

# Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

AUGUST 2022

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## Playing politics in Purcellville – “Harassment,” really?

BY VALERIE CURY

You can tell it’s election time in Purcellville when accusations fly from the dais. At Purcellville’s July 26 Town Council Work Session, Council Member Mary Jane Williams read into the record an explosive accusation from Council Member Erin Rayner.

In her written statement, Rayner accused Council Member Stan Milan of filming her and taking photos of her. She wrote, “Councilman Milan was witnessed taking up close photographs/videos of me on the Dais. Whatever the motivations for this – it is unacceptable.”

Council Member Stan Milan released a statement concerning Rayner’s accusation the following day.

Milan wrote, “As a matter of fact, I was frustrated with Council Member Joel Grewe’s disrespectful behavior of constantly using his phone during important discussions, and I wanted to document that. It’s entirely incidental that Erin Rayner was in the photo, but due to their



This was the single photo Council Member Stan Milan took at the July 12 Purcellville Town Council Meeting, showing Council Member Joel Grewe on his cell phone. Council Member Erin Rayner is seated to his left. The full Town video of this meeting can be viewed on the Town website.

*“Ironically, spurious accusations such as this detract from providing genuine support for women in the workplace.”*

– Council Member Stan Milan

proximity, this was unavoidable.

“Council Members are supposed to remain engaged because they are conducting business on behalf of the people and, frankly, I find Council Member Grewe’s casual dismissal of this obligation to be disappointing and distasteful.”

Milan continued, “I had been meaning to bring this up and, out of the expectation that I would be asked to substantiate my claim, I thought I would take a photograph of him ‘in the act’, so to speak. It is unfortunate that Council Member Rayner has co-opted this moment to level a disingenuous political attack against me.”

Regarding her allegation against Mi-

lan, Rayner said she is “an advocate for women in leadership positions... Women should not have to deal with harassment, particularly in the workplace.” She said she wanted “to understand why this occurred and seek an apology.”

Milan responded, “Ironically, spurious accusations such as this detract from providing genuine support for women in the workplace. I am more than happy to clarify my intention in taking a single photograph during the council meeting, but I will not be issuing an apology, particularly since Council Member Erin Rayner didn’t even attempt to contact me or consider what I was doing before writing

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## Revised Zoning Ordinances: Will they rewrite Loudoun’s future?

BY LAURA LONGLEY

“Loudoun County features more than 40 wineries and tasting rooms on rolling hills and cliff-edged slopes... but you come to DC’s Wine Country for more than tastings and tours. Unique winery experiences include barrel tast-

ings with vintners (blend and label your own bottle), grape stomping, vinotherapy spa treatments, yoga classes...and music concerts...If the bacchanal gets too much, check into a boutique bed and breakfast and wake up to the best vineyard views this side of Tuscany...”

proclaims Visit Loudoun.

With the boom in breweries, Loudoun also boasts the LoCo Ale Trail: “With 30+ breweries and counting, Loudoun is one of the most vibrant craft beer destinations in the US...There’s live music most nights, trivia evenings, multiple

Oktoberfest events, Virginia Craft Beer Month in August... Grab your Ale Trail passport and fill your glass!”

Visit Loudoun, the destination marketing organization for Loudoun County, along with the County’s Rural Economic

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# Rediscover Re-Love It in its new W. Main St. location

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Early on July 15 Michael Oaks swung open the double doors at Re Love It's new Purcellville home on W. Main St. across from Loudoun Golf and Country Club. Within an hour, the shop behind Paint & Paper Place was packed with more than 200 curious neighbors, well-wishers, eager consignors, antique and jewelry collectors, vintage furniture and lighting fans, and lovers of designer fashions worn but once, if at all. What these treasure seekers didn't have to hunt for was parking. And that, Oaks expects, should make his challenging move worth it for him and his customers alike.

**Re-Love It, Chapter I:** At the heart of

"We talked the whole day," recalls Michael. "The next month I came back up here for another show, and she was there. We went out to dinner, and that was it." He elected to be the one to make the move and came to Purcellville. Together they bought a home, merged their households, and suddenly found them-



selves with two of everything.

"We looked around for a consignment shop, and there really weren't any in the area."

The solution was obvious: Michael, who was looking for a business in Loudoun, suggested they start one. "Well, we didn't know a thing about the consignment business," he admits. "But I'd

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Re-Love It is a real love story that began in 2008. Floridian Michael Oaks was doing an art show in Fairfax. In the booth next to him was Kim Patterson, who was working in Leesburg at the time.

## TASTE Leesburg returns Saturday, Aug. 13

Text "TASTE" to 888777 to receive real-time updates

TASTE Leesburg will return to downtown Leesburg on Saturday, Aug. 13.

Food vendors, breweries, wineries, businesses, artisans, and entertainment will fill five blocks of the historic downtown. Experience the flavor of Leesburg with over 65 booths showcasing a taste of all that the Town has to offer. Local restaurants, food trucks, and vendors will offer a variety of menu options for purchase or stop into one of the downtown restaurants for a bite to eat.

Sixteen local breweries and winer-

ies will also be on-site offering samples of beer, wine, cider and mead. A discounted Early Bird Drink Ticket is available online and costs \$40. Ticket prices will increase to \$55 on Aug. 10. All ticket purchases include a souvenir sampling glass and unlimited drink tastings.

Check-in tents will be located on Town Green on West Market and North King streets to verify your ID and have your ticket scanned. A limited number of beverage tickets may be available the day of the event through online purchase only.

Live music will begin at 5 p.m. on the Center Stage, located on the

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## Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth: Saint Louis, Loudoun County

BY TIM JON

The traffic along the main drag just keeps barreling through; I doubt that many of these drivers even pause long enough to appreciate the views of Mount Weather out on the Blue Ridge from this lower vantage point.



I turned off onto a side tangent, to get a better (and safer) perspective of the higher ground to the west; a stand of mature pines in the foreground lent a sense of scale to the whole panorama – with the Virginia Department of Transportation lot reminding me that these parts can be awfully forbidding in the cold weather months (you don't want to be caught out in some isolated spot in three feet of snow – even if you have your cell phone handy; the plows may not be able to get to you).

I found the density and pace of vehic-

ular activity here rather heavy, in comparison to the much more peaceful spot I'd visited earlier that morning – just a few miles to the north; I took this as yet another local reminder: Loudoun County, Virginia is well known for many features: cars, trucks, buses and the like (and their busy operators) among them.

Now, granted – it had been several years since I'd paid a visit to the small, isolated community known as Saint Louis – situated along the Road by the same name, northwest of Middleburg, but quite a long distance from anywhere in particular.

And more than just State Highway 611 serves as a dividing line for the Village: the old and the new, the well-to-do and the less heavily larded, the manicured lawns and meticulously-kept homes versus the decrepit – and I'm sure the casual visitor could envision additional contrasts. And constantly, the movement along the highway kept my attention di-



verted from any momentous discoveries – at least until I'd driven out of range of its influence on my day's momentum of personal energy and sensibilities.

I did manage to find a couple of interesting diversions, once I'd wrested free of the seemingly eternal (and hypnotic) stream of morning traffic; the first appeared in the form of what formerly could have been described as a cozy little home.

The effects of time, weather and neglect had combined to deprive the structure of its ability to shelter much of any-

thing, except perhaps a few families of mice or other less desirable creatures. But despite the arguably unsavory nature of the small, blue rambler-style building, I felt the familiar attraction to the site; I've always been fascinated by abandoned structures – objective, historic interest, the various possible stories of decline, and the more subjective: a curious juxtaposition of human dreams and creation – sustaining loss and eventually suffering overall destruction and a "No Trespassing" sign.

Once, love, care and togetherness thrived here; perhaps it just moved on to more prosperous surroundings: at any rate, Nature's own creativity has been running riot in the absence of human occupation and control.

And, from degeneration – or maybe RE-generation – we go to sublimity – at least in my opinion. In exploring other tangents off the main stem of Saint Louis

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## — Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

**Dr. Mike,**

Our son completed neuropsychological testing when he was three years old, and he was diagnosed with High Functioning Autism. He's now a rising First Grader, and my husband and I are still trying to figure out next steps for him with school for this fall.



Our son's therapist is recommending that our son attend school because of the services he needs to help him with learning and socialization. Our family is also pushing us to send him to school.

But we think going to school might be too much for our son to handle all at once. He's very sensitive and shy, he has idiosyncrasies due to his Autism (e.g., repeating movie lines, memorizing his-

torical facts, toe walking, etc.), and he sees the world as being very black and white when it comes to rules and the way things should be.

We're afraid he won't fit in, and we're afraid that he will be bullied. What are your thoughts on home schooling in our situation? If we do home school, what programs do you recommend? What age do you recommend integrating into school?

— Help in Loudoun

**Dear Help in Loudoun,**

As you likely know, with autism, the sooner problems are identified and treatment is implemented the better, so it's good that you had your son tested at a young age, and that he's in therapy. Research has repeatedly shown that early diagnosis, and services can provide an

autistic child with a better life.

There are advantages and disadvantages to homeschooling. The advantages are manifold and include your being in complete control of your child's learning and social experiences, your being able to individualize and tailor a program to your son's unique strengths, challenges and interests, and your being able to pace the school day with breaks and varied activities based on your son's needs and abilities.

You write that your son is shy and sensitive, so being able to provide the love and support he may need when he struggles emotionally with presented material is also a positive. Overall, your son will experience fewer distractions and fewer stressors should you choose to homeschool him.

There are, however, disadvantages to

homeschooling a child with high functioning autism in that homeschoolers can struggle with a lack of social interaction, an increased sense of isolation, uneven learning and learning gaps, and increased struggles with attention, concentration and task persistence.

As a child psychologist, I've worked with many homeschoolers over the years, and providing adequate social opportunities toward increased growth is certainly attainable, but it can be difficult to manage over time.

Your son's therapist is correct that your son would have more access to services and supports, should he attend first grade at school than he would if he were homeschooled. As a student with autism within Loudoun County Public Schools, your son would qualify for

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**Correction:** In last month's opinion piece titled "A roundabout annexation proposal for Purcellville" we incorrectly wrote that Magic Kayhan offered to donate land for a pickleball facility. The correction: He will consider making available almost 4 acres of his property for a pickleball facility. We regret this error.

# The Fraught Nature of Tourism

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Visit Loudoun has been meeting with various groups touting the importance of its mission – bringing more tourists to Loudoun. Its influential president, Beth Erickson, comes armed with a presentation focused on a survey it commissioned. VL also has a nifty booklet with a county map in the centerfold, locating the forty-five wineries and thirty breweries in Loudoun. (That many?)

Take a look at VL's very professional website, [www.visitloudoun.org](http://www.visitloudoun.org) to understand what it is, and what it does.

Erickson's tour has put VL in the spotlight, which has prompted a close examination of the organization, its survey

and its aims and claims. There are skeptics, particularly many conservationists who worry that too much tourism is incompatible with our campestral values.

Tourism's primary purpose must be to benefit the community broadly, not just by focusing on its economy. Tourism should not degrade citizens' peace and quiet and property values.

## Types of Tourism

There are three styles of tourism: Touring, Rest and Recreation, and Entertainment.

Touring tourism can be sightseeing (and there are great things to see here!) history, nature, hiking, photography and such. These activities diffuse tourism's impact, protect nature and heritage, and

support small businesses. It's about all the qualities that make up the character of the place and it is benefic.

Ramp up the intensity to R&R tourism. Think rural resorts, country inns, spas. This kind of tourism can be a mixed bag since these things can contribute to sprawl. R&R tourism can be a boon, but it should be managed through land use controls, specifically by requiring special exceptions to ensure that each proposal fits the fabric we want woven.

Entertainment-style tourism is problematic. Conjure noisy outdoor recreation, convention centers, concert venues and breweries. It should be obvious that these uses need to be carefully controlled. Ideally, entertainment-style tourism must require special exceptions

so each application is reviewed by the Board for appropriateness. (This would not affect existing businesses.)

## The Problem of More

There is a nagging worry that tourism encourages commercial enterprises, and we fear crowding, traffic and noise. Visit Loudoun's own poll showed that the number one concern of respondents was the loss of open space. We could not agree more.

## What do we Want?

Visit Loudoun's survey claims that we lust for tourism, with 70 percent of poll respondents in support. These numbers jump out so boldly that many exclaim,

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Please include your name, address and phone number.

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



## Fields Farm proposed athletic fields need to be scaled down

BY ADAM STEVENSON

Loudoun County has released plans for a recreation complex to be located at the Fields Farm property south of Woodgrove High School and directly west of the Mayfair development. The existing plans detail the inclusion of five soccer fields, two baseball fields and one softball field, maintenance structures, restrooms and concession facilities.

The fields are "expected to be used between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 p.m., 7 days a week." The County would also relocate the Purcellville Park and Ride south of the athletic fields, across the Fields Farm Park Road which would con-

nect to Mayfair Crown Drive.

At the outset, I want to acknowledge the need for increased park amenities for Purcellville and western Loudoun residents. It seems fairly clear that the amount of park space available to the public has not kept pace with western Loudoun's growing population. So to some extent, such a proposal is welcome, though, as they say, the devil is in the details.

My first qualm is with the quantity of athletic fields proposed. Though there is a small area of dedicated "open space" in the latest iteration of the plans, most of the recreation complex is devoted to one very specific form of recreation – the athletic variety – and not only that, but

to its industrial subspecies. Let's call it Industrial Youth Sport.

A version of athletics that seems to be increasingly expensive and decreasingly fun. Your grandparents' (and your parents') baseball and soccer fields are out and have been "upgraded" to standard turf fields, professionally lit diamonds, and weekend out-of-state tournaments.

A nation-wide phenomenon, the vortex of Industrial Youth Sport seems to be most predictably found where the ethos of endless competition collides with the persistent marketing of sporting success as a way to 'win friends and influence people.'

Beyond the sociological problems of

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## Pitiful Purcellville Politics

Dear Editor:

On July 26, I attended a Purcellville Town Council meeting to better understand current traffic and safety issues.

Little did I know I was walking into a forum that would display a pitiful political stunt that is seen way too often at the National level right before my eyes in small

town Purcellville, where the focus should be solving the issues for the tax paying citizens.

When the meeting got to the Town Council Member comment portion, Council Member Mary Jane Williams read a letter from Council Member Erin Rayner who was out of the country.

The letter accused Town Council Member Stan

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## Vote for Hung Cao for Virginia's 10th Congressional District on Nov. 8

Dear Editor:

Hung Cao's policies are simple: Government needs to stay out of our businesses and out of our homes. Businesses and residents in the 10th Congressional District are suffering under the weight of historic inflation inflicted on us by the current admin-

istration's policies that have chipped away at our prosperity.

The so-called \$1.9 trillion America Rescue Plan, ambitiously supported by Jennifer Wexton, didn't help businesses and residents already suffering from Covid-19 lockdowns and policies.

Prices are climbing faster

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## LETTER



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# “Can we turn this ship around at all?”

## Mayfair residents speak out against Loudoun’s proposed changes

BY VALERIE CURY

Loudoun County is requesting a zoning change to part of the Fields Farm complex, shifting from its current Transition X zoning to IP – Institutional and Public Use Zoning. Approximately 225 acres, the complex is home to Woodgrove High School and Mountain View Elementary School.

**GOVERNMENT** The County is also asking for a Special Use Permit and Commission Permit to develop a portion of 9.98 acres into a Commuter Parking Lot. The proposed lot would include 250 parking spaces, a kiss-and-ride, and a bus pick-up/drop-off area with bus shelters.

In addition, the County is asking for another Special Use Permit and a Commission Permit to develop 50.54 acres into eight Astro Turf athletic fields – 5 soccer/multipurpose fields and 3 baseball fields. This proposed area would consist of picnic pavilions, maintenance structures, restrooms and a concession structure.

If approved, this request is also within an area of right-of-way that had been previously dedicated to a possible extension of Mayfair Crown Drive.

Page 17 of the Town of Purcellville’s staff report notes, “Mayfair Crown Drive is to be a local collector road, with all other roadways in the project, as well as development from as far away as Purcellville Road (Route 611), feeding into it. There is an existing school access road which currently consists of a single lane paved road terminating in an open field. It is to be extended to Mayfair Crown Drive, and widened to a two-lane public road, providing a second point of access to the schools.”

After the meeting Council Member Stan Milan said he is concerned that the Mayfair Crown Drive extension to Woodgrove High School a year from now will become a part of the Northern Collector Road, which was rejected by the community of Wright Farm and the residents of the Town of Purcellville. “This road would spur development along undeveloped land and increase traffic and

the footprint of Purcellville. The Northern Collector Road was proposed to go across Purcellville Road and connect from Mayfair Crown Drive – all the way to Berlin Turnpike,” he said

At the July 7 Planning Commission meeting, Mayfair resident Daniel Carvill said the traffic study that was used to justify a modest increase in potential traffic from the proposed County uses was not accurate. He pointed out that the study was done in 2019 when both the single-family homes and the townhomes in Mayfair were not yet built. “You will double or triple the amount of traffic on Mayfair Crown,” Carvel said.

Mayfair resident Sharon Hoffman asked, “Where is the entrance for this parking lot... Is it off of Rt. 7? How do you get into this thing?”

Purcellville Director of Planning and Economic Development Don Dooley responded, “The access to the commuter parking lot would come off the extension of Mayfair Crown. Right now, it doesn’t exist, so when that road is constructed, commuter access would come

off that road.”

Mark Hoffman, project and program manager for Loudoun County, said, “The town has the ultimate decision whether they are going to grant the Special Use Permits and the rezonings, and as part of that process there’s the opportunity to place conditions on some of those parameters.”

Mayfair resident Lloyd Harting asked where the County proposal is in the process. “Is there any opportunity for these designs to be changed? Is there a chance to talk about this and change some of this? How far in the process are we – can we turn this ship around at all?”

Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman explained that the County is asking “us the Town for a zoning amendment and a zoning change to be able to do certain things – and we have the right of refusal... So, I think the answer to your question is yes, this is not a done deal, and you have every right to provide input as a citizen.”

At the July 12 Town Council meeting,

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# A 150-foot cell tower looms over Middleburg

BY LAURA LONGLEY

On July 26, the Loudoun County Planning Commission took a vote to deny a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that would have supported approval of a 150-foot tower to be constructed by a private telecommunications development company, Milestone Towers, at the Mickie Gordon Memorial Park on Rt. 50 just east of historic Middleburg.

The purpose of the tower is to cover a gap in cell service between the Village of Aldie and the Town of Middleburg. Through a Master License Agreement between Milestone and Loudoun County Public Schools that was signed in August 2020, the telecommunication firm may construct facilities, including towers, on LCPS-owned property.

LCPS owns the 99-acre Mickie Gordon Park and leases it to Loudoun County Parks, Recreation, and Community Services. A popular place for outings and sports, it features a lighted baseball field, three soccer fields, three more baseball fields, two tennis courts, a Little League field, a picnic pavilion, and a small pond for fishing.

**Milestone Towers would build the**



The proposed location for a wireless telecommunications facility at Mickie Gordon Memorial Park. Map: Courtesy of Piedmont Environmental Council.

tower at no cost to LCPS or Loudoun County. LCPS would receive a \$40,000 site fee from Milestone and 40 percent of gross revenues that the public-private project promises to yield for the school district. According to Milestone, that amounts to a \$30,000 to \$40,000 annual contribution to the school—not a number, however, that will make much of a dent in a school district budget of \$1.5 billion.

Since LCPS gave Milestone Towers a

green light for the monopole and multiple service providers, such as T-Mobile, opposition has mounted among environmental, conservation, and preservation organizations, as well as enterprises at the core of Loudoun's rural economy—the equine community, owners of vineyards, wineries, breweries, resorts, special event venues, pick-your-own farms, and cattle, goats, sheep, poultry operations, and more.

To address the concerns of these con-

stituencies, Milestone agreed to make modest changes in tower placement, paint colors, screening, and a reduction in height, from 185 to 150 feet, which required negotiations with AT&T. While AT&T is the primary service provider for the Mickie Gordon Park tower, it is not the owner. The AT&T tower proposed for the ridgeline of the Short Hill and recently denied by the Board of Supervisors would have been built on AT&T-owned land and thus owned by AT&T.

Whatever color it is painted or how it is screened, the tower would still be visible in the area between Middleburg and Aldie and the surrounding countryside. Several residents pointed out that the tower would be the major feature on the horizon as visitors from the east enter "D.C.'s Wine Country," Visit Loudoun's promotional moniker for the County. That horizon currently presents unparalleled views of the Blue Ridge and Bull Run mountains.

While the Commission was prepared to vote to go into a work session, Milestone refused to extend the review period and develop additional studies.

Milestone, the firm's representative advised the commissioners, "could get

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

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## Gabriella Miller KFR Act 2.0 to increase funding for Cancer Research

The House of Representatives has passed Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton's (D-VA) bipartisan Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0 which would nearly double funding for lifesaving research of treatments and cures for childhood cancer research. The bill has 110 bipartisan cosponsors.

The bill is named in honor of Gabriella Miller, a Virginia-10 resident who was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor and passed away in 2013 at age 10. Congresswoman Wexton has worked closely with Ellyn Miller, Gabriella's mother, to introduce and advance the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0.

Ellyn and her husband, Mark, founded Smashing Walnuts in 2013 to advocate and raise awareness about childhood cancer.

"I'm so proud that the House has passed my bipartisan Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0 which will deliver a transformative boost in funding for lifesaving treatments and cures for kids battling cancer – a top priority for me this Congress," said Wexton.

"This bill nearly doubles funding for the Kids First program, enabling doctors and scientists to step up their critical research, build on the great progress this program has made, and ultimately save more young lives. It's been an honor to work closely with Gabriella's mother, Ellyn, to advance this bipartisan legislation, and I'm committed to doing all I can to get this to the President's desk."

The legislation would reauthorize the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program, which is set to expire next year, for an additional five years and increase funding to \$25 million annually – nearly double the current amount.

Since the original Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act was signed into law in 2014, the Kids First program has made progress towards understanding childhood cancer and disease. The law established the Ten-Year Pediatric Research Initiative Fund and authorized \$12.6 million in annual funds for childhood disease research. It has also led to the founding of the Gabriella Miller Kids First Data Resource Center—a comprehensive data resource for research and patient communities meant to advance discoveries.

Despite this progress, cancer remains the number one cause of disease-related death in children age 14 and younger in the U.S., and it is estimated that more than 10,000 children in the U.S. under the age of 15 will be diagnosed with cancer this year.

Many children with cancer do not respond well to conventional treatments, which have resulted in long-term health and disability issues for patients, even if the cancer is successfully cured. Yet, only 4 percent of the government's funding for cancer research is specifically directed towards the development of treatments and cures for childhood cancer and other rare diseases.

## Gov. Youngkin donates second-quarter salary to VVSF

Youngkin Presents Salary Donation at Jones and Cabacoy Veterans Care Center on Tuesday, July 26



Photo by Christian Martinez

Gov. Glenn Youngkin will be donating his second-quarter salary to the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing supplemental funding for Veteran programs and services throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

At the Jones and Cabacoy Veterans Care Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia

Governor Glenn Youngkin Presents Salary Donation at Jones and Cabacoy Veterans Care Center on Tuesday, July 26.

he fulfilled his pledge to donate his gubernatorial salary back to organizations and the people of Virginia.

"I pledged to serve our Commonwealth without accepting a salary because

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »



# Virginia General Fund finishes with surplus of nearly \$2 billion

Gov. Glenn Youngkin on July 21 announced that Virginia ended the fiscal year 2022 with a \$1.94 billion general fund revenue surplus. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, total revenue collections rose 16.3 percent, based on preliminary data.

“While I am pleased that our additional revenue can be reinvested in Virginia, the Commonwealth’s general fund revenue surplus confirms that Virginians have been overtaxed for way too long,” said Youngkin.

“As inflation hits another 40-year high, I’m proud that our budget provides almost \$4 billion in tax relief to Virginians, the largest tax relief in the Commonwealth’s history. We have a lot of work left to do to recover from the pandemic, but Virginia’s economy is demonstrating

promising economic and company growth with major companies such as Boeing, Raytheon, and LEGO moving their headquarters to Virginia.”

“Fiscal 2022 was an extraordinary year for revenues and finished strong. However, there are a number of critical economic issues that we will continue to watch very closely as we put our plan together for the future. We are encouraged by the continuing strength of payroll withholding and retail sales taxes, which increased by 9.5 percent, indicating that Virginia’s underlying economic foundation is

strong,” said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings.

Virginia’s strong labor market has produced 79,818 jobs since January, driving growth in payroll withholding. There were 124,878 more Virginians employed in May 2022 than there were in May 2021, an increase of 3.5 percent year-over-year. Although recent trends are encouraging, Virginia has yet to recover more than 133,000 jobs that were lost during the pandemic (now at 96.9 percent of pre-pandemic levels) while our key competitor states have all exceeded pre-pandemic employment levels.

While the Commonwealth underperformed the nation in jobs recovered since the pandemic, ranking 47th overall, momentum is building and Virginia is now ranked 15th among the states in employment growth for the first four months of 2022.

## Analysis of Fiscal Year 2022 Revenues Based on Preliminary Data

- Based on preliminary data, Fiscal Year 2022 ended with a \$1.94 billion general fund revenue surplus. General fund revenues, excluding transfers, rose 16.3 percent for the year compared to fiscal year 2021, exceeding the forecast of 8.5 percent growth.
- Payroll withholding and sales tax collections, 69 percent of total revenues, and the best indicator of current economic activity in the Commonwealth, finished \$193.5 million or 1.0 percent ahead of the forecast.

## Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention programs for August

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

### Mental Health First Aid

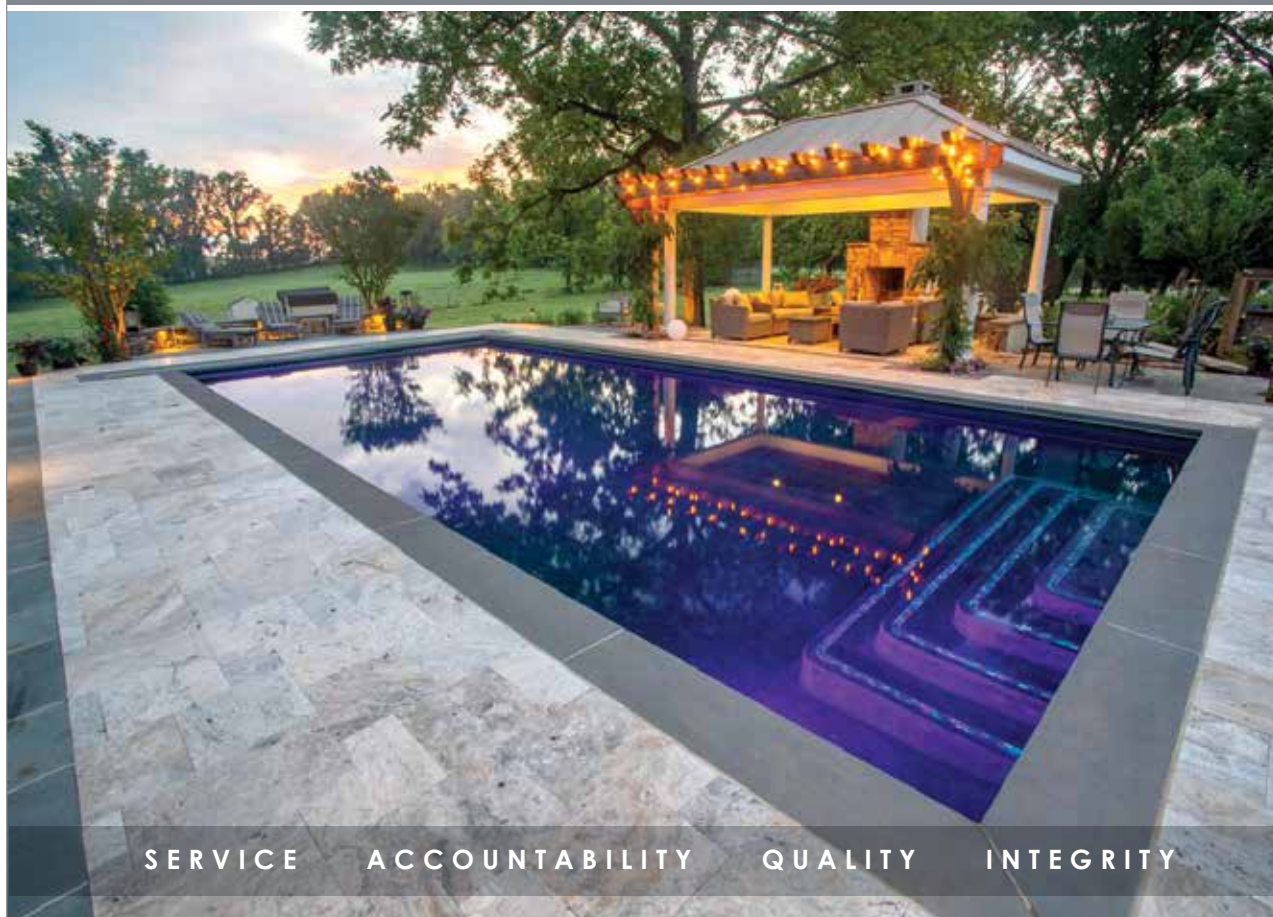
Mental Health First Aid offers training that teaches people how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. The training also teaches the skills that someone needs to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a

mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis. There are two versions of the program, a general adult program and a program for adults who interact with youth. The trainings are usually held over a two-day period, with the class lasting for about three hours each day. The next training is:

- Youth Mental Health First Aid: Aug. 30 and 31: 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. each day.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

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# In person civilian active attack classes offered

The Purcellville Police Department will be once again hosting in-person classes for civilians as part of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice's Active Attack Program. The program provides free training for Virginia citizens and first responders to enable them to work together when an active attack occurs.

## GOVERNMENT

In April, the Purcellville Police hosted three virtual classes, but we are fortunate to offer two in-person classes on Friday, Aug. 5, and one morning class on Saturday, Aug. 6.

The Civilian Response and Casualty Care course is a four-hour class providing strategies, guidance, and a plan for recognizing, responding to and surviving an active attack event. The class is being offered at three different times; on Friday, Aug. 5 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and again at 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., as well as on Saturday, Aug. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with participants only needing to register for one preferred time slot.

The class combines the civilian response with the Stop the Bleed Campaign, which

empowers civilians to provide life-saving medical aid before first responders ever arrive. Topics include the history and prevalence of active attack events, civilian response options, and medical issues.

Attending the April online class is not a prerequisite for attending the in-person class in August. If one did previously attend an online course, participants are still encouraged to attend in-person, since this class allows for hands-on practical based scenario training, and will expand the foundation of knowledge taught during the virtual session.

The course is designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend/Run, Hide, Fight strategy developed by Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training in 2004. All Town of Purcellville and Loudoun County residents, local businesses and community members are encouraged to attend, including school employees, students who are 16 years or older, faith-based communities, and civic organizations.

Local first responders including law enforcement, Fire/EMS, dispatchers are also invited to attend. Classes will be held at

the Purcellville Town Hall, in the Council Chambers Room, located at 221 S. Nursery Ave, Purcellville, Virginia.

For additional information on the class, visit the DCJS website at <https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/training-events/civilian-response-and-casualty-care-crcc>.

The CRCC class is offered free of charge, and participants must register themselves individually for one course using the following links:

**Friday, Aug. 5-Morning session at 8 a.m.-12 p.m.:** [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8yZNs3Llnysb8\\_Lzn\\_pERoRAMs4hvdYNsaM7ZDZJp3NY-hBg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8yZNs3Llnysb8_Lzn_pERoRAMs4hvdYNsaM7ZDZJp3NY-hBg/viewform).

**Friday, Aug. 5 Afternoon session at 1 p.m.-5 p.m.:** <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtn4Z2xn3rasuFCp-47Tih9Z29oEK18EWCTO2Z5gjrg8yOW-tA/viewform>.

**Saturday, August 6- Session at 9 a.m.-1 p.m.:** <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXAqnR6O3Zbb9y-f82VZkQArNqPcbwYOlqLE5rOw-y93ny-Xg/viewform>.

"While this is a training, I wish we did not have to provide, in light of recent events around our country, taking the time to attend one of these classes could potentially save your life, or the lives of others if you ever find yourself in an active shooter or attack situation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

# Loudoun sponsors Art and Film Contest

Area teenagers and adults are invited to enter the "Novel Expressions Art and Film Contest" sponsored by Loudoun County Public Library, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, and the Loudoun Youth Advisory Council. The deadline to enter is Aug. 22.

Participants may choose any book from their summer reading list and create a piece of artwork or a short film inspired by the story. The art contest is open to teens and adults; the film contest is for teens only.

Artists must live in Loudoun County, or any of the following counties or cities: The cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Washington, D.C. or Winchester; Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick or Prince William counties in Virginia; Jefferson County in West Virginia; or Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's or Washington counties in Maryland.

The art contest will be judged in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

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## Purcellville Tag Sale – Saturday Oct. 8 Rain or Shine

Save the date – it’s that time of year again for the Purcellville Tag Sale. On Saturday, Oct. 8 join the community for a day of fun, shopping, and deals. Oh, and treasures, too. Sign-up will end Monday, Oct. 3.

The Purcellville Tag sale is perfect for the hunter, collector, picker, and hoarder in us all. The event starts bright and early at 8 a.m. and goes to 6 p.m. – rain or shine.

All vendors wanted. Go to [Purcellville-VaTagSale.com](http://Purcellville-VaTagSale.com) to sign up.

**COMMUNITY**

The Purcellville Tag Sale is organized by Silas Redd, owner of Nostalgia Boutique located at 142 E. Main Street in Purcellville. Said Redd, “I am happy to be hosting the Purcellville Tag Sale. It’s a great opportunity for the Town of Purcellville to showcase the variety of businesses. It’s also great for our community to come together and have fun. It’s always exciting to find fabulous treasures from vendors and local businesses.”

Sign up will begin mid-August at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »

# Remembering Ralph Fields, the man, the myth, the legend

Ralph Fields, the man, the myth, the legend, passed away unexpectedly at his home on July 16, 2022.

He was born Sept. 26, 1941, to Horace Ralph Fields, Sr., and Lucille Kent Fields at Loudoun Memorial Hospital in Leesburg, VA.

A lifelong Purcellville resident, Ralph Fields was raised on his family’s dairy farm, Center Field Farm, in Purcellville.

Fields attended the old Purcellville Elementary School and was a 1960 graduate of Loudoun County High School. As Drum Major, he led the LCHS Marching Band to two consecutive years of top awards at the Winchester Apple Blossom Festival.

He was also involved with FFA and 4-H. He showed Registered Holsteins, some of which attained All-American recognition. As a teen, he was nominated as National Holstein Boy, which earned him a trip to Madison, Wisconsin.

He was engaged in agriculture most of his life, including dairy, beef, and crop farming. In addition to farming,

he had other business ventures. In the early 1970s, he owned and operated the Arco service station at the Rt. 7/ North Maple Avenue intersection in Purcellville.

He owned the Round Hill Diner for over 10 years before selling the business in the late 1980s.

Ralph’s passion for life was exceeded only by his love for his children and grandchildren.

A friend to many, and an enemy to none, Ralph’s departure leaves a massive void in the lives of his loved ones, and he will be greatly missed. “They don’t make them like that anymore.”

Fields is survived by his children Trevor and Jessy of Purcellville, Tonya and Ashley of Lovettsville, Troy and Michelle of Leesburg, Trey and Mery of Florida; his stepchildren Stephani and Rocco of Washington D.C., and Patrick of Waterford; grandchildren Rachel, Lincoln, Weston, Boyd, Rya, Aja, Ayden, Olivia, Sabrina, Kylie, and Taylor; and great-grandchildren Harper and Ronin.

A viewing was held Friday, July



22, at Hall’s Funeral Home in Purcellville. The family also asked the public to join them on Saturday, July 23, for a Celebration of Life at the Family Farm – Center Field Farm, 16980 Hillsboro Road, Purcellville, Va. Per Ralph’s wishes, dress was casual.

The family held a private burial service at the Hillsboro Cemetery, Hillsboro, Va.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Purcellville Police and Fire Station in his name.

Arrangements were handled by Hall’s Funeral Home, Purcellville, Va.

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# LCPS 2022: fortitude, focus and quiet grace

BY ANDREA GAINES

If you thought it was a challenge to run a country these days, imagine what it's like for a single school system – and a big one – to do the same thing for the students it serves.

### GOVERNMENT

The more things change, the more they stay the same, and the Loudoun County Public School system is no exception.

With respect to Loudoun County, learning has been in person, virtual, and everywhere in between in recent years. It's the new norm.

For this article, we spoke with Wayde

B. Byard, LCPS Public Information Officer, Communications & Community Engagement Office.

Just how do you keep one of the largest school systems in the country running smoothly amidst what many might see as mind-bending changes and challenges?

Student academics have never been better, and LCPS also shines in every other way.

### We figure big, we rank high

Established in 1870, LCPS is located in the rapidly growing Washington,

D.C. metro area. Loudoun County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As Byard was quick to point out, "Each year, LCPS opens one to three new school facilities to accommodate our growing student population. LCPS

students earned an average SAT score of 1173 (592 Reading and 581 Math). The LCPS Class of 2020 had 54 National Merit Semifinalists and an on-time graduation rate of 96.8 percent. They earned more than \$48.2 million in scholarships."

*The LCPS Class of 2020 had 54 National Merit Semifinalists and an on-time graduation rate of 96.8 percent. They earned more than \$48.2 million in scholarships."*

### Cool stuff, new stuff, accomplishments

With a school system as large as LCPS, our local educators and students get exposed to lots of really interesting opportunities.

For example, this past summer LCPS high schools began serving as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

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# Loudoun County's Fair: A good time was had by all

Neither scorching heat nor sudden downpours could keep the young 4-H contests and enthusiastic crowds from enjoying this year's Loudoun County Fair. From Tuesday, July 26, through Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup>, the 4-H Fairgrounds on Leesburg's Dry Mill Road also welcomed barnyard animals and alligators, demolition derby drivers and bull riders, llamas and alpacas, milking cows and pigs for capturing and kissing. And what would the fair be without the watermelon and pie eating contests?

## COMMUNITY

This year, fairgoers were treated to music sets featuring David Andrew Smith, Ainsley Costello, Luke Whittaker, and Kyle Lambdin.

The events not to miss were of the home-grown kind, featuring young 4-H members showing the animals they have raised this year for both fun and profit as Damewood Auctioneers sold them to the highest bidders. The roster of other performers included horse drill teams and rabbits that gave hopping demonstrations and good-naturedly joined in dress up competitions.

Little ones who've yet to get farm animals to call their own were treated to the "Touch a Tractor" equipment event, a firefighters' program, and the boisterous Pig Scramble. Kids grouped by age—5 and 6, 7 and 8, 9 and 10—took to the main ring with two squealing and very fast pigs. The challenge: to catch a pig first. The winner's prize: \$20 or a pig.



Four Loudoun Fair & Associates 4-H members were awarded considerably larger amounts—scholarships from \$1,000 to \$2,500. This year's recipients are:

- Amelia Abbe, a Loudoun Valley High School graduate who was awarded the 2022 Loudoun Fair & Associates of \$2,500. She has been an active member of 4-H for nine years in the Rabbit and Cavy Club. Amelia was inducted as a Virginia 4-H All Star—the highest recognition a 4-Her can achieve.
- Eleni Kasianides, a home school graduate who received a scholarship of \$2,000. She has been an

active 4-H member for eight years, focusing on Rabbit Breeding and Rabbit Hopping projects. Eleni has served on the 4-H Honor Council where she has been an integral teen leader since 2019.

- Mandy Bramhall, a Woodgrove High School graduate who was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. She has been a 4-H member for 10 years. Currently, she is enrolled in the Beef and Canterlopes clubs. During her 4-H career, Mandy has mentored many younger 4-H youth and has served as president of the Beef and Swine clubs.

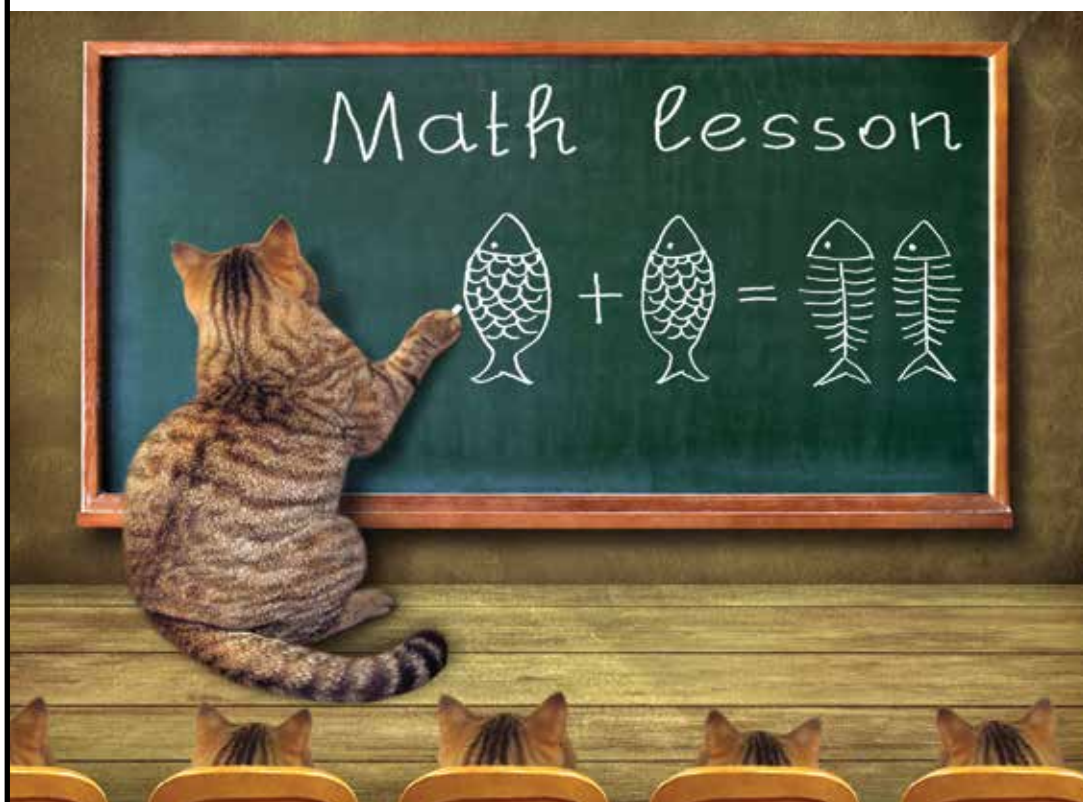
- Sadie Cooper, who is a graduate of Loudoun Valley High School and the Academies of Loudoun, received a Loudoun Fair & Associates scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Sadie has been an active 4-H member for 10 years. Participating in multiple livestock clubs, including Poultry, Sheep, and Goat, she has served in various officer roles and served as a

Poultry mentor guiding younger 4-Hers as they learn about their projects.

Loudoun Fair & Associates, a 501(c)3, all-volunteer, non-profit organization, produces the annual Loudoun County Fair and manages the 26-acre fairgrounds property which includes show pavilions, barns, and meeting space that 4-H clubs and community groups use throughout the year. The fair is made possible by the generous contributions and sponsorships of area businesses, organizations, and individuals.

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- PetConnect's annual Puppies and Purrs Jamboree will be held at Shadow Creek in Purcellville. Join in an evening of fun while supporting a wonderful cause. Tickets are available at <https://Puppiesandpurrs.eventbrite.com>

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# JK Community Farm hosts intern day for local companies

The JK Community Farm hosted its annual Intern Day for area companies on July 29. Businesses were invited to send teams of interns out to the farm for teambuilding, as well as chance to give back to the community by harvesting and caring for crops.

**COMMUNITY**

More than seven companies signed up sending more than 50 interns for a day of volunteering.

The nonprofit farm provides chemical free, healthy produce and protein to those struggling with food insecurity in the region. The farm donates the food it grows to nonprofit partners, including Loudoun Hunger Relief, Food for Others, Arlington Food Assistance Center, and DC Central Kitchen.

More than 50 Interns from over seven companies including Leidos, Infinite, Northwest Federal Credit Union, Van Metre, Pine Ridge Landscaping, CapRelo, and JK Moving attended the event, which inspired teambuilding while helping hunger in the area.



“We are pleased to partner with these companies that value corporate citizenship. Volunteering in the community is a great way to impart their corporate values to the future workforce. It’s also a great way for us to share our passion around growing healthy, organic produce that gets donated to end hunger in our community,” explained Samantha Kuhn, executive director, JK Community Farm. “We look forward to our Intern Day being a great teambuilding event that helps raise awareness about food insecurity in our region.”

JK Community Farm, a nonprofit started in 2018 with the support of JK Moving Services, seeks to have a lasting and healthy impact on struggling families within the Washington, DC region by growing and donating chemical free, healthy produce and protein to those struggling with hunger.

As the nation’s largest community farm with 100 percent of its yield donated, the farm plans to produce more than 230,000 pounds of healthy food in 2022.

# 20th Annual “Freeze Your Gizzard” early sign up by Aug. 31

The Leesburg Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with Loudoun Hunger Relief, is hosting the 20th Annual Freeze Your Gizzard Cross Country 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run on Saturday, Nov. 19. Runners of all skill levels and ages are invited to join this community tradition. Sign up prices increase after Aug. 31.

**COMMUNITY**

The cross county style 5K run will begin at 9 a.m. at the gazebo in the front field of Ida Lee Park. It will run through a scenic cross country course along Ida Lee Park’s 138 acres. A 1-Mile Fun Run will begin at 9:45 a.m. No dogs, wagons or baby strollers are allowed on the course due to uneven terrain.

Parking for the event will be in the festival parking field and can only be accessed from North King Street (Business Rt. 15). There will be no access to race parking from Ida Lee

Drive. Anniversary pricing is currently available. Registration for the 5k is \$20 through Aug. 31. Registration for the one mile fun run is \$15. Prices will increase on Sept. 1.

All pre-registered 5k participants will receive a commemorative “Freeze Your Gizzard” long sleeve performance t-shirt. Awards will be given to the top three overall male and female finishers. As well as the top three male and female finishers of the 5k in each age category. One mile fun runner will receive a commemorative finishers’ medal.

All participants are being asked to consider a monetary donation for Loudoun Hunger Relief, which can be made during online registration. Participants may also bring non-perishable food items on the day of the race.

For more information call 703-777-1368 or visit [www.idalee.org](http://www.idalee.org).



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## Peek achieves rank of Eagle Scout



*Congratulations to Emmitt Peek of Purcellville Troop 163 for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.*

*Peek's Eagle Project consisted of making 40 heating pads for the SPCA. The heating pads were meant for animals coming out of surgery with the project taking a total of 40 hours. Peek is pictured with Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser.*

## Purcellville Arts Council accepting nominations for Doc Wiley arts award

The Purcellville Arts Council announces that nominations are now being accepted for the fifth annual Jim "Doc" Wiley Leadership in the Arts Award. This award is named for Dr. James Wiley, a family dentist, former Town Council member, and long-time supporter of art and artists in Purcellville, and is intended to recognize an individual or organization in the greater Purcellville area for making a significant impact on the arts in the community. Nominations are due no later than Nov. 1, by 5 p.m.

### COMMUNITY

Candidates considered may include performing, visual, or literary artists; teachers of art; producers or managers of arts venues; patrons of the arts; and art advocates. The objective is to highlight the recipient's artistic impact on the greater Purcellville area. Nominees may include individuals, organizations, or businesses that have demonstrated excellence and leadership in one or more of the following areas:

- Artistic achievement in the performing, visual, or literary arts
- Long-term individual or organizational support that has

made a significant impact on the arts in greater Purcellville

- Investment in artistic and cultural activities that have made a significant impact on greater Purcellville
- Promotion of the arts in the greater Purcellville community in a distinctly creative or exceptionally effective manner

Nominations must include the completed nomination form, at least one letter of support from another organization or individual, and optional supporting documents such as articles or samples of work (as appropriate) in digital form.

The Purcellville Arts Council will review nominations and make the selection. Details and the nomination form are available on the Purcellville Arts Council page of the Town of Purcellville's website.

If you would like to learn about the Purcellville Arts Council and become a member of the volunteer committee, check out their page of the Town website. If you have questions about the Purcellville Arts Council, email [arts@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:arts@purcellvilleva.gov).

## New summer hours at Thomas Balch Library

As of Monday, Aug. 1, the Thomas Balch Library will transition to summer hours.

The library will be available by appointment only Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The library will be open regular business hours on Tuesday from 10

a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be closed on Sundays.

Regular hours will resume following the Labor Day holiday. For more information call 703-737-7195 or email [balchlib@leesburgva.gov](mailto:balchlib@leesburgva.gov).



# Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Services for August

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

**Tuesday, August 2**

9 a.m. to noon  
Dulles S. Multipurpose Ctr.  
24950 Riding Center Dr.,  
South Riding  
BP Screenings

**Tuesday, August 2**

6 to 8 p.m.  
National Night Out,  
Middleburg  
300 W Washington St.,  
Middleburg  
First Aid & Cooling Station

**Wednesday, August 3**

10 a.m. to noon  
Leesburg Senior Center  
102 North St. North West,  
Leesburg  
BP Screenings

**Saturday, August 6,**

6 to 10 p.m.  
Polo in the Park, Morven  
Park  
41580 Sunday Morning Lane,  
Leesburg  
First Aid and Cooling Station

**Tuesday, August 9**

10 a.m. to noon  
Cascades Senior Center  
21060 Whitfield Pl., Sterling  
BP Screenings

**Wednesday, August 10**

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

**Saturday, August 13**

6 to 10 p.m.  
Polo in the Park, Morven Park  
41580 Sunday Morning Lane,  
Leesburg  
First Aid and Cooling Station

**Tuesday, August 16**

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

**Wednesday, August 17**

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »

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

LCPS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

meal kit distribution sites for agencies such as Meals on Wheels.

These included Briar Woods HS, Broad Run, Dominion, Freedom, Independence, John Champe, Lightridge, Loudoun County, Loudoun Valley, Park View, Potomac Falls, Riverside, Rock Ridge, Stone Bridge, Tuscarora and Woodgrove. Some middle and elementary schools got in on the action, too.

Byard also highlighted some interesting new programs with an emphasis on providing expanded mental health services to students. "The pandemic put a lot of stress on students," he said, "and their families and LCPS want to help alleviate this problem."

"LCPS is the only school in the Commonwealth to have all its eligible middle schools receive the Schools to Watch designation," said Byard.

*"LCPS is the only school system in the Commonwealth," said Byard, "to have all its eligible middle schools receive the Schools to Watch designation."*

"For the 11th consecutive year," he added, "LCPS has received the ENER-GYSTAR Partner of the Year Sustained Excellence Award. For 15 consecutive years, LCPS has been named among the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation.

"Over 89.5 percent of the total increase in this year's operating budget over last year's adopted budget is for compensation improvements for our employees. The restructuring of our pay scales ensures we remain competitive in our hiring and retention efforts – particularly important in a job market that is becoming much more competitive, and an economy with climbing inflation."

**Elaine E. Thompson – Lover of life, honored by LCPS**

Elaine E. Thompson Elementary, located at 24200 Pissarro Drive in Sterling, will open this year.

Thompson was an acclaimed Loudoun County citizen, author, and so much more.

"This is LCPS's first three-story elementary school and will largely be powered by solar power," said Byard. "Two of the newest LCPS buildings, Hovatter and Elaine E. Thompson elementary schools,

have been honored in the Environmental Protection Agency's Decarbonize Your Design Challenge. They are two of four national-level award winners. This award recognizes new construction projects for superior energy efficiency and preventing carbon dioxide emissions."

Thompson's compelling 2005 book, "In the watchfires: the Loudoun County Emancipation Association 1890-1971," is described as part memoir and part history, laying out how rural African Americans cultivated the racial pride and civic activism that established the groundwork for the civil rights movement. History lives everywhere while speaking to all in a unique voice.

**That's the plan**

In a well-educated, fast-growing, diverse place such as Loudoun County, the strategic plan developed to deliver on what the taxpayers want is a sophisticated one to say the least.

The plan covers 4 essential elements, articulating a set of shared core beliefs, establishing common goals, prioritizing those common goals, and laying out the ways the school system will hold itself accountable to the students it serves.

As the current plan notes, 100 percent of LCPS schools were fully accredited in 2019. LCPS has a nearly \$1.3 billion operating budget, and prides itself on competitive starting teacher salaries.

**Student body**

LCPS serves more than 80,000 students in 97 facilities; this includes 18 high schools, 17 middle schools, 60 elementary schools and two educational centers (Academies of Loudoun and The North Star School).

We asked Byard: How many students last year? Is the student body growing? "Yes, numbers have grown since last year," he replied. "We project 83,039 students this year. Our overall enrollment last year was 81,642."

**Where do students go from here? Big places.**

Byard knows his numbers. "The 6,468 members of the LCPS Class of 2022 earned a total of \$78,486,755 in scholarships.

"The majority of graduates – 89.30 percent – will attend a two or four-year college or university. Another 2.09 percent will pursue other forms of continuing education.

Other graduate plans include: Military – 1.25 percent; Right into the job force – 4.58 percent; Gap Year – 2.78 percent."

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**RE-LOVE IT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

been in business long enough to know that I could fake it 'til I make it."

**Happily for Purcellville,** Re-Love It did make it. Michael credits the gamble they took on the 21<sup>st</sup> Street location, which had housed Nichols Appliance Store for decades.

"I didn't want to rent it because 21<sup>st</sup> Street was totally dead then," he says. "But Kim made a case for the huge, beautiful windows. She sold me."

Once Kim and Michael set up shop on 21<sup>st</sup> St., not only did their business begin to flourish but so did neighboring Old Town shops. They also gave a boost to the whole town's business climate when they partnered with Hillary Cooley, owner of Dominion Tea, to create Discover Purcellville, a 501(c)4 nonprofit association.

Through Discover Purcellville, the trio launched the hugely successful Halloween Block Party, hosted summer street parties, spearheaded the painted fence, bench, and chairs projects, and paid for the large mural on the side of Purcellville Family Restaurant at 21<sup>st</sup> and Main.

Given the pressures of COVID and finding a new home for Re-Love It, Discover Purcellville's events have been on hold. "Once we get Re-Love It fully running again, we'll relaunch them in some form," Michael says.

**Finding a new home for any business in Purcellville** has been no easy undertaking in the past few years given the pandemic and the area's tight rental market for retail. Kim Patterson learned that lesson when she looked for a bigger location for her thriving business, Top

Coat Nails & Spa, now at 170 W. Main St. next to Shamrock Music Shoppe.

When Michael and Kim learned their 21<sup>st</sup> St. lease would not renew given the owner's development plans, Michael began scouting. "I couldn't find a space for us anywhere. There aren't many big places that are affordable, and we needed a big place." Finally, after visiting and then revisiting the space behind Paint & Paper Place—it was Schonder Dodge from 1955 to 1980—he and owner Bob Schonder came to terms. As Michael says, "Everything turned out perfectly."

**Patrons who loved the boutique feel** of the old place may be surprised by the grand emporium vibe of Re-Love It redux. But it takes just one tour of the aisles of vintage lamps and collectibles, new and antique furniture, fashion jewelry and fun artwork, not to mention rack after rack of high quality clothing to know this Re-Love It is the perfect spot for Michael and Kim and their customers to begin their next chapter together.

To learn how to consign with Re-Love It, visit the website home page at [www.reloveit.com](http://www.reloveit.com). Hint: Michael is looking for vinyl. "Jazz, R&B, rock 'n' roll, blues, all eras—vinyl is worth money, so bring it in."

Re-Love It Consignment Shoppe is located at 701 D West Main Street, in the Paint & Paper Place building, across from the Loudoun Golf and Country Club. Open Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday. 540-751-0707 [www.reloveit.com](http://www.reloveit.com).

**CELL TOWER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10**

language that they proposed to enter into the SLA"—service-level agreement—"show that to staff, draft, and come back to you and inform you where the school board was okay."

Several commissioners, including Roger Vance (Blue Ridge), Jane Kirchner (Algonkian), and Forest Hayes (Chairman, At-Large), expressed their disappointment at Milestone's refusal to extend the timeline and engage in a work session.

Kirchner said she would have welcomed an opportunity to investigate issues raised by the public. "This was not 'Oh, I don't like it.' They gave us very specific issues to look at...I have a list here—1,2,3,4,5,6—items that I was going to list to get more information."

Barnes added, "I will say that, like so many of my colleagues have mentioned, if we had additional time, I would have worked diligently with everyone else to find a way to help improve and get this particular application to a place where we could have had a different outcome—only because I find from our previous experience with this company that they were willing to work with us."

Barnes went on to address a key underlying issue. "We must embrace the state-of-the-art technology...I think there are ways to increase the [cell phone] coverage that don't include towers, and we won't have all this pushback from citizens...We all know that 5g antenna across existing infrastructure and public buildings can create the same impact. I don't know why we won't do that. But we keep on talking about 150 feet versus 180 feet ... For each and every application we go through the same thing. We've got to change this conversation and find new tech, and if doesn't exist, somebody needs to invent it."

"Nobody wants the towers cluttering up the viewshed in Middleburg," Barnes concluded. "I refuse to believe that this is the only way we can bring broadband to Middleburg. I do want to see an independent study that tells me this is the only way we can go about doing it."

Without a work session or the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve the Mickie Gordon Park project, Milestone's option now is to appeal the Planning Commission's denial to the Board of Supervisors, whose next meeting is in Sept. 6 (CK).



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STEVENSON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

such a phenomenon, the Industrial Youth Sport Complex also degrades place. For example, industrial lighting is proposed for the eight fields that make up the Fields Farm Recreation Complex.

#### OPINION

The planning notes make clear that the fields will be in use from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (7 days a week), which entails that during the winter, field lighting could be switched on for nearly six hours after sunset. No matter how International Dark-Sky Association compliant such lighting may be, it is less IDA compliant than no lighting. And why must we make our children practice or play until 11 p.m.?

Such endless industriousness may gladden the heart of a departed Carnegie or Rockefeller, but perhaps not as much a young Mike or Emily. Furthermore, though it appears that six of the eight fields will be of natural grass, the notes also suggest that all fields could be upgraded to artificial turf at some point in the near future.

Besides the very real concerns about the runoff of synthetic materials used in turf (and habitat loss), why must we remove all vestiges of a natural order from what is ostensibly still a park?

My second major qualm is with the proposed connecting of Hillsboro Road and Purcellville Road through the Fields Farm Park Road. As others have noted, this would serve to revive the specter of the Northern Collector Road – meant to open the not-so-mystical passage between Hillsboro Road and Berlin Turnpike – the idea being to mitigate the potential for traffic congestion in Purcellville by opening up new avenues for development in the town.

Though the logic seems far from airtight, such a tenacious vision has already claimed a portion of Crooked Run Orchard through which the Southern Collector Road – William T. Druhan Drive now runs. Such a connection to Mayfair Crown Drive would also open up the Mayfair community to through-traffic between Hillsboro and Purcellville Roads.

I would urge the Purcellville Town Council, to amend the current plans for the Fields Farm Recreation Complex in a way that makes it less of a complex (both literally and in our collective psyche)

and more of a park (with open space that fits with western Loudoun).

We need to ensure that the Purcellville-area population not only has access to soccer and baseball fields, but real and immediate experiences that aren't nearly so prescriptive – namely, organic experience in the landscape.

A change for the better would start with removing two or three athletic fields, eliminating field lighting (and stipulating in some sort of durable way that field lighting cannot be added in the future), guaranteeing that the proposed fields will never be converted to turf, and creating a path system through the park on land specifically conserved and set aside for wildlife habitat and passive human recreation. Such preserved areas could also provide a much-needed natural buffer between the park and nearby housing.

A successful park is one that avoids the monotony of monopolistic use. A public park should be one for all of us – not simply those with competitive athletic inclinations – and in that vein we can actually observe current parks that brilliantly fulfill their intended community function.

A particularly good example is Fireman's Field in downtown Purcellville. The park includes a conserved section of century-old oak and hickory trees – known as Dillon's Woods – devoted to passive recreation (while also doubling as a central space for community gatherings and events), an indoor skating rink, a central baseball field and stands, and a few smaller surrounding baseball fields.

No single use dominates the entire park, and the totality provides a more comprehensive aesthetic and recreational experience than the currently detailed Fields Farm complex. If the county is so inclined, it could studiously observe vibrant local parks (such as Fireman's Field) and apply those principles to ensure that Fields Farm serves the needs of the surrounding community – and not simply the Industrial Youth Sport Complex.

*Adam Stevenson grew up in Purcellville and can be found many Saturdays walking around 21<sup>st</sup> 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.*

ACTIVE ATTACK CLASSES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

“While we all hope this will never happen to us, unfortunately active attacks happen in many different locations, including government buildings, grocery stores, colleges, retail stores, police and fire stations, and schools; all locations that we have in town, or we all visit no matter where we live. I hope that no one

among us ever has to witness such an event, but if one ever does occur in your presence, I want you to be prepared for how to act to protect yourself and if able, others too. I encourage you to take a few hours out of your summer to help empower yourself with potentially lifesaving information,” said Purcellville Chief Cynthia McAlister.



INOVA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

**Saturday, August 20**

6 to 10 p.m.  
Polo in the Park, Morven Park  
41580 Sunday Morning Lane,  
Leesburg  
First Aid and Cooling station

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21060 Whitfield Pl., Sterling  
BP Screenings

**Thursday, August 25**

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

YOUNGKIN DONATES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

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

"I have chosen to donate my salary to the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation because of their important mission to support Virginia's veterans' programs. My administration goes to work

every day to reimagine the way the Commonwealth provides Veterans benefits, eliminate red tape that hinders our veterans, and has exempted the first 40,000 of veteran retirement pay from unnecessary taxes. Now, Suzanne and I would like to show our support and gratitude for those who have fought to keep our Commonwealth and nation safe."

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**PURCELLVILLE TAG SALE**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

PurcellvilleVaTagSale.com. The first 40 to sign up will be listed on the printed map. But no worries – most everyone who signs up will be listed on the web-

site.

Redd said, “After the huge turnout from last year, I am really looking forward to this year’s tag sale, and I enjoy seeing all the vendors throughout our

community. I also want to sincerely thank our sponsors, Abernethy and Spencer Greenhouses, and Bank of Clarke County – two amazing pillars in our community.”

Text Silas at 540 751-8252 with questions or email him at ShopAtNostalgia@gmail.com. It’s time to get your “stuff” ready to sell at Purcellville Tag Sale, Saturday, Oct. 8 – rain or shine.

**REVISED ZONING**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Development programs, can take well-deserved bows for western Loudoun’s thriving rural economy. But they may face challenges in the not-so-distant future.

**With the July 18 close of the 90-day public feedback period** for the County’s Draft Zoning Ordinance Rewrite, it’s clear residents and conservation organizations want to see tightened regulations, particularly for agritainment enterprises. Of the 3,000 comments received by the Zoning Ordinance Committee (ZOC), the majority are calling for more special exception requirements and limits on locations, multiple property uses, food trucks, hours of operation, exterior lighting, outdoor music (especially amplified), parking, number of guests and groups, security and safety measures.

Changes to zoning ordinances can be inconsequential or monumental. A zoning ordinance, the Piedmont Environmental Council explains on its website, “directs how much, where, and what type of development can occur. It controls how land is managed and how natural resources and historic resources are protected. It establishes requirements for affordable housing and strategies for ensuring sustainability, and so on. Importantly, the zoning ordinance provides many specific details on how the County can accomplish these and other land use objectives.”

Loudoun County’s current rewrite is a legally required process intended to fulfill the vision of the County’s Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2019, by aligning ordinances with that document. The final, revised draft should reach the Board of Supervisors by next spring. Meanwhile, work is also going forward on Zoning Ordinance Amendments [ZOAMs] addressing “cluster” subdivisions and prime agricultural soils, short-term residential rentals, airport overlay districts, and a Dulles solar project.

At this juncture, existing ordinances under review include attainable and group (congregate) housing, equestrian businesses, water and waste treatment systems, farming, and the tourism attractions, among many others.

**Perhaps the most consequential question** addressed to the rewrite committee is the simplest one: “What is a farm?”

The current ordinance definition is: “Farm: An agricultural use of one or more parcels of land, whether abutting or not, having a minimum of 5 acres and operated under the same ownership or

stewardship, used for the production, cultivation, growing, harvesting or processing of agricultural or horticultural products or for animal husbandry purposes.”

At present, “farm-based businesses” do not require a special exception to operate. Eliminating the word “processing” may impact some businesses, such as craft beer operations that do not cultivate, grow, or harvest their own hops.

One resident wrote, “[We] need to make sure ‘processing’ in and of itself doesn’t make a property a ‘farm’...

“Because agricultural processing is a separate use, there is no need to include



Hops, shown here, are needed to make beer. The issue with “farm” craft breweries around here is they aren’t growing hops ... just buying picked ones in bulk for “processing.”

‘processing’ in the definition of farm. Delete processing from the definition. That way processing could be permitted on a farm, but solely processing wouldn’t make the property a farm.”

**Another resident zeroed in on the word “historic.”**

“The zoning ordinance does not define the word ‘historic.’ It is absolutely essential that this word be precisely defined in order to establish standards to protect our priceless historic sites and resources. We recommend using the criteria for evaluation on the National Register of Historic Places, as found in 36 CFR § 60.4 - Criteria for evaluation.”

“Event management regulations need to be consistent throughout the zoning ordinance, primarily for high-intensity uses to ensure compliance with 2019 Comp Plan Policy Commission and BOS,” wrote the leader of a preservation organization.

“The County should establish a ‘tier’ or ‘levels’ system based on intensity of the use to be consistent and equitable with the application of ‘tiers’ or ‘levels’ for other existing Uses (e.g., B&B, Rural Resorts, Campgrounds, Farm-Based Tourism, Ag Support Uses, etc.).

“The ordinance provides no mechanism to consider or evaluate properties with more than one primary use in terms of scale (location, total acreage), and intensity impacts. Provide standards to evaluate and address multiple principal uses on a parcel to ensure compatible scale, use, intensity, character, and environmental protections, including, but not limited to, acres calculation, scale, intensity, hours of operation, parking calculations, quantity of events and attendees, setbacks, buffering, road access, noise, etc.

**“Brewery, Limited, Missing Regulations.** As indicated in 2017-2018 case studies and review of other county ordinances, Loudoun County can add regulations for the health, safety, and welfare of the public. *Virginia Counties Comparison Report* summarizes regulations other counties have approved and implemented for: 1) minimum crop acre production, 2) maximum attendees for events and special events, 3) yard standards for front yard, side yard, rear yard, 4) landscaping, buffering, screening, 5) road access and heavy equipment, 6) exterior lighting, including dark sky requirements for lighting on ridge lines/slopes in MDOD [Mountainside Development Overlay District] (seasonal or otherwise), 7) noise, 8) hours of operation.” \*Virginia Counties Comparison Report 2021 Update <https://loudouncoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ZOR-2021-V>”

At present, “farm-based businesses do not require a special exception to operate.” The writer added, “Draft zoning ordinance should protect residents against ‘personal recreational fields’ or unpermitted dumps.”

Concerns also surfaced about forest management and grading, tree cover, and noise regulations. One stakeholder contended: “The [Zoning Ordinance] requirements must require the prerequisite information for full development plans be submitted before grading permits are granted...Similarly, grading permits relying on ‘Forest Management Plan’ must include mechanisms for on-site review/inspection to not allow site clearing on mountainside as a loophole for residential or business site preparation without permits...No large tree should be allowed to be torn down, as this interferes and weakens the networks of other trees.”

**The future of historic villages concerned many correspondents.** “I strongly urge you to revise the zoning ordinance to appropriately protect our important historic resources,” wrote the resident of a village. “These resources provide cultural and recreational activities for all Loudoun County residents and have a positive fiscal impact on the County.” Among the writer’s specific recommendations:

Protect Loudoun’s historic villages and districts, including during the period prior to completion of Comprehensive Plan-mandated criteria to officially designate rural historic villages and complete small area plans.

Reduce the ease of approval for uses and use exceptions that compromise the scenic and historic integrity of our landscape.

“I grew up in Lincoln,” she noted “where my mother lived until her death in 2020 at nearly 101. We put her farm in easement with the Land Trust of Virginia that same year. She wanted, as she said at 99, to ‘look outside and see cows, horses, open fields—just as it looks now, somewhere you can breathe.’ The conservation of her farm, which touches Lincoln and connects with other farms in easement, provides a ‘green link’ into the village.

“I realize the importance of Historic Villages and Districts, now own property in the village of Upperville, and fully realize the benefits of keeping our villages just that—places one enters that have a sense of being, of having a presence. ‘You’ve arrived somewhere,’ said my sister who made preservation her life’s work, ‘when you enter a village.’”

The Zoning Ordinance Rewrite draft, with public comments incorporated in it, will move on to the Planning Commission in September.



**LETTER: VOTE FOR HUNG CAO**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

than wages. Americans are losing ground each day. June's year-over-year Consumer Price Index inflation is 9.1 percent. Whether you are at the gas station or the bagel shop, the dry cleaners or the winery, prices are up and our pocketbooks are emptying faster than we can put money in.

While in the Navy, one of Hung's assignments included balancing the Navy's \$140 billion budget. He

knows the dangers of unfettered government spending and what must be done to reign it in.

In Congress, he'll work tirelessly to pass legislation that will cut unnecessary government spending, allow businesses to thrive without government intrusion and restore the American spirit of innovation and exceptionalism.

Government money is never 'free'; it always comes at a cost. We're living that firsthand today. Ronald

Reagan said it best. 'The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government, and I'm here to help.'

On November 8, vote for Republican Hung Cao for Virginia's 10th Congressional District Representative to 'right the ship' our country so desperately needs.

*Kim Schatz  
Round Hill*

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**PLAYING POLITICS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

such a serious accusation.”

The Blue Ridge Leader sent numerous emails to Rayner asking if she had first reached out to Council Member Milan to verify the incident, but received no reply.

“Unfortunately, such politically motivated swipes are neither unexpected nor unprecedented. For example, over a month ago, Council Member Grewe stated at a Republican Committee meeting that I would be campaigning with Stacey Abrams,” Milan wrote.

“Perhaps the implication here is that because Ms. Abrams and I share the same skin color, we must also share the same political beliefs, but I would like to believe that my political convictions run deeper than my melanin.

“I’m not sure how Ms. Abrams feels about local Purcellville politics, but slow growth, low taxes, and representing the

citizens are non-partisan, non-federal issues.

“This routine of slinging mud until something sticks is unfortunate in our great Town and, I should think, frustrating for the voting people of Purcellville who would prefer to focus on real issues,” Milan concluded.

Council Member Stan Milan is running for Mayor with Planning Commissioners Carol Luke, Boo Bennett and resident Ron Rise who are running for Town Council.

Council Member Rayner, who is finishing a one-year term filling a vacated Town Council seat, will be running for her first full Town Council four-year term in the Nov. 8 Town elections. She is running with Council Members Joel Grewe who is running for Mayor, Tip Stinnette, and resident Caleb Stought for Town Council.

**HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

“That can’t be right.” Some academics say the poll’s methodology was defective: There were a limited number of respondents, which included VL board members and people in the industry, and a scientific poll would have used a random sample of residents.

**OPINION**

I side with the skeptics and note several kernels in VL’s survey which won’t please breweries. Only 9 percent thought Loudoun should be known for breweries. Of nine activities from vineyards to dining to horses, breweries were sixth. Another recent poll found similar results, with only 10 percent saying that breweries were their top tourist interest. Some news is also not helpful to breweries – Loudoun must spend \$500,000 towards mitigating dangerous traffic on Rt. 7 as it crosses the Blue Ridge.

**A Path Forward**

It’s a simple directive: Align VL’s mission and the necessity to preserve rural Loudoun. Simple, but very difficult. Two examples: VL opposes scaling for businesses; (scaling would increase the required acreage as the size of a business increases.) VL also does not support requiring that farm breweries be on actual farms.

I’d prefer that VL get a specified sti-

pend from the Transient Occupancy Tax, but state code probably won’t permit that. Therefore, since we cannot align our interests by adjusting revenues and incentives, the remaining option is to address governance.

The County should amend the Memorandum of Understanding it has with Visit Loudoun: Reduce the size of VL’s board of directors to nine, with each county Supervisor appointing one member. Those members should be residents, but specifically not people from the tourism industry.

That could move Visit Loudoun to focus on “touring tourism” where visitors seem like invited guests and away from what many perceive as its current focus on entertainment tourism. This would produce the maximum benefit to community and sustain the character of place – our environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage.

*My Op-Eds are my personal opinions. Because I’m on the Zoning Ordinance Committee, I stress that my writings are not any sort of “official” statement. My perspectives come from having developed more than six million square feet of office buildings throughout the south for an Atlanta-based firm, but more importantly from living on a small farm in Paeonian Springs.*

**TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

Road, I came upon as well-preserved a piece of the past as one could hope to find outside a museum.

Just a little to the east of my original stopping point – this time along Route 744 – Snake Hill Road (you gotta love these local place names), I found what felt like an oasis in time: the Mount Zion Baptist Church – recently repainted in cream with black trim, sparkling as if newly created earlier that morning. The proud inscription on the matching brick columns told me otherwise: the Year 1885 clearly stood out for the edification of all passersby. The neatly mown lawn and carefully trimmed shrubbery around the place of wor-

ship completed a picture of love, devotion and service.

My few minutes of quiet exploration about the grounds took away any stress built up by my participation in the highway traffic from earlier that morning. The few hundred yards driven from Rt. 611 could have been two hundred miles, considering the contrast in distractions from the monotonous whoosh of two-way vehicular motion. This was certainly a place to pause and reflect, at least to my finding.

And I would return, given a similar opportunity. And, so I will, most likely from similar conditions along Saint Louis Road. They’re probably still just barreling through.

**TASTE RETURNS TO LOUDOUN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

corner of Market and King streets. The Sip and Savor Stage, on King Street between Cornwall and North Streets, will feature an interactive DJ and demonstrations.

Parking will be available downtown at the Town Hall Parking Garage, the Pennington Parking Garage, the Church Street Parking Lot, and the Loudoun County Parking Garage.

Street closures will begin at 10 a.m. and are expected to re-open at approximately 1 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14.

The Town will utilize its new text

alert system during the event. The public is invited to text “TASTE” to 888777 to receive real-time updates regarding street closures, event activities, weather updates, and more.

Sponsored by Country Buick GMC, Meto, Evelyn Clark Allstate Agency, The Home Doctor, Heartland Foods, Leafguard, Power Home Remodeling, C2 Operations and Wegmans Food Markets, TASTE is the place to be this August.

For more information about the event, visit [www.tasteleesburg.com](http://www.tasteleesburg.com) or call Ida Lee Park Recreation Center at 703-777-1368.

**MENTAL HEALTH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13**

In-person training; for adults who interact with young people. For details about the training and to register, visit [loudoun.gov/mhfirstaid](http://loudoun.gov/mhfirstaid).

**REVIVE!: Opioid Overdose Reversal**

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

- Aug. 12: 12 -1 p.m.
- Aug. 15: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 26: 12 -1 p.m.
- Aug. 29: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

For details about the training and to register, visit [loudoun.gov/revive](http://loudoun.gov/revive).

**Suicide Prevention Training**

The Question Persuade Refer pro-

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

- Aug. 25: 7 – 8:30 p.m.

For details about the training and to register, visit [loudoun.gov/suicidepreventiontraining](http://loudoun.gov/suicidepreventiontraining).

**For More Information**


For more information on the prevention and intervention services offered by the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services, visit [loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention](http://loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention) or send an email to [prevention@loudoun.gov](mailto:prevention@loudoun.gov).

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#### CAN WE TURN THIS SHIP AROUND? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Mayfair resident Susan Martis said she was hoping that “Mayfair Crown remains a safe place and does not become a Thorofare.”

Christine Green said she was “very concerned about the sport complex and the park and ride that is set to go around Mayfair.” She said she would like the proposal moved if possible.

Council Member Stan Milan said many areas in Mayfair would be potentially affected by the noise and lighting generated from the proposed ball fields. “If the County can relocate the fields for the athletic activities, it would be very important... Visually seeing it is a lot different than looking at it on a map.”

Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said he was “deeply concerned about using Mayfair Crown Drive as a Thorofare for people participating in activities on those ath-

letic fields.” He said cut-through traffic is dangerous and a nuisance as well. “There’s got to be some solutions that come out of discussions with the County.”

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser mentioned that when he attended an EPA meeting “two weeks ago, there was significant concern with artificial turf fields contributing to forever chemicals, and this Town needs to sit with the County and determine if those fields they are actually putting in are artificial turf fields and will they contribute to PFAS? Now we are seeing PFAS in our water.”

Fraser asked Town Manager David Mekarski if all the developer bonds for the Mayfair development have been released. At the time Mekarski did not know the answer.

In a later phone call, Mekarski said, “All bonds were released and the bonds

would not have been applicable to the public safety issues at hand.”

“The reason I asked that is we are seeing one of the challenges of development. When the developers are all gone, we have to live with what comes with it,” the Mayor said.

“The greatest thing about development is that we have new people coming into the community, and we need that engagement interaction. One of the major challenges of that is once the developers are gone, we cannot pack up streets and put them in our briefcase and leave.

“The Town and communities throughout this country in their tool kit have a bond that is supposed to be for insuring the security and safety of that community. Once that bond is released, then we have meetings like this, that we have to go and find funds to fix some of these

things,” Fraser explained.

“So, I would ask our management team to see if the bond was not released – if there is something we could hold the developer back to come and help fix some of these issues.”

Fraser concluded, “But nonetheless we are committed to taking care of that because our police power is to insure the health, safety and welfare of everyone.”

At the Mayfair Town Hall meeting on July 27, Fraser said that extending Mayfair Crown Drive is not etched in stone because there is now a proposed increase use density that wasn’t presented in 2019, and also the Mayfair community is now fully built out. He stressed – on a major construction project proposed by the County like this – the health safety and welfare of the Town’s citizens must take top priority.

#### DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

an Individualized Educational Plan with supports and accommodations to fit his unique learning challenges and needs. There are also several fine private schools in the area for children with autism and special needs that your son may be a good fit with.

I respect where you are and the decision to homeschool your son this coming year is a personal one that only you as parents can make; in my opinion, gathering more information will help you get there.

Perhaps you could schedule a meeting with your son’s therapist to discuss the different options in determining which first grade option fits your son’s needs best. I also recommend that you meet with the local public or private school you’re considering to better

understand what they can offer your son.

As far as home school programs go, I think it’s best to work directly with an educational consultant or advocate who specializes in working with special needs children in selecting the best possible program.

In closing, your husband and you would also probably benefit from meeting with a therapist or psychologist for separate parent guidance work to assist you with this, and with the many other challenges you will encounter developmentally in raising a child with special needs.

Keep in mind that the research on autism has shown that classroom instruction and socialization alongside neurotypical peers is important for children with autism, especially children who are higher functioning

and who have the capacity to thrive in school.

I certainly understand your reasoning for homeschooling now, but homeschooling entirely throughout your son’s elementary school years may not be the best thing for him. Eventually integrating into a school – as long as it’s the right fit and school – could pay back in dividends when it comes to your son’s continued cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioral functioning and growth.

*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.*

#### LETTER: PITIFUL PURCELLVILLE POLITICS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Milan of harassment for taking a picture of her on the Dais at the July 12 Town Council meeting.

Mr. Milan has since stated that he took a single photo to capture Council Member Joel Grewe endlessly on his cell phone during Town Council sessions.

Wow, where do I begin to unpack this dysfunctional situation which is very unfortunate for the town citizens who expect better behavior from our elected officials? First and foremost, I am

not dismissing Ms. Rayner’s feelings because there is no place for harassment, perceived or otherwise, in the workplace or anywhere.

However, why didn’t Council Member Rayner address this issue immediately when it happened in private with Town Manager David Mekarski, and the individual she was accusing?

No, instead Council Member Rayner chose to roll it out two weeks later in a public forum as a political stunt and used Council Member Mary Jane Williams to do her dirty work prior to the upcoming Town Election where

Council Member Milan is running for Mayor.

Council Member Rayner does not even have the courage to deliver the message in person, which is very much like what we are seeing play out at the National level.

We, the citizens of Purcellville expect more professionalism from our elected officials, and not this partisan political game playing. This behavior is unwelcome here in our community.

This character defamation of Council Member Stan Milan is unacceptable and Council Members Rayner and

Mary Jane Williams should be held accountable for this escapade.

So I ask my fellow citizens of Purcellville to think long and hard when you vote on November 8, 2022 as to whether Ms. Erin Rayner, and her political shenanigans, is what we want from our Town leaders.

I will give you my answer, I will not be voting for Rayner based on this unprofessional and unnecessary behavior. The Town of Purcellville deserves better.

*Bill Conover  
Purcellville*

#### ART AND FILM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

three divisions (middle school, high school, and adult) with prizes of gift cards and art supplies awarded to the top finishers in each division.

The film contest will be judged in two divisions (middle school and high school) with prizes of gift cards and videography supplies awarded to the top finishers in each division.

Entries will be judged by members of the Loudoun Youth Advisory Council, teen librarians, and local professional artists.

A gala event to celebrate the contest winners is scheduled for Nov. 12, at the Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center.

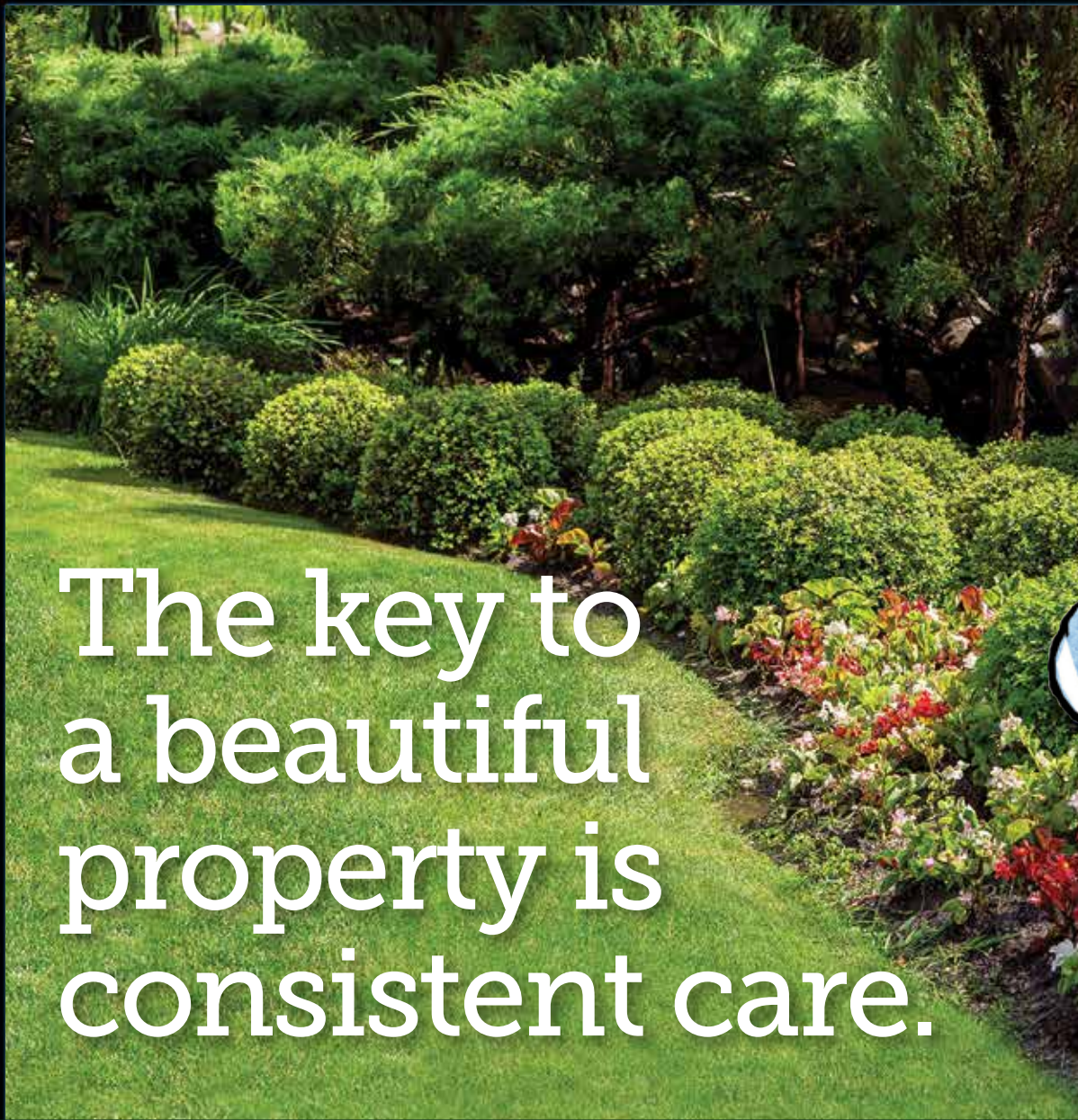
Details about how to enter the contest may be found at library.loudoun.gov/artcontest.



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