – how your investments are proportioned across different asset classes (stocks, bonds, cash alternatives, etc.) – should be at the heart of your plan. The allocation that's appropriate for you will vary

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Thanksgiving 2021: 7 Ways to be thankful this year

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

The global pandemic has made the last year and a half very difficult for many; the pandemic has forced numerous adjustments and compromises on us, and the death toll in the US alone is tragically closing in on 740,000 deaths.



DR. MIKE

Yes, we have a vaccine, and yes positive new cases across the nation (and the world) are trending down, but many of the stressors of COVID-19 remain. At a time when there is so much negativity and disagreement in the world and within our community, I invite us to focus on the good this Thanksgiving. I offer the following 7 tips to show gratitude and to give thanks this Thanksgiving 2021.

Be present. With COVID-19, some of us feel safer to travel than others, and while there are those of us who are vaccinated, many still are not. These sorts of issues, and others, create challenges for families who would like to celebrate together this Thanksgiving.

But even if your holiday plans to get together are challenging this year, I recommend that you strive to be as present as you can be. If you can't be with your larger family due to travel and distance, perhaps you can spend time with family and/or friends who are nearby. Even if you're alone on Thanksgiving, you can also use technology to your advantage by connecting via FaceTime or Zoom with your loved ones.

Unplug. Technology is a wonderful thing, but try not to let it interfere with your family time. It's one thing to watch

a football game or a movie with others, but it's entirely another thing to be distracted by technology during a gathering. You can always check CNN, Fox News, Facebook or other social media sites later, so put down your phone or device and enjoy the occasion with the ones you're with.

Be agreeable. Is it better to be right or to get along? It's easy to get upset by the many topics and stories in the news these days, but how productive or enjoyable is it to bring those things up with others this Thanksgiving?

Even if you're with folks that agree with you, you still run the risk of getting worked up when you talk about emotionally charged topics during a festive gathering. There's an old saying that politics, money and religion are the three main topics you want to avoid at most social gatherings, and I would agree that they're probably the very topics you want to stay away from this Thanksgiving.

Be Moderate. It's easy to overindulge with food and drink during Thanksgiving, but striving for moderation is always a good thing. So, instead of going back for that second or third plate, or instead of having that extra glass of wine, try instead to be mindful of your intake.

Move. Sitting around can be a big part of Thanksgiving, and while relaxing is important, so too is being active. Movement is always great for the body and mind, so I recommend you try to get out this Thanksgiving. Going for a walk or a hike, playing a game of flag football with friends and/or family, or signing up for a

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Folks

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Do you like living in western Loudoun? I think you do, and I bet that question conjures images of virgin mountains, rolling pastures and quaint villages. Horses and cows. Corn and soybeans. Dogs and other pets.

OPINION

That's just the visual appeal. Something else is more important - the people here truly form a wonderful community. In Atlanta my friends were just like me, adequately educated and ambitious. Later on, in Arlington it seemed that I knew only three or four people; it was an unfriendly place. Here, though, sometimes I think I know everybody! I'll use pseudonyms to mention some.

Robert and Albert at the Exxon station, Shontelle the postmistress, Bobby who gets the rubbish, Stan the mechan-

ic, Will and Luis who tend neighbors' farms, Stacie and Cal who sell tires, Chip the postman, Oscar and Mike with a trove of batteries, Jon and Lee the drive-through tellers, Jack at the pharmacy. James at the wayside stand. You get the picture - good folk in an egalitarian setting. I know and like many others - neighbors, social friends, conservationists, horse people, car guys, folks who work for government and the folks who run government. They all help make western Loudoun a special place.

I know and value more people in western Loudoun than I ever knew in a big city. Most are just plain nice while a few are "interesting." Like Gary Shifflet.

Gary used to be my main man, helping with our farm. Jug ears, a pug nose, receding brown hair, a bushy brown mut-

tonchop sideburns, a pallor to his white skin. He's just under six feet, thin to the point of being scrawny and sporting a variety of faded t-shirts. Gary could fix small engines, grease the tractor, change the truck's oil, bushhog a pasture. Gary, though, was not the sharpest tack in the box, as these actual casual conversations confirmed:

Charlie: "How far did you get in school?"

Gary: "My family wrote me out in the six-and-a-half grade."

Charlie: "How old were you in the six-and-a-half grade?"

Gary: "Seventeen."

Gary amused me. If I was lord of my manor, he was my court jester.

Charlie: "Gary, you're supposed to be raking the walnuts, not talking to them!"

Gary: "It's okay if they don't talk back."

Another day I asked him, "What's up, Gary?"

Gary: "I need to get me a fat woman." Charlie: "Why on earth do you want a fat woman?"

Gary: "'cause the regular ones won't have nothing to do with me."

I was not surprised. Later I had another question.

Charlie: "How many brothers and sisters do you have?"

Gary: "Six or seven."

I pondered that imprecision as the normally reticent man prattled on agitatedly. When he slowed to reload his machine-gun chatter, I interrupted to ask how he felt.

Gary: "Sometimes I ain't right in the

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Please include your name, address and phone number.

We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary.
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Let's expand our parks and green spaces

Dear Editor:

As Purcellville has grown, we have added the necessary infrastructure so our citizens can lead healthy, safe, and rewarding lives.

In the time since my family moved to Purcellville, in 2002, I've seen the construction of three new schools, three new shopping centers, hundreds of new houses, a new road, among many other things added to Purcellville

LETTER

and its environs.

Many of these new structures and pieces of infrastructure were, and are, both useful and necessary. But what happened to the town's natural infrastructure during this time? These green and brown tunnels and easements that deliver our existence from mere toleration to joyful satisfaction. And what about the gross domestic product of our flora and fauna during this time?

Were these creatures--motivated by the same sacred urge as we -- to live, to breathe, to 'make of our lives a miracle' -- able to continue at their healthful clip? I don't have all of the answers to the questions I ask, but I have a hunch.

I haven't seen a parallel explosion of public parks or preserved green spaces. True, we are lucky to have the Suzanne R. Kane Nature Preserve, the Chapman-DeMary Trail, and the recently preserved Aberdeen property. But, in my view, the preservation of natural space has not kept pace with the suburban growth overtaking this area.

I would encourage the town council to prioritize our area's ecological and aesthetic integrity. No decision is too small to discount the need for a careful consideration of the environmental impact.

An old book says that humankind does not live by bread alone. We truly have deep emotional needs, and careful urban planning, park creation, and natural-space preservation, are all simply components of habitat restoration for humans (otherwise known as urban planning).

Purcellville is a wonderful place to live, and its growth is

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The con of the century

Dear Editor:

Ocean's Eleven was an iconic heist film about the con of the century. The booty was 150 million. That'll buy seventy multi-million-dollar luxury estates, each with a couple of new Land Rovers parked in the driveway.

The 5.3 trillion COVID stimulus dollars that the Washington overseers have exacted from us over the last two years would fund 35,333 Ocean Eleven heists. Those big numbers are still difficult to comprehend. Let's look at it another way.

Last year thirty million U.S. households paid taxes and about 100 million households paid nothing. For those footing the bill for the new American welfare state, their household paid a whopping \$176,700. Add to that their regular federal, state, and local taxes.

Washington power brokers now want another 3.5 trillion in 2022. Let's run the math. Assuming we still see "help wanted" signs everywhere, and unloaded cargo ships off our coasts, those paying households will see a 2022 bill for \$117,000 plus all the regular stuff.

The 30 million that paid taxes last year have already been scammed for nearly 200 thousand. Imagine them taking another hundred grand! That's almost \$300,000! That would clean out most folks. Just like Oceans Eleven, Americans were cleaned out in broad daylight. They didn't know what hit them. We'll all be in big trouble when we actually realize what happened.

We are the only cops working this crime. Should Congress be able to do this and just walk away? It's time to tell our "representatives" that they've been busted. Say "NO" to their ongoing spending spree!

Mark Mann
Sterling

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Chapman asking for O St. to be extended from 21st St. to Hatcher

BY VALERIE CURY

Due to the Covid legislation passed in June 2020 regarding extending expired site plans, the Vineyard Square project can continue at least until July 2022. The project located on 21st Street, is approved for six stories and 40 condo buildings – even though multi family isn't an allowed use in the C-4 District. No comprehensive plan amendment nor zoning amendment was applied for when this was approved.

GOVERNMENT

At the Oct. 7 planning commission meeting in the citizen comment portion of the meeting, Casey Chapman, one of the owners of Vineyard Square, asked for the Town to consider extending O Street from 21st Street to Hatcher Avenue. He needs O Street extended, at the cost to the Town taxpayers, to dump the traffic from his development onto Hatcher Avenue.

Chapman said, "I just want to understand the Planning Commission's view of the idea of O Street connection between 21st Street and Hatcher Avenue, and if it will be addressed in any of the discussions. Does the Town have any interest whatsoever of seeing that road go through?"

Chair Nedim Ogelman said the Planning Commission was not focused on transportation issues as it was reviewing the Historic Overlay District.

At the Oct. 12 Town Council meeting, Chapman again came before Council in the citizen comment section asking again about the O Street extension onto Hatcher Avenue.

Said Chapman, "I brought it up to the Planning Commission last week and

am just going to ask the Town Council here tonight, 'Does this Council or the Town have any interest ... with the O Street connection between 21st Street and Hatcher Avenue.'

He asked for the Town Council and the Planning Commission to take a look at O Street, and let him know what they plan to do.

Chapman said adding O Street "will create the ability to have that block and flow." He asked if the Town

was just going to sit on it, and do nothing at all.

Addressing Chapman, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser said, "From my perspective as mayor I do not see the need to build anymore streets in the Town of Purcellville. Streets invite

traffic, so if you are asking me about O Street, I envision forests and streams."

Chapman responded, "I heard your comment you would like to build trees."

Fraser said, "O Street – trees and streams." Chapman asked, "You don't believe some streets would relieve traffic?"

Fraser answered, "We are talking the road to environmental sustainability. So my focus in this Town as Mayor is to look at things that would be environmentally sustainable to our citizens, our residents. I do not see concrete as a way to go."

Council Member Stan Milan said, "If you look at the traffic on Hatcher and 21st Street ... it's a traffic jam ... On the east side of Hatcher there's no sidewalk there so people walking have to walk into the Street. So traffic, safety, and the welfare of the citizens is greatly impacted ... The traffic is getting worse and worse."

Streets invite traffic, so if you are asking me about O Street, I envision forests and streams.
— Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser



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Town Council goes over proposed Rescue Plan Act Expenditures

BY VALERIE CURY

At its Nov. 12 meeting, the Town Council went over the American Rescue Plan Act draft spending. Out of the approximately \$350 billion allocated to the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, the Town of Purcellville expects to receive a total of \$10,559,844, broken into two equal tranches.

The Town received the first installment, in the amount of \$5,279,922, through the Commonwealth of Virginia this past June 30. The second installment is expected to be released on or around June 30, 2022. All funds must be obligated to projects and expenses by Dec. 31, 2024; however, the Town will have until Dec. 31, 2026 to ensure all funds are expended. Any funds left unspent must be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

Thus far in the draft, 15 percent would go to Public Health Emergency and Negative Economic Impacts at \$3,794,195, premium pay to eligible workers at 2 percent or \$200,000, government services to extent of revenue reduction \$855,994 at 8 percent. Investment in water and sewer infrastructure at 65 percent at an estimated cost of \$6,863,898. Investment in Broadband infrastructure at 10 percent at a cost of \$1,055,984.

The Town Manager wants to hire an

Administrative ARPA Funding Program Administrator for six years as a full time position with benefits and has budgeted \$680,000. Council Member Stan Milan said he had a problem with this expense.

Other expenditures on the Town Manager's wish list include a façade improvement program at \$250,000, a utility assistance program for delinquent residential accounts at \$50,000, 23 support to non-profits and other public health and Covid-19 impacts – no cost estimate given. Space assessment at Town hall was on his list at an estimate of \$25,000. Touchless tech for Town facilities, bathrooms, and doors at \$25,000.

Town Hall security needs at an estimate of \$30,000 to include 30 card swipe entry and cameras at the train station with a remote door control at \$15,000. Town Emergency preparedness recovery plan is estimated at \$60,000. An electronic community event sign at Main and Maple at a cost of \$50,000. Technical support during public meetings at \$10,000 annually, a generator at the police department facility was on the wish list at no estimated cost to date, along with drywall for the facility, and a 39 security camera system at no cost estimate. Several studies at a cost of \$60,000 each, which prompted Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut to ask if every study the Town gets costs that amount.

The Town Council will hold a meeting to go over the list in December.

Out of the approximately \$350 billion allocated to the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, the Town of Purcellville expects to receive a total of \$10,559,844, broken into two equal tranches.

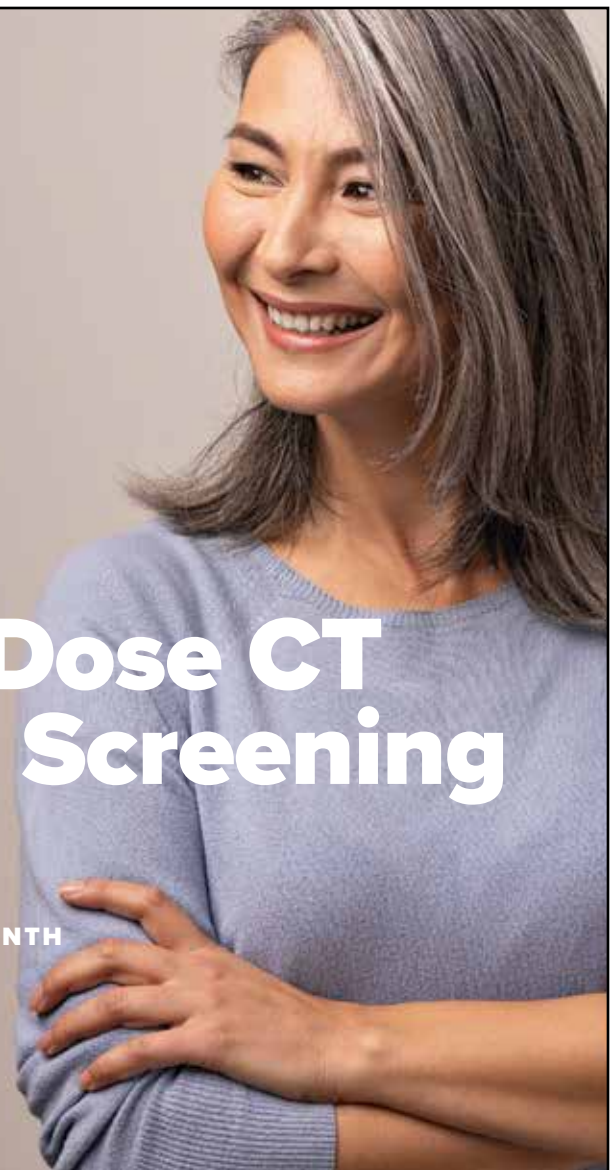
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Gupta is New Medical Director for the Dept. of Mental Health

Loudoun County announces the appointment of Dr. Ramia Gupta as medical director for the Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Developmental Services. As medical director for MHSADS, Dr. Gupta will plan, organize and manage the medical component of the department's services. Her appointment was effective Oct. 14.

Gupta is board-certified in psychiatry and forensic psychiatry and has extensive experience in public sector psychiatry, treating the severely mentally ill and those who are especially vulnerable.

GOVERNMENT

"Dr. Gupta will play a key role in carrying out our mission to promote mental, behavioral, and developmental health and wellness. In her role, she will collaborate with our community partners to connect individuals and their families with services and supportive resources," said MHSADS Director Margaret Graham. "Dr. Gupta will also help our team with initiatives such as the Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center and implementation of the Marcus Alert as prominent examples of such services."

Gupta holds faculty positions at Saint Elizabeths Hospital Psychiatry Residency and Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Program, Department of Behavioral

Health, Washington, D.C. She has also worked as an attending psychiatrist in both the Pre-Trial and Post Trial units, and the Forensic Outpatient Department. Gupta was also president of the medical staff at the hospital.

In 2016, the Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia appointed Gupta to the Commission on Mental Health. This judicial panel makes recommendations of civil commitment to the D.C. Superior Court. Gupta's advanced forensic training has allowed her to serve as an expert witness and provide witness testimony and forensic expertise in civil and criminal matters, involving the Department of Behavioral Health, the D.C. Superior Court and federal agencies.

Gupta is also Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Additionally, she coordinates an annual mock trial with the Criminal Defense and Prison Advocacy Clinic at the Georgetown University Law Center. Dr. Gupta has also worked as a contract clinical psychiatrist to the Alexandria Community Ser-

vices Board.

After completing her undergraduate studies in India, Gupta furthered her studies in the U.S. She completed a forensic psychiatry fellowship at Georgetown University and a psychiatry residency at Saint Elizabeths Hospital. Gupta later served as chief resident and supervising and teaching faculty member in the hospital's forensic and civil division. She also completed a forensic psychiatry fellowship at Georgetown University Hospital and a psychoanalytic fellowship at the Baltimore Washington Center for psychoanalysis. She holds medical licenses in Washington, D.C. and Virginia. Dr. Gupta has served in various leadership capacities for the Washington Psychiatric Society and achieved the distinction of Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

Through MHSADS, Loudoun County provides services to individuals in the Loudoun community with mental health, substance use or developmental/intellectual disabilities. More information about the department's services is online at loudoun.gov/mhsads.



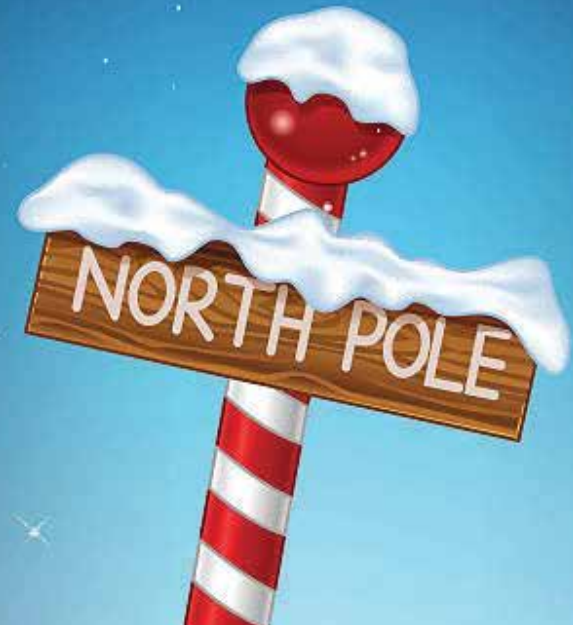
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Mental Health Education and substance abuse prevention programs in November

Loudoun County offers ongoing mental health education and substance abuse prevention programs. All programs are free, but registration is required, and seats are limited. The schedule of upcoming classes for November 2021 is as follows:

Adverse Childhood Experiences Training

The Adverse Childhood Experiences training is a one-hour educational program that aims to raise awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs. ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use problems in adulthood. The training teaches that ACE prevention is a key to improving a community's well-being. The virtual training presentation lasts about one hour. Discussion and a question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. The next class will be held:

GOVERNMENT

Nov. 16, 6 p.m.

For details about the training and to register, visit loudoun.gov/childhoodadversitytraining.

Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid offers training that teaches people how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training also teaches the skills that someone needs to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis. There are two versions of the program, a general adult program and a program for adults who interact with youth. The virtual trainings are usually held over a two-day period, with the class lasting for about three hours each day. The next trainings are:

• **Youth Mental Health First Aid: Nov. 3 - 4, 6 - 9 p.m. each day.**

• **Adult Mental Health First Aid: Nov. 17 - 18, 6 - 9 p.m. each day.**

For details about the training and to register, visit loudoun.gov/mhfirstaid.

Opioid Overdose Reversal

Loudoun County offers local training sessions of REVIVE!, the opioid overdose and naloxone education program for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Anyone who uses opioids or knows someone who is using opioids is encouraged to attend. The virtual sessions last about one hour. Upcoming classes are:

• **Nov. 5, 12 p.m.** • **Nov. 15, 5:30 p.m.**
 • **Nov. 8, 5:30 p.m.** • **Nov. 19, 12 p.m.**
 • **Nov. 12, 12 p.m.** • **Nov. 22, 5:30 p.m.**

For details about the training and to register, visit loudoun.gov/revive.

Suicide Prevention Training

The Question Persuade and Refer pro-

gram offers training to help people recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to refer someone for professional help. The suicide prevention training teaches three simple steps that anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide; question, persuade and refer. The virtual training presentation lasts about one hour. Discussion and practice opportunities will follow the presentation. The next class will be held:

• **Nov. 15, 12 p.m.**

For details about the training and to register, visit loudoun.gov/suicidepreventiontraining.

For more information on the prevention and intervention services offered by the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Prevention Services, visit loudoun.gov/mh-sadsprevention or send an email to prevention@loudoun.gov.

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Loudoun Fire and Rescue presented update to Emergency Response Improvements

During the Nov. 3, Board of Supervisors meeting, the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System presented an update on its progress toward implementing emergency response improvements that strengthen multi-jurisdictional emergency communications and incident response in and around the

GOVERNMENT

Potomac River. The update stems from the *Perdido Bay Terrace Significant Incident Review*, which was conducted following the tragic drowning of 16-year-old Fitz Thomas at Confluence Park on June 4, 2020.

Significant Incident Review Status Update

Significant incident reviews are routinely conducted to evaluate responses to major, critical, and other high-priority incidents. These evaluations seek to identify the facts surrounding an incident and provide recommendations for improvement. This practice helps to continually improve the actions of all first responders. The significant incident review process may, for example,

identify how to better detect, diagnose, and mitigate similar incidents more quickly and more efficiently in the future. The process to develop findings and recommendations may take weeks, months or even years to analyze actions and decisions that were made in seconds or minutes.

During its review of the June 4 drowning incident, LC-CFRS identified 42 distinct tasks to improve policies, procedures, staffing levels and training. The tasks include enhancing 911 technologies, better documenting points of interest and vehicle access along the river, expanding 911 telecommunicator training, and providing safety and prevention education in the community.

“We’ve made tremendous progress in a relatively short amount of time,” said LC-CFRS Chief Keith Johnson. “While our review showed that staff in Montgomery County and Loudoun County properly followed existing policies and procedures during the June 4 incident, we remain committed to doing anything we can to improve our emergency com-

munications system and incident responses.”

To date, 37 of the 42 tasks are either 90 or 100 percent complete. The remaining tasks are at least 50 percent complete. The in-progress tasks are on track to be fully implemented in the coming months. The completed public safety improvements include the following:

LC-CFRS internal policy was changed within days of the June 4 incident, now requiring public safety telecommunicators to dispatch LC-CFRS crews to all incidents in or along the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers when 911 calls are received at the Loudoun County Emergency Communications Center. Loudoun fire and rescue units are now sent to any potential incident on our joint waterways regardless of jurisdictional responsibility.

LC-CFRS staff worked cooperatively with fire and rescue leaders within the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and as a result, regional policies and procedures were changed to provide updated direction on pro-

cessing and dispatching 911 calls along the Potomac River.

A comprehensive, interactive Regional Potomac River Atlas was developed jointly with mapping and operations staff from the Counties of Fairfax, Montgomery, Frederick, Jefferson, and Washington to be used by personnel in Emergency Communications Centers or in the field to locate access points along the river.

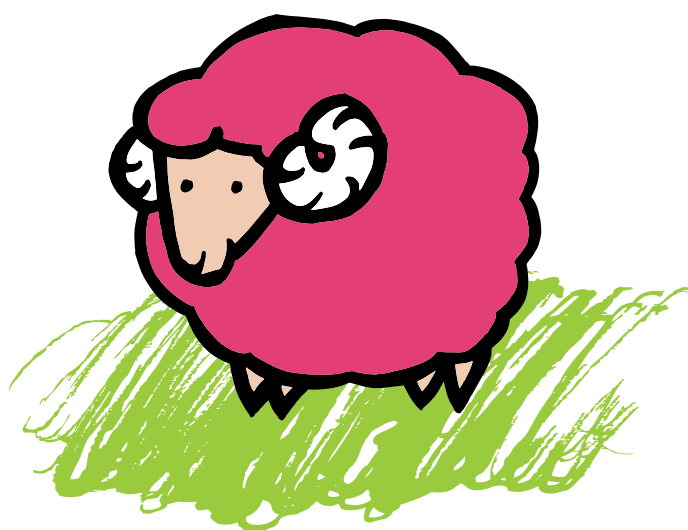
Signage was installed to provide warnings and geographical location references at Confluence Park, to highlight potential dangers and enable 911 callers to easily identify their location. In the future, these signs will be installed at water access points across Loudoun County.

Increased staffing in the LC-CFRS ECC through new positions approved by the Board of Supervisors in the adopted fiscal year 2022 budget.

A countywide review of landmarks was conducted, and 240 commonplace names were added to the Computer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

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Siemens Gamesa chooses Virginia for first U.S. Offshore Wind Turbine Blade Facility

Gov. Ralph Northam announced an agreement for Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy to establish the first offshore wind turbine blade facility in the United States, propelling construction of the country's largest new renewable energy project.

Virginia-based Dominion Energy had previously selected the company as its partner for the energy generation project 27 miles off the coast of Virginia Beach.

Next, Siemens Gamesa will lease more than 80 acres of the Commonwealth's Portsmouth Marine Terminal and will build a facility to produce turbine blades supplying offshore wind projects in North America.

The facility, combined with its operations and maintenance activities, will create a total of 310 new jobs, of which roughly 50 will be service jobs to support the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project. The project represents a total cost of \$200 million, including over \$80 million in investments for buildings and equipment at the Portsmouth Marine Terminal.

"Virginians want renewable energy, our employers want it, and Virginia is delivering it," said Northam. "The Commonwealth is joining these leading companies to create the most important clean-energy partnership in the United States. This is good news for

energy customers, the union workers who will bring this project to life, and our business partners. Make no mistake: Virginia is building a new industry in renewable energy, with more new jobs to follow, and that's good news for our country."

The announcement comes two months to the day after Northam announced that Dominion Energy had agreed to lease 72 acres of the deep-water Portsmouth Marine Terminal as a staging and pre-assembly area for the foundations and turbines. Once fully constructed in 2026, Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project will generate enough clean, sustainable energy to power up to 660,000 homes at peak and avoid as much as 5 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, the company reports.

The announcement also comes 18 months after Governor Northam signed into law the Virginia Clean Economy Act, cementing Virginia's commitment to clean and renewable energy. The law sets a target for

Dominion Energy to construct or purchase at least 5,200 megawatts of energy through offshore wind by 2034 and to achieve 100 percent carbon-free energy production by 2045.

For more than 40 years, Siemens Gamesa has been a pioneer and leader in the wind industry, and today its team of more than 25,000 people is working at the heart of the global energy revolution to address the climate crisis—the most important challenge of our generation. With a leading position in onshore, offshore, and services, Siemens Gamesa designs, builds, and delivers powerful and reliable wind energy solutions in close collaboration with its customers. As

a global company with local impact, it has installed more than 110 GW across the world and provides access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy.

"Offshore wind energy will create jobs and

"Virginia's agreement with Siemens Gamesa will accelerate the potential of offshore wind power production, advancing our transition to clean, renewable energy and resulting in good-paying jobs and increased economic opportunities"

— Secretary of Transportation
Shannon Valentine

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

Hello Neighbors!

We would like to take a moment to thank everyone that has given us such great support throughout this year.

We'll start with our incredible store team. Brittney, Michael, Nicole, Jacob, Donald, Emily, Katie, Anika, Ryan, Belle, Abigail, Cat, Taylor, and Sydney show their dedication and commitment every single day, and we are grateful to have them in our pack.

We are also grateful for the support of Dave, Melissa, Brian, Candee, DeAnna, and Darcy, as well as our rescue partners PetConnect, Fancy Cats and Dogs, and Shenandoah Shephard.

Thanks also to Coach's Corner, Anthony's Restaurant, Purcellville Copy, Magnolias on the Mill, and Purcellville Living.

Last but not least, thanks from the bottom of our hearts to you, our incredible, supportive neighbors! You make it all worthwhile!

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Loudoun needs you to help map its future

BY LAURA LONGLEY

By the time this issue of the *Blue Ridge Leader* arrives at your local newsstand, the heated election for Virginia Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General will be in our rearview mirror (unless we have to endure a recount or other challenge).

GOVERNMENT

But this year, your civic obligation doesn't end with that election. Throughout November, there's another election of sorts that could have equally profound impacts on your life. That is the legally mandated redistricting of the County, which occurs only every 10 years upon completion of the U.S. Census.

To participate, go to Loudoun.gov and search for the Local Redistricting Hub. There you can open the Local Redistricting Tool, an online mapping tool for creating and submitting your election district map recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. You'll also find seven sample plans and develop and submit your own plans for consideration within this Tool until Nov. 30, 2021.

By Jan. 18, 2022, County staff will pro-

vide the Board of Supervisors with map recommendations that have been submitted by the public.

In May, the Board will consider all options and then vote to adopt a new election district map.

Staff then will submit the new Board-approved election district map to Virginia's Attorney General for mandated legal review.

Upon successful Attorney General review, the fully approved map of Loudoun's new election districts should be released next August.

"The redistricting process is of major importance for every resident of Western Loudoun as over the next 10 years our area will be under enormous development pressure as Eastern Loudoun builds out," explains Al Van Hyuck, chair of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition. "To me our political preferences need to be set aside and our focus put on how our future Supervisors can best represent our rural and town interests among an ever more powerful block of Eastern-oriented Supervisors."

According to Van Hyuck, there are two

obvious choices to be made:

"Is it best to have one rural magisterial district that runs north/south and is made up entirely of rural residents in the towns and county that elects one Supervisor leaving eight in the Eastern Districts?"

"Or is it better to keep two Supervisors in the Blue Ridge and Catoctin Districts by splitting Leesburg and doing away with the Leesburg District per se? This would allow two Supervisors to share responsibility for all of Loudoun's towns as well as rural areas and form a strong alliance with COLT [Coalition of Loudoun Towns] and the Loudoun Historic Village Alliance."

He points out that arguments can be made in support of either choice, so it is essential that those concerned come together in some open forums to reach a decision on which alternative best meets our needs. "Then we must all join together to prepare the argument and advocate for our best option," Van Hyuck adds. "Concerned members of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition have agreed to

start the dialogue and examine the alternatives."

The guidelines approved by the Board of Supervisors for the redistricting process are:

- All districts shall have equal representation.
- The plan shall comply with the Voting Rights Act.
- All districts must be compact and contiguous.
- The Census shall be the source of data.
- Preserve communities of interest.
- Create districts with similar interest among communities.
- Consider voter convenience and effectiveness of election administration.
- Use geographical or physical features, especially arterial roadways.
- Consider all alternative plans presented by interested groups and individuals.
- When possible, do not split incorporated towns.



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Loudoun to offer J&J and Moderna COVID-19 booster doses

The Virginia Department of Health has authorized local health districts to begin administering booster doses of the Johnson & Johnson and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for certain individuals as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and authorized by the Food and Drug Administration. There are now booster recommendations for all three available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States.

GOVERNMENT

In addition, the CDC and VDH have approved a “mix and match” approach to boosters, allowing people to receive a different brand of vaccine for the booster dose than what they received in their initial vaccine series. For example, someone who received the one-dose J&J vaccine could receive either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine as a booster.

Loudoun County is offering booster doses of the Moderna and J&J vaccines to the recommended groups, in addition to the previously approved Pfizer vac-

cine booster, at its Dulles Town Center clinic by appointment only.

“Boosters doses will provide added protection to recommended groups who are fully vaccinated, but it remains critical that unvaccinated people also get their first doses as soon as possible,” said Loudoun County Health Director Dr. David Goodfriend. “Loudoun County continues to have substantial transmission of the virus in our community, which can be slowed by getting even more people vaccinated.”

To date, more than 543,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given in Loudoun County, and more than 263,000 are fully vaccinated. Additionally, more than 14,000 booster and third doses have been provided so far.

Who Can Get Booster Shots Now

J&J: Anyone who received the J&J vaccine can receive a booster dose of any of the three vaccine types at least two months following their initial vaccination.

Moderna and Pfizer: Anyone who received their initial two-dose series of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine at least six months (180 days) ago is eligible for a booster dose of any of the three types of vaccine if they are in any the groups approved by the CDC and authorized by VDH, which are:

- People 65 years and older.
- Residents of long-term care facilities.
- People 18-64 years old with underlying medical conditions.
- People 18-64 years old who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional settings, such as, but not limited to, health care workers and caregivers for frail or immunocompromised people

Residents seeking a vaccine booster are not required to offer any proof of risk.

In addition to boosters, Loudoun County continues to offer vaccination appointments to:

- Residents who are 12 and older and have not yet received their first and/or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Residents who are moderately and severely immunocompromised individuals and are recommended by the CDC for a third dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.

Vaccines for Children Ages 5-11

Right now, COVID-19 vaccination for children under 12 years is not yet authorized. The Loudoun County Health Department is planning for the expected approval of the use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 years old. The necessary federal approvals for vaccinating this group of children are expected by early November.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »



Vintage Magnolia



Holiday Open House

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10:00 - 6:00
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Virginia's unemployment rate falls to 3.8 percent

Gov. Ralph Northam announced that Virginia's unemployment rate fell to 3.8 percent in September, 2.8 percentage points below the rate from one year ago. Virginia unemployment continues to stay below the national rate of 4.8 percent.

In September, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 69,300 jobs and the public sector gained 3,700 jobs, totaling 73,000 new jobs.

"September marks the sixteenth consecutive month Virginia's unemployment rate has dropped," said Northam. "People are working, businesses are hiring, and that's all good news. This consistent progress shows the strength of Virginia's economy, and we need to keep this momentum going."

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by

2,700 jobs over-the-month. The number of unemployed residents decreased by 8,606 to 159,786. The number of employed residents rose by 4,747 to 4,084,410. In September 2021, Virginia saw over-the-year job gains of 1.8 percent.

"Even with an unemployment rate well below the national average, our administration remains committed to helping those Virginians who are still searching for work," said Secretary of Labor Megan Healy. "We will continue to work with our workforce development partners to ensure that all Virginians have access to the resources and skills they will need to find a high-quality career in this new job market."

"Since this time last year, employment in Virginia has increased by more than 70,000 jobs and the unemploy-

ment rate has dropped by 2.8 percentage points," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball. "These numbers are just a few of the latest encouraging signs for the Commonwealth's economy in a post-pandemic world, and we are optimistic that job growth will continue in the months ahead."

Compared to a year ago, on a seasonally adjusted basis, nine of eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in professional and business services, up 23,800 jobs or 3.1 percent. The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in leisure and hospitality, up 19,300 jobs or 5.9 percent. Trade, transportation, and utilities experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain of 10,500 jobs or 1.6 percent.

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Judge finds sufficient evidence to sustain charges of sexual assault

Loudoun County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Chief Judge Pamela Brooks found the evidence presented Oct. 25 to be sufficient to sustain two charges of sexual assault.

GOVERNMENT

As previously reported, the boy was 14 years old at the time he sexually assaulted a 15-year-old schoolmate on May 28, 2021. Based on the age of the boy at the time of the offense, and the seriousness of the charges, the hearing was open to the public.

The evidence established that the two students agreed to meet in the school's bathroom as they had on two prior occasions. They both were in the handicap stall and were talking for a while together.

During this meeting, the victim

testified that the defendant put her on the ground and subjected her to non-consensual sexual acts. The boy remains in detention and is due back in court in November.

We are appreciative of the strength of the victim, her family, the witnesses, the investigator and our victim witness case managers and prosecution team, led by Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Barry Zweig. We appreciate the community's patience in allowing this matter to be adjudicated by the Juvenile Court judicial system. We will continue to work with the victim and her family throughout the remainder of this process.

Nothing was mentioned about the second assault at a different school by allegedly the same gender fluid student.

Loudoun County Hypothermia Shelter opens Nov. 15

The Loudoun County Hypothermia Shelter will open Monday, Nov. 15, for single adults aged 18 and older in the community who are experiencing a housing crisis resulting in homelessness. The shelter, which provides a warm indoor sleeping environment, meals and shower facilities, will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 7 a.m., seven nights a week through March 31, 2022. The shelter also provides information on other community resources, such as food, medical care and employment opportunities.

The Hypothermia Shelter is located at the Loudoun Homeless Services Center, 19520 Meadowview Court in Leesburg. A photo ID will be required for admittance to the shelter. Personal bags and belongings must be limited. All bags will be searched. The Loudoun County firearms ordinance prohibits firearms and ammunition in county facilities. All bags will be stored in a locked room for

security during the night.

Additionally, the following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for COVID-19 safety are required to be followed for admittance to the shelter:

- **Temperature checks:** Temperatures will be taken with a no-contact thermometer.
- **Masks:** A face covering will be provided for anyone who does not have one.
- **COVID-19 symptom screening:** Questionnaires will be administered verbally by shelter staff.
- **Hand sanitizer:** Hand sanitizer will be available for cleaning hands frequently.
- **Social distancing:** Maintain distance from others.

Free bus transportation will be provided daily at the times and locations listed below:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »



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To order, visit magnoliasmill.com/thanksgiving-order
Orders can be picked up between 10AM and Noon on Thanksgiving Day at Magnolias.

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Purcellville awarded Recreational Trails Grant

The Town of Purcellville has been awarded funding from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Federal Highway Administration through the Recreational Trails Program. Thirty-five applications were received of which nine, including the Town of Purcellville, were successful.

The Town of Purcellville's project will establish a new multi-use trail through the Suzanne R. Kane Nature Preserve

to improve accessibility and to establish connections between existing and planned trails and sidewalks. The grant award is for \$328,734, which is 80 percent of the total project estimate of \$410,918.

The multi-use trail through the Suzanne R. Kane Nature Preserve will help increase the use of and access to the nature preserve for recreation, fitness, and environmental education; provide those using the W&OD Regional Trail with a loop through the Town to en-

The project will establish a new multi-use trail through the Suzanne R. Kane Nature Preserve to improve accessibility and to establish connections between existing and planned trails and sidewalks.

joy a scenic route along the South Fork Catoctin Creek; and create connections to schools, neighborhoods, other trails, and to the historic downtown business district.

The trail will also provide meaningful access to new recreational opportunities for those who are disabled. Elements of the project include a paved 2,100-foot-long path that meets the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for grading and width; additional parking

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

Developer proposes 17 homes – Instead of six planned homes at the Purcellville Gateway Shopping Center

Members of the Kingsbridge community met recently with Steffen Warfield of the Warfield Development Company, LLC. to limit expansion of the number of homes on the Purcellville Gateway property. There are three acres left, (as well as a small not yet developed space of com-

mercial of approximately 2,500-3,000 square feet) in the Purcellville Gateway shopping center, which is zoned for six homes. This was done, when they planned the shopping center, to create a transition to the residential neighborhood. Warfield is gaging the community's desire to change the zoning

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

Groundbreaking for Northstar Boulevard set for Nov. 5

Loudoun County, in partnership with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, invites members of the public to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the start of construction of Northstar Boulevard, Phase II, from Rt. 50 to Tall Cedars Parkway, on Friday, Nov. 5, 2021, at 11 a.m. The event will take place near the intersection of Northstar Boulevard and Tall Cedars Parkway in Aldie.

Members of the Board of Supervisors, the NVTA, and the Virginia Department of Transportation are scheduled to be on hand for the ceremonial breaking of ground, kicking off construction of this regionally significant project.

This project provides for the construction of the segment of Northstar Boulevard from Rt. 50 to Tall Cedars Parkway, addressing traffic congestion in the corridor, and improving capacity and safety on existing roadway networks within the Dulles South area. The project includes the construction of a new signalized intersection on Rt. 50, located near VDOT's Arcola maintenance area headquarters. When completed, this segment of Northstar Boulevard will provide an

alternative north/south connection to Rt. 50, improving capacity and safety on existing roadway networks within the Dulles South area.

VDOT has recognized Northstar Boulevard as part of a north/south Corridor of Statewide Significance due to its potential to reduce congestion on parallel north/south routes between I-95 and Dulles International Airport and to connect travelers to activity centers in Loudoun County and beyond.

The county is also developing another segment of Northstar Boulevard from Evergreen Mills Road (formerly Shreveport Drive) to Rt. 50, which will join this segment with the existing roadway in the Brambleton area.

Funding for this project is from the state Revenue Sharing Program administered by VDOT, the NVTA Regional Revenue Fund (70 percent Funds) and Local Distribution Fund (30 percent Funds), and proffers. Construction is expected to be completed by winter 2024.

More information, including a link to sign up for updates on the project, can be found on the project page on the Loudoun County website.

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?

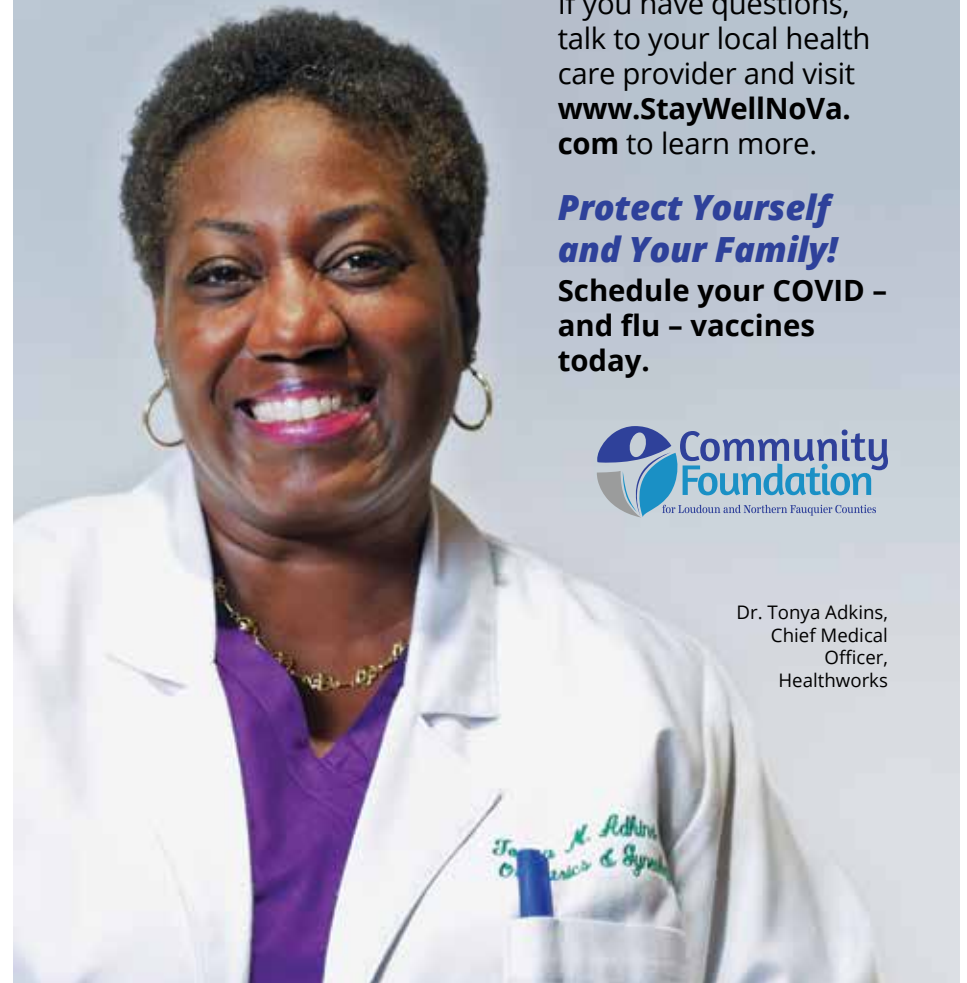
The vaccines have gone through the **most rigorous safety testing in the world**. And after approval, vaccine safety monitoring continues. So you can be sure the vaccine is safe.

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

Protect Yourself and Your Family!
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Chief Medical
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Christmas in Middleburg, Dec. 4

The historic Town of Middleburg, located in the heart of Virginia's horse country, is well known for its bucolic countryside, unique shopping, fine dining and luxurious accommodations.

Each year on the first Saturday in December the Town hosts its annual holiday celebration, Christmas in Middleburg. The traditional Christmas festivities, with the backdrop of a classic hunt country village have become a family tradition and essential part of the spirit of Christmas for small children, world travelers, and visitors from far and wide.

Christmas in Middleburg is a wonderful community event. Festivities begin at 8 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 4 with Breakfast with Santa and a silent auction at the Middleburg Community Charter School. The event features a delicious buffet-style pancake breakfast, silent auction, and pictures with Santa & Mrs. Claus. Visit <https://www.mccspto.org/breakfast-with-santa> for additional information.

Starting at 11 a.m. the Middleburg Hunt Review takes to the streets creating a spectacular sight as approximately 150 horses, riders in hunting attire and dozens of hounds come through the town. Throughout the day there are choir performances, hayrides, the Christmas in Middleburg Craft Fair at the Middleburg Community Center (300 West Washington Street), as well as shopping and dining in the town's shops and restaurants. In addition to the town's restaurants, food trucks will be located on N. Pickering St., behind the BB&T Bank during the event.

The Middleburg Christmas Parade begins at 2 p.m. as spectators line the sidewalks along Washington Street (Rt. 50) to watch as a unique assortment of floats, troops, and musical groups march by. In keeping with the animal friendliness of the town, the parade includes horses, ponies, llamas, alpacas and a variety of dog breeds. Not to be missed are the antique fire



trucks and of course, Santa brings up the rear riding on a beautiful horse drawn coach.

From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. adults can relax and enjoy the Spirit of Middleburg. The progressive hospitality of food and wine tasting will allow adults to wind down and relax at Middleburg establishments of their choice while sampling foods, wines, and spirits from throughout the area at local restaurants. Visit <https://christmasinmiddleburg.org/#schedule> for a full list of Spirit of Middleburg stops.

The Middleburg Business and Professional Association will host a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on Friday, Dec. 3. Caroling begins at 5 p.m., behind the Pink Box Visitor Center at 12 North Madison St. Refreshments will also be served. Mayor Bridge Littleton will lead the countdown to the tree lighting. The town's Christmas tree features over 1,000 lights. Call the Pink Box Visitor Center at 540-687-8888 for additional in-

formation.

Three parking pass options for Christmas in Middleburg will be available for \$30 - \$50 per vehicle. Shuttle service will be provided. Visit <https://christmasinmiddleburg.org/purchase-parking/> to purchase parking passes. Please note: Advanced purchase of parking passes is required (no day-of sales). Parking will be limited in 2021 due to crowd restrictions.

For additional information call 540-266-3115 or email Organizer@ChristmasinMiddleburg.org. Visit www.ChristmasinMiddleburg.org to view an event schedule, list of activities, shop specials, and more. Follow Christmas in Middleburg on Facebook for event updates.

Visit <https://visitmiddleburgva.com/calendar/> for a complete schedule of events taking place in Middleburg this holiday season.

Loudoun Workforce Resource Center offers Saturday seminars

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center will host virtual workshops on three Saturdays in November for Loudoun County job seekers as well as current workers seeking to upgrade their skills.

"We are delighted to once again offer 'Saturday Seminars in November' to support individuals seeking educational opportunities outside the normal business week," said Loudoun County Workforce Team Leader Shelly Rodriguez. "We will be hosting sessions on some of our most frequently requested topics."

Visit loudoun.gov/wrcworkshops for detailed information about each event and how to register. Events will include:

Coffee with a Career Counselor: Nov.

6, 9 - 10 a.m., For details and to register, visit: loudoun.gov/virtualcoffee.

Navigating LinkedIn for New Users: Nov. 6, 10 - 11 a.m.

Loudoun County Employment Information Session: Nov. 13, 10 - 11:15 a.m.

The Mystery of Applicant Tracking Systems: Nov. 20, 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Avoiding Job Scams: Nov. 20, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center provides no-cost resources and equipment to both job seekers and businesses and connects businesses and job seekers to help them achieve their employment goals.

More information about the services provided by the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center may be found online at loudoun.gov/wrc.

New online system for advisory boards, commissions and committees

Loudoun County has launched an improved online portal for advisory boards, commissions and committees, OnBoard.

Through the portal, residents can view board details, membership rosters, vacancies and term expiration dates, as well as apply for an advisory board, commission or committee online. In addition to a better presentation for users of the Loudoun County website, the new system also creates application management and tracking membership efficiencies.

Members of the public are encouraged to apply to serve on the many advisory boards, commissions, and committees which provide opportunities for direct involvement in local government by residents of Loudoun County. There are currently more than 40 advisory boards, commissions and committees, covering topics ranging from animals to zoning. The Board of Supervisors appoints citizens to fill vacancies on most advisory boards, commissions and committees.

To access the portal, visit loudoun.gov/advisory.

Three Thanksgiving beauties – with a creative twist

BY ANDREA GAINES

We love the look, versatility, and flavor of these three Thanksgiving dishes – an easy-to-make cranberry chutney (delicious on turkey and/or whatever vegetables/deserts you are serving), a wonderful, earthy, and spicy Brussels sprouts dish, and, a fresh take on a pumpkin pie presented as a dessert parfait.



Cook & Chill Cranberry Chutney

Ingredients:

- 2 to 3 cups fresh or frozen cranberries (1/2 cup per person)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 1 cup finely minced celery
- 1 apple, finely diced, skin on
- 1 tablespoon grated orange peel*
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger**

Directions:

Combine the cranberries, water, sugar, and apples in a saucepan until boiling and quite soft – about 20 to 30 minutes. Then, simmer the mixture on low for 15 minutes and transfer to a glass bowl for refrigeration, adding all of the remaining ingredients while the mixture is still warm, and chilling until cold and thickened. Add finely chopped walnuts or slivered almonds before serving if you like.



* You can also use fresh orange peel; just make sure to avoid the white pith (too bitter), and mince as finely as possible.
 ** You can also use fresh ginger, again, finely minced.

Spicy Roasted Brussels sprouts

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of cleaned and trimmed Brussels sprouts, cut in half lengthwise
- ¼ tbsp red pepper flakes or cayenne pepper*
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Dash of black pepper

Directions:

Marinate the Brussels sprouts in the other ingredients at room temperature for about 15 minutes, and then pop them into a 375-degree oven on a sheet pan for about 25 to 30 minutes. Check regularly to make sure the oil doesn't burn. They can be served at room temperature and are delicious dressed with a little of the cranberry chutney.

* Omit the red pepper flakes and/or cayenne if your guests are sensitive to heat.

Pumpkin pie parfait

Ingredients:

- ½ cup per person of your favorite canned or home-made pumpkin pie filling
- Whipped cream atop each serving*
- 1 tablespoon per person of an equal mixture of brown sugar and cinnamon
- 1-inch of your cranberry chutney per glass/serving**
- 1 ginger snap or other holiday cookie per serving

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 >

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Military Vehicle convoy enjoyed a tour on Loudoun's dirt roads

Oct. 30, was a perfect day to host the military vehicles during today's back roads convoy tour. This was taken at their lunch stop at the Harvest

COMMUNITY

Gap Brewery on Route 9 just east of Hillsboro. The fall tour started at the VFW in Leesburg and made its way along the dirt roads to Waterford, Taylorstown,

Lovettsville, Morrisonville, and Hillsboro. About 14 veterans and military vehicle owners typically get together twice a year for a convoy tour - one in the fall, and one in the spring. Most of us are from Loudoun County, but we had others from Winchester and Annandale join us this year. Leading the group is Lee Phillips from Hamilton.

Catch Me If You Can soars onto The Sterling Playmakers Stage

Catch Me If You Can opens on the Sterling Playmakers stage Friday, Nov. 12. Based on the hit film and the incredible true story, *Catch Me If You Can* is the high-flying musical comedy about chasing your dreams and not getting caught.

Nominated for four Tony Awards, including Best Musical, this big and bright spectacle with high-energy dance numbers and a riveting story, tells the story of precocious teenager, Frank Abagnale, Jr., who runs away from home seeking fame and fortune.

With nothing more than his boyish charm, a big imagination and millions of dollars in forged checks, Frank suc-

cessfully poses as a pilot, a doctor, and a lawyer - living the high life and winning the girl of his dreams. When Frank's lies catch the attention of FBI agent, Carl Hanratty, though, Carl pursues Frank across the country to make him pay for his crimes.

Sterling Playmakers will perform *Catch Me If You Can* Fridays and Saturdays, Nov. 12, 13, 19, 20 at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays, Nov. 14 and 21 at 2 p.m. in the theatre at Seneca Ridge Middle School. The theatre is located at 98 Seneca Ridge Drive, Sterling, VA 20164. Tickets are \$15 for general ad-

mission, and are available at SterlingPlaymakers.org or can be purchased at the door. Saturday, Nov. 20 performance will be sign interpreted by HISsign. For more information about this delightfully entertaining production of *Catch Me If You Can*, visit SterlingPlaymakers.org.



Photo: Alan Price

International Horse Show gives locals a chance of a lifetime

For many young children who grow up riding their ponies in local riding rings, paddocks and stables, an international horse show is far from reach, a dream.

Transportation logistics, extra expenses, and more recently, the COVID pandemic, have made this type of opportunity too complex to

COMMUNITY

navigate and a goal too hard to achieve. National horse shows often require many smaller shows, collecting points through ribbon placement, and a yearlong or longer process. Most young riders never will have a chance to compete in a show of this level, often exhibited by the nation's highest equine competitors.

But local young rider, Angelina Rossi of Purcellville, with her jumper horse, Winston, and Bruce Leland of Old School Farm in Bluemont, took home first place prizes in local inter-

national show at Morven Park in Leesburg winning the .95 Jumper class.

This past weekend; however, Morven Park Equine Center, well known for its world famous veterinary clinic, also became an exhibition to many high level equine competitors in what is known as "local day" at the Washington International Horse Show, giving regional riders the chance to compete at the highest levels of show jumping and equitation, without having to qualify collecting points throughout the year and without having to travel too far to attend the CSI-4*-W International show jumping event, as well as a USEF Premier Hunter and USEF 6* Jumper show, one of America's most elite horse shows. Founded in 1958, historically the show takes place every October in the Capital One Arena in downtown Washington, D.C. The event is highlighted by international level show jumping, top show hunters, and two equitation championships.



Left to Right: Trainer Bruce Leland and Angelina Rossi on her horse Winston.

Morven Park is a 1,000-acre historic estate. Owned and operated by Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation, a non-profit organization. Morven Park first opened to the public in 1967 but rarely holds a show such as Washington International.

Washington International Horse Show's "local" day came home this year to Morven Park Equine Center on Oct. 22, and it was a true victory and dream come true for a local Purcellville young rider named Angelina Rossi.

Inova offering virtual “Ask the Expert” lecture and mobile services

As part of its free “Ask the Expert” lecture series, Inova will host “Lung Cancer Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Options” on Thursday, Nov. 4 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. using the Zoom video platform.

COMMUNITY

Lung cancer is the second most common cancer in both men and women – and the leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. Thanks to smoking cessation and advances in early detection and treatment, lung cancer deaths are declining.

Annual lung cancer screening with low-dose computed tomography is recommended for adults ages 55 to 80 who have a 30 pack-year smoking history and currently smoke, or have quit within the past 15 years.

Inova’s Lung Cancer Screening program is designed to detect cancer in its earliest, most treatable stage. Should cancer be detected, a multidisciplinary team of board certified interventional

pulmonologists, thoracic surgeons and thoracic medical and radiation oncologists work hand-in-hand to coordinate and manage the patient’s care.

Join Dr. Amit “Bobby” Mahajan, board-certified interventional pulmonologist and Medical Director of the Inova Interventional Pulmonology and Complex Airway Disease Program, and Dr. Michael Weyant, board-certified thoracic surgeon and Medical Director of the Inova Thoracic Surgery Program, for an interactive discussion about the evolution of lung cancer screening and the cutting-edge technology, research and treatment options available today.

Register at inova.org/AskTheExpert or call 1.855.MY.INOVA (855.694.6682). Zoom log in details will be emailed after participants register.

Interventional pulmonology, thoracic surgery and lung cancer screening services is available at Inova Loudoun Hospital beginning Nov. 1.

Inova Loudoun Mobile Health Services: November 2021

Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Health Services will be providing countywide blood pressure screenings at a variety of locations during the month of November. The screenings are free. For further information call the Mobile Health hotline at 703-858-8818 or visit www.inova.org/mobilehealth.

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 9 a.m. to noon
Dulles South Multipurpose Center
24950 Riding Center Dr., South Riding
BP Screenings

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m. to noon
Leesburg Senior Center
102 North St., Leesburg
BP Screenings

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to noon
Cascades Senior Center

21060 Whitfield Pl., Sterling
BP Screenings

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to noon
WaltonWood
44141 Russell Branch Pkwy., Ashburn
BP Screenings

Monday, Nov. 15, 9 to 11 a.m.
William Watters House
22365 Enterprise St., Sterling
BP Screenings

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m. to noon
Ashburn Senior Center
20880 Marblehead Dr., Ashburn
BP Screenings

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m. to noon
Wingler House
30900 Runnymede Terr., Ashburn
BP Screenings

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

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County Senior Centers now open Saturdays

The Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services announces that its five senior centers are now open Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. until noon. Recreational options for adults 55 and older include exercise classes, pickleball and billiards, as well as classes in knitting, crocheting and personal enrichment.

The annual membership fee of \$32 for county residents and \$48 for non-residents applies to locations in Ashburn, Leesburg, Purcellville, South Riding and Sterling. Visitors can opt to pay a daily drop-in fee.

Visit loudoun.gov/prcs for more information about senior center locations, hours and programs or contact the centers directly.

Senior center locations:

- Ashburn Senior Center, 20880 Marblehead Drive, Ashburn. Phone: 571-367-8340.
- Carver Senior Center, 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville. Phone: 571-258-3400.
- Dulles South Senior Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding. Phone: 571-258-3883.
- Senior Center at Cascades, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Phone: 571-258-3280.
- Senior Center of Leesburg, 102 North Street NW, Leesburg. Phone: 703-737-8039.

Sign up for text and email alerts about PRCS news and events.

Follow @loudounprcs on Facebook and other social media.


Loudoun Symphony Orchestra virtual concert Nov. 11

The Loudoun Symphony Orchestra will premiere a virtual concert, *Honoring our Veterans* at 11 a.m. on Nov.11.

The program features patriotic music including the Armed Forces Medley, Poeme Heroique, Washington Post March, Jupiter from The Planets, Battle Hymn of the Republic and poems and stories shared by Maestra Nancia DALimonte. The program is 45 minutes long and is available at www.loudounsymphony.org.

Now in its 31st season, the mis-

sion of the Loudoun Symphony is to enrich our community through music. To carry out this mission, a full season of six virtual and in-person orchestral concerts is presented, including two annual holiday concerts. The educational outreach program includes the Loudoun Symphony Youth Orchestra program which now provides performance opportunities for talented students through three ensembles and intensive training through a week-long Summer Orchestral Institute. www.loudounsymphony.org.



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Human Service Nonprofit Grant Application process opens Nov. 8

Loudoun County's nonprofit grant application process for community nonprofit organizations will open on Nov. 8, 2021, when the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 2023) Human Service Nonprofit Grant Application will be made available at loudoun.gov/nonprofitgrants.

Nonprofits certified as 501(c)3 organizations that provide human services to Loudoun County residents in the areas of need identified and approved by the Board of Supervisors for FY 2023 are eligible to apply for funding. The areas of need are:

- **Prevention and Self-Sufficiency:** Services focused on assisting individuals and families in becoming and/or remaining independent and stable, and providing tools, skills, strategies, and resources to individuals and families.
- **Crisis Intervention and Diversion:** Services provided to individuals and families in crisis to overcome immediate problems and reduce or prevent the need for more restrictive and expensive higher-level services.
- **Long-Term Support:** Services that focus on assisting individuals who have continuing, long-term support needs to remain healthy, safe and independent in the community.
- **Improved Quality of Human Services:** Services and opportunities provided to individuals, organizations and communities that enhance the quality, accessibility, accountability and coordination of services provided by community organizations.

The online grant application and related documents are sched-

uled to be posted by 3 p.m., Nov. 8, at loudoun.gov/nonprofitgrants. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m., Dec. 21. The amount of funding for FY 2023 will be determined by the Board of Supervisors as part of the county's adopted FY 2023 budget. In FY 2022, the budget for human service nonprofit grant funding was \$1.8 million.

Funding Options

Loudoun County has two options for organizations seeking funds through the FY 2023 human service nonprofit grant process:

The standard nonprofit grant application process for organizations seeking awards of \$5,001 - \$113,000; organizations will be awarded proportional funding.

A mini-grants process providing a simplified application for organizations applying for a grant of \$5,000 or less; organizations will be awarded the full amount requested. The mini-grants program is designed for innovative small-scale projects and new or small organizations that may lack the capacity to write a larger grant.

Pre-Application Information Webinar on Nov. 9

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in a pre-application information webinar hosted by the county scheduled for Nov. 9, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Information on how to access the webinar is available at loudoun.gov/nonprofitgrants and loudoun.gov/remoteparticipation. The webinar will be recorded and will be available to access at loudoun.gov/nonprofitgrants.

Anyone who requires a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability or who needs language assistance to participate in the application process should contact nonprofits@loudoun.gov.

For more information, visit loudoun.gov/nonprofitgrants, or send an email to nonprofits@loudoun.gov.

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Glass Government Ecosystems launches Purcellville Portal

Glass Government Ecosystems launches the Purcellville Portal, a tool powering the town's local economic recovery initiatives. The portal will enable local businesses to transform their traditional catalogs of products and services into fully-digital online stores, so local government departments and residents can buy from them seamlessly.

Silicon Valley software ecosystem company, GLASS, officially launched the Purcellville Portal, a powerful and easy-to-use platform designed to simplify how the Town of Purcellville and the local community discover and buy from their

small and local businesses. Through the portal, Purcellville businesses will be able to create their first online stores to start receiving orders and digital payments in a streamlined and compliant fashion. The portal aims to complement Purcellville's economic recovery efforts, helping local businesses embrace digital transformation and engage with potential customers eager to buy locally.

The Town government will benefit from upgrading its business directory into a dynamic and always-updated database, that town staff can use to identify new vendors, request fast quotes, and conduct more sus-

tainable purchases. "This platform increases sales and visibility to our local business, with lower operational costs and convenience to customers.

With many of our businesses facing staffing challenges, this electronic marketing and sales platform will lessen that burden," said Purcellville Mayor, Kwasi Fraser. Fraser continued, "Unlike our previous static business directory, this dynamic platform can measure and report on actual customer sales and engagement to each store owner. Making the purchase path and experience easier and at a lower cost increases the veloci-

ty of revenue to our local businesses and benefits our tax base."

Government procurement expert and GLASS chief executive, Paola Santana, celebrated the program, referring to the 400 million small and medium businesses that constitute the backbone of our local economies and main source of job creation, delivering over 40 percent of countries' gross domestic product.

"We're on a mission to connect small businesses with their local and government markets, and are excited to work alongside government leadership in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »

Loudoun Deploys Intelligent Transportation System on roadways

Beginning Monday, Oct. 18, at 5 a.m., Loudoun County in coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will deploy an intelligent transportation system (ITS) which includes color, closed-circuit television cameras (CCTV) and dynamic message signs (DMS) at five locations. By tying into the CCTV cameras, VDOT's Transportation Operations Center can stay updated on incidents on the roads and share accurate information with the public, traffic reporters and law enforcement and fire-rescue agencies. In addition, this information from Loudoun County roads will be added into the VDOT's regional transportation operation network. These signs will enable drivers to be better informed and make safer and more coordinated commuting decisions.

The county has installed the ITS devices at key locations:

- Route 50 east of Tall Cedar Parkway
- Route 50 east of Loudoun County Parkway
- Route 50 east of Stone Spring Boulevard
- Loudoun County Parkway north of Route 50
- Route 7 Bypass west of Route 15

Each site will have two dynamic messaging signs facing both traffic directions, a CCTV camera on a pole extension and a cabinet for the ITS

equipment. The equipment will be placed in the median of the roadway. The DMS and CCTV cameras will be integrated into the VDOT statewide 511 system so users can get the most updated information, which can be accessed through the VDOT website, by telephone or a smartphone app.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved and allocated monies in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget for this project. The county completed the design in September 2020 and VDOT administered the project's construction. VDOT offered surplus ITS equipment to the county from the recently decommissioned I-66 Active Traffic Management System, which saves the county the expense of purchasing new units and furthers the sustainable practice of repurposing equipment.

For more information, contact the Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure at dcti@loudoun.gov or Ellen Kamilakis, VDOT, Northern Virginia District, at ellen.kamilakis@vdot.virginia.gov.

Loudoun County provides traffic alerts through Alert Loudoun, the county's email and text notification system. To sign up for the "Loudoun Traffic and Road Closures" category, visit loudoun.gov/alert.

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Thanksgiving 5K or Turkey Trot, are just a few ways to be active or to recover after a heavy meal.

Volunteer. Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to serve your community, and there are several ways to give back in our area – donating a turkey or to a local food bank, visiting the elderly, working at a soup kitchen, delivering for Meals on Wheels, etc., are just a few possibilities to consider.

In addition to doing some good in the world for those less fortunate than you or those in need, research on volunteering has also shown that people are happier after volunteering. With depression and anxiety rates skyrocketing during COVID-19, the need to give is especially great this Thanksgiving, and you will probably feel better about yourself when you do it.

Reflect. Research studies have repeatedly shown the power of positive thinking. People who think positively during times of adversity have consistently reported experiencing lower rates

of stress/anxiety, depression and health struggles and higher rates of happiness and wellness. We've all been impacted by COVID-19 in different ways, and the pandemic has forced many of us to take inventory when it comes to how we're living our lives.

Do you have balance when it comes to you work life and personal life? Are you thinking about a career change? How healthy are your important relationships, and are their changes you would like to make? Thinking positively is important when it comes to self-reflection and to making changes in your life that are good for you.

"Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse." ~ Henry Van Dyke

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.

HYPOTHERMIA SHELTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

- Loudoun County Transit Bus Route 82 bus stop across the street from the William Watters House located at 22365 Enterprise Street in Sterling. The bus arrives at 5:30 p.m. and departs at 5:45 p.m.
- Loudoun County Transit Bus Route 57 bus stop near the right rear side of the Shenandoah building located at 102 Heritage Way, NE in Leesburg. The bus arrives at 6:30 p.m. and departs at 6:45 p.m.

On weekends and holidays, the county will also provide a morning

shuttle drop-off from the shelter to each of the stops noted above.

The Hypothermia Shelter, formerly called the Cold Weather Shelter, is operated by Loudoun County in partnership with the Loudoun County Continuum of Care. The CoC is a coalition of public, nonprofit and faith-based organizations that provide a variety of shelter and support services to those experiencing homelessness or people at risk of becoming homeless. Staff support for the CoC is provided by the Loudoun County Department of Family Services.

More information about services available to those experiencing homelessness in Loudoun County may be found at loudoun.gov/CoC or by calling 703-777-0420.

Maple Cottage Pottery hosts pottery sale with LoCo Potters Dec. 4



Maple Cottage Pottery in Bluemont, VA will hold an open studio sale on Dec. 4, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Also in attendance will be the varied works of LoCo Potters, a collective of talented local artisans. Offerings include functional works for the home and garden, holiday-themed items, and many one-of-a-kind art pieces. With so many holiday bazars cancelled this year due to COVID-19 con-

COMMUNITY

cerns, this is an opportunity to shop for handmade gifts at an outdoor event that follows current health and safety recommendations. There will also be a blazing fire pit for warmth and seasonal cheer. Maple Cottage Pottery is located at 18301 Clayton Hall Rd., Bluemont, VA 20135. From Rt 7, turn right into the long paved driveway just before the "Welcome to Bluemont" sign. For more information contact: maple-cottagepottery@gmail.com

Leesburg Finance Director Appointed to VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool Board

At its Fiscal Year Annual Meeting of participants in the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool, Clark Case, Finance Director for the Town of Leesburg, was appointed to VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool Board of Trustees. Case was one of four representatives appointed to the board. He will serve for three-year terms expiring at the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Meeting. VML/VACo Finance is a leading financial services provider for Virginia local governments and the administrator of the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool.

The Board of Trustees is composed of officials who are elected by representatives of participating localities and political subdivisions who oversee responsibilities and establish policies for the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool. The VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool manages the fixed income assets invested by participating political subdivisions in two funds, the VIP Stable NAV Liquidity Pool and the VIP 1-3 Year High Quality Bond Fund. Founded in 2013, the Trust currently holds approximately \$2.2 billion in assets.

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- George Bernard Shaw

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HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6
head.”

Charlie: “What do you mean?”

Gary: “They tell me I got mental thinking confusion disorder.”

I was not surprised at that. On the other hand, Gary seemed empathic to a problem I had with a particular neighbor.

Gary: “That lady next door is like my mama.”

Charlie: “What did your mother do?”

Gary: “Smoked cigarettes and talked to the skillet”

The next morning Gary still had cook-

ware on his mind.

Gary: “You know what happened to my mama when she got like that?”

Charlie: “What happened to your mama?”

Gary: “Daddy conked her on the head with a skillet.”

A few days later, Gary ventured a desire for another sort of social activity.

Gary: “I’m getting me a girlfriend.”

Charlie: “What’s her name?”

Gary: “Mary.”

Charlie: “And?”

Gary: “She sells crack but she’s a nice lady.”

He also had my nasty-neighbor-lady on his mind.

Gary: “That woman is crazy and she don’t like you.”

Charlie: “Yep.”

Gary: “Why don’t you do something about her?”

Charlie: “Like what?”

Gary: “Ain’t you got a skillet?”

I didn’t have a skillet but life settled down, at least for me. Gary, though, needed to rest his mind and was institutionalized at Western State Hospital in Staunton. Six months later he was discharged, and on a sleeting February day I

drove down Interstate 81 to pick him up. Gary was much better, though his mental thinking confusion disorder was only in remission. That was why we parted ways a few months later.

Peculiarities aside, Gary was part of the fabric and spice of life here, as were Robert, Albert, Shontelle, Bobby, Stan, Will and Luis, Stacie, Cal, Chip, Oscar and Mike, Jon and Lee and James. We should all feel richer for knowing such folks and calling them friends.

Houston developed office buildings in Atlanta. He lives in Paeonian Springs.

FREEDOM CENTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

highlight the significant gaps in minority IT jobs access and the need for such a program: African Americans comprise a mere 1.9 percent of IT executive positions, 7 percent of commercial sector IT jobs, and 14 percent in government.

Through the NoVA Datacenter Academy, said Thomas, the Loudoun Freedom Center will be well positioned not only to level the playing field but also to start something much bigger for those who have been marginalized and left out of the information technology space.

Additionally, through the Freedom Technology Group—a Freedom Center consortium of predominantly African American IT and business professionals—Thomas plans to “to create the pipeline, prepare the students, propel

the professionals, and build the first Black-owned datacenter campus in Loudoun County.”

She added, “When the community invests in the community, what happens is success permeates the community. So we’re just blessed to have people in our community who think so



much of our students.”

Microsoft Datacenter Academies, from South Africa to Southeast Virginia, operate under the auspices of the Microsoft Datacenter Community Development team.

Bob Reiting, Workforce Development Global Program Lead at Microsoft, said, “Microsoft is proud to collaborate with Loudoun Freedom Center, local educators, and IT partners to ensure students acquire skills and certifications for employment in the growing cloud computing and technology sector. Opening a Loudoun County Microsoft Datacenter Academy will help create more inclusive economic opportunities in Northern Virginia and change lives for the better.”

As an official CompTIA educational partner, the NoVA Datacenter Academy, equipped with a state-of-the-

art data center lab, will offer training classes and the ability to obtain certifications in IT Fundamentals+, A+, Network+, Security+, and Cloud+. To lift the barriers that impede participation for working parents, the Academy will offer onsite STEM-based enrichment classes for children in grades K-5.

Founded in 2015, the Loudoun Freedom Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating racial injustice, engendering hope, empowerment, and reconciliation through Historic Preservation and STEM-based learning. The Loudoun Freedom Center seeks to increase cultural competence in K-12 education, inspire innovative opportunities, improve access to affordable job training, technical education, and career resources needed to break cycles of generational poverty in underrepresented communities.

CROPS FOR KIDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

cultivation, number one in the amount of hops grown, number one in the amount of honey collected and sold, and number one in the number of alpacas and llamas. We also rank right up there in terms of the number of women farmers, and the number of farmers who have military service. Other numbers, according to the 2019 census: Loudoun County has 1,259 farms covering 121,932 acres. This makes for, not just a beautiful landscape, but a very productive one.

According to Economic Development’s website: Loudoun-made, Loudoun-grown products “run the gamut from hay to hogs and goats to grapes, plus products made from Loudoun-grown raw materials, such as beer, wine, cheese, honey and wool.”

Diversity in agriculture, works

As you might have guessed from the alpacas and llamas statistics, today, Loudoun’s agricultural economy is really diverse, and comes in a wide, wide variety of forms, from traditional cattle farms, corn rows, and forestry businesses, to wineries, and experience-based businesses and events such as B&Bs, farm tours and tractor rides. And yes, even, hand-knit sweaters.

The Virginia Farm Bureau is active in local farming communities in many ways, including helping kids learn about the process of agriculture with their Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom program.

For our 2021-2022 school year the VAFB awarded 61 grants in and to 42 towns, counties, non-profits and school

systems.

The program has an incredible reach, providing 20,000 kids in both urban and rural areas with agriculture-related education and experiences. Cutting a wide swath, kids see how everything from basic gardening, to animal care works.

Along the way they are exposed to helpful information about nutrition, future career opportunities and the like.

Tammy Maxey is the Program Director for the farm bureau’s Agriculture in the Classroom program. Dozens and dozens of County Schools and non-profits are benefitting from this VAFB program, including here in Loudoun and in our neighboring communities.

Examples include the Fairfax County’s Greenbriar East Greenbriar East Elementary School, Liberty Middle School,

Poe Middle School, Tauxemont Cooperative Preschool, and W.T. Woodson High School.

In Culpeper County, the Floyd T. Binns Middle School received a grant. And, here in Loudoun County Frederick Douglass Elementary School in Leesburg was a beneficiary.

Some grants also went to Virginia Cooperative Extensions, and 4-H centers,

The Virginia Farm Bureau’s Agriculture in the Classroom is a national program that promotes greater understanding of agriculture through education. The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a nonprofit organization that receives financial and administrative support from Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. For more information visit AgInThrClassroom.org.

“ASK THE EXPERT”, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Thursday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m. to noon
Carver Center
200 E Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville
BP Screenings

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m. to noon
Cascades Senior Center
21060 Whitfield Pl., Sterling
BP Screenings

Thursday, Nov. 25, 8 to 10:30 a.m.
Ashburn Farm Thanksgiving Day Races
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WIND TURBINE FACILITY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

economic prosperity across the country, and with President Biden's Build Back Better Agenda, we're showing that the United States is open for business on clean energy," said Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm.

"Virginia is helping lead the way to strengthen the nation's domestic supply chains of renewable energy and keep energy prices affordable for American households as we strive for a cleaner future."

"We at Siemens Gamesa have shown the offshore wind industry the way for over 30 years. Establishing the industry's first dedicated offshore wind turbine blade facility in the United States proves again that we are leading the offshore revolution," said Marc Becker, Chief Executive Officer of the Siemens Gamesa Offshore Business Unit. "The U.S. offshore market is a critical part of our overall global strategy, with our presence in Virginia playing a crucial and central role. Our investment – reaching triple-digit millions of U.S. dollars – would be energized by the strong collaboration with Dominion Energy and support of Virginia's legislature and authorities."

"Virginia is leading the way in offshore wind and using blades from this new facility in Hampton Roads on our Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project is a major win for the region," said

Robert M. Blue, Dominion Energy Chair, President, and Chief Executive Officer. "It is great to see well-paying, clean energy jobs are on the horizon as an offshore wind supply chain develops here in Virginia."

"This announcement is a major milestone in the development of Virginia's first offshore wind project – and the second active offshore wind project in the country," said U.S. Senator Mark Warner. "I am proud that Virginia is leading the way in offshore wind development and reinforcing its role as a major player in an industry that will power our future. I commend Governor Northam for his leadership on this issue and Siemens Gamesa and the Port of Virginia for bringing this project to the Commonwealth and creating 21st century jobs. As the project progresses, I look forward to working at the federal level to pass infrastructure legislation, which will support a wealth of other investments to drive innovation, job creation, and economic growth for years to come."

"I applaud Governor Northam and Siemens Gamesa for working together on this historic partnership that will bring good-paying jobs to the Commonwealth and strengthen our clean energy economy. Today's announcement is a testament to Virginia's talented workforce and robust infrastructure network, including the Port of Virginia, which are key to attract economic development," said U.S. Sena-

tor Tim Kaine. "This partnership will further cement the Commonwealth as the premiere offshore wind hub for the Eastern United States. I'll keep pushing to get the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Build Back Better bill – two transformative, complimentary, and essential pieces of legislation – across the finish line to ensure Virginia has the resources it needs to power homes and businesses in need and continue to lead the nation in clean energy for years to come."

"Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy recognized early on what Virginia has to offer companies looking to invest in this country's budding offshore wind industry: unparalleled coastal assets, comprehensive and cutting-edge infrastructure systems, and a robust workforce pipeline unlike any other on the East Coast," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball. "This announcement is years in the making and takes the Commonwealth one step closer to becoming a national leader in offshore wind. We thank Siemens Gamesa for its commitment to Virginia and look forward to a long and productive partnership."

"Virginia's agreement with Siemens Gamesa will accelerate the potential of offshore wind power production, advancing our transition to clean, renewable energy and resulting in good-paying jobs and increased economic opportunities," said Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine. "The Port of

Virginia's world-class facilities make it the premier location for this emerging industry and positions the Commonwealth as a national leader in offshore wind power."

"The Port of Virginia is proud to be able to help with the development of an entirely new industry that will spur job growth, drive our economy, and create the U.S. East Coast's offshore-wind logistics hub right here in Portsmouth," said Stephen A. Edwards, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the Virginia Port Authority. "The industry is going to be closely watching Virginia and this port and we welcome the interest. We have a very unique opportunity to set ourselves apart by being at the forefront of this movement to create clean, renewable energy along the East Coast. We welcome Siemens Gamesa and are looking forward to a long and productive relationship."

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with The Port of Virginia, Dominion Energy, the City of Portsmouth, the Hampton Roads Alliance, and the General Assembly's Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission to secure the project for Virginia. The Commonwealth will support the project through MEI-approved Virginia Public Building Authority bonds of up to \$17.1 million to support infrastructure improvements and site preparation required for the construction of the facility.

MOORE-SOBEL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Parkinson's, I have established a sort of détente with the disease," he writes.

Throughout the book, readers follow Fox as he wrestles with his health, the recovery process, the realities of aging, and his mortality. Fox's account is powerful in its authenticity and relatability. He presents an image of an aging man who is coming to grips with his legacy. The circumstances of his health have forced his hand, leading Fox to question his previous adherence to a worldview steeped in optimism.

Fox finds his way through eventually, but not before taking readers along for the ride. He finds out he has a rare tumor in his back, and makes the decision to undergo surgery, despite the risks. After all, he's rolled the dice before, such as when he left home in pursuit of an acting career. "If you don't take risks, there's no room for luck," he writes. "I took a chance. I got lucky."

The details he includes surrounding his recovery from spinal surgery are poignant. He shares his un-

varnished thoughts and feelings, conversations with doctors, the pain and loss of independence, and the work it takes to heal. While his specific circumstances might be unique, Fox's story is truly a human one.

In the book, Fox writes about meeting a man named Derek who served in the military and endured treatment for depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. "I just wanted to tell you that, because, you know, you've helped me a lot." Fox was touched. "It stirred a feeling of gratitude: that through my example of living with adversity, I was able to positively affect someone else's life," he writes.

Fox doesn't know it, but he did the same for me. *Lucky Man* and *Always Looking Up* were the first books I read after the accident (once I had healed enough to focus my eyes on the page). His story gave me hope. If this man could overcome the challenges associated with being diagnosed with Parkinson's, then I could overcome everything that came after being burned by sulfuric acid.

Instead of doing away with opti-

mism completely, Fox builds on his previous books by offering a more nuanced and grounded view of optimism. "With gratitude, optimism becomes sustainable," he writes.

It's likely we won't be seeing Fox on the big screen anytime soon. He writes in this book that he has entered "a second retirement." He seems at peace with this decision. "I'm not sure it ever did, but especially now, my work as an actor does not define me," he writes. Neither does his struggle with Parkinson's. One of the many lessons from Fox's life is that we are more than our careers, successes, failures, and diagnoses.

Fox's story is one of adversity, pain and suffering. Yet it is also one of joy, perseverance, and meaning. "I can be both a realist and an optimist," he declares near the end of his book. I believe that the rest of us can, too.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is the author of Can You See My Scars? His book is available on Amazon. To read more of his work, visit www.samuelmoore-sobel.com.

TRAILS GRANT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

spaces with two ADA accessible spaces; wayfinding signs designed for increased visibility and readability; and two rest areas along the path with benches and signage located near the creek.

The project will be completed in two phases, each lasting up to 18-months. The first phase is design and engineering; the second phase is the construction.

DEVELOPER PROPOSES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19


from six homes to 17 homes. The proposed project is called the Strathmore development.

The neighbors want the zoning to remain six homes on three acres. At this time, it remains unclear what next steps Warfield will take.

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LOUDOUN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Aided Dispatch system. These include areas of interest that may not have a physical address associated with them, such as Confluence Park. This enhancement will help 911 call takers to dispatch first responders to these locations more quickly. The department has also developed a process for adding new locations and updating information as occupancies change.

Conducted countywide public informational outreach regarding water safety and best practices for swimming in and around public waterways.

A complete list of the public safety improvements identified in the significant incident review, which includes the progress of each task, is posted on the county's website at loudoun.gov/incidentreview.

Improving 911 Call Center Technology

Loudoun County remains committed to continually improving emergency communications systems. The county and region have made significant progress over the past year.

Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network

Loudoun County was among the first two jurisdictions in Virginia to

transition from legacy, analog 911 equipment to the Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network. The ESInet is a highly secure, resilient network. One of its most important features is the ability to route 911 calls based on a caller's physical location.

Loudoun County implemented the ESInet on August 25, 2020. The system implementation began in 2019 and was almost complete at the time of the June 4 drowning incident. While several other Northern Virginia localities have also implemented the new technology, all adjoining 911 call centers must be using the ESInet system for it to work optimally.

Emergency 911 (E-911) Border Response Workgroup

Following the June 4 drowning of Fitz Thomas, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management formed the E-911 Border Response Workgroup. The workgroup, under the authority of the Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, is comprised of Thomas' mother, Pastor Michelle Thomas, fire and rescue communications staff, and other statewide stakeholders. The workgroup was formed to assess the deficiencies related to the timely routing of emergency calls to the appropriate 911 public safety

answering point across either state or county borders. The workgroup investigated five functional areas related to 911 systems and processes: governance; technology; equipment operations and mitigation strategies; 911 personnel and training; and funding and compensation.

The workgroup presented its final report to the General Assembly in April 2021. The workgroup's recommendations include developing a best practices guide for cross border 911 call processing, improving wireless 911 location accuracy, and addressing telecommunicator compensation, reclassification, recruitment, training and retention. The report and other information about the workgroup are posted on the VDEM website.

"The changes and improvements to our policies and procedures that we've made over the past year and are working to complete now make us better, but sadly, they would not have saved young Mr. Thomas because he was under water far too long," said Chief Johnson. "We recognize how difficult this unfortunate accident has been for those who knew and loved Fitz Thomas and I pray one day those who mourn him will feel some comfort knowing that their loss has inspired and will continue to inspire meaningful change across our community."

LETTER: PARKS AND GREEN SPACES,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

easy to understand, but to truly preserve this place – the Purcellville that we know and love – we must undertake decisive action to set aside the natural spaces such as forests, streams, meadows, that create the Purcellville we know and love.

*Adam Stevenson
Purcellville*

THANKSGIVING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21**Directions:**

For this dish, you are dishing up pumpkin pie filling into a nice deep stemmed wine or parfait glass, adding about an inch of your cranberry chutney, topping it with whipped cream, dusting the whipped cream with your brown sugar and cinnamon mixture, and garnishing with a ginger snap or other holiday cookie. Easy and so pretty to look at.

**The cranberry chutney gives your parfait a pretty, layered look, with the golden orange of the pumpkin pie filling, the bright red of the chutney, and the fresh whipped cream.*

Get creative with your table

There are so many beautiful holiday colors here – bright red, deep green, white.

This gives you the opportunity to get creative with your table.

We like to use bright white or clear glass dishes, glasses and bowls to reveal the playful colors of the food and desserts.

Bright red flowers, deep greens – the form of pine branches and other fresh accents – can be added to your table to make things look and smell festive.

Red, green, and white napkins, table cloths, candles and the like would work perfectly, too.

Even inexpensive paper napkins will look fantastic. It's all about the colors, smells, and flavors!

HISTORY IN THE FORM OF BARNS, CONTINUED FROM PG 3

area."

What interested me in this photo was the silos, which is fired ceramic and was quite common in past years."

Interestingly, Lancaster was originally a native of western Canada. He now lives in Waterford. He likes to tell the story of how he got into photography. As he relates on his website, he "first handled a camera when I was six years old, when his grandfather, a photo journalist, let him use his old fold-up camera." But, it was only when he retired as an association

executive ten years ago that he took a serious interest in the craft.

He sees photography, not just as a record of events and life, but an opportunity "to bring the outdoors inside for all to enjoy..."

Lancaster is a real award-winner. He has a maddingly beautiful collection of images celebrating birds, flowers, and trees, and what he calls images in Black/White. He also has a Waterford series of photos, still-life photos, a fascinating collection known as "Hand at Work," "Old Things," and much more.

As Lancaster's website notes: "I have developed a 2022 calendar based on the photos of the barns of Loudoun County, Virginia. This is a project I have undertaken to do a photographic inventory of old Loudoun County barns..."

He has received the Best of Loudoun award that runs at the Waterford Fair. He has also been featured in *Grand Strand Magazine*.

For more information, or to order some holiday gift celebrating the barns of Loudoun County, go to <https://roger-lancaster.photos/2022-calendar>.

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

gathered much experience, and had now chosen to settle in a place I could live (at least for a while) with my own thoughts. I think in that short time of living in this small, Western Loudoun Town, I trod every street within the official limits-including Lakeview Cemetery, the Town Water facilities (without trespassing, I stress), and the highway underpasses on

the north end of the residential area.

The one winter in Hamilton (1999-2000, if I recall correctly) chilled to the bones of all concerned and dumped a very surprising amount of snow (the prior year, renting elsewhere in the area, I hardly noticed the season of what I would call 'winter'), and the summer months I recall as extremely hot, humid and the definition of what we came to

call 'code red' air days on the news. Yes, the elements were challenging during that time – but I still loved living in that imposing-looking mansion (at least to me) in that charming little Town.

I worked hard, found acceptance and then grabbed the opportunity to buy a small home in Leesburg – but part of me will always reside in Hamilton, Virginia. And I still like it here.

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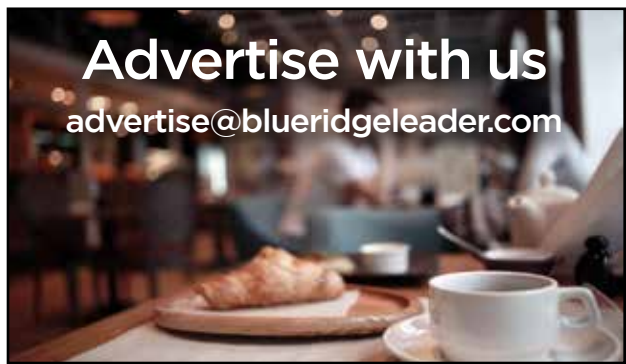
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COVID-19 BOOSTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15**How to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine**

To make an appointment online for a COVID-19 vaccine at the county's Dulles Town Center site, visit loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine. Flu vaccine is not available at the Dulles Town Center clinic. Anyone without internet access or who needs assistance making an appointment can call the county information line at 703-737-8300 weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In addition, COVID-19 vaccine is widely available in the community from many providers, such as medical offices and pharmacies including, but not limited to, CVS, Giant Food, Harris Teeter, Safeway, Walgreens, Walmart and Wegmans. These

locations have the benefit of being able to also provide flu vaccine at the same time, which is recommended by the health department. Visit vaccines.gov to find a vaccination site near you.

Know When You're Eligible for a Booster Dose

With the CDC guidance calling for booster doses to be administered at least six months (180 days) after the second dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and two months after the J&J vaccine, it's important that people know when they completed their initial series so that they can appropriately time a booster.

You can find the date you completed the initial series on your vaccination card. If you received that dose in Vir-

ginia and have misplaced the card, you can find the date by searching for your vaccine record online. If you need assistance over the phone, call 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682). Assistance is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Virginia Department of Health has added a scannable QR code to vaccination records. The technology allows anyone vaccinated in Virginia to show proof of vaccination with a digital or printed QR code instead of a paper card. If you have moved to Loudoun from another state since receiving your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna or dose of J&J, you should check with the health department for your previous jurisdiction for your vaccination record.

RICCI, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

depending on a variety of factors. Primarily, these are what you want your investments to help you achieve (objectives), how comfortable you are with market volatility (risk tolerance), and how long it will be before you plan to retire (time horizon).

Use tax-advantaged accounts

Even if you don't have a retirement plan as such, chances are you have savings in employer-sponsored qualified retirement plans (QRPs), such as 401(k) or 403(b) plans, or a traditional or Roth IRA.

If that's the case, good for you. These tax-advantaged accounts can be great ways to work toward your retirement goals because paying taxes each year on any growth, as you would with taxable accounts, can dramatically reduce the amount you end up with.

If you participate in a QRP and your employer offers a matching contribution, try to contribute at least as much as the match – otherwise, you are leaving free money on the table. If your employer doesn't offer a QRP or you're self-employed, look into opening an IRA.

Clean up your accounts

Over the years, you may have accumulated a number of IRAs and QRP

accounts with your current and past employers. Along with that, you may own taxable investments in different full-service and online accounts. And your spouse or partner may be in a similar situation.

Having a portfolio in pieces like this may make it more difficult for you to reach your retirement goals. Take time to figure out how many accounts you actually have, and consider the potential benefits of consolidating them, including helping you to:

- Understand how your assets allocated
- Decide when it's time to rebalance
- Know exactly what investments you own
- Save time
- Manage your beneficiary designations

Try to stay in the market

When the market takes a big hit, you may be tempted to sell investments with the intention of getting back in when the things turn around. This practice, known as *market timing*, may sound good, but as we've all seen, the market can be extremely unpredictable, making success with this strategy very difficult.

If you get out when the market's

down, you could miss out on significant gains if it suddenly turns around before you get back in. And that can prove costly.

Rather than attempting to time the market, try to stick with your asset allocation when there's market volatility unless something major has happened in your life (a birth, marriage, illness, divorce, etc.) that makes you want to change it.

In addition, consider *rebalancing* once a year by checking your accounts to see if market activity has shifted your investments away from your desired asset allocation. If it has, you may want to sell some investments and buy others to bring your accounts back into alignment.

Prepare for emergencies

Events like a sudden job loss or unanticipated home repair can quickly derail your retirement plans. To help protect you and your family, consider keeping an emergency fund with enough money to cover three to six months of living expenses.

These funds should be held in a liquid but stable account, such as a bank savings account, so you can access them when needed and not have to worry about fluctuations in value.

Consider an advisory account

If you're not comfortable with or interested in managing your retirement savings, consider using an advisory account.

These accounts are run by professional money managers who choose the investments, make buy and sell decisions, and periodically readjust the holdings in the account to maintain your chosen asset allocation. Instead of paying commissions for trades in an advisory account, you are charged a management fee based on the value of the assets in your account.

Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Asset allocation cannot eliminate the risk of fluctuating prices and uncertain returns. Diversification does not guarantee profit or protect against loss in declining markets. Stocks offer long-term growth potential but may fluctuate more and provide less current income than other investments. An investment in the stock market should be made with an understanding of the risks associated with common stocks, including market fluctuations.

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GLASS GOVERNMENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

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