

‘We’re in the money—but only if we work for it’ – Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Sometime soon America’s rural towns—like Purcellville—will have the opportunity to cash in on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s \$1.9 trillion funding package, the largest flow of federal money to the American people since President Dwight D. Eisenhower created the interstate highway system.

Purcellville will be in the running for a piece of the pie. But the funds from this new law will be available only to the states, cities, towns, and rural municipal-

ities that put together compelling proposals that meet the requirements of the disbursing federal departments and agencies. They include Transportation, Interior, Commerce, Energy, Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The goal of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is to rebuild America’s roads, bridges, and rails, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every American has access to high-speed internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, and invest in communities that have too often been left behind. It also addresses job creation, supply

chains, sustainable and equitable economic growth, and improvements to all forms of transportation, including ferry service. (Think White’s Ferry?)

But it won’t be nearly enough for the Town of Purcellville to just raise its hand. Unlike the \$10 million the Town will ultimately receive from American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Purcellville will have to work for the Bipartisan Infrastructure funds.



Picture of Mayor Kwasi Fraser at previous State of the Town Address.

“We need to clear our cups so they may be filled,” Fraser says. “We need to position our staff to work just on the things that are important in bringing money back to the Town. Our wastewater and water treatment plant are critical infrastructure items, and the folks who are running them and keeping our Town safe are doing a wonderful job and should keep on doing it. All other administrative tasks should be focused on going out and getting grants to bring back to our community.”

“We need to position our staff to work just on the things that are important to bringing money back to the Town,” Fraser adds. “It’s not ‘Let’s get it here and then spend it.’”

More than 60 percent of the \$1.9 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure funds will be distributed via formulas to states and

other recipients while a subset of the remaining funds will be available directly to communities via discretionary grants. A number of programs have specific portions of formula funds or competitive grants that are reserved for rural and disadvantaged communities. The federal government will either distribute funding directly to communities or to intermediaries, like states.

Time is of the essence, Fraser emphasizes. On May 13, for example, the Department of Commerce’s National

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‘Who is the customer?’ Mayor Fraser asks

Zoning Ordinance discussion grows heated

BY VALERIE CURY

Both the May 5 Purcellville Planning Commission meeting and the May 9 Special Joint Purcellville Town Council and Planning Commission meeting shed light on two opposing points of view regarding the Town’s Comprehensive Plan.

On one side is Town Attorney Sally Hankins, who doesn’t want to follow the Comprehensive Plan. Along with ZoneCo, she has proposed a new map, adding new dense zones to already vetted areas.

On the other side is the Planning

Commission, who wants to use the zoning map in the already approved Comprehensive Plan when updating the Town’s Zoning Ordinance.

Early in the May 9 Joint Special Town Council and Planning Commission meeting, Hankins tried to defend her position of letting ZoneCo present a map that wasn’t in line with the Comprehensive Plan. However, the Planning Commission had already decided not to use the map at their May 5 meeting.

Council Member and Council Liaison to the Planning Commission Stan Milan

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Hillsboro Players debut production of *The Glass Menagerie*

On the weekend of June 10-12, The Hillsboro Players will debut as a new resident community theatre company in the historic Old Stone School in Hillsboro. With a mission to bring thought provoking, uplifting entertainment to western Loudoun County, the new theatre group aims to support local talent, while celebrating great works and inciting meaningful conversations.

The first production will be *The Glass Menagerie*, the signature masterpiece of one of America's most celebrated playwrights, Tennessee Williams. The production, co-directed by Rebecca Baldwin Fuller and Evan Kagarise will showcase the talents of four local actors, all of whom have worked professionally on stage and screen.

As the Artistic Director of Hillsboro Players, Baldwin Fuller, will play Amanda Wingfield in the production. She is a professional actor, who trained at prestigious drama schools. She has worked in film and television, Off-Broadway in New York, on national tours, and at a number of premier regional theatres throughout the country. She works as a nurse practitioner, and is focused on supporting the performing arts in the community.

Co-director, Kagarise is studying for

his BFA in Theatre Performance at VCU, and is a graduate of Loudoun Valley High School. He has graced the stages of the region in many community theatre productions over the years.

Leading the cast will be Matthew Curtis, in the role of Tom Wingfield, who is Tennessee Williams' alter ego in the play. Curtis has worked on many stage productions and is a professional voice-over artist, whose vocal talents can be heard in national commercials, film trailers, and animated children's shows. Widely sought after in major commercial markets, he chooses to reside here in Loudoun County by maintaining a professional recording studio in his home.

Tom's sister, Laura Wingfield, will be played by recent Woodgrove High School graduate, Serena Parrish, who has already launched her professional career. She has worked in regional theatres, including Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC, and Off-Broadway in New York.

The cast is rounded out by Wilson Seltzer, who plays the Gentleman Caller. Seltzer grew up performing at Maryland Ensemble Theatre, and is completing a BFA in Acting at Towson

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A Cappies review of *Mary Poppins* at Independence High School

BY MOLLY SHEAR,
CHANTILLY HIGH SCHOOL

"In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun!" This quote from the show entirely encompasses Independence High School's engaging production of *Mary Poppins*. With actors flying across the stage and springing out of minuscule houses, this entertaining musical reminds us to enjoy the entertainment



Photo by Chas Sumner

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Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth: Lyndora Park

BY TIM JON

I wish I'd had time to make the complete circuit around that lake with the little wooded point and the geysers, happily spraying their morning mist for all to enjoy – but I cut my walk short, and I believe that – except for a sleepy bittern snoozing in a side channel – I was the sole soul taking in the sights and sounds of the suburban sunrise.



Playful alliteration aside, I promised myself to see if the walking trail goes all the way around the body of water, and get a bit more of a physical warm-up on my next visit to this latest discovery of mine in Ashburn, Virginia – Lyndora Park – adjacent to the Broad Run Trail.

See, I'd spent much of the pre-dawn arrival time in just trying to find access to this local, neighborhood recreation spot that I felt a little winded before I'd

even parked my vehicle and got my feet on solid ground; I finally just pulled over in the townhome section along Upper-ville Heights Square – hoping I would go un-ticketed or towed during a quick jaunt about the acreage over the hill.

And, I was well-rewarded by a calm, relatively cool, misty atmosphere about the Park and trail-lined lake or reservoir; the nearby ballfields appeared totally deserted at that time of the morning, and I could hear the spray of the water spouts out in the main body of water, flanking the tree-lined peninsula. It was a good place to just 'be,' I felt, stopping to breathe the morning air and survey the terrain on the wooden dock and observation deck jutting out over the surface.

I imagined a much more crowded atmosphere – especially on a weekend – as the sun climbed a bit higher and the local neighbors finished up on breakfast and got the kids – and themselves – ready for a few hours of enjoyment on the tennis



courts, or the soccer and softball fields.

And, yes, I pictured a number of people just taking a walk along the water, many of them, probably, stopping just here on the dock for a moment of recollection, or conversation – or an ill-fated attempt to catch (and release, according to the signs) that monster lurking in the 'depths' of the shallow water.

I also foresaw many of these Sunday visitors later walking home from their adventures to enjoy some outdoor cooking on such a clear, summery day; what's a game of softball or a few sets of tennis

without a follow-up like a grilled hamburger or hot dog, accompanied by a favorite beverage?

Yes, Lyndora Park seemed like the ideal neighborhood get-away spot (at least from my perspective on that particular morning) – because I was able to track it down – in the suburban darkness – with the assistance of my mobile phone and a grim determination to make my morning trip worthwhile. I gladly accepted the welcome from the earth's elements (ambient temperatures, morning fog, an uncluttered lakefront, and those sprayer-fountains shooting their mist at the water's surface), and I most definitely felt – at the same time – more relaxed and invigorated as I make my way back up the little rise and into my car.

Oh, and that sleepy bittern I mentioned at the top of the story? Or – it could have been a heron (call in the ornithologists) Well, he agreed to pose for my amateur

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Four tips to surviving summer with kids back from college

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

Sharing the nest again and navigating how to function as a family when your son or daughter returns home from college can be challenging. Sure, your child will always be your child, and you may believe that you still know what's best for them as mom and dad, but with every semester or quarter that passes they're aging and separating from you.



From freshman year to senior year of college, your kids are taking the steps they need to take to become more independent as they enter young adulthood.

At college, your son or daughter eats

and sleeps when they want, socializes how they choose, and they're tasked to care for themselves entirely – getting to classes, doing their schoolwork, managing their own living space, doing their laundry, etc.

While you may not like some of their decisions, there's little you can do to control or enforce most of these moments from afar.

There's no doubt that parenting is much easier, in a lot of ways, when our children are younger and we as parents can simply sit in the director's chair and direct. As our children age out of childhood and into young adulthood, parenting becomes more complex and managing priorities should become more

shared and inclusive.

You can simply tell your 20-year-old son to do something, but having that 20-year-old appreciate and understand what's behind your request and why you want or need their help will serve to support their continued growth toward a solid adult self.

I call the college years of development the push-pull years. In one moment, your child will not want your help and may even demand that you leave them alone, and where in the very next moment they'll be dependent on you for all of the answers.

Here are 4 tips to consider when your child returns from college:

Give them a week to decompress

and enjoy: Hard work should be rewarded. Assuming that your son and daughter did the best they could, they deserve a break. After all of that studying, after all of those tests and papers, after having to live in a tiny space with a roommate, and after having to manage the ups and downs of independent living and a social life, coming home can be gratifying.

For the first week, let your child enjoy their success and let them rest as they choose. Maybe make their favorite dinner or dessert, allow them to binge on TV and video games, and if they want to stay out late to connect with high school friends, let it happen.

Have a conversation: If you want

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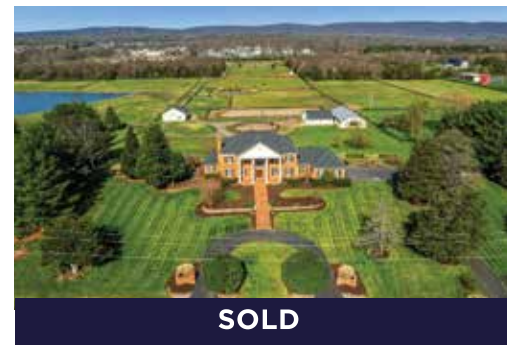
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Arguing with Plato

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

“Government of the people, by the people and for the people.” Lincoln is credited with this high-minded oration, but he was actually paraphrasing Plato from the Greek philosopher’s ca. 380 BC Republic. That declaration fits Loudoun County: Our county belongs to its people, not to business interests.

OPINION

Populism

I’ve incorrectly used the “of-by-for the people” language to mean populism. However, “populism” is technically a political movement that originated around 1892, claiming to champion the common people as opposed to the perceived elites. That has some virtue, but the technical meaning of populism is irrelevant to land use issues in Loudoun County.

Plato

Democracy is sublimely described as

free people governing themselves, directly or indirectly through elected representatives. Plato, though, saw dangers in democracy, fretting that democracy could lead to anarchy, or lure into politics power-seeking individuals who might aspire to dictatorial powers.

The philosopher posited that politics needs expert rulers who should be carefully selected and prepared through extensive training. In other words, elites. This seems to directly contradict the idea “of, by and for the people.”

Rome

Romans formed a representative democracy, often emblazoned on its armies’ shields and staffs: “SPQR,” short for “the senate and people of Rome.” (You’ve probably seen those initials in toga-and-sword movies like Ben Hur or Spartacus.)

Democracy of any sort faded during the Middle Ages and did not reappear until the

American Revolution.

How do they vote?

The representative nature of our democracy poses a fundamental question: Do elected representatives vote the way the citizens want them to, or do they vote as they themselves think best?

The entire concept of representative democracy has too often seen elected officials vote as big-money donors want them to, the people be damned. That is Washington’s modus operandi. It also bears directly on land use in Loudoun County.

Loudoun

We are lucky to have honest and hard-working supervisors. Contrast this board to the Dale Polen Myers board which was investigated by the FBI for its corrupt rezonings, or the 2004 board coup lead by Bruce Tulloch.

Vitally important to us are votes that

protect western Loudoun, or votes that hurt it. Some supervisors are great advocates, some are not.

Therein lies the rub

We conservationists hope that supervisors will agree with our pleas to save western Loudoun. Some of us will even make some campaign contributions to bolster that hope.

We forget that powerful economic interests also make cogent arguments, and that they give politicians much more money than we do. These opponents get better access. They win more than we do, evinced by western Loudoun’s land lost to subdivisions. What can we do?

The “stakeholder” mistake

When the county forms its various boards and committees, many of the seats are set aside for “stakeholders.” Some of them seem to see the county as something

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Ode to Nichols Hardware

BY ADAM STEVENSON

In the haze of not-so-distant childhood summer days, one image – or collection of images and memories – remains especially resonant. Walking into Nichols Hardware – after heaving the solidly heavy wooden door open – I would look down the counter at a line of old and wizened men. Looking back now it was as if I was staring down the village elders, the spiritual essence of the town distilled into specific human forms.

Perhaps in the moment I was thinking more about the penny gum, especially hopeful that by some cosmically influenced good luck I would get two pieces for one penny. And these men, at least in my recollection, weren’t usually smiling. They knew things about life I didn’t yet know, experienced certain things I hadn’t yet experienced, and this knowledge and these experiences maybe contributed to their sober and direct mannerisms.

But they had a specific place, a tangibly practical body of knowledge, and if my dad needed plumbing fixtures, or a can of paint, they would direct him to the correct variety depending on the situation, and maybe even provide specific advice on whatever little project or repair he had in mind. The place, and the people who called it home, at least during working hours, fit together. There was a wholeness, a human-size fittedness, that I recall fondly – and can observe again whenever I happen to visit.

A piece of Purcellville’s history is

passed down there, and a piece of human experience generally. This business is not only a place to purchase needed goods (even if it is “your most dependable source of supply”), it is a cultural expression. Nichols Hardware not only provides an easy-to-quantify economic function, it provides badly needed social and community functions.

First, to its employees it provides not only a job but dignity. The dignity is of providing real practical support in an established community institution, of having a place and being recognized for it. And this is not something that comes automatically to any job (especially the modern set).

Too often the modern economy assumes anyone is fitted for any job as long as the price is right – even degrading ones have a proper price and place in its system. Because of this, dignity is not inherent to any occupation, but instead depends upon our society’s willingness to allow economic tasks to take human form – and not mechanically assign humans to economic molds.

I’ll admit I’m completely ignorant of Nichols Hardware compensation system and philosophy, but it would appear as if the business encourages a rather heterodox customer service ideology (in contrast to the ‘customer obsessed’ models so popular nowadays). As an example of this, a few weeks ago I came in to see if I could get a piece of pipe cut. I walked in around noon and one of the few remaining long-time employees (one that I remember

staring down at me as I looked across the counter with penny gum hopes) told me he could cut the pipe but that his lunch was being prepared and I would need to come back later. His response was deflating and revelatory all at once.

It was the first time in a while that I was told in a place of business that the customer can’t always be first, an implicit reminder of the human element that keeps the wheels of industry spinning. Of course I can’t get a pipe cut whenever I happen to be in the mood, my needs must be met by a real human being with real needs of their own. The humanity of it all jumped out at me in this simple interaction.

Second, Nichols Hardware is an aesthetic experience. This can be most strikingly illustrated by contrast. Who among us could bear to wander around Walgreens with no specific intention of buying anything, but to simply look around?

I find my soul wilting in the cold white glare of the perfectly sterile shining arrays of goods in any given chain store. If I didn’t come for a specific economic task, I would try to forget the very existence of such places.

But I could spend at least half an hour in Nichols every Saturday for the rest of my life and be content with leaving each time without purchasing anything. That may not sound like too much of a boast, but if I tried that in [insert generic corporate chain store name here] I would probably meet a quick and early demise.

Because of the attractiveness of the

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Nearby development has a lack of stormwater management

Dear Editor,

We recently read a letter in the Blue Ridge Leader by another farm owner in western Loudoun County who is worried about a new by-right development on Short Hill Road and its impact on their property across the road. Among their concerns is runoff from the development.

LETTER

They have a right to be concerned if their farm suffers anything like the lack of stormwater management we've endured on Shoemaker School Road. Flooding from Carrington's Meeting-house Farm began with construction of this cluster development, and it continues.

Nothing has been done about the flooding by the builder, the County Building and Development Department, or the EPA, despite our letters, emails, phone calls, personal visits, and appeals through Loudoun Express Request.

Many other problems have arisen due to the development. There's trash, speeding vehicles, dogs chasing our horses, and the costly loss of our well.

We are aware that the County is re-



viewing and rewriting parts of its Comprehensive Plan, which permits this kind of cluster development and potential damage to neighboring properties.

If it helps Loudoun County supervisors and staff get a better idea of what we're dealing with and why it's time to change the zoning, here is a video (blueridgeleader.com/runoff) taken from our front field opposite the development.

Here's hoping that if enough of us speak out, the County will make those zoning changes now. The link to the video can be found at blueridgeleader.com/runoff.

*Ronald and Kimberley Fox
Purcellville*

Remembering Greg Fornino

Greg Fornino, an amazing husband, dad, son, and friend, left us suddenly on April 30, 2022, going to do what he loved to do: work out.

He was born to Michael and Sandra Fornino on May 28, 1975. After receiving his BA in Ceramic Engineering at Rutgers University he went on to become, over the course of an accomplished career, the CIO of a defense contracting company. He would also tell you he was a helicopter pilot.

Greg met the love of his life, Keri, in 2004 and from that moment began to build a beautiful life together. He is survived by his wife and twin sons, Evan and Brandon who hope to follow in his footsteps as Eagle Scouts.

Greg was so many things to so many people. Everyone who had the

privilege of knowing him fell in love with his hearty laugh. He went from serious and stoic to dad jokes and silliness in 2.4 seconds.

He loved the NY Giants and Scuderia Ferrari. He spent his free time leading scouts, checking things off his honey-do list, and amassing a collection of heavy-duty tools for his woodworking.

Hall Funeral Home in Purcellville, hosted visiting hours on May 3, a service at 4 p.m.

On Thursday, May 5, Freeman's Funeral Home on US Highway 9 in Manalapan, NJ hosted visiting hours and a service at 4 p.m.

There will be no re-past or visitation after either of the services to give the family time to grieve. Contributions can be made in Greg's memory to the Boy Scouts of America.





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‘Telling Loudoun’s story:’ 2021 was a challenging chapter, ‘but we have emerged stronger.’

BY LAURA LONGLEY

On May 25, Phyllis J. Randall, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair-at-Large, dedicated her remarks on the State of the County to “Telling Loudoun’s Story.”

This year there was a lot to tell—about COVID, economic development, advancement of women in business, loss of prime agricultural soils, rebound of the hospitality sector, a plan to address unmet housing needs, the establishment of Loudoun’s first public union, and the health of the County’s public schools.

Randall began with the COVID-19 pandemic and the County’s efficient and effective response. “Sadly,” she said, “Loudoun lost 384 souls to COVID. While we recognize and remember every single Loudoun resident who is no longer with us, we should also recognize that, according to the Virginia Department of Health, adjusted for population, Loudoun lost fewer residents to the COVID-19 pandemic than any other health district in Virginia. We owe

an enormous debt of gratitude to hundreds of County staff and volunteers for Loudoun’s effective, compassionate response to this health crisis.”

Paying tribute to Executive Director of Economic Development Buddy Rizer, Randall credited him with keeping a steady hand on the County’s economic tiller while generating new engines for growth. One of those is the Unmanned Aerial System, or drone, industry. At the same time, he disbursed \$21 million COVID CARES and American Rescue Plan Act funds to minority and women-owned businesses.

She singled out Rizer’s successful initiatives in Western Loudoun. “Our agriculture and related activities increased by 8.6 percent over the previous year.” However, while farmland in America shrank only 3.2 percent in 2021, Virginia—Loudoun included—lost 6 percent.

“In Loudoun,” Randall pointed out, “our farming industry has always been a vital part of our rural economy. We must protect our farmland by vowing not to build permanent structures on our prime agricultural soil, by encour-

aging landowners to put valuable farmland into conservation easement, and by adding protections through our zoning policies.”

On May 13, the Loudoun County Chapter of the International Association of Firefighters (Local 3756) made history when it became the first union in Loudoun and one of the first public sector unions in the Commonwealth of Virginia to petition for certification to be the exclusive bargaining unit for firefighters.

In its efforts to address the shortage of housing for teachers, service industry employees, and many others, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors recently approved an Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan. The goal: 16,000 attainable homes by 2040.

Randall also took up the County’s troubling, highly politicized chapter on education. However, despite the struggles over curricula, the role of parents, and COVID policies such as masking, she noted that Loudoun County Public Schools had held their own or surpassed prior achievements.

The LCPS Class of 2021 had an on-time graduation rate of 97.6 percent. This is 4.6 percent higher than the state average of 93 percent.

A team of students from Harmony Middle School recently won first place in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

The 2021 SAT scores for LCPS students were once again well above state, national, and global averages and improved by an average of 9 points. The average overall score for LCPS students was 1,182. The LCPS total average exceeded the state average by 31 points and the global average by 122 points.

U.S. News & World Report recently ranked all 15 eligible LCPS high schools among this year’s Best High Schools in the nation.

“For the past two years, we have been tested by fire, but we have emerged stronger, more resilient, and more committed than ever to Loudoun’s future, a bright future full of hope, vitality, and equal opportunity for every Loudoun resident. That is Loudoun’s story,” Randall concluded.



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Bipartisan group introduces legislation expanding telehealth services

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) with Sen. John Barrasso M.D. (R-WY) and Reps. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), Dan Kildee (D-MI), John Joyce M.D. (R-PA), and Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) introduced the bipartisan Kidney Health Connect Act to allow dialysis clinics to serve as originating sites for telehealth services and guarantee that patients are not responsible for additional costs.

“The pandemic showed us that telehealth is a critical tool in providing timely and safe access to health care while cutting costs for patients and providers,” Warner said.

“After working to expand telehealth to home dialysis in 2018, I’m proud to build on those efforts by introducing legislation that would permanently increase telehealth flexibilities for the many Americans that rely on dialysis centers. As we move out of the pandemic, we must continue working to expand sensible protections that make health care work better for all.”

Over the course of the pandemic, patients have benefited from increased access to telehealth services. However, for patients insured through Medicare, these flexibilities are temporary and tied to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration. This legislation gives patients with End Stage Renal Disease continued access to connect with their providers by:

- Allowing dialysis clinics to serve as originating sites for Medicare telehealth services.
- Removing the 20 percent facility fee coinsurance obligation for patients accessing telehealth services in the clinic.

This continues Warner’s leadership after successfully expanding telehealth to home dialysis services. Warner was also an original co-sponsor of the 2016 Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies for Health Act, reintroduced in 2021, and has been a longtime advocate for the expansion of telehealth in order to ease access to health care.

GOVERNMENT

Hung Cao wins nomination in VA-10 Republican Primary

Hung Cao won the Republican nomination for Virginia’s tenth congressional district during a ranked choice firehouse primary. Cao won by an eighteen-point victory to secure the nomination in a crowded field of eleven candidates.

Having fled communism as a child, Cao promises to fight back against the concerning policies of Democrats in Washington. This message has resonated with immigrant communities who have had similar experiences, many of whom have said they will be voting for the first time in this election.

“I’m honored to have earned the Republican nomination. Last year, Virginians sent a clear message when they elected Governor Youngkin

to lead our state in Richmond, and now, we are ready to send another message by electing a common-sense conservative outsider to represent this district in Washington,” said Cao, Republican candidate for Virginia’s tenth congressional district.

“The Biden-Wexton agenda has failed our district in more ways than one, and it’s time we hold them accountable for the record crime rates, out-of-control inflation, botched foreign policy, and indoctrination of our children in the classroom.”

Cao is a retired Navy Special Operations Officer, a combat veteran of Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia, and a Vietnamese refugee. He and his wife April are the parents of five children, and live in Purcellville.



GOVERNMENT

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Rt 15 N. Comp. Plan Amendment to be considered at June 21 Meeting

At its business meeting on June 21, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider a Comprehensive Plan Amendment related to safety and operational improvements to Route 15 north of Leesburg.

GOVERNMENT

If the Board votes to approve this CPAM, the county will be positioned to move forward with designing road improvements and identifying funding sources.

Proposed improvements that would require the approval of this CPAM include:

- Widening of U.S. Rt. 15 to four lanes between Montresor Road and the Village of Lucketts.
- The installation of a median divide on Route 15 from Stumptown Road/Lucketts Road north to Saint Clair Lane.
- Construction of a bypass around the Village of Lucketts. Two potential bypass alignments have been

proposed: a western option, which may affect a nearby wildlife sanctuary and other sensitive areas, and an eastern option, which may affect local property owners as well as county facilities. The Board is still considering both western and eastern options for the location of this bypass.

At the Board's May 11 public hearing, members of the public provided their input on the proposed congestion relief and safety improvements for Rt. 15, as well as their perspectives on possible locations of the proposed Lucketts bypass.

Consideration of this CPAM comes after years of county studies to identify the cause of recurring congestion in the area and to improve safety within the Rt. 15 corridor between Whites Ferry Road and the Maryland state line. These studies resulted in a plan which was endorsed by the Board of Supervisors in July 2019. The Board

initiated the CPAM in March 2021 to enable the planned improvements.

Several recommended safety improvements, which did not require amendment of the county's Comprehensive Plan, are already in process, including:

- Expanding Rt. 15 to four lanes from King Street to Montresor Road.
- The design of a roundabout at Spinks Ferry Road.
- Pedestrian improvements within the Village of Lucketts.
- Safety improvements at the Lovettsville Road intersection with Rt. 15.
- For more information about the Rt. 15 North safety and operations studies, visit the project webpage.

To view meeting documents and watch the live stream of the June 21 meeting, visit loudoun.gov/meetings. The meeting can also be viewed on Comcast cable channel 23 and Verizon FiOS channel 40.

Applications end June 2 for Justice Academy

Buta Biberaj, Loudoun County's Commonwealth's Attorney has announced that the office will hold its inaugural "Office of the Commonwealth Attorney's Justice Academy", June 23-July 28, weekly on Thursdays from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

This mission of the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Justice Academy is to create a partnership with the community through education and collaboration.

The Justice Academy offers Loudoun County residents the opportunity to learn about the Justice System and the Loudoun County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office's mission of Protection, Prevention, and Prosecution.

The participants should expect the following experiences:

Citizens will have an opportunity to learn about the law and processes related to arrests, criminal charges, and prosecution.

- The Commonwealth Attorneys will discuss the Office's operations, the statutory mandates for the Office and the intersect between law enforcement and the Commonwealth's Attorney.
- Citizens and the Commonwealth Attorneys will have an opportunity to discuss matters related to safety and justice.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 »

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LCADC named facility of the year

The Loudoun County Adult Detention Center has been named the Facility of the Year for the Northeast Region for the services provided by the facility's medical staff. The northeast region includes 60 facilities in seven states.

The medical team was nominated and recognized last week at the Wellpath Health Service Administrators Conference in Durham, North Carolina. The team was recognized for their perseverance to provide and continue exceptional service and compassionate care throughout the pandemic.

The services provided by the team at the Loudoun ADC include dental care, optical care, on-site care, substance abuse/detox programs, behavioral health services, comprehensive health appraisals, radiology and laboratory services, medically necessary diet programs, special needs and chronic care, continuity of care and discharge planning, patient health education and awareness programs, emergency and hospitalization arrangements, pharmaceutical supply, and medication management.

GOVERNMENT

"Under the management of Barbara Mason, Health Services Administer, and Barbara Hardy, Director of Nursing, who often had to fill shifts themselves, they exemplified what teamwork and leadership really means," said Lori Peters, Regional Director for Wellpath. "Loudoun County Adult Detention Center is recognized and awarded Facility of the Year against some tough competition from 60 facilities in 7 states. As the Regional Director of Operations in Virginia, it was an honor to present Loudoun County as the Facility of the Year for the Northeast Local Detention Region. An award much deserving," Peters added.

"I am very proud of the work being done at the adult detention center, from both our sworn and civilian staff, as well as our many partnerships, including private entities like Wellpath," said Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman.

"We work to ensure everyone housed at the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center has the best opportunity to succeed upon their release. This not only includes re-entry and educational programs but their overall health and well-being," said Sheriff Chapman.

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office opened the state-of-the-art Adult Detention Center in 2007 with the phase II expansion opening in 2012. The agency has received 100 percent compliance from the Virginia Board of Corrections during its annual inspection since the opening of the facility 15 years ago.

The Adult Detention Center includes administrative offices and the Loudoun County Magistrate's Office within the same compound and uses both direct supervision and the popular remote methods of inmate supervision.

Wellpath provides inmate medical care at the Loudoun ADC and the medical team also receives training in mental health and substance abuse. They are trained to screen, assess, and intervene for behavioral health concerns among inmates housed at the facility.

Wellpath is one of the largest correctional providers of medical care and mental healthcare treatment in jails and prisons. They provide services in 34 states and are nationally accredited through NCCHC/ACA/CALEA/TJC/CARF.

New fees for building and development applications

Loudoun County is implementing new fees on July 1, for building and development applications. Applicants who receive notification prior to June 30, that payment is due should submit their payment by close of business on June 30.

GOVERNMENT

Payments for outstanding fees that are not submitted by June 30, will require a new invoice to be issued using the updated fee schedule and could result in a processing delay.

The fee changes will apply to land development applications, erosion and sediment/land disturbance applications, Virginia Stormwater Management Program applications, building and trade permits, plans review, and code inspections. The fee changes will not apply to zoning applications.

The fees the county collects for land development and building permit applications are intended to recover the costs of the services rendered by the county, taking into

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

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Youngkin announces Violent Crime Task Force

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has announced the creation of a task force of executive branch and office of the Attorney General officials to better align strategies to reduce violent crime in cities and communities across the Commonwealth.

GOVERNMENT

Leaders from the Task Force will continue conducting community leadership meetings across the Commonwealth. Youngkin attended a community leadership meeting in Petersburg on Monday, May 9.

“There is a clear recognition of a violent crime crisis in Virginia and my

administration is committed to joining with community leaders, law enforcement, and Virginians around solutions with the Violent Crime task force. We will take a comprehensive look at how we can address the rise in violent crime by providing more law enforcement resources, creating alternative and after-school activities for children, and addressing the fear that results in witnesses failing to show up for a criminal hearing,” said Youngkin.

“There’s not a one size fits all approach to combating crime in the Commonwealth. It requires collaboration

and communication with law enforcement, local officials, and community leaders. My team is excited to be a part of this new task force and we’re eager to work with our partners in the executive branch to carry out new, innovative solutions that will help to reduce crime and keep our communities safe,” said Attorney General Jason Miyares.

The Task Force is led by Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Bob Mosier, with additional leadership provided by the Chief Deputy Attorney General Chuck Slemo.

Additional participants include leaders from the Governor’s Office, the Attorney General’s Office, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Criminal Justice Services, Virginia State Police, and others. To date, state leaders have met with local leaders in Virginia Beach, Newport News, Norfolk, and Petersburg, with additional meetings planned in the coming weeks.

The Task Force will recommend executive, administrative, and legislative actions on an ongoing basis to the Governor.

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State Board of Education Report finds sliding education and lowered performance standards

Gov. Glenn Youngkin received the Department of Education's report "Our Commitment to Virginians: High Expectations and Excellence for All Students." The education report builds upon Governor Youngkin's direction in Executive Order One issued on his first day in office. The Governor affirmed his guiding principles to address troubling data trends and outlined policy recommendations to restore excellence in education in Virginia.

GOVERNMENT

"Virginia's public schools have long enjoyed a reputation for academic excellence," said Youngkin. "But the data in this report demonstrates that Virginia's student achievement gaps are disturbing and cannot be ignored. This report documents a clear and sobering lesson on the consequences for students when state leaders lower academic standards and dismantle accountability."

The 33-page report from the Department of Education details how state policy choices and priorities over the last decade have resulted in lower student

achievement in reading and mathematics, wider achievement gaps, reduced transparency, and eroding parent confidence in the Commonwealth's public schools.

"Virginians deserve to know the truth about how our children are doing," said Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera. "Under Governor Youngkin's leadership, we aim to be the most transparent and accountable state in the nation, while empowering parents and teachers with the knowledge and choices to do what's best for each learner."

Key findings in the report include the following:

- Virginia now has the lowest proficiency standards in reading and mathematics in the nation, resulting in the wide "honesty gaps" between the performance of students on state Standards of Learning tests and performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.
- Despite statistically significant declines in the reading performance of Virginia students on the 2019

NAEP and on state assessments, the Board of Education voted in 2020 to lower the proficiency standard on all elementary, middle school, and high school SOL reading tests.

- The Board of Education's Standards of Accreditation — once an accountability model for other states — now de-emphasize grade-level proficiency in reading and mathematics and mask wide achievement gaps.
- Pre-pandemic results from college entrance examinations taken by 2019 Virginia high graduates show wide disparities in college readiness, especially in mathematics.
- Last fall, 42 percent of Virginia second-graders scored below the benchmark on the Commonwealth's early literacy screening assessment.
- Homeschooling increased by 56 percent in 2020-2021 as the parents of 59,638 school-age children chose not to send their children to public schools. Despite the return to in-

person instruction this year, the parents of 55,769 students chose homeschooling over enrolling their children in a public school. In addition, 5,828 students have transferred from Virginia public schools to in-state private schools since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

"I want to stress that this report is not an indictment of our teachers, principals, and other school leaders. They have worked tirelessly over the last few years under extraordinary conditions and circumstances," said Superintendent Jillian Balow.

"But local decision-making inevitably reflects priorities and policy choices determined at the state level. I am committed to working with Governor Youngkin, the state Board of Education, and the General Assembly to reorder Virginia's K-12 priorities, raise expectations for all of our students, and create an accreditation system that is transparent, honest, and that prioritizes grade-level proficiency."

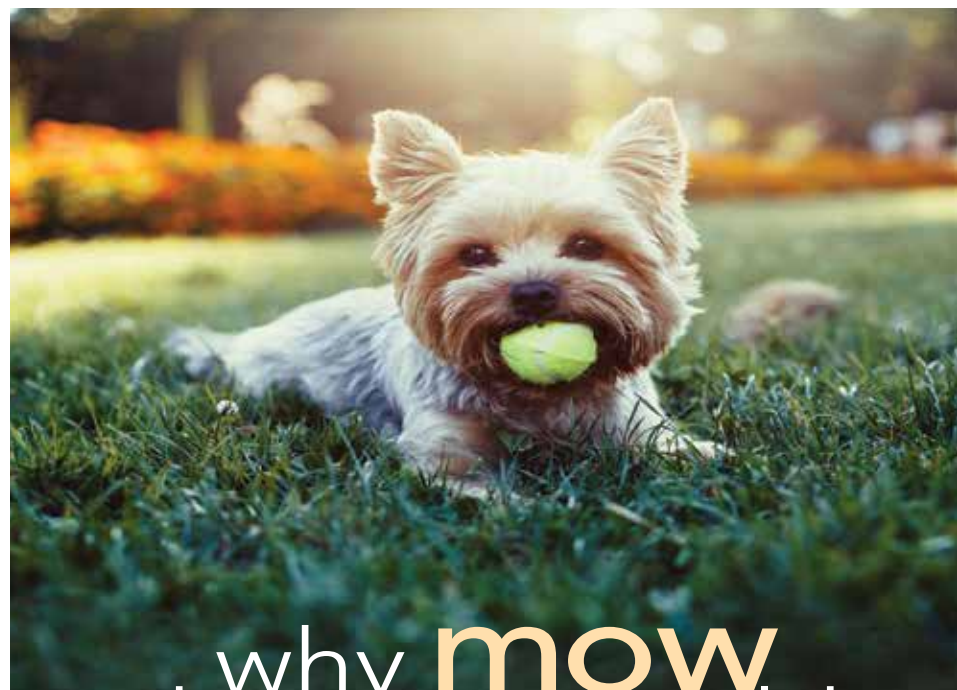
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The practical, the popular, and the personal for Father's Day

BY ANDREA GAINES

Do you want to know the truth about Father's Day?

The truth is that fathers don't care about the big ticket items you lavish on them or what gifts they get. But, the memories of the day live on and on.

They will surely have memories of that favorite place to go to for a meal, even if it is the kitchen table. And, they will also have memories of a favorite gift.

But, that's the thing; Father's Day is about attention, and love, and joy, and being acknowledged for who you are; not about posh restaurants and the newest gadget.

So, let's hear it for the practical and the popular

Father's Day is Sunday, June 19.

The Blue Ridge Leader spoke with Mark Metzger of Highcliffe Clothiers in Middleburg to find out what was hot for Father's Day this year.

We were pleasantly surprised that most of his suggestions did tend towards the traditional, and practical. In our experience, what a "giver" goes for is often the very practical thing the giftee, or dad, has

always wanted but didn't want to spend the money on for himself.

In the practical and popular categories suggested Metzger, where the traditional shaving kits and supplies, and shoe polish – including what Metzger described as "the best shoe polish in the world."

Underwear and flasks and sport coats and ties were included in other suggestions. And, then there was "loungewear!" We love the idea.

But, Mark Metzger reminded us that, again, Father's Day is a very personal and sweet holiday.

Said Metzger, "My 93 year old dad loves me dearly, and my own daughter, now 27 years old loves me dearly." The message? That is what matters – cultivating that feeling. Holding on to the best of these relationships no matter what ups and downs of life (and Father's Day) come your way.

And, let's hear it for the personal

If you have ever read about the origins of Father's Day, you can relate to perhaps the most popular gifts of all – something uniquely personal.

I have memories of a Father's Day when

my three brothers and I danced around my dad, who was sitting in his favorite easy chair. We did a kind of dance recital for him, followed by a homemade card.

One Father's Day he was wearing his favorite shirt, which we had given him several years before. It was so well worn it had a huge rip in one sleeve.

As part of the recital we gave him a handmade card with a drawing of him wearing this shirt. At the end of our recital we ripped small holes in his old shirt – one hole for each kid to remember us by.

From then on he wore this shirt every Father's Day – holes an all. He saw it as his personal badge of honor for having raised us with such a good sense of humor. He kept that shirt long after it was no longer wearable.

We also collected pennies for him, one for each year he had lived.

He loved hamburgers, and grilling. So, every Father's Day we would get him some kind of BBQ-related item, and then, host a hamburgers and French fries dinner.

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Alternative hiring process for individuals with disabilities offered

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has announced that Virginia state government has implemented an alternative hiring process for individuals with disabilities, serving as a model for inclusive employment practices.

GOVERNMENT

The process embeds employment of individuals with differing abilities as part of standard hiring policy, and the state work culture.

A collaboration of state and community partners, the Department of Human Resource Management and the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services have spearheaded the continuing effort to employ, integrate and accommodate more individuals with disabilities in the state workforce.

"My administration fully supports expanded economic and job opportunities for individuals living with disabilities. This is a significant step in the Commonwealth's commitment to the overall goal of increasing employment opportunities for all Virginians," said Youngkin.

State hiring policy will be updated to

incorporate the new alternative hiring process.

Applicants with documented disabilities, as certified by a DARS certified rehabilitation counselor, are eligible for consideration.

Interested applicants will apply at jobs.virginia.gov and upload a Certificate of Disability to their employment application.

Approved applicants may receive priority consideration during the recruitment process.

Agencies are strongly encouraged to provide a 6-month provisional period to these new hires to ensure accommodation needs are met and employees are set up for success.

"This process is only the beginning of our strategy to demonstrate our commitment to individuals with differing abilities to improve the state workforce. It is one facet of a more comprehensive strategy, which includes accommodations, communication, education and awareness, compliance and retention of individuals with differing abilities," said Margaret "Lyn" McDermid, Secre-

tary of Administration.

The Commonwealth's continuing commitment to equal employment opportunities for all, including individuals with differing abilities, is highlighted in Code of Virginia §2.2-203.2:3 and §2.2-1213.

"This policy opens doors for job applicants with disabilities to seek state employment, paving the way for new career paths. DARS' collaboration with DHRM is essential to its success in assisting those who are underrepresented in the state workforce," said DARS Commissioner Kathy Hayfield.

"To bolster this initiative, DARS received a \$9.2 million federal grant called 'Pathways to Careers using Partnerships, Apprenticeships and Equity,' that will serve at least 750 Virginians with disabilities to acquire skills-based training and registered apprenticeships in high-wage, high-demand fields, including STEM and state government," said John Littel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources.

The DHRM website has more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

A.V. Symington Aquatic Center has opened

The A.V. Symington Aquatic Center has opened for the summer season.

Through June 15, while Loudoun County Public Schools remain in session, the pool will be open on Saturdays and Sundays only.

Beginning on Thursday, June 16, the aquatic center will be open daily from 12 to 8 p.m., with Town residents admitted at 11 a.m. The outdoor pool will be closed on July 4.

COMMUNITY

The AV Symington Aquatic Center is located within Ida Lee Park and features a 600' lazy river, large slide tower with two body flumes, drop slide, 25-yard lap lane, two gang slides, water pipe fall, crossing feature, dumping buckets, little squirt whale and floating snake, as well as a large "beach" area with bubblers and water fountains, concession stand and grass picnic area.

For more information, regarding hours, rates, passes, and rentals, visit www.AVSAC.org or call the Aquatic Center at 703-779-5390.

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David Cox promoted to President of JK Moving

JK Moving Services has promoted David Cox to president. Cox will assume responsibility for day-to-day operations of the nation's largest independently owned moving and storage company. Chuck Kuhn will remain CEO of the company he founded 40 years ago.

"I am excited to announce the promotion of David Cox to president of JK Moving Services. He is a natural leader and his industry knowledge, focus on technology and innovation, as well as keen business sense have helped our company grow even during the global pandemic," said Kuhn.

"I will remain firmly involved with the company, however responsibility for day-to-day operations for both the Residential and Commercial Divisions will rest with David. This move helps position us to take full advantage of



new opportunities and changing market dynamics."

Prior to being promoted, Cox served for five years as executive vice president, Residential Moving Services of JK Moving, where he was responsible for ensuring strategic growth and profitability across the division while managing operations and the overall residential team. By developing a strong team, implementing the latest technological solutions, and streamlining processes, Cox ensured the business unit maintained the highest level of customer service while growing revenue.

Before joining to JK, Cox served in senior leadership roles with some of the most prominent brands in the moving and storage industry, and he has experience managing every aspect of residential moving services from operations to quality assurance as well as in global mobility and commercial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 »

Celebrating the Appalachian Trail in Round Hill

Following 2,190 miles of mountain ridge lines, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail crosses 14 states, from Maine to Georgia.

COMMUNITY It's the longest and oldest marked footpath in the country—and in Round Hill, the town is lucky enough to have the A.T. right in their own backyard.

The town's inaugural festival in 2019 celebrated Round Hill's official designation as an A.T. Community, recognizing the Trail as a community asset and pledging to support ongoing Trail stewardship. This June 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., the third Round Hill Appalachian Trail Festival will be held at B Chord Brewing in western Loudoun County.

Discover a new day hike, hear tales from the trail and enjoy live music—plus kids' activities, vendors, food trucks and beverages from B Chord Brewing and Williams Gap Vineyard. The festival also goes "hands on," with activities and demos like trail

cooking, nature art, hammock camping, pony rides, and more.

Musical lineup

12 p.m. Returning to the Round Hill A.T. Festival music stage are **Fiddlin' Dave & Morgan**. The couple (half the Furnace Mountain Band) have been blending the sounds of the fiddle and octave-mandolin for almost 30 years. They have toured China, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and



the Baltics playing and singing their unique mixture of originals and Old-Time fiddle tunes/world music.

2 p.m. The **Fly Birds**, an award-winning, alternative bluegrass quartet, take the stage next. Together their voices produce amazing harmonies,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »

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Loudoun celebrates Juneteenth

BY LAURA LONGLEY

In the age of Twitter and TikTok, it's hard to imagine news taking two years and eight months to reach the African Americans of Galveston whose lives literally depended on it. Not until Union General Gordon Grainer arrived in that Texas town did the Black residents learn they

COMMUNITY

were no longer enslaved. He formally announced the emancipation from the balcony of the former Confederate Army headquarters.

Why the news took so long to reach Galveston remains a mystery. One theory is that the messenger carrying the news was killed before he got to Texas. Another—more likely—one is that slave owners withheld the information from their “property.”

Today, 157 years later, we commemorate and celebrate June 19th and its meaning in American history. As Tariro Mzezewa wrote in the New York Times, “Juneteenth, or Freedom Day, is rooted in emancipation for the enslaved, so it involves both the celebration of joy and the commem-

oration of pain. African Americans, beginning in Texas, have celebrated the holiday since 1866.”

Here in Loudoun, we mark the new federal holiday with marches, parades, and community celebrations.

On June 20, from 9 to 11 a.m., the Loudoun NAACP will hold its annual Juneteenth March and Celebration. The march begins at Loudoun County Courthouse and ends on Harrison St. SE at the Orion Anderson Memorial. The memorial marks the 1889 lynching of 14-year-old Orion Anderson from Hamilton. He was accused of scaring a White girl.

On June 18, from noon to 6 p.m. at Leesburg's Ida Lee Park, the “Burg” Family Reunion Club will host its second annual Juneteenth Celebration 2022.

Comprised of folks with mutual connections to Leesburg—the “Burg,” for short—aims to preserve the memories of Black descendants from Leesburg and support local Black American senior citizens, youth, and families. Additionally, the club has a focus on local Black American fathers by providing pro-

grams that will benefit young Black American males.

The celebration features the Chuck Brown Band and keynote speaker and Loudoun County Chairwoman Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large).

Other musicians include DJ Mr. Potter, Mr. L-BO, The Rise Band, Howard Harmonizers, Bryan Fox and Friends. There will be food trucks—Big Kyle BBQ, 2 Cousins Cookin, Lati-more's Funnel Cakes, What the Heck Barbecue, Pakos Fresh Mex, Hershey's Ice Cream—and face painting, tug of war, balloon toss, and potato sack races for the kids.

This a Rain or Shine Event. In the event of a passing shower, organizers ask that attendees return to their cars to wait out the rain as the Recreation Center may not be used.

Admission to the Burg Juneteenth event is \$10 for ages 12 to adult. Children 11 years and younger are admitted for free. Gates open at 11:15 a.m.

For news of other events in Loudoun, check the websites of the towns and community organiza-tions.

Loudoun Workforce Resource Center to host job fair June 9

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center will host a Loudoun Job Fair Tailgate with local employers Thursday, June 9, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Franklin Park, 17501 Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville, in the parking lots by the baseball fields.

The Loudoun Job Fair Tailgate will feature local employers with full-time, part-time and temporary job openings in Loudoun County and the region.

COMMUNITY

Hiring employers will be on-site alongside their vehicles, where they will meet with job candidates. Job seekers will be provided parking near the venue and will be encouraged to enter the tailgate lot to share resumes with employers.

Employers attending include Amazon; Anthony's Italian; Books International; Capital City Nurses; Home Helpers of Leesburg; Loudoun County Government (including the following departments: Juvenile Court Service Unit; Fire & Rescue; Fire & Rescue - Volunteers; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services); Loudoun County Public Schools; Plexus Scientific; Primrose Schools of Ashburn and Broadlands; and Reston Limousine.

Some of the industries represented include

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »

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Come to LVHS June 10 for Improv show



The Loudoun Valley High School Comedy Cult walked away with several awards at the annual Improvfest competition on May 22 at Franklin Park. The improv group, with help from advisor Zach Collins, took the majority of awards

while competing against five schools from eastern Loudoun County. The group's final performance this year is June 10: Comedy Cult Say Goodbye to Seniors Show at LVHS at 7:30 p.m. and the public is invited if you want a good laugh.

Pool and water safety

As swimming pools across the area open this Memorial Day weekend and we take to the water to cool off, Loudoun County Fire and Rescue reminds residents to be vigilant about pool and water safety.

COMMUNITY

Not including boating incidents, on average about 10 people die from drowning every day in the United States, according to the National Safety Council. These deaths are preventable. Follow these water safety tips and educate your family about water safety before your next trip to the pool.

For Adults:

- Children must be actively supervised at all times with no distractions – put that cellphone down.
- Teach children to obey the posted rules to include swimming restrictions and potential hazards.
- Ensure pools and spas are fenced on all sides with a self-closing and latching gate.
- Always have a way to call 911 and know your location should you need help.
- A U.S. Coast guard approved lifejacket should be worn for water

sports such as tubing, skiing, or jet skiing. Pool toys such as inner tubes, water wings and inflatable rafts are not safe substitutes for approved lifejackets.

- Swimmers should only use recreational items such as slides, diving boards, etc. in approved areas. Avoid non-commercial items such as tree swings, ropes, and similar items due to potential unsafe conditions.
- Know CPR. Find a CPR class near you.

For Children:

- Ask the lifeguard how deep the water is and stay out of water deeper than your swimming skills allow for.
- Always swim with a buddy.
- Never jump or dive unless the lifeguard or an adult says it is okay to do so.
- Don't eat candy or chew gum when swimming.
- Get out of the water right away if you hear thunder or see lightning.
- When on a boat, everyone needs a seat and his or her own U.S. Coastguard approved lifejacket.



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BRMS students help three local animal organizations

Career and Technical Education Students at Blue Ridge Middle School applied Project Based Learning to support local organizations that help animals.

The project spread across all three grade levels and all Career and Technical Education middle school courses. Holly Myers, Jordan Soheilian, Kurt O'Connor, and Tiffany Whalen, were the teachers that collaborated and planned a Student-Led Philanthropy Project to benefit local animals, or "BFFs," that are housed in the local animal shelters.

Project "Bulldog BFF" focused on supporting the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, Blue Ridge Wildlife, and the Middleburg Humane Society.

Mary Arden, a Blue Ridge Parent of Gabriel Arden, from the Middleburg Humane Foundation, and Hannah Blankenbeckler, from Loudoun County Animal Services, provided lessons about how the adoption process works, the services shelters provide, and the value of donations and volunteering. The guest speakers added meaning, relevance, and inspiration to the students involved with this project.

Students, in turn, created infographic posters to elicit donations of pet supplies, made pet supplies, like enrichment mats, food/water bowl holders, and dog treats. The packaged treats provided donations that were used to buy needed items for the shelters. Two hundred food items, twenty-five bags of treats, twenty-five toy items, and over fifty miscellaneous items were donated in total.

The Bulldog "BFF" Project is part of the larger

Loudoun County Public Schools Project-based Learning initiative where students tackle authentic problems and questions with real-life solutions that integrate the Virginia Standards of Learning.



Mr. O'Connor's Tech Ed 8 class created Dog Bowl Holders that will be donated to the animal shelter. Back Row, Left to Right: Sarah McFadden, Matthew Hile, Dylan Ceppi, Ryan Barrett, Mr. O'Connor. Front Row, Left to Right: Austin Mosier, Jason Ventikos, Chris Tricarico, Sam McClintic

MHSADS offers in-person and telehealth same-day services

The Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services has resumed in-person same-day access services. These services include screening for eligibility and assessment for a behavioral health outpatient, psychosocial rehabilitation and behavioral health case management services.

COMMUNITY

MHSADS has been offering same-day access services only by telehealth since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and is now offering some in-person services. Same-day access allows a person who calls or appears at a MHSADS clinic during its hours of operation to be assessed that same day instead of having to wait for an appointment.

Effective immediately, services will be offered as follows:

In-Person Same-Day Access Services:

- Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Individuals may walk into the MHSADS clinic in the Shenandoah Office Building located at 102 Heritage Way, Suite 302, Leesburg.

Telehealth Same-Day Access Services:

- Tuesday/Thursday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

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



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Pray the Rosary for Peace in Ukraine

Purcellville American Legion blood drive

The American Legion Shelbourne Parish Post 293 held a blood drive on May 17 in Purcellville. Members of the post as well as the community donated 29 units of blood for the Red Cross during the one-day event. The event was just one of the many activities the American Legion provides to the community.

COMMUNITY

For nearly 70 years the post has been a vehicle for helping veterans and their families.

“Our post was chartered in 1954 and our doors have been opened ever since,” said Commander Robert Snyder.

“In the last year we have actively supported our en-



tire Purcellville community through hosting events at our Post such as DMV Direct and Blood Drives, supporting the town of Purcellville with food and drink vending at town events, and providing Color Guard support when needed. We have also contributed funds, labor and in-kind assistance to a variety of people throughout Loudoun County and beyond.”

The American Legion Shelbourne Parish is a 501c3 not-for-profit veteran service organization located in old town Purcellville. The post consists of American

Legion Post 293, Auxiliary Unit 293, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 293, and Legion Riders Chapter 293. Our post also serves as home to Marine Corps League Detachment 1205 “Loudoun Marines.”

“If you are a veteran in need, please reach out to us and if you are a veteran in a position to help other veterans and the community at large, please contact us,” Snyder said.

Contact the Legion through its website American Legion Shelbourne Parish Post 293.

Makersmiths team named KidWind Virtual National Champs

On May 19, the Makersmiths’ Silver Blades Middle School KidWind Turbine team was named KidWind Virtual National Champion.

This means that because they tied for first place in the Western Regional competition, they could compete at the national level. The team submitted their data (i.e. wind turbine performance data) to the national

COMMUNITY

KidWind competition, met with judges via Zoom, and participated in an online Quiz Bowl to demonstrate their knowledge about renewable energy initiatives.

The team scored the highest of all teams throughout the country participating in the virtual competition. Congratulations go to Cameron Clarke, Max and Nick Burrus and Ayden Young.



Left to right: Cameron Clarke (grade 5-HCA), Max Burrus (grade 6 Blue Ridge MS), Ayden Young (grade 5 HCA), Nick Burrus (grade 4 Emerick ES).

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Signatures of Loudoun Design Awards program seeks nominations

The Loudoun County Design Cabinet is seeking nominations from architects, builders and the design community for the 2022 Signatures of Loudoun Awards program.

The Signatures of Loudoun program recognizes buildings and public spaces that reflect outstanding design, renovation, adaptive reuse and visually groundbreaking projects throughout the county.

COMMUNITY

Nominations are encouraged for all types of projects: private and public, large and small. The Design Cabinet considers nominations for awards in eight categories:

- **Details:** excellence or whimsy demonstrated in the form of minutiae or finishing touches, which visually delight or offer a sense of continuity with Loudoun's history.
- **Familiar:** the exceptional attention given to surrounding buildings, places and details during the project design. A highly "contextual" design solution in which the new design looks as if it had always been a visually harmonious part of the neighborhood.
- **Infrastructure:** including facilities, utilities, roadways, bridges, streetscape, parkways and trails.

- **Interiors:** an interior space in residential, commercial, retail or public sector structures.
- **Legends:** projects or places that have stood the "test of time" over 25 years or more – icons that make Loudoun County unique.
- **Makeovers:** historic renovation and/or adaptive reuse projects that mirror Loudoun's reputation as a place of rich contrasts and preserve a piece of its unique history.
- **Pace Setters:** recent, visually groundbreaking projects. Pace Setters may well be the Legends of a quarter century from now.
- **Public Spaces:** public greens, plazas, and squares that have become a favorite gathering place.

Entries will be judged by members of the county's Design Cabinet, a volunteer organization of engineers, architects, planners and designers who encourage high-quality ecological, urban, architectural and landscape design in Loudoun County.

For more information, and to nominate a favorite Loudoun building, project or place, visit loudoun.gov/SignaturesofLoudoun and submit an online nomination form. The nomination period is open through July 22. This year's awardees will be honored in October.

MHSADS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

- Individuals may call 703-771-5155 to request telehealth services. Phone lines open at 8:30 a.m.
- Individuals seeking services should bring along or have access to the following information:
 - Driver's license or other photo identification
 - Health Insurance card, to include Medicaid and/or Medicare card
 - Name, address and telephone number of primary care physician
 - Verification of Social Security number; however, a Social Security number is not required to receive services
 - Proof of income (most recent income tax return, one month of paystubs and/or Social Security Annual Earning Statement)

All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, are entering a health care setting and must wear a face covering in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.

There are fees associated with assessments and services provided by MHSADS; however, no one is denied access to services based upon an inability to pay. Individuals may be eligible for reduced fees based on their income and family size.

For more information on services offered by the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services, visit loudoun.gov/mhsads or call 703-771-5155.

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Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services

Purcellville police officers receive SAR Awards

At the May 24 Purcellville Town Council meeting, Purcellville Police Department members, Sergeant David Camp and Officer Alexander Burkett received the Law Enforcement Commendation Award and Medal by the Sergeant Major John Champe Chapter of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution.

Rhett Wade of the SAR presented Sergeant Camp and Officer Burkett the award, which is given to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement. The medal recognizes exceptional service in law enforcement for those who perform beyond the scope of traditional law enforcement services.

Sergeant Camp and Officer Burkett were recognized for an incident which began back in 2021, but has created a relationship which they both still continue today.

In November 2021, the Purcellville Finance Department contacted the Police Department requesting a "check the welfare" of a resident. The water at this address had been turned off due to many unpaid water bills.

It was assumed that the property was vacant after numerous unsuccessful

contact attempts were made prior to the water shut off, until a neighbor paid the past-due notices and informed them the resident was in fact in the home. The water service was immediately restored, and Sergeant David Camp was dispatched to check on the resident's wellbeing.

Upon contact, Sergeant Camp learned that the gentleman's wife had passed away nearly two years earlier and that he had no other living friends or family. The resident was unaware of how to access his finances since his wife had handled these matters.

This left him without many of the services needed to ensure one's quality of life. In addition, due to his ailing health, he was essentially home-bound, and unable to walk more than a short distance, or drive a vehicle.

Sergeant Camp immediately contacted the Loudoun County Adult Protective Services, and they worked together to schedule and provide the much needed services and nutritional needs for him. Sergeant Camp even used his own money to purchase groceries and help the resident with his personal necessities while waiting for the services to begin. This involvement by Ser-



From L to R: Rhett Wade (SAR), Sgt. Camp, Ken Bonner (SAR), Ofc. Burkett, & Barry Schwoerer (SAR).

geant Camp quickly evolved into a deep friendship.

Since Sergeant Camp was the usual daily contact with the elderly resident, he took the initiative to bring by other officers to meet and assist the gentleman. Officer Alexander Burkett was one of those officers, who quickly gained the gentleman's trust and friendship.

When Sergeant Camp was unable to call or visit him, Officer Burkett would ensure the elderly gentleman was get-

ting needed nutrition and services, or just to engage in friendly conversation to help make his day.

During that winter, the gentlemen was admitted to the hospital for approximately one week. Sergeant Camp visited the man every day, even on his days off. Upon his release from the hospital and his admission into a rehabilitation center, Sergeant Camp continued his visits by stopping at his window and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »

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CELEBRATING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

accompanied by Elizabeth Baker on banjo, Mary Dunlap on bass, Sarah Twigg on guitar and Crystal Shipley on fiddle.

4 p.m. The festival welcomes **Frank Solivan and Jillian Lea** to the B Chord stage this year. This duo is a pairing of bluegrass superstar and multi-Grammy nominee Frank Solivan (of the Dirty Kitchen Band) and Celtic-folk artist Jillian Lea. The raw simplicity and intimate harmonies of their music is a melding of bluegrass, Celtic, classic Country, jazz and folk.

Main speakers' lineup

11 a.m. Adventures Close to Home: A Day-Hike Panel Discussion. Learn about trails to try out in your own "backyard." Moderated by Sean Lloyd (Round Hill Outdoors) and featuring favorite hikes from Sandi Marra (Appalachian Trail Conservancy), Juanita Tool (Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains), Robert Pollard (Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship) and others.

1 p.m. Going the Distance: A Section- and Thru-Hiker Panel. Moderator and thruhiker Charlie "Popeye" Billingsley tells "tales from the trail" along with section hiker/author/adventurer Jeff Ryan, A.T. legend Warren Doyle and other past and present long-distance hikers.

3 p.m. A Conversation with Warren Doyle: Why Hike? Where the Trail Can Lead You. With nine Appalachian

Trail thru hikes and nine section hikes under his belt, Warren Doyle has hiked the A.T. more than anyone else. Doyle believes the Trail can "show the way," as hikers learn to better navigate the "real world" from their trail days in the woods.

Featured organizations

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
- Appalachian Mountain Club
- Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
- American Hiking Society
- A.T. Museum
- Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains
- Blue Ridge Wildlife Center
- VA Master Naturalists—Banshee Reeks
- Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship
- Potomac Riverkeepers Network
- Piedmont Environmental Council

Round Hill AT, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, puts on this free, family-friendly celebration of the A.T. and the Great Outdoors. Major sponsors include REI Co-op, Warm Peet, Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Meadows Farms, H2Land Company and the Town of Round Hill. Venue: B Chord Brewing, 34266 Williams Gap Rd, Round Hill. For more information, see the festival's FaceBook feed @ roundhillat and visit the Round Hill Appalachian Trail Festival website: <https://www.roundhillat.org>.

LOUDOUN WORKFORCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

government, protective services, health-care, recreation, education, warehouse and professional/technical.

Individuals planning to attend the job fair are encouraged to register to receive updates and reminders, details on participating employers and possible rain dates.

To help job seekers get the most out of the job fair, the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center is hosting a virtual preparatory workshop entitled "Ready, Set, Go to the Job Fair" on Thursday, June 2, from 2 – 3:30 p.m. Register at loudoun.gov/wrcworkshops.

Additionally, the Loudoun Workforce

Resource Center is providing free copies of the publication "Turn a Job Fair Into a Job Offer." Contact the center at wrc@loudoun.gov or 703-771-5132 to request a copy.

Anyone who requires a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability in order to participate in the event may call 703-777-0150. Three days' notice is requested.

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center, a Virginia Career Works affiliate, helps businesses identify well-qualified applicants and helps those looking for work find the right fit. For more information, contact the center at 703-777-0150 or visit loudoun.gov/wrc.

PURCELLVILLE POLICE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

communicating by phone since visitors were not allowed inside for an additional three weeks.

Due to the sudden hospitalization, the gentlemen was unable to gather his necessities. Sergeant Camp, without hesitation, used his own money to purchase needed clothing and toiletry items.

Upon his release, both Sergeant Camp and Officer Burkett have continued their close contact with this gentleman to ensure he was receiving the neces-

sary follow-up care and to assist him with needed daily and weekly household tasks.

Sergeant Camp and Officer Burkett, to this day, continue to ensure the trash is collected, put at the curb and return the receptacle to the house. Both Sergeant Camp and Officer Burkett have used their own funds to purchase needed groceries when public and private sources did not have what the elderly citizen needed to meet his dietary restrictions.

Field trip is a successful parents-school collaboration

BY LAURA LONGLEY

It's fair to say it's been a rough couple of years for Loudoun County Public Schools and the parents who want more of a say in their children's educations. We share this story of a 5th grade field trip as a case study in how parents, a teacher, a principal, a librarian, LCPS administrators, the students themselves, and a whole village of history lovers together can create a valuable learning experience. The village is Lincoln, at the crossroads of Sands, Foundry, and Lincoln roads, about two miles south of Purcellville. It was founded as Goose Creek in the 1730s.

COMMUNITY

It was 5:30 on a winter morning when two Lincoln Elementary School parents of 5th graders headed off to the gym—the only spare time they could find between family, professional, and community obligations

Christi Porter recalls it this way: “Harriet Wegmeyer and I were in the car headed to the gym and praising all things Mrs. Voce”—Renee Voce, Lincoln’s 5th grade teacher—“and how grateful we are to have her at Lincoln. We waxed poetic about her having the kids plant window boxes at the 5th grade cottage, work on learning local Lincoln history, and visiting Mrs. Cook with their history questions.” (Helen Cook, 98, is the beloved retired school cook, a font of Lincoln lore.)

Christi went on, “I said something like ‘We should arrange a little walking field trip for the 5th grade class to Grace Church’”—the 1885 African American church now undergoing renovation. “‘We can do even more,’ said Harriet. ‘We could do a wagon tour of the historic Lincoln Loop walking tour.’ We emailed Mrs. Voce

with our idea. The wagon was denied, but a bus was approved, and the next thing Harriet and I know is we’re off and running

“We had in mind a tour with activities and docents at every stop. We decided to return to the tradition of wearing period clothing and packing the traditional lunches. The three of us —mostly, Harriet and Mrs. Voce and I— reached out to the members of the Lincoln Preservation Foundation and local farm owners to see



Lincoln Elementary School 5th grade students and their teacher, Renee Voce, far right, visit Oakdale, the village’s 1815 one-room school.

who would be willing to open their homes and barns and share Lincoln’s history.”

Meanwhile, Mrs. Voce had given full responsibility for the research and writing. “I became more of a facilitator,” she explained. “That way they were teaching each other.”


After Mrs. Voce and Dave Michener, principal, approved the parents’ plans, Christi and Harriet started working on activities and learning materials. “I put together Guess Who? and I Spy games and created a presentation of all the locations with a short overview of information for each,” said Christi. “Mr. Michener invited LCPS staff Danyael Graham and Andria Donnelly, parents signed the permission forms, and Harriet talked me into wearing a hoop skirt, which was at odds all day with the bus stairs.”

The sites the parents, teacher, and students chose covered the educational, spiritual, economic, racial, and social history of Lincoln, originally called Goose Creek. The residents—the Quakers of the Goose Creek Meeting—renamed the village Lincoln shortly after the president’s election.

Among the stops for the 5th graders was the 1815, one-room Oakdale School, where black children living on Quaker farms attended school with whites—the first instance of school desegregation in Loudoun.

The students explored another school—a boarding school for girls called Springdale that was the home of the prominent Quaker educator and abolitionist Samuel M. Janney. Springdale is thought to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad with its secret spaces that could have provided shelter for African Americans escaping slavery. Later, Springdale would serve as a hospital for soldiers on both sides of the Civil War. Some carved their initials in the floorboards on the third level.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 »



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORKSHOP TO EDUCATE BABY BOOMERS ON SOCIAL SECURITY

A New Generation of Retirees Prepares to Collect Benefits

An educational workshop titled "Savvy Social Security Planning: What Baby Boomers Need to Know to Maximize Retirement Income" has been scheduled for Tuesday June 14th at 6:30 or Thursday June 16th at 6:30 or Saturday June 8th at 1pm at The Purcellville Library.

Social Security is far more complicated than most people realize. The decisions baby boomers make now can have a tremendous impact on the total amount of benefits they stand to receive over their lifetime.

Questions boomers are asking include:

- Will Social Security be there for me?
- How much can I expect to receive?
- When should I apply for Social Security?
- How can I maximize my benefits?
- Will Social Security be enough to live on in retirement?

To help baby boomers better understand the Social Security system, this workshop will cover

- 5 factors to consider when deciding when to apply for benefits
- When it makes sense to delay benefits -- and when it does not
- Why you should always check your earnings record for accuracy
- How to estimate your benefits
- How to coordinate benefits with your spouse
- How to minimize taxes on Social Security benefits
- How to coordinate Social Security with your other sources of retirement income

Seating is limited and reservations are required. Individuals may reserve space by calling 855-340-3101 or visit: www.youRSVP.com and enter code: WUTNAX.

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DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

your son or daughter to manage your expectations when they return home this summer, sitting down and talking with them, and getting their buy-in, is a great place to start.

The conversation shouldn't be negative, but rather positive and upbeat. Start by focusing on the good; how proud you are of them; how happy you are that they are home. When it comes to expectations, emphasize why you'd like them to do certain things, and discuss those things in the context of where they are in life, and how what you're expecting is age appropriate and good.

Openly discussing the importance of your son or daughter having a job, having a consistent sleep schedule, helping at home, keeping their space clean as a young adult, is a lot better than you're simply telling them what to do.

So, if your son or daughter see things differently or give you push back on certain topics or requests, listen well, and try to appreciate where they're coming from. Keep in mind that you may need to find a compromise on certain topics, but if the compromises are reasonable, and your son or daughter are being responsible, then see that as a win-win.

For example, if you want your daughter in at a certain time, and she wants to stay out for an extra hour, but she's then

able to get up for work the next morning, that's fine. She'll learn on her own that staying out too late on a work night probably isn't smart when she's tired the next day.

Have a plan with ground rules: Sure, your child is older now, and you want to support him or her as much as you can toward becoming more independent, but you're still their parent. Certain things may not be negotiable for you, and it's important they understand what exactly those things are.

If getting a summer job is an expectation you have of your son or daughter, let them know that as soon as possible. If you'd like your son or daughter to have a balanced week, discuss what balance looks like and create a plan for that to happen.

Addressing hard topics right away is also important. Your child might party at college, but is drinking alcohol or using cannabis something you want them to do at home? Every family is unique, and while some parents are more liberal than others when it comes to substance use, I strongly advise against condoning any substance use at home. First, it's illegal. Second, it's not good for them. Third, messaging that substance use is fine isn't going to help them to succeed in life.

When it comes to substance use, discussing your reasoning and concerns

and not simply saying "no" is a teachable moment for your child. If they are out and they do choose to imbibe, having agreement on what they should do (e.g., staying where they are, not driving, or asking for your help) is also a must.

Similar to alcohol or drug use, your son or daughter may think it's perfectly fine to have their girlfriend or boyfriend from college visit, but if overnights aren't okay with you, discuss why.

Have fun and be productive: Returning home for the summer should be fun and productive for your son or daughter, and finding balance between both will require good communication and effort.

While you may think your child needs you less now because they're older, learning how to become fully independent is a process, and they will need you to help them to navigate the terrain of young adulthood. Our children – younger and older – are always watching us and learning. They're taking in what you say and do. These years pass by fast, so enjoy the time you have together.

Here's to a great summer.

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.

NEW FEES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

consideration the time, skill and expense involved.

While fees for some applications are increasing, efficiencies gained in processing times for some applications resulted in no change to the fee or a lower fee.

On July 14, 2021, the Board of Supervisors voted to amend Chapters 1096, 1220 and 1410 of the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County and the Loudoun County Land Subdivision and Development Ordinance to adopt new fee schedules. These fees were last updated in 2008 and 2014.

ALTERNATIVE HIRING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

information at jobs.virginia.gov, including Frequently Asked Questions for Applicants.

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APPLICATIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Eligibility

Membership in the Justice Academy is open to 20 qualifying applicants. To be eligible for consideration, the applicant must be:

1. Over the age of twenty-one years.
2. Free of any active criminal or traffic charges.
3. Able to successfully pass a criminal background check.
4. Agree and sign a Waiver and Release.

5. Able to and agree to attend in-person all sessions of the program; and
6. A resident of Loudoun County.

Application Process

The Office of the Commonwealth Attorney's Justice Academy is offered free of charge to attendees.

The Application is located at <https://www.loudoun.gov/justiceacademy>. Application process is open until Thursday, June 2, 11:59 p.m.

FIELD TRIP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

One more school deserved a visit: the two-room Lincoln Graded School (all ages). Built in 1879, it served briefly as a high school but is best known as the former Lincoln Elementary School, which operated on this site between 1915 and 1955.

The children visited three farms near the village, including the Smithson-Nichols farm, the Wegmeyer Farms, a pick-your-own strawberry and pumpkin farm, and Oakland Green, a 200-acre working cattle farm that dates to the 1730s. Ten generations of the Brown family have lived here and farmed this land.

After visiting the 1819 Goose Creek Meeting House—across the road from the 1765 Goose Creek stone meeting house—the 5th graders went on to see the village's two African American churches—the 1884 Mt. Olive Baptist Church and the 1885 Grace Methodist

Episcopal Church. Grace is under restoration with Jeffrey Jackson, a former teacher, managing the project. The work includes the church basement where local Quakers taught sewing, cooking, and shoe repair.

Renee Voce and Paula Dillon, the Lincoln Elementary's librarian, are now busy transforming the 5th graders' field trip content into a Thinglink experience. The software program can add hotspots to images, videos, 360/VR and 3D models, and combine them into an engaging scenario. Interactivity on visual media radically improves engagement and learning performance for all age groups, so the Lincoln 5th Graders' Field Trip should live long beyond the students' four-hour outing.

As Renee Voce says, "Anyone, any other teacher or administrator in the County who wants to teach and share this part of our history could just go grab a link for it on our school website."

DAVID COX, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

moving.

Cox graduated from Carleton College in Minnesota before serving two years in the Peace Corps teaching English to students in Albania.

"JK Moving is an American success story—a company built from the ground up by a visionary founder with a great team and service. I am proud to be helping lead the next chapter, positioning this company for further growth and success," said Cox.

Innovations guided by Cox contributed to JK Moving recently being named Independent Mover of the Year by the

American Trucking Association.

These included developing AI-driven tools that enable customers to conduct real-time, virtual surveys of their goods; and creating a downloadable mobile app that works with the survey platform to enable clients to review estimates, make payments, and communicate with their move team.

In addition, he helped spearhead the company's move to address driver shortages by increasing its annual guaranteed income for experienced Over-the-Road Class-A CDL Drivers to a minimum \$100,000—which is twice the national average for the position.



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STEVENSON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6
 business inside and out – the authenticity of it all – it does more than provide dignified employment, tax revenue, and a very small contribution to our gross domestic product. It functions as a place maker as 21st Street in Purcellville is likely the very soul – the spiritual, cultural, and historic epicenter – of the

town today, and Nichols has as good a claim as any building or business there of being the nucleus of that epicenter.
 In that vein we may even begin to consider the ecology of Purcellville’s built environment and its spiritual psyche – but that would get too jargony too fast. Best to keep it straightforward and matter-of-fact – like those employees across the wooden counter staring down at us

through the years – so to distill it down a bit, come for the hardware and stay because it feels like it’s here for us, not just our business.
 Adam Stevenson grew up in Purcellville and can be found many Saturdays walking around 21st Street, with obligatory stops at Nichols Hardware and It’s Bazaar. He is particularly interested in sustainable urban planning and Loudoun’s flora and fauna.

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6
 to plunder, and to heck with citizens. These people are not our friends, yet they often control these committees. Particularly tragic was their control of the committee which produced the new General Plan, which zoning must follow.
 Consider the Zoning Ordinance Committee. There are members from the Chamber of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

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HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

Commerce, the office and industrial developers, realtors, homebuilders, the economic development advisory commission, plus representatives of land use planning and of civil engineering whose clients are developers. That's seven seats, while our conservation side gets two designated seats. There are other seats

whose members sometimes vote our way, but it's clear that being given a majority stake in the future of western Loudoun, our opponents are in control.

Houston's Solution

We must always emphasize that Loudoun belongs to its citizens, not to business interests. That is consistent with Lincoln's words. They please me much

more than does Plato's proposal for carefully trained rulers who are supposed to be wiser than the citizenry.

All the volunteer committee and board members must be regular citizens, not representatives of business groups that see western Loudoun as fertile soil to be plowed. However, recognize that these people do have expertise on the subject matters. Let them sit on ad hoc panels that

advise the formal boards and committees.

Plato might fidget at that solution. While we're at it, for the sake of efficiency, limit committee sizes to nine members, one for each supervisor.

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.

OPINION

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'WE'RE IN THE MONEY,' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Telecommunications and Information Administration released the guidance on the grant process for the \$45-billion broadband investment program. This is the program intended to fund a broadband infrastructure that will provide high-speed internet access in rural areas, such as western Loudoun County. Congress gave states the power to determine which projects to fund.

"That's a concern for a lot of municipalities," Fraser points out, "because once that money touches the state, the state could prioritize its own needs, and the local municipalities may never see that money. We need to get up to speed quickly."

Finding those programs that apply directly to rural municipalities, however, will require digging. For example, the Department of Agriculture has established an "engagement strategy" to access the \$1.9 billion in loans, grants, and other funds available directly to local governments as well states, Tribes, cooperatives, and nonprofits to build infrastructure and install equipment. Applications for these loans and grants will open in the third quarter of 2022, i.e., very soon.

To help towns like Purcellville apply for and succeed in acquisition of funds, the key participating federal departments and agencies have prepared an essential guide: the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Rural Playbook: A Roadmap for Delivering Opportunity and Investments in Rural America.

Nonprofits are also stepping up to help. Bloomberg Philanthropies, which encompasses all the charitable giving of founder Michael R. Bloomberg, along with the Emerson Collective, the Ford Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation, will be launching a Local Infrastructure Hub on July 1.

Bloomberg emphasizes urgency. "Over the next 24 months, local governments will be sorting through roughly 400 programs that are designed to aid everything from ports and parks to rural broadband and green buildings, all of which impact the well-being and livelihood of communities across the country. But the fact

is: many cities and towns don't have the staff to identify all the funding that may be available to them. And," he adds, "once they figure out which funding they are actually eligible for, they don't have the capacity to complete the necessary applications."

Bloomberg's comment speaks directly to Fraser's point that the time is now to dedicate the Town of Purcellville's administrative staff to researching and applying for those Bipartisan Infrastructure Law programs that will secure the Town's health and economic welfare in the decades to come.

The Infrastructure Hub will be delivered by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, and Results for America, a national organization focused on helping government decision makers use data and evidence to drive results.

The Hub's assistance will come in a variety of forms. This summer the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Results for America will launch a series of webinars to help cities identify the grant opportunities that align with community needs, to get guidance about application criteria and timeframes, and to learn about infrastructure innovations and emerging best practices. The Hub will also help cities think ambitiously about how to spend these grants on opportunities to advance innovative solutions to problems that are increasingly urgent in American cities, especially narrowing racial wealth disparities and cutting the pollution that causes climate change.

The National League of Cities, in which Fraser actively represents Purcellville, will offer technical assistance to help small towns and mid-size cities develop strong applications that are grounded in data, feature detailed project plans, and include relevant policy objectives.

There is no doubt the support for rural communities is available. The question for this community is, Will the Town of Purcellville seize the day?

"Now is not the time to be complacent," says Mayor Fraser. "With the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, there's a lot more money out there that we don't want to miss out on."

HILLSBORO PLAYERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

University.

The Glass Menagerie is a lyrical drama, full of wit and charm, which takes place on the eve of World War II, in a dingy St. Louis apartment. Amanda Wingfield and her adult children, Tom and Laura, live in a world of illusion, designed to protect themselves from the unbearable collapse of dreams. Audiences will be transported into a bygone era, as this family confronts questions about both the past and the future, when a gentleman comes to call.

Performances will be on Friday, June 10 at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 11 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, June 12 at 3 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online for \$10, or at the door for \$15. Drinks and other refreshments will be sold prior to the performance and during the intermission. All net proceeds will support historic restoration projects in The Hillsboro region.

For tickets to The Glass Menagerie and more information about The Hillsboro Players visit TheHillsboroPlayers.com.

A CAPPIE'S REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

that life brings.

A musical with the book by Julian Fellowes, *Mary Poppins* tells the story of the trials and tribulations of the Banks family. The Banks are of a regular sort, but the children have an unfortunate habit of playing pranks on nanny after nanny, sending each one running out the door in an attempt to escape the little rascals.

However, just as George Banks is announcing to his wife that there is no one left and Winifred will be forced to raise the children herself, someone appears in their home. *Mary Poppins*.

With a new and interesting attitude, *Mary Poppins* barges into their house with the intention of becoming the children's newest caretaker. Will she succeed in taming the children's wily ways? Or will she be the latest in a long line of failures, sent rushing home, never to return again?

Acting as the eponymous character of the show, Katie Phillips as *Mary Poppins* perfectly embodied the Disney-esque nature of the character. Her incredible vocal ability and consistent posture evoked the true nature of the classic governess.

Performing as a foil to *Mary Poppins* was Miss Andrew (Samantha Scott). Demonstrating the darker side of childcare, Scott was an excellent counterpart to Phillips' happy-go-lucky tone with her more aggressive and orderly nature.

As leader of the Banks family, George Banks (Max Layman) had the

difficult task of evolving from wanting only precision and order to appreciating what really matters in life: family. However, Layman was more than up to the task, a feat highlighted especially by his culminating scene in the bank wherein he learns that he has been given a promotion and proceeds to do several cartwheels across the stage.

The skillful work of Independence High School's technical team created the set for the time-honored musical. The set (Bella Purucker, Zack Khan, Allie Harris, Addi Cope) was created in such a way that it was able to capture the many locations of the show with ease.

All of the many buildings that were designed for the show were executed well and clearly conveyed the appropriate location. The myriad locations of the show also demanded a large amount of costumes that the costumes team (Scarlett Roberto, Lily Namsfield, Madison Nestlebusch, Akshara Desidi) provided handily. The costumes all matched the tone of the individual songs, while also keeping in mind the overall time period in an impressive balancing act.

Without a doubt, Independence High School's practically perfect production of *Mary Poppins* was wildly entertaining. With its balance of light-hearted tunes and earnest morals, the show is a reminder that one mustn't take anything too seriously, and if one does, a simple supercalifragilisticexpialidocious will snap them right out of it.



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EDUCATION REPORT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

The report also identifies Youngkin's guiding principles in education that will guide the work of his Administration in restoring excellence in education:

- Establish and maintain high expectations for students, schools, and ourselves.


- Advance parent and teacher empowerment to best serve students in partnership.
- Demand zero-tolerance for discrimination in education and beyond.
- Foster innovation in all education environments.
- Provide transparency and

accountability so that each child is seen and receives what they need to succeed.

- Ensure post-secondary readiness so that all learners can succeed in life.
- Protect and nurture freedom of speech and inquiry to ensure every student is taught how to think, not what to think.

"The future prosperity of our Commonwealth depends on how well we prepare our students," said Youngkin. "Working alongside parents, teachers, and policymakers, we will restore excellence in education and ensure that all students have access to quality education opportunities that prepare them for success in our workplaces, our communities, and our democracy."


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"WHO IS THE CUSTOMER?": CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was asking Hankins questions when she interrupted him, trying to talk over others who had also started to speak. Mayor Kwasi Fraser quickly gained control of the meeting using his gavel.

"At the end of the day I have asked this question, 'Who is the customer?' If we have multiple customers and multiple interests, we'll have meetings like these," Fraser cautioned. "I do not want the Planning Commissioners to come to us with 35-line items of concern every other week or every month."

Fraser explained it was up to the Planning Commission to work from the Town's Comprehensive Plan map. "We need to clearly define that the Planning Commission is the customer. The Comprehensive Plan is the statement of work, and the vendor [ZoneCo] needs to comply with the Comprehensive Plan. End of story.

"We should not have a vendor coming up with creative maps. The Comprehensive Plan clearly states what the map is, don't you agree? I see you nodding, so we need to do that."

Council Member Joel Grewe, who ran on a pro-growth platform (unopposed by a slow growth candidate) and was the lone vote opposing the Comprehensive Plan, said he wanted to hear the consultant.

"I've seen this game 1,000 times," Fraser countered. "If I have a vendor come in that is clearly not going with my statement of work, it is a waste of my time to listen to that vendor. I see a plan from the vendor that is not in alignment with the map in the Comprehensive Plan.

"My concern goes back to who is the customer? We can not have multiple customers and multiple meetings."

Fraser continued, "The Planning Commissioners were each interviewed and selected to be champions of this Comprehensive Plan, to make sure that we then go through the next phase of the Comprehensive Plan, which is the zoning execution ... We have one member as a liaison. If there are any items that are major, that member should come back to the Town Council and educate us on that. The process should be between, you, the vendor, and the client, and that's it."

Hankins interjected that the maps weren't "necessarily different."

Fraser responded, "This map is very confusing, and we can try to describe it a thousand different ways. I'll walk away being confused with this map versus the map in the Comprehensive Plan."

He elaborated with an example. "On the eastern part of the Town of Purcellville, I remember we had a lot of debate, a lot of deliberation on how we ensure that the traffic circle does not become inundated and agreed that the land uses that are still there would be agricultural commercial [O'Toole and DiPalma-Kipper properties].

"When I see a map that shows where the Dunkin' Donuts is and it is the same color as the quadrant agricultural commercial, it gives me pause and that's where the confusion is."

Council Member Chris Bertaut said the Comprehensive Plan is "laid out as a done deal ... Let's do what's in scope first and then add values by suggesting changes consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. We can avoid confusion, and we can avoid contention if we stick with the map that came with the Comprehensive Plan."

At the May 5 Planning Commission Meeting, Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman said, "There are mismatches between the physical geographic use desires articulated in our Comprehensive Plan and the layout of the first draft zoning map ... It feels like there's a disconnect between what it says in the Comprehensive Plan ... and this first draft of the zoning map ... they [ZoneCo] would say that it's an iterative process [open for change, revision]."

Ogelman said the consultant should instead follow what the Planning Commission wants. "I'm looking for the zoning map and the uses aligning with the Comprehensive Plan."

Milan said ZoneCo Lead Principal Sean Suder should focus on the areas that are "all in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan." Looking at Suder's comments, he added, "There's a disconnect there."

Ogelman said, "I feel like the effort and the work we did to provide feedback on the draft they [ZoneCo] did and their response to us is not commensurate. We are talking about a policy issue here, not a legal issue."

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

photography while I took a stroll out to the little wooden bridge a bit closer to those ballfields – straddling a little 'run' (as in, running water) coming down from the neighborhoods. For some unknown reason, I felt it important NOT to frighten the little creature into flight – he really did seem a bit drowsy as I stood perhaps eight to 10 yards away. He just sort of craned his neck a bit to take me in – this crazy, early-morning

tourist who hadn't sense enough to wait for a decent visiting hour. I ceased my efforts at picture-taking and carefully crept away from the spot, leaving him (or her) to maybe find its own breakfast of fish, frog or insect – and then get on with its day. I hope he or she had a good one. And I'll remember that feathered friend with the railroad-spike beak and brilliant blue plumage. Maybe when I return for a full walking circuit, we'll meet again.

"Something is very backwards. I don't feel like we should be taking a zoning map that has had no citizen input and looking to reshuffle the Comprehensive Plan that is based on citizen input to accommodate" a draft zoning map that ZoneCo has created.

"The direction should be the opposite," Ogelman reasoned. "It should be how is the zoning ordinance aligning to what our citizens said in our deliberative democratic process and what they want."

Planning Commission Chair Nan Forbes said, "The maps that are in the Comprehensive Plan are presumptively correct ... The idea that we are going to have to go back and find places over and over where they [ZoneCo] have essentially redrawn the lines without explanation, without anything except here it is, strikes me as being backwards ... There is already a map which has been approved by the Town Council.

"We are essentially being told 'don't bother us,' and it doesn't feel very good." Forbes pointed out that even at the Town Council level at a previous meeting the Council did "not want to see a lot of changes made to the existing Comprehensive Plan."

Forbes continued, "At least a month ago, prior to this map being delivered, we had a product ... that we wanted to keep in place ... and yet in spite of that pretty specific guidance, this map was delivered ... and appeared to be a deliberate mismatch from the Comprehensive Plan."

"The map in the Comprehensive Plan is good. If the goal is to be on time and not spend money, they [ZoneCo] should do what they were directed to do a month, a month and a half ago," Forbes contended. "Don't make us go back and reinvent the wheel and have to explain all over again why we did what we did – and that's the position we are being put in."

Milan said ZoneCo should be concentrating on what the focus group wanted them to follow and they have deviated from that a second time. "We are the client; they are not the client. We have given them an outline of how we want this to be."

Ogelman said, "There is one thing that should be guiding them [ZoneCo], and that's how we get as close to the desires

of the Comprehensive Plan as possible ... but to just tell us 'don't worry about your Comprehensive Plan and we'll come up with something' – that doesn't work."

Planning Commissioner Boo Bennett said she "doesn't have the desire to have a discussion if it is not part of the Comprehensive Plan. We are spending money and I want to spend it wisely – not just the money, but the time."

Ogelman said that there were areas in the Town on the official zoning map that are classified as planned development housing, which comes with retail, commercial and other kinds of dense uses. But the areas are built out with single family housing.

In the Comprehensive Plan, the citizens wanted to sustain these areas as single family residential. "It doesn't make sense to me to leave them in the zoning ordinance with a battery of use categories that don't exist there," Ogelman argued.

In ZoneCo's draft map, a proposed Trail Oriented District would encompass properties north and south of the W&OD Trail running from Hatcher on the east to beyond 21st Street on the west. This would add commercial, office and apartments to an area that would not be in line with the Comprehensive Plan. Multi family housing is not allowed in this district, and development is supposed to be in line with the existing neighborhoods.

The contract with ZoneCo, the company hired by senior management to work with the Planning Commission to implement the Town's updated Zoning Ordinance, was signed in January 2022, with a completion date of 16 months. The Planning Commission is in the fifth month of trying to move forward with the 16-month goal.

In emails on the night of the May 5 Planning Commission meeting, Hankins pressed Sean Suder to attend the joint meeting on May 9 and present his proposed map, despite the Planning Commission's desire to use the approved Comprehensive Plan zoning map. Hankins also urged him to present the proposed TO District. Suder wrote, "If we are simply mapping the comp plan future land use map... we can do that and there is no need for a working meeting [on May 9]. There is nothing to discuss."

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