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SEPTEMBER 2022

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Supervisors sign off on Environmental Commission climate and energy plan

BY LAURA LONGLEY

It's a new day for action on climate change and cleaner energy in the country and in Loudoun County.

Two weeks before Congress approved the most ambitious investment in climate and energy in American history—\$369 billion over 10 years—Loudoun's Board of Supervisors approved the County's own ambitious work plan for climate and energy.

On July 27, the 17-member Environmental Commission formed by the County in late 2020, presented its first annual report to the Board. The report lays out a comprehensive plan to put energy sustainability, natural resources, environmental justice, government leadership, and public engagement at the forefront of Loudoun's efforts.

With Piedmont Environmental Council's Gem Bingol at the helm, the Commission's membership includes 15 subject matter experts, nonprofit leaders, utilities executives, and data center officials, all of whom are serving as voting members with four-year terms. One rep-

resentative from Loudoun Water and one from Loudoun County Public Schools are non-voting members.

"We are directed to identify issues and make recommendations to protect, pre-

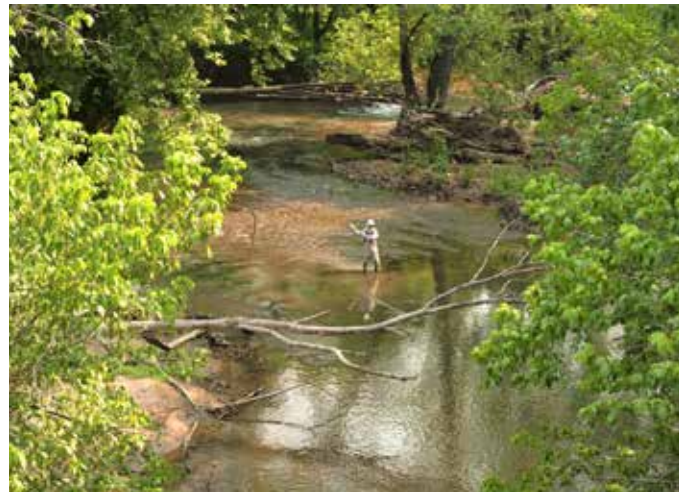


Photo by Sarah Huntington Photography

serve, conserve, and enhance the environment and advance environmental justice," Bingol said as she began the presentation to the Board. Recapping the Supervisors' original charge to the Com-

mission, she reminded them that "we are also expected to recommend action on existing comprehensive plan policies and your strategic plan and to suggest new initiatives.

"Among other duties, we are charged with preparing a work plan, holding a public forum, engaging with the public on issues of environmental concern, and conducting environmental excellence awards." The group also provided input on the first draft of the zoning ordinance rewrite.

Bingol went on to describe the challenges

the Commission, Board, Loudoun industries, businesses, the agricultural sector, and the citizenry at large must address.

"The natural systems that support human life are under threat. Excessive

greenhouse gas emissions are triggering changes in weather patterns. Summers are getting hotter. Data compiled by a nonprofit, Climate Central, shows that in the last five years in Virginia, it's been one and a half degrees hotter than the 30 years between 1970 and 2000.

"Habitats that support the web of life are being leveled by development and overrun by invasive, non-native species, undermining the critical relationships

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Purcellville election interviews p.10

LCRC chair calls citizen's concerns over partisanship "garbage"

BY VALERIE CURY

At the Aug. 22 Loudoun County Republican Committee meeting, Purcellville Council Member Joel Grewe received the party endorsement he was seeking from the local Republican Party. Grewe is running for Mayor of the Town of Pur-

cellville on a slate with Caleb Stought, Erin Rayner, and Tip Stinnette for Town Council. The Town of Purcellville elections have routinely been non-partisan.

His opponent is current Council Member Stan Milan, who is running with Ron Rise, Carol Luke, and Boo Bennett for

Town Council, in a race that is not between political parties but rather local issues. No other citizens running are seeking party endorsements.

The tone for the Blue Ridge District's endorsement process was set early on in the meeting when the Loudoun County

Republican Committee Chair Scott Pio stood steadfast in his convictions for getting involved.

Referring to the multiple "contacts" he had received on both sides of the aisle on whether or not to endorse or get

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Purcellville junior resident becomes Assistant Mayor for a day

BY VALERIE CURY

Residents of the Town of Purcellville had a new Assistant Mayor for a day. Henry Gardner held a town meeting on Aug. 18, at 1 p.m. In attendance at the meeting were Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Council Member Stan Milan, and Town Manager, David Mekarski.

Gardner's father, John Gardner, won the "Assistant Mayor for a Day" silent auction at the Emerick Elementary School fundraiser this spring. Henry Gardner is an 11-year-old 5th grade student at Emerick.

Gardner called the meeting to order and after saying the Pledge of Allegiance, opened the floor for discussion items. Gardner was interested in discussing how the utility department functions and how wastewater is treated. Mayor Fraser explained the process.

Mekarski also updated Gardner on how residents should be on the lookout if their bill is all of a sudden unusually



high. This would be an alert to check for leaks at their residence.

No action was taken at the meeting, and Gardner closed the meeting with a bang of the gavel.

He then took a tour of the Town's departments with Fraser, Milan, Mekarski, and his father in tow. The afternoon concluded with Henry invited to come back any time, although he might be very busy with school, baseball, and football at the moment. His favorite teams are the St. Louis Cardinals and the Kansas City Chiefs.

14th Annual Dog Swim held at AV Symington Aquatic Center

On Saturday, Sept. 10, Ida Lee Park will hold its 14th annual Dog Swim at AV Symington Aquatic Center. The pool will be open for the dog-only swim for two sessions from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



The event allows local pups the opportunity to have fun in a safe, enclosed area while swimming off-leash with other dogs. All dogs must be six months old, legally licensed, vaccinated, and wearing a visible dog license. All exits will be gated and a veterinarian will be on-site as a precaution.

Limited space in each session is available and pre-registration is required. There will be no day of registration. Those attending must be at least 12 years of age with dog handlers being 16 years or older.

The fee is \$5.00 per person. All persons entering the event must be registered in advance. Registration for dogs is not required. Registration is currently available through WebTrac or by visiting the front desk at Ida Lee Recreation Center. Walk-up registration on the day of the event is not available. For more information, visit www.idalee.org or call 703-777-1368.

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Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth: Emancipation Grounds

BY TIM JON

I guess I'd been driving by this site for well over 20 years before making a mental note to stop and spend some quiet time here, capture a few images on the camera and plant something in the memory banks for an eventual writing session – hoping I could learn a bit, grow a little larger and maybe encourage the same in at least a few others.

In fact, my trips past this local spot became almost a daily routine several years before I finally got around to an official visit; my five-day (sometimes six) mail route in Purcellville brings me within a couple of feet of the plot, reminding me that time moves on and I was approaching the moment for action.

The historic marker for the Loudoun County Emancipation Association Grounds tells us more about what was



TIM JON

than what is, regarding this expanse of land; apologies for the fancy word-play, but the truth is: the 10 acres that formerly made up the Emancipation Grounds now fall under different ownership and use.

The stark, black lettering on white background informs the visitor to this spot that the local group of African Americans had sold this land in the Year 1971 – after using the site for a yearly meeting and commemoration since purchasing the Grounds over six decades earlier, in 1910.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources erected the sign in the Year 2000 – in the familiar location on South 20th Street – near the turnoff for the Blue Ridge Bible Church.

Another marker – a plaque on a stone column – lists a series of 11 Presidents who served the local Emancipation Association – dating from 1890 to the time of the sale of the plot of land in 1971.

Even for someone like me, who grew



up about a thousand miles from Northern Virginia, many of these names sound familiar: Thompson, Coates, McWashington, Rector, Clark, Rhodes, Pierce, Sinkfield, Dean, Parker and Hicks. They evidently offered strong, intelligent leadership for the group; the historic marker tells us that on an annual basis, over one thousand people attended the celebration here for Emancipation Day. This “Day of Freedom,” as the Department of Historic Resources goes on to say, extended for well over half a century – from the time of the land’s purchase in

1910 until 1967.

We find even more history in the brief lettering stamped upon the sign: local African Americans (ostensibly forebears of many of our friends, neighbors, business associates, customers and acquaintances) formed this Association back in the Year 1890 (in the nearby Town of Hamilton) – in order to observe the historic Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 – a particularly turbulent year in our Nation’s timeline.

The local Association extended their mission beyond mere commemoration of this Presidential Order: we go on to read that the group strove to, “Cultivate good fellowship, to work for the betterment of the race – educationally, morally and materially.”

In addition, these 10 acres served as a religious, social, civic and recreational center. I found— after a bit further

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

Our sons are 17 and 12, and it’s already been a rough start to the school year. I thought we did well as parents with back-to-school shopping and with trying to get them back into a routine this year, but obviously not since they’re still staying up too late, and are on their screens all the time. Our older boy has already missed the bus and our other son has already forgotten his lunch. When my husband and I asked them both about homework, they said there isn’t any.

Last year was also a hard year for us. All we did was fight with our kids about staying on top of things. We want to remain positive about this school year, but it’s already tense and stressful.



Dr. Mike

Why don’t the other neighborhood kids have the problems we seem to have with academics, with not getting to school on time, with not doing or turning in work, with not caring, and with being on screens too much? We could use some parenting advice.

— Upset in Loudoun

Dear Upset in Loudoun,

While the adjustment back to school is easier for some parents and kids than it is for others, what you’re describing is not that uncommon. Based on what you’ve written, it’s not entirely clear why your children struggle at school, and there are a myriad of possibilities – perhaps your children have learning or social struggles, perhaps your children have emotional struggles, perhaps the school changes and impact of COVID-19 over the past two school years has been

difficult for them, or perhaps they need more structure and guidance from you.

Not knowing what’s causing the problem, a good place to start would be to increase your involvement; so helping them to do better is the right thing to do. To avoid another year of fighting, I recommend the following: As parents, I recommend you discuss your concerns and expectations with one another fully before speaking to your kids. Be in full agreement on what you expect from them both this school year; being unified with clear and reasonable expectations is advised. Rather than just focusing on academics and school, I think your expectations should serve to facilitate balance and success across the important areas of their life – academics and schooling, as well as family, social, and leisure time.

Then I recommend you sit down with your kids to discuss things. There’s strength in remaining calm, so be aware of your triggers and your tone when meeting.

I often tell parents to approach this sort of conversation much like a state trooper would approach someone they just pulled over. State troopers don’t need to yell or become overly emotional; they are calm and firm in their delivery, and folks respect their legitimate authority when dealing with them. I would review the ways in which you’d like your kids to manage all of the important areas of their lives, and the more specific you can be, the better.

I recommend you give your kids a voice in the discussion, and you want your kids to co-create the game plan with you to

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Chocolate Milk and the Rural Economy

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

My childhood breakfasts often featured milk that had soured. (Cue the bad memories.) Once away at college I had a chance to have breakfast my way, so I signed up for fresh chocolate milk every morning. The smooth sweet taste was a treat.

A treat for about a week. By then I had had enough of the stuff and was sick of it.

To this day I've not had another sip of the sugary cocoa concoction. It had become too much of a good thing. And so it is with the commercialization of western Loudoun.

The Rural Economy

There are many definitions of a rural economy, but let's use the version in Loudoun's new General Plan: "Crop and livestock production, forestry, horticulture and specialty farming, farm markets

and wayside stands, the equine industry, orchards, vineyards..." Those do seem rural and salutary, but how about other uses the Plan considers to be part of the rural economy? "Farm wineries, farm-to-table restaurants, rural resorts, country inns, camps..." At most they are only tangentially associated with rural life, and they sure ain't agriculture.

Western Loudoun used to be a rural paradise, but those days are past. It's urgent that we save what's still here.

The Plan also says that breweries and event facilities are part of the rural economy. Only a casuist would assert that they have anything with agriculture. Some are wildly popular, but their neighbors detest the traffic and noise that wineries and especially breweries can bring. A brewery on Rt. 601 has been a big success, but its success has brought dangerous traffic. I've also heard many complaints about noise and lighting. Neighbors are up in arms about that par-

ticular brewery and have fought, so far unsuccessfully, to rein it in.

This fearful anger is pervasive and widespread. Any announcement of a new brewery sets off storms of protest from neighbors. I've even heard that one westerner sold his farm and moved away, simply because the open land next door seemed ripe for a brewery to grab.

The Mantra of More

Loudoun already has over a hundred drinking spots – breweries and wineries galore. Isn't that sufficient? Instead, some County bodies push for even more rural development. There's the Rural Economic Development Council, the Economic Development Advisory Commission, the Department of Economic Development, and the ever-avaricious Chamber of Commerce. Do any of them truly serve the interests of the people who actually live in western Loudoun?

A History Lesson

Businesses should exist to meet the needs of citizens in the area, rather than being profiteers aiming to lure traffic from afar. At most, business should grow no faster than the local population, and it should be of an appropriate type.

Loudoun's history shows how that can happen organically. In 1649 King Charles II of England established the Northern Neck Proprietary, consisting of all the land between the Potomac River to the north and the Rappahannock River to the south. By 1719 the young Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax had inherited the Proprietary, all 5,282,000 acres. But what to do with it?

Lord Fairfax had an imaginative idea: Give settlers 40 acres if within two years they built a house of at least 16 feet by 20 feet. Settlers would farm and a rural economy would develop to support them. Eventually there would be crop

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Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

Publisher & Editor
Valerie Cury

Creative Department
Pam Owens, Layout/Design

Advertising
Sabine Bibb Tonya Harding
SabineBibb@gmail.com THarding455@gmail.com
571-437-9953 703-314-5200

Here's How to Reach Us

Advertising:
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Editor:
(letters to the editor & press releases)
editor@BlueRidgeLeader.com

Special Editorial:
Andrea Gaines – andrea@andreagaines.com

Hot News Tips:
Valerie Cury, 703-943-8806
tpline@BlueRidgeLeader.com

Webmaster:
webmaster@BlueRidgeLeader.com

Mailing Address:
PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325

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The LCRC should stay out of Purcellville's long-standing nonpartisan town election

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Republican Party, I am disappointed with the Loudoun County Republican Committees' endorsement of a candidate in a local election which has a long-standing practice of being nonpartisan.

LETTER

My other concern is with the qualification and integrity of the candidate, Council Member Grewe, who is seeking your endorsement.

Council Member Grewe has been on Town Council for four years without any meaningful accomplishments. Having served on Purcellville Town Council for four years I witnessed constant bloviation and spreading of lies by Council Member

Grewe, to create his own facts.

The latest lie by Council Member Grewe was that in the last four years the Town of Purcellville lost 90 businesses. The fact shows the Town did not lose 90 businesses over the last four calendar years, and that Council Member Grewe manipulated figures to present an incomplete and disparaging narrative on the hard work of the businesses, Town Council, and staff in keeping Purcellville the economic hub of Loudoun County.

In addition, Council Member Grewe, in efforts to increase the size of government, claims that the Town is understaffed based on an operational assessment that was completed over two years ago.

Ask Council Member Grewe:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

Cao is not good for our state or our country

Dear Editor:

Shame on your publication for publishing a letter to the editor last month endorsing Hung Cao, and it is nothing more than a free political advertisement for Hung Cao, candidate for Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

LETTER

It included the typical objection that government needs to stay out of businesses and homes. But the leading plank of the GOP, and a central issue of Hung Cao's campaign, is an anti-abortion drive. This drive seeks to

have government regulate inside our homes and bodies.

This drive is widely repudiated currently as real costs in states with strict anti-abortion laws are having a strong negative effect on women's health, and we are seeing doctors and some businesses fleeing from affected states.

The letter wrongfully implies President Biden and his party are at fault for rising gas prices, although it is widely recognized that a president has virtually no control over this. The letter fails

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Say yes to Hung Cao

Dear Editor:

This election we have some real decisions to make.

Do we want continued inflation (already at a 40-year high) and the price for gas, electricity, food, and everything else to keep going up?

Are we happy with shortages at the grocery store from chicken, to baby formula, to feminine products?

Does the idea that our school system wants to exclude parents from decisions regarding our children's education sound good to you?

LETTER

What about the idea that our children should be taught in school to judge one another by the color of their skin? Is that okay?

And how about the policy of letting boys who identify as girls use the girl's restroom, the girl's locker rooms, or play on girls' sports teams? Are we good with that?

Should advanced classes in school be cancelled because of the condescending, racist belief that minority students can't excel in those types of classes?

Are we okay with the crisis at our southern border with millions of people crossing illegally and driving massive spikes in crime, drug use, and human trafficking?

Are we good with the corruption and weaponization of government institutions like the FBI, DOJ, and the IRS with their 87,000 new auditors? Institutions that were once meant to serve and

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Remembering Judith Miller

Judith Miller, 78, of Bluemont, Virginia, passed away on Aug. 15, 2022, in the company of loved ones. Born Sept. 13, 1943, in Alexandria, Virginia, she was the fifth of seven children of the late Frank T. and Helen Grabski Slivinski. Miller was also preceded in death by her son Zachary Miller (Rachel); brothers Frank Jr. and Stanley Slivinski; sisters Mary McLaren, (Bill), Joan Monastero (Frank), and Susan Slivinski.

Left to cherish her memory are her loving husband of 56 years, Dennis P. Miller; brother James Slivinski and wife Ann; daughter-in-law Rachel, and brother-in-law Frank Monastero, and many other in-laws, cousins, nieces, nephews, and grands, with whom she leaves many sweet, wonderful memories.

When Judith and her siblings were together, it was always a party, and you could be sure if all four sisters were involved, they were planning something fun.

Miller attended school and grew up in Alexandria, Virginia. She enjoyed working throughout her life, connecting with people and making friends everywhere she went. Her career was diverse, and one of service to her government and

her community. She worked in multiple government agencies, including the IRS, the U.S. Army Armor Branch, and the U.S. Marshal Service; she also worked at Wolf Trap Farm Park, Church of the Brethren, and later as docent at Morven Park and Oatlands Plantation. In addition to guiding tours, she created amazing arrangements for Morven Park and Oatlands, particularly for the holiday season.

Miller was a wonderful homemaker and loved to hold parties at the family's beautiful home in Great Falls, and then their lovely house in Bluemont, which she affectionately dubbed the Grey Lady. Her hospitality was well-known to friends and neighbors who attended Halloween costume parties, Polish Day parties, and on any other occasion she thought merited a gathering.

She took great pride in giving people a wonderful experience. But her favorite gatherings were always the huge, annual Christmas Eve celebrations that brought together her large extended family each year. These events were truly a treasure

for the entire family.

Miller was always a great pen pal, writing letters and keeping in touch with family and friends as close as Pittsburgh, and as far away as Poland. She loved to dance, travel, cook, and learn new skills. She was also an avid reader, a hobby she especially loved sharing with her son. They enjoyed a deep love of poetry and they treasured reading together, such as the Tolkien series and *Watership Down* in particular. She became one of the 100,000 Ama-



zon book reviewers, eventually achieving status in the top 100 and knocking out a book a week to write about it.

She also collected quite the library, and, once she adopted a book, hated to part with it, resulting in her husband's ongoing struggle to build more bookshelves to keep up with them all. And that's only her books; other collections included her blue and white china, the bells, Raggedy Ann dolls, and her huge bear collection, that especially loved to bring out at Christmas time.

On her travels and pretty much every-

where she went, Judith loved to engage people and strike up a conversation. Like her mother, she always loved babies and getting them to smile. In fact, at one time or another, she babysat every one of her nieces and nephews.

She taught herself how to play the piano and to sew and quilt, making gifts for many of her friends and family members. For many years, she was a member of the Waterford Quilters and helped to organize their presence at the popular Bluemont Fair.

After dementia set in, she recruited Dennis' help to finish her very last quilt, an endeavor they enjoyed figuring out together, as they did so many things. They had a beautiful love affair; their relationship reflected mutual respect and appreciation for each other's unique interests and personalities.

A funeral Mass was held on Aug. 23, at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Purcellville.

A graveside burial followed at the cemetery of St. John the Apostle Catholic Church in Leesburg, VA. Arrangements were made by Hall Funeral Home, Purcellville, VA.

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This tragic story was shared with us by Dan S. an Ashburn resident who has peripheral neuropathy. And while no one was hurt in this accident, Dan S. had suffered almost every day of his life with tingling and burning in his feet until numbness set in and he could no longer feel even the brake pedal beneath his foot.

“The first stage is pain.” shares Rachal Lohr, Acupuncturist of FIREFLY Acupuncture & Wellness. “You feel burning, tingling, sharp pains, or you feel like you’re walking on tacks or marbles. This pain eventually subsides and the numbness sets in. Unfortunately the numbness brings with it a whole other host of problems.”

This was the case with Dan. “I said I wasn’t going to drive again. What if that had been a pedestrian?” It is terribly common that peripheral neuropathy and its debilitating symptoms interfere with a person’s ability to live their life. Dan was now reliant on his wife to drive him around, even the simple pleasure of cruising down to play golf or taking her out to dinner was outside his capabilities.

And even more common, Dan’s general practitioner and several specialists told him there was nothing they could do other than prescribe him pills that would ease the pain of his neuropathy.

That’s where Rachal Lohr and her staff at FIREFLY come in. “About 75% of our current patients come to us suffering from the same condition as Mr. Dan,” tells Rachal.

“They’re in constant pain from neuropathy and it prevents them from not only living their lives but more importantly, it prevents them from enjoying it. Depending on the severity of their nerve damage, we typically see tremendous progress in 3-4 months of treatment.

I like to say we’re in the business of making your golden years golden.”

“I can’t lie,” confides Dan. “I was skeptical at first. The folks down at my pain center told me there was nothing that could be done and then there’s a doctor right here in Loudoun who tells me she can help. Turns out she was right!

About three months after treatment I was able to confidently drive myself to my appointments! My wife and I celebrated by buying ourselves a new car! It’s hard to put into words how incredible this is, quite frankly [Rachal] gave me my life back.”

While FIREFLY specializes in acupuncture and it’s definitely part of their protocols in treating neuropathy, the real secret is in a more modern medical solution called ATP Resonance BioTherapy™. “This technology was originally developed by NASA to expedite healing and recovery” shares Ann, a Senior Patient Care Coordinator at the clinic. “It’s like watering a plant. ATP Resonance BioTherapy™ stimulates the blood vessels to grow back around the peripheral nerve and provide them the proper nutrients to heal and repair.”

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TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE ELECTIONS

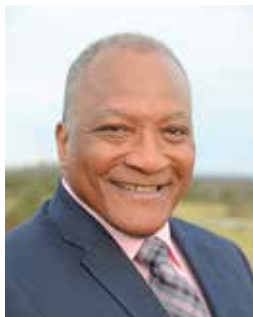
CANDIDATES
RUNNING FOR
MAYOR

Elections are November 8 at Emerick and Mountain View

The Elections for the Town of Purcellville are Nov. 8 at Emerick and Mountain View Elementary. The order for the following candidates running for Mayor and Town Council are the order in which they appear on the ballot.

Stan Milan

Stan Milan has seven children and lives in the Dominion Valley neighborhood with his wife, Jona, and their daughter. Following over two decades of military service in the U.S. Navy, and serving on the USS Simone Bolivar, USS Alaska, and the USS Georgia, he served the Kitsap County, Washington community as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff. He also served as a Fairfax County Sheriff Reserve Officer. His employers have included the top five defense contractors. Milan currently serves on the Purcellville Town Council and is the Council liaison on the Planning Commission. He also serves on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.



Blue Ridge Leader: Does the Town of Purcellville need to raise their water rates higher than the 3 percent for water and 5 percent for sewer? What would raising rates achieve?

Stan Milan: The Town of Purcellville does not need to raise the water and sewer rates higher than the 3 percent and 5 percent.

Just a few years ago, the town's utility consultant recommended raising the water and sewer rates each by 9 percent per year. At that time my opponent claimed that if we did not raise each by 9 percent, we would fall off a fiscal cliff. Mayor Kwasi Fraser rejected this recommendation and

opted for 3 percent water and 5 percent sewer increases, and today our debt payment profile is better than it was before, and we have not fallen off the so-called fiscal cliff.

These consultant recommendations are based on imprecise estimates and a financial model which produces inconsistent results.

The current annual increases of 3 and 5 percent were supposed to remain at this level for several years per our consultants, then a year later they are saying it should be raised to 7 percent each based on management estimates.

The only unknowns between the last

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

Joel Grewe

Joel Grewe moved to Purcellville in 2008. He is the Executive Director for the nonprofit HSLDA Action, and has worked in Purcellville for 15 years. He lives in the Branbury Glen neighborhood with his wife and their three sons. He has served on Purcellville's Town Council for the last four years, and is running with a team comprised of current council members Tip Stinnette and Erin Rayner, as well as Caleb Stought, all of whom are running for town council.



Blue Ridge Leader: Does the Town of Purcellville need to raise their water rates higher than the 3 percent for water and 5 percent for sewer? What would raising rates achieve?

Joel Grewe: When the Town Council set the utility rates, we disconnected them from upcoming capital costs. Our financial advisor's economic models were different than they are today. The 3 and 5 percent numbers were to keep up with inflation and the cost of operations. The cost of doing business has changed.

At the last meeting with our financial advisor, they recommended a 7 percent increase. I'd like to hold to the 3 and 5 percent number and find other

ways to address the costs, than taking it from our taxpayers.

What is missing from our funding for the water and sewer systems is how we budget for necessary capital investment. Systems don't run forever. We can always have unexpected issues like the fire at our utility plant a few months ago. We must have a plan to pay for our capital expenses that is not wishful thinking, or hoping someone else will pay for it.

BRL: How important is the Town of Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance?

JG: The Purcellville Comprehensive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 »

Early voting in Loudoun starting Sept. 23

Early voting locations and hours for the Nov. 8, 2022 Election in Loudoun County are as follows:

Office of Elections located at 750 Miller Drive, SE, Suite C, Leesburg 20175 will hold early voting beginning Friday, Sept. 23 through Oct. 21, Monday through Friday, regular hours, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- Sunday, Oct. 23 – open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Beginning Monday, Oct. 24 through Friday, Nov. 4
 - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 - Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 29, and Saturday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Ridgetop, located at the Loudoun County Government Office at Ridgetop, 21641 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling 20164, and Dulles South Multipurpose Center, 24950 Riding Center Dr, Chantilly 20152 – will have early voting from Monday, Oct. 24 through Saturday, Nov. 5 and the hours are:

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday and Thursday, 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Carver Center located at 200 E. Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville 20132 will have early voting on:

- Saturday, Oct. 29 and Saturday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bond Questions for Nov. 8, 2022 Ballot

School Projects

QUESTION: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$268,224,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the design, construction, equipping and other costs of HS- 14 Dulles North High School, School Security Improvements, Valley Service Center Traffic Signal, Park View HS Renovation/Replacement, and LCPS Facility Renewals and Alterations; and the costs of other public school facilities as requested by the Loudoun County School Board?

Public Facility Projects

QUESTION : Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$74,714,000, to finance, in whole or in part, the design, construction, equipping and other costs of Fire and Rescue Station #04- Round Hill Station Replacement, and the costs of other public safety facilities approved in the County's Capital

Improvement Program; and Western Loudoun Recreation Center, and the costs of other public park, recreational and community center projects approved in the County's Capital Improvement Program?

Transportation Projects

QUESTION: Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$51,314,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the design, construction and other costs of the following transportation improvements: Crosstrail Boulevard Segment C (Sycolin Road to Dulles Greenway), a roundabout at Route 15 and Braddock Road, a roundabout at Route 50 and Everfield Drive, Route 7 Improvements Phase 2 (Route 7 & Route 690 Interchange), Route 7 Improvements Phase 3 (Route 9 & Dulles Greenway, Segment 2), an overpass across Sterling Boulevard at the W&OD Trail, and the costs of other public road and transportation projects approved in the County's Capital Improvement Program?



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TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE ELECTIONS

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN COUNCIL

Elections are November 8 at Emerick and Mountain View

Caleb Stought

Caleb Stought moved to Purcellville in 2019 after ten years of service in the military. He lives with his wife, who grew up in Loudoun County, and their two daughters in the Mayfair Community. He currently serves on Purcellville's Community Policing Advisory Committee, and works as a software engineer. He is running on a team with current Council Members Tip Stinnette, Erin Rayner, and Joel Grewe, who is running for Mayor.



Blue Ridge Leader: What do you see as your top priorities if elected?

Caleb Stought: I believe our top priorities for the town should be responsible management of our town's resources, staff, and money. This means balancing our budget so that we're not spending more than we take in, and ensuring we have consistent and appropriate streams of revenue.

It also means supporting our town's economy and local businesses. We must act in a fiscally responsible manner to provide town services without reckless spending or excessive taxes. We should focus on effective, realistic strategies that are proven to work over time, instead of pursuing options that will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

Erin Rayner

Erin Rayner has lived in the Mayfair community in Purcellville since 2017 with her husband and two daughters. She currently serves on Purcellville Town Council, and runs a Women in Leadership program at George Mason University. She is running on a team with current Council Member Tip Stinnette, Caleb Stought, and Joel Grewe, who is running for Mayor.



Blue Ridge Leader: What do you see as your top priorities if elected?

Erin Rayner: My top priorities remain the same as when I ran a year ago. We must focus on the economic revitalization and financial health of our town. We must focus on the key services the residents and business owners need. This is how we create a healthy work environment and community so Purcellville continues to be the place we love to work, live, and play in.

BRL: How would you keep water and sewer rates sustainable?

ER: For ten years the town has known that our water and sewer rates were not sustainable. External

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

Tip Stinnette

Tip Stinnette has served on the Purcellville Town Council for four years, and has also served on the Planning Commission as Chair during the revision of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. He is a retired Colonel and is currently a Federal Senior Executive. He has two Master's Degrees, one in Public Administration and the other in Strategic Studies. Stinnette lives in the Catoclin Meadows neighborhood with his family.



Blue Ridge Leader: What do you see as your top priorities if elected?

Tip Stinnette: I think our top-priorities should be to focus on the core services our community expects to receive from their town government, while ensuring our financial security for the future.

I have found it is easy to become distracted from providing our core services and those distractions have a debilitating impact on our professional staff. Safety, roads, water, and trash are the things we need to lean into, and excellence in delivering these things are what our community expects.

With respect to securing our financial future we need to manage our town budget much the same as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35 »



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 reserve a sponsor table: 703-431-3563.



**Last day for ticket purchases
 is Oct. 6th. They may not
 be purchased at the door.**



TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE
Candidate Forum

Saturday, October 8
at

The Carver Center

200 E WILLIE PALMER WAY, PURCELLVILLE, VA 20132

6 - 9 pm

6-7 pm Appetizers and meet the candidates

7-8 pm Mayoral candidates

8-9 pm Town Council candidates

Open to the public

Come with your questions.

All candidates invited.



The Town of Purcellville election is November 8
at Emerick and Mountain View Elementary



CANDIDATES FOR TOWN COUNCIL

Elections are November 8 at Emerick and Mountain View

Ron Rise

Ron Rise moved to Purcellville with his family in 1998 when he was a freshman at Loudoun Valley High School. Since graduating, he has chosen to make Purcellville his permanent home due to the small-town atmosphere, the high-quality schools, and safe neighborhoods. He is a software engineer for a cybersecurity startup, and a licensed airplane pilot and instructor. Rise's wife, Lorraine, was born and raised in nearby Hamilton and also graduated from Loudoun Valley High School. She now runs a Purcellville-based business, and together they have a daughter, Samantha, who attends Blue Ridge Middle School



Blue Ridge Leader: What do you see as your top priorities if elected?

Ron Rise: My top priorities include keeping the town's rate of growth slow, promoting fiscal responsibility, and continuing Mayor Fraser's efforts to reduce our debt.

As a Town Council Member, I will ensure that Purcellville's zoning is guided first and foremost by our Comprehensive Plan. Large-scale development projects, such as Vineyard Square, do not align with our town's character or best interests, and are the type of project that I oppose.

When elected, my plan for Purcellville will include

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

Carol Luke

Carol Luke moved to Purcellville with her family over 30 years ago. They were drawn to the character of the small town, the schools and youth sports, and the neighborhoods and farms. Luke later moved her kitchen design business to Purcellville from Tysons Corner. A successful small business owner, mother, and community volunteer, Luke currently serves on the Purcellville Planning Commission. You can often see her walking her two dogs, Priska and Gaius, around town.



Blue Ridge Leader: What do you see as your top priorities if elected?

Carol Luke: My top priorities are providing responsive representation for Purcellville's residents, slow sustainable growth, fiscal responsibility, and debt reduction.

Mayor Fraser strongly advocates for our town to pursue funds available through the 1.3 trillion dollar Infrastructure Bill available to localities across our nation. I will continue pursuing federal, state, and private-sector grant opportunities to fund capital improvements that would otherwise burden our taxpayers.

Our Zoning Ordinance, which the Planning

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

Boo Bennett

Boo Bennett has lived in Purcellville for 21 years. She moved to Purcellville because she wanted to give her two sons the same all-American experience she had growing up in a small midwestern town. Bennett has served on the Planning Commission for five years and is currently working on the Town's Zoning Ordinance rewrite. You will often see her walking her two white poodles, or riding her bike on the W&OD Trail. She has acquired quite a green thumb working at Abernethy and Spencer, one of the many jobs she holds.



Blue Ridge Leader: What do you see as your top priorities if elected?

Boo Bennett: My top priorities are to continue the work of our slow and deliberative growth volunteers and policymakers. These are policies championed by Mayor Fraser and the fiscal stalwarts currently on the Town Council, as well as by my colleagues on the Planning Commission.

I will keep growth to financially sound limits. I refuse to burden citizens with subsidizing development projects that don't fit in the town. I will focus on the fiscally responsible policy of paying down the town debt, to the tune of 1 million per year.

I will continue my work to support preserving our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

Advertisement for Leesburg Airshow presented by Toth Financial. Includes event details for Saturday, September 24, 2022, at Leesburg Executive Airport. Features 'IN THE AIR Main Show Starts at 1:00PM' and 'ON THE GROUND 11:00AM-4:00PM'. Lists activities like skydiving, aerobatics, and obstacle courses. Includes logos for sponsors like LeafGuard, Kuhn Jet Center, Country Buick GMC, Metro, Southwinds, LoudounNow, and P&R. Contact info: 703-737-7125, www.LeesburgAirshow.com.

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- ★ Ensure safe sidewalks and crosswalks for all pedestrians
- ★ Curtail speeding through the town
- ★ Ensure a great sense of community (town events, community service, people and pet friendly)
- ★ Support small businesses
- ★ Be transparent with great communications and updates on projects and budgets
- ★ Commit to the people of Hamilton and address what matters most

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Political advertisement paid for and approved by the candidate.

Remembering George Patrick McDonnell

George Patrick McDonnell died peacefully on Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022 in Leesburg, Virginia, holding his daughter's hand and knowing he was loved deeply by his wife, family and friends. He was 84.

George was born July 26, 1938 in Detroit, Michigan. He attended Catholic Central High School, served in the U.S. Navy, and graduated from the University of Detroit with a degree in economics.

He was President of the College Republicans, a member of Young Americans for Freedom, and later worked on Barry Goldwater's Presidential campaign where he forged lifelong friendships that led him from Michigan to Washington, DC.

He and his business partner, Dan Burns, started Diversified Mailing Services, which for a time was one of the largest mailing firms on the East Coast.

He founded and was Chairman of the Irish Heritage Society of America, which helped drive the development of the Dunbrody Famine Ship and Irish Emigrant Museum in New Ross, Ireland. Immensely humble, he was at heart an intellectual and his influence will continue on through his work, personal relationships, and his spoken and written words.

He was a member of Bay View Association in Michigan where he will be remembered sitting on the front porch of the "Wee Hoose" chatting away or reading the newspaper. Leaning on his Irish roots, he was at his happiest hosting a meal with friends and family, where he always welcomed new faces to sit at the table and join the conversation.

George – or Pops – was a man who laughed often and hard, sometimes uncontrollably wheezing, creating contagious laughter around him. He won the respect of numerous intelligent people, children adored him, and teenagers and young adults consulted and trusted him.

Throughout his life, George maintained his spirit, cadence, and optimism. He loved finding beauty in the world, especially in the gardens of his home Ridge Oaks and Up North. He was a good and moral man who left the world a better place through those he loved and the many he helped along the way. George's life was a successful life, by any measure.

He is survived by his wife of 16 years, Judith McDonnell, his brother Joseph (Maryann),

sisters Marianne Nestor (Robert) and Peachie Fraust (Gary), his two children Patrick McDonnell and Jeanne Zarate (Alfredo) and their mother Elizabeth Skinner, his stepdaughter Mary Robertson (Reid), his three grandsons (AJ, Patrick, and Paul Zarate), four step-grandchildren (William, Armstrong, Blake, and Brooks) and a large extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents William F. McDonnell and Virginia Marie Kirchner, and by his brother William McDonnell. He will be deeply missed.

A visitation was held at Colonial Funeral Home in Leesburg, Virginia on Thursday evening, Aug. 11. A funeral service to celebrate his life was held on Friday, Aug. 12 at Leesburg Community Church – followed by his burial at Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria, VA.



Loudoun seeks input to update Transit Equity Policy

Loudoun County is hosting an online comment period to gain input from the public on a proposed refinement to an existing Loudoun County Transit civil rights policy, currently provided under the 2020-2023 Title VI Program for Local Transit and Commuter Bus service.

The comment period is open from Aug. 12 through Sept. 12, to allow members of the public to review policy information and provide input.

Loudoun County Transit is proposing to refine the program's policy regarding

major service changes, which defines thresholds for evaluating whether changes to bus service have a discriminatory impact based on race, color, or national origin and/or income.

The refined policy criteria would no longer include service changes that would "add" 15 percent or more average daily ridership because it is not possible to accurately determine how many more riders will use a new service. If implemented, the proposed change would be included in the 2023-2026 Title VI Program.

To view more information regarding

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 »

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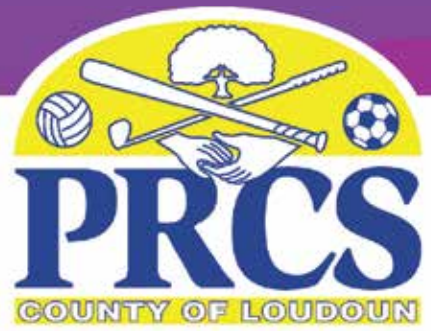
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Inflation Reduction Act becomes law

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA) released the following statement after President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law:

“We’re proud that this law will lower the price of prescription drugs, reduce the deficit, bring down energy bills and fight climate change. We’re also glad that it will help ensure that miners suffering from black lung and their families get the care and benefits they deserve. We will continue to look for ways to support the health and well-being of our communities, decrease inflation, and lower costs for Virginians.”

Below are some of the ways the Inflation Reduction Act will benefit Virginians:

Lower Prescription Drug Costs

The law allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices for seniors and people with disabilities—a provision Warner and Kaine have long fought to pass to lower prescription drug costs.

The law establishes a \$2,000 cap on out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs for seniors covered under Medicare Part D. In 2020, more than 36,000 Virginians with Medicare Part D spent

more than \$2,000 out-of-pocket on their prescription drugs.

The law expands the Low-Income Subsidy program, a program that currently helps cover prescription drug costs for over 11,000 low-income Virginians with Medicare.

The law provides free coverage for vaccines under Medicare Part D and improves access to vaccines under Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. In 2020, nearly 85,000 Virginians received a vaccine covered under Medicare Part D.

Affordable Health Care

During the pandemic, Congress enhanced subsidies under the Affordable Care Act to help lower health care premiums for millions of Americans. The Inflation Reduction Act will extend these enhanced subsidies for three years through 2025 to help make Virginians’ health insurance more affordable. Over 300,000 Virginians have ACA coverage in 2022.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimated that Virginians with ACA insurance would have seen a \$71 increase in their monthly premiums for the next coverage year if these subsidies

weren’t extended.

Black Lung Benefits

The law permanently extends the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund excise tax at a higher rate, providing more certainty for miners, miner retirees, and their families who rely on the fund to access benefits. In Virginia, thousands of miners and their families have received benefits through the trust fund since it was established, including approximately 2,600 Virginians last year alone.

Clean Energy and Climate Provision

The law will reduce carbon emissions by roughly 40 percent by 2030.

The law incentivizes investment in and production of renewable energy technologies like solar power and the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project. The Inflation Reduction Act expands the 48C investment tax credit for clean energy manufacturers, with \$4 billion reserved for use exclusively in coal communities. All clean energy tax credits include a bonus for meeting domestic manufacturing requirements related to steel, iron, or other manufactured components. The law also expands tax credits for residential clean energy and home

efficiency improvements.

According to a recent analysis, the clean energy provisions are expected to create nearly 1 million jobs per year.

The law includes tax credits for clean medium and heavy duty trucks, such as those produced at the Volvo Trucks New River Valley Plant.

The law includes a \$7,500 consumer credit for the purchase of new electric vehicles and incentivizes that vehicles are produced in North America.

The law includes \$9.7 billion for financial assistance to rural electric cooperatives to improve resilience and affordability.

The law includes \$2 billion for the USDA Rural Energy for America Program to provide competitive grants and loan guarantees to farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or energy efficiency improvements. The law also includes \$20 billion to help farmers and ranchers adopt agriculture conservation practices that improve landscape resilience.

Tax Fairness

The law takes steps to make sure that the largest corporations and wealthiest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 »

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Wexton tours agriculture businesses with Virginia Farm Bureau

On Friday, Aug. 26, Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) toured local agriculture businesses with representatives from the Virginia Farm Bureau, and heard from business owners and discussed how she has fought for the needs of these small businesses in Congress.

GOVERNMENT

Wexton is the founder of the bipartisan Congressional Agritourism Caucus to be a voice for agritourism businesses in Washington, and connect them with the federal resources they need to grow and thrive. Wexton has toured dozens of wineries, breweries, distilleries, farm stands, u-picks, and other agritourism businesses across Virginia's 10th District since founding the Caucus.

Wexton and representatives of the Virginia Farm Bureau started the morning at Cana Vineyards and Winery in Middleburg. Wexton, Melanie, Cana's winemaker, and members of the Virginia Farm Bureau, Benjamin Rowe and Katie Frazier, discussed the spotted lanternfly and how next year they will be a problem, but for this season they are not visible yet.

Cana grows many va-

rieties of grapes and they will be ready in late September through mid-October. Melanie, who started in the business as an intern, said the input costs are increasing and it is increasingly difficult to get bottling supplies.

Cana has produced several award winning wines. In 2017 Melanie was named Woman Winemaker of the Year at the Women's International Wine Competition.

Wexton also visited NOVA Equestrian Center in Aldie. The center is a training center and an equine fitness and rehabilitation facility. Their fitness center provides benefits for horses requiring rehabilitation treatment.

Walsh Family Wines in Purcellville on Hillsboro Road was the next stop, and they were busy working on a custom crush. They were founded in 2014 and farm numerous sites in northern Virginia.

Premier Turf Farms in Bluemont was the last stop of the afternoon.



Wexton touring Cana Vineyard and the grapes are beginning to turn.



Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton pictured with winemaker Melanie at Cana Vineyards.



Pressing the grapes has already started at Walsh Family Wines.



Wexton touring Walsh Family Wines.



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Regulatory barriers reduced

Gov. Glenn Youngkin in late August announced that the Virginia Board for Contractors, a regulatory board under the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, at its most recent meeting on Aug. 2, took steps to reduce several regulatory barriers in the construction and building related trades.

GOVERNMENT

The Board for Contractors board voted to:

- Reduce the years of experience requirement by 50 percent, from four to two years, for skilled workers to become licensed as a journey-level tradesman for the most in-demand construction labor fields such as electrical, plumbing, and heating, ventilation & air conditioning, and gas fitting.
- Add additional license qualification pathways allowing entry for skilled workers to become licensed with various combinations of experience and training.
- Eliminate the regulatory mandate for continuing education in the trades.

“This is a major win for all Virginians,” said Youngkin. “Increasing opportunities for people to become licensed in high-demand, high-paying jobs while also helping businesses find the talent

they desperately need will strengthen our Commonwealth. Since day one my administration has been working to reinvigorate job growth and make Virginia the best place to live, work and raise a family. I’m confident that these actions will move us closer to that goal.”

“Construction firms are struggling to find enough qualified workers to meet consumer needs and contribute to economic growth,” said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater. “Not enough people are entering training programs for these types of jobs. There isn’t one solution to this problem, we are working to increase awareness and opportunities for apprenticeships and combined with making it easier for these skilled workers to become licensed and start working, we’ll begin to see a turnaround.”

“Our boards are composed of practitioners, business owners, as well as citizens, and as part of Governor Youngkin’s Day One commitment to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and citizens across the Commonwealth, DPOR boards are evaluating the education and experience requirements of occupations to ensure we are not requiring more than is necessary to protect the public,” said DPOR Director Demetrios Melis.

Throughout the U.S. workforce, with Virginia being among states with the highest demand, there is a shortage of skilled tradespeople. This problem, persisting both before and after the pandemic, inhibits job creation and economic growth. Skilled trades shortages contribute to higher housing prices and decreased housing supply, increased costs for consumers and businesses in a variety of sectors, and other cascading effects across commerce and the economy.

In addition to expanding opportunities to enter these skilled trades, the board voted to eliminate regulatory-mandated continuing education in select trades. Continuing education has not shown to decrease disciplinary actions. Government-mandated continuing education with no clearly identifiable public protection benefit is a burden on businesses and individuals requiring time, money, and energy for compliance.

DPOR is an executive branch agency under the Secretary of Labor, overseeing 18 regulatory boards comprised of practitioners and citizens appointed by the governor. Policy boards determine the minimum standards necessary to enter a profession and the standards of conduct for licensees.

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Purcellville balloon test conducted for proposed cellular site



The Town of Purcellville has conducted a balloon test which is in response to years of significant public input asking for a higher level of cellular coverage to the residents of Locust Grove and Hirst Farm, as well as, other residents within the southern boundaries of the jurisdiction of the Town of Purcellville.

The Town Council previously approved a location of a new cellular tower to be erected on land owned by the town adjacent to the Public Works/Waste Water Facility. The tower is necessary to help ensure a higher level of cellular and internet connectivity for the Town's residents. Improved cellular coverage

will ensure efficient and effective transmission of 911 calls for police, fire, and rescue enhancing public safety. On Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. a balloon test was conducted on the proposed Town cellular site. The test is designed to identify the proposed maximum height of the tower. The test was required from

the State Historic Preservation Office to evaluate the sight line impact to the Goose Creek Rural Historic District, which is approximately a little less than one mile away from the Town's second Cell Tower site.

LCSO to conduct back to school enforcement campaign

As summer break comes to an end Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman is asking drivers to watch for children walking to and from school, as they may forget to watch for you.

GOVERNMENT

Over the next few weeks, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Deputies will be conducting speed and traffic safety enforcement around local schools as part of the agency's Back-to-School enforcement and public education campaign. LCSO Deputies will be utilizing speed

measurement devices, "Smart Trailers", variable message boards to display safety messages, marked and unmarked cruisers, as well as the agency's motor unit.

In his annual video safety message, Sheriff Chapman is reminding drivers to "slow down and stay alert and help make this a great school year."

The Loudoun Sheriff's Office is also offering the following tips for students and parents from the National Safety Council:

Walkers

- Parents: Practice walking to school with your child, crossing streets at crosswalks when available.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk and you must walk in the street, walk facing traffic.
- Before crossing the street, stop and look left, right, and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Never dart out in front of a parked car.
- Never walk while texting or talking on the phone.
- Do not walk while using

headphones.

- Pay attention to crossing guards.

Bike Riders

- Always wear a helmet that is fitted and secured properly.
- Children need to know the rules of the road: Ride single file on the right side of the road, come to a complete stop before crossing the street, and walk the bike across.
- Watch for opening car doors and other hazards.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 »

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52nd Annual Bluemont Fair Sept. 17 and 18

The 52nd Annual Bluemont Fair will be held on Sept. 17 and 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days, rain or shine.

An old fashioned "Green" Country Fair, the Bluemont Fair features traditional crafts (juried), local art and authors, craft and farming demonstrations, historical re-enactors, music: traditional/blues/country, free Children's Fair, petting zoo, Llamas and Alpacas, Quilt Display, Gardener's Shed, blacksmithing demonstration, homemade food/baked goods/jams and jellies. A pie-baking/pickle-making contest, antiques and collectables, Wine and Beer Garden with gourmet treats are also offered.

A Bluemont history slide show is available to watch as well.
Snickersville Academy-a restored 1825 log

schoolhouse, beekeepers and hives, antique ca-boose, pre-Civil War Country Store, Farmers Market, model trains, and lots of hands-on activities will all be part of the fair.

The Plaster Museum of Bluemont Heritage will offer a special exhibit, "Agriculture in Bluemont: 19 through 21st Century Farms," and be on the look-out for beautiful draft horses in some of the village's fields. There is fun for the whole family.

The fair is set throughout the historic village of Bluemont in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in western Loudoun County. No Pets.

General admission is \$10. Ages 9 and under are free. For more information go to www.bluemont-fair.org or call 540-554-2367.



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Reggie Simms' artwork displayed at town hall

The Purcellville Arts Council is featuring artwork by Reggie Simms in Town Hall. The public is invited to view the show during regular Town Hall office hours (Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. except holidays).

Purcellville native Reggie Simms is an accomplished painter, sculptor, and down-to-earth philosopher. Now age 87 and reflecting on his life's journey, he says he always has wanted to explore new things, create, and imagine.

COMMUNITY

He credits his mother for encouraging him to draw and paint. "My mother located a racially integrated art academy on Embassy Row in D.C. and, after high school, I went there for a year, learning anatomy and drawing human figures.

Later, I took a few painting classes in New Jersey. By then I was hooked." He continued to learn through trial-and-error and built a career in commercial art for grocery chains and Metro.

Paintings in the exhibit at Town Hall are eye-catching canvases depicting selected National Geographic magazine covers. This magazine has a special meaning to Mr. Simms. "I owe my fascination with travel, geography and world cultures to those magazines," he said. The Purcellville Arts Council invites Purcellville residents to come learn more about Mr. Simms and see his artwork.

The first-floor corridors of Town Hall have a gallery-caliber hanging system which creates an opportunity for local artists to exhibit their work. Art exhibitions in Town Hall help ensure that all members of the public have access to art. The Purcellville Arts Council is accepting submissions for future shows.

Volunteers needed to establish pollinator garden

The Purcellville Tree and Environment Sustainability Committee invites students, scouts, and residents to help enhance and establish pollinator gardens at the Chapman DeMary Trail. On Saturday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., volunteers will clear away weeds and plant a variety of pollinator-friendly plants.

To volunteer, please sign up by Sept. 7. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own work gloves, shovels, water, and snacks, and to dress appropriately for the weather and for working in a wooded area. This project is fund-

ed in part through Keep Virginia Beautiful's 30-in-30 Green Grant program.

The Chapman DeMary Trail is a 10-acre area considered to be the last stand of old-growth forest in the Town of Purcellville. It runs along the South Fork Catocin Creek, part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The area is open to the public for environmental recreation, exploration, and education.

The Town of Purcellville holds the conservation easement for this privately-owned property. The entrance and parking for the Chapman DeMary Trail is behind the building at 205 East Hirst Road in Purcellville.

Music for individuals with cognitive impairment starting Sept. 13

"Chime In with the AAA Rhythm Makers" and they are one-of-a-kind music group starting this fall in Loudoun County.

The Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Agency on Aging will be bringing the first-Hand Chime music group to Northern Virginia. This in-person group is for

individuals with early to moderate stage cognitive impairment and their care partners.

No musical experience? No problem This group is about the joy of making music together and being successful in a supportive and enriching environment. Studies have shown that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

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Flight delayed? Prepare to pay the ‘Travel Snack Surtax’

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Thinking of taking your family out to San Francisco for Thanksgiving? Flying round trip from Dulles?

The question is, Heather Murphy of The New York Times asks, whether you can trust the airlines to get you there on time for dinner.

These days, a fair number of travelers would answer no.

COMMUNITY

Based on the airlines’ record this summer, you couldn’t blame travelers for doubting the airlines would get them to their destination at all. Consider the fact that on the weekend ahead of the 4th of July, the airlines cancelled nearly 2,500 flights. And that was only two weeks after Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg told the airlines he’d be closely monitoring their performance. The very next day, his own flight from Washington to New York was cancelled.

Delayed, rerouted, or cancelled flights are fewer than those in 2019. It just may seem we’ve had more troubles this summer because, due to Covid, we’ve traveled very little from mid-2020 through the fall of 2021.

Now we’re seeing more people packing the airports on holiday weekends, which doesn’t bode well for Thanksgiving or Christmas trav-

elers.

To avoid high flight costs, consider booking now for November – December. And maybe start to think about packing a hamper for the trip if you want to avoid the so called “Travel Snack Surtax” – the name given to all that food and drink you consume at the airport.

That’s the extra cost that sneaks up on you as you slap down your credit card for Starbucks grande lattes and lollipop cakes, chicken caesar wraps and yogurt parfaits from the kiosk, pizza with everything, and Big Macs with Large Fries.

According to Jeremy Hull, who writes about the “surtax” in a new study in

Family Destinations Guide, you’ll want to brace yourself for the costs: the average family—3.13 persons in 2021 per the U.S. Census—spends up to \$240.51 on airport food during a delay.

What does that add to your budget for the Dulles – SFO – Dulles holiday trip you’re considering? Say you experience delays flying to California and also flying back to Virginia. The Dulles delay may add \$245.61 to your flight cost. The San Francisco delay could run you as much as \$277.73. Your total “Travel Snack Surtax” would be \$523.73, depending on your appetite.

The moral of the story is, eat before you go.

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.

COMMUNITY

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 PurcellvilleVaTagSale.com to sign up.

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 at Purcellville-VaTagSale.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 website.

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.



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Loudoun County holds its Annual “Clear the Shelters” event

On Saturday, Aug. 27, Loudoun County Animal Services hosted a “Clear the Shelters,” fee-waived, pet adoption event from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in participation with the nationwide “Clear the Shelters” annual adoption initiative.

Adoption fees were waived for all available pets, including cats, kittens, dogs, rabbits, small pets and livestock.

COMMUNITY The event took place at the Loudoun County Animal Services facility, 42225 Adoption Drive in Leesburg.

To date in 2022, LCAS has seen a 40 percent increase in local intakes of stray and surrendered dogs, putting pressure on the agency to find homes for more dogs than usual.

“Every year, we look forward to this event as a fun way to find homes for our pets, but this year, the influx of animals in need means we are more focused on success than ever,” says LCAS Community Relations Manager Talia Czapski.

All dogs, cats and rabbits adopted from LCAS are spayed or neutered and receive a microchip, which is registered to their adopter. Dogs and cats also receive age-appropriate vaccinations. The shelter frequently has many



pets available for adoption including hamsters, guinea pigs, turtles, rabbits, other small pets and livestock.

More information about LCAS programs and services, including directions to the Animal Shelter, can be found at loudoun.gov/animals.

Town of Middleburg to host Oktoberfest celebration

Visit the Town of Middleburg on Sep. 17 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the town’s Oktoberfest celebration. The festivities will take place on South Madison St. and Federal St., which will be closed to vehicular traffic. This fun-filled event will feature two German biergartens, German-inspired food, a stein holding contest, local artist showcase, live music, interactive activities for children and much more.

COMMUNITY Artist’s Alley, a local artist showcase, opens at 10 a.m. The two biergartens at the event will open at 11 a.m. The first Oktoberfest beer keg will be delivered to the festival by horse-drawn wagon. The wagon is pulled by four Belgian horses from Harmon’s Carriages.

Local bands will provide the soundtrack for the day. Feats of Strength will be held throughout the day including stein raising and musical chairs. Attendees can also join the Button Challenge for a chance to win Oktoberfest memorabilia, by collecting eight Oktoberfest buttons from participating merchants around town.

Traditional Oktoberfest food will be available for purchase from local food vendors. Oktoberfest beer from Old Ox Brewery and Lost Barrel Brewing, wine from Greenhill, Cana Vineyards, and Boxwood wineries, and cider from Mt. Defiance Cidery and Distillery will also be available for purchase. Regional artisans will also be present throughout the day with exhibits of fine art, pottery, jewelry, photography, wearable art and more.

Artist’s Alley will feature artwork from local and regional artists on Federal Street. Visitors are encouraged to connect with artists and discuss their creative process. Art-lovers will also get

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

Loudoun Workforce Resource Center offers career assistance

During September — Workforce Development Month — the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center will feature special virtual and in-person events at no cost for job seekers, and people who are considering changing careers.

“Our annual celebration of September as Workforce Development Month will be a hybrid of virtual and in-person seminars for anyone looking for new employment or career advancement,” said Loudoun County Workforce Program Manager Shelly Rodriguez. “These events cover a variety of topics, including career development skills, navigating remote work and transportation and commuting.”

COMMUNITY The in-person events will take place at the Workforce Resource Center at 705 E. Market Street, Suite E in Leesburg and at several Loudoun County Public Library branches.

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

- Coffee & Career Chat
Thursday, Sept. 8, 9 - 11 a.m., Workforce Resource Center
- How to Job Search for Remote Work
Monday, Sept. 12, 10 - 11:30 a.m., Virtual

- Let’s Go to Work! (Two sessions)
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 9 - 10 a.m., Virtual
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1:30 - 4 p.m., Workforce Resource Center (Spanish language interpretation available)
- Resumes and Cover Letters: Make Yours Stand Out (Three sessions)
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sterling Library, 22330 S. Sterling Blvd, Suite A117, Sterling
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road NW, Leesburg
Tuesday, Sept. 27, 1 - 3 p.m., Gum Spring Library, 24600 Millstream Drive, Stone Ridge
- 10 Crucial Steps for Success in IT
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 1 - 2 p.m., Virtual
- Top 10 Reasons You Didn’t Get Hired
Thursday, Sept. 15, 10 - 11:30 a.m., Virtual
- Virtual Job Fair
Saturday, Sept. 17, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Virtual
- LinkedIn Profile Headshot Photography (by appointment only - two sessions)
Monday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Workforce Resource Center

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Workforce Resource Center

- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator®
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Workforce Resource Center
- Where’s the Remote Work in Northern Virginia?
Thursday, Sept. 22, 10 - 10:45 a.m., Virtual
- Avoiding Remote Work Scams
Monday, Sept. 26, 10 - 11 a.m., Virtual
- Your Transition Mindset
Wednesday, Sept. 28, 4 - 5 p.m., Virtual

Anyone who requires a reasonable accommodation to participate in Workforce Development Month events may contact the Workforce Resource Center at 703-777-0150. Three business days’ notice is requested.

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center provides no-cost resources and equipment to job seekers and businesses to help them achieve their employment goals. More information about the center can be found at loudoun.gov/wrc or by visiting the center located at 705 E. Market Street, Suite E in Leesburg.



Smokin Willy holds ribbon cutting

Smokin Willy held their ribbon cutting in late August for the opening of their catering facility located in the industrial center on Shepardstown Court in Purcellville. Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser wished them much success as he cut the ribbon. They cater weddings, rehearsal dinners, corporate and private events.

Kuhns place Wolver Hill into permanent conservation easement

The Town of Middleburg and Supervisor Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) have jointly expressed their thanks and appreciation to Chuck and Stacy Kuhn, owners of JK Moving, for placing over 500 acres of property into permanent conservation easement in Middleburg.

The Wolver Hill property, immediately north of the Town limits of Middleburg, represents an important part of the history and visual scenery of Middleburg and Western Loudoun County. The action by the Kuhns protects the Town from encroaching development, preserves the history of horse training on the property, and continues to emphasize the need for large tracts of open space surrounding Middleburg. This is part of the Kuhn's ongoing conservation efforts, which have resulted in saving more than 22,000 acres of land to date in

Loudoun and beyond.

"This action further implements the goals of the Town's and County's Comprehensive Plans, which are to create a protective buffer of easements around Middleburg," stated Mayor Bridge Littleton. "We are extremely grateful for the Kuhns' continual commitment to preserving open space in Loudoun County and look forward to continuing to work with them and support their conservation endeavors."

"The Wolver Hill easement is yet another example of how Chuck and Stacy Kuhn understand the importance of keeping Western Loudoun rural. This new easement will permanently benefit our County," said Supervisor Tony Buffington.

To date, there are over 75,000 acres of land protected by conservation easement in Loudoun County.

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TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE ELECTIONS

Elections are November 8 at Emerick and Mountain View

CANDIDATE: MILAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

two years were operational expenses, residents curtailing their water usage to save money, \$10.5 million in ARPA funds, and over \$900,000 in net revenue from nutrient credits.

My opponent is in support of a 7 percent rate increase even though at the current scheduled water rate increase of 3 percent, the town's water revenue is over 4 times the annual water debt payment. And at the current scheduled sewer rate increase of 5 percent, the town's sewer revenue is over 2 times the annual sewer debt payment.

This tells me that with the refinancing and restructuring our debt is known and is being addressed. However, operational spending is the challenge we need to address, and we are doing that with long- and short-term solutions.

With hundreds of billions of dollars available for localities with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, our manager needs to focus on applying for some of these funds to pay for our Capital Improvement Projects needed throughout our town.

Receiving these funds would contribute to keeping rates lower. My opponent seems to dismiss going after grants. I need to remind him that the vast majority of our road projects are funded by grants, and that our taxpayers do not have unlimited funds.

There are also available funds that the Town has that could be applied to the current utility debt.

I will work with my colleagues to set a policy to use the nutrient credit funds, use 1 to 2 percent from the Town's Meals Tax, use recurring revenues from the cell towers and fiber optic cables, and reduce the close to \$1 million annual charge backs (time charged by staff working in the General Fund to do work for the Utility Fund).

Raising the rates would put a greater burden on the taxpayers, and my opponent is proposing that we blindly follow a model that has been inconsistent without looking on right sizing Town operations and pursuing innovative solutions.

He claims that the \$900,000 net revenue from the nutrient credits is one time, but he fails to acknowledge that

his pursuit of availability revenue from growth is also one time, but comes with long term costs and government expansion.

For example, the taxpayers were told that the millions in availability revenue from the Mayfair development would pay down debt, however, that money is still in our reserves. My opponent is peddling misinformation again that we are eating away at our reserves.

BRL: How important is the Town of Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance?

SM: The Town of Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance are very important because the Comprehensive Plan is the vision of the citizens, and the Town's Zoning Ordinance implements that vision by determining what neighborhoods, commercial, and residential areas should look like. My opponent voted against the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

The Planning Commission is currently in the process of updating the Zoning Ordinance which controls density in areas around town, determines lot setbacks and sizes, regulates building heights, and determines what uses can go where – to name a few.

For example, Vineyard Square – which was approved by the Lazaro administration as a six-story building with retail on the ground floor and 40 condos, as shown in the submitted designs – should never have been allowed because multi-family units are not allowed in the Historic District. Also, the six-story height is not appropriate for Purcellville.

This is one of the many differences between my opponent and me. He favors Vineyard Square, and supports the extension of O Street from 21 Street through to Hatcher Avenue. The representative of Vineyard Square has been before Council, and the Planning Commission asking the Town to extend O Street.

O Street currently dead ends behind Magnolias. With the traffic that would be generated by Vineyard Square's footprint, the developers need this street extended to Hatcher which already has

a lot of traffic, and would cost the citizens millions of dollars.

I am against hiring a consultant to advise the town that we need to extend O Street. My leadership team will not do backflips to justify this unwise change to our downtown.

BRL: How would you continue to lower the Town's debt?

SM: I would continue with Mayor Fraser's vision of finding solutions other than growth and raising taxes.

I would cut back on the amount of money senior management spends on consultants. Consultants are not incentivized to solve problems since this eliminates future consulting fees for the consulting firm.

We should, for example, implement stream credits on the watershed and Aberdeen property to generate revenue so we don't have to go to the taxpayers.

In addition, I will continue Mayor Fraser's efforts to reduce the burden of Capital Improvement costs on our citizens by pursuing the many State and Federal grant opportunities to finance improvements to our infrastructure.

BRL: There's a saying that during town elections every candidate says they support slow growth. How do you plan to either manage, or change Purcellville?

SM: I will continue to fulfill my campaign promises which I have done during my time on council. I will seek consensus with other council members on implementing the Town's Comprehensive Plan with the update of the Zoning Ordinance.

I will say no to special interests who want fewer zoning restrictions and more by-right uses. I will improve the business climate by working to reduce red tape and increase transparency, which will increase revenue from businesses, while keeping Purcellville's residents and businesses informed. I will seek comprehensive public input on every project that impacts this town.

My opponent voted for a 120-acre annexation that would have significantly extended the town's footprint, with over 160 additional residences,

and added disruptive commercial and industrial uses. The same project would have also increased the call for more town services, as some estimates show that for every tax dollar received from a residential home the town pays up to two dollars in services.

Unlike my opponent, I want the full impact to citizens to be understood before I will support developments that have historically saddled the taxpayers of this Town with traffic congestion and burdensome growth of the town's government.

BRL: Why should citizens vote for you?

SM: I am not a politician. I am a principled man and will continue to preserve our small-town character, just as Mayor Fraser has been doing for eight years.

My mother taught me that my word is my bond, and it is important to give back. I ran for Town Council two years ago, after attending meetings and seeing firsthand how council members and developers tried to bully the mayor and tried to sway him from his commitments to the people of Purcellville, to no avail.

Purcellville elections have traditionally been nonpartisan. Local issues like slow growth, low taxes, traffic calming, controlled spending, and zoning that protects our quality of life, belong to no single party platform. They are universal public goods.

My opponent has sought a party endorsement. His record of supporting a 120-acre annexation that the citizens of this town did not support, his record of supporting higher water and sewer rates, his record of supporting expensive consultant studies, his record of voting against the Town's Comprehensive Plan, was not even a consideration by those who endorsed him. My opponent wants celebrity endorsements. I want the endorsement and support of our citizens in resolving our local issues.

I am running with a team of dedicated citizens – your neighbors, your friends, or acquaintances. We want to preserve our town and continue to make it one of the best small towns in America. I ask for your vote for me, Stan Milan for Mayor, Ron Rise, Carol Luke, and Boo Bennett for town council.

CANDIDATE: LUKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Commission is currently updating, is of the utmost importance to me. We must continue our work to ensure that updated zoning reflects the vision of our citizens. Zoning determines land use,

which includes building height, lot sizes, and what uses go where. We owe it to our citizens to protect our small-town atmosphere and not allow inappropriate uses or uses that our citizens have clearly said they do not want.

To this point, our zoning consultant, along with senior town management, have proposed an area called the Trail Oriented District in Historic Downtown Purcellville, along the W&OD Trail.

Their proposal allows commercial

uses and introduces multi-family density up to the W&OD trail.

This is not in our Comprehensive Plan. It is not what citizens want. Residents have said, written, and reported

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 »

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE ELECTIONS** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Elections are November 8 at Emerick and Mountain View

CANDIDATE: GREWE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Plan is a core document to guide Purcellville forward. It is part of how we guide the town forward, and its importance to the town is why I put many meetings and countless hours into its creation. Our goal is to safeguard Purcellville's small-town charm and our rural "breathing space."

What it does not do, and what our town needs, is a plan to support these goals financially. Our current comprehensive plan is missing that key financial piece because that was not what it was designed to do. That fiscal part is where we need to focus.

The goals are largely good, but the way to get there is what is missing.

BRL: How would you continue to lower the Town's debt?

JG: First, we must focus on the core responsibilities and services the town must provide.

Second, we must stop the endless wild goose chases and get rich quick schemes.

Third, we must recognize the misleading statement that the town debt

has been lowered. Some of our principal debt has gone down but refinancing and restructuring added 11 million dollars in interest payments.

Fourth, we need to focus on recurrent tax revenue, not one-time dollars. To put Purcellville on a better fiscal path we must stop playing shell games with tax dollars.

Bottom Line: Our expenses are not one-time, and our revenue must not be that either. Our revenue must cover the \$2 million increase in annual debt payments we face in 2025. That's when we start paying the principal on some of our debt.

Purcellville's future as a small town requires we recognize the challenges we face so we can act rather than ignore or deny them.

BRL: There's a saying that during town elections every candidate says they support slow growth. How do you plan to either manage, or change Purcellville?

JG: That saying gets tossed around much, it seems it is more often used to obscure rather than enlighten the dis-

cussion. The better question is where do I want to lead us?

We all recognize that Purcellville changes over time, I know much has changed since I moved here in 2008. Some of it has been excellent for the town. New businesses, new opportunities, and new services we enjoy here instead of needing to drive somewhere else. Some of it has not been good.

My goal is not to bring change to our town. Instead, I want to recognize that when change happens, we must try to make it fit Purcellville well. Change is part of life, but if we are careful, we can work to encourage the changes we want.

I also believe we must put our town on a firm financial footing for our children and grandchildren. We don't want to make Purcellville a place that is so expensive to live in that when our children grow up, they move away from here because they can't afford to live in their hometown. Purcellville thrives when we see people in all stages of life call it home.

We should encourage a town where grandparents and young families starting out can share a Cannons game or share ice cream on a hot summer day.

That character is the best part of our small town, and what I am dedicated to preserving.

BRL: Why should citizens vote for you?

JG: I am running on a platform of good governance, which seeks to remove the current rancor between Council and Staff. I am running on the fact we share more values than not and are stronger together than apart. I am running on the idea of balanced leadership that listens and hears all voices, not just those that agree with me. Purcellville, tragically, has had some toxicity in its politics, that is not the sort of leadership our town deserves.

Over the past four years, I have forged a team of people that disagree on some things yet found common ground in Purcellville's good. That is the essence of small-town government, finding the places where we agree and building on them.

At the core, this election is all about good leadership and working together, and I can do that! If you want to build community like that I ask for your vote in November.



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TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE ELECTIONS

Elections are November 8 at Emerick and Mountain View

CANDIDATE: RISE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

implementing slow growth strategies that will allow our town to grow while still maintaining a small town feel and not burdening the town's resources. I also believe that there are better ways to offset our costs and drive revenue for the town than raising taxes on the residents.

BRL: How would you keep water and sewer rates sustainable?

RR: I don't believe we need to raise water and sewer rates, which are already higher than average. The models provided to us for our water and sewer rate forecasts are inaccurate as they are based on a rapid growth and expansion model and not a slower growth model more appropriate for our town.

When elected, I will advocate for applying a percentage of the meals tax revenue to the town's utility fund, rather than the general fund. Applying even just 1-2 per-

cent of this revenue to the utility fund will help offset our utility costs and reduce the need for increased rates.

The town also needs to restructure how it manages charge-backs which currently run over \$900,000. These are charges for General fund staff work that are paid out of the Utility Fund. This is a significant contributor to our utility costs and must be managed better in order to keep our funds where they should be. We also need to better manage our operations and maintenance costs in the Utility department.

Additionally, there is town land available that could be leased to telecommunications services. Doing so would provide additional revenue and increase cell service on the south side of town, thereby solving two issues at once.

Ultimately, I believe there are other ways to offset our utility costs without burdening taxpayers further.

BRL: Do you support extending O Street

through to Hatcher Avenue?

RR: No. I do not support extending O Street. This would only benefit the Vineyard Square project at a cost to the taxpayers of millions of dollars. I don't believe that a six-story building with 40 condo units is suited for Purcellville.

Extending O Street through to Hatcher Avenue would direct traffic from 21st Street through to Hatcher Avenue, which is already at capacity.

Vineyard Square would dramatically change the landscape of our downtown area and would negatively impact traffic and the Historic Downtown area.

I would support Mayor Fraser's previous efforts to oppose the extension of O Street, and with a majority on town council would immediately vote to take this proposed road off our town's Transportation Plan.

BRL: Why do you think you would be

effective as a council member?

RR: Having lived in this town for 24 years, I've seen a tremendous amount of change and growth. While I believe that growth is vital for any town to thrive, it needs to be done in a responsible manner that represents the interests of the residents, not the developers.

I'm confident that I'll be effective as a Town Council Member. I have 17 years of business, technical and leadership experience that I will leverage, along with a passion and commitment to serving the residents of Purcellville.

Once elected, I will collaborate with other council members to focus on creating new streams of revenue for the town, and paying down our debt.

When voting for myself, Boo Bennett, and Carol Luke for Town Council, and Stan Milan for Mayor, you will be getting a unified team with a shared vision for Purcellville.

CANDIDATE STOUGHT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

never work, or applying a series of short term band aids that mask problems without solving them.

We all want to preserve Purcellville's small-town charm, and that requires good town governance that cares for our town, its citizens, and its resources.

BRL: How would you keep water and sewer rates sustainable?

CS: Water and sewer rates are a difficult yet important topic in our town. I would like to raise rates no more than is needed to keep pace with the cost to our town of providing these services.

This means ensuring that we have other streams of revenue to cover costs such as capital improvement and repairs to our facilities. This is an excellent example of how important fiscal responsibility is to our town. Responsible spending and a balanced budget will help us avoid excessive rate increases that put an undue financial burden on town residents.

Additionally, reducing our debt as much as we can will help put us in a stronger and healthier financial position.

BRL: Do you support extending O Street through to Hatcher Avenue?

CS: No. There is no need to extend O Street to Hatcher Avenue and this would be an un-

necessary expenditure by the town. There are other projects within our town, such as sidewalk repair and construction, where that money would go to much better use and serve more members of our community.

BRL: Why do you think you would be effective as a council member?

CS: I spent 10 years in the Army, where I served as a linguist speaking Spanish, French, Arabic, and Persian. I know that people from different cultures and places see things differently. I also know that with mutual respect and shared values, we can find common ground even in the most polarized situations.

Discussions about what is best for our town must be respectful. We should seek a level playing field with a government that serves all members of our community, not one group over another.

In doing so, it's important to remember that we are all neighbors, not enemies. I would be effective as a council member because I am able to listen to people with different perspectives and understand their viewpoints. I always show respect to people even when I disagree with them.

Most importantly, service to others is a big part of my life and my family's life. I loved serving in the military, I love serving in our church and our local community, and if elected, I look forward to serving the Town of Purcellville on Town Council.

CANDIDATE RAYNER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

consultants have advised that due to rising operational costs, debt, and general inflation, the town needed to raise rates or increase our income to offset the costs. We need more recurrent commercial revenue so that we are not forced to increase taxes for Purcellville residents and existing businesses to pay the burden.

Purcellville has a 7.4 percent commercial vacancy rate; this is over double that of Leesburg, and the highest in Loudoun County. We need new businesses to help offset our water and sewer costs.

To do this, the town needs an economic development staff position to attract and nurture prospective and current business relationships as well as the county economic bodies. We need to make the case that Purcellville is the Loudoun destination where a small business owner should start a business.

Smaller towns in Loudoun have well-equipped, focused community development departments. By concentrating on this aspect of their government they have achieved zero percent vacancy rates. That in turn helps limit additional taxation on their residents at the same time as paying off debt.

We do not need to expand Purcellville's town limits. We need

to use the existing commercial space and the empty store buildings. We must revitalize the aging buildings and infrastructure to make what we have a healthy, thriving community. We cannot stop change, but we can control what the change looks like. Many historical towns successfully mixed new and old to keep their small-town charm with a vibrant local economy. Purcellville can do the same.

BRL: Do you support extending O Street through to Hatcher Avenue?

ER: The extension of this road is in the very dated Purcellville Transportation Plan. I would not support this extension of the road as it stands. We need an updated transportation plan. I would need evidence of public safety and traffic risks to consider this.

Two other pressing road issues in the town are: finding a solution for the Pickwick and Kingsbridge entrance, and the fact that the town hasn't planned for traffic downtown after the new interchange on 690/Hillsboro Road. Those are immediate priorities.

BRL: Why do you think you would be effective as a council member?



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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE ELECTIONS** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Elections are November 8 at Emerick and Mountain View

CANDIDATE: BENNETT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15
small town through an updated Zoning Ordinance that reflects the will of the citizens, and not special interests or developers.

BRL: How would you keep water and sewer rates sustainable?

BB: I will pursue those policies that allow us to pay down our debt. For example, I would advocate for implementing a policy to apply 1-2 percent of the meals tax revenue to the town's utility fund.

We must pursue efficiencies in our utility facilities operations and maintenance. For example, more than three months has passed since our utility consultant said they would get back to us with data from similarly-sized towns, to compare their operations and maintenance costs with ours. This is information we could use immediately. Why are the people we're paying to provide it not delivering? This is inefficient and expensive for taxpayers.

We need to examine our practice of costly charge-backs. Charge-backs are triggered when staff that are paid out of

the General Fund do work for our Utility Department. They charge their time to the utility department. The cost of this practice currently runs over \$900,000. This is a significant contributor to our utility cost profile and a huge driver for rate increases.

Currently the town's consultant bases their projected utility rates on "availabilities." This is an outdated model for Purcellville. Our town is already built out. Citizens want to maintain a small-town feel.

Availabilities are a one-time cost to hook up a new property to our utility system. The cost to do so pays for a presumed increase in demand for services. Historically, availability fees failed to cover all the costs incurred for taxpayers living with growth. Infrastructure maintenance and alterations, and increased public services are all highly expensive add-on costs.

In eight years, Mayor Fraser restructured the town's utility debt that he inherited from a previous mayor. The loans were interest-only loans with huge balloon payments. Soon the town will be in a position to pay principle. Let's not miss

this opportunity.

BRL: Do you support extending O Street through to Hatcher Avenue?

BB: No, I do not.

Every day in Purcellville the side of Hatcher that has a sidewalk is used by post office-bound residents, trail goers, and a host of residents walking their dogs, and their children.

Families make their way down Hatcher into downtown for meals, ice cream, parades, shopping, and of course the library.

O Street extended would cut the sidewalk into two. And that is just the effect for the walking traffic! Vehicle traffic would be even more stifling. Who could turn out of O left or right onto Hatcher without frustration at best and danger at worst.

Everyone knows that O Street would only benefit the Vineyard Square development. This is unjust for our residents. It would not alleviate but would generate complex traffic challenges, and an increased tax burden.

A vote for me is a vote for N "O" Street.

BRL: Why do you think you would be effective as a council member?

BB: Sensibility.

I live in reality, like most citizens. I think things through sensibly and deliberately. I love hearing from our residents and understanding their concerns, suggestions, and ideas. They choose to live here, they pay taxes, and they deserve to be heard. In my book, citizen wishes come first. I would never ignore or distract them, but will seek ways to bring them into the debates.

Outside and developer interests get involved because it is their work and business to do so. Citizens trust their town council and Mayor to protect their interests. I am the sensible and trustworthy choice to put citizens first, to faithfully represent them, and to require the special interests to make their case to citizens, and to adhere to our Comprehensive Plan.

I ask for your vote on November 8, along with the team I am running with which is Stan Milan for Mayor, Ron Rise, Carol Luke, and me, Boo Bennett, for Town Council.



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MIDDLEBURG OKTOBERFEST, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

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MUSIC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

music can help reduce stress, anxiety, and improve mood in people who have cognitive impairment as well as their care partners.

Many of us have been isolated during the Covid-19 pandemic, and this is a great opportunity to get out and meet others who share a love of music. There is no cost to participate.

"Music imprints itself on the brain deeper than any other human ex-

perience. Music evokes emotion, and emotion can bring with it memory. Music brings back the feeling of life when nothing else can," said Dr. Oliver Sacks

The group will be meeting at the Senior Center of Leesburg on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m., beginning on Sept. 13. For more information and how to register, call Lori at 571-233-2583 or send an email to AAAsupport@loudoun.gov.

LETTER: LCRC SHOULD STAY OUT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

- Where in that assessment it's stated or surmised that the town is understaffed?
- Is it the section of the report that erroneously compares our Town to a county that has a park and an airport?
- The assessment did state that the Town is a lean operation and that we should revisit some of the programs we are offering to make sure they are needed and also look at automation and process efficiencies.

If you feel compelled to make the local election partisan, your endorsement should not be driven by unchecked lies and allegations. To endorse Council Member Grewe for an elected office, based on him being a due paying member of LCRC and his failure to initiate or advance any solutions as an elected official in four years, is equivalent to buying an endorsement or social promotion. We are not the party of social promotion.

Ryan Cool

Both former Purcellville Town Council Member, and resident of Hirst Farm

LCRC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

involved in the traditionally nonpartisan Town of Purcellville elections, Pio loudly proclaimed that citizens' concerns about getting involved were "garbage."

Pio recommended endorsing all Republicans from every level, including homeowners' associations.

When it came time for Grewe to speak, he used his time talking about his work with the nonprofit Generation Joshua, and how he claims he has led the effort since 2007 to contact hundreds of thousands of voters in the last three elections. He did not, however, address concerns raised about his pro development voting record voiced by speakers.

Pio was running the show when the Blue Ridge Cauc members and attendees, who broke up into a group, tried to question Grewe. The small crowded circle

also included Blue Ridge District party chair Ed Dolan on one side then Grewe's running mates Council Member Erin Rayner, and Caleb Stought along with Purcellville residents Joan Lehr, and Judy Stearns. Developer Casey Chapman, the representative of Vineyard Square who was in attendance at the meeting, voted for Grewe.

One person asked Grewe if he was for annexations, and he responded no. However, he neglected to explain why he was the lone vote on Council in support of the 120-acre Warner Brook annexation for 160 new homes, with massive commercial and industrial development on Purcellville Road. Grewe voted not to oppose it.

Some members were trying to ask Grewe about his voting record of supporting higher water and sewer rates, but they

were shut down by Pio.

The noise was loud, and everyone was talking at once so no more concerns about his record were allowed by Pio to come into question. Joan Lehr, a former eight-year Purcellville Town Council Member who served with former Mayor Bob Lazaro, voted at the time, to approve the Vineyard Square project on 21st Street, said she supported Grewe.

After only several minutes, Dolan called for a caucus vote which Grewe won. Consequently, the committee voted to secure the endorsement.

Further, the committee passed a proposal that members cannot raise the issue of this Republican endorsement again in the future.

LETTER: CAO IS NOT GOOD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

to note most of the world is suffering from blistering fuel prices.

Is Biden at fault outside our country too? Will he get credit now that prices are starting to recede? The letter also condemns Cao's opponent, Jennifer Wexton, for supporting high government spending as a cause of runaway inflation (another world-wide problem, not just the U.S.).

The author took a partisan slap at

government lockdowns and policies in dealing with Covid-19, when the former administration labeled it "a hoax." Mr. Cao and his promises would cut away our health insurance safety net, and leave countless citizens vulnerable to unexpected health costs.

I have personally seen these costs threaten the life savings for friends and relatives. Mr. Cao is not good for our state or our country.

*Daniel Stapleton
Aldie*

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Elections are November 8 at Emerick and Mountain View

CANDIDATE: LUKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

repeatedly that they want to sustain and restore this area. A rezoning proposal such as this only benefits the developers – that’s it.

BRL: How would you keep water and sewer rates sustainable?

CL: We must get control of operation and maintenance costs, which contribute more to increasing our water and sewer rates than our debt does.

I will pursue stream restoration credits to increase revenue for the utility fund.

Mayor Fraser has been recommending this for over a year now, but he has faced resistance from the majority on council.

I would implement policy to direct a percentage of our meals tax revenue to be applied to the utility fund.

Our town relies too much on costly consultants who fail to deliver answers acceptable to our citizens. I will work with a majority on the Town Council to

suggest solutions and innovations to move our town forward.

BRL: Do you support extending O Street through to Hatcher Avenue?

CL: No. I do not support extending O Street through to Hatcher Avenue. O Street currently dead-ends behind Magnolias. The only reason to extend this street is to accommodate the traffic that would be generated by the Vineyard Square project. This out-of-place plan is currently approved for a six-story building, along with commercial space on the ground floor and 40 condo units on 21st Street.

Extending O Street through to Hatcher Avenue would direct traffic from 21st Street through to Hatcher Avenue, which is already at capacity. This would not alleviate the traffic this ill-gotten development would produce.

I do not support saddling our town taxpayers with a bill of over \$4 million to accommodate a development project that should never have been approved in

the first place.

Plus, this would not fully address the traffic that 40 condominiums would generate.

Mayor Fraser was successful in removing the proposed extension of O Street as a town priority.

However, due to lack of a majority on town council at the time, this proposed road remains on the town’s outdated Transportation Plan. This plan must be updated, after updating the town’s

Zoning Ordinance. The removal of the O Street extension will be a top priority for me.

BRL: Why do you think you would be effective as a council member?

CL: I will be effective as a council member because I will use my 30 plus years as a Purcellville resident and business owner to advocate for both longterm residents and newcomers.

As a business owner in town, I will work on policy to streamline the process

across the board, for businesses to set up shop in Purcellville.

I see the trend of some council members, when elected, cast aside their campaign promises to keep Purcellville the small town everyone loves. We do not want to become Ashburn. There is a smart way to maintain the town we have all come to love.

Once elected, I will work diligently to collaborate with other council members to continue innovative and sound policies. I will reject, unlike my opponents, the culture of growing our way out of debt, which simply increases the demand for taxpayer funded services.

When voting for Stan Milan for Mayor, Ron Rise, Boo Bennett and me, Carol Luke, for Town Council you will be getting a team that will drive the best results for Purcellville citizens’ and a team that will not cater to special interests. There is always pressure from lobbyists, and you need a team with unwavering resolve that remembers that the citizens come first. We are that team.

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SUPERVISORS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

between plants and animals. Pesticides are poisoning our air and water and killing or maiming vast numbers of unintended targets ... These are issues we cannot afford to ignore or wish away.

"We," Bingol made clear, "is not the Commission, Board, County staff, or members of conservation groups. It is everyone who lives in, visits, and cares for Loudoun and its future.

"The critical nature of public engagement to accomplish our mission has been a hot topic for us," she added "Without the public, we know we'll fall short."

To ensure the greatest public participation possible, the Commission proposed that the Board elevate its ad hoc public engagement committee to a standing committee—the Joint Standing Committee on Public Engagement—equivalent to the Sustainable Energy Committee and the Natural Resources Committee.

It was a smart and timely move

In a resolution prepared by the Piedmont Environment Council, the Piedmont chapter of the Native Plant Society, and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, the organizations pressed the County—home of Data Center Alley—to set bolder goals for net-zero emissions and a carbon-free power grid.

According to Virginia League of Conservation Voters Deputy Director Lee Francis, "Loudoun, one of the state's fastest growing and most energy intensive counties, has an especially large role to play in cutting pollution, protecting green spaces, and ensuring a clean energy future."

The Commission's primary areas of work and its 17 initiatives addressed many of the nonprofits' concerns.

Five areas of focus are at the core of the Environmental Commission's overall plan:

Organized under the plan's five areas are 17 specific initiatives, such as the establishment of green banks, which are like regular banks except they have more access to public funding.

The Supervisors found other initiatives equally compelling:

- Improving the County landfill's methods for managing methane gas
- Setting higher insulation standards for homes, especially for attainable housing
- Electrifying the County fleet
- Educating County employees on best practices for limiting energy consumption (e.g., turning off the lights when you leave the room.)
- Following the lead of Loudoun County Public Schools by installing solar panels on County buildings and encouraging data centers and owners of other large structures to add solar panels to meet their energy needs

The Commission members, who teamed up with Marc Aveni and Ernie Brown of the County's General Services Department, set some key dates for 2023. The Environmental Excellence awards and the public forum will take place next spring.

The Commission will come back to the Board of Supervisors midsummer with its second annual report. Meanwhile, the team will return this fall to report on their progress on the energy programs.

The last issue raised in the July 27 meeting was, not surprisingly, funding. Members and staff believe the costs for the current work can be folded into the existing FY23 budget. Going forward, however, as projects get underway, Supervisors will have to determine how to incorporate costs in the County budget and obtain grant funding.

"All of these ideas are wonderful," said Board Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large). "If we were flush in money ... we could do this tomorrow." But she pointed out, "the Supervisors are looking ahead to a tough budget year.

"I do think that there's a lot we could do even in the short term," she went on. "I think Building and Development will be a department we need to talk to more."

Supervisor Mike Turner (D-Ashburn) brought up the potential for funding through the new federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. But he cautioned the Supervisors, Commission members, and County staff to stay the course on the zoning ordinance rewrite for now.

"Let's not get wrapped up in the excitement and the enthusiasm of this kind of a summit and immediately start asking the staff to do this and do this and do this and this. I just want to make sure everybody remembers my personal top priority—which I hope is everyone else's top priority: to get the zoning ordinance rewrite accomplished. So please keep that in mind as we go forward."

But when that huge undertaking is wrapped up, he added, "I look forward to working with you all."

Prior to acting on the Environment and Energy Work Plan, Randall and Vice Chair Koran T. Saines (D-Sterling) requested that the Commission take measures to ensure a diverse audience when planning public outreach and engagement.

Randall moved that the Board endorse the plan; Turner seconded it. The motion passed 6-0-3 with Supervisors Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), Caleb Kershner (R-Catoctin), and Matt Letourneau (R-Dulles) absent for the vote.

For more information about Loudoun's efforts on the environment, energy, and the work of the Environmental Commission, go to Loudoun.gov/environment.

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Elections are November 8 at Emerick and Mountain View

CANDIDATE: STINETTE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

each of us manage our own household budgets. We need to meet our commitments (debt), we need to provide for the basic essentials (core services), and we need to be wise with our discretionary spending (nice to have/do).

BRL: How would you keep water and sewer rates sustainable?

TS: Water and sewer rates are always a hot button topic, especially in an election season. We have two challenges to address. First and foremost, we need to service our debt. And hand in glove with that, we need to control escalating operational costs in a challenging economic environment.

As to how to do both, we need to meet our debt commitments, seek ways to pay off debt early, and work with our professional staff to ensure our operations are efficient and cost effective as possible.

BRL: Do you support extending O Street through to Hatcher Avenue?

TS: For me this is an easy question to answer, “no” I do not support extending O Street through to Hatcher Avenue. Think of the changes that have occurred in each of our lives over the last thirteen years because that

is how old our Transportation Plan is for Purcellville.

I am not in favor of adding another inch of asphalt to our roads until we update our Transportation Plan. It is said if a butterfly flaps its wings in the Amazonian rain forest, it can change the weather half a world away. Our town’s road structure is the same, a small change in one place can have a large impact across the town. We need to update our Town Transportation Plan.

BRL: Why do you think you would be effective as a council member?

TS: I invite your readers to examine my performance over the past four years. I think and hope they will find that I have been responsive, balanced, rational, and independent. If those characteristics resonate with you, then I’m your candidate!

I have been asked, why are you raising your hand for another term? And I had to think on that question for a moment, as the last four years have not always been easy.

That said, the answer to this question has never been far off for me. It comes down to paying forward the service of others of which I have enjoyed, while in the military, over the course of twenty moves to communities such as ours. No one said it would be easy, but for me the rewards of serving others are worth the toil.

CANDIDATE: RAYNER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

ER: I am very invested and engaged in our community. As President of Mountain View Elementary Parent Teacher Association, I focus on supporting our local families and teachers who work and live in our beautiful town.

I am active in many local non-profits, serving on the board of Virginia Regional Transport, a Purcellville non-profit. As the President of the Purcellville Business Association, I understand the pain points of our current business community, and I advocate for better and consistent business engagement in the town.

Purcellville just gave me the privilege of serving on council over the last 9 months. I have spent this time listening to town staff and citizens, learning about the issues we face, and advocating for solutions to problems within the town. I have been vocal on issues of wasted money, bad behavior, and bad policy. I want to be a part of the solution, not the problem.

My work here is just getting started, I will continue to work for all the citizens of our town and business owners. We deserve a town that has the small-town charm we love, is affordable to live in, and has a secure financial future.

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HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

and livestock production, forestry, farm markets, orchards, vineyards, all supported by veterinarians, farriers, coopers, smiths, cabinetmakers, candlemakers and so on.

Lord Fairfax's vision of a thriving rural community – farms and supporting business – came to pass and it did so naturally, without commissions, boards, committees.

OPINION**Why Not?**

Why not change the membership of the County's pro-business committees to include only citizens-at-large? Forget the "stakeholder" idea that lets business

people dominate advisory boards and push their economic self-interest.

Under current zoning many businesses can simply open shop on a by-right basis, with no case-by-case evaluation for appropriateness. That's even dumber than drinking chocolate milk at every breakfast, so enact a zoning requirement that any proposed commercial use in western Loudoun go through the special exception process for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Charles Houston developed more than six million square feet of office buildings throughout the south. More importantly, he has been active in conservation matters for over two decades.

LCSO, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

- Use hand signals when turning.
- Wear bright-colored clothing

Bus Riders

- Parents: Teach children the proper way to get on and off the bus. Line up 6 feet away from the curb as the bus approaches.
- If seat belts are available, buckle up.
- Wait for the bus to stop completely before standing.
- Do not cross in front of the bus if possible or walk at least 10 feet ahead until you can see the other drivers.

Drivers, Share the Road

- Don't block crosswalks.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and take extra care in school zones. Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Never pass a bus loading or unloading children.
- The area 10 feet surrounding a school bus is the most dangerous for children. Provide sufficient space to allow children to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Don't text and drive.
- Comply with speed limit signs when in school zones.

LOUDOUN SEEKS INPUT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

the proposed change and submit a comment, visit loudoun.gov/transitequity.

Loudoun County Transit follows Title VI guidelines issued by the Federal Transit Administration for managing its public transportation program and transit services.

Title VI is a federal statute based on the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI provides that no one in the United States will – on the grounds of race, color, or national origin – be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiv-

ing federal financial assistance.

The Federal Transit Administration includes considerations in the Title VI Program for low-income households and persons who have a limited ability

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

reading – that, as popular as the annual Emancipation Day became (reportedly drawing thousands of attendees for a gathering of fellowship, celebration and various activities), the allure had worn off during another turbulent time in our country's history – the decade of the 1960's.

But, I'm reminded that this "Day of Freedom" was celebrated across our nation – usually on September 22, to mark the date of the Proclamation – for many years, by countless individuals. The land that formerly made up the Emancipation Grounds in Purcellville still lies in the exact same place, marked by the sign from the Virginia Department of Historic

Resources since the Year 2000.

And, despite the continued turbulence experienced by our Nation, I see a continuation, and an extension, of the mission and the work laid out by the Loudoun County Emancipation Association – as well as its brother – and sister – groups across the land.

And, how do I feel about all of this? Well, I'm just a local writer – I'm not often afforded the luxury of giving in to my emotions.

Perhaps more importantly, how do you feel?

As for me, I think my visit to this local spot has now officially become an annual thing. Sort of a commemoration – even a celebration.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Americans pay their fair share in taxes, without increasing taxes on small businesses or families making less than \$400,000 a year.

The law also provides funding to modernize Internal Revenue Service systems and improve customer service when paying taxes. This will help ensure the IRS has the resources it needs to process tax returns quickly, get rebates to taxpayers faster, and address challenges Americans have when filing taxes.

LETTER: SAY YES TO HUNG CAO, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

protect us.

Does it seem right that there should be two standards of justice, one for elites and the politically connected, and another standard for the rest of us?

Is it okay that our country, sitting on some of the world's greatest energy reserves, should have to beg Saudi Arabia and Venezuela to produce more oil?

Should we be satisfied with massive failure in Afghanistan and the utter lack of statesmanship in Ukraine?

If yes, then keep things the way they are in this election.

If no, then vote for change and vote for Hung Cao, a true patriot, a true problem solver, a family man, a retired Naval Captain who came to America as a child refugee when his parents fled Vietnam. A man who has devoted his life to serving the country that welcomed him after fleeing communism.

Say no to Biden-Wexton. Say yes to change. Say yes to Cao!

*Scott Pio
Chairman, Loudoun County
Republican Committee*

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

increase their buy-in and further foster their agency and independence.

Regarding organization, I recommend you break the day down into two parts – a morning routine and an afternoon/evening routine during the school week—where they have specific responsibilities for themselves.

At 17 and 12, independently getting up and ready, having breakfast, making lunch, getting their backpacks together are a few morning routine items to consider. For the afternoon/evening routine, getting outdoors and/or socializing with friends, being part of an activity, getting homework done, eating dinner as a family are a some of the things to consider.

Every family is unique, but research has consistently shown that children benefit from structure, and from being involved in sports and/or after school enrichment activities. Students who are more engaged in these ways tend to have higher GPAs and do better later in life.

The best ideas typically don't amount to much without a game plan and follow-through. Thus, implementing some form of structure to drive consistency and accountability will be helpful. I'm a huge fan of visual aids, and research supports that kids do better when they have a visual guide, or roadmap with near-and long-term goals.

You could white board their routines, however, at these ages, I'd recommend using an on-line calendar. With on-line calendars, your kids can color code their responsibilities, and even set reminders to make sure

they're getting things done on time.

I recommend you take the dinner before dessert, approach to leisure time with technology. Just as you wouldn't allow your kids to eat a bowl of ice-cream before finishing their spaghetti and meatballs, the fun they enjoy with screens should occur after they complete their work.

As long as you are reasonable and consistent with your expectations, things should improve. You might share the control with them on how they manage balanced screen time.

Also, if after a reasonable period of time your kids are still struggling with their academics and schooling, I recommend that you reach out to their teachers to discuss additional steps.

Perhaps your kids have learning struggles that are not within their control; thus, they may benefit from tutoring or from working more closely with their teachers in certain subject areas, or they may benefit from private educational or psychological testing to see if there is a larger issue.

Children and teens with learning disorders, ADD/ADHD or emotional problems struggle more than their peers academically, and often these sorts of problems can go undetected by parents and teachers for years.

I hope these tips are helpful and I'm hopeful that with increased involvement, structure and accountability your kids' will have a great school year.

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.

to read, write, speak or understand English.

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Lovettsville Sold

"Sam did a marvelous job for us in our recent home sale, from video production, marketing, and supporting us every step of the way."

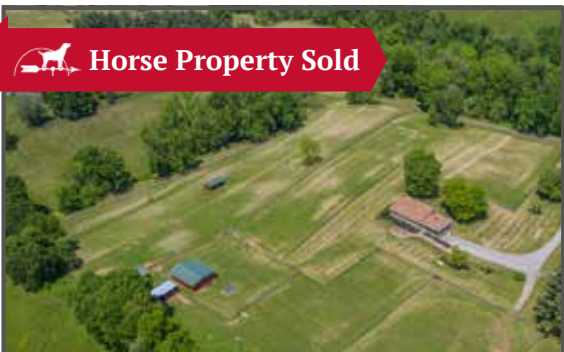
Just Sold Lovettsville- 13.9 acres, listed for \$1,495,000.



Beacon Hill Sold

"Sam guided us on the right type of improvements needed for our home, including staging, and helped us price our one of a kind home in a changing market."

Sold Beacon Hill/Waterford- 3 minutes from Historic Leesburg. Listed for \$1,450,000.



Horse Property Sold

Sold Lovettsville- 10 acre Horse Property with main level living, barn, stream! \$810,000.



Get ringside exposure! Our horse properties are marketed by Sam in person at Horse Shows up and down the East Coast.



Purcellville Country Home

"Sam provided detailed guidance on pricing and timing of our listing, all which turned out to be accurate."

Sold Suffolk Ln, Hillsboro. 3 acres, gorgeous views, main floor living. Listed for \$879,900.

Do you have a match for our relocation buyer? Single Family home no more than a 20 minute commute to downtown Leesburg. Quiet setting on 1 plus acres that allows chickens. Mother in law suite or Main Floor bedroom- 850K range. Early 2023 move in date.



Curt Schaber
Realtor®
Phone: 703-338-7300
schabercurt@yahoo.com



Sam Fisher
Principal Broker,
Realtor®
703-408-4261
onthemarketwithsam@gmail.com



Marci Huber
Realtor®
Phone: 803-920-0213
marci.huber@outlook.com

On The Market Properties | Address: 107 E Main St, Suite 1A, Purcellville, VA 20132 | Licensed in the Commonwealth of VA



@onthemarketloudoun



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