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DOWN Today



“There was more of a confusion than a problem”

– Purcellville Town Attorney Sally Hankins

BY VALERIE CURY

In preparation for the construction of the 690/Rt.7 Interchange, the County and the Town of Purcellville did not follow the proper Town Zoning Ordinance procedures.

As a result, Catoctin Meadows Lot 74 has been removed from the Catoctin Meadows Deed of Dedication – effectively

extinguishing the lot from public records, giving it to VDOT, and making it a public street use Right of Way.

Neither the Purcellville Town Council nor its Planning Commission were aware of this action, taken unilaterally by members of the Town’s senior management team. They bypassed public hearings required by the Planning Commission, who vote and make recommendations to the Town Council whether to approve or disapprove such an extensive zoning change within the Town of Purcellville.

In essence there was a direct violation of the Town Zoning Ordinance provisions found within Article 10 Section 1-3, which eliminated the public process.

On October 16, 2018, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors became a voting member of Catoctin Meadows Homeowners Association with their purchase of lot 74, located at 691 North 21st Street in Purcellville.

Nearly four years after this purchase of Lot 74, on July 12, 2022, the Town of Purcellville Director of Planning and Economic Development, Don Dooley, approved the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Land Development Application ESMT-20-05 plat. It showed a Dedication of Right of Way and further indicated “The Entity of Lot 74-Phase 2 Catoctin Meadows Pin number 522-10-8098 is Hereby Dedicated for Public Street Purposes, Thereby Extinguishing such lot.”

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

That same day in July, County Administrator Tim Hemstreet and Senior Assistant County Attorney John Sherwood Jr. signed a Recordation Deed of Dedication completing the zoning change from “residential” to a Right of Way. This extinguished Lot 74 from the Catoctin Meadows Subdivision and the Town of Purcellville, altering town boundary lines and gifting the 0.6-acre property to VDOT for the 690 /Rt.7 Interchange.

At the Nov. 2 Town Council Special

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To read about Philomont Fire Station update go to page 10. Loudoun Heights station replacing Neersville Station in the area known as Between the Hills. Station incorporates existing house next door.

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A Christmas Story Q&A

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Surely by now you’ve heard the good news: The boy in the bunny suit is back.

Peter Billingsley, the original Ralphie Parker of *A Christmas Story*, is 39 years older with a spouse, two kids, and a mother he hasn’t seen in quite a while. *A Christmas Story Christmas* brings much of the first film back to life and up to date. Even the critics on Rotten Tomatoes have given it a favorable 76 percent.

It scored higher with audiences: 81 percent.

The new film was produced by Billingsley and producer/actor Vince Vaughn, with many of the first film’s cast reappearing in their original roles.

But it’s fair to say that as delightful as the new work may be, the 1983 film most likely will be the one that lives on in our collective memory.

However, if your memory has dimmed

a bit, let us offer you *A Christmas Story* Quiz. The answers are below. No fair checking them out first.

Quiz questions:

1. What did Ralphie want more than anything for Christmas?
2. What warning did his Mother and Santa give him?

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Heritage's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*

BY JACK CAPOBIANCO, A CAPPIES REVIEW

The night grew darker and darker as a wicked figure appeared from the thick forest with only the deep red glow of eyes piercing through the empty branches, during the dead of the night. The stars seemed to sink deeper in the sky as Major André's tree creaked in the howling wind while it watched over the haunted town of Sleepy Hollow.

The ghostly production of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* was elevated to a new level by Heritage High School. Set in the 1800s in the state of New York was the quiet village of Sleepy Hollow. Mysterious stories and strange hauntings surrounded the townspeople for many years. Ichabod Crane was a new school-teacher to the town, unaware of the power held by a mighty headless Hessian.

Ichabod Crane vies for the hand of the beautiful Katrina Van Tassel, but it was ultimately the Horseman who will decide Ichabod's destiny.

The play was originally commissioned and produced by the Jon Hassler Theater in 2010, under the direction of Jon Ferguson. *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* was originally written by Washington Irving in 1820 but was later adapted by John Heimbuch and Jon Ferguson in 2010. The show ran 90 minutes long with

special use of puppetry in a period piece.

The characters were beautifully and historically portrayed with high skill and professional quality. A performer that had an outstanding performance was Neve Holloway, who played Katrina Van Tassel.

Holloway stole the show with her gracious stage presence and portraying the contrast of her innocence compared to the evils of the town. Not only could Holloway act, she also had a beautiful voice that embodied the strong and perfect character.

A performer that had an intensive track was Mia Sirinsky who played many roles such as Geoffrey Crayon, the Skeleton, and even a Sleepy Hollow Boy. Sirinsky set the mood of the start of the show with her unsettling monologue as Geoffrey Crayon. From there, Sirinsky appeared in the show many times by moving set pieces and working as a strong ensemble member.

Heritage High School's technical design and production were done with creative designers who showed significant attention to detail. Every technical area worked hard to create a seamless and stunning production.

A technical element that stood out the

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BRMS students visit Mobile Hope's *Graffiti and Silk* Thrift Store

Students from Blue Ridge Middle School visited a new thrift store, Mobile Hope's *Graffiti and Silk*, in Purcellville. Mobile Hope is an independent 501(c)3 organization missioned to serve homeless and at-risk youth up to age 24, and they recently opened a thrift store, *Graffiti and Silk* – located at 860 E Main Street in Purcellville.

In addition to selling second-hand clothing and household items, they have a much larger goal. The vision of *Graffiti and Silk* (<https://mobile-hope.org/graffiti-silk>) is to help reduce the amount of clothing that goes to a landfill by reselling, upcycling, or even redesigning clothing into something new.

Holly Myers, Blue Ridge Middle School's Family and Consumer Science Teacher and Consumer and Technical Education Department Chair connected *Graffiti and Silk's* vision to many of her students' course competency requirements.

After the official opening of *Graffiti and*



Students show off their toiletry wraps, t-shirt pillows and repaired denim!

Silk, Holly Myers used walking field trips to the new establishment in Purcellville for an authentic, engaging and relevant learning experience.

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Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth: Newvalley Church Road Farm Site

BY TIM JON

One of the coolest toys I got to enjoy as a kid was a farm set; it came in a box from Sears Roebuck and had pretty much everything I could imagine (as a five- or six-year-old) one would need to get set up in the agricultural business: a two-story barn, of course, tractor, fencing, a few strands of corn, a variety of animals (even some chickens, as I recall), and a hand-cranking bale elevator – with little bundles of hay to load into the barn loft.



Oh, to give me a couple of hours, a clear flat surface, I was content to farm away the afternoon. Or so my memory tells me.

Now, some 10 years later, when I got

to help out on my Uncle Carl's real, honest-to-goodness working farm, just north of our town, I learned about some of the difficult realities of this business: pulling weeds by hand in the fields of soybeans – and, yes this meant walking the entire acreage – covering two, four or six rows in one pass, driving a tractor – worth as much as many people's homes, and remembering to take the emergency brake off, and my most vivid memories of mowing, raking, baling and loading hay.

And what, really, is this substance? To my uncle it generally meant alfalfa – a valuable crop rich in nutrients as feed for his herd of prize milk cows. These bales usually weighed about 60 pounds.



If I remember correctly, a five-hundred-bale day was considered a good day's work for the two of us. Or maybe it was a thousand. It felt like millions. He also had a few smaller fields of what he called 'wild hay' which was easier to

harvest (less, and lighter bales).

My introductory instructions here included: always wear leather gloves and a long-sleeve shirt (the baling twine is incredibly rough, and the hay itself is indescribably itchy – especially on a hot, humid Southern Minnesota afternoon.

All these memories and many more returned as I surveyed an abandoned farm site north of Leesburg on a recent field trip.

Virtually all the pieces from my original farm set were there, except the animals, of course: the now-empty, two-story barn, with – to my delight – an antique hay elevator still standing in place to load bales up to the second

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

How to talk to your children about the UVA shooting

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

As a child psychologist, I mainly address the developmental, emotional, social, and behavioral struggles of children, but sometimes the realities of the world enter the therapy space – events that are outside a child's control and are upsetting. The recent tragic shooting at the University of Virginia has been upsetting to so many children and parents in our community.



Several of the teens I see have shared their concerns with me asserting, "I was going to apply to UVA next year," and "Do you think that could happen at Mason?" and "If UVA isn't safe, where is it safe?" and "My best friend is there, and she came home." Even a few of my middle school students have expressed upset

over the shooting, one of whom bravely declared, "My teacher is very strong, and we've practiced the safety drill, so we're ready."

Although my sampling is small as a clinician in private practice, UVA is only a few hours away from Northern Virginia, and its close proximity makes it all the more real. I imagine that there are a number of children throughout Virginia, especially those closer to Charlottesville, who are also very upset about what just occurred.

So, what's the best approach to this sort of moment as a parent? While some parents will want to overprotect their child from upsetting events like this, others may feel that their child should know as much as possible about what's happened. Every family is unique, and I offer the following 4 tips to consider

when speaking to your child about the UVA shooting:

1. Check your anxiety level before talking to your children about the shooting. Children can be very perceptive to how their parents are feeling, so make sure you are calm, reassuring, and confident when you choose to discuss upsetting topics like this with them. Demonstrating to your children your willingness to talk about the shooting openly, and your interest in their thoughts and feelings on the topic, should serve to support them to address their concerns, fears, and questions with you.

2. Consider your audience. Regardless of the concerning or upsetting information we as parents receive via the media, we must always be mindful of what our children are capable of handling before discussing things.

Your child's age, maturity level and threshold for worry/anxiety are all things to consider before discussing the UVA shooting. Just as you would not discuss tragic natural disasters or death in the same way with four, nine, or 18-year-old children because of developmental differences, you would not do the same for this topic with your children of varying ages.

Parents should shield children five and younger altogether from complex and upsetting topics. Parents should also alert older siblings to watch what they say around their younger brothers or sisters.

3. Teach your children about the shooting and listen well. By educating your children about school shootings, they will understand things better, which in

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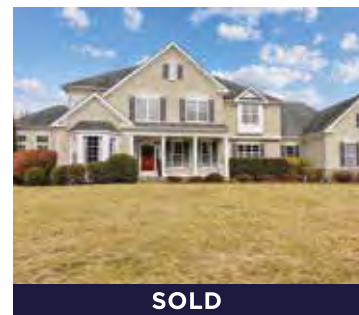
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The Tallest Building in America

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Years ago, I was a young project manager for a major Atlanta developer and one day was invited to join the partners' meeting to report on my first big project. I kept it short: The infrastructure was almost finished, the first six-story building was halfway complete. That project is now UPS's world headquarters.

Feeling cocky, I tossed out an idea to the partners: "Let's develop the tallest building in the America." My logic was sound. There was a great site in Atlanta where two interstates met, two television stations and a radio studio were in the area and could take many floors. So would a major corporation. Add several floors of retail, dedicate twenty floors for a hotel, plus around thirty floors of office space to lease. Finally build twenty floors of fancy residences. Top it off with an antenna spire and it would easily be a thousand feet tall.

The chairman wasn't thrilled, "Are you out of your mind?"

I had failed to socialize the idea. I should have convinced my boss first, then with him, approached the five partners individually. In other words, carefully pre-sell the concept. Instead, I blithely assumed that they would immediately grasp my brilliance. I was wrong.

A ZOC Alliance That Never Happened

The Zoning Ordinance Committee frustrated me. Members from western Loudoun made up about a third of the committee. Business interests held another third. The last third of ZOC members were presumably neutral. I had learned from my long-ago mistake in Atlanta and so I envisioned small meetings for us westerners to coordinate strategy. Instead, I got a quick "You can't do that!" from the County, citing the state's Open Meetings law, which forbids any meeting of three or more people unless the meeting was posted and open to the public.

The lack of coordination hamstrung efforts to get ZOC to endorse western goals.

Anti-populism on ZOC

I've written about populism – that government belongs to the people. I knew that business members would be busy little beavers in trying to block protective measures for the west. The key would then be the remaining third group of members who were not from the business world and also were not conservationists.

I expected these folks to chime in on every question, including those that would affect only the west. I generally

recused myself from matters affecting the suburban and transition areas, with the hope that the west would get reciprocal recusals from members from those planning areas. In other words, please abstain on western Loudoun questions.

That request was ignored as most "neutral" members rarely seemed sympathetic to western Loudoun.

Trees vs. Forest

Given the length and complexity of the zoning ordinance, a ZOC member could have made thousands of comments. Actually, it seemed that one member did just that. I took a different approach and focused on the forest. Moreover, people usually can follow only a few points at a time.

I made three major requests: Protect our mountains. Reduce the size of cluster lots and thereby save thousands of acres from development. Designate intense uses (e.g., breweries, event centers) that would no longer be available to promoters on a by-right basis. Under this third concept, these uses would require review and special exceptions from the Board of Supervisors.

Failure

I didn't effectively socialize these ideas, and was thwarted by the Open Meetings law from coordinating with fellow westerners. Later, I was shocked when the representative of a conservation group voted against my motion for additional scrutiny of intense uses. That was dispiriting; I became fatalistic.

Staff Bakes the Zoning Cake

Permanent bureaucracies effectively control governments; they outlast the terms of elected officials. That's a truism with every government, including Loudoun. Here, Planning and Zoning staff controls the zoning rewrite. It writes the suggested text and can perhaps influence the supervisors, who have the final say.

Loudoun's planners are nice people with good intentions. They have been diligent in getting input from many sources – the Zoning Ordinance Committee, ordinary citizens, special interest business cabals, and perhaps from supervisors' offices.

Staff looks at all those comments and decides which, if any, it will bake into its zoning cake. Ultimately Staff produces a new zoning text. It has listened to all the ingredients – all the various comments – but the new text will be only what Staff itself thinks is best.

Staff Proposes Something Good

Staff has recommended that the maximum size of cluster lots be reduced from four acres to two. This is huge. It will make it easy to protect prime farmland soils. More importantly, it should save some 20,000 acres from the bulldozers while not changing land values or the economics of conservation easements. It's a major win-win idea.

That idea was paired with a recommendation to preserve 70 percent of prime agricultural soils. Support, but also controversy, was in full cry at the Planning Commission's public hearing on November 14. As expected, people's

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Please include your name, address and phone number.

We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary.
Deadline for print edition is the third week
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Protect our mountain resources from over-development

Dear Editor:

The current Loudoun Zoning Ordinance does not adequately protect our mountain resources from over-development.

Following careful analysis of the draft ordinance, which was circulated for public comment in the spring/summer of 2022, we have four major concerns:

Inadequate Definition – The definition of the Mountain Overlay District (MOD) must be broadened to include the whole contiguous mountain area, from base to summit.

Too Many Permitted Uses – Many of the permitted uses could cause significant parking, noise, lighting, and waste disposal issues in sensitive mountain environments. It is especially important that such negative impacts are considered when determining "by right" uses.

Development and Performance Standards – Additional environmental standards or considerations are needed to evaluate proposed development in the mountains and protect their natural resources.

Zoning Enforcement – The established processes for enforcing the zoning ordinance in the mountains are weak and penalties for violations substandard. The penalties associated

with violating the zoning ordinance should be sufficient to act as a deterrent. Furthermore, in cases of serious environmental damage the violator must be required to return the land to its original condition (prior to the violation).

During the public review process that concluded on July 18, 2022, our organizations and members, as well as many independent Loudoun County residents, submitted detailed comments echoing these concerns through the formal comment process established by the County.

With this letter we want to again reiterate our concerns and express our strong hope that the next version of the Zoning Ordinance will provide adequate zoning protections for our irreplaceable natural assets. Also, many thanks to the Loudoun Board of Supervisors and County staff for their continued work on this challenging and lengthy rewrite process.

— Peter Weeks

President, *Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC)*,
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It's time to care about the new zoning ordinances for western Loudoun

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Who wants to read about zoning during the holiday season when you could be online or in the stores increasing the balance on your credit card?

If that's a subject you don't want to dive into right now, it's a good idea to be ready for January and what's on the County docket in the next six months.

That's because the County staff are homing in on the three areas that will impact the lives and livelihoods of western Loudouners: prime soils, cluster developments, and property uses.

If you're a developer, realtor, or builder; a landowner, conservationist, or farmer who needs open, productive fields to grow corn for the herd of cattle; if you're a budding brewer or vintner eager to start planting vines; if you own a rambling house with guest quarters that would make for a delightful inn or short-term rentals, the zoning ordinances may map your future.

Here's how zoning ordinances could factor into your plans.

Let's say that after months of examining every existing County zoning

ordinance that has governed the size, location, and formation of housing developments, the County passes a zoning ordinance that limits your development options.

For example, if the Board of Supervisors should approve an ordinance that requires 70 percent of farmland to contain prime soils, that leaves 30 percent available for houses, wells, septic systems, community open space, roads, and driveways.

Should the Board increase the prime soils requirement to 80 percent as supporters of the County's agricultural heritage and economy, developers will find they have greater limitations on "clusters"

That means a developer can put only as many houses on a parcel as the prime soils and cluster zoning ordinances allow.

Early in 2023, the zoning rewrite process will move through the more controversial ordinances—those focused on prime soils, clusters, and property uses, including short-term rentals. For example, can you turn your home into an inn,

convert your barn into a wedding venue, build a special events center, open a tasting room at your winery, or build a brewery? The zoning ordinances will—or won't—give you the go-ahead.

With the release of the staff report that has been in the works for nearly two years, we will learn whether western Loudoun will remain rural or be "Fairfaxed."

On the Loudoun County government website, you can find a backgrounder that explains zoning ordinances and why and how the existing ones—in place since 2001—are being revisited and rewritten with input from the Board of Supervisors, advisory bodies, various departments, community and professional groups.

As Loudoun County staff has worked on the ordinance drafts, they have been required to keep Supervisors and stakeholders up to date, increasing their already onerous workload.

Maura Walsh-Copeland, a management consultant and co-founder of the Hillsboro Preservation Foundation, stepped in to help by providing in-depth

information and process tracking. Bringing her 30 years of business management and consulting experience to the zoning rewrite, she has provided invaluable support.

She also has given the zoning rewrite participants that high-level perspective that has kept participants informed and moving forward. For example, in recent comments at a Board of Supervisors meeting, she laid out the impact of "recombination," which allows parcels under common ownership to be recombined to apply for clustering.

Walsh-Copeland also explained to County staff, stakeholders, and diverse communities how their input and decisions on prime soils, clusters, and short-term rentals will converge into one overarching zoning ordinance.

With so much at stake for Loudoun families, farmers, realtors, builders, developers, conservationists, brewers, wineries—the list is endless—Walsh-Copeland offers a fundamental challenge: "The most important global point is that 'doing nothing'—leaving cluster zoning exactly as is—is not an option."



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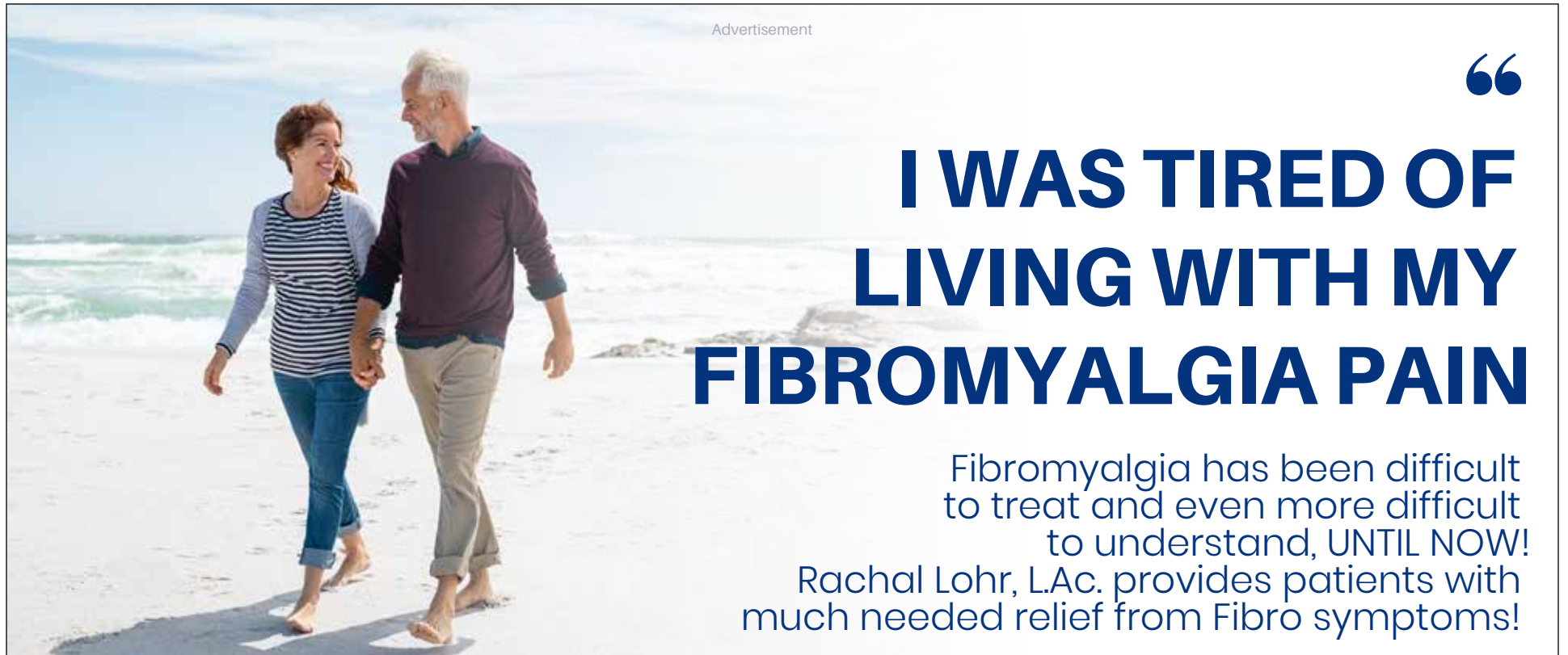
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Rachal Lohr, L.Ac. provides patients with much needed relief from Fibro symptoms!

If you're suffering from Fibromyalgia you understand this sentiment all too well. Local resident Elyse K. found herself at a turning point when she noticed her diagnosis had started to take a toll on her marriage.

"I was angry all the time because of all the things I couldn't do anymore because of my Fibromyalgia. That anger cycled through to depression and affected everyone around me, my husband more than anyone. It made our lives miserable."

Fibromyalgia affects the entire body. To make things complicated it affects everyone's body a little differently. To make things even more complicated, those effects can change on a daily basis. Some times you're plagued with wide-spread muscle pain and fatigue, and other days it's a headache and heightened sensitivity to touch.

"I could barely stand to have the light weight of bedsheets touching me, much less a hug from my husband." explains Elyse.

This is what it's like to suffer from Fibromyalgia. Symptoms make everyday life incredibly difficult. Mundane, daily tasks are nearly impossible.

And too often, these symptoms are only made worse because practitioners find it difficult to understand and even more troublesome to treat. It's characterized by widespread pain in muscles, and tissues rather than inflammation of the joints, muscles and tissues.

Then your primary care doctors suggest dietary changes, pain liniments and, pharmaceuticals to the point where your life is no longer ruled by Fibromyalgia. It's now ruled by a difficult routine and pill regimen in order to avoid flare ups.

Elyse put it this way, "My life was no longer my own."

Eventually Elyse did her own research and discovered that acupuncture can improve the quality of life in Fibro patients. Determined to find the best in the business, she discovered FIREFLY Acupuncture & Wellness lead by Rachal Lohr, L.Ac.

Rachal has been successfully treating difficult to manage, chronic pain cases for over fifteen years. She uses the time tested science of acupuncture integrated with modern medical advancements in healing and recovery.

Acupuncture is a form of Chinese medicine that is commonly used to reduce various forms of pain. It works by reducing inflammation, stimulating the release of endorphins and offers much needed, effective symptom relief for Fibromyalgia. Then Rachal skillfully layers other non invasive therapies like ATP Resonance BioTherapy™ and other natural therapies for amplified, long-lasting results.

"I feel like a new person. My husband comes with me to my appointments. He spends most of it thanking Rachal for giving him back the woman he married. For the first time since we moved here, one of my neighbors told me I looked good! It's a miracle she treated my Fibro, I don't know how else to explain it."

If you're looking for a practitioner and a clinic who understands your diagnosis and has a proven solution for chronic pain, look no further than FIREFLY. Elyse describes FIREFLY almost as enthusiastically as she does their treatments. "I love it here!"

Rachal Lohr, L.Ac. is now accepting new patients and offering \$40 consultations, but only for a limited time.

So call (703)263-2142 now to schedule a consultation.

Visit FIREFLYAcuAndWellness.com to learn more and to take advantage of their New Patient Offer!

A Philomont Fire Station: What's too big, too costly or just right?

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Last fall, two visions for a Philomont Fire Station came under the consideration of Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System and Chief Keith Johnson. At the same time, Philomont village community members as well as preservation and conservation organizations proposed an alternative. They envisioned a more modest looking station that centered on the renovation and facility upgrades of the existing station at the main village crossroads.

However, the County gave the go-ahead for a feasibility study to be conducted by LeMay Erickson Willcox (LEW), the firm that designed the award-winning expansion and renovation of the Middleburg Fire and Rescue station.

LEW was provided with specifications by LC-CFRS. The Philomont group expected their lower cost renovation-expansion concept would be given equal consideration. The concept and costs shared by LC-CFRS with the Board of

Supervisors had all of a sudden escalated beyond the costs for the new facility on the seven acres in a different location.

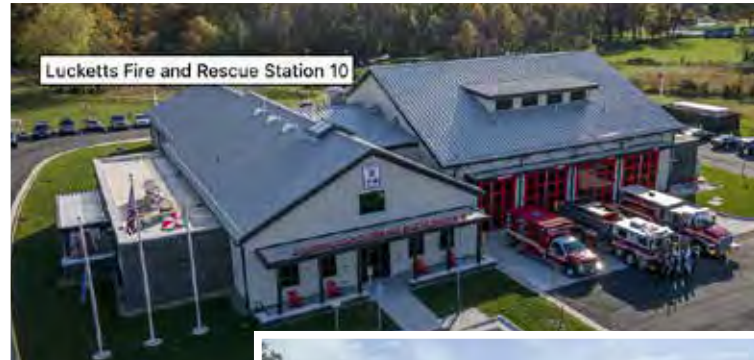
How did that happen? They wondered. The consultants had incorporated additional time and cost to the Philomont proposal for construction of a temporary facility to handle operations of fire and emergency services during renovation and new construction.

Adding a temporary facility to the Philomont plan increased the budget to \$26.9 million; while tearing down and building a new station on the same spot would cost an estimated \$27.8 million.

The supervisors gave LC-CFRS the go-ahead for the design phase of its all-new building on the old horse show grounds. The resulting LC-CFRS design is set for an unveiling and community comment at a gathering at Franklin Park in Purcellville on Dec 8, from 6-7 p.m.

But the Philomont residents have never given up on their vision—to keep the station in the heart of the village.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »



Lucketts Fire and Rescue in village.

Middleburg Fire and Rescue – Award-winning station designed by LeMay Erickson Willcox in collaboration with Loudoun County.



Round Hill: Expansion on existing site in middle of town.



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Dulles Toll Road rates will rise in 2023

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority board of directors voted Nov. 16 to increase rates for two-axle vehicles on the Dulles Toll Road from the current \$3.25 to \$4.00 at the main toll plaza and from \$1.50 to \$2.00 on ramps.

GOVERNMENT

The increase, which has been discussed at previous board meetings, becomes effective Jan. 1, 2023.

Another vote Wednesday authorized an administrative fee to recover the costs of pay-by-plate transactions, as the toll road prepares to go cashless in 2023.

Rates on the Dulles Toll Road have not increased since Jan. 1, 2019. Toll revenue follows a long-standing plan of finance to fund highway operating and maintenance costs plus a portion of construction costs for Metrorail's Silver Line, which began service to Dulles International Airport on Nov. 15.

Funding of the Metrorail project is governed by an agreement between the Airports Authority and partners in Fairfax and Loudoun counties, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the federal government.

Public hearings on the proposed toll increase and administrative fee were held in July. Debt management and refinancing have kept toll rates lower through the years than original projections.

A \$250 million increase of the rail project's budget approved in July 2022 is unrelated to the toll-setting process and is not forecast to impact toll rates. Based on the current portfolio of toll road revenue bonds, debt service obligations are projected through 2058, with modest toll rate increases expected every five years.

There are several convenient options for motorists to pay tolls along the Dulles Toll Road:

- E-ZPass is the preferred form of toll payment, accounting for about 98 percent of Dulles Toll Road transactions. It is also accepted at many other toll facilities around the country.
- Toll road drivers without E-ZPass can visit tollroadsinvirginia.com, operated by the Virginia Department of Transportation, to pay a toll before or after receiving an invoice.
- Smartphone applications from private companies offer another way to pay. Examples include EZ Tolls VA, GoToll, Slora, Uproad and Peasy. Users can expect to incur fees set by the companies in addition to toll payment.

In the first quarter of 2023, a pay-by-plate collection system will join the options listed above. Coins will no longer be accepted, and coin baskets will be deactivated.

Motorists who don't pay tolls electronically will be identified by their vehicle license plate and receive an invoice to their registered address.

The Nov. 16 board vote authorizes an administrative fee that will initially be set at \$1.60 per transaction to cover the cost of preparing and sending invoices to pay-by-plate customers.

In April 2020, manual toll collection ended on the Dulles Toll Road in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans for a phased removal of toll booths at 59 existing toll lanes will be explored in the coming months.

Eliminating toll booths is expected to speed traffic flow and benefit the environment by reducing emissions that would have been produced by vehicles waiting in toll-booth lines.

Leesburg Holiday Tree Ceremony scheduled for Dec. 2

The Town of Leesburg will hold this year's holiday tree lighting ceremony on the Town Green, 25 W Market Street, on Friday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.

The event will feature holiday music from the Lost Locals, holiday character for great photo opportunities, and a special message from Mayor Kelly Burk.

During the event, W. Market Street



will be closed from Wirt to King streets. Traffic exiting the Town Hall parking garage will be allowed to go east on W. Market Street or exit on Loudoun Street.

This event is free and open to the public. It will also be broadcasted live on the Town's Facebook page. For more information and updates, visit www.leesburgva.gov/holidaysinleesburg.

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Metro launches Silver Line Extension with opening ceremony

On Nov. 15, Metro celebrated the opening of the Silver Line Extension, connecting customers to six new stations, adding 11.4 miles of track to the Metrorail system, and beginning operations at a modern rail maintenance facility.

The Silver Line Extension gives customers a new connection to Washington Dulles International Airport and new service between Reston, and eastern Loudoun County. Today's grand opening also marks the completion of the Silver Line project, a generational infrastructure investment in Northern Virginia.

Metro General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke was joined by U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and other federal, state, and local officials for the grand opening ceremony at Washington Dulles International Airport Station.

The event was followed by an inaugural train ride with nearly 100 customers who shared their happiest Metro memories to receive a "Silver Ticket" for the special preview train ride.

Customers were greeted at the six new rail stations and commemorative pennants were distributed on opening day. The first Silver Line passenger train left Ashburn Station at approximately 2 p.m., headed eastbound to Downtown Largo Station in Prince George's County, MD.

The first stops served the Extension's six new stations – Ashburn, Loudoun Gateway, Washington Dulles International Airport, Innovation Center, Herndon, and Reston Town Center. With the Silver Line Extension opening, Metrorail now serves 97 stations on a 128-mile system in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

As one of the largest capital construction projects in the United States, the Silver Line provides high-quality, high-capacity transit service between the Dulles corridor and Downtown D.C.; expands the reach of the existing regional rail system; offers a viable alternative to automobile travel; and supports future development.

Approximately 500 people attended Grand Opening event, with remarks from U. S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Chief Executive Officer Jack Potter; U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine; U.S. Representatives Gerry Connolly, Don Beyer and Jennifer Wexton; Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay; Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall, and Loudoun County Board Member Matt Letourneau, who also serves on the Metro Board of Directors.

For additional information about riding the Silver Line go to wmata.com/silverline.

More from federal, state and local leaders on the grand opening of the

Silver Line Extension:

"The Silver Line extension is going to make life more affordable, give people better access to jobs throughout the region, reduce the time that drivers sit in traffic on our roads, and provide a level of convenience getting to Dulles Airport that has been a long time coming. One year after President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are improving transportation systems across the country to save time and money for commuters." - U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg.

"The Silver Line extension is going to open up more economic opportunities for Virginia. The construction of the Silver Line to Reston made the Dulles Corridor one of the fastest-growing business areas in the country, attracting millions of square feet of office space, retail, and residential properties. The expansion to Dulles and Loudoun County will build on that success and make Virginia even more competitive for business." - Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin.

"I am thrilled that the long-awaited Silver Line expansion to Dulles Airport is finally open. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, direct service to one of our region's major airports will play a key role in ensuring Virginians have access to safe, affordable, and convenient travel. I am glad that Sen. Kaine and I were able to facilitate this deal between WMATA, the Metro Safety Commission, and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority." - U.S. Senator Mark R. Warner

"I've worked toward this day for the last 20 years because America's capital—the capital of the free world—should have public rail service directly to its gateway," said U.S. Senator Tim Kaine, who helped broker the deal between Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, WMATA, the Commonwealth, and local governments to construct the Silver Line while he was governor. "I'm thrilled that the new tracks unveiled today will give Virginians a convenient and sustainable way to both travel to and from the airport and help unleash the full economic potential of this corridor. It took a lot of hard work to get here, and I'm thankful for everyone who rolled up their sleeves to help us reach this incredible



infrastructure milestone."

"The day Northern Virginians have been waiting for is finally here," said U.S. Representative Jennifer Wexton. "The Silver Line extension will have a transformative impact on Loudoun County and the entire region—making commutes faster and easier, improving access to our premier international airport at Dulles, and introducing visitors to the vibrant small businesses and booming agritourism attractions Loudoun County has to offer. Improving transportation infrastructure across our region has been a top priority of mine during my many years in both state and federal government, which is why I'm so proud of my work to deliver the support and oversight needed to make this Silver Line extension safe, reliable, and built to last for all Virginians."

"The long-awaited arrival of Metro is important to Loudoun in so many ways," said Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall. "The Silver Line provides new access to jobs for people inside and outside of Loudoun, will help reduce traffic congestion in the region, move the federal government's workforce, and spark positive economic growth in the county; it is truly a win-win for Loudoun and the region!"

"Our customers have been waiting for this day to come. We've heard the excitement from people who took the first train in 1976, and people who became transit enthusiasts from their first ride as a child. For them, and for the region, the completion of the Silver Line means a better, greener more affordable way to get to work, school, shopping, entertainment and events, as well as easy access to Washington Dulles International Airport, a gateway to the world," said Metro General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke. "As one of the largest construction projects in the United States, the Silver Line provides high-quality, high-capacity transit service between the Dulles corridor, Downtown DC and Prince George's County, Maryland.

"I voted to bring Metro to Loudoun County in 2012 to create new opportunities for our residents, businesses and future growth," said Loudoun County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Matt Letourneau. "In the decade since,



Loudoun updates its transit system

Loudoun County will begin to phase in the largest update to its transit system in over a decade in concert with the opening of the Metrorail's Silver Line extension, which includes three new stations in Loudoun County: Dulles International Airport, Loudoun Gateway, and Ashburn.

Loudoun's plan includes 21 new Silver Line bus routes and 156 new bus stops throughout the County. Loudoun's transit system updates will improve overall service to and from Metrorail stations in Loudoun and Fairfax Counties.

GOVERNMENT

Service Impacts at Launch

Due to a nationwide bus driver shortage, the county will initially provide Silver Line bus services on limited schedules. As a result, some routes will be served by vans instead of the county's standard transit buses. Initially, the new routes 331, 332, 341, 342, 343, 344, 351, 373, 374, and 375 will be serviced by a Loudoun County Transit van.

Stay Informed

Users of the bus service should visit the County's website for ongoing, up-to-date information regarding the County's Silver Line bus services throughout this rapidly evolving situation. Regular updates will be posted at loudoun.gov/buschanges. Loudoun County Transit riders are encouraged to sign up for rider alerts at loudoun.gov/rideralerts to stay informed about all changes to county's bus services.

New Silver Line Bus Routes

Loudoun County Transit and Commuter Services began the new Silver Line bus routes, including paratransit service, on Nov. 16. The bus routes will take

passengers to and from the Ashburn and Loudoun Gateway stations in Loudoun County and to and from the Innovation and Reston Town Center stations in Fairfax County.

Members of the public will notice a new naming and numbering system of the Loudoun County bus routes, which minimizes any confusion with other jurisdictions' bus route numbering systems. Paratransit bus service that offers ADA-accessible buses is also available within three quarters of a mile of all the new routes.

Listed below are the 21 new Loudoun County bus routes, the Metrorail stations they connect to, and a summary of the route. Expanded bus service routes will be phased in over the next several months.

For additional details about each route, including the location of bus stops, times of routes and maps of routes, visit loudoun.gov/silverlinebusroutes.

Connected to the Ashburn Station – North Bus Bays:

- Routes 331/332 – One Loudoun: Routes include stops at One Loudoun Park and Ride lot.
- Route 341 – Ashburn Village 1: Route includes stops at the Ashburn Village Park and Ride lot.
- Route 342 – Ashburn Village 2: Route includes stops at the Ashburn Village Park and Ride lot.
- Route 343 – Goose Creek Village/ Ashburn Farm 1: Route includes stops at Goose Creek Village Park and Ride lot.
- Route 344 – Goose Creek Village/ Ashburn Farm 2: Route includes stops at Goose Creek Village Park and Ride lot.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

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Higgins announces bid for Virginia State Senate District 31

“We must win back the Senate,” said Geary Higgins, who has announced his bid for Virginia State Senate District 31. “My State Senate run will focus on ending the liberal blockade of Governor Youngkin’s agenda, returning power to the people, giving parents a voice in their children’s education, protecting women’s sports, championing lower taxes and eliminating wasteful spending.” said Higgins.

GOVERNMENT

“I will work hand-in-hand with Governor Youngkin to bring back common-sense open-door leadership to Richmond and put an end to failed progressive policies.

“In order to do this and to give Governor Youngkin the votes needed to pass his bold agenda to give parents a voice in their children’s education, lower taxes and create jobs, it’s imperative for us to win the Virginia Senate,” he said.

“Mandated masks, vaccines, and the unnecessary closing of our schools, which stole two years of our children’s classroom time and dumbed down the curriculum with the outcome of drastically lowering our children’s learning achievement scores, can never happen again.

“In my opinion, it doesn’t matter if you are an Independent, Republican or Democrat, everyone wants the best for their child and they want our schools to return to focusing on academic excellence for our children, recognize the rights that parents have in

their child’s education, and providing a safe learning environment for our students.”

“People also want leaders that will fight for them,” said Higgins. “That is exactly what I have done on the Loudoun County Public School Board, and on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

“This is exactly what I plan to do if I have the honor of being elected to represent the people of the 31st State Senate District. “Our kids lose when we don’t fight. My three married daughters received an excellent education from Loudoun County Public Schools. I am fighting for their kids and for your kids too.”

“Our citizens also need help combating the unceasing burden of Biden’s inflation,” said Higgins.

“Let’s be clear, today’s inflation is not a fluke and was not started by Vladimir Putin. It started with Biden halting domestic energy production followed by \$5 trillion in spending between the American Rescue Plan, the March 2020 Cares Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. President Biden’s economic policies wrecked the economy and brought us \$5 a gallon gas prices along with inflation at 40-year highs.”

“I know how to make government work for our residents. I spent four years managing budgets and projects for LCPS and eight years doing the same for the Board of Supervisors. I know this Senate District very well and have represented a large portion of State Senate District 31,” said Higgins.

Help shape the future of transit and commuting services

Loudoun County Transit and Commuter Services is seeking community input as the County works to update the strategic plans for its transit and commuter assistance programs. Members of the public are invited to provide comments about their transportation needs and priorities through listening sessions and an online survey. This input will help the County develop effective transportation services for the community.

GOVERNMENT

Anyone interested in providing comments may do so through an online survey at loudoun.gov/transitstrategicplans as well as a series of listening sessions in December, including one virtual session and three in-person meetings.

Listening Sessions

- **Thursday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m.** - Virtual Public Listening Session: Information on how to access the meeting is available at loudoun.gov/transitstrategicplans.
- **Monday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.** - In-Person Listening Session, Woodgrove High School, 36811 Allder School Road, Purcellville.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.** - In-Person Listening Session, Briar Woods High School, 22525 Belmont Ridge Road, Ashburn.

If you require a reasonable accommodation for any type

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

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Human Services Nonprofit Grant application process open

Loudoun County's grant application process for community nonprofit organizations is now open with the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024) Human Services Nonprofit Grant Application available at loudoun.gov/nonprofitgrants.

GOVERNMENT Nonprofits certified as 501(c)3 organizations that provide human services to Loudoun County residents in the areas of need identified and approved by the Board of Supervisors for FY 2024 are eligible to apply for funding. The areas of need are:

- **Crisis Intervention and Diversion:** Services provided to individuals and families in crisis to overcome immediate problems and reduce or prevent the need for more restrictive and expensive higher-level services.
- **Improved Quality of Human Services:** Services and opportunities provided to individuals, organizations and communities that enhance the quality, accessibility, accountability, and coordination of services provided by community organizations.
- **Long-Term Support:** Services that focus on assisting individuals who have continuing, long-term support needs to remain healthy, safe, and independent in the community.
- **Prevention and Self-Sufficiency:** Services focused on assisting individuals and families

in becoming and/or remaining independent and stable, and providing tools, skills, strategies and resources to individuals and families.

Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 22. The amount of funding for FY 2024 will be determined by the Board of Supervisors as part of the county's adopted FY 2024 budget. In FY 2023, the budget for human services nonprofit grant funding was \$1.8 million.

Funding Options

Loudoun County has two options for organizations seeking local tax funds through the FY 2024 Human Services Nonprofit Grant process:

- The standard nonprofit grant application process for organizations seeking awards of \$5,001 - \$113,000; organizations will be awarded proportional funding.
- A mini-grant process providing a simplified application for organizations applying for a grant of \$5,000 or less; organizations will be awarded the full amount requested. The mini-grant program is designed for innovative small-scale projects and new or small organizations that may lack the capacity to write a larger grant.

For more information, visit loudoun.gov/non-profitgrants, or send an email to nonprofits@loudoun.gov.

Applications accepted to fill vacancies for the Planning Commission

The Purcellville Town Council is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on the Planning Commission. The terms will be for four years beginning in January 2023. The Purcellville Planning Commission meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

GOVERNMENT Every local government in Virginia is required to have a Planning Commission "in order to promote the orderly development of the locality and its environs" (Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-2210).

The Purcellville Planning Commission is a seven-member body of Town residents that are appointed by the Town Council to advise the Council on matters relating to Town planning and development. The Commission also develops and recommends updates to the Town's Comprehensive Plan, which outlines the Town's vision for its future and strategies for attaining that future.

The Commission also reviews and makes recommendations on updates to the Town's zoning and development related regulations that help to implement the Comprehensive Plan.

If you are town resident and interested in serving on the Planning Commission, please complete the online application. A member of staff will be in touch with you to schedule your interview with the Town Council. Interviews are expected to take place in January 2023.

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Leesburg First Friday

Friday, December 2

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Girl's Night Out

Thursday, December 15

4:00pm-7:00pm

A girl's holiday night out with shopping and dining specials, shopping Bingo, and other fun activities.

Holiday Tree Lighting

Friday, December 2

6:00pm

Join friends and neighbors to celebrate the start of the holiday season. Held on Town Green.

Holiday in Leesburg Fine Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday, December 3 ~ 9:00am-4:00pm & Sunday, December 4 ~ 10:00am-4:00pm

Over 90 local and regional artisans will be selling original handcrafted items at Ida Lee Park Recreation Center. Free parking and admission to the show.

Annual Christmas & Holiday Parade

Saturday, December 10

6:00pm

The parade will usher Santa and his friends down King Street through Historic Leesburg. Parade begins at Ida Lee Park and ends at Fairfax Street. Parade participation is free and open to the public.

Old-Time Christmas

Saturday, December 17

12:00pm-3:00pm

Victorian carolers, photos with Santa, cookie decorating, and strolling holiday characters.

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Derek Automotive visits Makersmiths to discuss electrification of vehicular fleets

BY VALERIE CURY

Seven years ago, Mayor Kwasi Fraser successfully led an initiative to open a makerspace in the Town of Purcellville. As a result, a dilapidated portion of an unused maintenance facility and a decommissioned treatment plant were transformed into a community manufacturing and robotic workshop.

During COVID-19, over 100 desks for at-home students and hundreds of face masks for first responders were manufactured at the Purcellville makerspace, which is owned and managed by Makersmiths. Makersmiths is located at 785 S 20th Street in Purcellville.

Today, members learn and use 3D printers, CNC machines, plasma cutters, band saws, welding equipment, pottery and blacksmith tools, and other manufacturing equipment.

On Monday Nov. 21, Derek Automotive visited the makerspace in Purcellville to discuss its patented



Derek Bailey

solution for transforming municipal vehicular fleets from combustion engines to electric.

Derek Bailey, the CEO of Derek Automotive Technologies Inc. with a corporate center in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, said that with over 300 million combustion engine vehicles in the United States, the goals for net zero will not be achieved by just replacing all those vehicles.

It will also involve replacing the combustion engine and keeping the body of the vehicle as a solution.

These self-charging vehicles rely on both new and used vehicles – and it doesn't stop at vehicles. It includes tractors, too.

Mayor Fraser stated that with the national and global push for electrification of vehicles and decarbonization of industries, municipal vehicle fleets are prime candidates for the transformation.

According to Loudoun County, five electric school buses are planned for Purcellville.

Mayor Fraser believes the Purcellville Makersmiths makerspace can play a significant role in demonstrating and piloting technologies such as those from Derek Automotive, as well as training and developing a pipeline of employees to advance electrification of vehicular fleets.

"I am looking at two ways this may benefit our local economy," Fraser said. "Those are the creation of 'green collar' jobs, and reduction of expenses. We can take a vehicle or two through the transformation process to test it."

Winners of 2022 "Signatures of Loudoun Design Excellence Awards"

The Loudoun County Design Cabinet, a volunteer group of architects, engineers, planners, and designers dedicated to supporting quality design in Loudoun County, presented the 2022 "Signatures of Loudoun" design awards at the Board of Supervisors meeting Nov. 15.

The awards program, now in its 18th year, recognizes businesses and community organizations that choose superior design standards in building, renovating or expanding a project. Each year, the community is invited to submit nominations, which are voted on by the cabinet.

This year's awardees are:

- **Familiar Award: Lucketts Fire and Rescue Station** (Kiran Parikh, Loudoun County; Chief Keith Johnson, Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System; Chris Roman, architect, Moseley Architects; Waynesboro Construction Company)
- **Infrastructure Award: ReThink9 Hillsboro Traffic Calming, Pedestrian Safety, Infrastructure** (Mayor Roger L. Vance, Town of Hillsboro; Vice Mayor Amy Marasco, deputy project manager, Town of Hillsboro;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »

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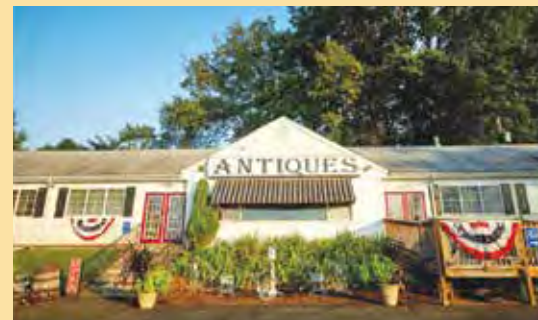
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Remembering Joan Theresa Adams Jasinski

Joan Theresa Adams Jasinski passed away peacefully in her home in Bluemont, on Nov. 2, with her loved ones by her side. She was 72 years old.

Joan was born on March 8, 1950, in New York, NY. In 1959 she moved upstate New York to Ulster County where she attended school. She then moved to Pearl River, N.Y. and started her career in hairdressing. She married her beloved husband, Anthony Jasinski, Jr. formerly from Nanuet, N.Y., in 1976.



They relocated to Virginia in 1978. They were married for 46 years.

Their son Tory was born in 1985 and their grandson, John, was born in 2016. She was an exceptional wife, mother and grandmother. She enjoyed gardening at her home, and she also enjoyed her trips to Scotland, England, and France with family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Vivian Adams and bother John.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

Remembering Susie Windham

Carolyn "Susie" Windham, 78, of Purcellville and Leesburg, passed away on Thursday Oct. 20, with her adoring daughter by her side.

Susie entered this world on Oct. 23, 1943, in Paris, Texas, when Daniel Wayne and Ima Gene Green Parnell welcomed a beautiful baby girl into their family. Her childhood was spent with her beloved big brother Dan and big sister Dana.

Her father passed away when she was four and her young mother struggled to make ends meet, but they always had childhood adventures, laughter and surrounded each other with an abundance of love. Susie attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Lawton Oklahoma until they moved to Los Angeles, where



she graduated from Uni High School.

As a young woman she worked for the VA hospital and then Xerox where she met her husband, Roy. She made a beautiful, loving home for him and their two daughters. She went back to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »



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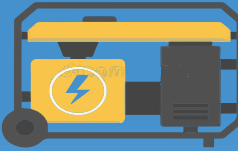


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Broadband project construction activities to begin early 2023

Residents and businesses in areas of Loudoun that are part of the County's Virginia Telecommunications Initiative broadband project with All Points Broadband might see crews working after the beginning of the year.

Preliminary planning, permitting and other less visible activities are underway, with fiber installation on utility poles expected to begin the first quarter of 2023. Completion of all connections is expected to take 24-30 months.

The news was delivered to the Board of Supervisors as part of a quarterly update about the County's overall Emergency Broadband Implementation Plan.

A \$17.5 million grant from the state is supporting plans to connect more than 8,600 unserved residents and businesses in Loudoun County to broadband service. Residents living in those areas of the County are encouraged to register for the planned expansion; however, registration is not required.

Those who have not done so may determine whether their address is included in the VATI broadband project area and register at APB Fiber - All Points Broadband.

More information about the project is available at loudoun.gov/broadbandexpansion.

Virginia Telecommunications Initiative Grant

The County government and APB, through a public-private partnership, applied for and received a \$17.5 million grant from the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative, which will support construction of fiber-to-the-home in areas not served by wired providers. APB is responsible for notifying residents and businesses in advance of service availability.

VATI is administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The state-funded program was created to "enhance the sustainability and growth of communities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia by preparing those communities to build, utilize, and capitalize on telecommunications infrastructure."

The County submitted the grant application on Sep. 13, 2021. The application was one of 57 from localities across Virginia. Broadband expansion is a strategic initiative of the Board of Supervisors and the County provided \$12.425 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding as the local funding match.

Overall project costs will total approximately \$61 million. Loudoun County serves as the grant administrator and APB is responsible for constructing the network and providing service to individual addresses.

Hypothermia Prevention Shelter open

The Loudoun County Hypothermia Prevention Shelter is now open for single adults aged 18 and older in the community who are experiencing a housing crisis resulting in homelessness.

The shelter, which provides a warm indoor sleeping environment, meals, laundry and shower facilities, will be open from 5:30 p.m. to 7 a.m., seven nights a week through March 31, 2023.

The shelter also provides information on other community resources, such as food, clothing, medical care, mental health care, public benefits, obtaining an ID and employment opportunities.

The Hypothermia Prevention Shelter is located at the Loudoun Homeless Services Center, 19520 Meadowview Court in Leesburg. Due to limited space, all guests will be asked to store personal belongings (outside of limited essential items) in secure storage on site. Note that the Loudoun County firearms ordinance prohibits firearms and ammunition in county facilities.

Additionally, the following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for COVID-19 safety are required to be followed by everyone in the shelter:

- Temperature checks and COVID-19 symptom screenings will be conducted by shelter staff prior to entry.
- Masks are always required unless actively eating, drinking or sleeping. Masks will be provided for anyone who does not have one.
- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer.

Free bus transportation will be provided daily at the times and locations listed below:

- **Sterling:** Loudoun County Transit Bus Route 82 bus stop across the street from the William Watters House, 22365

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »

Seeking an Administrative Assistant

Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church,
Lovettsville, VA

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church in Lovettsville is seeking a Church Administrative Assistant. This is a paid, part-time position, 12-15 hours per week, at a salary of \$15 per hour. A confidentiality agreement will be required.

Duties and Responsibilities: The Administrative Assistant works at the direction of the Pastor, and under the direction of several committees. The person selected will run the office during the week, and will be responsible for the administration of Mt. Olivet, providing administrative support for the Pastor, the church staff, and the lay ministries.

The person filling this position will be required to perform a variety of duties and tasks, which will be outlined during the interview. The individual hired will have a great deal of latitude in shaping the requirements to be efficient and cost-effective.

Skills and qualifications sought:

- Knowledge of modern office practices. ■ Efficiency in maintaining files.
- Proficiency in the use of office equipment, computers, and online systems.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite. ■ Prepare effective correspondence on routine matters. ■ Work independently and maintain confidentiality. ■ Work with church members and staff and interact effectively and pleasantly with people of different backgrounds. ■ Must pass background check and if previously employed, have verifiable employment references. ■ Enthusiastically affirm and support the values, vision, and mission of Mt. Olivet UMC.

Interested personnel seeking information, please call Phil Nesbitt, Mt. Olivet Lay Leader at 571-366-0613.
Send resumes to pnesbitt@verizon.net

*Celebrate Christmas
in
Purcellville!*

Saturday, December 10

Christmas in Purcellville Parade
Throughout Town - Noon

Holiday Market & LEGO Display
Bush Tabernacle - 1 to 6 p.m.

Pictures with Santa & Ornament Workshop
Purcellville Train Station - 2 to 5 p.m.

Get more details at
www.purcellvilleva.gov/Holidays-in-Purcellville

Call for artists

2023 Western Loudoun Art and Studio Tour

Visual artists can apply online for the 16th annual Western Loudoun Art and Studio Tour, to be held June 2, 3, and 4, 2023.

Eligible Loudoun artists working in all visual media may apply to this juried event. Those selected will open their studios to the public for two or three full days, exposing their work to visitors from the metropolitan region.

COMMUNITY

Last year's tour brought more than a thousand visitors into more than 30 studios and arts centers, allowing artists to connect with a targeted audience, increasing their visibility and providing an opportunity to promote and share their work.

Professional and emerging visual artists whose studios in Western Loudoun County meet specified criteria may apply as Studio Artists. Visual artists who live and

produce their artwork in Loudoun County but do not have a Western Loudoun studio suitable for visitors may apply as Guest Artists. Two- and three-dimensional work will be considered, including but not limited to painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, fiber art, wood, ceramics, glass, metalwork, sculpture, and jewelry.

The deadline for submission is 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, with no exceptions.

Frequently asked questions and answers about participating on the tour can be found at www.wlast.org/artists/artist-faqs.htm. All applications must be submitted using CaFE, an online platform: www.callforentry.org. Applicants will be notified of their jurying status in mid-February, 2023.

The Studio Tour promotes Loudoun art and artists while it


CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >



Graffiti and Silk Ribbon Cutting



A ribbon cutting was held on Saturday, Nov. 19 to celebrate the opening of Mobile Hope's Graffiti and Silk thrift shop, located at 860 East Main Street in Purcellville. The shop is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds from this thrift store go to fund Mobile Hope's programs to empower the homeless and at-risk youth.





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Men's clothing store opens within Nostalgia on Main Street

There's a new men's clothing shop in town called Mister on Main Street in Purcellville – located at 142 E Main Street. It is a shop within Nostalgia, vintage clothing and antiques.

COMMUNITY

Mister carries menswear from head to toe, including tops, outer ware, pants, cotton shirts, quilted jackets, wool sweaters from Ireland, knit polos from England, and more along with American made designs. They also carry flannel shirts and

neck ties.

Said owner Silas Redd, "I wanted to create a destination to house menswear and have men's clothing right here in Purcellville. It's nice to have the opportunity to shop local. Opening Mister is a good fit because many of our Nostalgia customers have been asking for men's clothing.

In addition to Nostalgia carrying women's vintage clothing and antiques, come check out their men's clothing at Mister on Main Street.



Leesburg's Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Show returns

The 32nd annual Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts show is scheduled to take place at Ida Lee Park Recreation Center on Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

COMMUNITY

Fine arts and crafts exhibitors will be selling their handcrafted items in the basketball courts, hallway, group

fitness room and lower level. Local and regional artisans will be selling hand-made items including candles, glass items, carved wood, jewelry, seasonal décor, gourmet food items, and more.

Admission to the show and parking is free. For more information, call Ida Lee Park Recreation Center at 703-777-1368 or visit www.leesburgva.gov/holidaysinleesburg.

Purcellville Police Dept. collecting toys

The Purcellville Police Department is collecting toys in partnership with BetterALife and Toys for Tots.

Unwrapped items can be dropped off at the Purcellville Police Department's Administrative Office located at 125 Hirst Rd Suite 7A, Purcellville, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and will continue through Friday, Dec. 9.

Donations will be shared between BetterALife, a local non-profit food pantry located within Purcellville, to support local families this holiday season; and

the Toys for Tots nationwide program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

During the holiday season, the Purcellville Police Department partners with multiple philanthropic groups to support local initiatives contributing to the needs of the community. This year, department members will participate in the following activities: toy collection, gift wrapping at the Purcellville Tree of Life Ministries, Cops and Kids event with the Loudoun-Dulles Fraternal Order of Police, and holiday gift basket deliveries with the Purcellville Women's Club.



Village at Leesburg celebrates the Holidays

Village at Leesburg, located on Rt. 7 east of Leesburg, features a Wish Tree among other activities.

Once someone makes an online donation of \$10 or more, they'll receive a digital token to take to the tree where they can make a wish and activate the Wish Tree light show.

All donations will go to Mobile Hope, an organization that provides support and emergency shelter to youth up to age 24 who are at-risk.

The tree will be available throughout the day for donations and wishes with tree shows from 5-10 p.m. daily through Jan. 1, 2023. At the top of every hour from 5 to 10 p.m., the tree will feature a dazzling light show.

Kids can visit with Santa at the

Village at Leesburg every Saturday, Dec. 3-24 from 4 to 6 p.m. and can enjoy story time with Mrs. Claus on Sunday, Dec. 4 and 18 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Also for kids and families on Friday, Dec. 2 and 9, A Place to Be will perform Mission Wish-- a Pop Up Musical from 5:30 to 6 p.m. and The Snow Monster on Dec. 2-4 and 9-11. Times vary so check the website at www.villageatleesburg.com/events/the-snow-monster/.

On Sunday, Dec. 11 from 2 to 3 p.m., Village at Leesburg presents Tuba Christmas with an hour of music by community tuba players including area high schools and players of all ages.

There are approximately 300 Tuba Christmas events across the U.S. and players at the Leesburg event have come from as far away as Alaska, Maine and Florida. It's the same music for all of the events held around the country and quite an amazing event to see.

Village at Leesburg features a special Chanukah at the Village celebration on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"This holiday season, we're providing visitors and residents of Village at Leesburg with an array of fun, memorable experiences," said Susan Bourgeois, executive director of Leasing and Brokerage at Rappaport,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 »

Holiday celebrations in Purcellville

The Town of Purcellville is gearing up for a festive holiday season, and there are many ways for residents and visitors to participate. The festivities kick off Friday, Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. with the annual Town Tree Lighting at Purcellville Town Hall.

The following Saturday, Dec. 10 will be full of activities including the Christmas in Purcellville Parade, a holiday market at the historic Bush Tabernacle, activities at the Purcellville Train Station, and the self-guided holiday lights tour. Details are available on the Town website, <https://purcellvilleva.gov/799/Holiday-and-Christmas-Activities>.

Christmas Tree and Ornament Sales—Starting Nov. 25

The Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company will sell Christmas trees and ornaments Wednesdays through Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. until sold out. For more information at <https://purcellvillefire.org/>.

Town Tree Lighting—Friday, Dec. 2

The Town Tree Lighting will be at Purcellville Town Hall, 221 S. Nursery Ave, on Friday, Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. There will be caroling by the Loudoun Valley High School choir, the Woodgrove High School choir, a performance from the Dance Academy of Loudoun, a countdown to the lighting of the Town Tree, and a special visit from a well-known resident of the North Pole.

Christmas in Purcellville Parade—Saturday, Dec. 10

The annual Christmas in Purcellville parade will be held Saturday, Dec. 10 starting at noon. The route is about 2.5 miles long, starting and ending at Blue Ridge Middle School.

The parade route will start at Blue Ridge Middle School, then right onto A Street, right onto 20th Street, right onto Main Street, right onto Maple Avenue, right onto A Street, and returning to BRMS. The parade theme is Winter Wonderland.

Holiday Market with LEGO Train Display—Saturday, Dec. 10

The holiday market will be at the Bush



Tabernacle, 250 S. Nursery Ave, on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1 to 6 p.m. There will be more than 30 vendors selling their wares including many handcrafted items such as jewelry, candles, soap, home décor, carved wooden items, glassware, pottery, and more. Enjoy activities including face painting, and see the amazing LEGO train display, set up by the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan

Area LEGO Train Club.

Pictures with Santa and Ornament Decorating—Saturday, Dec. 10

Bring your own camera and your wish list to take pictures with Santa from 2 to 5 p.m. inside the Purcellville Train Station located at 200 N 21st Street. While you are there, decorate an ornament that you can take home, or put on the tree inside the Purcellville Train Station.

Holiday Lights Tour Map—Available Dec. 10

The Purcellville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is hosting the annual Holiday Lights Tour. This year's tour will be self-guided and the map will be available on Saturday, Dec. 10 in the Events and Activities section of the Town Website and on the Facebook pages for the Town of Purcellville.

Santa Rides Through Town—Dec. 16 and 17

The Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »



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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

- Christmas Youth Event – Dec. 21, Noon**
- Family Christmas Eve – Dec. 24, 5:00pm**
- Festival Prelude Music – Dec. 24, 10:30pm**
- Candlelight Holy Eucharist – Dec. 24, 11:00pm**
- Christmas Day Eucharist – Dec. 25, 11:00am**

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- George Bernard Shaw

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Cooking safety during the Holiday Season

The holidays are full of excitement, good food and fun times with family. As preparations for the busy holiday season are underway, the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System encourages residents to follow safe cooking practices. Cooking is the leading cause of residential fires during the holidays and throughout the year. Take a few moments to review these safety tips and ensure your holiday is memorable for all the right reasons.

Stay in the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop. If you leave the kitchen, even briefly, turn off the stove. If baking, roasting, or broiling, set timers to remind you food is cooking.

Keep combustibles, such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains, away from your stovetop.

Maintain a three-foot safety zone for kids and pets around stove and hot appliances. Turn pot handles away so young children are less likely to get burned.

Fried turkey fan? It is recommended to buy one from a grocery store or restaurant or consider an oil-less turkey fryer. Hot oil from a turkey fryer can cause serious burns and destroy property.

Additional cooking safety information from the National Fire Protection Association.

If you do have a fire:

On the stovetop, slide a lid on the pan to smother the flames and turn off the burner. Do not remove the lid until the pan is completely cooled. Never pour water on a grease fire. For an oven fire, immediately turn off the heat and close the oven door.

When in doubt, get out then call 911. Close the door behind you to help contain the fire.

Remember, working smoke alarms save lives. Never disconnect the smoke alarms in your home, especially while cooking. For additional fire prevention information visit loudoun.gov/firemarshal or contact Lisa Braun, Public Education Manager, at 571-258-3222.

Makersmiths, Inc. awarded STEM/KidWind Engineering Initiatives Grant

On March 17, The Tides Foundation, on the recommendation of Google Data Centers Grants Fund, awarded Loudoun County's non-profit community makerspace, Makersmiths, Inc. a \$20,000 grant to support the organization's Makersmiths STEM/KidWind Engineering Initiatives.

Tides Foundation is a philanthropic nonprofit dedicated to building a world of shared prosperity and social justice. Recognizing that there is a gap between the technology competencies of K12 school graduates and the demands of the job market, Makersmiths, Inc. strives to work with youth to develop new technology skills and foster logical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork, all valuable skills that industries require of employees.

Makersmiths integrates a variety of STEM initiatives and emphasizes student-driven exploration, communication, and collaboration when working with youth. Makersmiths' members serve as volunteer mentors to students who need assistance completing school projects for annual Science and Engineering fairs and the Maker Showcases.

Students learn computer skills such as Arduino programming, computer-assisted design, and database construction. They learn manufacturing skills required to operate equipment such as a 3D printer, laser cutter or a CNC machine when constructing a school project.

This fall, middle school students completed a basic electronics and soldering workshop. They also

engaged in a STEMLingo Arduino workshop to learn about how Arduino code and the Arduino microprocessor are used to construct and play a reaction time activity, a 2-person reaction game and to play a theremin, an electronic musical instrument.

Beginning in December 2022, Makersmiths will begin working with middle school and high school youth in KidWind teams that will design, create and test their wind and solar projects that they will enter in KidWind's Regional Renewable Energies Challenge at Shenandoah University on March 15, 2023.

For more information about Makersmiths, Inc. contact infor@makersmiths.org. To learn more about KidWind, visit www.kidwind.org. Finally, learn about the Tides Foundation at <https://www.tides.org/about/>.

Tips to prevent frozen pipes

Now that freezing temperatures have arrived, the Leesburg Department of Utilities would like to remind everyone to drain and protect outdoor water connections.

- Be sure pipes in unheated parts of your home, including crawl spaces, are insulated.
- Remove hoses from outside faucets

and be sure they are drained and shut off.

- Advise all household members where the main shut-off valve is located in case of an emergency.
- If you will be away from home for an extended time, shut off the water supply and drain the system. Keep thermostat set at 55 degrees.

During extended periods of below-freezing temperatures:

- Open doors to any cabinets with water supply lines, such as under kitchen and bathroom sinks, to allow warm air to circulate.
- Keep a trickle of water running from the faucet highest in the house. This trickle should be a steady stream the size of the lead in a pencil.
- If your pipes freeze, never thaw a pipe with an open flame or a space heater.

A hair dryer can be used if there is no standing water in the area.

If there is no water throughout your house and you have determined that it is not a frozen line within the home, your water meter may be frozen.

Contact Leesburg Department of Utilities at 703-771-2750, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or the Leesburg Police Department non-emergency number at 703-771-4500 outside of regular business hours for assistance.

The Potter's Players present *Light Has Come*

The Potter's Players present their Christmas theater production, *Light Has Come*, an uplifting play about what the meaning of Christmas is truly about.

Performances are Thursday, Dec. 8 and Friday Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and Saturday Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. at Purcellville Baptist Church.

The family friendly play features beautiful music and joy-filled dancing. Local playwright Patrice Smith

and her husband Mark direct. They are joined by a cast and ensemble of over thirty with singing and dancing throughout. New this year is original music by local young composer, Daniel Morrison.

The angel Gabriel told Mary she would be blessed, but with so many difficult things happening, she doesn't feel blessed. Yoki has been shepherding the sacrificial lambs for years, but he doesn't feel that God

hears him or even cares, and he begins to lose hope in the prophecies. Anna and Simeon have waited all their lives for the Messiah, but time is running out for them. Will God keep his promise they would meet him in their lifetime?

"When we were deciding which play to perform this year," said Patrice Smith, "I asked former cast members, if they could perform one play over again, which would it be,

and over and over again, the answer was *Light Has Come*.

"This play has a high-energy opening Jewish dance, many poignant moments, and beautiful music featuring an angel choir. Many people, young and old, love the angels, so we are highlighting them more than ever."

The performances are free, and located at 601 Yaxley Drive, Purcellville Baptist Church.

Hidden View wins *TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Award*

Hidden View Bed and Breakfast has received *TripAdvisor's 2022 Travelers' Choice Award* for accommodations. This award celebrates businesses that consistently earn great reviews from travelers over the last 12 months and rank within the top 10 percent of their worldwide listings.

"Congratulations to the 2022 *TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Winners*," said Kanika Soni, Chief Commercial Officer at *TripAdvisor*. "The *Travelers' Choice Awards* recognize the best in tourism and hospitality, according to those who matter most: your guests."

Ranking among the *Travelers' Choice winners* is always tough — but never more so than this year as we emerge from the pandemic. Whether using new technology, implementing safety measures, or hiring outstanding staff, I'm impressed by the steps you've taken to meet travelers' new demands. You've adapted brilliantly in the face of adversity."

"We are so incredibly proud and humbled to be recognized as a top lodging accommodations provider from *TripAdvisor*," said Ray Shields, Owner, and

Host of Hidden View. "Maintaining our unique style of thoughtful, warm, and caring service, with a focus on memorable guest experiences, is something we pride ourselves on."

"Our guests tell us that our attention to detail, drive for perfection, and gourmet breakfast helps to make Hidden View the exceptional experience they enjoy," added Owner and Host Cheri Shields. "Receiving awards like this is no small achievement — especially when they have accommodation listings both nationally and internationally. We are so very grateful for our many guests who shared their experiences which helped us to achieve this outstanding recognition."

In addition to *TripAdvisor's 2022 Travelers' Choice Award*, readers of *Loudoun Times-Mirror* voted Hidden View Best of Loudoun 2022, and *Virginia Living Magazine* readers voted Hidden View as the Best of Virginia 2019.

Northern Virginia Magazine highlighted it in their article "The Bed-and-Breakfasts that Make for a Perfect Staycation in Northern Virginia." They have also

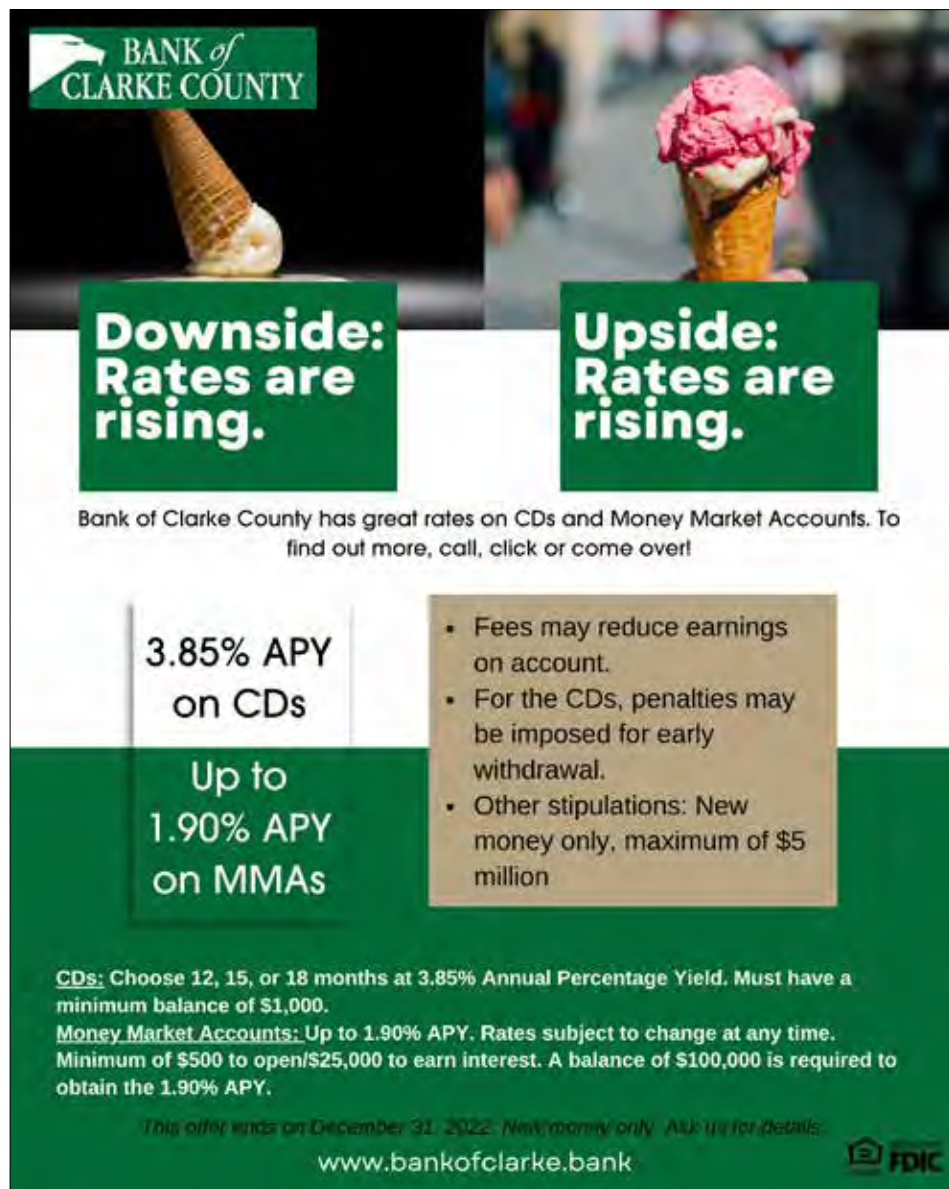
CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »



Town of Purcellville holds ribbon cutting for BFC



In mid-November the Town of Purcellville held a ribbon cutting for BFC, Burgers Fries and Chicken. BFC is located at 201 E Hirst Road, Purcellville. After the ribbon cutting, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut, and Council Member and Mayor elect Stan Milan, went inside and ordered burgers and fries. The report was very good, and they said they would be returning. BFC also serves salads, chicken sandwiches, and don't forget the milkshake. They also have a kid's menu to order from as well.



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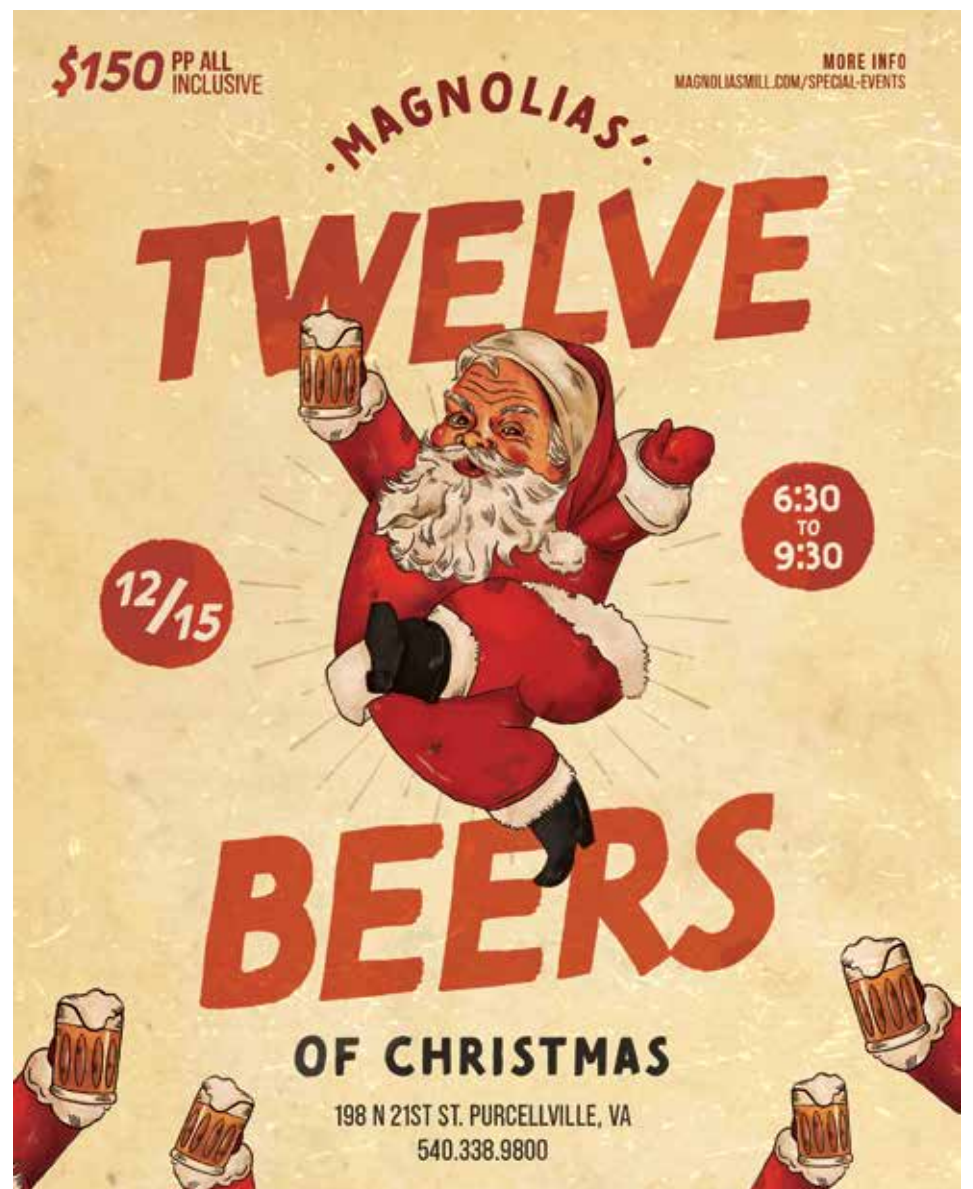
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LOUDOUN UPDATES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13**Connected to the Ashburn Station – South Bus Bays:**

- Route 351 – Leesburg: Route includes stops at Leesburg II Park and Ride lot at Segra Field.
- Route 371 – Moorefield Parkway/Old Ryan Road: Route includes stops at Mooreview Parkway and Old Ryan Road.
- Route 372 – Westwind Farm: Route includes stops at Westwind Farm and Inova Ashburn HealthPlex.
- Route 373 – Broadlands: Route includes stops in Broadlands.
- Route 374 – Brambleton 1: Routes includes stops in Brambleton, Brambleton Town Center and Creighton Road.
- Route 375 – Brambleton 2: Routes includes stops in Brambleton, Brambleton Town Center and Evergreen Mills Road.
- Route 391 – Purcellville/Harmony: Route includes stops at the Purcellville and Harmony Park and Ride lots.

Connected to the Loudoun Gateway Metro Station:

- Route 333 – Serving Quantum Park/Pacific Boulevard/Loudoun Gateway.

- Route 381 – South Riding: Route includes stops at the East Gate Park and Ride lot.
- Route 382 – Stone Ridge: Route includes stops at the Dulles South Park and Ride lot.

Connected to the Reston Town Center Metro Station:

- Route 312 – Potomac Falls: Route includes stops at the Cascades, Lowes Island, and Our Lady of Hope Park and Ride lots.

Connected to the Innovation Center Metro Station:

- Routes 320/321 – George Washington University: Routes includes stops at Dulles Town Center Park and Ride lot.
- Route 322 – Atlantic Boulevard Connector: Route includes stops at Dulles Town Center Park and Ride lot.
- Route 323 – Sterling: Route includes stops in Sterling Park.
- To see all Silver Line bus routes and the new bus stops on a map, view the Loudoun County Transit System Map for Local and Metro Connecting Bus Routes (PDF).

Park and Ride Lot Closures

The Broadlands and Loudoun

Station Park and Ride lots are closed as of Nov. 16. Carpool and vanpool customers are advised to search loudoun.gov/facilities for a convenient park and ride lot.

Plan Your Trip

To plan your trip regionally by Metrorail, use Metro's Trip Planner at wmata.com/tripplanner, which includes Metrorail service and bus service to and from Metrorail stations.

To plan your trip by bus and to get real-time information for Loudoun County, download Transit, a mobile app that helps you plan a trip on Loudoun County Transit buses. The app features real-time tracking and information, service alerts and trip planners. For details, visit loudoun.gov/transitapp.

For More Information

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

Everything commuters need to know about accessing and using Metro from Loudoun County is posted at loudoun.gov/silverline.

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REMEMBERING JASINSKI, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

She is survived by her husband Tony, son Tory and grandson John, sister Carol Pucci, brothers Robert and wife Pat Adams, James and wife Lindy Adams, sisters-in-law, Mary Jo and husband Syd Smith, Meg Hermann, Claire Jasinski and husband Luis Carrascal and Janet Swinnich, brothers-in-law, Vincent Jasinski and wife Maria, John Jasinski and wife Judy. Many nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Purcellville on Nov. 11.

Interment was at Ebenezer Cemetery in Round Hill. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that any donations be sent to: Blue Ridge Hospice, 333 West Cork St., #405, Winchester, VA 22601 and the telephone number is 540-313-9200.

CALL FOR ARTISTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

draws attention to the county as a cultural and scenic destination. The tour is a joint project of Franklin Park Arts Center, Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center, and Round Hill Arts Center.

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MORE OF A CONFUSION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meeting a Catoctin Meadows resident said he had no idea “how this happened in our association – we had no notice of it.”

He said, “This property was part of the deed of dedication of subdivision easements made back in May 14, 1997. In that document it’s very, very, clear ... the owner and the association with the consent of the trustee do hereby impose the declaration of covenants and restrictions for the Catoctin Meadows subdivision as recorded in the deed book.”

The resident then explained that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors bought a residence from a family “and became a voting member of our HOA and are bound to the association covenants as acknowledged voting members who are paying association dues.

“I want to understand how the County and the Town were able to break our covenants and release the Loudoun County BOS to extinguish this property. It’s been extinguished. It is no longer in our subdivision. This property is no longer in the Town of Purcellville. They have gifted it to VDOT. Are we no longer a 74-home residence community?”

“Let me tell you, it’s not just me who needs to know this,” the resident said. “I want to know how this is possible ... and just how all of you didn’t know about this.”

Council Member Stan Milan said he wanted to comment on the “revelation of missing property” in the Catoctin Meadows HOA.

“I was called on Friday morning and told that this property was missing [in current County records]. I came down to the Town Hall and asked questions about why and how this happened. No one really knew, or could answer that question.

“I received some documentation from the engineer and it revealed that they in fact did know what was going on. I looked at the dates on the documentation, and it was back in May,” Milan said.

“I further looked into this, and I saw that there was a signature on the plat that was given to VDOT” and it was the signature of one of the staff members.

“I asked him directly to his face, ‘Do you know anything about this?’ and he said, ‘I don’t know anything about it.’ But his signature was on the plat map.”

Milan said he once again asked how this could happen without either the Planning Commission or the Town Council being made aware of it. He said the Catoctin Meadows HOA “has a legal obligation to be made aware of what’s happening in their community.”

At the Nov. 3 Planning Commission meeting, a resident of Catoctin Meadows again asked how lot 74 went from R2 residential zoning to a dedicated right of way for Public Transportation – public use/street use. “That lot 74 was dedicated by deed to our community association in 1997 ... all lots are bound by the covenants and covenants are a legal contract between association members.”

He added that the Catoctin Meadows subdivision also has 14.2 acres of common open space with trees and streams that may be required by the County for use as a construction support site, which would necessitate taking down trees and disturbing wetlands and stream beds of the South Fork Catoctin Creek.

There is also concern that disturbing the 14.2-acre property would violate the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, which describes the property as “privately owned green space.”

The resident also expressed concern that the County has asked the Town to

“vacate some of the Common area floodplain – this common area includes pristine wetlands and streams that feeds all your parks... Who is running the Town? Is the County running the Town or are we running the Town?”

“Why is it okay to extinguish a piece of property dedicated to our HOA from our subdivision and the Town, and then deed it to VDOT?” the resident asked. “It is part of the Historic Corridor Overlay District according to your Comprehensive Plan.”

“The Town approved this without notifying you and the Town Council or anyone,” he added.

Milan asked, “Don, your signature is on this. Can you provide any information to us about this then?”

Don Dooley responded, “I did what I thought was based on what I understood of what [sic] was appropriate.”

Milan said that none of this was on anyone’s radar, until he received a call from a citizen of Catoctin Meadows “and I went to Town Hall and inquired about it. At the time everyone told me they didn’t know anything about it. They had no recollection of it.”

He said the Town engineer provided him with “a plat map and the deed change and emails from the County. That’s when I discovered that the signature was from Mr. Dooley... our zoning administrator ... I am at a loss to understand how this happened.”

Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman said that the process should have included public hearings for a rezoning and both the Town Council and the Planning Commission should have been involved in the process. He also pointed out that “it sounds like some land left the Town,” and that means “there was a boundary line adjustment.”

Ogelman continued, “That would have

meant that it should have gone through the Planning Commission and the Town Council with two public hearings.”

“Did I miss those? Did those public hearings happen and I just didn’t pay attention?” he rhetorically asked.

“I don’t understand. I am under the impression that the County and the administrative part of the Town [Town staff] can go through that process without these touch points – public hearings and ... us as a committee going through the process and the Town Council as the citizens elected representatives,” Ogelman said.

At the Nov. 17 Planning Commission meeting, Town Attorney Sally Hankins summarized the issue saying, “There was more of a confusion than a problem.”

Chair Nan Forbes said, “I would submit that there’s certainly a lot more than simply a misunderstanding or confusion. I would submit there seems to be a variety of opinions with the legitimacy of this process.”

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VILLAGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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For a complete holiday schedule, go to www.villageatleesburg.com/events/wish-tree/.

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TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

floor, silo (for storing a cow herd's favorite treat), corn crib (an obligatory shed to keep field corn dry and out of the elements after harvest), a possible chicken-coop or pig shed, other nondescript out-buildings – most likely for storing machinery and other farm implements), a farm 'yard' now overgrown with cocklebur, goldenrod and other, less savory vegetation, and open fields in a present state of dereliction.

As I walked the overgrown farmyard, I was – at least part of the time – back with my childhood farm-set, loading hay bales into the loft, setting up fencing for the cows and pigs, maneuvering the tractor between buildings and dreaming about next year's crop yield; I was also – a good deal of the time – back on Uncle Carl's acreage – baling in the hot sun, loading the bales into the even hotter hay loft (he used a tin shed for this – mighty warm in summer), and maybe even pulling rocks from a former pasture area – never turned by a plow. A 'virgin field' in that part of the country can yield some behemoth-sized rocks. We needed a backhoe for the largest, a living-room-sized

beast, which we'd originally tried to wrench free with a simple rock pick and tractor.

Now, I'm not really sure how long this particular acreage in today's story had stood unused and untenanted but I'd guess a few years, at least. And, I wouldn't be too surprised if I see "For Sale" signs – or even housing units under construction – the next time I get up that way.

Loudoun County has a way of converting vacant land into more commercially viable real estate. And for the folks who move in, or set up business, that's a wonderful thing.

But, as I drive by the same acreage in 10 or more years, if I happen to recognize it as the place where I walked the abandoned farm site and took a few pictures, and spent some time in recollection of old times, I just may wander off a bit and daydream about that fascinating set of farm toys I had as a kid, and those now-wonderful memories of the hard work and practical learning I experienced as a teenager on Uncle Carl's farm. And for me, that too will be a wonderful thing.

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

turn will serve to decrease their anxiety. It's important to be clear and accurate with the information you share and keep your points and message simple.

With teens getting ready to leave for college, for instance, you could point out to them that school shootings are actually rare. In 2021, there was reportedly one school shooting death for every twenty-three million Americans.

Child mortality data has shown that children are far more likely to be killed in an automobile accident or to drown; and, yet we don't over focus on the dangers of highway deaths or swimming deaths with our children.

One shooting alone is a horrible thing, but my point here is that the 24-hour news cycle and social media can get us all worked up fast with upsetting topics like this. For a younger child, you can also discuss how rare school shootings are, and simply introducing the concepts of mental illness or good vs. evil is a way to help the child begin to understand why people sometimes do bad things in the world.

When talking to your children about the UVA shooting, you also want to listen closely to them – what they think and feel about school shootings – and support them as needed. A younger child may actually need help to find words for what he or she feels as you support him or her to take greater control of their experience. Also, asking your younger child about their safety plan at school, and reassuring them, may also serve to

give them a greater sense of emotional security.

4. Minimize your children's exposure to the media. Turn off the news. News agencies tend to sensationalize stories like this with updates and commentary, and while this event is certainly newsworthy, such widespread exposure can cause increased anxiety for our children.

Anxiety as a reaction to uncontrollable external events such as the UVA shooting is understandable inasmuch as the need for safety and security is a very real human and universal need; that need is even more immediate for younger children who don't possess the internal resources – intellectual or emotional – to understand, make sense of or tolerate complex topics such as school shootings.

And while life events are beyond our control, we have a duty to protect and inform our children when bad things happen in the world. If you choose to talk to your children about the shooting, remember that informing them, listening closely to them, and clarifying and supporting them, is what's best. If your child hasn't heard about the UVA shooting, or has and doesn't appear to have any concerns or questions, you may not want to spend much time on the topic or discuss it at all.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. "Dr. Mike" is a clinical psychologist in private practice. He can be reached at 703-723-2999, and is located at 44095 Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn.

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A CHRISTMAS STORY Q&A, CON'T FROM PAGE 1

3. Who hid it behind the Christmas tree?
4. What was the radio in the Parker home that aired Little Orphan Annie?
5. What was the message of the Secret Decoder Ring?
6. What was Mother's punishment when a certain "bad" word came out of Ralphie's mouth?
7. Who was the bully with yellow eyes?
8. Who took the "triple-dog-dare" and got his tongue stuck on a frozen pole?
9. Who was Ralphie's other buddy?
10. How old is Ralphie in the film?
11. How old was the actor Peter Billingsley in the original film?
12. What was the "Italian" Fra-Gee-Lay treasure that-The Old Man won?
13. Who gave Ralphie the Bunny suit?
14. What would only A Christmas Story buff know about the bunny suit?
15. What did Ralphie's younger brother, Randy, refuse to eat until Mother challenged him to be a "little piggy"?
16. How did Randy eat them?
17. What neighbors owned the hounds that devoured the Parkers' holiday turkey?
18. According to Ralphie, how many hounds did the neighbors own?
19. Where did the Parkers go for

Christmas dinner?

20. What was still on the duck?
21. What made the duck's head unforgettable?
22. Who was the narrator?

Jean Shepherd was once a nightly fixture on New York's WOR. It was back in the days when radio talk didn't shock. On the air, he would tell tales of his Indiana boyhood, which he eventually refined enough to write down.

A master monologist and writer, he spun the materials of his all-American childhood into immensely resonant—and utterly hilarious—works of comic art.

—From Amazon.com's collection of editorial reviews and profiles

If you're looking for a gift for a friend with a wry, sardonically irreverent sense of humor, put Jean Shepherd's books on your list:

In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash, the foundation for A Christmas Story, represents one of the peaks of his achievement, a compound of irony, affection, and perfect detail that speaks across generations.

Wanda Hickey's Night of Golden Memories collects the stories that first appeared in magazines in the 1960s and '70s. It features the memorable disaster that was Shepherd's (and everyone else's) junior prom.

Also: *A Fistful of Fig Newtons*, *The Ferrari in the Bedroom*, *Shepherd's Pie*, *Pomp and Circumstance*, *The Phantom of the Open Hearth*, and more.

PHILOMONT FIRE STATION, CON'T FROM PAGE 10

They went back to the drawing board with the help of Bill Ridge, a resident of Philomont, who reviewed the LeMay Erickson Willcox feasibility study, and has determined that renovating the current firehouse would fulfill all of the requirements of Loudoun County Fire and Rescue while saving County taxpayers millions of dollars.

Ridge has spent the last 30 years working as an architect and as Chief of the Architecture and Engineering Branch at EPA. During that time, he did the master planning for all of the renovations for the 12 EPA-owned laboratories, and then managed the design and construction projects for most of them. Since most of EPA's labs were built in the 1960's and 70's, they required extensive overhauls to bring them up to modern scientific and environmental standards.

He also managed many of the new office construction projects, and the construction through GSA of two new laboratories. As the EPA Branch Chief, he was also responsible for managing all of the design and construction budgets for the agency. Prior to EPA, he worked at several architectural firms designing schools, elderly housing, and houses. He received his Master's degree in Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Ridge has sent the revised Philomont Fire Station plans and budget to Chief Johnson. His new plan includes:

- A 12,000 sq. ft. new addition which can be built adjacent to the north side of the existing

station while the existing building is in operation and will provide all of the space necessary to function while existing building is renovated.

- Dormitory, showers lockers - 4,000 sq. ft.
- Operations, support, command office - 5,000 sq. ft.
- 2 pull-through truck bays - 3,000 sq. ft.
- New entrance on Snickersville Turnpike
- New apparatus exit on Snickersville Turnpike
- Existing station can be renovated to provide office space, kitchen, day room, laundry, exercise room - 6,000 sq. ft.
- Existing 4 truck bays can be re-utilized for smaller vehicles - 3,000 sq. ft.
- Construction adjacent to the north side of the existing building minimizes the impact to the site and minimizes the cost of building on the steep slope to the north of the site.

The total cost of Ridge's plan comes to \$15,636,000. The cost of this plan is \$10 million less than the original LC-CFRS LEW renovation and addition estimate. Plus, no temporary building is required. The savings amount to \$11,264,000, with the equivalent square footage.

Ridge's plans have the support of Philomont residents, the Loudoun Historic Villages Alliance, Snickersville Turnpike Association, Piedmont Environmental Council, and many more preservation and conservation groups.

Answers

11. Age 12	1. If you don't know this one, you've never watched <i>A Christmas Story</i> .
10. Age 9	2. "You'll shoot your eye out!"
9. Schwartz	3. The Old Man.
8. Ralphie's friend Flick	4. A 1940 Canadian Westinghouse
7. Scut Farkus	5. "BESURETODRINKYOUR
6. A mouthful of Lifebuoy soap.	6. "BESURETODRINKYOUR
5. OVALTINE. Ralphie: "A crummy commercial!"	7. model 780-X
4. A 1940 Canadian Westinghouse	8. The Old Man.
3. The Old Man.	9. "You'll shoot your eye out!"
2. "You'll shoot your eye out!"	10. Action 200-shot Range Model air
1. If you don't know this one, you've never watched <i>A Christmas Story</i> .	11. Ralphie prayed, dreamed, and
12. The Leg Lamp.	12. The feet are sewn on backwards, the
13. Aunt Clara	13. left foot on the right leg and the right
14. The feet are sewn on backwards, the	14. foot on the left leg.
15. Meatloaf and mashed potatoes.	15. He put his face in the potatoes, then
16. He put his face in the potatoes, then	16. licked the plate clean.
17. The Bumpuses.	17. The Bumpuses.
18. 785	18. Chop Suey Palace where the staff
19. Chop Suey Palace where the staff	19. serenaded them with "Deck the
20. It's head.	20. Halls" and "Jingle Bells," then served
21. It was "smiling."	21. them duck.
22. The author and radio legend Jean	22. Shepherd.

HELP SHAPE, CON'T FROM PAGE 14

of disability or need language assistance to participate in a listening session, please contact Loudoun County Transit at 571-509-1469/TTY-711. Three business days' notice is requested.

More Information

For more information about the strategic planning process for transit service and commuter assistance, including a link to the survey, visit loudoun.gov/transitstrategicplans.

METRO, CON'T FROM PAGE 12

Loudoun has undertaken significant land use planning and infrastructure investments to support the Silver Line that are already paying off. The start of service today is important not only for Loudoun, but for the future of Metro as we begin to serve one of the fastest growing and most dynamic parts of the region."

"Today's opening of the Silver Line is the culmination of one of the largest and most complex transportation infrastructure projects in the nation," said Jack Potter, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

President and Chief Executive Officer. "Building rail to Dulles was part of the original vision for the airport more than 60 years ago. Bringing that vision to reality required talented teams of people working tirelessly toward a common goal. We are thankful for the strong partnerships with WMATA, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, the federal government and everyone who contributed through the years to the success of this project. Together, we have much to celebrate with trains in service to Dulles International Airport and beyond."

HOLIDAY, CON'T FROM PAGE 25

will be giving Santa a ride through Purcellville on Dec. 16 and 17 at 6 p.m. Watch for details at <https://purcellville-fire.org/>.


Be sure to do your holiday shopping at

the Holiday Market and all of the great shops, stores, and boutiques in Purcellville. While you're out and about, look for the hand-painted holiday ornaments that will be displayed throughout the Town.

These ornaments were painted by local artists and represent various aspects of our community. They hang on light poles downtown, are placed in front of businesses, and line Main Street.

Follow local news and information 24/7 blueridgeleader.com


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HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

wishes clashed with commercial avarice. Because of the complexity of the issues, the Commission deferred the matter to a future work session. Between now and then, expect businesses and their flacks and shills to be going full tilt, seeking special favors. I'll hold off on snark until we see how that work session goes.

OPINION

I'm Out

I've become pretty fatalistic and I resigned from ZOC. I've never been a quitter, but I'm a realist: western Loudoun will not get most of the protection it needs.

I'm In

There may be a better way. A group of conservation-minded people are trying to form a political action committee – a PAC

– that would focus on the 2023 Board of Supervisors elections.

Money talks, after all. I'll donate to this PAC if it becomes a reality. So should you.

Charlie Houston lives on a farm in suburban Paeonian Springs. In his prior life, he helped develop over six million square feet of corporate office buildings and worked with planning staffs from Miami to Louisville, and from New Orleans to Richmond.

HERITAGE'S THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

most was the creative underscoring done by Genny O'Neill. The original pieces were composed beautifully and enhanced the show in order to highlight the eeriness of the town.

Another standout was the props design done by Andi Leath and Erin Burnside. The props team had a lot of fake food to work with, and the cake that was eaten on stage looked just like the other fake cakes.

The props also worked so well during the fall feast when the actors were using them as other objects. The last stellar technical area was the costume design done by Jaz Camacho and Caitlin Van Berkel. The costuming was historically accurate and had a nice blend between all the village people. The contrast between Ichabod Crane and Katrina Van Tassel was done so subtly but added to the storytelling.

The gothic story of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* truly felt like the story came to life by the fantastic Heritage High School team. The production transported the audience to Sleepy Hollow and worked together beautifully to create an atmosphere that appeals to the imagination and heightened drama of the play.

Remember, watch out for the headless horseman when walking alone at night.

HIDDEN VIEW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

been in other regional, national, and international media. Hidden View was welcomed into Select Registry in 2020 as a Distinguished Inn of North America for quality, authenticity, and community. It is the only member property in the county and currently one of 16 in the state.

There are panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the valley between the hills, and neighboring farms and vineyards. Outside, the property features landscaped gardens, a pavilion, wood-burning fire pits, a wood-lined walking path, an in-ground saltwater swimming pool, multiple patios, a waterfall pond, and many fountains.

For more information, visit hiddenviewbnb.com, or go to Facebook and Instagram @hiddenviewbnb, or call (703) 669-9306.

More information about services available to those experiencing homelessness in Loudoun County may be found at loudoun.gov/homelesservices, or by calling 703-777-0420.

BRMS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Upon arriving at the store, students were greeted and given a tour by Allyson Ruscitella, the Director of Development of Mobile Hope. Students then began a scavenger hunt to find articles that sparked their interest and fit curriculum standards. Additionally, students were able to see sustainability in action.

Blue Ridge students helped repair jeans in the "Happy Jeans" section of the store. They were also able to watch members of the Blue Ridge Fiber Guild use a loom that was donated to the store. Some students even worked the loom and contributed to making a rug made from t-shirt pieces.

Lastly, students interacted with a vintage scale that is used to weigh clothes as they are purchased. Students were able to experience firsthand what it feels like to save a pound of clothes from going into the landfill.

Blue Ridge Middle School and Mobile Hope have had a successful business partnership for three years. Over that period of time, FACS students have contributed to Mobile Hope

by making toiletry wraps for Mobile Hope's "Listen for the Honk" mobile support program.

This year, in addition to sewing 100 toiletry wraps, students used t-shirts that *Graffiti and Silk* were not going to sell to create t-shirt pillows. Mobile Hope also supplied jeans that needed holes repaired and the students in Mrs. Myers' classes creatively repaired the denim using old vintage quilts and then returned them to *Graffiti and Silk* to put on the sales floor.

This authentic experience connects Blue Ridge Middle School students to their local community and supports the larger Loudoun County Public School Strategic Plan by providing students with rigorous and culturally responsive instruction that develops all students as knowledgeable critical thinkers, creators, communicators, collaborators, and contributors.

Students Jenna Kabban and Mikayla Greene said, "The field trip was fun and we were allowed to put together outfits, and see all the clothes at the store." Brock Till, an 8th grader added that "the scavenger hunt was engaging."

WINNERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Volkert Engineering)

- **Interiors Award: Lightridge High School** (Meagan Jancy, architect, MTFA Architecture; Michael Foster, MTFA Architecture; Loudoun County Public Schools; Howard Shockey & Sons Construction, general contractor)
- **Legends Award: VCE Loudoun Master Gardener Demonstration Garden** (Barbara Bailey, Master Gardener volunteer coordinator, VCE Loudoun; Normalee Martin; Inge Radel; Kristin Westfall; Mame Ward; Sharon Perryman; Lorrie Greenman; Karen Salo)
- **Makeovers Award: 338 Net Zero** (Peter Burnett, owner and general contractor; Kevin Ruedisueli, architect)
- **Public Spaces Award: King Street Station Public Plaza** (Don Knutson, owner; Land Design, architect)
- **Vision in Design Award: Paul Reimers, PR Construction.** Reimers, who died in July, was recognized for his dedication to excellence in design and his commitment to the community.

More information about the awards program, including photos of the winning projects, may be found online at loudoun.gov/signaturesofloudoun.

REMEMBERING WINDHAM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

school and obtained her Master's Degree in Psychology and Human Development from the University of Texas at Dallas.

Susie and Roy moved to Purcellville in 1990. They loved their home and the town so much that she served as a member of the town council and Purcellville Preservation Society for a number of years. She even ran for Mayor once (she lost by a hair) She worked for FEMA on an as-needed basis and volunteered at the Tree of Life food pantry.

Susie was the most wonderful, tender mother and best friend to her daughters. She was a loving friend, sister, daughter and aunt. She and her dog Pearl were well-known and loved in the town of Purcellville.

She moved to Hessler Heights Senior Living in Leesburg, in September of 2021 and spent her last year there thriving with her dog Pearl. She was just as loved by her wonderful neighbors and friends there.

She was the most unique, free-spirited and loving human that cared deeply and genuinely for others, animals and nature. Susie was immensely creative. She had a passion for gardening, caring for her wild birds and creatures and making things inviting, beautiful and unexpected. She is so incredibly loved and missed.

Susie is joined with her precious daughter Kammie and husband Roy, her parents Ima Gene and Daniel, her brother Dan and sister Dana, and many other loved ones in heaven.

She is survived by her daughter Micheline (Michie) Windham of Leesburg; and several nieces, nephews, in-laws and cousins from Oklahoma, Texas and California.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday Dec. 3, 2 p.m. at Hessler Heights in Leesburg. All are welcome.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation in her honor to the Alzheimer's foundation at alzfdn.org and/or Ovarian Cancer Research at ocrahope.org.

HYPOTHERMIA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Enterprise St. in Sterling. Pickup time is 5:30 p.m.

- **Leesburg:** The front of the Shenandoah Office Building, 102 Heritage Way, NE in Leesburg. Pickup time is 6:30 p.m.

For more information about transportation, call 703-771-5429.

The county will provide limited morning transportation from the shelter, if needed.

The Hypothermia Prevention Shelter is operated by Loudoun County in partnership with Shelter House and the Loudoun County Continuum of Care. The CoC is a coalition of public, nonprofit and faith-based organizations that provide a variety of shelter and support services to those experiencing homelessness or people at risk of becoming homeless. Staff support for the CoC is provided by the Loudoun County Department of Family Services.

Happy Holidays

Love

Peace

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