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Neighbors catch Planning Commission's ear on proposed changes to the Dulles high decibel-level impact areas

BY LAURA LONGLEY

If you live in the Birchwood community of Brambleton, last March it's likely you received a surprise missive in the mail: a notification from Loudoun County about pending changes in the areas around Dulles International Airport and their designations for decibel levels.

These areas were approved by a previous Board of Supervisors. They established a one-mile buffer zone, an area

with the least airplane noise. Louder is the 60-65 decibel neighborhood. The loudest is designated 65+.

Most of the 65+ area lays to the north of the airport in a largely undeveloped tract. It's the residents and businesses of the areas to the airport's west, south, and southwest—"Suburban Neighborhood Place Type" and "Suburban Mixed Use Place Type"—that will feel the pain

of changed designations. Many homes would move from the 60 band to the undesirable 65+.

While Loudoun County does not govern the airport in any way or participate in plans for its expansion, the County does play an important role in that middle ground between the Federal Aviation Administration, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, and the lives of Loudouners. At this juncture, if the Loudoun County Planning Commission, followed by the Board of Supervisors, were preparing to sign off on the FAA's recommended decibel-level contours, the County would directly impact the value of properties.

That is, until more than 45 people turned up at the County government building on June 28 to be heard on the issue.

Representative voices included:

- a spokesman for a neighborhood asking the County to join them in lobbying the FAA
- a resident of Brambleton's Birchwood development
- an attorney representing developers and large commercial interests
- a real estate broker

The Neighborhood Spokesman:

"One of our requests is to help us go to the FAA to require the aircraft to fly a minimum of five miles straight out. Yes, that's not necessarily convenient for them. Tough noogies. We're in the



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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

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"I see availabilities as the ultimate Ponzi scheme." — Mayor Kwasi Fraser

BY VALERIE CURY

For the eight years Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser has served as mayor, he has been asking, without effect, management to direct the Town's utility consultants to base their water and sewer rate predictions on innovation such as the selling of nutrient credits, stream water credits, and available grants.

Every year the utility rate recommendations come in based on growth predictions, known as availabilities, which estimate the amount of residential growth needed to lower the rates.

Using this model exclusively for years has made it not only unpredictable for the Town to set rates accurately, but it also recommends adding more residential growth which is not properly factored into the Stantec and management estimates. This would also increase operation and maintenance costs.

If these availabilities are realized, the additional operational and maintenance costs would increase rates for citizens. However, the management team has not been accurate in its estimation

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area where our house is greatly impacted. Right now we have no recourse.

"You live your entire life indoors behind acoustic windows. We paid extra for an outdoor living space that we can't use; if you do, you just sit there. I don't know sign language, my fault. This noise should not be accepted by this group or anyone supporting the constituents of this County.

"I also flatly reject the notion that you have no power over the FAA. You may not in your current position, but you do with us. So, join us. And let's go change this."

The Birchwood Resident: "It's heartbreaking to realize that myself and all the residents from Birchwood today, and nearly 1,800 total future households, have purchased their homes most likely with the intent to make this their permanent retirement residence.

"In terms of disclosure, I will share with you that at the time of our sale no

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It's Loudoun County Fair time

It's that time of year – the Loudoun County Fair is from July 26 to July 30. The fair will take place at the fairgrounds located at 17558 Dry Mill Road, Leesburg 20175.

On July 26 don't miss the rabbit hopping competition and dairy goat show and showmanship, to name a few.



Stoney Roberts Demolition Derby starts at 7 p.m. in the outdoor arena. Each day, Scales, Tails, and Teeth presents the Gator Boys Road Shows – where the audience will see Jimmy Riffle and his crew display alligator wrestling and more. Agracadabra runs from July 26 to July 30 and the show mixes farm fun and magic. The Bar C Ranch Petting Zoo runs continuously through the duration of the fair.

July 27 brings the Pig Scramble, where the winners get to take home a pig or \$20 in cash. There's the Horse Drill Team Performance, the egg toss challenge, and yum – the Pie Eating Contest at 2:30, at the outdoor arena. Don't forget the Sheep Showmanship, and the Rabbit Parade of Breeds, just to name a few.

The Beef Showmanship event is on



July 28 early in the morning. The day offers Tug-of-War, Horse Demonstration by the 4-H Canterlopes Club, Kids Rodeo, and Milking Demonstrations and Facts about Cows, and so much more. Don't forget there is live music by Kyle Lambdin.

Start July 29 with the Alpaca and Llama Obstacle course at 9 a.m. Don't forget the Alpaca and Llama showmanship, the Rabbit Dress Up Competition, the Watermelon Eating contest at Franny Pavilion, the livestock auction and the Ropin' and Ridin' Rodeo pre-show. The True Grit Rodeo is both on June 28 and 29.

There is a Firefighter Show, Super Farmer Competition, live music by Spencer Hatcher, and Thomas motorsport Demolition Derby, and Power Wheels Derby on July 30. Also, the Kiss-A-Pig winner will be announced.

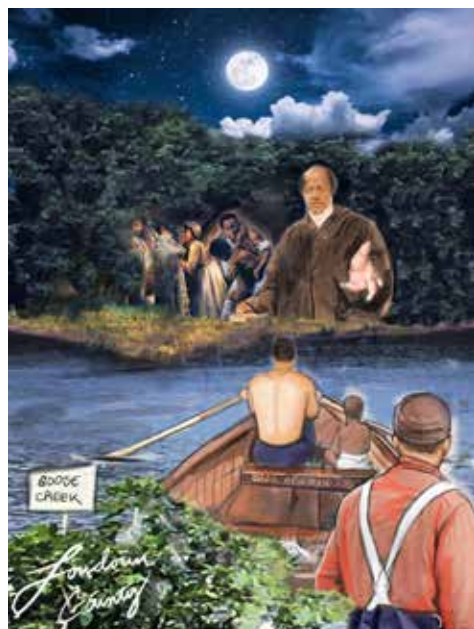
There are so many fun events at the Loudoun County Fair, and for more information go to <https://loudouncountyfair.com/schedule/>.

Leesburg Town Council Approves Black History Mural

On Tuesday, June 28, the Leesburg Town Council approved the installation of a Black History mural, on the east facing wall of the Loudoun Museum.

The mural was proposed last spring by Carmen Felder, president of the 89 Ways to Give Foundation, to highlight the Underground Railroad and its significance to Loudoun County.

"89 Ways to Give is super excited to move forward with this project," Felder said. "I feel this mural is definitely going to bring tourism to Leesburg and the Loudoun Museum while highlighting Black history and some of our forgotten



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Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth:

Whites Ferry

BY TIM JON

Give me a gloomy day, some moving water, and absolute solitude – and I’ll be generally happy; the day I last visited the site in question was certainly bountiful in all categories. The intersection of Whites Ferry Road and the Potomac River (on the Virginia Side, anyway) leaves one facing a gently sliding body of liquid – dotted with islands, lined with mature trees, filled with silt, fish, turtles and other critters – and, at the time of this writing – provided with all the privacy one could ask within 40 miles of our nation’s capital.

It wasn’t always like this. Whites Ferry used to be a ‘booming’ place; I’m not sure how many commuters (and their vehicles) they transported across the river at this crossing, but when the busy service would temporarily cease during



TIM JON

potentially dangerous high-water conditions, it was a hot topic for morning radio show hosts in Leesburg.

Now, since my newsroom sat approximately 15 feet from the live studio at AM 1200 Wage Radio, and the daily Morning Show host could usually look me in the eyes through our series of windows, I was naturally expected to find out – and pronto – “What’s happening with Whites Ferry?”

And the local electrical outages, and the road conditions across Loudoun County, and the possible school closures, and, let’s see: who won the local pie-baking contest, and did Little Janey’s pet bunny rabbit have its babies yet? And other more important details which I’ve blessedly forgotten.

So – I got to know some of the folks out at the offices of Whites Ferry – and I got to appreciate their sometimes gruff early-morning bedside manner, which made a natural complement to my own.



But I didn’t have time or opportunity to learn much else, besides the name of the various Ferries in use: they were all summarily dubbed “The Jubal Early” after the Confederate Civil War General – who, reportedly bore emotional similarities to your everyday, average mule.

I remember another memorable time for the local river ferry service, back in the mid-2000’s, the Coast Guard raised a fuss over official licensing: Officers claimed that the operators at that time were running without proper documentation. I recall one particular conversa-

tion that had me envisioning weasels from Washington scurrying from shotgun fire – but I don’t think it ever came to that; the Ferry kept ferrying, the G-Men kept threatening, the commuters kept commuting, the radio personalities had fodder for morning conversation, and everybody was pretty much happy.

And, strange to say, but I look back – now – on those times as memories as precious as a family Thanksgiving. Yes, I miss the tumult of the trials and tribulations of the General Jubal Early. The Ferries bearing the renegade’s name now lie as quietly as the original General’s remains; an eminent domain, land-use squabble has finally stopped operations on the famous river crossing service.

On the morning of this story’s writing, Whites Ferry’s been quiet for about a year; this unprecedented lapse in running comes after a history dating back almost 200 years (my news archive reports

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

6 Tips to getting the most out of summer for your kids

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

“Summer has a flavor like no other. Always fresh and simmered in sunshine.” – Oprah Winfrey

When I was a kid, a typical summer day involved me jumping on my bike after breakfast to explore; maybe I’d head over to a friend’s house or to the wooded park near my house with a group of buddies. Perhaps I’d catch up with another group to play a sport.



Dr. Mike

My friends and I would spend full days outside creating great times. And when the sun would begin to lower, I remember doing whatever I could to keep the day and the excite-

ment going. If I had some change in my pocket, I’d go to 7 Eleven across town for a Slurpee and some sugary bubble gum before peddling home as fast as possible – for dinner was a nice treat.

Okay, so it’s not the 1970’s anymore, and perhaps my recollection of my childhood summer days is overly idyllic. It’s human nature to romanticize our past, and every generation likes to think their times were the best times.

My main point here is not that things were better for children in the past, but in many ways they were easier. Today’s children have so much to contend with; and knowing how to simply be in the moment to have fun can be a challenge.

Today’s parents are also tasked with

so much during the summer – managing balanced technology use, busy schedules, camps, sports teams, play dates, summer vacations, meals, and other activities. Being on top of things is easier said than done, especially since the majority of parents both work full-time.

Here are 6 tips to consider to ensure your child has a great summer.

Create a roadmap for each day for your child. Sure, there’s a lot of down time for your kids with school being out, but children and teens do better with a schedule. A schedule gives your child a voice and some agency in terms of how they spend their time, and what activities they participate in.

For younger kids, the schedule can be

a visual aid on paper, and you can even break it down into three parts – morning, daytime, and evening activities.

For older kids and teens, talking through the day the night before or in the morning might be better. When you help your child manage their time and activities, you’re supporting planning skills, problem solving skills, and time management skills.

Get your child outside. Research has shown that children who spend time outside, especially social time with their peers, have lower rates of all sorts of problems such as ADHD, anxiety, depression, social struggles, and screen time/technology use struggles. While

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Down to the Lick Log

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

A lick-log is a hollowed-out tree trunk, filled with salt that cattle or horses can lick. That somehow led to its vernacular usage today, which means nearing the end of negotiations.

OPINION

In 1836 the Mexican general Santa Ana besieged the Alamo. After a 13-day encirclement, his army left its encampments for a direct assault on the Alamo. Davy Crockett supposedly used “down to the lick-log” to refer to that impending fight. Crockett didn’t survive, but the phrase did.

“Nearing the end of negotiations” is where ZOC and DPZ are with the ZOR.

Without the acronyms, that’s where the Zoning Ordinance Committee and the County’s Department of Planning and Zoning are with the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite. The 1,004-page cur-

rent zoning ordinance is based on the 1993 zoning document which has been amended about one hundred times. It needed to be replaced with a new ordinance that will be appropriate to 2022 Loudoun, and which will be easier to use and more readable.

Conflict, Compromise and Consensus.

“Appropriate for 2022 Loudoun” sounds nice, and implies that it’s an agreed-upon concept. It’s not. There are scores of things where ZOC members don’t agree, some large and some just ministerial. Breweries are an example of a major and unresolved issue. Some of our members relish their success. Other are furious at the traffic they bring. (I’ve suggested a compromise: Require special exceptions for any new breweries, while leaving the current ones alone. That would let the Board of Supervisors

approve new breweries on a case-by case basis.)

There are any number of similar issues that still pend, especially in western Loudoun. We know that now it’s down to the lick log.

The Lick-log Looms

ZOC’s work has to be finished in July in order to meet the deadline set by the Board of Supervisors. We will send our recommendations to the Planning Commission, which will hold meetings and hearings before the proposed ordinance is finally sent to the full Board for still more meetings and hearings. The Board hopes to enact the new zoning ordinance in the spring.

Wrapping up its work on the zoning rewrite will be a challenge for ZOC and particularly for Staff. For example, ZOC once discussed the MDOD and the

VCOD, but only briefly and without any satisfactory conclusions – that’s the Mountainside Development Overlay District and the Village Conservation Overlay District.

I can’t think of any things that are more important to Loudoun’s aesthetic appeal, than our mountains and our historic villages like Waterford. Unfortunately, they’ve been given short shrift so far. There are also some sections of zoning text that have not yet been drafted, and other issues that have not been fully resolved.

At the Lick-log

You may have noticed that I’ve not talked about cluster subdivisions. They are a huge area of concern and debate, so much so that they are on a separate track as a ZOAM – a Zoning Ordinance

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A roundabout annexation proposal for Purcellville

BY ADAM STEVENSON

At the May 10 Purcellville Town Council meeting many Purcellville area pickleball players showed up to express their desire for indoor pickleball court facilities – as they have been using space at the Carver Senior Center.

As the sport has grown, there are many local enthusiasts looking to use the limited area venues. Recently the town staff identified a variety of temporary housing for indoor pickleball play (including Patrick Henry College, and the future Fields Farm County Recreation Complex), though Magic Kayhan had another idea.

Kayhan, the owner of Olympus Gym and a 12.48-acre property immediately north of Rt. 7 outside of Purcellville town limits on Purcellville Road (a piece of the

former Warner Brook property), spoke at the meeting to express his support of pickleball, and proposed constructing a pickleball building on his own property which is outside of town.

Specifically, he mentioned he would like to donate almost 4 acres of his property for an indoor pickleball court. During his comments he said “I am doing [this] because I know how much support it’s got ... and didn’t know how fast it’s growing. So, it would be a great plus for the town ... as painful as it is to be in town, I’m willing to sacrifice that.”

Kayhan acquired his property a few years ago, and he hinted that such a donation would be contingent on being annexed into the town – which would significantly raise the value of his property due to the access of town utilities.

There’s almost an element of half-hearted theater in his description of

annexation into Purcellville as “painful.” So “painful,” we are supposed to believe, that he would take the time to ask the Town Council to seriously consider such action – while simultaneously sweetening the deal through the proposed donation, and thereby co-opting an interest group to align with his private interests.

Unfortunately, if the town council were to annex Kayhan’s property, the subsequent annexation of Chuck Kuhn’s section of the Warner Brook property would become much more realistic. And, if annexed, Kuhn’s property, presently a 100 plus acre field, would likely become an industrial park.

Here, perhaps, is the central lesson: each individual decision a town or city makes with regards to annexation has ripple effects – second-and third-order consequences – that in turn either in-

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There is an alternative to closing Rt. 340

Dear Editor:

Starting in the spring of 2023 West Virginia plans to close Rt. 340 at the VA/WV state line for at least 90 days to complete a Rock Slide Repair Project. The WVDOT had three options: a total closure, one

LETTER

lane with traffic lights at either end to allow for alternating traffic, or two very narrow lanes that would need to be closed in both directions for an estimated 15 minutes per hour.

WVDOT seems to have chosen the first option, a total closure for the duration of the project.

The project is needed as the cliff face is unstable and people have been seriously injured by falling rocks.

The detour route is going to seriously disrupt traffic in western Loudoun, and our friends and neighbors in WV will be sitting in gridlock during their

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Zoning ordinances, conservation easements, prime soils, land use, and drones dominate discussions at Rural Town Hall

BY LAURA LONGLEY

On June 30, Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large) and Catoctin District Supervisor Caleb Kershner (R-Catoctin) hosted a Rural Town Hall at Round Hill Elementary School. Blue Ridge Supervisor Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) was unable to attend, but his senior staff represented him.

Looking around the school's multi-purpose room, you could spot brewery and winery owners, vinturists, innkeepers, pick-your-own and pumpkin patch growers, conservationists, horticulturists, a few farmers who still plant feed crops, raise cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, turkeys, and chickens for market, and developers growing housings on by-right parcels.

Virtually all of them have a stake in the outcome of Loudoun County's review and rewriting of zoning laws, a process soon to conclude its public input period. That process, well underway, will include further reviews, discussions, and approvals by the Transportation and Land Use Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and many public hearings

until final approval next spring.

Zoning changes and conservation easements

At this forum, the Supervisors heard concerns that will continue to inform the zoning rewrite process: protection of prime soils for agriculture, current zoning law that permits dense, cluster development with houses often built on prime soils, and conservation easements



as tools for protecting privately owned land. A voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency, a conservation easement permanently limits uses of the land to protect its conservation values. As the Land Trust Alliance explains,

landowners retain many of their rights, including the right to own and use the land, sell it, and pass it on to their heirs.

Concerned about the impact of proposed zoning ordinances on property values and the value of a conservation easement, Kershner has asked staff to provide further information. "I'm hoping that we can have our cake and eat it, too. If we can provide an incentive to maximize the use of soils and not cause a devaluation, then that's great."

Keeping land open without housing developments while monetizing the property brought the supervisors to the burgeoning business of unmanned aerial vehicles for creating a "no build" rural economy.

Impact of drones

"We held a drone summit on May 13, and it was really interesting," said Randall. "Some of these companies are building drones, others are teaching people how to fly them. I hope it is the next large way that we can have econom-

ic growth without having more homes in western Loudoun. This is always, always, always my goal."

General audience response to the drone idea was lukewarm. Lifelong conservationist Al Van Huyck articulated the objections of conservationists: "When you raise the possibility that you will be throwing activities all over, that's scary to me and maybe to others interested in agriculture. If we are only interested in having nonbuilding, we're going to lose the agricultural community and begin to jeopardize our rural tourism."

Farming's future

"I would point out," Van Huyck added, "that we've only scratched the surface of trying to reestablish farming activities that were underfunded, and we have lots of programs that are available. I look for people here today to really come up with exciting ideas" to support farming and growing."

His comments and concurring remarks from Randall drew a few loud dissents from property owners at the back of the room.

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Board approves rezoning of 87 acres to add 246 homes in Blue Ridge District

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Despite Loudoun County Planning Commission and County Planning staff recommendations to deny a developer's application for the rezoning of 87 acres on Fleetwood Road, west of Evergreen Mills Road, on June 7, the Board of Supervisors gave it a go-ahead. That approval allows the developer to expand the project from 29 single family homes to 246 units.

GOVERNMENT The new number represents an eight and a half times housing increase coupled with increased lot coverage and reduced setbacks. Among the developer's limited concessions is the inclusion of 32 affordable dwelling units and the delay until 2026 of occupancy permits on 70 units. That delay is intended to allow time for infrastructure to catch up to construction.

Infrastructure has been a major source of concern for Supervisors

Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) and Matthew Letourneau (R-Dulles). Both predict overcrowding in the schools, particularly given inconsistent estimates from Loudoun County Public Schools. They pointed to intensive construction already underway in this area, and they see road congestion and safety issues ahead due to the condition of Fleetwood Road, which intersects with Rt. 50.

"I really am not sure why we seem to be pushing so hard to increase density in this area with insufficient infrastructure, especially roadway infrastructure," Buffington maintained. "Fleetwood Road is a rural roadway, one lane each way, that has a lot of cut-through traffic that runs north and south from Rt 50." He added that it is not scheduled for any improvements by VDOT, such as shoulders, gutters, or widened travel lanes.

Buffington also pointed to the price-controlled housing as in-

sufficient. "I've heard a lot of the comments ... that we're trying to get more affordable housing. Then why would only 32 out of the 246 units be affordable? And why would we be seeking all these setback reductions and seeking to increase lot coverage? That goes against making things cheaper. You build a bigger house, it makes it more expensive, not cheaper ... I think we should keep [the zoning] as is for now."

Letourneau cited earlier Board efforts to drive affordability naturally, not just to add affordable units. "We recognized [that] Rt. 50 has no capacity when you get east, and with all these people [who] are going to be coming down here, we could throw a billion dollars out and we're not going to fix the problems," he said. "I would support higher density here, but this is too much. And it's out of sequence. I don't get it."

But the four members on the dais who supported the rezoning found

that issues of school capacity, other construction in the area, and the need for road improvements could be overcome. Caleb Kershner (R-Catoc-tin) noted that the affordable homes would be a plus, and, he added, "I also know that this particular builder has built a number of other developments within the County that I find to be very attractive ... I think it will be an excellent development."

Supervisor Mike Turner (D-Ash-burn) set aside concerns over the developer's proffers to vote yes on the rezoning.

The application was approved 4-3-1-1, with Supervisors Kershner, Turner, Sylvia R. Glass (D-Broad Run), and Vice Chairman Koran T. Saines (D-Sterling) in favor; Supervisors Buffington, Letourneau, and Kristen C. Umstatted (D-Leesburg) opposed; Supervisor Juli E. Briskman (D-Al-gonkian) abstaining, and Board Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large) absent.



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Plastic Bag Tax in Loudoun effective since July 1

The new disposable plastic bag tax of five cents per plastic bag that was adopted by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors earlier this year has been effective since July 1. The measure is intended to reduce plastic pollution in the region. Shoppers may avoid the tax by bringing their own bags with them to stores.

The new tax will be collected on purchases made at grocery stores, convenience stores and drugstores county-wide, including those within the County's incorporated towns. The tax does not apply to restaurants, food banks, farmers markets or clothing stores. It also does not apply to:

- Durable plastic bags that are specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse.

- Plastic bags that are solely used to wrap, contain, or package ice cream, meat, fish, poultry, produce, unwrapped bulk food items or perishable food items in order to avoid damage or contamination.
- Plastic bags used to carry dry cleaning or prescription drugs.
- Multiple plastic bags sold in packages and intended for use as garbage, pet waste or leaf removal bags.

Loudoun County joins other jurisdictions in the region that already have adopted a disposable plastic bag tax, including Fairfax County, Arlington County and the cities of Alexandria and Fredericksburg.

A new law passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2021 gives localities the ability to enact the tax to help address

community and environmental issues associated with disposable plastic bags.

Lightweight plastic bags are commonly found in waterways as litter and remain as a pollutant. Unlike natural materials, plastic never completely degrades. It breaks down over time into tiny pieces called microplastics that can end up in food and water and can harm wildlife.

Revenues generated by the tax can only be spent on programs that address litter and pollution or help low-income residents obtain durable reusable shopping bags free of charge. In addition to supporting the purchase of reusable bags for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Women, Infants, and Children Program, Loudoun County will use the tax revenue to expand existing environmental

programs, including:

- Environmental cleanup initiatives.
- Enhanced education and outreach programs designed to reduce environmental waste and to promote recycling.
- Programs that mitigate pollution and litter, such as expansion of the County's household hazardous waste and electronics recycling programs.
- The Loudoun County Department of Economic Development is working with local businesses to help them prepare to collect the tax.

Loudoun County is making plans to distribute free reusable bags to residents later this summer. More information about the initiative is online at loudoun.gov/BringYourOwnBag.

More than 18,000 Virginians employed in May

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has announced that the number of employed Virginians expanded to more than 4.2 million workers in May. Virginia has added nearly 80,000 since February. Virginia's unemployment rate held steady at 3 percent in May.

This continues to be below the national rate, which was unchanged at 3.6 percent. The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate, measuring the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work, rose by 0.3 percent to 63.8 percent in May.

According to BLS household survey data, the number of employed residents rose by 18,134 to 4,218,336. In recent months, employment growth has accelerated.

April's employment growth was the eighth-largest monthly increase, while May's was the tenth-largest going back to 1976. The Commonwealth's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3 percent is 1.1 percentage points below the rate from a year ago. The labor force increased by 17,175 to 4,347,177, as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 959 to 128,841.

"I'm encouraged, after one of the worst job recov-

eries from the pandemic in the nation, nearly 80,000 more Virginians are working today than when I took office," said Youngkin. "Virginia is heading in the right direction. We are focused on getting Virginians back to work and expanding opportunity across the Commonwealth. While our labor force participation continues to increase, with fewer people working than before the pandemic there is still plenty of room for growth."

"Since the height of pandemic unemployment in April 2020, the number of unemployed residents has decreased by over 385,500," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "This undoubtedly shows that Virginians are getting back to work, and that the state economy is improving."

"The May unemployment rate of 3.0 percent is approaching the near historically low pre-pandemic unemployment rate of 2.7 percent," said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater. "We are also encouraged by the continued increase of employed Virginians."

Virginia nonfarm payrolls increased by 7,000 to 4,044,400 in May. From May 2021 to May 2022, the VEC estimates that establishments in Virginia gained 125,000 jobs, an increase of 3.2 percent. In May, the pri-

vate sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 110,300 jobs, while the public sector gained 14,700 jobs.

Compared to a year ago, on a seasonally adjusted basis, nine of eleven major industry divisions experienced employment increases while two saw employment decreases. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in leisure and hospitality, up 64,000 jobs (+18.8 percent).

The second-largest over-the-year job gain occurred in education and health services, up 20,500 jobs (+3.8 percent). The third largest over-the-year job gain occurred in government, up 14,700 jobs (+2.1 percent).

Other job gains occurred in professional and business services (+12,500 jobs), trade, transportation, and utilities (+8,700 jobs), miscellaneous services (+6,300 jobs), information (+2,700 jobs), manufacturing (+600 jobs), and mining and logging (+200 jobs).

Within Government, Local (+10,400 jobs), State (+4,300 jobs), and Federal employment held steady. The job losses occurred in finance (-4,200 jobs) to 205,700 and construction, with a decrease of 1,000 jobs to 205,100.

For more details, visit the Virginia Employment Commission's website at vec.virginia.gov.

Ashburn Center groundbreaking marks the start of construction

Loudoun County held a groundbreaking ceremony for the start of construction of the Ashburn Recreation and Community Center on Thursday, June 16. The event took place on the future site of the facility near the intersection of Carolina Wren Drive and Coopers Hawk Drive in Ashburn.

Members of the Board of Supervisors and representatives of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, which will manage the facility

Loudoun County staff and elected officials gathered Thursday, June 16 for a groundbreaking ceremony marking the start of construction of the Ashburn Recreation and Community Center. The 117,000-square-foot facility will be located on Broadlands Boulevard, west of the intersection with Claiborne Parkway.



when construction is completed, were on hand for the ceremonial breaking of ground to kick off construction of this project.

The project will construct a 117,000-square-foot recreation and community center on Broadlands Boulevard, west of the intersection with Claiborne Parkway. The two-story facility includes many features:

Inside Features

- 50-meter competition pool with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

Joe Kroboth appointed Assistant Loudoun County Administrator

Joe Kroboth has been appointed as an Assistant Loudoun County Administrator, announced Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet.

Kroboth has had a lead role in the County's capital construction and transportation infrastructure development since becoming director of the Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure in 2013. Most recently, he has been serving as interim director of the Department of Planning and Zoning.

GOVERNMENT

"Joe is a proven leader who has demonstrated exceptional ability during his time with the county," said Hemstreet. "I believe his broad knowledge of local government, vast experience, and outstanding leadership skills will serve the county well in his new role as a key member of my senior management team."

As the director of DTCL, Kroboth has overseen the planning, land acquisition, design, and construction management of dozens of public in-

frastructure projects; has implemented the policies of the Countywide Transportation Plan; overseen the Loudoun Transit system; coordinated with outside agencies on the design and construction of the Metro-rail Silver Line extension to Loudoun and coordinated the planning and programming of transportation improvement funding through various regional and state partners.

Kroboth's prior experience also includes a number of positions with the city of Hagerstown, Md. and Washington County, Md., including director of Public Works and director of Fire and Emergency Services in Washington County.

Kroboth holds a master's degree in business administration from Frostburg State University and a bachelor's degree in civil and structural engineering from the University of

Maryland.

In his new position, Kroboth will join the other members of the Office of the County Administrator in directing and supervising the day-to-day operations of all Loudoun County departments and agencies that are under the direct control of the Board of Supervisors.



The Assistant County Administrator position became available earlier this year when Assistant

County Administrator John Sandy was appointed as the County's Chief Financial Officer.

The Office of the County Administrator is the highest-level management office of the Loudoun County government and also serves as the Board of Supervisors' official liaison to the constitutional officers, the judiciary, and state and regional agencies.

Loudoun County sells refunding bonds at favorable rate

Loudoun County has sold \$64.7 million in general obligation refunding bonds at a favorable interest rate of 2.75 percent.

The County received \$6.2 million in premium, which was used to reduce the par amount of the bonds, and the proceeds will

go into escrow to pay off the outstanding Series 2013A GO Public Improvement and Refunding Bonds, and the Series 2013C GO Public Improvement Bonds.

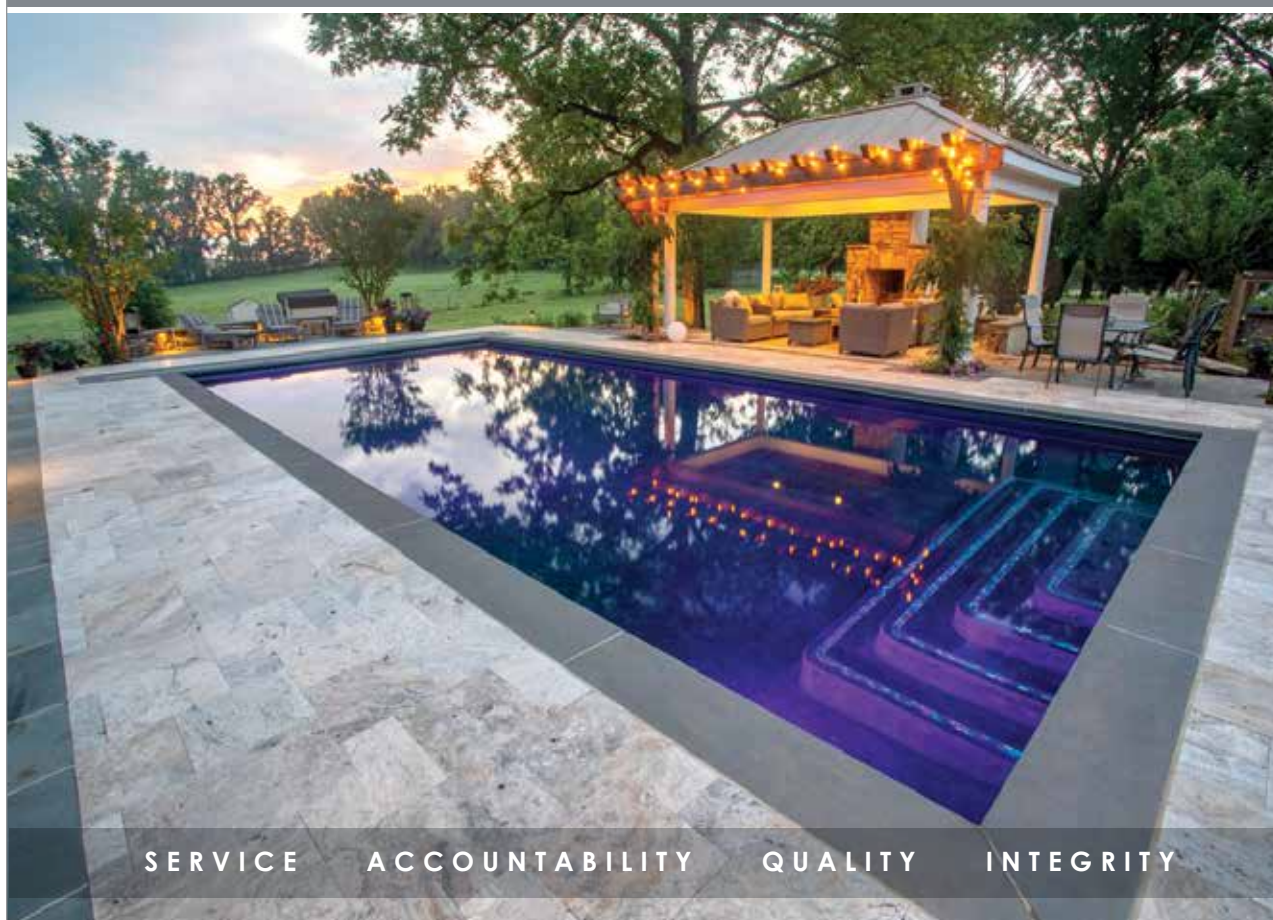
As a result of the favorable interest rate received, the County achieved budgetary savings of approximately \$5 million over the remaining 11-year life of the refinanced bonds.

Three bidders submitted offers for the County's bonds. Jefferies LLC offered the bid with the lowest interest rate, which the county accepted. This sale follows three other successful bonds sales (GO and Economic Development Authority) by the County in May 2022. Each of those sales also received favorable interest rates.

GOVERNMENT

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 »

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Nearly \$124 M available for affordable housing

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA), in June, announced the designation of \$9,000,000 in federal funding to three Virginia-based organizations helping to provide affordable housing and services to low-income individuals. The funds were administered

GOVERNMENT

by the United States Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund through the department's Capital Management Fund.

"Affordable, safe housing should be available to every Virginian," the senators said. "This funding will allow Virginia organizations to continue their

crucial work of securing housing for those in need."

The funds will be broken down as follows:

- \$5,000,000 for the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, Inc. in Arlington, VA.
- \$2,000,000 for AHC Inc. in Arlington, VA.
- \$2,000,000 for the Piedmont Housing Alliance in Charlottesville, VA.

This funding comes in addition to the nearly \$115 million in funding for affordable housing in Virginia announced earlier this year. Sens. Warner and Kaine have long supported efforts to increase

affordable housing in Virginia.

The Senators have introduced legislation that would address rising home prices, assist first-generation homebuyers, and close the widening wealth and homeownership gaps. Also, Kaine led the introduction of the *Fair Housing Improvement Act of 2022*, which would expand protections under the *Fair Housing Act of 1968* to include banning discrimination based on source of income, giving more individuals and families access to affordable housing and a shot at economic mobility.

Sen. Warner has also been a leader in Congress for CDFI investment. To combat the hemorrhaging of jobs and

economic opportunities during the pandemic, Sen. Warner led a bipartisan group of colleagues in introducing the *Jobs and Neighborhood Investment Act*. Sen.

Warner was later able to secure provisions from the bill in the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021*, which was signed into law on December 27, 2020, providing an unprecedented \$12 billion in funding for CDFIs.

Sen. Warner also introduced legislation to help unlock more equity and long-term financial capital for CDFIs to boost economic growth in low-income communities.

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Silver Line Metrorail coming soon to Loudoun

Passenger service on Metrorail's Silver Line extension into Loudoun County is one step closer to reality. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority announced in a news release June 23, that it is taking control of the Silver Line extension, one of the final steps in the project's completion.

GOVERNMENT

This milestone known as the Operational Readiness Date marks the point where control of the extension is formally transferred from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, which managed construction of the project, to WMATA, which operates Metrorail.

The opening date for passenger service will be announced at a later date. Phase 2 of the Silver Line is expected to open to the public approximately 90 to 150 days after ORD is announced.

"I am thrilled the project is moving forward toward opening to the public," said Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall. "Loudoun is ready to see our investment in this project pay off as Loudoun becomes connected to the region by Metro. In addition, we are excited to welcome

new tourist and visitors from the Washington, D.C. area to Loudoun."

"Operational Readiness is a long-awaited critical step toward opening Silver Line Phase 2," said Dulles District Supervisor Matt Letourneau, who is also a member of the Metro Board of Directors. "This action allows Metro to begin final testing, training and staff familiarization on the new expansion and the new rail yard, which is a major component of this project. I appreciate the hard work of staff at the Airports Authority and Metro to resolve issues and bring us closer to service."

Loudoun County is preparing for the opening of the Silver Line Metrorail Service to and from the Dulles Airport, Loudoun Gateway and Ashburn Metro Stations. In this phase, the final 11.4 miles of the 23.1-mile Silver Line extension from East Falls Church to Dulles Airport was completed.

The extension of Metrorail will provide reliable transportation and an alternative to vehicular traffic between the Dulles Corridor and Herndon, Reston, Tyson's Corner, Arlington and downtown Washington, D.C.

When Metrorail service in Loudoun begins, Loudoun County Transit will provide bus routes to and from the Metrorail stations. For more information, visit loudoun.gov/silverline.

Getting to Metrorail Stations

When Silver Line Metrorail passenger service begins in Loudoun County, riders will be able to access the Loudoun Metrorail stations in several ways, including by bus or car as follows:

Transit Service: Loudoun County Transit will begin new and modified bus routes when Metrorail Silver Line service begins in Loudoun County. More information is provided on the Silver Line Bus Routes webpage.

Metrorail Parking Garages: Loudoun County is responsible for the construction of three garages to serve two Metrorail stations – one at the Loudoun Gateway Metrorail Station and two at the Ashburn Station Metrorail Station. More information is provided on the Metrorail Parking Garages in Loudoun County webpage.

More Information about Loudoun County Transit

Visit loudoun.gov/riderinformation for details about Loudoun County Transit, including commuter, local-fixed route, metro connection and paratransit bus services; planning a trip; service alerts; and how to ride safely.

Virtual meeting on Russell Branch Parkway Corridor Study

Loudoun County is hosting an online public meeting to gain input from the public on the outcomes of the Russell Branch Parkway: Ashbrook Marketplace Plaza to Ashbrook Place Corridor Study. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 11, at 6 p.m. Members of the community are invited to join the virtual meeting to learn, ask questions and provide feedback on the study's outcomes.

Login information, meeting materials and speaker sign-up and comment forms are available for review at loudoun.gov/russellbranchparkway. Members of the public must sign up in advance to ask questions during the event by July 8, at 12 p.m. Online participants may also send questions to the project team as Q and A messages, which will be answered during the meeting as time allows.

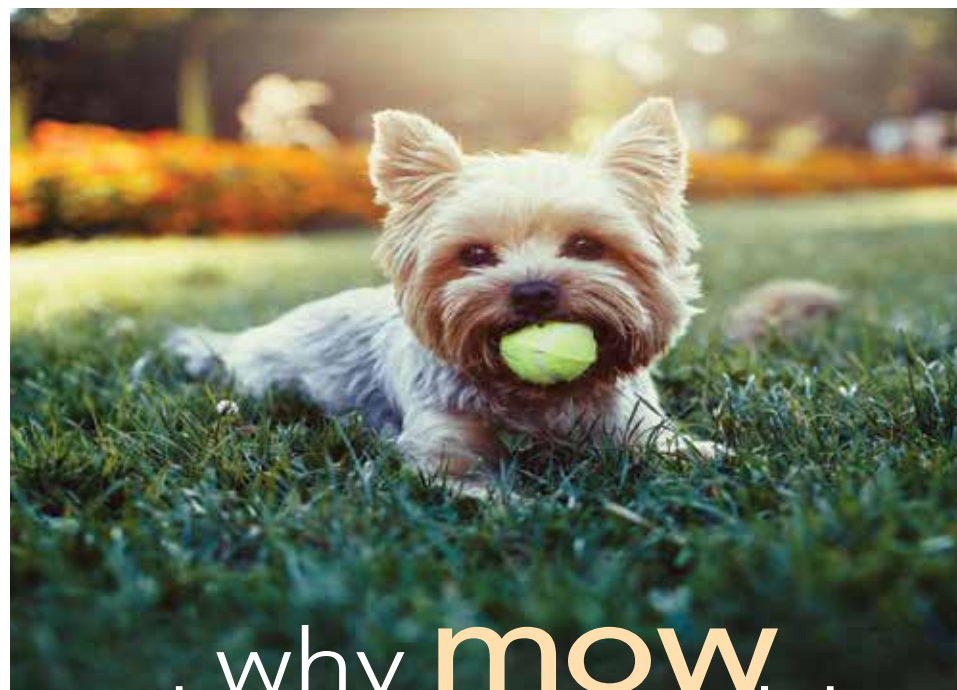
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Local Town elections on the Nov. 8 ballot

On the Nov. 8 ballot, in Purcellville Stanley J. “Stan” Milan, Sr. will be running against Joel D. Grewe for Mayor. There are six candidates running for three council seats. Caleb J. Stought, Erin K. Rayner, M.F. “Tip” Stinnette, Ronald B. Rise, Jr., Carol A. Luke, and Mary F. “Boo” Bennett are running for Town Council.

GOVERNMENT

Kenneth C. Wine, Vaughn W. Stanford, and Brian J. Daskalovitz are running for Mayor in Hamilton. Rebecca A. Jones, Catherine E. “Cathy” Salter, Craig M. Green, Elena M. Boras, and Amy Barden are running for Town Council.

In Hillsboro Mayor and Town Council will be chosen through write-ins.

In the Town of Leesburg, C.B. Kelly Burk is running against Suzanne D. Fox. For Town Council Todd A. Cimino-Johnson, Neil R. Steinberg, Colin N. Doniger, John W. Spence, Patrick J. Daly, and Patrick J. Wilt are running to fill three Council seats.

Christopher M. Hornbaker is running unopposed for Mayor in the Town of Lovettsville. Followed by Robert M. “Bobby” Merhaut, Brandon A. Davis, and Jennifer K. Reed for Town Council.

The Town of Round Hill is holding a special election to fill a vacant unexpired Town Council seat, and the filing deadline is Aug. 19.

The Towns of Round Hill and Middleburg will hold their elections in the odd numbered years.

BOS adopts new election districts

During its June 7, meeting, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors adopted amendments to the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County, Chapter 207 – Election Districts, which updates the county’s election districts. The Board adopted the LT-Revised 1 Plan, which was developed through a thorough public process over the past year.

New Election Districts Balance Population/Representation

The county’s new election districts are the result of a process that was informed by the 2020 census and input from the public. The redrawing of election districts each decade is required by law.

GOVERNMENT

The redrawn districts were designed by the Board and members of the public to help maintain districts in which the number of residents is balanced over the next decade. Based on the 2020 census, the population of each adopted district ranges between 50,468 and 54,881 residents.

Increases and decreases in the populations of each adopted district are forecasted to range between one and 17 percent of the forecasted 2030 target population of each district of 63,300 over the next ten years.

The adopted election districts adhere to the ten guidelines established by the Board for the county’s local redistricting process:

- All districts shall have equal representation.
- The plan shall comply with the Voting Rights Act.
- All districts must be compact and contiguous.
- The census shall be the source of data.

- Preserve communities of interest.
- Create districts with similar interests among communities.
- Consider voter convenience and effective election administration.
- Use geographical or physical features, especially arterial roadways, for district and precinct boundaries.
- Consider all alternative plans presented by interested groups and individuals.
- When possible, do not split incorporated towns.

New District Name

The Board previously voted to name one newly redrawn district as the Little River District. The Blue Ridge District name will be retired. The names of the county’s seven other election districts, also redrawn, will remain the same.

Next Steps

Following the Board’s vote to adopt the new election districts, the plan will be submitted for a “Certificate of No Objection” from the Office of the Attorney General, which is a certification process required by law. Once certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration will adjust precincts as necessary and establish updated polling places in accordance with adopted redistricting plan. Loudoun County’s registered voters will receive information by mail from the Office of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

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BOS approves recommendations from the Rt. 9 study

During its June 21, meeting, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved short-term, mid-term and long-term recommendations—except those projects adjacent to the Town of Hillsboro — to improve safety and operations along Rt. 9 between the West Virginia state line and Route 7.

GOVERNMENT

Rt. 9 is in a primarily rural area and travels through the Town of Hillsboro. The approved road improvements are not currently funded; however, each improvement has the potential to be included in a future capital budget.

The Board had also planned for additional safety and operational studies. The scope of the previously approved study area for the Rt. 7 study was shortened. Next, Loudoun County will conduct the Rt. 7 (from Rt. 690 to the Clarke County line) and Rt. 50 Safety and Operational Studies.

Through the study of the corridor, improvement alternatives were evaluated through screening tools,

analysis software and public input. The Board determined the preferred alternative following partner agency meetings and public participation that included an online survey to solicit feedback.

The survey results showed members of the public preferred the approved recommendations, which are listed below, as well as implementing a shared-use path and shoulders along the corridor.

Short-Term Recommendations

Short-term recommendations include installing warning signs, flashing beacons, sight distance vegetation clearing, chevrons, rumble strips, yield markings and improved signage at five locations including:

- Clarkes Gap Road
- Curve East of Sagle Road
- Hamilton Station Road
- Harpers Ferry Road
- Sweet Springs Country Store

Mid-Term Recommendations

Mid-term recommendations include improving turn lanes at Sweet Springs Country Store, Cider Mill Road and Purcellville Road and adding law enforcement pull-off areas along the corridor.

Long-Term Recommendations

Long-term recommendations at ten locations along the corridor include roundabouts at multiple intersections. The Board prioritized these improvements as follows:

- Roundabouts at Harpers Ferry Road, Cider Mill Road and Clarkes Gap Road.
- Lane continuity on a road segment from Clarkes Gap Road to Simpson Circle South and right-in/right-out/left-in turn lanes at Beacon Hill Road.
- Roundabout at Hamilton Station Road and eastbound left turn lane at Old Wheatland Road.

Background

Currently, Rt. 9 is a two-lane road

with turn lanes at some, though not all, major intersections. The study's initial task was to obtain field data, which was collected in May 2019. The data included traffic volumes, speeds, operational data, and engineering observations. The study included extensive public involvement and a focus group comprised of representatives from businesses, homeowner associations, community organizations and some private homeowners.

During its June 2017 Transportation Summit, the Board of Supervisors initiated the study to identify safety and traffic operational issues and present recommended solutions for consideration. The county worked with the public to ensure any proposed improvements along Rt. 9 will continue to carry local and commuter traffic safely and efficiently while preserving the unique context of the historical roadway.

For more information about the Rt. 9 Safety and Operational Study, visit loudoun.gov/route9.



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Reminders

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Loudoun County and PAL host Summer Wellness Fest July 9

Loudoun County, in partnership with the Prevention Alliance of Loudoun, will host the inaugural Summer Wellness Fest on Saturday, July 9, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise Street in Sterling.

The Summer Wellness Fest is free and open to everyone and all ages. The event will feature music, food trucks, games, arts and crafts, and a variety of health and wellness vendors to offer members of the community the opportunity to learn about and connect with services over the summer.

Some of the participating agencies, organizations and vendors include:

- Aria Yoga and Wellness Center
- Bach to Rock
- Bike Loudoun
- Brown Beauties, LLC
- Equality Loudoun
- Global Local
- Inova Community Health
- Inova Nutritional Programs - Healthy Plate Club
- Just Neighbors
- Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter
- Loudoun County Department of Family Services
- Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, & Developmental Services
- Loudoun County Fire & Rescue
- Loudoun County Health Department
- Loudoun County Public Schools
- Loudoun Literacy Council
- Mr. Falafel Inc.
- Northern Virginia Community College
- Prevention Alliance of Loudoun (PAL)
- PAL Youth
- Recovery Centers of America
- Row House
- Sterling Library
- STREST, LLC: The Stress Reduction Spot
- The Arc of Loudoun
- Veterans Moving Forward
- Virginia Department of Health - Tobacco Control Program

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy announces new board members

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy has announced the appointment of three new board members: Jay Frankenfield, Scott Harris, and Pat Whittle. This brings the number of board members to 14. Our board members determine and support the mission and purpose of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy.

Frankenfield is a 20-year Loudoun resident originally from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He has been with Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District for 15 years as a Conservation Specialist focusing on implementing the Virginia Agricultural Buffer-Maintenance Practice program.

He serves on the Agricultural and Forestal District Advisory Committee and the John M. Rowley Goose Creek Land Conservation Fund. He also volunteers his time as a member of the Lucketts Ruritans. He completed studies at the University of Richmond, Penn State, and Virginia Tech.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 »



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Purcellville police and Cannons collecting school supplies

It is hard to believe, but students will be back in school at the end of August, and some children will head back to the classroom without the necessary supplies.

The Purcellville Police Department, in partnership with the Purcellville Cannons, will be supporting local students by collecting much-needed supplies, in July through Aug. 10.

The Purcellville Police Department will have a collection box in the lobby for residents to donate school supplies.

On July 8, members of the Purcellville Police Department will be participating in a Collection Kickoff event at the Purcellville Cannons game scheduled for 7 p.m., with gates opening at 5:30 p.m.

There will be multiple drop boxes, an information table, and free Slurpee coupons for the first fifty attendees to donate supplies. The Cannons will also continue to collect school supplies at each home game in July, with collection boxes located at the stadium entrance.

Donations can be dropped-off at the Purcellville Police Department headquarters located at 125 Hirst Road, Suite 7A, on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the month of July through Aug. 10.

If residents plan on completing their back-to-school shopping during the Virginia "Back to School" sales tax holiday weekend, it will take place Friday, Aug. 5, through Sunday, Aug. 7. Items most needed for collection are listed below. Only new items will be accepted.

School Supply Donation List:

- Large middle and high school backpacks
- Regular size elementary backpacks
- As a reminder, schools in our area do not allow students to use wheeled backpacks. Gender-neutral colors are preferable for all grade levels.
- Ball point pens (blue or black)
- Binders (1" – 2")
- Colored Pencils (12 ct.)
- Composition Books (college & wide-ruled)
- Crayons (24 ct.)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Glue Bottles
- Glue Sticks
- Lined Index Cards (3" x 5")
- Loose-Leaf Paper (college)
- Markers (broad-tip, 8 ct.) & (thin-tip, 10 ct.)
- #2 Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Wedge Erasers (latex-free)
- Plastic Folders (with bands)
- Plastic Supply Boxes (8" x 5")
- Blunt-Tip Safety Scissors
- Pointed Safety Scissors
- Sticky Notes
- Spiral Notebooks (college & wide-ruled)
- Subject Dividers for Binders
- Yellow Highlighters
- Zippered Pencil Pouches (for 3-ring binders)

Cram the cruiser to prevent hunger

On Saturday, July 16, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the Purcellville Police Department will partner with Giant, located at 1000 E Main Street, Purcellville, to "Cram our Cruisers" with non-perishable foods for local food pantries.

All donations will be shared with local food pantries to support community members in need. Items requested

include hygiene products (toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, sanitary napkins, baby wipes), infant supplies (baby formula, cereal, diapers), canned meats, canned fruits & veggies, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, peanut butter, snacks for kids (juice boxes, applesauce, granola bars), condiments, and even spices.

Please be sure to check all expiration dates before donating new, unopened items. We want to ensure all the food provided is safe to be shared with the community.



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Kuhns donate 128-acre property to NOVA Parks

NOVA Parks and philanthropists Chuck and Stacy Kuhn conducted a deed signing event, on June 28, at Springdale, a 128-acre property the Kuhns have donated to the inter-regional parks agency.

COMMUNITY

Springdale Regional Park is near Point of Rocks off of Rt. 15 and the Potomac River. Part of the property is comprised of 150 acres that was previously acquired by NOVA Parks from Robert and Kristin Santone, in 2015. The park will now be comprised of a total of 278 acres, with the Kuhns' 128-acre donation.

To date the Kuhns have put more than 22,000 acres in conservation easement. "We are living in one of the best counties in the world," said Kuhn.

The purchase of the property, which overlooks the Potomac River in Loudoun County, was possible through the Kuhns' donation of half the value of the land (\$900,000) and an equal grant from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The LWCF is a federal program which provides 50 percent matching funds to state agencies and localities for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation resources.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation deemed the property eligible for this federal grant because it met the criteria of the Vir-



L to R: Chuck Kuhn, Stacy Kuhn, and Chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Phyllis Randall.

"We are living in one of the best counties in the world."

— Chuck Kuhn
Loudoun County
Philanthropist

development and offers the opportunity to enhance the natural habitat and to offer future families to visit the park, experience nature, and learn about its rich history.

NOVA Parks will be working on improving and restoring the natural systems – such as stream restoration and some reforestation. Budgeting and permitting for the creation of amenities needed to open the park to the public will take a few years.

The property was once an important area for Native Americans, who fished along the nearby Heater's Island.

ginia Outdoors Plan goals for land conservation.

The VOP aims to protect undeveloped land and waterways that provide essential benefits to society, such as clean air, clean water, food, fiber, open space for recreation, and a sense of place.

The VOP prioritizes land along major rivers, like the Potomac.

The purchase saves the property from residential



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Members honored at the Upperville Colt and Horse Show

Four members of the Upperville community were honored on Grand Prix Sunday at the Upperville Colt and Horse Show on June 12, presented by MARS Equestrian™. Gov. Glenn Youngkin declared June 6-12 Upperville Colt and Horse Show Week across the Commonwealth, while First Lady Suzanne Youngkin presented the first ever Spirit of the Horse Award.

Youngkin issued a proclamation at the horse show honoring the show as the oldest horse show in America and announcing June 6-12 as Upperville Colt and Horse Show Week across the Commonwealth, recognizing the Upperville Colt and Horse Show's long history and bright future as a leader in horse welfare, education and world-class competition. UCHS President Joe Fargis accepted the proclamation on behalf of the horse show's Board of Directors.

Suzanne Youngkin presented the inaugural Spirit of the Horse Award to UCHS Board Member Dorothy "Punkin" Lee in recognition of her decades long service to the Upperville Colt and Horse Show, the horse industry in



From L to R: Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Dorothy "Punkin" Lee, and First Lady Suzanne Youngkin.

Virginia, and to the community at large.

Lee, who has served on the UCHS Board of Directors for 25 years, is the founder and owner of Journeymen Saddlers in Middleburg, and is deeply involved in a multitude of community organizations, such as the Middleburg Business and Professional Association, the Virginia Fall Races, and the National Sporting Library and Mu-

seum.

UCHS President Joe Fargis presented the President's Award to Tommy Lee and Diane Jones in recognition of their invaluable commitment and loyalty to the horse show. From the tractors to the flowers to maintaining the historic show grounds, there is not one acre of land not touched by the Joneses.

The President's Award is awarded annually to a member or members of the community, chosen by the UCHS President, in recognition of their steadfast dedication and service to the Upperville Colt and Horse Show.

Joe Fargis received the Randolph Perpetual Trophy, given annually by the Bonnie Family to the person who has made an outstanding contribution to the Upperville community. The Upperville Colt and Horse Show has grown into its modern form due to the leadership and vision of Fargis, who has also garnered numerous national and international showjumping victories in a long and storied career, including two Olympic gold medals.

Photo by Christian Martinez, Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin.

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Groundbreaking for Adam's Bike Park in Purcellville held June 1



On June 1, the Town of Purcellville and the Caudill family held a groundbreaking ceremony for Adam's Bike Park. The ceremony was held at the site of the new bike park near the water tower at 311 N. Maple Avenue.

COMMUNITY

The bike park is named in memory of Adam Caudill, a 15-year-old boy who tragically lost his life in 2021. Adam loved to ride his red bike through Purcellville. The ceremony, was held on his 17th birthday, and in-

cluded a blessing of the land, remarks from friends and family, the groundbreaking, and a chance for guests to share a message on a banner that will be displayed at the park. Attendees wore red, which was Adam's favorite color.

When completed, Adam's Bike Park will be accessible from North Maple Avenue and from the W&OD Trail. The park will include ramps and pathways for non-motorized,

2-wheeled bicycles.

The bike park will honor the memory of this young man, and provide a new park for Purcellville residents that will encourage young people to get outside and enjoy cycling.

Purcellville native serves aboard USS Harry S. Truman

With more than 90 percent of all trade traveling by sea, and 95 percent of the world's international phone and internet traffic carried through fiber optic cables lying on the ocean floor, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy.

COMMUNITY

"Our unit at Auburn is having as

many of us as they can go to commands this summer to see how everything is run.

"We don't get to experience the Navy the same way that some of the Academy kids do. We still learn what is required of us to become commissioned officers, but we live normal lives outside of our training days, so seeing what life is like on Truman has brought a lot of things to light for me.

"I've loved getting to know every-

one aboard, especially the sailors in the reactor department. They are all so witty and smart, amazing people all around," said Midshipman 1st Class Sam Payne from Purcellville, a student at Auburn University.

The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe area of operations, employed by U.S. Sixth Fleet to defend U.S., Allied and Partner interests.



Midshipman 1st Class Sam Payne, from Purcellville, shoots a CO2 fire extinguisher on a weather deck aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) on June 4. Photo: Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Jack Hoppe.

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Third annual \$150,000 “Shark Tank” business pitch competition

The Loudoun Economic Development Authority and Department of Economic Development have announced the opening of applications for the Third Annual Loudoun Innovation Challenge business pitch competition, which will award a total of \$150,000 to businesses dedicated to investment in Loudoun County. The initial application period will remain open until July 28.

COMMUNITY

For more information and this year’s application, please visit LoudounInnovationChallenge.com.

“The EDA’s goal with the Loudoun Innovation Challenge is to promote entrepreneurship by investing a total of \$150,000 into six trend-setting companies,” Chairman Bernard Mustafa explained. “Every successful business starts with a good idea and the funding to make it happen. Fresh ideas are always worthy of investment, and we’re excited to support

the next generation of homegrown entrepreneurs.”

This is the third year for the Challenge, funded through revenue generated from the EDA’s tax-exempt bond financing, which supports commercial development in Loudoun.

Following a new format this year, the 12 selected finalists will make their presentations for funding at a live, in-person pitch event on Sept. 24. Winners will be announced at Segra Field during the Loudoun United FC vs. Detroit City matchup on Oct. 1.

Winners for this year’s challenge will be selected from the following categories:

- Innovation Challenge Grand Prize Winner (\$40,000): the business with the top overall scores, regardless of industry.
- Agri-Tech Innovation (\$25,000): businesses developing technology that improves yield, efficiency or profitability for agriculture,

horticulture or aquaculture businesses and growers.

- Information and Communications Technology Innovation (\$25,000): businesses providing technology that allows people and organizations to better interact with the digital world.
- Clean Energy Innovation (\$25,000): businesses developing renewable, less environmentally invasive forms of power, including solar, wind, water, geothermal, bioenergy, natural gas and nuclear.
- Highly-Specialized Manufacturing Innovation (\$25,000): businesses improving quality control, shop floor management, inventory management and worker training processes and designs, which increase quality or productivity.
- People’s Choice Award (\$10,000): the business that

receives the most votes from attendees at the live pitch event.

“We are expecting this year to be the largest and most competitive field of applicants for the Innovation Challenge,” Loudoun Economic Development Executive Director Buddy Rizer said. “Over the past two years, this contest has introduced us to outstanding innovators in every industry and corner of the county, resulting in a plethora of #LoudounPossible success stories.”

“We’re excited to meet this year’s applicants and see what the future holds the entrepreneurs and innovators in our county.”

Applicant businesses are not required to have a real estate presence in the county, but winners must prove their commercial investment in Loudoun before funding is received.

For more information, and to apply by July 28, go to LoudounInnovationChallenge.com.

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Tickets on sale for Purcellville Wine and Food Festival

Enjoy great food and drink at the Purcellville Wine and Food Festival on Saturday, July 16 in the historic Dillon's Woods at the Fireman's Field Complex. Local wineries and vineyards will

COMMUNITY

be sampling a wide array of varietals helping you taste and learn about each one. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and all that this event has to offer.

This year's festival has a variety of vendors including wineries, food purveyors, artisans, and brewing companies. There will also be live music, face painting, caricature drawing, corn hole, and other activities.


General admission tickets to the Purcellville Wine and Food Festival are \$5 (\$10 at the gate) and include entry to the festival and a souvenir glass. Wine tastings, glasses and bottles of wine

will be sold by participating wineries.

Enhance your experience by purchasing a VIP table for \$250 which includes admission for six, a table for six, three bottles of local wine, six souvenir glasses, early entry to the festival, and other goodies. Purchase tickets or a VIP table at www.PurcellvilleWineAndFood.com. Make your visit a weekend and stay local.

The Purcellville Wine and Food Festival is hosted by the Town of Purcellville and sponsored by Visit Loudoun, Harris Teeter, Sengpiehl Insurance Group - Allstate, Bank of Clarke County, Carrington Homes, Valley Energy, and the Purcellville Business Association. In-kind donations have been provided by the Bush Tabernacle, KP3, and the Western Loudoun Farmers Market.

For more information about the festival, visit www.PurcellvilleWineAndFood.com.



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Ulanowsky offers intro to black and white film photography, July 16

Loudoun photographer Philip Ulanowsky will present an introduction to black-and-white film photography at the Purcellville Library on Saturday, July 16, from 2 to 3:30. The program is titled, "Film Photography Rebounds: An Introduction to the Art and Craft of the Silver Print."

Prompted by the significant resurgence of film photography over recent years, he will share his expertise in what has been his passion since age 16 and became his profession for more than 30 years, "everything from photojournalism to architecture, and lots in-between." He now concentrates on natural light portraiture.

"Film has become part of a 'retro' fad," said Ulanowsky, "but many people are discovering reasons for deeper exploration and engagement. In fact, a number of professionals and former film enthusiasts are returning to film. The special beauty of fine black-and-white is resonating with a growing number of them."

Complementing his presentation with visuals, Ulanowsky will speak to the reasons for film's rebound and what B and W has to offer. After an overview of the film-to-print process, he will dig in to identify the wide array of creative decisions available in each of six steps along the way that allow shaping the composition and tonal scale to achieve the artist's desired result.

Choice of film and camera format, the relationship of lenses to perspective, and options in making the fine photographic print are included. Said Ulanowsky, "People are amazed at the flexibility of the process, and at how much can go into making a fine print."

Along with the presentation, some original prints will be on display, as well as samples of film negatives and an old-fashioned view camera that uses 4x5-inch film. Ulanowsky says he has timed his presentation to leave at least a half-hour for questions afterwards. "That's the part I like best," he said.

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Hanley Energy to expand in Loudoun

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has announced that Hanley Energy, Irish-owned global innovators in Critical Power and Energy Management solutions, will invest \$8 million to expand its Hanley Energy Electrical division in Loudoun County.

COMMUNITY

The company will open a new facility at 44381 Russell Branch Parkway in Ashburn to meet the increasing demand for installation and service of its equipment serving the growing data center market. The project will create 343 new jobs, including electricians and apprentice electricians.

"Virginia has emerged as one of North America's premier locations for technology, and Loudoun County is the epicenter of the data center industry. This contribution is a perfect fit for Hanley Energy and its vital services that keep this sector growing," said Youngkin. "From establishing its U.S. headquarters and expanding its Hanley Energy Electrical division, the company continues to grow its footprint in the Commonwealth and reinforce our many industry advantages."

"Hanley Energy chose Virginia as the site of its U.S. headquarters more than five years ago, thanks to Loudoun County's global reputation as a data center destination," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "The company's decision to again expand its capacity is a testament to the region's business climate, infrastructure, and strong tech talent pipeline, which continues to attract and retain high-caliber corporate partners. We thank Hanley Energy for its continued investment and creating 343 quality jobs in Loudoun County."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Governor Youngkin for taking the time to speak with senior leadership of Hanley Energy recently," said Hanley Energy CEO, Clive Gilmore. "We are greatly looking forward to moving into our new facility next month. This impressive facility will increase our output, range of products, and services to our ever-growing U.S. market. Additionally, I am delighted to announce that this manufacturing facility will expand our workforce by a further 300 plus staff. Another 'Good News' story for Virginia and Loudoun County."

"It's been incredibly exciting to watch Hanley Energy grow in Loudoun, from establishing their U.S. headquarters here in 2016 with 20 employees

through this expansion to a new location and 343 new jobs. Hanley has been able to leverage the density of 'Data Center Alley' into a thriving and growing business," said Loudoun Economic Development Executive Director Buddy Rizer. "Clive Gilmore and his team have been great community partners, and we appreciate their continued investment in Loudoun County."

"I'm thrilled that Hanley Energy has chosen Loudoun County to expand their operations, bringing 343 skilled jobs to the region," said Senator John J. Bell. "We have a highly skilled workforce in Northern Virginia and this development will continue to provide opportunities and experience in a rapidly growing industry ..."

"We're excited to have Hanley Energy expand in Loudoun's Data Center Alley. Their decision to make another investment in Loudoun, creating 343 new jobs, highlights that Loudoun is still one of the top destinations for data centers in the nation," said Delegate David Reid. "With over 70 percent of the world's internet traffic flowing through Loudoun's data centers, our nearby D.C. Wine Country in western Loudoun, and our diverse communities, Hanley Energy will continue to find a welcoming environment."

Hanley Energy has been operating at its headquarters in Ireland for 13 years and established its United States headquarters in Loudoun County in 2016. Hanley Energy Electrical, which is the service arm of Hanley Energy, opened in 2020.

The company's core capabilities cover the design, build, and commission of turnkey mission-critical solutions, delivering secure and reliable power from the grid all the way to the Hyperscale Data Center IT rack. Hanley Energy's advisory capability guides customers through the challenges of technology transformation, allowing the realization of operational efficiencies underpinned by lifecycle management, service, and maintenance.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Loudoun County to secure the project for Virginia and will support Hanley Energy's job creation through the Virginia Jobs Investment Program, which provides consultative services and funding to companies creating new jobs in order to support employee recruitment and training activities.

Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Health Services for July

Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Health Services will be providing countywide blood pressure screenings at a variety of locations during the month of July. The screenings are free. For

further information call the Mobile Health hotline at 703-858-8818 or visit www.inova.org/mobilehealth.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Monday, July 4, 10 a.m. to noon
Town of Leesburg Independence Day Parade
Ida Lee</p> <p>Tuesday, July 5, 9 a.m. to noon
Dulles South Multipurpose Center
24950 Riding Center Dr., South Riding
BP Screenings</p> <p>Wednesday, July 6, 10 a.m. to noon
Leesburg Senior Center
102 North St. North West, Leesburg
BP Screenings</p> <p>Saturday, July 9, 6 to 10 p.m.
Polo in the Park, Morven Park
41580 Sunday Morning Lane, Leesburg
First Aid and Cooling Station</p> <p>Tuesday, July 12, 10 a.m. to noon
Cascades Senior Center</p> | <p>21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling
BP Screenings</p> <p>Wednesday, July 13, 10 a.m. to noon
WaltonWood
44141 Russell Branch Pkwy., Ashburn
BP Screenings</p> <p>Saturday, July 16, 6 to 10 p.m.
Polo in the Park, Morven Park
41580 Sunday Morning Lane, Leesburg
First Aid and Cooling Station</p> <p>Tuesday, July 19, 10 a.m. to noon
Ashburn Senior Center
20880 Marblehead Dr., Ashburn
BP Screenings</p> <p>Wednesday, July 20, 10 a.m. to noon
Wingler House
30900 Runnymede Terr., Ashburn</p> |
|--|--|

- BP Screenings
- Saturday, July 23, 6 to 10 p.m.**
Polo in the Park, Morven Park
41580 Sunday Morning Lane, Leesburg
First Aid and Cooling Station
- Tuesday, July 26, 10 a.m. to noon**
Cascades Senior Center
21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling
BP Screenings
- Thursday, July 28, 10 a.m. to noon**
Carver Center
200 E Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville
BP Screenings
- Saturday, July 30, 6 to 10 p.m.**
Polo in the Park, Morven Park
41580 Sunday Morning Lane, Leesburg
First Aid and Cooling Station

WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Harris graduated with two degrees from Georgia Tech and in 2009, along with his wife Becky, founded Catoc-tin Creek Distilling Compa-ny—the first legal distillery in Loudoun County since be-fore Prohibition.

Today they sell their award-winning Virginia rye whisky in over 40 states and 8 countries. In his spare time, he has embraced the role of citizen scientist, immersing himself fully in birding. A frequent participant in local bird walks and advocacy for wild spaces, Harris endeavors to spend time birding every single day. There is no kingfisher, kingbird, or kinglet that is safe from his checklist.


Whittle has lived most of her life in the Washington, DC area, moving with her family to Loudoun in 1997. She has always had an inter-est in nature. She had an or-ganic garden in high school, led the creation of a bluebird trail on the golf course at her


college, and spent several years monitoring the trail on the golf course at Algonkian Regional Park.

Degreed in both biology and computer science, she has worked as a high school biology teacher, a software engineer, a homeschool mom, a Latin teacher, and an artist. Studying birds and learning more about the im-portance of native plants are her current pursuits. She is working on converting a steep slope on her property from a giant swath of John-songrass to a wildflower meadow.

Loudoun Wildlife Conser-vancy is a non-profit orga-nization whose vision is to make Loudoun a place where people and wildlife thrive together. Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's board mem-bers embody their mission and inspire, motivate, and engage people to protect, preserve, and restore wildlife habitat.

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DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

many children enjoy being outside, some are not comfortable with that idea for different reasons. So, as parents, you may need to help your child or teen to think about all the fun things they could be doing outside on a beautiful summer day, and then support them to follow through.

Support structured and unstructured activities for your child. Structured activities help children to learn rules, to set goals and to work on their social skills. Whether your son or daughter attends camps or is on a sports team, those structured moments aren't just fun, they also facilitate social, emotional and mental growth.

Unstructured activities are also good

for children in so many ways; they can serve to foster imagination and creativity, build confidence, increase problem solving skills, and help to support social and emotional growth.

The next time your child exclaims, "I'm bored," help them to get out of that negative space to see all of the things they can create and do for themselves. As parents, we don't want to over or under schedule our children; finding a balance between the two is the best scenario.

Give your children chores. Regardless of your children's age, they need to know that not every day is a party and not every week is beach week. During the summer (and the school year), children benefit from being responsible for themselves and helping.

Research in this area has found that

children with chores are generally happier than children who do not have chores. Children who do chores also tend to do better academically and socially.

Spend time with your children. You don't need to be a millionaire to have a great summer, and while children can become overly focused on materialistic things, what they want most from us as parents is our time and attention. A pool is a pool, so whether you're at a fancy resort, or at the neighborhood or community pool, the positive time you spend together is a big part of the joy your children experience in those moments.

Research has shown that children who eat three or more meals a week with their family do better academically, and have lower rates of social and emotional struggles. So, in support of your kids,

jump in the pool, go on some outings, break bread together, and enjoy family time.

Support your child's academic growth. Just because it's summer doesn't mean your child can't crack a book, or stretch himself or herself cognitively. Going to the library or a bookstore to pick out a few good books, doing some subject review with your child, getting some tutoring, or planning some culturally rich activities that stretch your child intellectually, are some good ideas.

Have 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.

STEVENSON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

creases or decreases the likelihood that town or city citizens' will remain in control of how, when, and where their community changes.

OPINION

And, as a corollary to this principle of sorts, those with a vested interest in seeing their property annexed by the town or city should also be subject to higher scrutiny – not because of supposed villainous intent – but merely because their interests (namely the pursuit of a higher

property value through Town utilities – and thus increased commercial, industrial, or residential opportunities) don't necessarily coincide with the town or city's interests.

And, just what are a town or city's interests? Beyond the circular "whatever the citizens' want" response, I believe there are intuitive things that most citizens expect about the place they call home.

Most want to live in a community that is recognizable – a community whose

changes happen gradually and sensitively enough to not betray earlier iterations of the community. For a community is a palimpsest – a living record of presences, erasures, re-establishments, etc. – that forms an authentic tapestry of an area's cultural and political histories distilled in its built and natural environment.

Many also expect their community to have a defined area, as a city or town is equally defined by what is within and what is without. Because the edges of a place are integral to how a place is perceived, it belongs to the inhabitants of a place – all of them, really, to decide how they are managed.

The perplexing part of these issues is that a "sense of place" is a mostly intangible thing, something that can't be bought and sold like neatly defined plots of land. It is a public good, and though not impossible to defend or define, its interests are decidedly general.

While the benefits of annexation to a landowner are generally immediate, material, and easy to calculate, the benefits of smart growth and "edge protection" to a "sense of place" are gradual, nebulous, and hard to calculate. These mismatches can sometimes prey upon human psychological weaknesses, and can lead to the slow but steady dissipation of place.

For a community is a sort of implicit contract between all of its members. The implicit agreement goes something like this – let's share this place in a way that maximizes our general welfare while also providing for our individual livelihood. In this way, our individual rights aren't given up, rather they are entwined (hopefully lovingly – at least according to the ideal) with the general welfare of the community.

Simply then, a community is a collection of people who decide to earnestly believe that the whole is not simply the sum of its parts. The inverse, community disintegration, often begins when individuals choose to maximize their personal welfare at the expense of the wider community.

A cohesive community should never force its members to maximize the community's welfare at the individual's expense, but a disintegrating community will repeatedly demonstrate through example that an individual's right to material gain can no longer be constrained by the values and priorities of the community.

A citizen who believes their right to material gain has no limits will often still appear to be living in a community –

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 »

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STEVENSON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

they will have neighbors, participate in local commerce, and even participate in civic organizations – but despite appearances, they will have departed the “beloved community” in the general direction of that brave new world which scoffs at limits, respects no place, and lives forever mortgaging the present in a hope-

less and never-ending search for future satiation.

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 Baazar’s LP collection. He’s particularly interested in sustainable urban planning and Loudoun’s flora and fauna.

LOUDOUN CO SELLS BONDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

In advance of the sale, the nation’s top bond rating agencies reaffirmed the county’s AAA/Aaa rating on its general obligation bonds.

Loudoun County has held the Aaa rating from Moody’s since 2004, and AAA from Fitch Ratings and S&P Glob-

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SDVOB

“Empty vessels make the loudest noise” – Mayor Fraser responds to Chapman’s tirade

Casey Chapman wasn’t happy to hear Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser’s comments questioning Stantec’s model for a projected Town of Purcellville utility rate increase. Fraser encouraged the company to fix their model, instead of basing it on building more homes in the Town.

In citizen comments addressing the mayor at the Purcellville Town Council Work Session on May 24, Round Hill resident and developer Casey Chapman started off by telling Fraser the model that Stantec used “highlights all of your failures for the last 10 years.”

Fraser has been mayor for 8 years and inherited an approximate debt of \$61 million from the Lazaro Council on July 1, 2014. The Town’s debt is currently \$52 million.

“Mr. Mayor, this is probably the single most nail in the coffin to a failed entire term that you have been mayor. This is what this represents,” Chapman said.

“Saying that you can fix this with operational efficiencies is a joke... ARPA [American Rescue Plan Act] was a gift, you are right. You didn’t plan on it, it happened – and without it, you would have failed.”

Chapman continued his tirade. “The point that you are hoping and dreaming for a result that does not yet exist from the federal government to fund these things that are existing in present day is not a plan. That’s a hope, a wish, a dream, a fantasy – and not fiscally responsible, and not being a good mayor for the residents or the businesses in the community.”

Addressing the two other slow growth members of Town Council, Chapman said, “Stan Milan, Vice Mayor [Chris Bertaut], you all are going down on not acknowledging the issue here of availabilities not being into the equation. [This] is a direct result of ignoring zoning and planning and their proper smart growth strategies that need to be implemented in Purcellville to achieve financial stability.”

Chapman again turned to Fraser. “Mr. Mayor, you have failed to solve the problem. You have kicked the can down the road ... You claim nutrient credits? Great, that’s one; find another, and I’ll encourage you to find 10 more ... then you might be able to pay for your ideas.”

After Chapman finished his outburst, Fraser countered, “The only failure [meaning success] for me as mayor is not giving developers what they want.” Chapman’s family is one of the owners of the Vineyard Square project.

“When comments are made and you’re silent, some people believe the comments, so I’d like to counter some things that were said at the last meeting,” Fraser said.

Chapman attends almost every Town meeting and has something to say at most of them.

“For the people listening publicly, these statements

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »

PONZI SCHEME, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of availabilities.

Director of Finance Liz Krens said, “We may go below our target from time to time. In fact, reality may be very different from budget.”

The water revenue comes in at 4 times the water debt, and the sewer revenue comes in at 2 times the sewer debt. Most of the revenue is going toward operations and maintenance expenses for both funds, which include chargebacks – time charged for work from the General Fund when staff operating in the General Fund does work for Utility Fund employees.

“We don’t have a debt problem,” said Fraser.

The General Fund, for this year, takes approximately \$905,000 from the Utility Fund in chargebacks.

The utility debt was inherited by the current Town Council, from the previous Lazaro Town Council.

Stantec, the consultant company Town management hired to recommend utility rates, gave a presentation in collaboration with the Town’s financial consultant Davenport at the May 24 Town Council Meeting. Last year they advised Council to set the rates at 3 and 5 percent for both utilities for several years. Now they are advising a base line annual increase of 7 percent for both the water and sewer funds, starting in the FY24 budget, and based on the next 10 years.

The operations and maintenance of the water and sewer systems comes with ongoing rising costs, including chemical, personnel, electricity, and Capital Improvement estimate costs to name a few.

After Stantec’s presentation and recommendation to raise the rates of both utilities to 7 percent each, Council Member Tip Stinnette said that Council set the rates last year at 3 and 5 percent “in our mind, but stuff happens and I’m willing to buy the resulting difference.”

Council Member Stan Milan said, “You are saying that the availabilities are low and with the availabilities being low, we are not generating enough to offset our debt or pay toward the maintenance.

“On the flip side of that, I am hearing that if we increase in development, it would increase our availability, and with the increase in availability we are also increasing the maintenance cost.”

“I love a good model; and I love picking one apart,” said Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut. He added that the discussion of availabilities doesn’t “tie in any increases in maintenance costs that might be occasioned by the advent of those availabilities ... nor does it give consideration to additional CIP [Capital Improvement Projects] expenses, whether within the Enterprise Utility Funds or outside them, that could be brought on as a result of accepting those availabilities.”

Bertaut pointed out that Stantec was “assuming a specific value or an average value” to availabilities, “but some availabilities have different dollar values than others ... so we don’t always charge the same amount for the same provision of service.”

He said that although the ARPA funding [American Rescue Plan Act] is a one-time infusion for the Town – totaling 10.5 million over two years – it mainly goes to large projects for the next four

years. This would give the Town more time “to not only consider options like long term financing for expensive capital improvement, but we also have more opportunity and time to seek alternative means of funding other than debt or additional rate increases ... and that is of course being grants.”

Fraser said he was surprised by some of the numbers. “A year and a half ago we were anticipating ARPA funds of \$2 million. We received \$10.5 million. So these numbers, I understand some on Town Council are not surprised by them [but] I am surprised.”

“We have had eight years of slow growth,” Fraser explained. He then questioned why they would anticipate high numbers of availabilities.

Town Manager David Mekarski said that predicting availabilities based on the model used is “not a perfect science, and because it’s impacted both by micro and macro-economic conditions, it could greatly change.”

Regarding operational maintenance, Fraser said, “We are talking about availabilities, and I have heard this many times – and I see availabilities as the ultimate Ponzi scheme. The reason I say that is residential growth on average – for every one dollar we receive in tax revenue, we are spending \$1.62 and some say \$1.83 in operation costs.

“As we increase availability a cost comes with that. So, availabilities are not a panacea ... It seems like operations are what is driving our expenses up, and what we need to consider is this availability is not the answer to it.”

Fraser asked Stantec for data about “our operation and maintenance costs compared to other municipalities –

then we can do a deep dive to see what we can do to reduce those expenses and increase efficiency... We need to question the modeling of our forecast.”

Fraser pointed out that the Town’s previous utility consultants recommended raising the rate each year for both utilities to 9 percent each. At the time Fraser called that number “mythical.”

“We did not take that 9 percent rate increase,” Fraser said. “Now Stantec is recommending 7 percent for both utilities. Those projections are just guess estimates.”

“How can we get this additional revenue stream to cover those long-term projects? We did good with the nutrient credits of \$926,000 (that equals 19 availabilities and no operational costs) ... I would submit ... we have over 1,200 acres in the watershed property. We need to look at stream credits ... What’s going to get us out of this? ... We need to lean into innovation,” Fraser continued.

“Never in the history of this country have we seen \$1.3 trillion going into infrastructure. If we as a body are not able to capture some of that money, then we are failing our citizens.”

Fraser advised management to apply for grants, as grants would help pay for long term Capital Improvement Projects. He said he understood that “the Bloomberg Foundation is actually looking at small municipalities like us to help us capture those dollars, and bring it back into our towns.”

In a phone call, Town Manager David Mekarski said he is checking Stantec’s availability for a meeting with the Town Council in September, so the Council could recommend different models for Stantec to try in real time.

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Amendment – that will probably carry into the next year.

OPINION

For now, there will be a draft thousand-page zoning ordinance that Staff presents to the public (and to ZOC,) a lengthy set of “ZOC Recommendations,” plus pages of comments by the public and interest groups. I’ll feel

a bit frustrated, first that the final result won’t be perfect, but more importantly that western Loudoun will not get all the protections it deserves. *C’est la vie.*

A Look Ahead

I’m confident that Staff will meet its deadlines, as will ZOC. I’m also confident that next year ZOC will have a lot of work to do. I hope that work helps save

Western Loudoun from sprawl and commercialization. It’s inevitable that some of the newly adopted zoning ordinance will need to be changed for one reason or another. It’s also inevitable that here will be other ideas and problems for us to address.

Work will go on.

My columns are Op-Eds, which means that

they are my personal opinions. They are not any sort of “official” statement by any County officer or employee. Because I’m on the Zoning Ordinance Committee, I often offer updates on our work. Sometimes these updates include personal observations and lamentations; consider them my personal opinions.

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

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NEIGHBORS CATCH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

development, builder, or governing party disclosed any information on the current 60 LDN (day-night average sound level) or the one-mile buffer zone.

“As part of the development agreement with the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, there was no area map illustrating our community’s proximity to runway 30, which is the busiest outbound runway at Dulles with 76 percent of all outbound flights. None of that was disclosed to us. Residents signed a document that was circulated among a pile of other closing documents that acknowledged we lived within 20 miles of Dulles Airport and would be impacted by airport noise. So, yes, we did sign this document.

“There has been no enforcement of the agreed-upon transparency to buyers regarding potential plane noise. There was no follow up at the sales office to check on protocol at all. In general, we feel very bamboozled about what has happened with our property.”

A Land Use and Zoning Attorney: “The proposed changes to the airport noise contours would not only affect the stakeholders that have applications processing through the County, but they will result in the creation of 600 non-conforming homes where the new noise contours are overlaid onto existing neighborhoods.” This non-conforming classification, he explained, will negatively affect the marketability and sale of these homes. “And for what purpose?” he asked.

“Currently, there is no compelling need to change the noise contours ... In fact, the proposed noise contours ... are not based on a noise study or demand analysis.” They are based on a capacity projection that goes out 80 to 90 years in the future, he said. “If a true noise study was conducted based on existing noise levels, the existing noise contours would shrink considerably.

“I encourage the Planning Commission to take your time in thoroughly reviewing this item.” He advised that an exception for a fifth runway area be add-

ed back into the item. “This exception area would solve the problems created by this item for existing homeowners, as well as for stakeholders attempting to create vibrant communities.”

A Real Estate Broker: “When I bought the home 18 years ago, there was no disclaimer or no notification associated with all the documents that we had at closing ... I echo the concerns of every other speaker tonight and respectfully request that you don’t move forward with this application without giving it a little bit more time and more study to make sure that it is going to be for the good of all the homeowners and the lives that will be impacted.”

Planning Commission Chairman Forest Hayes heard the speakers loud and clear. “I don’t think there’s been enough direct outreach and public engagement up to this point,” he said.

“Because if there were, there wouldn’t have been 45 people speaking. They would have gotten their engagement in other venues and wouldn’t have felt compelled to come here. There are other open items and unsettled issues like grandfathering existing applications that are moving through the system.

“I can’t live with that on this one,” he went on. “Too many citizens came out. There’s too much unreadiness out there. And we’ve heard from businesses; it’s not just the citizens. [It’s] their organizations ... There are a lot of stakeholders represented that either don’t understand, or you just have clear cut unreadiness about this and we have to work it out. And the thing that I see, or it appears to me—maybe I’m wrong—is it seems like we’re just trying to figure out a way to cooperate with the FAA. I’m less concerned with cooperating with FAA than I am cooperating with my neighbors. But I do believe that there is a way. It doesn’t have to be either/or.”

To find a way, Hayes called for a vote to move the Dulles issue to a future Planning Commission work session. The motion was approved, with staff work and deliberations to go forward.

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

operations getting started in around 1828). Floods, ice and Coast Guard Officers couldn’t do it, but a slip of paper did the trick; a local lawsuit has brought down the General.

So – on the day of my most recent visit to the locally famous river crossing (filled with personal memories), I enjoyed the silence, the solitude, the slow-moving water – uninterrupted by loading and unloading of commuters and their cars, and the flat barge-like vessels pulled across by the strong, wire cables (they replaced the less reliable rope back in 1872), and my inner recollection of a Morning Radio Show host asking, “Hey, what about Whites Ferry?”

But all that activity will stick in my mind as long as I can see the Potomac River just north of Leesburg: island-studded, tree-lined, filled with silt, fish, turtles, other critters, and an everlasting air of mystery and enchantment.

And, what about the unique service offered by the operators of Whites Ferry? Well, I never thought you’d ask. Due to the State of Maryland’s abhorrence of solid river crossings (bridges), the ol’ Jubal Early represented the only means of getting to the other side between Point of Rocks and the American Legion Bridge. Look it up on a map. And, no – it’s not supposed to make sense.

BLACK HISTORY MURAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Freedom Fighters.”

The mural, which will be painted by local artist Shawn Perkins, will depict two notable residents, Basil Newman, a prominent Black landowner and ferry operator, and Leonard Grimes, a Black abolitionist, who helped fleeing enslaved people find safety across the Potomac River. The mural will be funded entirely by the 89 Ways to Give

Foundation.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity 89 Ways To Give has to pay homage and tell the story of these freedom fighters through this Black history mural,” said retired NFL Wide Receiver and 89 Ways to Give Founder Santana Moss.

According to Felder, the project will begin the first week of August. It is estimated to take up to three weeks to complete.

BOS ADOPTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Elections and Voter Registration to notify voters of any changes in their precincts, elected representatives, and polling places in advance of the next election using the newly redrawn state and local election districts.

A special election to fill two vacant school board seats in November will occur using the existing election districts because the election was scheduled prior to the Board’s adoption of new districts.

The first general election for Board of Supervisors and School Board representatives in the redrawn election

districts will be in November 2023 (if a primary election is held in June 2023, the redrawn election districts would be used).

Until then, Loudoun County residents will continue to be represented by their current Board of Supervisors and School Board members. Loudoun residents can identify their currently elected representatives on the county’s website.

More information about redistricting in Loudoun County, including a link to a map that illustrates the new election districts, is posted at loudoun.gov/redistricting.

ASHBURN CENTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

spectator seating.

- Classrooms, offices, and meeting spaces.
- Fitness areas.
- Full-size gymnasium.
- Leisure pool.
- Multipurpose room with a catering and teaching kitchen.

- One indoor basketball gymnasium, with six basketball hoops, and game line markings for basketball, volleyball and pickleball.
- Running track.
- Soft sensory playroom.
- Spa.

Outside Features

- Large courtyard with seating.

- Multiuse trail around the property.
- Playground equipment.
- Splash play area.

Construction is currently estimated for completion in summer 2025.


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

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VIRTUAL MEETING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

The Russell Branch Parkway Corridor Study investigated vehicular and pedestrian safety and the need for possible intersection safety improvements, including studying the speed of traffic on a 0.85-mile-long stretch of Russell Branch Parkway (Rt. 1061) that includes five intersections. The intersections are:

- Ashbrook Marketplace Plaza/Waltonwood entrance
- Ashbrook Commons Plaza/Navajo Drive (Rt. 2978)
- San Joaquin Terrace/Hopi

Drive (Rt. 2979)

- Atwater Drive (Route 3001)/Lumbee Way (Rt. 2984)

Ashbrook Place (Rt. 3002)

Over the last year, Loudoun County has evaluated existing safety and operational characteristics, conducted traffic signal and crosswalk analyses and developed recommended improvements for the corridor.

For more information about the Russell Branch Parkway Corridor Study, including a link to sign up for updates about the study, visit loudoun.gov/russellbranchparkway.

**SUMMER WELLNESS FEST, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19**

PAL is a coalition of youth, parents, Loudoun County agencies, faith-based organizations and other community stakeholders dedicated to mental health awareness and substance misuse prevention efforts.

PAL leadership board members include representatives of the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services, Loudoun County Public Schools, Loudoun County Sheriff's Of-

fice, Virginia Department of Health's Tobacco Control Program and Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth. For more information on PAL, visit loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention or email prevention@loudoun.gov.

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.

RURAL TOWN HALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Finally, a vegetable farmer, Pam Jones, who had been waiting patiently for her turn at the mic, took up a topic no one else had addressed: Who in the future will know how to work the prime soils and run a farm if there's no one left farming to teach beginners like her? Co-owner of a small-scale, sustainability-focused, diversified produce farm—Gathering Springs Farm near Middleburg—Jones made a welcome case for the need and opportunities for today's farmers to ensure the future of farming in western Loudoun County.

Whites Ferry and Rt. 15 North

Also up for discussion: Rt. 15 North and Whites Ferry. Randall pointed out that that while the Board of Supervisors' recent approval of a Loudoun County Comprehensive Plan Amendment to

allow widening or other safety and congestion solutions for the corridor, it does not signal an automatic start of construction.

Indeed, Supervisor Mike Turner (D-Ashburn) intends to put forward a proposal to initiate short-term safety design and construction to extend over the next seven years. With that strategy, the County could make the road safer more quickly, apply for regional and state funding, and protect farms and rural businesses along the corridor.

Regarding resumption of the Whites Ferry service, Randall and ferry owner Chuck Kuhn, present at the town hall, affirmed their efforts to resolve issues with the private property owners on the Virginia side of the Potomac River. However, Randall said, she would not pursue eminent domain action to take the property for public use.

EMPTY VESSELS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

that are made, although they are bombastic – we are reminded that empty vessels make the loudest noise," Fraser said.

"Relative to my accomplishments – I need to state this for the record, because folks I have known who have died and their accomplishments are tarnished by loud mouths, and one of my accomplishments was the \$900,000 in nutrient credits. I lowered the Town debt by \$9 million. I came up with working and collaborating with this Town Council and management with ideas to address our revenue. I've heard from members that the sky is falling, but those members failed to even put together a solution."

Fraser concluded by saying "I will continue to present solutions that I believe are innovative."

At the Town Council Meeting on June 14, Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut addressed Casey Chapman's comments from the May 24 meeting.

"We have all heard some developers express their displeasure with the Mayor and some members of this Town Council. Much of that displeasure seems to stem from a disagree-

ment about the best way to address budgetary issues," Bertaut said.

"As a Town Council Member, I have to be most responsive to the residents who are entitled to vote, not just to the loudest voice in the room."

Bertaut said he agreed with Mayor Fraser that availabilities are a Ponzi scheme.

Regarding Vineyard Square, Bertaut said the project is not viable unless a compliant Town Council agrees to spend more than \$2 million to extend O Street to Hatcher Avenue. "This is nothing short of a handout."

Fraser reiterated that high density residential build out is a Ponzi scheme. For every tax dollar a locality receives in revenue, that locality spends nearly double to support it in services. "Then 5 to 10 years down the road you are paying for police services, you are paying for ripping up streets and so on," he said.

Fraser stressed that with the \$1.3 trillion available in infrastructure grants, the Town should "position ourselves to capture" some of that money – the same way the Town did when they received the American Rescue Plan Act funding of 10.5 million over two years.

LETTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

commutes.

The WVDOT engineers plan to run all the traffic on Rt. 340 through western Loudoun.

Take a moment and contemplate the following, at the Rt 9 and Rt. 671 intersection during the peak evening hour 1,710 vehicles go through that intersection.

At the other end of Rt. 671 at Rt. 340 about 2,114 vehicles an hour go through that intersection. Those vehicles are going to use Rt. 671 to travel to Rt. 9 and at that point they will join the 1,710 vehicles that already use Rt. 9.

Ten to 13 percent of the vehicles on Rt. 340 are large trucks with a single trailer. That means approximately 253 tractor trailers an hour will be funneled onto Rt. 671 and onto to Rt. 9.

Rt. 671 is just not designed for that level of truck traffic. The drivers will be unfamiliar with the road, and they will have some inclines to deal with. When those trucks get to the light at Rt. 9, they are going to turn right and head to the WV border. They will be driving very slowly once on Rt. 9 due to the sheer volume of traffic, and they have a very steep grade to reach the top of the mountain.

By the time those fully loaded trucks get to the top of the grade on Rt. 9, they will be going so slow and given the steep grade and the volume of traffic, when the light at Rt 671 and 9 turns green there will be no space to enter Rt. 9 westbound. This will mean Rt. 671 will be gridlocked its entire length.

With the doubling of traffic at its western end, the volume of trucks and

the steep grade they must navigate, and changes to the timing of the traffic light, Rt. 9 will be backed up at least to 287 and beyond.

Consider how first responders are going to get to the inevitable accidents that will result from these gridlocked conditions, not to mention road rage incidents.

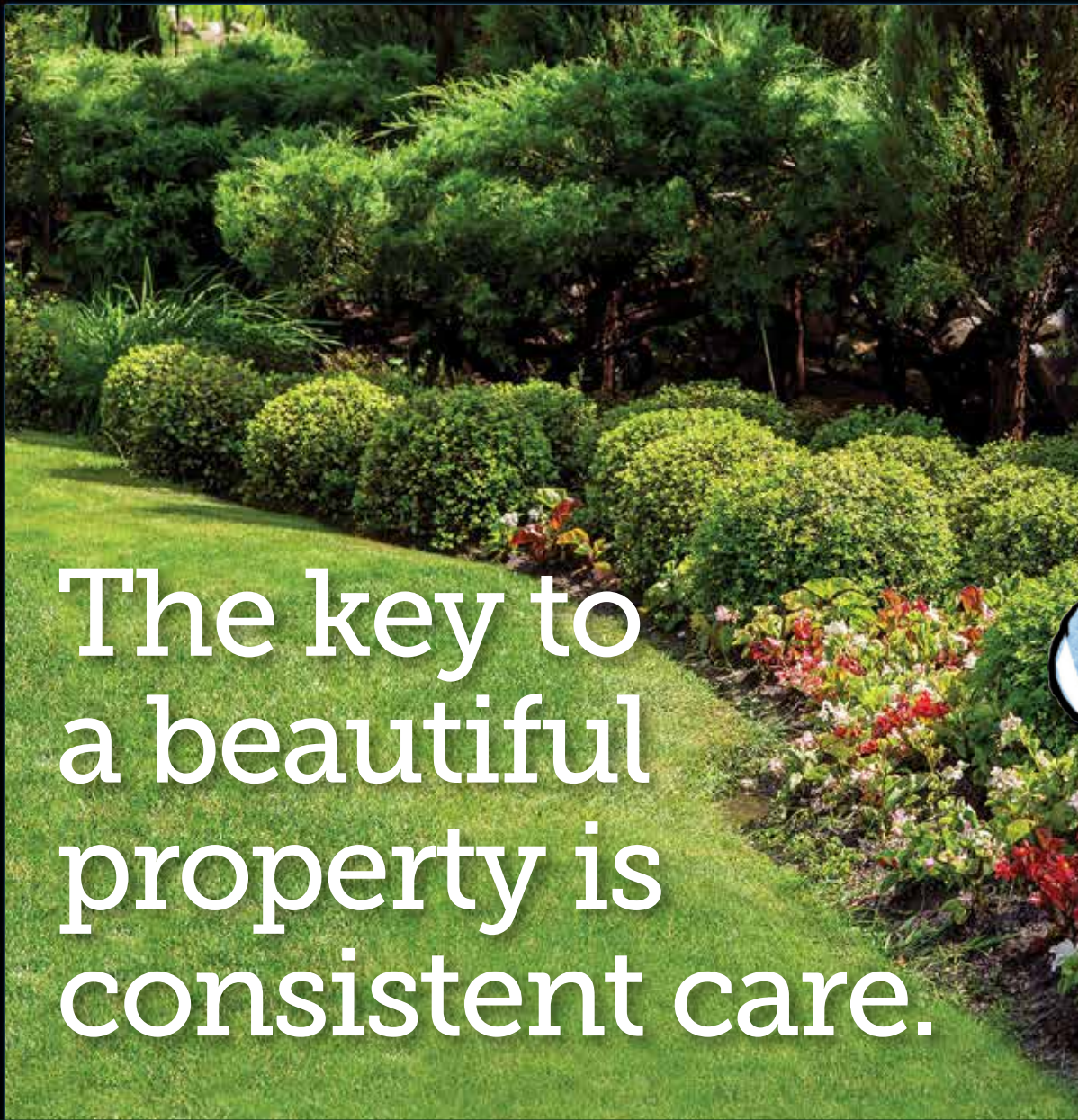
Consider the kids on school buses sitting on Rt. 9 for long periods. Think about the traffic in our local neighborhoods that will result from people trying to find alternative routes. Think about all the businesses in WV and the thriving Loudoun wineries who depend on tourism dollars to survive. Think of truck drivers unfamiliar with Rt. 9 and the steep grade going east bound, downhill with no runaway ramps.

One solution that should be considered is a single lane through the construction zone as close to the river as possible. Instead of traffic lights and alternating traffic, allow for eastbound traffic from midnight to noon, and westbound traffic from noon to midnight.

If you believe the total closure of Rt. 340 at Harpers Ferry is going to result in gridlock, make your feelings known and contact your local lawmakers. Time is running short to express your views on this matter.

Here is a link to the detour map: <http://www.us340harpersferry.com/detours/>.

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