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DECEMBER 2021

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## Court enters Abatement Order for Gable Farm – owner to level fill dirt

The Loudoun County General District Court has entered an Order of Abatement in the case of *County of Loudoun v. Gable Family Limited Partnership*, which requires the owner of the Gable Farm property to correct violations of the Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance.

### Order of Abatement

The Gable Farm property is located west of Leesburg, off Colonial Highway, near the Town of Hamilton. The property owner was found in violation of the County's zoning ordinance following the hauling of fill dirt onto the property over the past several years, which created elevations far greater than approved in a site plan for the proposed use on the property.

The court's order requires the property owner to accomplish the following remedial actions:

Adjust the elevations and grading of the property by moving the excess fill to lower the elevations on the property to be consistent with what was shown on the approved Rural Economy Site Plan for the property. The excess fill is to be moved to specified locations on the southcentral and southwest perimeter



of the property to close out erosion and sediment controls that were constructed in conjunction with the site plan.

Disburse any remaining fill within specified areas of the property, provided elevations do not exceed the levels indicated in the Abatement Plan following approval of a Grading Permit.

Upon completion of the work described above, the property owner must hire a third-party surveyor or engineer to confirm elevation and grades of fill dirt.

According to the order, the abatement actions associated with the moving of fill material must be complete by Nov. 15, 2022. In addition, the property owner was required to pay a \$200 fine, which has already been paid to the County.

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### Background

Over the past several years, Loudoun County responded to complaints from residents in the area of Gable Farm, and investigated the hauling of fill material onto the property.

In 2015, Loudoun County approved a plan for the property to be used as a

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## 'Take Loudoun Home for the Holidays' Campaign Returns

With the end of year shopping season in sight, Loudoun County businesses, residents and visitors are encouraged to participate in the 'Take Loudoun Home for the Holidays' campaign.

The annual initiative is backed by Loudoun Economic Development, Visit Loudoun and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce, and seeks to encourage

consumers to connect with Loudoun farms and rural businesses and purchase local products.

Participating businesses applied to be part of the campaign, which features locally-sourced and seasonal products, CSA's and farm subscriptions for 2022.

All participating businesses are

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## A Grim Ferry Tale

*An 11-year lawsuit over landing rights, a snapped cable, a new owner, a costly study, hostile negotiations, and now the specter of eminent domain. Could this story have a happy ending?*

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Once upon a time, a hundred ferries plied the Potomac River carrying farmers and livestock, horses and buggies, Confederate and Union troops to and from Maryland and Virginia.

Of all those ferry operations, only

one—White's Ferry, established as Conrad's Ferry in 1786—stayed afloat for decades more. Then came Nov. 23, 2020, when a court ruling on an 11-year lawsuit sounded the ferry's death knell. Finding no record documenting the creation of a public landing at Rockland Farm on the Virginia shore, Circuit Court Judge Stephen E. Sincavage awarded Rockland \$102,175 in damages for trespassing, property damage, and breach of a pre-existing agreement when the ferry operator constructed a

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# 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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# Even Santa is a little jealous of our Gift Selections!



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**Oops!** ▲ These Ninja and Macaron theme “oops” erasers make mistakes fun to fix.



**The Hep** ▲ Originally designed for Audrey Hepburn, this Goldsmith classic has been rereleased in limited edition glory.



**I am Woman** ▲ This distressed denim jacket is expected to sell out. Size L/XL



**Portland's Finest** ▲ Our annual sell-out wine truffles and gourmet West Coast bars make an elegant hostess gift for every dinner party or gift exchange.



**Scribble and Scratch** ▲ These scribble and scratch themed pads are always a big hit for kids of all ages, stages and abilities.



**Confetti This!** ▲ M.G. Brass and enamel jeweled rings and leather string bracelets are bright and happy gifts to give.



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# Bidding is now online for Words on a Fence Auction

Discover Purcellville Presents, "The Words on a Fence" auction.

Bidding is now open at [www.damewoodauctioneers.com](http://www.damewoodauctioneers.com), and runs to Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. This year's auction will be online only.

Think unique one of a kind Christmas gifts. Each uplifting word was

painted by a local Purcellville artist who donated their creativity. All the words are mounted on an 8-foot section of fence ready to display.

Proceeds from the auction will be used by Discover Purcellville a 501(c)(4) community nonprofit for future events. For more information, email [Dpurcellville@gmail.com](mailto:Dpurcellville@gmail.com).



# Cookies, cookies, cookies

BY ANDREA GAINES

These recipes are old, old, old. One person who contacted me with a recipe claims it has been passed down in her family since 1899. Any recipe that has lasted that long must be good!

## Classic Gingerbread

This makes five dozen cookies. Box them and give them out as gifts, if you and yours won't eat that many.



### Ingredients:

- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup softened butter (or your choice of mild oil/shortening)
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 egg
- ¼ cup molasses or brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup cinnamon sugar (half and

half; important, as the ginger is a strong spice)

### Directions:

- Pre-heat oven to 350.
- Sift/mix well the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, sugar and salt in a large bowl.
- Add the softened butter and blend.
- Add the remaining ingredients to the bowl (withholding ½ of the flour and whipping the egg, first); mix well, but

lightly.

Add the remaining flour until a soft dough forms.

### Just before baking ...

Roll your dough into small balls in the cinnamon sugar (about the size of a medium meatball), place 2 inches apart on a cookie sheet .

Cook for about 10 minutes, adding a thumbprint to each cookie as it cracks after baking, or, flatten with a spatula.

Cool thoroughly.

## Florentines

This is a stunning holiday cookie. You warm and then heat the ingredients to melt them together completely with the sugar, bake the hot stuff to set the cookie, and then patiently let them cool.

You have messy-looking pancakes in front of you as they bake and cool. But, once cool, you can drizzle them with

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# Leesburg Garden Club awards grant to Tuscarora High School

The Leesburg Garden Club, a 501(c)3 organization proudly announces the award of grant funding to Tuscarora High School through the LGC Community Outreach Grant Program.

The LGC established the grant program in 2017 when members of the club saw a distinct need to provide project funding to Loudoun County non-profit 501(c)3 organizations who share in the expressed Mission of the LGC.

That Mission states, "The object of the Club shall be to promote active interest in gardening and to assist in the protection and development of the natural beauties of the

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**Front row:** Suzi Worsham, LGC President; Norina Treanor; Pamela Croft, THS Principal; Caroline Star. **Middle row:** Sally Travis, Member LGC; Farbricio Gutierrez-Arvieta, Sofia Hardesty, and Melina Efigenio, THS Environmental Club Officers. **Back row:** Tanya Mulvey, Marina Bass, Natalie Sher, Joe Wayton, Aryan Wadhwa, Ariella Mbia, and Kristine Heaver

# Call for submissions – Cabin Fever Film Fest Jan 28-29

Regional filmmakers are invited to submit films (short and feature-length) and home movies for the fifth annual Cabin Fever Film Festival sponsored by the Franklin Park Visual and Performing Arts Center and the Town of Purcellville Arts Council.

This festival highlights local tales and talent films, student productions, and vintage home movies, with emphasis on films made in Purcellville, or by residents in the Purcellville area. Break that cabin fever in late-January and enjoy the fifth year of Purcellville's only film festival.

To celebrate the fifth year of this festival, prizes will be awarded for Best Student Produced Film, Best Loudoun-Focused Film, and Audience Favorite. Prizes will be provided by the Franklin Park Visual and Performing Arts Center, the Purcellville Arts Council, and Visit Loudoun.

Entries should be no longer than 90 minutes and a minimum of one minute. All films should be in digital format on a flash drive or on a DVD. Any subject matter is acceptable keeping in mind that the Cabin Fever Film Festival is a family-friendly event.

Films can include live action, stop motion, animation, etc. Entry fee is \$10 for first film entry, \$5 for each additional film entry. Films should be dropped off to Franklin Park Arts Center (36441 Blueridge View Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132) anytime between Tuesday, Dec. 1 and by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

A copy of the application can be found at [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org). All films will be reviewed and filmmakers will be contacted shortly after the submission deadline as to their acceptance and scheduled showing time block.

Show times will be Friday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. with a reception and Saturday, Jan. 29, at 10 a.m. Admission is \$8 for the Friday showing and reception, and \$5 for Saturday showing and awards. The

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## Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth: Methodist Churchyard

BY TIM JON

This time, my bench was gone; the one landmark I rested my memory upon all these years had disappeared, but much of the physical reliquary remained as I'd been picturing (and feeling) it in the intervening time.



I used to visit this site long before even dreaming of this series of stories – enjoying the late summer and early autumn late afternoons and evenings in the first months after I'd arrived in Loudoun County; my career arc at that time drew my time, attention and much energy into (and out of) the little newsroom at the former small-market radio station in Leesburg – AM 1200 WAGE.

These treasured pilgrimages to my favorite outdoor reading spot created a welcome sanctuary from telephones, interviews, microphones, deadlines, and most importantly – daily (and nearly hourly, by the time it was over) news assignments in written and spoken word.

I don't recall how I discovered the Old Stone Church site in the historic district of the County Seat; perhaps on one of my visits to the then-North Street School Administration Building – home (at that



time) to the Loudoun School Board and the offices of then-Superintendent – Edgar Hatrick (a true local 'character' I number among my handful of favorites in a kaleidoscopic cast of thousands who came to be involved in the daily beat of local radio news in one of the fastest-growing Counties on the planet).

But to today's subject: I began this series of local adventure – or treasure – stories after my days in the radio industry became history, and we initiated the collection with a description of one of my most beloved spots in Loudoun; now, the acreage bounded by Liberty, Cornwall, Wirt and North Streets in Leesburg represents the first Methodist-owned property in America – deeded on May 11th of the Year 1766.

The first church building came along only a few years later – and a more permanent structure appeared a decade or

so down the road. A complicated timeline saw the Stone Church dismantled in the Year 1900, but the adjacent cemetery remains – with markers dating back to the latter part of the 18th Century.

A great deal of information could be written about the Methodist Congregation's history in conjunction with this site, and we'll leave that for the true professionals of the craft; I first entered the iron gate leading into this churchyard to simply find peace – and, yes, this is what I still sought on my most recent pilgrimage.

I've never been disappointed in any of my visits. In fact, I found this little

sanctuary in the heart of Downtown so comforting that I would sit on the park bench (set up along the eastern fence line) and read Shakespeare's plays by the hour – which is not something I find easy to do in a public setting. I'm not sure about today's foot traffic, but in those years (this would be 1997) I don't recall ever seeing another visitor to the property, and street activity remained pretty infrequent as well.

So, I would say that if the early American Methodists made their site selection based on long-term tranquility, they made an astoundingly wise choice; I'm

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### — Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

## Should I quit my job?

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

The Great Resignation, a term coined by organizational psychologist, Dr. Anthony Klotz, characterizes the trend in which large numbers of employees have quit their jobs from Spring of 2021 to the present. It's believed that the trend is



Dr. Mike

due to many factors in response to COVID-19 including burnout, being dissatisfied, lower wages and wage stagnation, being at home for an extended period of time, not wanting to return to the work space and reprioritizing one's work life and personal life balance

So, if people are leaving their jobs in growing numbers, what does that mean for you if you're unhappy with your current job or career situation? Maybe it means you go all in and quit or pursue an entirely new career field, or maybe it means you don't.

In my opinion, regardless of how

unhappy you are with work, unless you know your true motivations to quit, it's probably a bad idea. If you're being underpaid, overworked and don't feel appreciated as an employee – things beyond your control -- moving on may be the right thing to do.

If, however, you're wanting to quit more for personal reasons – things within your control – then maybe you work hard to change or improve upon the things you can, and then reassess your job satisfaction or dissatisfaction after.

Job or career burnout appears to be the driving factor behind the Great Resignation, and I offer you the following tips to consider as you think about where you are in life with your job, or career satisfaction.

**Communicate.** Talking to your boss or co-workers about things that are upsetting to you may be a helpful start. Of course, finding the right time to communicate, and the right

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## Longing for a Parent's Love

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

All a child really wants is to be loved by their parents. Unfortunately, sometimes that love remains just out of reach.

"Steve doesn't love me," Lisa Brennan-Jobs tells her mother as a teenager. Lisa is Steve Jobs' oldest child, and she writes about her heart-breaking experience as his daughter in the New York Times bestseller, *Small Fry*.



MOORE-SOBEL

I first learned of Steve Jobs' treatment of his eldest daughter, Lisa, when watching the film *Steve Jobs* several years ago. It left me wondering how a parent could

treat their child in such a cruel and heartless way. My question remains after reading *Small Fry*.

Lisa includes the well-known parts of her story in the book. Her parents met in high school and entered a tumultuous, multi-year relationship that ended when Lisa's mother, Chrisann, became pregnant. Jobs famously denied paternity for years after Chrisann's pregnancy, even going as far as telling a reporter in a 1982 interview with *Time*, "28% of the male population of the United States could be the father."

Jobs appeared only rarely in Lisa's life during her early years; and, when he did,

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# Hillsboro announces Fiber-to-The-Home delivering High-Speed Broadband to the Town

Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance has announced that high-speed broadband service is now available to every Hillsboro residence and business

via Town-owned fiber optic cable. "I'm proud to say we have solved the rural broadband access problem in Hillsboro through decisive and innovative actions, with the support of federal funding and in collaboration with the private sector."

Vance announced that with an agreement signed with Fredericksburg-based Internet Service Provider KGI Communications, an array of high-speed residential and commercial broadband service options is now available to Hillsboro consumers. "This reliable, true broadband providing exceptional speeds is possible because of the foresight we had to include construction of the Town-owned fiber optic conduit system as part of our ReThink9 infrastructure project. Ensuring that this critical infrastructure was included in the design was integral to our promise to 'built it once, build it now, and built it right.'"

According to Vance, residents and businesses within Hillsboro have been without reliable true broadband since the closure of the Waterford Telephone Company internet service in early 2021. "This has been an untenable and costly hardship on Hill-

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Mayor Roger Vance and ReThink9 Project Coordinator Alison Badger celebrate the installation of Town-owned fiber to the home in Hillsboro that will deliver high-speed broadband to all residences and businesses in December.



Mayor Roger Vance shows Hillsboro app software developer Adam Price the Town-owned fiber that will soon deliver high-speed broadband to his home.

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# Too Much Ice Cream

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Hallstatt, Austria is often listed as the world's prettiest village. Hallstatt is small - 760 or so residents - and sits on a ledge where the towering Dachstein Massif plunges to the HallstatterSee.

## OPINION

The 16-th century houses are quaint, built in Alpine style and with geranium-filled window boxes everywhere. Church spires, narrow streets, several hotels and old boathouses and churches complete the picture-postcard tableau. Google Hallstatt but please don't visit. I'll explain.

As far back as the Bronze Age, for centuries Hallstatt was a major producer of salt, which until the modern era was the only way to cure and preserve meat. The fairytale town prospered from the white mineral then, and now it prospers from

tourism.

While tourists had visited Hallstatt for decades, two things caused Hallstatt tourism to explode. First was its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997, joining familiar places such as Stonehenge, Versailles, old Paris, the Great Wall of China and nearby, Monticello. While that certification promoted preservation, it was a mixed bag as the publicity spurred tourism. Local businesses welcomed new customers, but regular citizens began to feel crowded.

All remained in rough equilibrium, though, until around 2010 when Hallstatt became a must-see destination for China's thriving middle class. Planeloads of them arrived in Salzburg, an hour away, or in Munich. Many others were on "See Europe" bus tours.

Fleets of jam-packed buses appeared in Hallstatt daily. Ancient streets became

cacophonous as the wheels of Chinese tourists' luggage was rolled over cobblestones. Locals reported that some tourists would simply open residential front doors and wander around their homes.

Visiting Hallstatt became so popular in China that an exact replica was built in city of Huizhou, on the Pearl River not far from Hong Kong. This simulacrum cost some \$940 million and opened in 2012. Instead of siphoning off some of the tourist traffic, it only promoted more. In high season some 10,000 visitors arrived in Hallstatt each day.

Enough. The citizens finally realized they had partaken too much of the tourism ice cream. One early step to reclaim their village was to restrict the number of buses that were permitted each day. Before the benefits were considered permanent, COVID hit. Tourists fled and peace and quiet prevailed. At least

for now.

## What does this have to do with Loudoun County?

A lot, actually. The succubus of growth has been feasting on Loudoun for decades. Peace and quiet has become the exception, not the rule. The character of much of the county has changed as the population exploded. No one is suggesting that somehow we shrink, but the hope of conservationists is that population growth stops, or at least materially slows. "That ain't gonna happen," I say when I feel pessimistic.

I'm an optimist, though, and I say we should fight hard to slow growth. All it takes would be a few changes to the zoning ordinance. That's a huge challenge.

There's one challenge we can win: Ensuring that western Loudoun does

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



— It Seem to Me —

## How Loudoun County is going to raise your Real Estate Taxes

BY JOE LAFIANDRA

That's right, Loudoun County is planning to raise your Real Estate taxes in July 2022 while reducing the taxes data centers pay. This is not my opinion but, planning guidance given to the County staff in preparation of the FY2023 Budget by the Board of Supervisors Finance Subcommittee.

This plan was developed during two meetings, Oct. 12, and Nov. 9, 2021, after at least three hours into the meetings, when no one other than a few reporters were in the audience.

Incidentally, the County has an excellent website where you can view the video or audio of the meetings. I urge you to confirm what I am about to tell you by viewing the meeting videos yourself.

Before we start, you will need to understand how the Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Rates are established. The Real Estate Tax rate is determined by the County staff by estimating the current assessed value of all the real estate in the County, and then applying a dollar rate per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The current number is \$.98 per \$100 of assessed valuation. That means if your property is valued at \$500,000, you will pay \$.98 times 5,000 or \$4,900 in taxes. When real estate values go up, as they are

doing now, the Real Estate Tax Rate is adjusted downward to let's say \$.94 per \$100 of assessed valuation to come up with the same tax revenue. This is called the Equalized Tax Rate. Any planned tax rate above the Equalized Tax rate will end as a tax increase on your property.

The Personal Property Tax Rate (the other major component of County revenue) is currently fixed at \$4.20 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Personal Property in the County includes, cars, trucks, aircraft and business equipment. This includes equipment in data centers. In fact, data centers supply approximately 90 percent of Personal Property revenue. That 90 percent number is a very important factor in the Loudoun County tax revenue stream.

It seems that the BOS guidance given to the Staff was determined by the fact that data center revenue is now a large part of the County's revenue. Twenty years ago, real estate taxes were about 90 percent of the total with 10 percent from other miscellaneous sources. Now data centers provide about 40 percent of the revenue with real estate at 50 percent and 10 percent from other sources.

The Staff is concerned that most communities have historically relied on the vast majority of their revenue from real estate taxes, and we do not. In order

words, they are concerned that the data center revenue might go away, and they would have to go back to real estate taxes as the main source.

So the plan proposed by the Finance Committee is to put a floor or minimum of 51.5 percent on the real estate taxes and reduce the Personal Property tax rate to \$4.15 or \$4.10 (which has never been done before) to "rebalance" incoming revenue.

In addition, the Finance Committee wants to add additional an \$.05 to the equalized rate which will be approximately a 5 percent increase in real estate taxes. So do you get it? The BOS wants to increase your taxes by at least 5 percent next FY while reducing the data centers' taxes.

All of this is based on the assumption that the data centers will go away because of technological advances. This is an extremely unlikely situation in that data center companies have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in buildings, equipment and electrical and fiber optic infrastructure which they would upgrade with the latest technology in the future. Incidentally, the data centers are on the "Honor System" in reporting what equipment they possess, it is never physically checked out.

In my humble opinion, data centers

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## Public Hearing on proposed Historic Preservation Overlay Zone Protecting the other 72 percent

BY VALERIE CURY

On Nov. 18 the Purcellville Planning Commission held a public hearing on the creation of a new Historic Preservation Overlay Zone.

This new proposed district is part of the Commission's work on bringing the current zoning ordinance in line with Purcellville's 2030 Comprehensive Plan, which recommends that the Town expand protection of historic resources beyond what the existing Historic Corridor Overlay District

### GOVERNMENT

provides, because these historic resources contribute so much to the Town's character.

Currently the Town protects approximately 28 percent of the recognized historic properties, but 72 percent of the properties recognized by state and nation remain unprotected by the Town.

This proposed district is also meant to protect the Town's architectural and historical character, protect and preserve buildings, and ensure that new development is in keeping with Purcellville's small-town character.

The proposed district would focus only on the principal structure (not any accessory structures on the property such as garages, spring houses, and barns), creating a process for an owner who would want to demolish their historic contributing house.

There is currently no protection against unfettered demolition, but in the proposed district, no one would be able to destroy a structure without the consent of the Board of Architectural Review. If they still want to demolish the structure the owner would have to wait for six months, during which time someone who wants to preserve the structure could purchase it at fair market value. If nobody wants to preserve the property, after six months, then the owner could tear it down.

This would bring public attention to a property owner who might want to build multiple houses on a lot, or tear down a property to put up a large building in a neighborhood of single-family homes, for example.

The same rules that currently apply would not change. There would be no restrictions on additions, painting, changing windows, or roof replacement, for example.

At the public hearing, developer Casey Chapman, who owns three houses on Hatcher Avenue 141,151, and 161 and plans to tear them down, and build one large building with commercial and apartments (multi family is a use that isn't allowed in this district) on a neighborhood street lined with older homes said, "This is an infringement on personal property rights ... People have the right to do what they want with their property."

This was echoed by Scott Warner, and a few others, who said, "Stay out of our houses."

Uta Brown said there's "something precious about Purcellville ... I do not want Hatcher Avenue to be turned into an apartment building with asphalt." Brown continued, "Whatever way we can save the history in this Town would be probably in the long run favorable to most people ... I would not like for Purcellville to be used again as a just simply a money-making Town. A money-making Town. Let's just make more money this way and that way. I do not want Hatcher to be irreparably changed – which it would be if it ... had a three-story building."

Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman explained that the process is such that the Planning Commission "goes through a Comprehensive Plan, there is citizen input into that Comprehensive Plan, then the people that were elected go and represent those citizens."

Ogelman explained that the Comprehensive Plan, which was a five-year process, passed with a Town Council vote of 6-1 and he said that supporters of this Comprehensive Plan won the election following the passing of the plan, and they won on protecting Purcellville's small-town character.

He said that the Comprehensive Plan is an "aspirational document, and it becomes operationalized through zoning. We are proposing zoning."

Planning Commissioner and Chair Nan Forbes said, "There are things in this Town that are valuable to us, and the question is what is the best approach to keep the things that we like – and to emphasize the things that we like?"

"The task that we have is to take the Comprehensive Plan and try to revise the zoning ordinance in order to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »



# Purcellville TC decides on two big Capital Improvement Projects

BY VALERIE CURY

At the Nov. 17 Purcellville Town Council Work Session, Council decided, in the end, on two large projects to fund with the American Rescue Plan Act monies. The needed projects are the replacement of two main water lines installed in 1960, and a new fresh water storage tank that would go on the two acres of land that the County will give the Town as part of the Woodgrove settlement.

The Town has two water lines that need replacement as they are over 60 years old and approximately 5,000 linear feet of cast iron. One line is from the reservoir to the water treatment plant, and the other is from the fresh water treatment plant to the Town. The lines carry approximately one half of the Town's water supply. The estimated cost of this project is \$2 million.

The second project is to put a water tank on two acres of land that the County will give to the Town. This was not a priority mentioned in the Town's budget, however, a Jacob's engineering study released in early 2021 put this as a top priority.

The existing fresh water storage in Town is only one third of the average daily use. A new storage tank does two things. First, it gives the Town the ability to take the one-million-gallon tank, which is located at the water treatment

plant, off line for needed repairs. Secondly, it would give the Town the ability to maintain water pressure.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser urged the Council to pick three big projects and move ahead with them. "At the end of the day the taxpayers want to see this \$10.4 million [of the American Rescue Plan Act money – the Town will receive \$10,559,844 – half this year which they received, and half around June 30, 2022] not on these \$50,000, \$20,000, \$25,000, and \$30,000 projects, but on these big projects.

"Just to summarize, what I am saying is let's get the taxpayers some things that they can say, 'Wow you folks committed to do it. You have been talking about it for five years. We've got the money; let's get it done.'

"I see a lot of \$20,000, \$25,000 and \$15,000 [proposed expenditures on the wish list], and I just see that as more work. Let's just focus on dealing with the big goals – those projects that would be meaningful and the taxpayers are going to say, 'You have to complete them.'

"I would like us to walk out here tonight with some commitment and direction for at least three major projects, because we have had this money in the bank since June [ \$5,279,922] ... We need to give Dale and team some guidance, and say these are the high priority projects that we need to at least be working on," said Fraser.

# Kuhn contract may spare historic St. Louis from Mojax development

On November 16, in a surprise announcement, especially to residents of western Loudoun's historic African American village of St. Louis, Chuck

Kuhn's JK Land Holdings has placed under contract 42 acres currently slated for 45 homes in and near the village. In addition, he is buying another 24 acres, and plans to put all three contiguous parcels into conservation easement.

The Kuhn contract for 42 acres is with Mojax, LLC, the firm of controversial developer John "Jack" Andrews and his frequent partner, Leonard "Hobie" Mitchel.

As part of the buying process, the Kuhns are conducting a study of 25.8 acres in the village to determine the via-

bility of acquiring the property and placing it under a JK Land Holdings conservation easement.

If successful, the Kuhns' purchase would close a contentious chapter in the long history of this village, which dates to 1891.

From Mojax's June 2017 and October 2017 purchase dates of two parcels of approximately 17 acres on Snake Hill Road, issues over wetlands, grading, wells, a historic Black cemetery, policies, procedures, permits, and enforcement at both the County and state level have plagued this project. And despite the efforts of Loudoun's Board of Supervisors to pay the developers \$1.5 million to put that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

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# County soliciting proposals for Union Street School Resident Curator Program

The Loudoun County Department of General Services is soliciting proposals from interested parties to serve as a resident curator for the historic Union Street School property under the terms of the county's Resident Curator Program.

The RCP is designed to reduce the public costs associated with the care and preservation of historic properties by enabling groups or individuals to take over those responsibilities, while providing periodic public access to the properties.

## GOVERNMENT

The properties are leased long-term to the curators without charge, in exchange for a financial and public access commitment by the curators. Properties that can be included in the RCP have been deemed historically significant and either meet the county's established criteria of eligibility for curation or meet the National Historic Register criteria.

The two-story Union Street School, located at 20 Union Street, NW in Leesburg, is the first county property to be included in the RCP.

It opened in 1884 as the Leesburg Training Center, which served Black students in elementary through high school at various times during its history. The school closed in 1958 after the opening of Douglass High School in Leesburg, the county's first high school for Black students, and the opening of a consolidated

elementary school in Leesburg that served the county's Black students. It is being nominated for inclusion in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' Historic African American Sites.

For 60 years, the building served as a storage facility for Loudoun County Public Schools before it was declared surplus. LCPS transferred the property to the county in 2019, and in 2021, the Board of Supervisors created a project in the county's Capital Improvement Program to rehabilitate the building.

While the rehabilitation component of this project will be funded by the CIP, the county is now seeking proposals from organizations and/or groups for the express purpose of operation, management, preservation and maintenance of the facility.

A curator can be a private citizen, a nonprofit entity, or a for-profit entity. The proposed rehabilitation must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and the curator must



Union Street School Photo

provide "reasonable public access" to the property.

Curators will be determined through an open and competitive process based on several criteria, including a commitment to the management and maintenance of the historic property, a use that is compatible with the nature of the property, and the resources, skills and financial capabilities necessary to carry out the proposed curatorship.

The deadline for submitting proposals for the Union Street School property is Jan. 24, 2022. To learn more, visit [loudoun.gov/unionstreetschool](http://loudoun.gov/unionstreetschool).

## Hello Neighbors!

With the holiday season in full swing, let us help you with all your pet needs.

Take advantage of our online ordering service and FREE same-day local delivery, or use our curbside pick up!

Our groomer-in training will be happy to help you pamper your beloved pet (please call for details and appointments), or use our self-service dog wash bays and let us worry about the mess.

We have a wide variety of holiday treats and toys to help you show your pet friends how special they are. Come take a look!

We'll be open 'til 6 pm Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve for your last-minute needs and will close at 6 pm on New Year's Day.

Thank you for making our first year so unforgettable. Best wishes for a PAWSOME holiday season!

Best wishes for a **PAWSOME** holiday season!

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# Village at Leesburg Celebrates the Holidays

Village at Leesburg (located on Rt. 7 just east of Leesburg) kicked off the holidays on Nov. 20, with its annual tree lighting ceremony featuring the property's new Wish Tree (the only interactive holiday tree of its kind on the East Coast.) Once someone

**COMMUNITY**

makes an online donation of \$1 or more, they'll receive a digital token to take to the tree where they can make a wish and activate the Wish Tree light show. All donations will go to Loudoun Hunger Relief, an organization helping to end food insecurity throughout the community.

The tree will be available for wishes from 5-9 p.m. daily through Dec. 25. In addition, at the top of every hour from 4 to 10 p.m., the tree will feature a dazzling light show.

Santa will visit the Village at Leesburg every Saturday from 5-8 p.m. starting Nov. 27 through Dec. 18 where he'll be available for photos.

A unique pop-up market, MADE Market, features an indoor art fair shopping experience with access to exclusive artisans and craftsmen from the local area. In addition to

a wide array of beautiful one-of-a-kind handmade gifts, the market showcases various artists demonstrating their crafts.

Attendees can sign up for a free "make and take" class every weekend. Items on display change throughout the season. The market, officially located at 1609 Village Market Blvd., S.E., Suite 110, is open every Thursday through Sunday through Jan. 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 12 from 2 to 3 p.m., Village at Leesburg presents Tuba Christmas with an hour of music by community tuba players.

"This holiday season, we're providing visitors to Village at Leesburg with an array of fun, memorable experiences," said Susan Bourgeois, executive director of Leasing & Brokerage at Rappaport, the company that owns, manages and leases Village at Leesburg. "Not only will they be able to shop and dine, visit with Santa, make a wish at our Wish Tree, shop for items made by artisans but they'll also be able to help others in our community by donating to our charity partner, Loudoun Hunger Relief."

For a complete holiday schedule, go to [www.villageatleesburg.com/holiday-events](http://www.villageatleesburg.com/holiday-events).

# Back to stay, if we will continue to do our part

BY ANDREA GAINES

The endangered bald eagle appears to have established a foothold in Loudoun County. This is one of our nation's most impressive endangered species achievements, but also one of our most precarious.

**COMMUNITY**

The large birds – predators – however strong, are fragile, having been brought almost to extinction via our use of pesticides which made their eggs, and therefore, their offspring not viable. The pesticide, known as DDT, threatened to kill them off.

We stopped using it, and they came back. Good for us and the birds and their babies.

**Loudoun County's eagles**

Conservationists have followed the eagles in Loudoun

County for a long, long time. Here is just one website where you can watch their activity 24 hours a day. How remarkable.

How fascinating. The nest is gigantic, [www.dullesgreenway.com/eagle-cam](http://www.dullesgreenway.com/eagle-cam).

Per the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy website: "In September 2021, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, the American Eagle Foundation and HDOnTap partnered with the Dulles Greenway to install two live-stream cameras at the bald eagle nest in the Dulles Greenway Wetlands in Leesburg, Virginia.

"The nest cameras provide live-streamed, high-definition insight into the movements of the eagles. It is an incredible opportunity to raise awareness in the community about the importance of the protection of bald eagles

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

*Thank you to my family, friends, and clients (past and present) for this year's blessings.*

*Enjoy a warm, safe, holiday season.*

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## St. Paul VI presents *Harvey*

A Cappies review by Ella Booher, Oakton High School

It's a challenge for even the most creative departments to emulate the presence of a six-foot-tall rabbit companion, but in this hare-raising tale, the actors and technical crew of St. Paul VI High School do just that. Their production of *Harvey* forced the

audience to wonder: was Elwood P. Dowd's furry companion a drunken hallucination, or was he really there?

Originally written as a stage-play in the 1940's by Mary Chase, *Harvey*'s original purpose was to cheer people up during World War II. The story follows Elwood P. Dowd, a man who has befriended a six-foot-tall imaginary rabbit that only he can see, and his sister Veta Simmons on her quest to have him committed.

Chase's play went on to win the 1945 Pulitzer Prize for drama, and the heart of the story still holds up today, providing an escape and a laugh to

anyone who sits down for an evening of Elwood's mischief.

The play was centered around Ben Philippart's performance as Elwood P. Dowd, and Philippart stepped into the role, radiating a sense of eerie optimism with every line that drew the audience in from his very first scene.

Philippart unflinchingly portrayed his character as if Harvey really was beside him, and his strong choices made it seem like Harvey was as real as Elwood believed he was. Philippart's whimsical performance as Elwood was perfectly matched with leading female Mary Hitchcock's performance as Veta Simmons. Often acting as a contrast to Elwood's calm and imaginative character, Hitchcock did a brilliant job of portraying the dramatic character Veta without ever turning her into a neurotic caricature.

Also worth recognizing were Jackson Herrera and Katie Elder's committed performances as Dr. Sanderson and Nurse Kelly, respectively. Herrera's confident and well-rehearsed portrayal of Dr. Sanderson commanded the stage and had a hand in seamlessly tying elements of the story to-

gether through scenes in Chumley's Sanatorium.

Similarly, Elder's performance as Miss Kelly was sour and sweet in all the right places and gave the audience someone to root for outside of Elwood and his family. The dynamic fostered between these two actors provided an engaging romantic subplot and was a prime example of how chemistry and interactions between actors and characters can make or break any performance.

Not to go unrecognized was the crew working behind the scenes. Dimly lit scene changes showcased the stage crew's seamless transitions from one set to another, and the way that they worked together to transport us to a new location demonstrated a professional level of organization and teamwork.

However, it was the lighting crew that really made things shine behind the scenes. The creative but subtle choice to illuminate the stage in a



Photo: Giovanni Pizzino from Victor O'Neill Photography

Left to right: Aedan McConnell, Camdyn Tyler

pink hue whenever Elwood appeared was the perfect nod to Dowd's own inner whimsy, and the stage itself was always lit to perfection—even when Harvey made his appearances.

St. Paul VI High School took the challenge of returning to live theater— with a load of their own new technical equipment— in stride, delivering a joyous rendition of a classic show. Themes of family, imagination, and romance never go out of style, and a story from decades ago was elevated to new heights, begging us to ask ourselves if “sanity” is really all it's cracked up to be.

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# Group donates 100 turkeys to Purcellville community

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser joined the Purcellville Police Department, members of Committees, Commissions and Boards, and the hosts, President Haris Raja with the local chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and Humanity First USA Organization

**COMMUNITY**

– which donated 100 turkeys for this year’s Thanksgiving season – to residents of the Main Street Commons and Purcellville East community. The turkeys were distributed at the Main Street Commons Pool House located at 119 North 16th Street. It was a great morning of giving and connecting.



Left to right: Bilal Raja, Lieutenant Barry Defek, Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Twana Myers, Haris Raja, and Shibzada Waleed.

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# Johnny, R.I.P.

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Last month we lost two figures who made indelible marks on our hearts and souls: One, the musical theater genius Stephen Sondheim, the other known mostly for standing his ground.

“Johnny,” as the latter was known to his family, “Jonathan” to his friends in the village of Lincoln, and “Donk Donk” to his biggest fan, a toddler who clapped every time he spied him, was a donkey.

Johnny lived on the Potts family’s Dogwood Farm—the last dairy farm in Loudoun County—and his job was to watch over “the girls”—the herd of Holsteins that grazed the field.

But on the evening of November 6, neighbor Mouncey Ferguson added a photo post to the Lincoln Community League Facebook page. It featured a



clear blue sky over the Potts’ field filled with cows ... but no Johnny. Within moments, messages of mourning flooded the site.

“What happened to Jonathan?!?” cried Patty Cochran-Ragan.

Constance Chatfield-Taylor, who grew up on her family’s farm nearby, wrote, “We always look until we see him, slowing down if we need an extra minute to do so. It will be kind of empty now, no reason to study the field carefully ...

I’m so sorry for the Potts and for Lincoln.”

What a loss he will be. The Potts family depended on Johnny to keep dogs from chasing the heifers. “He was fairly good at it,” Nancy Potts said. “He was 28 years old and until the last five years or so stayed out with his girls, eating a little silage and all the pasture and hay he wanted.

“As he aged,” she went on, “every day we gave him a couple scoops of Equine Senior, which he really enjoyed,” she went on. “He did have a spunky disposition. But he didn’t like getting his feet trimmed, always taking a swipe at our farrier, Ron Wede, even at his last trim!”

Mostly, Johnny loved the attention he’d get from people. “He’d come up to the fence whenever he saw something going on. He loved watching the 4-H members lead their heifers.” And surely no days could surpass those with farm tours when kids got their milk jugs and Johnny got to share in the Oreos.

Lincoln will be missing Johnny for a long time. But it’s the holiday season, and the village’s annual Christmas Giving Tree is already up in the Lincoln Post Office.

*The Blue Ridge Leader* will be celebrating Johnny by tucking a special gift in the collection box there: *The Wonky Donkey*. This children’s book by Craig Smith, illustrated by Katz Cowley, and recommended by *Scholastic*, is so wonderfully silly that one Scottish granny’s reading went viral—11 million views to date—as she tried her best to get through lines like “stinky dinky lanky honky tonky winky wonky donkey!”

Thanks for the memories, Johnny, and for always being there, making us feel that all’s right with the world.

## Fine Arts and Crafts Show at Ida Lee Recreation Center

The Town of Leesburg Parks and Recreation Department is proud to present the 31st Annual Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts show at Ida Lee Park Recreation Center on Dec. 4 and 5. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Fine arts and crafts exhibitors will be selling their handcrafted items in the basketball courts, hallway, group fitness room and lower level. Local and regional artisans will be selling hand-made items including candles, glass items, carved wood, jewelry, seasonal décor, table linens, and more.

Admission to the show and parking is free. Face masks are required for entrance. For more information, call Ida Lee Park Recreation Center at 703-777-1368 or visit [www.leesburgva.gov/holidaysinleesburg](http://www.leesburgva.gov/holidaysinleesburg).






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# 32 acres of garlic heaven

BY ANDREA GAINES

With names such as Montana Zemo, Killarney, Island Rocombole, and Lotus, you gotta sense that whoever is growing this stuff has it going on.

These, in fact, are the varieties of what is known as “artisanal garlic” grown by a Hamilton, Virginia business called Sisters Garlic Company (www.sistersgarlicco.com) on Southland Farm. Abbey Burnett Spencer and Ellie Burnett Wallace, daughters of Leesburg attorney Peter Burnett, are the “Sisters” and produce their pungent product on their parents’ 32-acre farm.

Their Montana Zemo, for example, is described by the sisters this way: “Montana Zemo is of the porcelain strain and produces large, dense bulbs. The taste is strong, especially when eaten raw, but leaves little to no aftertaste. Montana Zemo typically produces 4-5 cloves per bulb...”

The company’s website also instructs you not just on how to cook with garlic but also on the health benefits of the bulb—how it grows and matures and ages, and how to keep it fresh and usable. Oh, my goodness what fun.

Who knew this is how it was done?

Their website makes clear the Burnett family is in no rush when it comes to cultivating garlic.

“Although they’re married with families, Abbey and Ellie return to the farm they grew up on for planting day.

“Saturday morning (in the fall) was garlic planting day at the family’s farm — a former turkey farm — where for the past five years the Burnett family has [been] growing a variety of bulbs with a lot more character and flavor than the garlic typically found in supermarkets.

With their dad at the helm of his tractor, they sit on their planting machine. The sisters place a clove in each hole made by the tractor. While planting, Abbey and Ellie get a chance to talk about what’s been happening in their lives lately.

It sure sounds idyllic, but, as you can imagine, this can be a hard life. A hard but fulfilling life.

Says Peter Burnett, “You put it in the ground, and it actually responds to the cold and starts to sprout. You want the frosts to have come and knock down the surface temperature, because you don’t plant it very deep, and it likes a loose soil.”

And then, they wait a while.

Ladies and gents who work with bulbs—

tulips or paperwhites or amaryllis—can relate to the culture of garlic growing. Wait, wait, wait. Prevent rot and freezing. Avoid standing water.

“It [the bulb] will hibernate during the winter months when it’s really cold,” the sisters remind visitors to their website, “but come early spring you’ll see some green shoots come up in a hurry, and then the job

is to keep the weeds away, because [garlic bulbs] don’t compete well with weeds.”

To improve their garlics’ shelf life, the sisters explain, “you knock the dirt off them a little bit, leave the root hanging [along a little] stalk, and ... bunch them up maybe 10 at a time, wrap a piece of bailing twine around it, and then ... hang it in the barn.”

This is all about maintaining a good temperature and good humidity and passing the right amount of time.

As Peter Burnett notes, “Out of the sun, and with a little bit of moving air, those bulbs will cure anywhere from three to six weeks, hanging that way.”

Smart and popular critters

If a bulb has one less-than-perfect clove, the rest are peeled and put in a jar with white vinegar, to be kept in the refrigerator. When the clove is rinsed before use, the vinegar is undetectable, Burnett claims.

“There are histories of garlic that go way back — Russia, Greece, Italy,” he said. “Garlic’s very popular in Thailand and other far Asian countries.”

Cessnock Red, with a purple color, comes from Russia. According to sisters-garlicco.com, it’s best used for baking. “Awarded by many as the ‘Best for Baking’ garlic contest, this garlic is tender when cooked, with a robust and medium heat pungency.”

On the other end of the spectrum is what’s known as Elephant Garlic, which is not really considered garlic, but a member of the leek family.

“Seems like everyone loves garlic,” Burnett adds, “and most folks light up when they discover the significant difference in taste between store bought and naturally

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »



COMMUNITY

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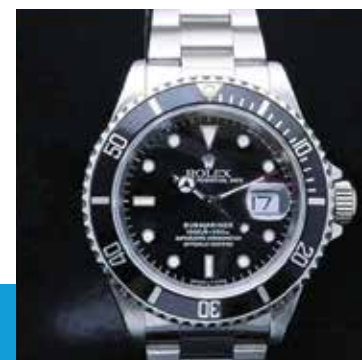
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# Remembering Daniel Patrick Hardey

Daniel Patrick Hardey, age 63 of Frederick, Maryland passed away peacefully at home from colon cancer on Oct. 29. Danny was born on Jan. 16, 1958 in Bethesda, Maryland to the late Robert L. Hardey and Elizabeth Dolorine McCusker Hardey.

In 1966, he moved with his family to Lovettsville, Virginia. He graduated from Loudoun Valley High School in 1976. Soon after, he moved to Frederick, Maryland where he lived until his death.

Hardey had a passion for family, music (both singing and playing bass in several local bands over the years), commercial real estate and property management, history, home remodeling, and cooking. His great humor and sense of fun made him instantly likeable and many of his one-liners live on in family lore.

His daughters Katie and Megan meant the world to him. Because of this, he was active in the Banner School community from 2004 through

2015, not just as a parent, but also on the Board of Trustees. He also functioned as project manager of multiple building renovation projects including the primary building and science lab.

Hardey was also a member of the local Habitat for Humanity board, interested and dedicated to their work and philosophy.

He became a popular friendly face in downtown Frederick while managing his family's building at 154 North Market Street for a time. Hardey knew many people in the real estate, construction, electrical and plumbing fields due to his interest in those areas as well as his personal expertise honed over the years with his own home remodeling projects for both family homes at Catoctin and Magnolia Avenues as well as his parents' farmhouse in Lovettsville, VA.

In addition, he was friends with many local musicians due to his singing, bass playing, running sound and

active appreciation of the local music scene in its heyday.

Hardey's career included work in construction, carpentry, painting, his own handyman business, as a city assistant surveyor and city code management inspector, property management, and commercial real estate.

Hardey is survived by his wife, Susan Callan Hardey, and his two daughters: Katie of Austin, Texas, and Megan of High Point, North Carolina. He is also survived by his five siblings and their spouses, his Aunt Joan from his mother's family, his seven siblings-in-law and their spouses, as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1:30 PM on Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, at St. John the Evangelist Cath-



olic Church, 118 East 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland, with inurnment in Mt. Olivet Cemetery at a later date. The family asks that masks be worn during the indoor service.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Music Program at St. John's Regional Catholic School or

Frederick Health Hospice, in his name. Donations to St. John's should be sent to 8414 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick MD 21702, Attn: Music Program. To donate to Frederick Health Hospice, a tribute gift may be donated at <https://www.frederickhealthhospice.org/Tribute-Gifts.aspx>.

Arrangements made by Stauffer Funeral Home, Frederick, Maryland. Visit <https://www.staufferfuneralhome.com> to express condolences to the family.

# Remembering Joyce Louise Calvin Clegg

Joyce Louise Calvin Clegg was born on November 12, 1946, in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, and went to be with the Lord on Nov. 1, 2021, surrounded by her loving family.

Clegg was a lifelong believer, giving her life to Christ at a young age. She was the third daughter of Warren and Violet Calvin and leaves her husband of 50 years, Dr. Charles Ray Clegg; her three adult children and spouses Ryan Charles Clegg (Megan), Bradley Calvin Clegg (Maggie), and Stephanie JOY Clegg McDonough (Will), as well as her 10 grandchildren Caroline, Mary Grace, Emery JOY and Sadie Clegg (Ryan and Megan); Eleanor JOY, Shepard, and Henry (Brad and Maggie); and Calvin, Eloise JOY, and Bo (Stephanie and Will).

She also leaves behind her brother Dennis Calvin (Kathy) of Salem, Ohio, her sister-in-law Carolyn Clegg McCluggage (Doug) of North Jackson, Ohio, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews she adored. Joyce is preceded in death by her parents Warren and Violet Calvin, and her two beloved sisters Mary Jane Kells and Carol Davis whom she is now, no doubt rejoic-

ing with.

Clegg was raised in Salem, Ohio, attended Salem High School, and graduated in 1964. She graduated with a degree in Education from Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky in 1968. Upon graduation, she taught fifth and sixth grade at Salem's Buckeye Elementary. Salem First Friends Church, and its youth group, was a formative aspect of her life.

One day at that church, when Joyce was 13 years old, Chuck Clegg walked into a youth group with a bible under his arm and she said to herself, "no matter who I marry, I will always be in love with Chuck Clegg." They remained friends and in 1969 when Chuck returned from service they started dating. On June 19, 1971, they married two years later and built a beautiful family and a beautiful life together.

While Chuck attended Chiropractic school in Illinois, Joyce and Chuck lived as resident directors in a male

dorm at Wheaton College, where they brought home their firstborn son Ryan in May 1978. Many Wheaton students would count on Joyce for haircuts and counseling. In 1979, Chuck and Joyce moved to Leesburg, Virginia to

open the county's second chiropractic office. Joyce worked alongside Chuck as they built a thriving practice together, Joyce managing the operations and always greeting the community with a joyful smile. Living in Lincoln, Virginia, she gave birth to her second son, Bradley in 1980 and

then welcomed her only daughter, Stephanie in 1984.

Clegg was instrumental in bringing the ministry of Young Life to Loudoun County in 1989 and served on the Young Life committee for years, helping to grow a vibrant ministry that has forever shaped students and their families in western Loudoun. She also helped establish the first pregnancy crisis center in Loudoun in 1994, con-

sistently meeting to pray for life.

For many years, she organized and executed trips to the "Creation Festival", the largest Christian Music Festival in the Country. It became a "can't miss" event for the area's high school and middle school students and their families to attend, and Joyce faithfully made it happen so the community could hear good Christian music and experience meaningful fellowship. She loved to celebrate Christmas, and started an annual tradition for her community of decorating gingerbread houses at their home in Lincoln, which continues today.

Family meant everything to her. She was a devoted daughter, mother, and wife. Her children remember her unconditional love, support, and self-sacrifice as she loved them with all of her being.

A celebration of her life took place at Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, Virginia on her birthdate Nov. 12, 2021.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to support Young Life in Western Loudoun would honor her life.

<https://giving.younglife.org/WesternLoudoun>.



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HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

not become commercialized or turn into a drink-and-drive destination.

Conservationists are not trying to close our successful breweries, wineries, inns and such. They add interest to western Loudoun. The goal is to make sure we control the number of new commercial uses. Like Hallstatt, we've eaten too much ice cream. I'm not suggesting a radical diet, just temperance.

Our existing rural firms should support the idea of possibly restraining new businesses, not just to protect the scenic

countryside which helps them, but also for their economic self-interest: Limiting future competition will protect the current profits of businesses that are here now. Economists call such limits "barriers to entry," which always help existing firms.

The overarching issue is how much commercialization is appropriate for western Loudoun. It's up to the Board of Supervisors to answer that question.

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

## OPINION

# Is the COVID-19 Vaccine Safe for My Child?

## Let's Talk Facts:

The **Pfizer vaccine** has received **emergency approval** from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for children's use. The other companies are also testing vaccines for children.

### What Does this Mean?

The COVID vaccine is going through the same approval process as other vaccines your children get – like measles, polio, and the flu shot. The FDA provides the **most rigorous safety testing in the world**. And after full approval, vaccine safety monitoring continues, so you can be sure the vaccine is safe.

If you have questions, talk to your pediatrician and visit [www.StayWellNoVa.com](http://www.StayWellNoVa.com) to learn more.

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Schedule your COVID – and flu – vaccines today.



Dr. Warren S. Levy,  
MD, FACC  
President & Chief  
Medical Officer  
Virginia Heart



HILLSBORO BROADBAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

sboro businesses, students, and the many residents required to work remotely. True broadband is not a luxury, it is a necessity for our children's education, our residents' livelihoods, and our Town's economic development."

Juan Marte, KGI chief executive officer, said, "We are excited to offer Internet service to Hillsboro residents and appreciate the forward thinking of Town officials to build and provide the basic infrastructure to make it possible."

Hillsboro's ReThink9 was a multi-faceted traffic-calming and critical infrastructure project that included the undergrounding of all existing aerial utilities and the addition of Town-owned fiber optic conduits—as well as a new drinking water distribution system, sanitary sewer mains and stormwater collection system. "In just 14 months of construction," Vance said, "we equipped one of Virginia's best-preserved 18th-century Towns with tip-of-the-spear 21st-century infrastructure, while not only preserving—but enhancing—its historic integrity through context-sensitive design and materials, and extraordinary craftsmanship."

Vance called Hillsboro's direct allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds "the linchpin" that allowed the Town to move aggressively toward a solution. "The ARPA funding permitted Hillsboro to install its own fiber and then—in cooperation with the Loudoun County Economic Development Authority—provide the financial incentive that accelerated the offering of service to residents and businesses."

Amy Marasco, Hillsboro project consultant and former vice mayor, said, "For 14 months the Town leadership reached out to numerous ISPs and fiber cable installers. In most cases—too typical across rural America—our small size did not align with their business models for providing residential service. However, KGI was not only interested, but they were ready to commit and promised service by the end of 2021 by partnering with installer Express-tek, which quickly designed the network and pulled the fiber in a most efficient and cost-effective manner."

According to Vance, with the loss of service in spring 2021, the Town negotiated with commercial service provider Segra to bring fiber to the Town Hall to facilitate Town business and to allow local students, res-

idents and businesses to access the Internet. "We are very appreciative to Segra for working with the Town for months to assist us in solving this problem, in both the short term and long term."

Hillsboro residents David and Karin Price, who each run businesses from their home that rely on Internet access, said they have been working in space provided in Town Hall for months. David Price called Hillsboro's broadband initiative "a godsend to local businesses and remote workers, all of whom are indebted to the Town's bold action to take the lead, and to get it done."

Matt Scott, manager of Stoneybrook Farm Market, said, "The advent of true broadband is critical to the operations of our business and the level of service we offer our customers. Making this reliable, high-quality service available is essential for successful economic development. We applaud the leadership of Hillsboro, which continues to provide 21st-century infrastructure to this rural community."

U.S. Representative Jennifer Wexton (D-10), who has been a stalwart advocate for the Hillsboro infrastructure projects and a strong supporter of the American Rescue Plan Act and the pending Build Back Better legislation said the Hillsboro project is "a perfect example" of the legislations' benefits to be realized by local rural communities.

Loudoun County Blue Ridge District Supervisor Tony Buffington, a leader in addressing the need for broadband in rural western Loudoun said, "I applaud Hillsboro's leadership and success in ARPA funding to accelerate last mile broadband connections to its residents and business owners. This is a great example of how Towns, business owners and private individuals are beginning to take advantage of the County's Emergency Broadband Initiative which utilized SEGRA to install a new privately accessible in-ground, middle mile fiber loop throughout western Loudoun."

Vance said KGI will begin marketing its service to residents and businesses in the coming days—including an open house on Cyber Monday, Nov. 29—and expects to have the ability to provide service contracts to all properties in the Town before Christmas. "This is a fitting way to end a year in which our residents and businesses have had to endure so much," Vance said.

# Husband and Wife Team Direct A Baby Changes Everything

Performance at  
Purcellville Baptist  
Church

Mark and Patrice Smith, Bluemont residents, are co-directing a new one hour play, *A Baby Changes Everything*, Dec. 9 – 11 at Purcellville Baptist Church, in Purcellville.

The couple are co-directors of The Potter's players, a non-profit biblical theater group. Patrice writes the majority of the original productions, including this brand new production, *A Baby Changes Everything*.

"Our goal," said Patrice, "is to create a community of people who present

God's love through the performing arts. This play is different than our previous Christmas plays. We start out in a modern setting, the foster care system. We see the story come alive as a teenage girl hears about the birth of Jesus for the first time.

As the mood changes from sad to joyful, the colors seem to 'pop off' the backdrop. The music is powerful and inspirational. Even our cast gets emotional during rehearsals," said Patrice.

This is the Potter's Players largest production to date and includes a cast of 34. It is a night of beauty, joy and the true meaning of Christmas that families won't want to miss.

Free admission Thursday, Dec. 9 – 7

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

approach to those conversations is important.

Blaming your boss or becoming angry with him or her likely wouldn't be productive, but if you are overwhelmed, or are needing some additional guidance or support, etc., letting your boss know where you are in an open, respectful and collaborative way could be a good thing.

Appropriately checking in with your co-workers is also a good idea; by keeping channels of communication open with those you work with; you will be in a better position to efficiently solve stressful or upsetting situations when they occur.

**Collect some data.** Studying yourself is a great way to figure out the whys behind your unhappiness at work. One way to do this is to sit quietly for 15-20 minutes at the end of each work week to reflect on your week – your tasks, your productivity/performance, your work relationships, your environment, etc. Writing down your end of the week reflections, week after week will provide you with additional information to look through and make sense of.

Collecting data will help you understand how much of your unhappiness is due to factors outside of your control and how much of it has to do with things within your control (i.e., how you manage your stress, how you communicate, how you manage your time).

**Prioritize Self Care.** Research studies have repeatedly shown that people who eat a balanced diet, exercise, drink in moderation (or not at all) and sleep well have lower rates of both physical and mental health problems.

Research has also shown, conversely, that those who experience significant and prolonged stress and unhappiness will experience higher rates of physical and

mental health problems. Taking care of yourself consistently over an extended period of time will be beneficial to you in a number of ways; and, with more energy, a brighter mood and a healthier outlook on life, you may feel differently about your current job or career.

**Practice Mindfulness.** Mindfulness is the concept of being 100 percent present in the moment while accepting all aspects of what that moment is or what it brings – without criticism, blame or judgement.

Research has shown both significant physical and mental benefits to mindfulness, and there are several ways to practice it in your personal life. *Calm*, available for Android, iOS, and desktop is a fun and easy way to learn mindfulness strategies. Although taking the time to practice mindfulness meditation, breathing and cognitive and visualization strategies may seem like a lot at first, over time, taking some quiet time to yourself each day to practice mindfulness will get you to a better frame of mind for work.

So, if you're unhappy at work or in your career, I invite you to do something about it. By following the above four tips, you should be able to both gain greater insight and self-awareness into your unhappiness and also work to make the changes you can.

Within a reasonable period of time, you should know better if it's time for a job or career change or not. Perhaps the grass is greener on the other side, as the old saying goes, or perhaps you just need to water and take better care of the plot of grass you already have.

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

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**MOORE-SOBEL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

it was mostly on his own terms. “Later my mother said that it was the dips in his worldly success that made him come and find us,” Brennan-Jobs writes. Her father found bizarre ways to put her down – including repeated denials that the Lisa, a computer he had designed, was not named for his daughter. “Nope, sorry kid,” he told her, after the first time she asked him.

There are other disturbing tales, like the time he told Lisa when she was a child to not expect an inheritance. “You’re not getting anything. You understand? Nothing,” Jobs had said.

Yet despite her father’s cruelty, Lisa could not help but love him. She reveals a journal entry from her childhood where she had written, in reference to Jobs, “I love him! I love him! I love him!” And it’s clear throughout the book that she does, despite his emotionally abusive behavior.

Moments of tenderness are evident throughout the story. When Lisa was a teenager, she moved in with her father and stepmother, Laurene. She writes of an instance when she retreated to her room after accidentally breaking a glass. Jobs found her and said, “I’m sorry I wasn’t there for you, you know, when you were younger.” Brennan-Jobs undoubtedly had com-

plicated feelings about her father. It’s hard not to have complicated feelings toward someone when they have the capacity to be both cruel and kind.

Overall, Jobs’ behavior towards his daughter was consistently abhorrent. Brennan-Jobs reveals possible explanations throughout the book, such as during a counseling session when Laurene offers (in reference to both herself and Jobs), “We’re just cold people.” This struck me as a bit of a cop-out. Wouldn’t Laurene and Jobs want to attempt to change their behavior, once they found out it was hurting Lisa?

At birth, Steve Jobs was given up for adoption. Was it possible that he was simply treating his daughter the way he had been treated: as someone to leave? At one point during Brennan-Jobs college experience, she sees a therapist who makes the astute observation that possibly, her father would realize the truth eventually. “He’ll go away, and then maybe someday he’ll realize that he did the same thing to you that was done to him.”

This makes me think of the common phrase, “Hurt people hurt people.” Hurting parents are not immune from hurting their children. The results can be devastating. Hurt-

ing children can carry that pain into adulthood, and eventually, repeat the same patterns with their own children. This can lead to patterns of generational unhealth within families. It takes intentional work to avoid repeating these patterns.

The tragedy of Steve Jobs is that he missed out on what could have been a beautiful and fulfilling relationship with his eldest daughter. He seemed to only realize what he’d lost as he faced death. “I’m sorry, Lis,” he told his daughter, not long before he passed away from pancreatic cancer at the age of 56. “I wish I could go back. I wish I could change it. But it’s too late.”

This is a cautionary tale for the rest of us. I recently read that the average life expectancy in Loudoun County is approximately 83 years. There is no guarantee that any of us will reach that age. But even so, my guess is that 83 years passes quickly. We only have a limited time to make an impact, to love those around us, and to leave a meaningful legacy.

*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](http://www.samuelmoore-sobel.com).*

**KUHN CONTRACT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9**

property in conservation easement—an offer Mojax accepted and soon rescinded—resolution remained elusive until the Kuhns announced their contract.

Board Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large), who has led the County’s campaign to find a way to stop Mojax’s by-right development, expressed her thanks to Kuhn. “Your acquisition of the property should bring village residents much relief,” she noted in a letter upon learning the news. “Many of the families residing in St. Louis are multigenerational, some still living in homes built by their parents and grandparents. A new development would undoubtedly raise their property values, displacing them from homes they already own.”

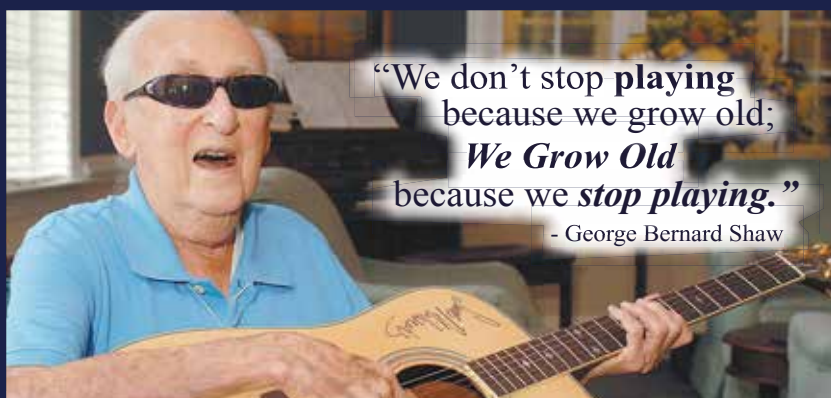
She went on, “As you know, many have been concerned about the development’s impact on existing residents’ water supply and quality. In addition to water concerns, residents also wanted to protect the cemetery on the property. County staff believe there are more unmarked graves than the 23...”

Randall added, “I would also like to express the Board’s interest in possible future consideration of public uses for the property consistent with your conservation efforts.

Kuhn stated, “We are excited to be working with Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall, her fellow supervisors, including Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), and County Administrator Tim Hemstreet to help save and protect this historically significant and beautiful

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 >

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- George Bernard Shaw

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**IT SEEMS TO ME**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

have made a rational business decision to locate in Loudoun County, and we should take advantage of it because Loudoun County provides the infrastructure (power, water, roads, etc.) and house the employees to run the centers. Not only that, we have allowed the data centers to cover in most cases, virgin farm land with massive concrete block buildings.

**OPINION**

We have essentially a gold mine on our land and it should be taxed according to the rules in place when they moved here. I don't hear of any complaints from the data centers. They are making billions of dollars in internet business. Why is the BOS thinking of limiting this source of income, it doesn't make sense? Who cares if they provide 60 or 70 percent of the County's revenue?

Finally, in viewing the meeting videos, I didn't hear any comments or concern from the BOS in the meetings over the current state of historic inflation of the U.S. economy.

Let me understand this, the BOS wants to raise real estate taxes by at least 5 percent while people on fixed incomes in the county are seeing price double digit increases in gasoline, food, heating, housing, etc. Even the Dollar Tree store is now a \$1.25 Dollar Tree store. What are they thinking?

According to the BOS and County staff, the schools are fully funded and all the Staff Priority One projects are covered. The 2023 FY budget increases taxes while funding all the County's requirements. Incidentally, there was no mention of the fact that public school enrolment has decreased by thousands. It looks like the BOS and County bureaucracy has taken care of itself at the expense of the citizens.

If you do nothing about this situation, you will pay the price in increased real estate taxes. You can email the BOS and speak out at their meetings. It's easy, call ahead and schedule a spot on the speakers list. Just say you are opposed to this tax increase and ill-conceived revenue plan.

**32 ACRES**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

grown. Foodies and chefs also get excited.

"It is relatively easy to grow," he continues, "and I like planting in late fall and harvesting in early summer—avoiding a lot of hot weather weeding. Garlic is pretty much disease free, and deer and rodents aren't interested."

If you're interested in garlic—and maybe in solving a holiday gift dilemma—consider paying a visit to <https://www.sistersgarlicco.com>.

**HUSBAND AND WIFE**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

p.m. Friday, Dec. 10 – 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 – 2 p.m. For more information go to Facebook/pottersplayers Purbap.org/pottersplayers, or email [ThePottersPlayers@bchristian.org](mailto:ThePottersPlayers@bchristian.org).

**KUHN CONTRACT**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

land. Saint Louis was bought by formerly enslaved people following the Civil War. He added, "Preserving our County's important history fits with our focus on helping preserve Virginia's natural habitats, ecosystems, and past."

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## GRIM FERRY TALE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

concrete retaining wall in 2004.

Several weeks later, on December 28, a ferry cable snapped, putting an end to this four-minute river crossing and adding 25 miles for 800 vehicles a day to travel to and from the same points via the Potomac River bridge at Point of Rocks. The only other bridge option: the American Legion Bridge 40 miles downriver.

Drivers, bikers, hikers, shoppers, and tourists lamented the shutdown and wondered if there was any hope of the ferry's reopening. Loudoun County and Montgomery County, Maryland, officials began assessing the impact of the ferry closing on the regional transportation network.

Enter Chuck Kuhn, founder and CEO of JK Moving Services and JK Holdings, LLC, who has earned a reputation in Loudoun for placing conservation easements on more than 22,000 acres to protect and preserve vulnerable vistas and threatened habitats. On Feb. 12, 2021, Kuhn and his wife, Stacy, announced their purchase of the Maryland ferry landing, service buildings, small grocery, and the vessel.

The Kuhns quickly undertook upgrades to the ferry, aiming for a restart in six weeks. However, because there was no transferable agreement allowing the ferry to load and unload vehicles on

part of the farm of Colonel Burgess Ball, near White's farm. General George Rust, ancestor of the current Rockland owners, acquired the original 485-acre property—now nearly 600 acres—in 1817 and built the present manor house. Five generations later, Rockland Farm is organized as a limited liability company with Peter Fitzhugh Brown as majority member and his sisters, Libby Brown Devlin and Harriet Rust Brown Dickerson, as minority members.

Peter Brown is a hedge fund founder and CEO; Harriet Dickerson is co-owner of Plum Grove Cyclery in Leesburg. Libby Devlin is Rockland Farm's manager and a registered nurse who spent several years caring for their late mother, Loudoun County supervisor and conservationist Betsey Brown, who died in 2019. Their late father, Harry Brown, is best known as the once-struggling financial consultant who came up with an idea—the money-market mutual fund—that spawned a \$3.5 trillion industry.

## What is the ferry worth?

To clarify and quantify the value of the ferry to the regional transportation network and economy, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors commissioned a \$150,000 study conducted jointly with Montgomery County.

Their independent consultants evaluated short-term options for resuming ferry service between the two counties, long-term benefits if the service were enhanced, impact on the transportation network if there were no ferry, and issues and opportunities for operating the ferry.

Staff members of the Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure presented the findings at a Board of Supervisors business meeting on Nov. 16 and the following day in Poolesville, Maryland.

In the short term, the study estimated that restarting the ferry service would require minimal low-cost actions. These include inspecting the existing vessel to confirm its seaworthiness, hiring staff, and restringing the ferry cable.

In the long term, changes in infrastructure, including improvements in staffing, roadways enhancements to support queuing vehicles, fare collection, lighting, and vessel capacity could be considered to improve the system.

If the legal issues were resolved, the study indicated that the ferry could restart in as few as 12 weeks.

Market impacts of resuming ferry operations include travel time savings, travel cost savings, safety savings, the value of emissions avoided, and the value of trips



the Rockland Farm site, the Kuhns began negotiations with the Rockland owners to either buy or place a permanent easement there.

And that's where everything stalled—and remains so.

## The ferry and the landing

White's Ferry, earlier known as Conrad's Ferry for its previous owner, owes its name to Elijah V. "Lige" White, Confederate commander of the 35<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Virginia Cavalry. After the war, he bought the ferry service, which was located just up the river from his 355-acre farm near the site of the Battle of Ball's Bluff. He named his ferry boat in honor of his former commander, General Jubal A. Early. The boat was renamed "Historic White's Ferry" in June 2020.

What is today Rockland Farm, former landing site of the ferry, was originally

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

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**GABLE FARM**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

personal recreation field and issued a grading permit to the Gable Farm owner for that purpose; however, in 2017, the county issued a Notice of Violation for failing to follow the approved plan.

In 2018, Loudoun County observed elevations on the property that exceeded approved levels and issued a stop work order to the Gable Farm owner.

A second Notice of Violation was issued in November 2018. In 2019, the County worked with the property owner

to bring the site into compliance with the approved site plan, but no acceptable agreement for addressing the excess fill dirt on the property was reached at that time. The County and the property owner ultimately resolved the issue through the Order of Abatement entered by the court on Nov. 3, 2021.

In addition, fill material on the property was analyzed. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality conducted a visual inspection of the surface and the side slopes of the fill

material, and in February of 2019 issued a letter indicating that the fill material contained primarily soil, bricks, asphalt, concrete and rocks, and that the material was allowed under Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations.

In a March 3, 2019 email to the Blue Ridge Leader, DEQ would “not certify that the landfill does not contain hazardous materials.”

In 2020, the owner hired a consultant to study the soil. The findings were provided on July 22, 2020, in the Environ-

mental Soil Characterization Report. In response to the report, DEQ issued another letter on Feb. 5, 2021, reaffirming that the fill material on the Gable Farm property was compliant with state regulations and requirements.

**More Information**

More information about the stockpiling of dirt and the history of County’s engagement with the Gable Farm owner is posted on the County’s website at [loudoun.gov/stockpilingdirt](http://loudoun.gov/stockpilingdirt).

**‘TAKE LOUDOUN HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS’**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

currently listed at [TakeLoudounHome.com](http://TakeLoudounHome.com), and listings will be updated throughout the holiday season.

“Whether it’s a freshly-cut tree or wreath, artisan gift, craft food or beverage, or one-of-a-kind experience, supporting Loudoun’s farms and small businesses keeps shopping dollars in the local economy, reduces environmental impact, and provides the special people in your life with a unique holiday experience,” Loudoun Economic Development Executive Director Buddy Riz-

er explained. “Shopping local is about more than just convenience; this is supporting a neighbor, saving a job, and ensuring that the lights stay on for every #LoudounPossible business.”

Last year, the National Retail Federation found that American consumers spent an average of nearly \$1,000 on gifts and other holiday items. Shopping locally helps keep dollars in Loudoun’s economy, supporting family businesses, job growth, and Loudoun’s economic recovery from COVID-19. It also connects consumers with the highest quality products.

“This year, avoid supply chain issues by

Taking Loudoun Home,” Visit Loudoun’s President and CEO Beth Erickson said. “Buying from Loudoun farms, craft beverage producers, restaurants and small businesses is easy, impactful and very important this holiday season.”

Shopping from local farms helps to preserve Loudoun’s robust rural tradition and decrease the environmental impacts of shipping. Becoming a regular retail and restaurant patron can help businesses budget for job creation, new lines of business and expansions. Booking overnight accommodations at Loudoun’s unique bed-and-breakfasts

and hotels is a great way for everyone to look forward to 2022.

“This holiday season, please think about the businesses that make your life special: the restaurant on the corner, the farm you drive past every day, or your favorite store across town,” Loudoun Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tony Howard said. “To ensure their success in 2022 and the continuation of our economic recovery, please Take Loudoun Home for the Holidays.”

Start your holiday shopping spree by thinking local this year. Shop today from [TakeLoudounHome.com](http://TakeLoudounHome.com).

**COOKIES**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

caramel or chocolate as they harden.

**Ingredients:**

- 1¾ cups sliced almonds
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons finely-ground orange zest
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons heavy cream
- 2 teaspoons corn syrup
- 5 tablespoons butter
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- ¼ cup rolled oats

**Directions:**

Pre-heat oven to 350.

Prepare 2-3 large backing sheets, lightly greased.

Combine/melt the butter, sugar and wet ingredients in a sauce pan (warm until blended, and then bring to a light boil); don’t let the sugar crystallize ... stir continuously.

Now, add the oats, nuts, flour, and orange zest, stirring well to combine.

Then, drop the warmed mixture on your cookie sheets, flattening with a fork and bake for 8 to 10 minutes. This will set the cookies.

Let the cookies cool completely outside the oven, drizzle as you will, scoop out, and serve/plate.

## Cream Cheese Sugar Cookies

Cream cheese and sugar is a fabulous combination. These cookies work perfectly with basic cutout molds and simple frosting/decorating.

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup softened butter (or your choice of shortening)
- 1½ cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla, ½ teaspoon almond extract
- Dried lemon zest
- 3½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

**Directions:**

Pre-heat oven to 350.

Blend cream cheese, butter and sugar until light and fluffy, then add the egg (beaten lightly) and the other wet ingredients.

Add the dry ingredients until a dough forms.

Divide the dough into four parts, flatten a bit and roll each to a 1/2 inch thickness; chill in plastic/parchment for at least 30 minutes (chilling is critical!)

Roll each of the four parts to ¼-inch thick; stamp out with your cookie forms.

Bake 9-11 minutes on a well-greased cookie sheet; monitor to prevent burning.

Cool thoroughly and ice/decorate as desired.

**BACK TO STAY**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

living in the heart of Loudoun County. Ongoing updates on the eagles will be posted during the nesting season.” A mated pair of Bald Eagles have resided in the Dulles Greenway Wetlands for more than 15 years. In 1995, during the construction of the Dulles Greenway roadway, TRIP II established a private 149-acre wetlands preserve in Leesburg to mitigate the loss of roughly 64 acres of federally-protected wetlands.

Wetlands shelter more than one-third of threatened and endangered species in the United States, including the once-endangered bald eagle. This is something most people do not know or understand.

Wetland are not the “swamps” we think they are. They are critical wildlife habitat. Here, for example, since 1995, the Dulles Wetlands property has been managed by Loudoun Wildlife and used for local wildlife education.

**Thank you, Joe****CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

schedule will be posted online in January, 2022.

**Important festival dates:**

**Dec. 1 – 17:** submissions accepted

**Dec. 18:** review of the films

**Jan. 10, 2022:** announce the slate of films

Jan. 28 and 29: Festival

Filmmakers must complete reg-

Long-time wildlife advocate with the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Joe Coleman, said this about the monumental importance of bald eagles and our efforts to save the bald eagle, our national bird, “The recovery of bald eagles, after their numbers plummeted because of DDT and they were listed as ‘endangered,’ is a resounding success for the Threatened and Endangered Species Act.

“Without that Act and all of the efforts that resulted from it, we would have probably lost this species in the lower 48.

“Bald eagle numbers have risen, and they can now be seen throughout the mid-Atlantic. They, and the other successes under the Act, show that we can save the environment when we put our minds to it.”

That is an extremely heartening message for all Loudouners, continued Joe; “Build it and they will come,” or, in this case, preserve it and they will come ... back.


istration form and submit with film and entry fee. Cash, checks (payable to County of Loudoun) or credit card. Franklin Park Arts Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, weekends by appointment.

Questions should be directed to Elizabeth Bracey, Manager, Franklin Park Arts Center [Elizabeth.Bracey@loudoun.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Bracey@loudoun.gov) or 540-338-7973.

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**GRIM FERRY TALE**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

not taken.

Under the restore ferry service alternative, total impacts are estimated to be a little over \$9 million in 2023 and \$13 million in 2040. Under the enhance ferry service alternative, total impacts are estimated to be approximately \$9 million in 2023 and \$24 million in 2040.

If the ferry were converted to a publicly owned service, however, it would likely require about \$3 million a year in taxpayer subsidies.

**What is the ferry landing worth?**

It depends on whom you ask.

According to a statement Kuhn made two days after the recent Board meeting, “We have made numerous very fair offers to lease and/or purchase the landing site in good faith with no success. Rockland Farm’s repeated demands for \$2 million cash for the small parcel of land that constitutes the landing site or 50 cents a car each way along with unacceptable deal terms made negotiations impossible.”

He went on, “In addition to purchasing the landing site, at their request and our cost, we had the entire Rockland Farm

appraised three times to explore the possibility of purchasing the whole farm as an option for reopening the landing site. We subsequently made a \$13.5 million cash offer to purchase the entire farm ... Rockland made no counteroffer and ultimately rejected our offer. We further proposed to donate the ferry and the land we own to the respective governments ...to reopen the ferry for our region.”

The following day Devlin issued a written statement in response to Kuhn: “Rockland has been willing to come to the table ... from day one. We continue to believe a volume-based fee of 50 cents per vehicle is a very reasonable price for the use of our landing. Even at significant risk to us, we have offered to enter a binding arbitration whereby a neutral third party would choose the fairest solution. We continue to hope that White’s Ferry [the Kuhns] will join us to arrive at a private arrangement to reopen this historic gem that has crossed the Potomac for as long any of us can remember.”

In addition to the landing site, its 600 acres, and early 19th century Federal home, Rockland Farm includes approximately a mile of valuable Potomac riverfront.

**Is eminent domain imminent?**

Except for Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), most Loudoun County Supervisors have made clear they prefer a resolution between the private parties.

“We have not been the ones who have talked about eminent domain,” declared Board Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large). “In my opinion, we should get a professional mediator and get everyone in the room. We will offer our room upstairs as neutral ground. That’s what needs to happen.” However, in an email to Bethesda Magazine two days after the meeting, Chair Randall said that personally she does not want to take eminent domain off the table. “[I’m] not ready to take that action at this time. At its base this is a matter between two private parties. I am reluctant to have the government intervene,” she wrote.

“This is a dispute we don’t want to get involved in unless we absolutely have to,” said Supervisor Caleb Kershner (R-Catoctin).

Vice Chair Koran Saines (D-Sterling) agreed: “With all due respect to our colleagues across the river in Montgomery County, there’s so much interest in this ferry, but [they are] unwilling to tackle

the bigger challenge, which we all know... is a new bridge.”

“That’s where the conversation should be,” added Matt Letourneau (R-Dulles).

Loudoun and Montgomery counties’ conversation on a bridge has been stalled far longer than any ferry negotiations or lawsuits. As Maryland State Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo, who attended the Loudoun County Board meeting, told Bethesda Beat, a bridge would take at least a decade to get built, and the transportation need is more immediate. “We need to get people back and forth on that ferry as soon as possible. So even having a conversation about a bridge is probably a 15- to 20-year endeavor,” he said.

That conversation is further complicated by the simple fact that the Potomac River is part of Maryland up to the Virginia shore. So, for now, the conversation pivots back to the ferry. Supervisor Buffington noted that if both parties could not come to an agreement on the ferry in a reasonable amount of time, he would support eminent domain.

“I believe it’s critical, and I believe we need to reopen this regionally important pathway for the public,” he said.

**LEESBURG GARDEN CLUB**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

State.” It was the intent of the Club to select projects within Loudoun County either urban or rural which best reflect the furtherance of the Club’s Mission. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and school closures the awarding of funding was delayed in some cases.

As part of the 2019 Grant Program, Tuscarora High School was awarded a grant of \$2000 on Oct. 20, 2021. The funding will be used to improve an existing courtyard with a native plant installation, tree and shrub plantings, and installment of a Monarch Waystation. Students will use the outdoor classroom to learn about the benefits of native plants and the wildlife they support.

Two additional recipients of the 2019

Grant Funding were Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (awarded in 2020) to complete the installation of a pollinator meadow and purchase interpretive signs, and Lucketts Elementary School (awarded in 2021) to fund the installation of a milkweed habitat, Monarch Waystation, weather station, and a vegetable garden.

The 2019 Grant Program was supported by a fundraiser at Selma Plantation and hosted by Sharon Virts and Scott Miller of Leesburg. The Loudoun County Children’s Educational Fund Grant is an active participant with the LGC Grant Program which will again be accepting requests for grant proposals in 2022. Details to be determined.

Recipients of grant funding since the 2017 establishment of the program are

Oatlands Plantation and the Leesburg Elementary School. Oatlands required additional funding to complete the irrigation system within the 5-acre walled garden. Leesburg Elementary School was also awarded a grant to support its outdoor garden classroom.

Prior to the establishment of the grant program, the Club had, for 104 years, shouldered the cost of many projects in Leesburg and Loudoun County. The projects are cited as examples for their benefit to the community and conformance to the Mission.

In 2015, to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the LGC, “The Native Tree Walk” was inaugurated. It is situated at the southwestern side of Ida Lee Park, accessible by foot, bi-

cycle and wheel chair alike, and is a well-planned planting of native tree species. Each tree has an ID placard which gives an interactive description and the benefit of each tree. Planning the project and funding to purchase the signage and trees was provided by the LGC.

Other recent projects include tree plantings and purchase of a bench at the Douglass School and Community Center; planting of an embankment garden along Edwards Ferry Road outside of the George C. Marshall home; member-assisted gardening effort at Oatlands Plantation; and the purchase of daffodil bulbs for planting at entrances to the Town of Leesburg. To learn more about the Leesburg Garden Club please visit the website leesburggardenclub.org.

**TIM JON**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

assuming the spirits corresponding to the remains placed in the historic graves on the acreage would agree, having found their rest upon the peace which passes all understanding.

And, what about my own, personal bench from my initial visits from a quarter-century past? Yes, I’m curious, too. I remembered the spot where I used to sit, and the simple features of the classic park bench. Definitely nowhere onsite.

Judging from its apparent age and deterioration when I last recall seeing

it there, I hold no hopes for its preservation in some treasured collection of relics. It belongs to the past. At some point, so too will we. Not to become overly somber, I’d like to think that just perhaps, I’ve outgrown the need for sedentary, peaceful sanctuary in which to ruminate long, long thoughts on the five-hundred-year-old writings of the Bard. I appreciate having enjoyed the protection of my soul within these physical confines, and now I can freely move about the rest of the world’s attractions.

But ... you know? I just now re-read my

original story focusing on this acreage and it was that very park bench which had really sold me on the place – way back in the day – as well as going back in memory for the 2010 writing assignment. So I’d like to send out a word of thanks to whomever placed the object there – in whatever year it came to be.

And another thing: I said all the things I’d wanted to in the original piece; I can’t help but wonder: in another decade, will I feel that strongly about today’s revisitation? We’ll just have to wait and see.

**PUBLIC HEARING**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

comport with what the Comprehensive Plan says, and that’s what this effort is all about,” said Forbes.

“The only focus to this is to have a review process before something is torn down. That’s it. It doesn’t even ultimately prevent demolition, but it does require a review process and options,” she said.

Commissioner Boo Bennett pointed out that the proposed changes and creation of a new Historic Preservation Overlay Zone were mailed out to hundreds of homes which would be in this proposed district. She said, “There’s a lot of people who are not here. I think they like Purcellville just the way it is.”



*Happy Holidays*

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