

Chapman tells 21st St. tenants: 'Vacate for Vineyard Square'

BY VALERIE CURY

Developer Casey Chapman has given his tenants two months' notice to vacate their businesses on 21st Street in downtown Purcellville. To show the County that he is serious about starting the Vineyard Square project, Chapman will be cutting off utilities to the buildings before his permits were to expire for the third time on July 1. On April 7, 2022, the General Assembly extended the COVID legislation until July 2023.

However, it's unclear whether he currently has financing for the project.

The project, which extends from 130 to 144 N. 21st Street in Historic Downtown Purcellville, was approved by the previous Lazaro Town Council for a total of 171,000 square feet of mixed-use space. The six-story plan currently includes 30,000 square feet of retail and 40 condos.

Chapman has recently come before the Planning Commission and Town Council asking when the Town will extend O Street to Hatcher. He needs O Street, a dead-end, to be extended and widened from 21st to Hatcher so Chapman can

dump all the traffic from the Vineyard Square project onto Hatcher Street.

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser took the O Street extension off the Town's priorities several years ago.

The Vineyard Square project was approved by the Lazaro Town Council even though multi-family is not a permitted use in the C-4 District. Neither the Town Attorney nor the former Director of Planning and Zoning weighed in on this point at the time.

With minimal work initially done — three small sheds, considered a community hazard, were torn down — the project has sat dormant for over ten years. In his determination to renew Vineyard Square for the first time, the Planning Director said the project had "commenced" and was "diligently pursued." He wrote that the project could continue "as long as diligent pursuit occurs."

The second extension for the project came in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the Virginia General Assembly passed a bill which extended the approval date of site plans. But the bill didn't take effect until March 1, 2021. The COVID legislation was introduced by Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr. (D-6) in bill 15.2-2209.1:1.

The extension will keep site plans active until July 1, 2022, "or such longer period as may be agreed to by the locality." Any site plan that was valid on July 1, 2020, could become valid again on March 1, 2021, even if it would have expired. This was the case with the Vineyard Square project's site plan and Certificates of Design Approval, which expired on

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Feb. 16, 2021.

At the Purcellville Planning Commission meeting on Feb. 18, 2021, Town Attorney Sally Hankins started the discussion by giving an update on the Vineyard Square project and its Certificates of Design Approval.

Knowing the Vineyard Square project was set to expire, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Council Member Stan Milan, and members of the Planning Commission had been asking staff for an update on the project, but they received no information until the Feb. 18, 2021, meeting.

As Hankins explained in 2021, "A site plan was approved for Vineyard Square in February 2016 and would have been valid for five years. And, if you didn't commence construction within those five years, it would have expired this week [Feb. 16, 2021]."

"The plan would become void and you would have to recommence the process," she said. "The General Assembly in 2020, at a Special Session, passed remedial legislation, to provide relief for people because of COVID, and extended by state law, the expiration dates of plans that were valid as of July 1, 2020. And the

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Is Middleburg ready for 55 more acres and 126 affordable homes?

BY LAURA LONGLEY

At a time when Loudoun County is taking its first tentative steps to address the lack of affordable housing for the County's workforce, Middleburg, capital of the nation's horse and hunt country, has surprising news: The Town is considering two offers that would add 55 acres and as many as 126 new housing units.

The news—and controversy—over two annexation proposals introduced at the Town's April 19 Public Information Session is traveling fast on the Middleburg grapevine. The Town's

website (middleburgva.org/input) is also recording citizen feedback.

One of the proposals comes from the Windy Hill Foundation, which, over its 40 years, has renovated and/or constructed more than 300 affordable units in Middleburg and nearby Marshall and The Plains, as well as Sterling and Brambleton. Many of Windy Hill's properties are federally subsidized and can be rented only to families who fall under a certain annual income.

According to the Windy Hill annexation proposal, a 33-acre parcel

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Every Bit Counts...



Memories of Mom and Mother's Day

BY ANDREA GAINES

The minute you ask people about memories of mom or memories of Mother's Day, the floodgates open and the stories come pouring out.

Moms are the portals, the pathways to all kinds of family memories. Birthdays, holidays, first jobs, old homes and neighborhoods, graduations, old friendships – the list goes on and on.

Mothers, after all, and dads, too craft their families after their own original families and their experiences. It is no wonder that when we think of moms we are reminded and re-educated about the things most precious to us.

Common themes

Many mom and Mother's Day memories relate to food, not surprisingly.

From people I spoke to for this article, foods included mom's famous lasagna, the meatloaf we either refused to eat of just loved, pasta dishes, freshly-grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, pies, big meals such as Thanksgiving and, yes, cakes – cakes, and cakes and more cakes.

Let yourself go back to the best of family times by thinking about your best memories of mom and her signature foods.

One person mentioned her mom's "Heart-Attack-Mac-'n'-Cheese," which included five different kinds of cheese. Ironically, the Mother's Day tradition in

this household was not to dine in, but to dine out.

Then there was this memory: mom's oatmeal Whoopie Pies – a giant oatmeal cookie sandwiched with Whoopie Pie filling. Then there were those edible bird nests for Easter, made with melted caramel and pretzel sticks, and filled with jelly beans.

Mom's cakes rule

Ice box cake was one of my mom's favorite things in the world.

We'd always make the cake (whipped cream and Waverly Wafers) for Mother's Day, and whatever we didn't eat that day was our breakfast for the next morning.

Mom made a pound cake pretty much every day, too. We enjoyed it ... just help-

ing ourselves to the continuous supply left on the kitchen table.

Lemon meringue pie was a big favorite of my aunt Wanda's. And, my uncle Floyd would make lemon meringue tarts every Christmas.

Another person shared with us her Mother's Day memories by recounting her mom's great talent for cake decorating.

This lady worked in the bakery section of a grocery store, decorating their cakes with great skill.



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It's (Iced) Tea Time!



BY LAURA LONGLEY

Whew! You step out on the deck and that first blast of hot, humid air hits you. What wouldn't you give for a long, cool quaff of iced tea right now?

Sure, you can hustle over to the grocery store and grab a jug of Arnold Palmer Half & Half Tea and Lemonade. Then cruise to the coffee/tea and soft drink aisles to fill your basket with pricey AriZona, Lipton Brisk, Turkey Hill Lemon, Tazo Lemon Ginger teas and, of course, Snapple.

But we have a better idea for you. Save money, make tastier teas, and learn a few tea tales as we begin National Iced Tea Month in June by stopping in Purcellville's own Dominion Tea.

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Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth: Brandon Park (Revisited)

BY TIM JON

It's the same place, yet it's a completely different place; it's a bit of the forest primeval, and still, it's a new beginning for swaths of new trees. Really.



"So – has Tim Jon finally, completely lost it?"

Well, I won't answer that question, but I will stand behind my first sentence. See, I had to come back to an enticing location because a local work project had done so much to change it; I almost wouldn't have recognized Brandon Park after all the physical alterations over the past few years. Anyone passing by the short section of Harrison Street that bisects the recreation area would have noticed a major public improvement project: they shifted the stream-bed for Tuscarora Creek, removed the old growth trees which stood along the existing waterway, shored up the adjacent stream banks, and planted a whole new forest of seedlings.

I'm probably omitting several other important facets of the job, but the aforementioned were most noticeable to yours truly.

It was a painful process watching the mature trees

disappearing—along with the old stream-bed, but now that things have settled down, I'm trying to appreciate the changes in terms of long-time improvements - for the ensuing decades, if not centuries. That's the hopeful side of me.

So the morning of my long-anticipated return visit, I was rewarded by the increased expanse of grassy walking areas- especially on the southwest side of Harrison. And as I explored this new (to me) territory, I was able to more fully appreciate the remaining stands of greenery outside the boundaries of the local park. It struck me that this - considering we're within the Town limits and all - represents old growth timber - virgin forests - or at least fulfills that role in my imagination (unexplored territory!).

And, yes, I noticed a growing sense of beatific calm engendered by the gentle flow of the nearby stream, the chirpy activity of the morning birds and a faint mist (I at least thought I could see) rising against the darker gloom under those more distant trees. These are the things I leave my couch for; these things I find as valu-



able as the coveted commodities of many others. I'm very happy with the intangibles, thank you – things that don't come in a box.

And in this category, I will stipulate that I well understand that – according to the Leesburg Town government, the 'parkland' lying to the west of Harrison Street at this site lies – technically – out-

side the boundaries of Brandon Park; to me, it's all part of the same public-use open space and I refer to both sides of the street by the same name. The visible work and its effects appear essentially synonymous both in and outside the official boundaries. I consider it: one Park, one project, one experience.

I understand the playground at the site underwent improvements as well - now being more accessible for those affected by mobility issues. The 'Brandon' side of the street now features a new "Bat-Box" as well; you should recall my reactions to these things after I made their discovery in the southern section of Fox Ridge Park along Catocin Circle. I'm glad to say I've been a "Bat-fan" nearly all my days.

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

What is Phubbing and is it impacting your relationships?

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

Do you often mindlessly scroll through your Facebook page when visiting with friends or family? How about checking Instagram at the dinner table? Is watching YouTube, while in the company of others, common practice for you? Does



TikTok captivate your attention when you're socializing?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you're phubbing. Phubbing is a portmanteau of *phone* and *snubbing*, and it involves ignoring someone you're with

in favor of your phone or a device. The term was coined by a group of Australian marketing and language experts in 2012.

Just to be clear, all of us are guilty of checking our phones from time to time when around others, but phubbing is an extreme behavior that negatively impacts relationships. Those who phub always have or hold their phones, check their phones frequently when in the presence of others, halfheartedly connect with others in person as they're texting someone or engaging with social media or the internet and rarely separate from their phones.

Persistent phubbing is harmful to rela-

tionships in several ways. It diminishes the quality of your communication with others, it leads to an emotional disconnect with others, and it can make others feel excluded, disrespected, unimportant, rejected, and jealous.

One research study on phubbing revealed that it can lead to problems with intimacy and marital satisfaction. In another study, 46 percent of participants reported being phubbed by their partner, and over 22 percent reported that phubbing had caused conflicts in their relationships.

Phubbing can also impact one's mental health over time. In the latter

mentioned study, almost 37 percent of participants reported feeling depressed due to phubbing. Other research has found that smartphone addiction, internet addiction, lack of self-control and discipline and fear of missing out, are the main predictors of phubbing.

And phubbing impacts everyone—from grandparents to young children. Disregarding others you're with for a phone or device has become commonplace for many people, and when the behavior is bad enough, it sadly doesn't just harm relationships, it can shut down important bonds and moments.

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Santa Ain't Coming

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

I don't think land use will change much with the upcoming new zoning ordinance that's being written now. I hope you can accept life under Loudoun's existing zoning, which has been harmful to rural Loudoun.

OPINION

The zoning rewrite is based upon the 2019 General Plan, adopted after much input from a group of "Stakeholders." It's full of aspirational balderdash, like "The County's land development approach for the Rural Policy Area is to limit residential development so that land will remain available for the continued operation, expansion, and establishment of agricultural and rural economy uses."

The Stakeholders group was dominated by business types and frankly, they won.

How would you interpret that italicized statement from the General Plan?

Protecting true agriculture is great, but the Plan seems to subordinate residences to rural economy uses, and "rural economy" includes noxious operations you would not want anywhere near you, like feedlots.

The "rural economy" also includes many questionable or vague things that promoters can abuse, such as "agritainment," farm tourism, country inns, and outdoor recreation establishments. That last one would seem to allow a go-kart track next door to your home.

I'm on the Zoning Ordinance Committee, which is advising Planning staff on the new zoning code and ZOC is now using a subcommittee structure as it finalizes its zoning recommendations. While this has been a very long process since its gestation as the "Envision Loudoun" public hearings in 2018, things seem rushed now. Pity.

I'll be on the Uses subcommittee, which will focus on what things can be located where. Other subcommittees are Zoning Districts, Development Standards and for some idealism, Attainable Housing. Each committee could advocate zoning provisions that would protect rural Loudoun, but there are obstacles.

There are five members of each subcommittee. Our Uses group includes a conservationist, an architect, a planner, a land-use attorney and me. There will be comity, but we do have different perspectives. That's a fundamental obstacle for every subcommittee and could tilt deliberations toward keeping the status quo as a compromise. That would be dreadful for rural Loudoun since current zoning is drowning us with sprawl.

Shouldn't residents of an area control what happens around them? Why

should I get a vote on land use issues in eastern Loudoun? Why should people elsewhere have a voice on what happens here in the west? In the spirit of populism, I strongly object to giving business advocates *any* voice at all. Sure, listen to what expertise they may have, but they should not participate in deliberations. The county belongs to the people, not LLCs and Inc.'s.

There isn't one now, but there should be another subcommittee that deals holistically and comprehensively with the Urban Planning Area, which is near Metro and where urban development will be encouraged. I've suggested this to the powers-that-be, but I'm not optimistic.

ZOC started with great hopes but another obstacle is that, ultimately, the County planning staff controls the process. Our planners are good folk, but

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Induced Demand and the Rt. 7/287 Interchange

BY ADAM STEVENSON

The Virginia Department of Transportation recently proposed improvements at the Rt. 7/287 interchange. The project scope "includes lengthened and widened ramps and expanded turn and through lanes along Rt. 287 between Eastgate Drive and the westbound Rt. 7 entrance/exit ramps." It also includes "expanded pedestrian access to the W&OD Trail and traffic signal modifications."

OPINION

These proposed "improvements" are a mixed bag. Expanded pedestrian access, if well-designed, would be welcome in this area.

However, the widening of ramps and turn lanes runs counter to constructive placemaking. What I mean by that is that by making it easier for cars to travel through the town of Purcellville you, in effect, induce demand for these roadways. The effect of this increase in demand, after the roadways are widened and made more convenient for increased use, is that the stated goals of road widening remain unfulfilled.

Our approach to cars, in the post-war era at least, has been based on an assumption that there is some sort of magic percentage of land that must be paved over to fit cars (both when stationary and when moving) and then we will somehow enter a car

utopia where we can zip from point A to point B without a care in the world.

In this "cartopia," as it were, we have our cake and eat it, too. We have fun and vibrant communities, but we can leave them and enter them without a hint of traffic. Nothing seems further away from our lived reality. The truth is that there is likely not some fixed amount of cars that will traverse a certain area regardless of road conditions.

We can induce (and reduce) demand for cars by how we accommodate cars. Folks will substitute personal car rides for bus rides, bike rides, walks, and ride shares when convenient. And these become relatively more convenient when movement by car starts to become relatively less convenient. Cars, as necessary as they are, have the potential to erode places by slow but persistent changes that widen roadways, expand parking lots and hollow out the places we call home—changing our "places to live" to "places to leave" (preferably by car).

The concept of induced demand not only has an effect on the quality of life of our town, it has a general effect on our localized efforts at minimizing carbon emissions to mitigate rapid climate change.

Smart Growth America states it succinctly and clearly: "Even if we hit the most ambitious targets for

changing our cars and trucks over to electric vehicles, we will fail to meaningfully reduce emissions from transportation without confronting this simple fact: *new roads always produce new driving*. This costly feedback loop referred to as "induced demand" is the invisible force short-circuiting the never-ending attempts to eliminate congestion by building or expanding roads."

Instead of pouring money into wider roads that won't and can't solve the problem of congestion (as congestion is simply a feature of heavily used roadways when intensively used) we should encourage our elected leaders to enshrine the concept of induced demand into any new traffic study.

This will ensure that any road widening or creation will be fiscally and environmentally responsible and responsive. This in turn will create a virtuous cycle. As congestion is treated as a complex problem (not a simple and non-dynamic problem to be quickly solved by newer and wider roads), we will look to a wider array of tools—concepts such as encouraging active transportation, improving and regularizing public transportation, and shifting toward mixed-use development patterns. And these tools are integral to constructive placemaking. While road-building necessarily shrinks place, these other methods

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Brandon Michon has my number one vote in the May 21 primary

Dear Editor:

COVID opened the eyes of thousands of parents around the U.S. to the sad state of the American Public Education System. School Board meetings that used to be snooze fests became headline news.

LETTER

Parents began organizing groups so that their voices could be amplified, a voice that has been all but silent in recent decades.

I first saw Brandon Michon on television last year while I still lived in Oklahoma. He had said what many parents across the country had been thinking regarding their school boards during COVID.

I remember thinking that this passionate father was speaking for so many of us out in the country who were struggling with children learning from home over zoom and juggling our regular jobs and the discovery that what our children were learning was minimal at best and damaging at worst.

We moved out to Loudoun County late last year, and I started following the 10th Congressional District Republican candidates. There are a lot of them, and I believe most of them are outstanding people with great intentions.

However, I was undecided as for whom I would cast my number one vote in the firehouse primary on May 21, un-

til about a month ago. I was at a Moms For Liberty meeting, and Brandon was there to speak about his candidate platform. Brandon believes the best way to beat Jennifer Wexton and provide the most assistance to families is to focus on the three things that affect us all: education, safety, and the economy.

Brandon has won my vote because he has an actual plan to make education better in this country. A plan to focus on literacy and education remediation is something many of us are concerned about and don't hear nearly enough. He has won my vote that night because he specifically discussed the need for financial literacy programs to be taught at younger ages. I'll take teaching my child about balancing a checkbook and the difference between a debit and credit card over gender ideology and socialist flavored propaganda.

Brandon appreciates what law enforcement, border patrol, and the military do to keep us safe. In addition, his background in finance from his time in New York City makes him uniquely qualified to understand the complexities of the economy.

Brandon has my number one vote because he has well-thought-out ideas on how to improve government areas that will make my everyday life easier.

*Kathleen J. Anderson
Ashburn*

Since when does a developer's consulting engineer speak for the County?

Dear Editor:

When a taxpayer and long-term resident of Loudoun County sends a letter of concern to a County official about a proposed development in their neighborhood, is it common practice for that letter to be forwarded to the developer's consulting engineer? It wouldn't seem so, but this is what we experienced.

LETTER

Just up the hill from our farm, a Public Notice invited comments to be sent to the Director, Department of Building and Development, regarding a preliminary subdivision application by Carrington Builders for 9 lots on 47.40 acres on the west-facing slope of Short Hill Mountain.

For the 20+ years we have lived here, that property has been densely planted with white pines and hardwoods. It is home to abundant wild-



life. Black bears have been spotted many times coming down from the mountain; wild turkeys are everywhere, as are owls, hawks, eagles, and even wood ducks.

The land has now been cleared for driveways and wells have been drilled. We predict many more trees will be clear-cut if this project is allowed to go forward. Short Hill Road currently floods during heavy rains, and the ruts and gullies can be extremely hazardous. VDOT already

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Youngkin joins Google to announce support for Computer Science Partnerships

Gov. Glenn Youngkin alongside Google Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist Vint Cerf announced, in mid-April, that Google has pledged to invest \$300 million in Virginia with a total economic impact to the Commonwealth at approximately \$8.8 billion.

GOVERNMENT

In addition, Google announced a \$250,000 grant to Virginia's computer science advocacy and service provider, CodeVA. CodeVA will partner together with Google and other critical stakeholders to develop a network of Computer Science Lab Schools, provide computer science professional development opportunities for computer science teachers and expand computer science resources for Virginia's students and workers looking to re-skill for the knowledge economy.

Google will also partner with our Virginia Community College System's 23 colleges and our 5 Higher Education Centers to provide a turnkey set of professional certificates to help workers and learners gain the most in-demand skills and competencies.

"Google's investment and partnership announcement is a timely and exciting development for the Commonwealth. Code with Google and CodeVA will prepare the next generation of Virginia's students for careers in computer science.

"As governor, I am committed to creating workforce development opportunities, expanding our computer science opportunities for Virginia's students, and reestablishing high expectations in education. Now the general assembly must act to move forward with lab schools to

maximize the potential of the partnerships announced today for the benefit of Virginia's students," said Youngkin.

"I have lived in Virginia for more than 40 years and am thrilled to see Google continue to grow and invest in the region," said Vint Cerf, VP and Chief Internet Evangelist at Google. "We're committed to playing a positive role in the communities we call home, and our latest partnerships with CodeVA, VCCS, and the Department of Education to help nurture the next generation of tech talent in Virginia are another testament to that commitment."

The Grow with Google Partner Program provides free resources that community organizations can use to teach digital skills that can help people grow their careers and businesses. Partners receive, at no cost, program materials, training and a

dedicated support team. They work with partners of all sizes from anywhere in the United States.

With its data centers in Loudoun County and a growing office in Reston, Google has over 480 employees across the Commonwealth working in critical functions such as Google Cloud and the infrastructure that makes Google services like Search fast and reliable for users around the world. Since 2012, Google has donated more than \$20 million to Virginia nonprofits.

In 2021, Google helped provide \$8.84 billion of economic activity for Virginia businesses, publishers, creators, developers and nonprofits. Learn more about Google in Virginia at: g.co/economicimpact/virginia.

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- Aug. 12 *Soul Stirrin' Rock*
The Talton Brothers
- Aug. 19 *A Touch of Class*
Appalachian Chamber Music Festival
- Aug. 26 *The Beatles! Beat*
Mostly Fab
- Sept. 2 *Down-Home Roots*
Hard Swimmin' Fish



Sponsorships are still available: sponsorships@HillsboroPreservation.org

Educational seminars offered during Mental Health Awareness Month

During May – Mental Health Awareness Month – the Prevention Alliance of Loudoun will feature a virtual series of free seminars for parents to learn more about mental health wellness for youth and teens. PAL is a coalition of youth, Loudoun County agencies, faith-based organizations, other community stakeholders and parents dedicated to mental health awareness and substance misuse prevention efforts.

GOVERNMENT

The Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services; Loudoun County Public Schools Student Assistance Services; Loudoun County Sheriff's Office; and Virginia Tobacco Control Program are key member agencies of PAL organizing this seminar series.

"Today's youth and teens face a variety of societal distractions and peer pressures that can have significant impact on their overall mental

health and wellness," said Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services Director Margaret Graham. "These workshops offer parents and guardians the opportunity to learn more about mental health wellness for their children."

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

- **Current Drug Trends:** Tuesday,

May 10, 7 - 8 p.m.

- **Internet Safety:** Tuesday, May 17, 7 - 8 p.m.
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):** Tuesday, May 24, 7 - 8 p.m.
- **Talking to Your Teen About Vaping:** Tuesday, May 31, 7 - 8 p.m.

More information about PAL and Loudoun County's mental health wellness programs may be found at loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention.

Gov. Youngkin signs the Virginia Literacy Act

Gov. Glenn Youngkin ceremonially signed the bipartisan Virginia Literacy Act, on April 28, sponsored by Delegate Carrie Coyner, R-Hopewell, and Senate President

GOVERNMENT

pro tempore, Senator Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth, a bill which will empower parents and students with a transformational focus on early childhood literacy.

The Virginia Literacy Act, HB 319

& SB 616, ensures that teachers are trained in the science of reading, supported by science-driven professional development, and requires school systems to provide all students with instruction, screening, and monitoring of their early reading progress, with those results shared with parents.

Working with parents, schools will be required to create an individualized reading plan for each student identified to have a reading deficiency. The bill also requires that school systems provide resources to support literacy development at home.

"The most important thing we can do, as parents, as educators, and as a community, is ensure our children learn to read, so that they can read to learn. Today is a meaningful bipartisan step forward to give our students the tools they need to succeed not only in the classroom, but in life," said Youngkin. "We have a real challenge on our hands when it comes to childhood literacy. Over the last few years, Virginia has seen a decrease in reading proficiency and the pandemic has magnified this challenge facing families, students, and educators."

"We have a reading crisis on our hands as recently released data from the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) assessment, which identifies students in grades K-2 who are at risk for reading difficulties, reveals our children's reading peril. The data shows that even before the pandemic too many children in Virginia were failing to reach reading benchmarks, and that children of color, children with disabilities, and children living in poverty were disproportionately performing below

benchmark," said Delegate Carrie Coyner, patron of HB 319.

"Today we celebrate the Virginia Literacy Act being signed into law as it will ensure all students receive the support they need to become proficient readers by third grade; parents receive information to ensure their children receive the instruction they need to become proficient readers; and teachers have access to professional development and curriculum for scientifically based core literacy instruction and to better identify and assist students with reading difficulties. Our scientific based approach to literacy with our youngest learners will prepare all students for future scholastic achievement in higher grades."

"The Virginia Literacy Act is a game-changing bipartisan effort currently stuck in neutral until the budget passes," said Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera. "Implementing this evidence-based legislation, including deploying reading coaches to work with our most-behind students and their teachers, is critical to preparing children to succeed across the Commonwealth. This transformational work cannot start until the General Assembly delivers appropriate funding to the Governor's desk."

Additionally, Youngkin added: "This legislation aims to ensure above all else that every student, no matter their zip code, family income, or background, learns to read leveraging the most effective, evidence-based methods. Early literacy is the foundation for succeeding in school and in life. We must do everything to provide our students with every tool to achieve their unique dreams."

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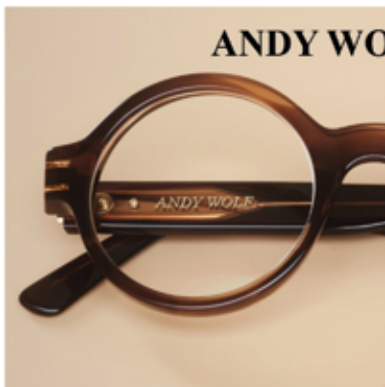
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Four members of LCSO receive Virginia Sheriffs' Institute Certification

Four members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office were recognized at the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute Certification Program.

The VSI Certification Program recognizes those Virginia sheriffs and deputies who continue individual professional development and a commitment to excellence, life-long learning, and advancement of public safety as a profession.

GOVERNMENT

Recognized from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office were Major Easton McDonald, 1st Lieutenant Paul Loconti, Sergeant Michael Safford, and Detective Matthew Bucco.

Twenty-three members of the LCSO have received the certification since the inaugural class of the VSI Certification Program in 2018- the largest number of recipients from any one sheriff's office in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"The fact that more members of the LCSO have been recognized through the VSI Certification Program than any other sheriff's office in Virginia exemplifies the professionalism of the agency and our staff. It is also a testament to our leadership's expectation for their professional service," said Sheriff Chapman.

Each recipient of the certificate met specific requirements to include years of service, education, hours of training (career development), and professional development, including instruction in public safety training.

The VSI Certification Program was developed by the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute in cooperation with the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, the Performance Management Group at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at the Virginia Commonwealth University, and the Virginia Center for Policing Innovation.

Loudoun Workforce Resource Center offers career workshops

During May — Older Americans Month — the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center will feature special virtual and in-person events at no cost for adults aged 50 and up, who are seeking job search and career development support.

"Our celebration of Older Americans Month will highlight services, programs and opportunities available to individuals age 50 and older," said Loudoun County Workforce Program Manager Shelly Rodriguez. "The workshops cover a variety of community interests and needs, including topics such as avoiding job scams and changing careers."

Some of the workshops will take place at the center, which is located at 705 E. Market St., Suite E, Leesburg; some workshops will be virtual. Visit loudoun.gov/wrcworkshops for detailed information about each

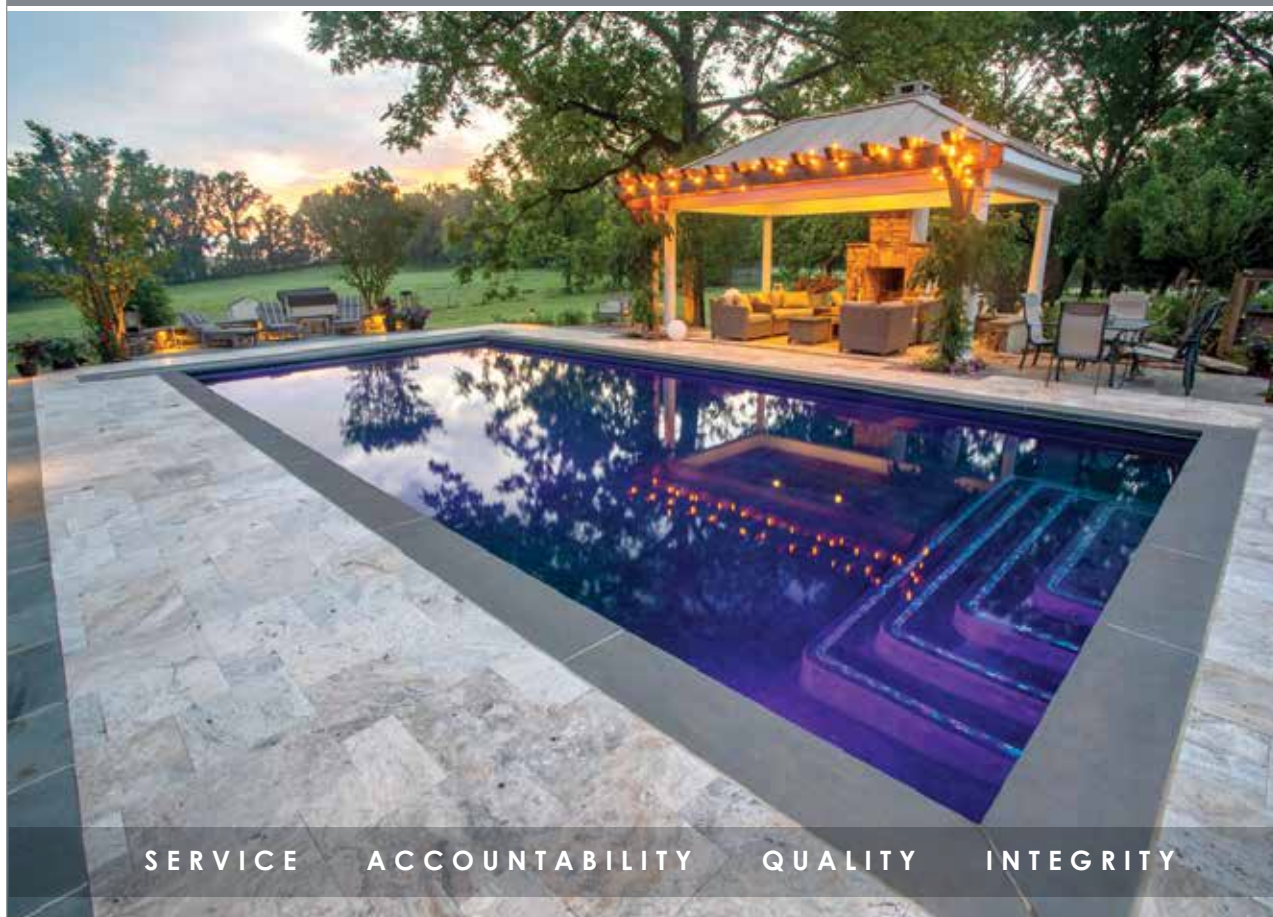
event and how to register. Events will include:

- How Volunteering Benefits Older Adults: May 5, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. (On-site)
- How to Avoid Job Scams (Two Sessions): May 9, 8 - 9 a.m. (Virtual); May 26, 12 - 1 p.m. (On-site)
- Older Workers & Smart Job Search Strategies: May 10, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (On-site)
- Changing Careers at Any Age: May 12, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Virtual)
- Senior Community Service Employment Program: May 13, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. (On-site)
- Workforce Data and Career Trends for Mature Workers: May 19, 12 - 1 p.m. (Virtual)

Additionally, representatives from the following programs will be on-site at the Loudoun Workforce Resource

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

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Gov. Youngkin donates salary to the VALEPA

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced that he will donate his first-quarter salary to the Virginia Law Enforcement Assistance Program, an organization dedicated to helping law enforcement officers and first responders who have undergone traumatic critical incidents in the line of duty or in their personal lives.

GOVERNMENT

During his 2021 campaign, the Governor pledged to donate his gubernatorial salary. Today, he announced the donation of \$43,750 at VALEAP's Post Critical Incident Seminar in Harrisonburg, Va.

"I pledged to serve our Commonwealth without accepting a salary be-

cause I want to continue giving back to the Commonwealth and helping Virginians in every way I can," said Youngkin,

"I have chosen to donate my salary to the Virginia Law Enforcement Assistance Program because of their important mission to assist law enforcement personnel and first responders who have undergone traumatic critical incidents.

"This reaffirms my ongoing commitment to support our men and women in law enforcement with mental health resources, training, and equipment to ensure that we are serving those that protect our communities across the Commonwealth."

LC-CFRS Smoke Alarm Program for residents has started

The Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System's annual smoke alarm program kicked off in April and will continue to October in neighborhoods across Loudoun County.

"During a house fire, you have an average of three minutes to escape your home," said Fire Chief Keith Johnson. "Smoke alarms provide you precious time to escape and reduce the risk of dying in a fire by half."

GOVERNMENT

As part of the annual smoke alarm program, firefighters from stations across Loudoun County are taking a hands-on approach to fire safety by canvassing neighborhoods one weekend a month from April to October. First responders

will go door to door between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. offering free smoke alarm assessments and valuable information about fire safety and home escape planning.

During the assessment, firefighters will test existing smoke alarms, assist with battery replacement, and replace the smoke alarms at no cost if they are not working properly or exceed the ten-year recommended lifespan.

In addition to the scheduled smoke alarm canvasses through October, Loudoun residents can request a free smoke alarm assessment at any time by completing the online form at loudoun.gov/smokealarms, or by calling the smoke alarm program hotline at 703-737-8093.

Open Burning Ban takes effect

The Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Fire Marshal's Office reminds residents and visitors that open burning is prohibited in Loudoun County and the

GOVERNMENT

incorporated Towns of Hamilton, Hillsboro, Leesburg, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville, and Round Hill, between May 1 and September 30.

These regulations prohibit open air fires or open burning with the following considerations:

- Campfires, no larger than three feet in diameter by two feet in height and used for cooking purposes, are exempt from these prohibitions, provided they are not within 50

feet of any structure.

- Portable outdoor fireplaces and chimineas are not considered open burning but must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Single-family, attached and detached, homes are exempt from the distance mandate but are strongly encouraged to follow this fire safe practice.
- On a year-round basis, open burning (to include campfires) is always prohibited in the town

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 >

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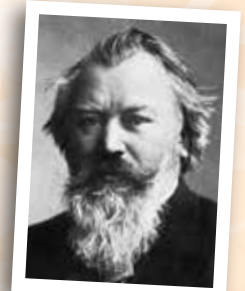
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BOS adopts FY 2023 Budget

In early April, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved a budget totaling approximately \$3.5 billion in total appropriations for the general county government and school system for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

The adopted budget includes a real property tax rate of \$0.89 cents per \$100 in assessed value for tax year 2022, which is 9 cents lower than the current tax rate. The adopted budget also includes a personal property tax rate of \$4.15 per \$100 in assessed value in tax year 2023, which is 5 cents lower than the current rate.

The FY 2023 adopted budget includes:

- An increase over FY 2022 of approximately \$53.7 million in local tax funding to Loudoun County Public Schools.
- \$15 million in base budget adjustments to continue providing current services, including increases in contracts and ongoing maintenance agreements, lease and utility increases and inflationary impacts.
- An increase of \$19.1 million for employee compensation,

which includes a 5 percent merit increase for the general workforce and a step increase for public safety employees, as well as funding for salary scale adjustments and pay compression adjustments.

- The addition of 196 positions in 21 different county departments to open new facilities, maintain or enhance current service levels, support the county's Capital Improvement Program and position the organization to pursue the Board's strategic initiatives.
- Funding in an amount equivalent to one-half cent of the real property tax rate dedicated to affordable housing programs through a combination of dedicated revenue and cash proffers, which amounts to approximately \$6.2 million in FY 2023.

The FY 2023 adopted budget also includes funding for several Board of Supervisors strategic initiatives, including collective bargaining administration, equity and inclusion, housing, oversight

of medical privacy laws, and the transition to a locally administered health department.

In addition, the adopted budget includes Loudoun County's operating and capital subsidy payments to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in advance of the anticipated start of Metrorail's Silver Line revenue service in Loudoun County.

Capital Improvement Program

The Board also adopted the FY 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Program that totals approximately \$3 billion for the six-year planning period and includes county and school projects. The category with the largest expenditure percentage is general government projects at 37 percent, followed by transportation projects at 36 percent and school projects at 27 percent.

The adopted CIP incorporates nearly all of the projects included in the Loudoun County School Board's adopted capital plan and includes the acceleration of a new high school (HS-14) as well as additions and improvements to Park View and William Obediah Robey high schools.

New county government projects

include a focus on advancing the Linear Parks and Trails Signature project, expanding general government office space, and other smaller projects such as installation of charging stations for electric vehicles at county facilities.

The CIP also calls for increased funding to the Intersection Improvement Program and the Sidewalks and Trails Program and includes funding for safety improvements to Evergreen Mills Road.

Fiscal Year 2023

The FY 2023 budget will go into effect July 1, 2022. The real property tax rate of \$0.89 per \$100 assessed value and the personal property tax rate of \$4.20 per \$100 of assessed value are effective as of Jan. 1 and will be used for the spring tax collection. The personal property tax rate of \$4.15 per \$100 assessed value is planned to be effective as of Jan. 1, 2023 and will be used for tax year 2023 collections.

With an increase in real property assessments for tax year 2022, the average homeowner in Loudoun County can expect a real property tax bill increase of about \$225 in tax year 2022.

The complete adopted budget document will be posted on the county's website in the coming weeks. More information about the budget process is online at loudoun.gov/budget.



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Road Closures scheduled for Loudoun Courthouse Construction

Loudoun County is scheduled to continue utility work as part of the Loudoun County Courts Complex Expansion project, which will lead to overnight traffic detours for about two weeks, which began May 1.

Weather permitting, the construction will take place in the evenings from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m., Sunday through Friday. This construction will require several roads to be closed, including:

- Edwards Ferry Road from Harrison Street NE to King Street.
- Church Street from Edwards Ferry Road and Market Street to Cornwall Street.
- Market Street from Harrison Street SE to King Street.

Traffic will be detoured around the construction. Road closure barriers, construction signs and detour signs will be setup prior to the work commencing each night and will be taken

down the following morning. Access will be maintained to businesses at 114 and 116 Edwards Ferry Road in Colonial Square.

Drivers and pedestrians should use extra caution when traveling through this area and follow all directions from the posted signs and road crews.

Visitors to the Loudoun County Courthouse continue to have access to the existing building. Free parking is available in the Pennington Lot and Pennington Garage, which is located off Church Street, approximately two blocks from the courthouse. For more information about planning your trip to the courthouse, visit loudoun.gov/courthouse.

For more information about the new courthouse construction project, including a map of the planned detours, and to sign up for email and text updates on the project, visit loudoun.gov/courts-expansion.

GOVERNMENT

Several E. Coli cases associated with petting goats

The Loudoun County Health Department is notifying the public of the exposure to a specific type of bacterium, called Shiga Toxin Producing E. coli, by several people who came in contact with goats at Georges Mill Farm in Lovettsville between

COMMUNITY

March 6 and April 20. Several individuals experienced diarrhea and other symptoms of illness. The bacterium was isolated and identified by the Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services.

Coming into direct contact with animals, particularly livestock, presents a risk for illnesses. People should remember that, while animal interactions can be fun and educational, it's always important to practice healthy habits around pets and other animals, such as washing your hands after being in contact with animals. The Loudoun County Health Department is communicating directly with those who are known to have come in contact with goats at Georges Mill Farm. Anyone who had contact with these goats during this time frame

and has not yet communicated with the Health Department should:

- Monitor for illness and seek medical attention if you become ill. Let your healthcare provider know of your possible exposure to assist in your diagnosis and treatment.
- Report your exposure to the Loudoun County Health Department by completing this short survey.

The staff at the farm have assisted the Health Department in identifying who may be at risk of illness and by helping to prevent future infections. There is no evidence of ongoing risk to visitors at Georges Mill Farm.

E. Coli Symptoms

Symptoms of E. coli illness usually start two to four days after exposure, but can occur as late as 12 hours later, or as long as 10 days after exposure. Symptoms of STEC may include:

- Diarrhea with stomach cramps
- Blood may also be present in the stool

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

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Rt. 15: The rubber hits the road May 11

BY LAURA LONGLEY

On May 11, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors is set to begin deliberations on the future of Rt. 15 from Montesor Road and around the Village of Lucketts to Point of Rocks Bridge.

The formal language on the Board's agenda is: "To amend the *Loudoun County 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan (2019 CTP)* by changing the planned ultimate condition of US Route 15, between Montesor Road and the Maryland state line, to accommodate Concept B – Capacity and Safety Improvements, which the Board of Supervisors (Board) endorsed (6-2-1: Buffington and Higgins opposed; Buona absent) on July 18, 2019."

Members of the public may sign up now to speak and deliver their comments, in person at the County government building in Leesburg or remotely. Speakers are typically given at least two minutes to deliver their comments.

At stake is the future of the still rural northeast area of Loudoun known as "Lost Corner." This Board meeting will

be the first time the body has taken up the controversial project to widen and introduce safety improvements on this rural road since it was referred to the Planning Commission last year.

Will Lost Corner will be lost forever? Many people who live in Loudoun believe Rt. 15 has become a de facto outer beltway for the Washington Metro region, used primarily by Maryland commuters. Those residents also are concerned that Loudoun taxpayers alone would bear the burden of a \$300 million-plus project they see as unnecessary. Farmers and rural economy businesses along this stretch of Rt. 15 have made the case that the project as presented is overblown, that what is needed are safety improvements such as widened shoulders, roundabouts, and traffic calming measures to facilitate smoother—and slower—traffic flow.

Meanwhile, residents of relatively new housing developments on Rt. 15 have lobbied for widening.

The proposal has been under consideration by the Planning Commission for months as its members have debated

the pros and cons of the project and requested additional information and revisions from County staff. The Commissioners voted on March 11 to forward (5-4: Combs, Kirchner, Merrithew, and Vance opposed), the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to the Board with a recommendation to approve the CPAM. They added the following comments and recommendations for the Supervisors to consider:

The Planning Commission supports the Village of Lucketts bypass but does not include endorsement of a specific alignment; it recommends that safety improvements be prioritized if the ultimate project is phased and requests that the Board act on safety improvements within 24 months; and the Planning Commission recommends that the Board commission a study to better understand the economic impacts of proposed improvements on local businesses and farms.

County staff is recommending that the Board approve the Comprehensive Plan Amendment as presented. The staff also will recommend that the

Board endorse future improvements and respond to several concerns, including prioritizing an eastern bypass alignment around the Village of Lucketts, demonstrating consistency with the Heritage Resource Policies of the 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan and design principles and practices of The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area Corridor Management Plan; consulting with the County Archaeologist prior to approval of construction plans regarding historic resources; and avoiding direct impacts, such as acquisition of land or interest in land, to any parcel that is enrolled with an Agricultural and Forrestral District.

The staff closes: "The CPAM is ready for Board action."

For the public, the question is whether they believe the Board should take action to expand Rt. 15 into a regional transportation corridor or implement safety improvements, roundabouts, and traffic calming to retain the rural character and agricultural economy of Loudoun's Lost Corner.



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DTC adds new merchants

Dulles Town Center, located in Sterling, has added five new retailers, including Yummy Shawarma, a new food court addition; J Foot Spa, a brand-new massage concept; Spin Zone, a children's entertainment offering; Cannabreeze, a wellness addition; and AubScents, a new pop-up retailer testing its first ever storefront.

BUSINESS

The center's pop-up program has become a coveted offering at Dulles Town Center, giving local small business entrepreneurs the opportunity to try out a physical storefront for a low-risk, affordable engagement.

"Our leasing team has carefully curated the new businesses we are announcing today, selecting those that we believe will best meet the wants and needs of our valued shoppers," says Bryan Touchstone, Senior General Manager of Dulles Town Center. "With the diverse lineup of merchants in today's announcement, we're excited to be able to highlight the popularity of the 'shop local' movement as well as the strength of our pop-up program at Dulles Town Center that allows new business owners to have a presence in the mall and an opportunity to showcase their products and services."

New Merchants include:

- **Yummy Shawarma:** Bringing a new international taste to Dulles Town Center, Yummy Shawarma will offer Middle Eastern cuisine, including falafels, hummus, steak and chicken platters, and pitas. Expected to open in Q2 2022, Yummy Shawarma will be located in the food court next to Chick-fil-A.
- **J Foot Spa:** Dulles Town Center guests will enjoy treatments available at J Foot Spa, a brand-new massage concept including full-body massages, foot massages, and facials. Expected to open this

summer, the 1,400-square-foot J Foot Spa will be located on the lower level near Macy's. For more information, visit <http://jfootspa.com>.

- **Spin Zone:** With bumper cars sized just right for kids and their families, Spin Zone offers the kind of fun-filled family entertainment that builds lasting memories. The new 4,360-square-foot Spin Zone, expected to open in June 2022, will be located on the lower level near Hollister.
- **Cannabreeze:** Sharing the potential benefits of hemp, Cannabreeze offers a full line of CBD-infused skincare products, oils, creams, lotions, lip balms, bath bombs, tinctures, edibles, and pet products. Cannabreeze, open now, operates from a kiosk on the lower level in the Macy's wing, outside Francesca's. To learn more, visit <https://cannabreezehemp.com>.
- **AubScents:** A local woman owned business, AubScents offers its own line of handmade soaps, bath bombs and body scrubs. Opening in May, AubScents will occupy a 1,500-square-foot storefront at Dulles Town Center through the end of August; the store is located on the lower level near Center Court. For more information, visit <https://aubscent.com>.

Other retailers added in recent months at Dulles Town Center include: Handmade by LMAC, a collaborative retail store featuring local Loudoun County makers, artists and crafters; Pressy, a one-stop-shop for custom embroidery designs, t-shirt and team uniform printing, monogramming and heat transfer; Socks To Be You, a unique purveyor of all-things-socks; massage studio Relaxing Work; and an optometry office, EYE-DOCDULLES.

Virginia Executive Mansion tour is Historic Garden Week grand finale

Gov. Glenn Youngkin invited Virginians for a walk-through of the Executive Mansion during Historic Garden Week. The Executive Mansion and its historic Charles Gillette garden was among the many outstanding gardens to be open across the Commonwealth.

"I hope Virginians were able to take advantage of

this opportunity to visit and enjoy Garden Week," said Youngkin. "The Executive Mansion and Charles Gillette garden are true historic treasures."



The Virginia Executive Mansion, built in 1813, is the oldest continuously occupied Governor's home in the United States built for that purpose.

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Remembering Henry Garnett Plaster

Henry Garnett Plaster, Jr., 93, of Bluemont, Virginia, passed away peacefully on March 21, 2022. He was born July 26, 1928, to Henry Garnett Plaster, Sr. and Jerusha Lohman Plaster in Washington, DC.

After graduating from St. Albans School in 1946, he went on to receive a B.S. in Physics at Duke University in 1950, and was part of the NROTC program. He received a master's degree in Engineering Administration from The George Washington University in 1961.

Following his graduation from col-



lege, he began active duty in the United States Navy. He served in the Korean War and received a battle star in 1953.

He resigned his commission in June 1953 and subsequently retired as a Lieutenant, USNR.

Plaster was hired by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1954 and while his work at the agency was classified, he played a major role in a variety of CIA efforts including the CORONA and HEXAGON

satellite programs. After serving his country for more than 43 years at the CIA, he retired in 1993 as the Cold War

ended. He was awarded the Intelligence Medal of Merit in 1971, and the CIA Career Intelligence Medal.

After his retirement he left Bethesda, Maryland and moved to his family farm Glenmeade in Bluemont. Henry and his wife Anne became very involved in their local community. He was the longtime Chairman of the Snickersville Turnpike Association and a very active member of the Bluemont Citizens Association. He was also involved in preserving local Civil War history.

He was predeceased by his parents, his wife Anne Austin Plaster and his daughter Elizabeth Plaster, and is survived by Henry (Christi) Plaster III, Wil-

liam (Amy) Plaster, Anne Plaster (Jeff) Schroeder, and four grandchildren George Plaster, Elie Plaster, Henry Plaster IV, and Austin Plaster.

The funeral service was held on April 2, at Bluemont United Methodist Church, 33843 Snickersville Turnpike, Bluemont, Virginia. He is buried in his family plot at the historic Ebenezer Cemetery near Bluemont.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Bluemont Heritage (www.bluemontheritage.org), or to the Snickersville Turnpike Association, P.O. Box 452, Philomont, VA 20131. Arrangements were made by Hall Funeral Home of Purcellville, Virginia.

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Remembering Alexander “Alec” Dunne Walsh

Alexander Dunne Walsh was born on Sept. 27, 1943 and passed away on March 27, 2022.

Known to everyone as Alec – he was born to James and Betty Walsh – and raised on the family farm, Berkeley, in Bluemont, Virginia.

Walsh developed a love for western Loudoun County, where family roots reached back to the early 1900’s. Riding a school bus 16 miles daily to attend Loudoun County High School in Leesburg, he graduated in 1961 and then left Loudoun to attend Virginia Tech. He graduated in 1965, and became a lifelong Hokie sports fan.

After college he taught in Prince William County, Virginia before switching careers to become a real estate agent. With a keen sense for business,

he eventually opened his own company, Walsh and Associates, and became one of the most successful real estate agents in Loudoun County.

An avid golfer, Walsh golfed for many years at the Loudoun Golf and Country Club in Purcellville, and served as President from 1996 to 1999.

Walsh also volunteered in supporting local youth sports, and served as President of Ebenezer Cemetery in Bluemont.

Left to perpetuate his memory are his four siblings, Jerry Walsh (Nancy), Mary Liz McCauley



(Steve), Timmy Walsh (Diane) and Pat Walsh, and his nieces and nephews Laura Walsh, Jennifer Glor, Ken Walsh and RJ Walsh, and great niece Charlotte Walsh and great nephew Brock Walsh.

Alec touched many lives, and leaves behind countless friends and colleagues who will be telling tales about him for many years yet to come.

Anyone wishing to make a donation in Alec’s memory may do so by making a memorial contribution to Ebenezer Cemetery Inc., P.O. Box 174, Purcellville, Virginia 20134.

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Remembering Evelyn L. Jenkins

Evelyn L. Jenkins passed away peacefully at her home in Purcellville, with her family by her side on April 13, 2022. Evelyn was 77 years old. She is the daughter of the late Willard and Lillian Stringer.

Evelyn grew up in Great Falls, Virginia and went to Herndon High School.

She is survived by her loving husband, Roland, of over 60 years. She has three daughters: Michele Jenkins of Richmond, Karen (Keith) Lawson of Lovettsville and Cheryl Jenkins of Purcellville. She is survived by her brother, Gene Stringer (Dee)

of Sterling, and her sister Joyce (Mike) Koppe of Chester, and her brother-in-law Marvin Jenkins (Sally) of Rapidan, Virginia. Evelyn has four grandchildren: Naki-sha, Nicholas, Jacob, and Lauren and four great-grandchildren.

Evelyn worked for Loudoun County Public Schools as a Special Ed bus driver for 35 years. She loved spending time with friends and co-workers. She cared about others and was happy to help anyone in need.

The family hosted visitors on April 18,

2022, at Hall Funeral Home at 140 S. Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, Virginia 20132, followed by funeral service at noon. Interment was at Ketocin Church Cemetery 16595 Ketocin Church Road, Purcellville, Va.

This is the link to the funeral homes web page <https://www.hallfh.com/obituaries/Evelyn-Louise-Jenkins?obId=24574080#/obituaryInfo>.

Donations may be made to the Capital Caring Health at 24419 Millstream Drive, Aldie, Va. 20105.



LCAS Hosts Free Adoption Event May 7

On Saturday, May 7, Loudoun County Animal Services will host a “Homeward Bound” free pet adoption event from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Adoption fees will be waived on all available cats, kittens, dogs, puppies, small pets and reptiles during the event, which will take place at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, 42225 Adoption Dr., Leesburg. (Please note: Kincaid Boulevard is

COMMUNITY

closed from the direction of Battlefield Parkway. You must use Crosstrail Boulevard to access the facility.)

“Nationwide, shelters are seeing increased intakes of animals, and longer lengths of stay. While we have been fortunate to maintain a high adoption rate here at Loudoun, these events are crucial in helping our local pets find loving forever homes, while also supporting our partner shelters in rural communi-

ties,” says Loudoun County Animal Services Director Nina Stively.

In an effort to help as many pets as possible to be adopted, LCAS will be receiving up to twenty dogs and cats from overcrowded shelters in the region and they will all be up for adoption in addition to the animals already being cared for in the Loudoun County Animal Shelter.

All dogs and cats adopted from LCAS are spayed or neutered, have age-ap-

propriate vaccinations and receive a microchip registered to their adopter. The shelter frequently has many pets available for adoption, including hamsters, guinea pigs, reptiles, rabbits, other small pets and livestock. Potential adopters can view available pets online at loudoun.gov/animals. The standard adoption screening process will apply during the Homeward Bound event and most adoptions can be completed on the same day.

For more information about LCAS, visit loudoun.gov/animals.

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— GARDEN WEEK 2022 —

Barrenwort and other tall tales

BY ANDREA GAINES

This year's Virginia Garden Week went from Saturday, April 23 to Saturday, April 30, for eight days of sun, flowers, history, glory, and spending.

Within an easy driving distance of here were spots in Fairfax County, including one certified as an Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, and others with great appeal to Civil War buffs. There were also popular spots locally in Old Town Alexandria, Winchester, and Leesburg.

Favorite areas such as Williamsburg, Richmond, Petersburg, Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Lynchburg, the Eastern Shore and Roanoke also showed their magnificent colors and appeal.

Then there are the dozens upon dozens upon dozens of floral arrangements on display – 1,000 some in all. 2022 featured nearly 30 unique tours statewide.

An economic powerhouse

Virginia Garden Week hosts tens of thousands of eager visitors and travelers every year.

For that reason, no article on Virginia Garden Week would be complete without a word about the incredible economic impact of this event.

In 2019 statistics show that Garden Week visitors spent nearly \$4 million – dining, shopping, and sometimes over-nighting to their heart's content.

At an average of \$120,000 annually, the household incomes of these visitors make them among the most coveted consumers around. More than one-third of them visit spots in their local communities as well as other spots in the state, spreading the wealth around.

About 25 percent of Virginia Garden Week folks stay overnight, and, historically, they spend an average of over \$1,000 per trip.

Figures from 2019 recorded a total of over 25,000 visitors.

And, importantly, since the 1920s, preservation of Virginia's historic properties and landscapes has been the focus of the event, its visitors, and the monies generated.

Trees planted by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello grow and thrill thanks to Gar-

den Week's extraordinary conservation and preservation ethic.

Memories of garden weeks past

I have been to many, many garden weeks over the years, focusing on the exquisite properties on display right here in Loudoun and surrounding counties.

The most thrilling tours were the first ones, when you got to stroll the grounds or walk the rooms of properties and homes you had come to know simply by driving by.

What always struck me was how familiar they all were. These places you had no real connection to.

Maybe that is because my mother was a great gardener, and because I have always been attracted to old homes. Gardens and old houses were the perfect fit in my eyes. And, gardeners have a connection, too.

Barrenwort

One friend of mine who has served as a Garden Week docent for many years told a story of trying in vain to grow a particular plant called Barrenwort.

As described by one website (gardening-knowhow.com), "Barrenwort (*Epimedium*) is a wonderful perennial garden cover which will stay put, thrive in dry shade, and contribute handsome heart-shaped foliage to a garden bed."

This is what every gardener seeks. An easy perennial plant that grows well in shady spots. One year during Garden Week, this friend, working as a docent at the time, was approached by the owner of a house on tour who showed her how "barrenwort" was done.

The docent had purchased a single plant some time ago, but had never been able to cultivate it successfully, nurturing a two-inch-by-two-inch plant for many years.

The owner of the Leesburg home on the Garden Tour bought her to a spot in her garden that boasted a plush patch of 100 or more thriving Barrenwort plants.

With renewed hope, my friend went back to her two-inch-by-two-inch patch, determined to make it work.

It is little Garden Week moments like this that make the event so special.

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Brooke entered the race for the Commonwealth's 10-Congressional District on February 3rd.

The issues of economy, safety, and education are concerns for VA-10. Brooke is the only GOP candidate with federal government experience in each of these areas.

VA-10 is a majority maker seat for House Republicans at midterms.

The Republican nominee must be the candidate that moderate Democrats will identify with in November.

It will take a woman to beat Jennifer Wexton.

www.brookeforcongress.com

Leesburg Police announce dates for camps

The Leesburg Police Department is offering 2022 summer camps. Residents of the Town of Leesburg are given first consideration for each camp.

Junior Police Camp: June 27 – July 1, (Application due date: May 27)

- This camp (for students who have completed 6th grade but have not yet entered 9th grade) provides youth with law enforcement education for future outstanding citizen, focusing on team building, leadership, conflict resolution, character education and physical fitness.

- Printable application and additional information: <https://www.leesburgva.gov/departments/police/about-the-lpd/junior-police-camp>

Camp Independence: July 11 – 15,

- The purpose of Camp Independence is to include high school students (ages 14-17) who have disabilities in an adapted camp environment where they will be exposed to activities that teach them how to successfully live an independent life.
- There is no application for Camp Independence. Camp Independence participants are selected by the Leesburg Police Department in partnership with

Loudoun County Public Schools.

Kidsmart Safety Camp: July 18 – 22, (Application due date: June 10)

- This camp (for ages 6-10) focuses on a specific safety topic each day. These topics will include animal/wildlife safety, fire safety, firearm safety, personal safety, and bicycle safety.
- Printable application and additional information: <https://www.leesburgva.gov/departments/police/about-the-lpd/kidsmart-safety-camp>

Virginia Rules Themed Camp: July 25 – 29, (Application due date: June 10)

- This camp is a law-themed summer day-camp experience for youth (ages 14-17) hosted by Virginia law enforcement agencies. LPD's Virginia Rules themed camp will offer young people a fun, healthy way to spend a summer week, interactive instruction on Virginia law, lessons on personal responsibility and civic duty, and the opportunity to build positive relationships with law enforcement officers that serve their communities.
- Printable application and additional information: <https://www.leesburgva.gov/departments/police/about-the-lpd/virginia-rules-camp>

Loudoun wine lovers rejoice!

We have good news for everyone who loves great wine:

Maggie Malick Wine Caves is up, running, and, undoubtedly, its wines will keep winning one gold medal after another.

When word got out earlier this year that Mark and Maggie Malick had sold their 215-acre property on Harpers Ferry Road, devoted

patrons were anxious about the winery's future. They had no need to worry.

Mark Malick, considered the region's expert real estate agent in the buying and selling of vineyards and wineries, facilitated a win-win-win: for the buyers, the Malicks, and their legion of customers. Given his deep knowledge of the grape growing and winemaking business, he was able to explain its complexities to the buyers. The buyers, unfamiliar with the business, decided it was in everyone's best interest for Maggie and Mark to retain the winery operation.

Ultimately, the buyers acquired the Malicks' 215 acres, and,

through a long-term lease, Maggie and Mark have kept the winery's business assets, including all the vineyards, winery buildings, and the house they have lived in for 26 years. The Malicks also own the extensive inventory.

While the Malicks expect to retire at some future date, they will make that announcement when the time comes.

It's likely that Maggie and Mark will coordinate with the buyers to simultaneously sell their wine business when the buyers sell off the part of the property containing the vineyards, winery, and house.

The Malicks' vineyard has produced some of the most awarded wines in the state of Virginia. Most recently, Maggie's Albarino was judged to be one of the top 12 wines in the state. Last year at the Loudoun Wine Awards, she was awarded Winemaker of the Year. To date, Maggie has scored more gold medals than any other Loudoun winery.

The winery is scheduled to bottle about 3,000 cases of wine in June.

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Solarize NOVA offers homeowners solar assessments

The Solarize NOVA program has returned to Loudoun County. Now through June 30, Loudoun County homeowners have the opportunity to sign up to learn more about solar power options specific to their property, and take advantage of streamlined installation and financing processes.

COMMUNITY

In addition to free satellite solar assessments, the program offers discounted pricing on solar panels and electric vehicle chargers and will connect participants with information on the current 26 percent federal tax credit, which is due to expire at the end of 2022, and other incentives, including the Solar Renewable Energy Credit market.

Anyone interested in learning more about solar power is encouraged to attend an upcoming virtual information session about the Solarize NOVA program.

- Thursday, May 19, 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 7, 1 p.m.

Solarize NOVA is sponsored by the Local Energy Alliance Program in partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and participating municipal governments, including Loudoun County.

More information about the Solarize NOVA program in Loudoun is online at solarizenova.org/loudoun.

Information about obtaining the proper permits for installing either a residential or commercial solar photovoltaic system in Loudoun County is available at loudoun.gov/solarpermits.

BRMS students win challenge

Trex Company, Inc. sponsors local Film and Plastic Bag Recycling Challenges at schools across the country. The challenge is for a team to collect more than 500 pounds of plastic refuse in a six-month span (about 40,500 plastic bags). If completed successfully, Trex donates a high-performance composite bench to the school.

Two 8th grade students, Ella Stephenson and Acadia Kincaid, developed a Blue Ridge Middle School Environmental Club and recruited supervision and sponsorship from Martha Midolo, BRMS Teacher Assis-

tant, and Susan Hubbuch, BRMS EL Teacher.

The Environmental Club collaborated with the BRMS P.A.W. (Protecting Against Wastefulness) Patrol to establish the Trex Film and Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge at Blue Ridge in an effort to help reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in landfills. For 6 months, the club promoted the collection of plastic with student-created infographic posters, videos, announcements, and reminders.

"This student-run club just shows how relevant our youth are and their amazing dedication to our community and Earth. It was so much fun working together for a common goal," said Martha Midolo.

Each week, the students rounded up the donations and Kristin Kuntz, a Blue Ridge Middle School math teacher, delivered the plastic to a Trex collection site in Winchester, VA. The total plastic collected at Blue Ridge Middle School was 1,711 pounds; equivalent to over 122,000 plastic bags that could have ended up in the landfill.

"Seeing the Trex Bench Award on the BRMS campus will be a constant reminder of what students can do to help our planet through the power of initiative and teamwork," said Caroline Milne, Dean of the 8th grade.

Students Stephenson and Kincaid said, "Thank you to Ms. Kuntz, who helped start the competition at BRMS, and to all the students and staff that brought in plastic; they are the ones who really made this possible."



Blue Ridge Middle School Environmental Club: L to R, Back Row: Julia Mendez, Charlene Pagano, Shelby Reece, Acadia Kincaid, Ella Stephenson, Lola Hansen, Sydney Sheehan, Mrs. Susan Hubbuch, and Mrs. Martha Midolo. Front Row: Rowan Haws, Beckett Finn, Abby Jackson, Grace Madsen, Frances King, Ella Phelps, and Ellie Lowman.

The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times! - St. Padre Pio



Please join our priests at Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Purcellville each night at 9pm to pray the Rosary for peace in Ukraine.

Visit our website saintfrancisparish.org for the live video stream or join us in person.

Pray the Rosary for Peace in Ukraine

HPF launches the Legacy Farm Marker Program

The Hillsboro Preservation Foundation has launched the Legacy Farm Marker program, intended to recognize the many old farms in the Hillsboro area, and to honor the families that have owned and maintained those farms often for more than a century. The program would also recognize landowners in the Hillsboro area who have conserved critical farmland.

Hillsboro Preservation Foundation President Amy Marasco noted the program's launch was announced the week of National Historic Marker Day, which is the last Friday of each April.

"We look forward to working with farm owners and exploring with them how best to create and install a number of these markers in the coming years that will stand for decades into the future to commemorate the land and the people who have preserved the rural heritage and history in western Loudoun," Marasco said.

The non-profit's initiative is supported by the Loudoun County Ru-

ral Economic Development Council (REDC), whose Chair Kelly Foltman said, "This program is critical because it is recognizing the ongoing efforts to keep the valuable Loudoun County economic asset—productive agriculture—alive and thriving in the 21st century."

Hillsboro Preservation Foundation Vice President Ben Lenhart, who lives on an old farm near Hillsboro and is a longtime advocate for farm-

"This program is critical because it is recognizing the ongoing efforts to keep the valuable Loudoun County economic asset—productive agriculture—alive and thriving in the 21st century."

— Kelly Foltman
Loudoun County Rural
Economic Development
Council (REDC) Chair

land preservation and conservation easements, originated the idea of the Legacy Marker program. "It is important," Lenhart said, "that families who, in some instances have been farming the land since before the founding of America, are recognized by the greater community for their steadfast contributions to keeping a sustainable and strong rural economy. Likewise, we seek to recognize those who have acquired legacy farmland to keep in agricultural production and to put their lands in permanent conservation easements."

Marasco said that the HPF will reach out to possible participants in the coming months, with the hope of announcing the first recipients of the markers this coming fall. "Over the next several years our mission is to honor these farmers and landowners, not only as a way to publicly thank them for their contribution but also to serve as a tool to educate and inspire others to better understand the importance of these land holdings and the rich history and commitment these families have made to

our region."

The Hillsboro Preservation Foundation was formed in 2005 and its mission is to preserve, protect and honor the legacy and future of the greater Hillsboro region—its rural heritage, its iconic landscapes and farmlands, and the community and people who inhabit it.

According to Marasco, the organization fulfills its mission by focusing on three aspects of work: preservation of landmarks and landscapes, promoting local arts and culture, and serving neighbors in need.

"We deliver on our mission through three primary programs," Marasco said. "The Legacy Marker program complements our longstanding contributions to preserve and restore Hillsboro's landmark Old Stone School, our collaboration with the Town of Hillsboro on its wide range of community-building arts and cultural programming, and through our grant programs that have assisted neighbors in need during the COVID-19 pandemic, and also our global neighbors with our UkraineAid concert on April 2."

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First place win by BRMS in Step-Up Loudoun Challenge

Ten students from Blue Ridge Middle School took on—and won—the \$1,000 first place prize for the Step-Up Loudoun Challenge.

Organized by Loudoun Youth, Inc., Step-Up Loudoun is a competition where students tackle a problem in their local community and develop a solution. This year's program started with 71 teams from Loudoun Middle and High Schools. Following a round of video presentations, the top 20 were invited to make their pitches to a panel of judges. On April 7, the top 10 made their final presentations to a panel of judges at Morven Park.

The Blue Ridge team, named the P.A.W. (Protecting Against Wastefulness) Patrol, focused on the need to reduce, reuse, recycle and refuse at the school as climate change becomes a growing global concern.

As the team was brainstorming about a problem of concern, they observed that items placed in recycling bins couldn't actually be recycled because of item contamination. They discovered that when even one item of contamination was placed in a bin, the entire bin of recyclables would be thrown in the trash, destined for the local landfill.

Through extensive research about the recycling process, the team discovered that the most effective solution was educating students and staff on



The P.A.W. Patrol from L to R: Back row: Steve Wolfson (director of Step Up Loudoun), Adriana Milan, Joshua Anderson, Abigail Winn, Kate Stone, Ryan Barrett, Caleb Nicholson, Stacey Metcalfe (Executive Director and CEO of the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation) and Kam Woodall. Front row: Sarah Bader, Rowan Haws, and Chris Tricarico.

proper recycling practices. The P.A.W. Patrol created a series of informational videos and other public service announcements with the theme "Think Before You Trash." The team also collaborated with the school's environmental club to collect plastic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

Thomas Balch Library celebrates 100th anniversary

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Thomas Balch Library.

Named after Leesburg native Thomas Balch, a prominent Philadelphia attorney in the mid-19th century, the library building was dedicated in May 1922. In 1960 it became a free, though segregated, public library and in 1965, following desegregation, its services became available to all persons.

In 1974 it joined as a branch of the recently established Loudoun County Public Library system serving the community as a full service public library. When the county's new Rust Library opened in 1992, the Town acquired the Thomas Balch Library building, taking over its operation, and renaming it the Thomas Balch Library of Local History and Genealogy.

A special exhibit will be on display in the Margaret Mercer Room and at the digital kiosk in the Divine Room at Thomas Balch Library throughout the month of May. Artifacts, photographs, and documents from the history of the library will be featured as well as an interactive timeline. Of note

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

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KidWind teams win

The KidWind teams sponsored by Makersmiths, Inc. won awards at the Western Regional- VA Renewable Energy Challenges on March 9. All three of the teams (Golden Wind Blades, Silver Blades and Solar Middle School Smarties) were eligible to go on to the state challenges.

COMMUNITY

On April 23, 2022, three KidWind teams

from Makersmiths competed in the Virginia Renewable Energy Challenges at Virginia State University in Petersburg, VA.

The Silver Blades team won 3rd place in the Middle School division of the Wind Turbine Challenge. They won a trophy and \$100.

The Solar Middle School Smarties won 1st place in the Middle School division of the Solar Challenge. They won a trophy and \$300.



SilverBlades.jpeg from left to right: Ayden Young, gr. 5 (Hillsboro Charter Academy); Max Burrus, gr. 6 (Blue Ridge MS); Nick Burrus, gr. 4 (Emerick ES); and Cameron Clarke, gr. 5 (Hillsboro Charter Academy)



SMSSState1stplace.jpeg from left to right: Jocelyn Ro, gr. 8 (Rachel Cason MS); Zara Ramadan, gr. 8 (Rachel Carson MS); Soren Ogelman, gr. 8 (Blue Ridge MS); Makersmiths Coach Diane Painter

Warner and Kaine announce \$2.6 M for crisis hotline

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA) announced \$2,642,519 in federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the Virginia State Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

GOVERNMENT

This funding will go towards improving call and text response rates at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

“In the last two years of the pandemic, we have seen an increased demand for mental health services,” the senators said. “We are pleased that this funding will allow the Commonwealth to provide more timely assistance to those who are in crisis and in need of help.”

Currently in Virginia, the DBHDS has an in-state answer rate of 83 percent. The goal of this funding is to increase answer rates at call centers to 90 percent by the end of the grant period. In addition, SAMSHA has a stated goal of answering 90 percent of calls within 15 seconds and 95 percent of calls within 20 seconds by the end of the grant period.

This funding comes ahead of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline’s July transition from the current 10-digit number to a three-digit, 988, dialing code. With the switch, SAMSHA is expecting an increase in calls.

In February of last year, Sens. Warner and Kaine announced funding for the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority to help expand access to and improve the quality of mental health and substance use disorder programs.

This funding was provided through the American Rescue Plan which was supported by both Sens. Warner and Kaine.

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Video online at: www.loudoun.gov/adultday
Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services

YOUNGKIN JOINS GOOGLE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

CodeVA will develop a network of Computer Science Lab Schools that will span every region of the Commonwealth. These schools will be based on the successful innovation model at CodeRVA Regional High School in Richmond.

“For the past 5 years CodeRVA Regional High School has partnered with 15 school divisions in the Richmond region to provide a rigorous computer science-focused education, and we know every student in the Commonwealth deserves the same opportunities as our students.

“We look forward to collaborating with CodeVA and educational leaders across Virginia to share how our innovative model can be replicated to provide all students with access to both the academic knowledge and the work-based skills they need to enter the workforce or higher education. There are thousands of unfilled jobs in computer science and IT fields waiting on this next generation of learners and leaders to graduate!” said CodeRVA’s Executive Director, Kume Goranson, who is personally committed to helping expand her school’s innovative model across the Commonwealth.

CodeVirginia’s efforts to work with students, teachers, school districts, parents and policymakers assumes a state-

wide footprint. CodeVA was founded with the principle that anyone can code, and that every Virginia child has a fundamental right to computer science literacy. Since 2013, CodeVA has taken great strides as the first affiliate partner of national computer science education nonprofit Code.org in making computer science a priority for Virginia.

CodeRVA Regional High School provides an innovative learning environment that uses blended and project-based learning to develop students’ self-management skills while integrating academic content, agile workplace methodologies, and internship experiences that provide a pipeline of critical thinkers prepared to enter college or Richmond’s growing tech sector.

CodeRVA’s design builds on next generation high school models across the nation that rethink the use of time and space, leverage technology to personalize and accelerate learning, and redesign curriculum to align with competency-based progressions. Focused on computer science, the school offers the opportunity to complete high school requirements through a combination of blended (online and face-to-face) learning, integrated coursework, and project-based learning.

RESOURCE CENTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Center to share updates and information about their respective services:

- Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, May 3, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, May 3, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

• Loudoun County Adult and Aging Programs, May 10 and May 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. each day
The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center provides no-cost resources and equipment to job seekers and businesses to help them achieve their employment goals. More information about the center can be found at loudoun.gov/wrc.

BALCH LIBRARY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

are items donated by the Balch family, original minutes and ledgers of the Leesburg Library Society, and memorabilia from the library’s first 100 years.

Other celebratory events will be held through May 2023. To learn more, call 703-737-7195 or visit <https://www.leesburgva.gov/departments/thomas-balch-library>.

FIRST PLACE WIN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

for Trex that would be recycled into decking material.

Judges voted favorably for P.A.W. patrol based on their own experience wrestling with recycling efforts. Supervisor Michael R. Turner (D-Ashburn) pointed out that recycling education is critical. “Only 8 percent of plastic thrown in the trash gets recycled—8 percent—and it’s because we contaminate the loads,” he said. “This is a spot-on critical issue.”

Ara Bagdasarian, a member of the Leesburg Town Council, pointed out that the team exposed a critical fault line in recycling – how the introduction of contaminated material into the recycling collection bin can result in all the items going to waste. Properly cleaning the material before recycling is an important part of the education process, he said.

P.A.W. Patrol’s final survey found that, through their efforts, students developed an increased awareness of, and interest in, recycling.

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E COLI, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

- Vomiting
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In a very small percentage of cases (approximately 2 to 7) percent particularly higher risk groups such as children under the age of 5, the immunocompromised, and the elderly, a more severe complication known as HUS (Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome) may occur. That complication includes kidney failure and anemia, and often results in prolonged hospitalization. However, the large majority of people exposed to STEC do not develop HUS and recover completely from their diarrhea within 5 to 10 days. More specific information on E. coli, including STEC, is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention here.

Prevention

Health officials remind everyone that there are steps they can take to help prevent contracting illnesses from animals, which sometimes carry germs that can make people sick. Animals that look clean and healthy can carry harmful germs, and even areas where animals live, or roam can contain germs that can make people sick. Having contact with the animals' environment can also be a risk factor for illness. Every year, many people get sick after visiting animal exhibits, such as petting zoos, aquariums, farms, or fairs. Preventive steps to take include:

- Wash your hands right after touching animals or anything in the areas where they live, roam or eat. Even if you didn't touch the animals or wore gloves, wash your hands when you leave animal areas.

- Running water and soap are best, but if they are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol and wash your hands with soap and running water as soon as you can.
- Don't eat or drink around animals and keep food and drinks away from animal areas.

Children 5 years of age and younger, people with weakened immune systems and adults over 65 years of age are more likely to get sick from the germs animals can carry and should take extra precautions at animal exhibits.

Take these extra precautions for children:

- Always supervise children around animals.
- Leave items such as strollers, pacifiers, cups, or toys outside the exhibit.
- Don't let children put their thumbs, fingers, or objects such as pacifiers in their mouths when they're around animals or in an animal area.
- Don't let children sit or play on the ground in animal areas.
- Teach children to approach animals with caution and follow the rules provided on signs or verbally by the staff.

Children 5 years of age and younger should not have contact with reptiles, amphibians, or live poultry because these animals are more likely to make them sick. Parents of children in this age group should also consider not letting the children have direct contact with other types of livestock.

For more information on how to stay healthy at animal exhibits, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



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INDUCED DEMAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

can expand and deepen place.

OPINION

Furthermore, these three tools and methods mentioned as alternatives to default road widening and creation build off of each other in

a mutualistic relationship. Active transportation (in other words, walking and biking) encourages mixed-use patterns of development as increased foot traffic induces traditional mixed-use methods of development (for a local example, see 21st Street).

Relatively dense and mixed-use development can in turn stimulate demand for public transportation if these denser patterns of development place limits on parking and create the need for alternative methods of transportation.

Adam Stevenson grew up in Purcellville and can be found many Saturdays walking around 21st Street with obligatory stops at Nichol's Hardware and It's Baazar's LP collection. He's particularly interested in sustainable urban planning and Loudoun's flora and fauna.

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OPEN BURNING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

limits of Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville, Round Hill, and all subdivisions (“urban or built-up areas”) throughout the county.

Fire Marshal Disclaimer: The

Loudoun County Fire Marshal may impose regulations, at any time, based upon complaint, atmospheric or other environmental circumstances, to restrict or extinguish any fire that is otherwise permitted according to these guidelines.

Violations and Penalty: Any person who violates the fire code could be convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor, which carries a penalty of a fine up to \$2,500 and up to a year in jail. Further, if convicted, a person may be required to compensate the locality for the full

costs of fighting a fire.

Questions regarding open burning regulations should be directed to the Fire Marshal’s Office at 703-737-8600 or you may access this information on the following webpage www.loudoun.gov/openburning.

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

have you ever heard of a planner advocating the status quo? In my experience developing major office buildings in many states, planners want to plan for something new.

OPINION

Consider me a luddite, but in general, “new” is usually bad. I don’t want more growth or more “rural economy” or tourism schemes. Leave us alone!

Still another difficulty is the incredibly detailed process the subcommittees will follow. Staff wrote this as an example: *Issue: Bicycle parking requirements. Where: Multifamily areas. Ordinance Section: Chapter 10, Section 7.A.2 Finding: Draft text does not require enough bicycle parking. Recommendation: Increase requirement. Opposing com-*

ment: Let market decide. Should ZOC Vote, yes or no: Yes, it should vote.

Here’s one more challenge: There are 86 pages of these kind of questions, tables and new text. Each subcommittee will have to slog through a similar document. Working through these massive processes will be brutal and I hope my attention span lasts.

So, will Santa come with gifts of preservation and conservation? Perhaps he will bring one or two chestnuts, but by and large, his sack will be empty.

Charles Houston developed more than six million square feet of office buildings throughout the south for an Atlanta-based firm. He lives in Paeonian Springs.

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

So, how do you stop phubbing?

Acknowledge. Acknowledge that you have a problem. This may be difficult to do since phubbing feels good to the person who’s doing it. Perhaps asking your loved ones and friends if they think you engage in phubbing behavior too frequently could be helpful. Have an open mind when listening to what you’re told.

Communicate. Communicating with others can also be helpful since the problem likely won’t be easy to correct. Perhaps you can work on the problem with your kids or your spouse; addressing your phubbing behavior together will likely increase your accountability and commitment to change.

Roadmap it. Come up with a game plan or roadmap to determine screen free times (e.g., meals, short car rides, gathering with friends or family, etc.).

Leave your phone behind. Not having your phone or device with you will likely help with temptation. So, if you’re going on a date with your partner, leave the phone in the glove compartment of the car, or if you’re having family or friends over, place your phone or device in a room away from where you’re gathering.

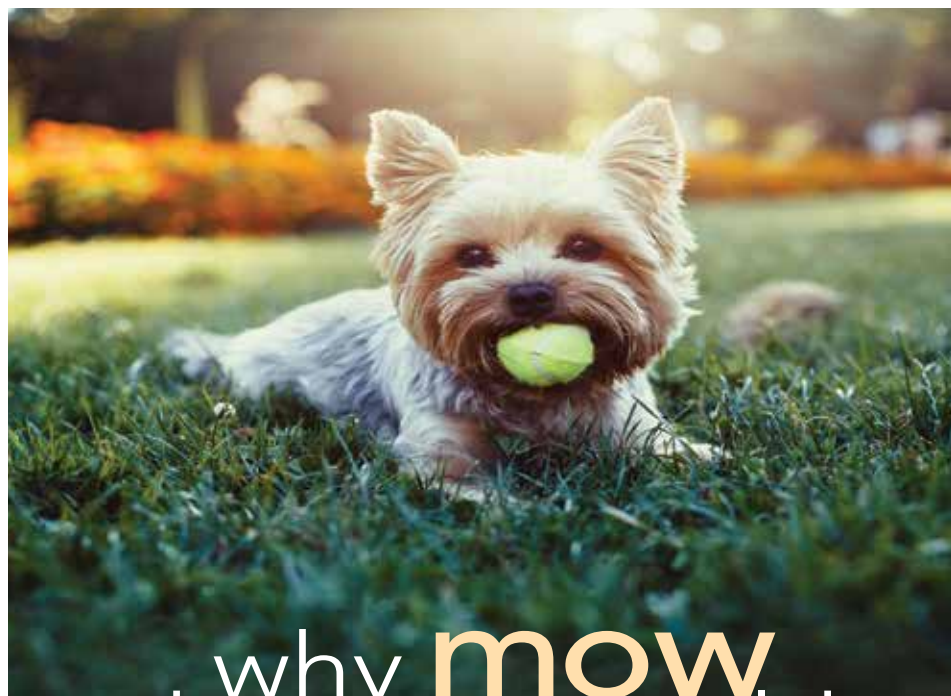
Challenge yourself. Come up with challenges that serve to distance you from your phone or device. If you always check your phone when you wake up first thing in the morning, try to delay when you pick it up. Perhaps you can focus instead

on connecting with your partner or kids over coffee or breakfast before you turn to technology. Maybe put your phone in a desk drawer at work or leave it in your bedroom when you return home from work. How often do you really need to check your phone or device while at work or in the evening at home, especially if you’re engaging in real time with others?

Practice active listening. When you’re phubbing, you’re engaging in passive listening with the person or people around you as you text others, peruse social media or surf the web. Without your phone or device, you will likely become a much better listener. Not jumping in to comment, judge or fix a statement during a conversation or listening without interrupting or judgment might seem like an easy thing to do, but if you engage in phubbing behavior a lot, it may take some real effort and patience to become a more active listener.

Lastly, children learn a lot from observing their parents, so parents have the additional task to model responsible and healthy technology use. If you don’t want your children to become preoccupied with technology or screens, or phubbers themselves, having a balanced approach to technology use is essential.

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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A DEVELOPER’S CONSULTING ENGINEER SPEAKS FOR THE COUNTY? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

doesn’t keep up with the maintenance. We urged the County to reject the application or at least have it modified.

We never got a response from the County, but we did receive a letter from the builder’s consulting engineer. He wrote that the County planner on the project had forwarded our letter to him for response. He shared a few irrelevant personal details about his own links to rural and historic properties, boasted of waiting lists of families wanting homes built by Carrington, and then he referenced zoning ordinances and state laws.

Among his more infuriating remarks: The property has not been in land use tax since 2012, which indicates the previous owners wanted to retain their rights to develop the property. Also, if the road were deemed substandard at any time, it would be VDOT’s responsibility to fix it. And his final words: “This is a by-right subdivision, and Loudoun County is very careful to strictly administer the regulations that govern it, but there is no discretion to reach beyond the adopted standards.”

*Sally and Mark Pfoutz
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VINEYARD SQUARE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Vineyard Square application was valid as of July 1, 2020. So that's all I can say for now."

However, Hankins went on to say that there is a "legal argument that allows the Town to take a different position that the remedial legislation does not have the effect of extending this particular site plan... I need to consult with Town Council, to understand what position they would like the Town to take. It



won't matter unless some kind of action is requested pursuant to the site plan by the property owner. But we should be prepared for that."

Stan Milan, Council Member and Council liaison to the Planning Commission, asked Hankins, "Why was this not explained to the Council months ago, when I have been asking about the status on this? And several other people have been asking as well." Hankins did not answer.

Milan noted that Council was under the assumption that the Vineyard Square project would expire on Feb. 16, 2021, but "now you are saying in July 2022."

Hankins replied, "right." Milan continued, "You said there would have to be significant progress on the project to move forward. I asked you what is significant, and nothing has been significant

with this project since 2016."

Without consulting Council first, Hankins sought the legal outside opinion of two attorneys. Town Council was also not privy to the details of what she discussed with the law firms. Council was just presented with the legal opinions after the fact.

Hankins was supposed to meet with Council first to see what position the Council wanted her to take on the matter. Had the Vineyard Square project ex-

pired on Feb. 16, 2021? Or could the project continue due to the COVID-19 legislation passed by the General Assembly allowing for site plans that were active as of June 2020, regardless of whether they expired after that?

The lawyers senior management hired determined the project could continue due to the COVID legislation.

A finding that the developer had a vested right to commence the Vineyard Square project would mean that the project could continue despite the expiration. The legislation was passed to help projects that were in the process of being built but were put on hold due to COVID-19.

The Vineyard Square project has been extended until July 2023, due to the General Assembly extending the COVID legislation until July 2023.

ing homemade gnocchi.

In this case, more memories of very well-attended family dinners abounded. Aunts, uncles, grandparents, kids and whoever were around all gathered, quite willingly to dine on gnocchi and bring to the table whatever they were famous for.

Lasagna was a hot topic here, too, with traditional iceberg lettuce salad, homemade dressing, fresh-baked breads, and butter – lots of butter.

Mother's Day traditions

Memories of mom and Mother's Day also brought up the tradition of making breakfast in bed for her, followed later in the day with a picnic lunch at a favorite park.

IT'S (ICED) TEA TIME, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

David and Hillary Coley, who founded this innovative business just nine years ago out of a small storefront on 21st Street, now have a tasting room as well as a production facility a few steps from there. It's located at 210 N. 21st St., Suite 4, next to Cabinet Showplace, down a hill a few feet north of the historic W&OD train station.

There you'll discover nearly 100 loose leaf teas for tasting, most of them from small estates in India, Sri Lanka, China, and South Africa. The Coleys sell their teas wholesale and retail; you'll find them offered in many restaurants and shops in Purcellville and throughout the region. Their teas are also available online.

Whenever you visit the Purcellville Tasting Room, give yourself at least 30 to 45 minutes to explore the varieties (black, green, oolong) and flavors of their loose leaf teas. Be sure to take home enough for your summer servings—especially because they've got some easy ways for you to brew tasty teas this summer.

Cold Brew Iced Tea

"Yes, you can cold brew iced tea," says Hillary Coley, and explains how.

"It's super easy. You just need a pitcher and water. The ratio is roughly 7 teaspoons of loose tea to 750 ml of water. Put the loose tea and water into the pitcher and put it in the refrigerator for about 6 to 8 hours and see what happens. The trick behind cold brewed iced tea is getting the liquid out at the end of brewing without the tea leaves. That's a piece of cake if you find one of the pitchers with mesh infusers at your local big box store. Or if you happen to have two pitchers and a fine mesh strainer, you can strain the contents of your brewing pitcher through the strainer into the other pitcher and then discard your tea leaves, hopefully as compost for one of your favorite plants. Play with the amount of tea versus water and your steeping time until you find the combination that works for you."

Iced Tea for Crowds

Hillary also has the answer for

that gang of family and friends getting together for the Fourth of July.

You'll need a pitcher with a lid, but you can do this with an open pitcher. You'll also need a large pot to boil water in," she advises. "It should hold at least 4 quarts, plus a thermometer to measure water temperature, and a fine wire mesh strainer."

From here on, just follow Hillary's steps for creating that iced tea all your guests will love:

- Add 8-1/4 cups of water, a little over 1/2 gallon of water, to your pot and turn the burner on to high.
- Allow the water to come to a boil and then add 1 cup of loose-leaf tea. Turn the burner off.
- If you're brewing a white, green, or oolong tea, turn off the burner and remove the pot from the burner. Allow it to cool for about 3 minutes and then put in your thermometer. You are looking for 190 degrees before adding the tea. If you're using voluminous white tea, make this 1-1/3 to 2 cups.
- For black or tisane (herbal) tea, allow it to steep for 5 minutes. For an oolong tea, allow it to steep for 4 minutes. For a green or white tea, allow it to steep for 3 minutes.
- Pour the tea through the strainer into your pitcher and leave the pitcher on the counter.
- Serve the tea directly over ice... and enjoy!

Meanwhile, this is a good time to remember our hot-tea-drinking cousins across the pond: As Tom Holt, an English author known for his comic fantasy books, explains: "American-style iced tea is the perfect drink for a hot, sunny day. It's never really caught on in the UK, probably because the last time we had a hot, sunny day was back in 1957."

Dominion Tea's Purcellville Tasting Room is open Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Saturday 10 to 6, and Sunday noon to 5. Dominion-tea.com 540-999-8327.

MOTHER'S DAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

This woman was also family-famous for her Winnie-the-Pooh cakes.

She had a cake mold in the shape of the cute little bear and another mold in the shape of a bride or bride's maid. Both molds were used interchangeably for wedding showers, baby showers and other functions.

Sweet and fruity and delicious hummingbird cakes were mentioned, too. A southern favorite.

Pasta dinners

Mom and Mother's Day memories also brought up the topic of pasta.

Many people shared with us their memories of mom's pasta dishes, includ-

Those marathon Mom's-Day hikes came up. And, homemade cards and family craft sessions were included in many people's favorite mom memories.


One person said, "One year my dad and I made mom a jewelry box – we stained the wood and stuff."

Mom I'm sure appreciated both the

thought, and the box, and the teaching opportunity.

Moms just seem to know, before you do, what your life's passions might be, and work to cultivate them in you, even if just by lavishing praise on you for your efforts.


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MIDDLEBURG, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

south of Rt. 50 near the Plains Road—a gift to the Windy Hill Foundation from the late Magalen “Maggie” Bryant—would be developed with 20 age-restricted units and another 40 subsidized units, either duplex or quadplex, with trails and access to community space. The homes would be leased, not owned, and managed by the foundation. The remainder of the property would be protected through open space easement.

The second proposal—from Homewood Farms LLC—would add 22 acres and 66 housing units into the Town along Foxcroft Road east of Salamander Resort & Spa. Of the farm’s 212 acres, the remaining 190 acres would be placed in conservation easement, which would restrict the current and future owners from building on the land.

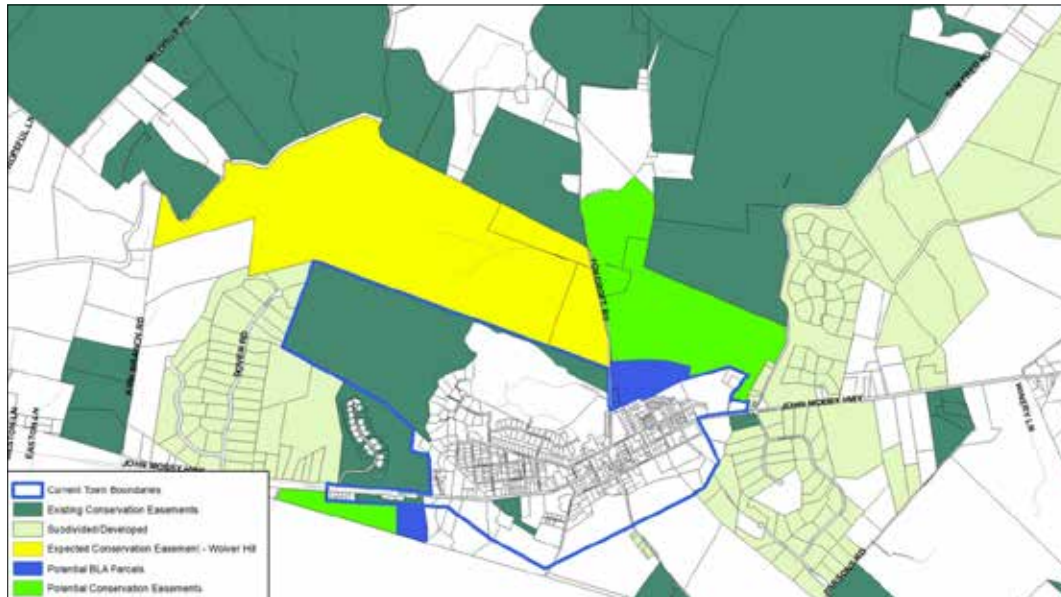
Home to Blackwater Beef, which is owned by Erik Prince, founder of the private military company Blackwater, the farm’s easement would allow for limited commercial use in the existing, renovated barn. The housing would comprise 48 condo units of one, two, and three bedrooms in multi-family buildings at maximum heights of two or three stories. The community also would include eight townhouse units and 10 single-family, cottage-style homes. Access would be off Foxcroft Road, not Rt. 50.

Controversy over the proposals pivots around the need for less costly housing in Town and the prevention of housing developments encircling the Town as property owners elect to develop under Loudoun County’s AR-2 Zoning Ordinance regulations for “clusters.”

Middleburg’s object lesson on clusters is Banbury Cross Reserve on the eastern approach to the Town on Sam Fred Road. This 570-acre by-right development has been approved and platted by the County. It will consist of 28 clustered residential lots between one and four acres, 10 “rural economy” lots of 25 acres each, as well as required common open space equaling 70 percent of the whole. The

developer does not have to put that open space in easement. The 10 rural economy lots can be either residential or any of the permitted uses under the applicable zoning—from agriculture or communal sewage disposal to 10 more houses or breweries.

Meanwhile, the Town of Middleburg is increasingly short on small starter homes. Part of the local inventory for decades, these houses are disappearing as owners tear them down to replace them with much large homes. The increasing size of homes in the Town is right on trend: homes in the U.S. have



almost doubled in size since 1970. Along with time and inflation, this large increase in home size in the Town has contributed to a huge spike in price.

The shortage of homes is especially evident in the need for housing of teachers whose average salary in the Middleburg area is \$57,000. Meanwhile, the average tax assessment for houses in town is \$650,000 and, for the average townhouse, \$690,000. Recent new builds—after teardowns—are \$1 million and more.

The best way forward, Littleton believes, is aligning the proposals with the Middleburg Comprehensive Plan, which was developed with community input and adopted in 2019. That plan supports a variety of housing types that maintain a diverse community of attractive neighborhoods and provide quality housing for a wider range of residents in

styles that match the historic character of the Town.

The details matter, he adds, agreeing with constituents who have already voiced their opinions on the Town’s website. “We missed a chance for affordable housing when we negotiated the agreement for the boundary line adjustment that brought the Harriman Tract into the Town for Salamander Resort. Salamander had agreed to 60 condo units for workforce housing and housing for faculties in Middleburg area schools. Since then, Salamander has said they don’t plan to build them.” What happened?

restrictions that would keep selling prices in a range that may enable ‘workforce’ participants to buy units here...I appreciate that the balance of the Homewood property would be in easement, but the details of the easement will be critical to limiting any commercial enterprises such as breweries or wineries. As is often said, the devil is in the detail.”

- “Concerned about number of units – result in 26% increase in housing in Middleburg. Concerned that property in conservation easement will still be developed. It’s important to know what will occur there.”
- “Very concerned about the development proposal... to add 126 new homes. This will ruin the character of Middleburg. I moved my family from Fairfax county to Middleburg to get away from all the cottages and townhomes and development and the people. I moved to Middleburg to find a safe place for my horses and dogs to live free from concerns of too much traffic on roads. This proposal will put more people and more cars into Middleburg threatening the safety of our animals. It will threaten the relaxed character of the town which is why people come to visit. It will make Middleburg lose its uniqueness and it will become just another northern Virginia town. In addition, there is no clear benefit at all and the mayor’s rationale of protecting the borders makes no sense because most of the land bordering the town is in easements...”

Littleton emphasizes that these proposals are not actions taken by the Town. “The Town cannot annex property into itself. This is two parties approaching the town to be annexed in.

“We don’t have to do this,” he added. “It’s a Town-citizen choice. Of course, some will never be okay with this. But if we do nothing, what are the consequences? The owners can do whatever they want and put in as many houses as the County allows. Maybe 20 ‘two-over-two’ stacked townhouse condos?”

“We didn’t require them,” he says.

So far, feedback to the proposals has been mixed, ranging from hearty applause to not-in-my-backyard—ever. A few remarks from the Town website demonstrate:

- To the Mayor, Town Council, and Town Staff: “Thank you!...I’ll take this opportunity to inform you that I would prefer that you all, rather than Loudoun County, be in charge...allowing Middleburg to meet desired goals in regards to housing and conservation easements. I do, therefore, support both of the proposed annexations.”
- “I believe the Windy Hill Foundation’s proposal is reasonable. It will not be visible from the road. The Town needs affordable housing.”
- “I need to learn more about the

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

So: yes, I support the long-range changes to Brandon Park and its neighbor across the street – despite the discomfort at seeing the initial destruction of some of the existing natural features. I’m mostly good with it all. And I’ll be even happier when those now-scrawny tree seedlings get large enough to throw some shade,

and send out root systems muscular enough to hold the soil along the sloping creek bank.

They’ll (I’m hoping, again) provide environments for the great-great-great (and then some) grandkids of the birds from my recent visit – as well as enticing gangs of squirrels to raid the treetops and maybe even hassle the stray visitor who falls asleep on the park bench

along the Creek! I recall, here, that years ago (oh, we’re talking late 1990’s and early 2000’s) I used to see herds of deer off along those remaining stands of woods to the west of Harrison – in the adjacent meadow areas.

I’m hopeful, as well, that some of their offsprings’ offspring still haunt the mature timber back there and the surrounding environs. There I go hoping again.





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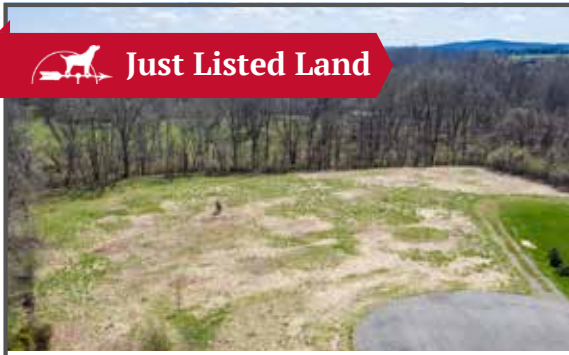
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