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“I am hearing double talk back and forth here” – Mayor Kwasi Fraser

BY VALERIE CURY

At the March 8 Purcellville Town Council meeting, Council Member Tip Stinnette was the swing vote to end discussion on a proposal to create a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone. Despite his claims to support historic preservation, Stinnette tried to end the proposed ordinance by adding three last minute conditions which required funding, then saying he would not fund them.

It was with Stinnette’s original support and advisement that the Planning Com-

mission drafted a proposed ordinance to define a process for the demolition of primary structures in Purcellville. These are structures that the Department of Historic Resources has listed as historic or as contributors to a historic district – outside of the already existing Historic Corridor Overlay District.

The Planning Commission proposal responded to the Comprehensive Plan negotiations under Stinnette’s chairmanship of the Commission. It passed with the support of six of the seven Town

Council votes.

Council Member Joel Grewe was the lone vote opposing the adopted Comprehensive Plan. He has also consistently voted in opposition to related ordinance changes. On the date of the vote, Stinnette sided with Council Members Joel Grewe, Erin Rayner, and Mary Jane Williams.

It is worth noting that Williams was elected on a platform of slow growth and the preservation of Purcellville’s small-town character. Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Vice



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Mayor Chris Bertaut, and Council Member Stan Milan – with whom Williams ran on a slow growth platform – voted against ending discussion on the Planning Commission’s proposal.

Stinnette’s swing vote undermined the effort to fulfill the Comprehensive Plan’s aspiration to “consider amending the town’s Historic Overlay District to be more inclusive of all historically contributing structures...”

Reading from a prepared statement, Stinnette first claimed that the HPOZ was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »



These three homes on Hatcher Avenue are proposed to be torn down, and a big box building put up in its place next to the W&OD Trail.

Leesburg’s Flower and Garden Festival April 23 and 24

The 32nd annual Flower and Garden Festival will take place Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24 in historic downtown Leesburg. More than 125 vendors will fill the streets with seasonal blooms, herbs, gardening supplies, outdoor furniture, and more.

In addition to the exhibits, festival goers can enjoy music, entertainment and activities for the kids, a rooftop beer



garden, and delicious festival foods.

Guests will also have the opportunity to vote for their favorite landscape display in the People’s Choice Landscape Competition. Ballots can be picked up at the Gazebo or at the landscaper’s display. Completed ballots should be placed in the birdhouse at the Gazebo by noon on Sunday so that the winner can be announced that afternoon.

Portions of King, Market, and Cornwall Streets will be closed for the event, however parking will be available in the Town parking garage using the Loudoun Street entrance. Additional parking will be available throughout downtown and a free shuttle service, from Ida Lee Park, will run continuously throughout the day. Visitors are asked to leave pets at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

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Sadie's Race nears the finish line: 1,913 smiles

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Just one more 5K race, on May 29 and a gala on Oct. 20, and Sara Parella will achieve the goal she set for herself in 2011 to honor Sadie Grace Ablard, her five-year-old daughter who died after sustaining a head injury while roller-skating at a birthday party.



Sadie's Race and the Sadie Smile Foundation, which is affiliated with the international nonprofit Smile Train, grew out of Sara's need to find a way to get out of bed in the morning. She found inspiration in her daughter's love of running, her little girl's joyful smile, and Sadie's wish to help others who

couldn't smile. Sara started an annual race in Purcellville that would support cleft lip and palate reconstruction surgery through Smile Train,

"I clearly remember Sadie's first smile," recalled Sara in a Facebook post. "Not just a reflex smile but her first real smile. She showed me that first gummy grin when she was eight weeks old, and she never lived a day without beaming several times during the day. Even on grumpy days, she would find things to look delighted about ...

"Running was one of them," added her mother. "She loved to run longer and longer portions of our 3.5 mile-loop, sometimes taking a break in the baby jogger but just as often challenging me in a race. When I was having a hard time keeping up with her sprints, she'd look back and shout, 'Now you're getting it!' while cheering on our 'girl power.' At only five years old, she was on her third pair of running shoes.

Sadie first learned about Smile Train when she and her mother were walking through Dulles Town Center. "We saw banners about giving to help people afford a surgery, which costs about \$250," Sara recalled. "Sadie looked at the banners and asked, 'What's wrong with that boy?' I explained as best I could, and then we went home and learned more online—how a person with a cleft lip or palate not only has trouble smiling but often can't eat or speak properly. They

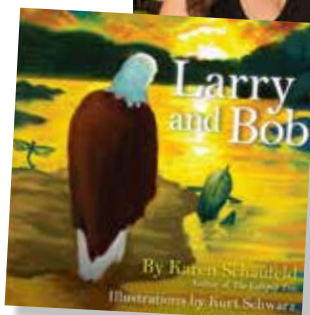
CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 »

Larry and Bob: A tale of fatherhood and friendship

Leesburg Author Karen Schaufeld introduces readers to a unique friendship between a bald eagle and a smallmouth bass in the children's book, *Larry and Bob*.

In the midst of their everyday lives, *Larry and Bob* meet one fateful day. That will change them both in this intriguing story which will keep readers guessing what will happen next.

For residents of the northern Virginia area, the bald eagle has been in the news in recent months. The Dulles Greenway Wetlands eagles, Rosa and Martin, became new parents to an eaglet named DG1 last month. And at the Na-



tional Arboretum in Washington, DC, LOTUS (Lady of the United States) and Mr. President are expecting, marking the first occurrence at the Arboretum in several years.

Experts say it is the start of a comeback for the once-endangered national bird. Due to the use of the pesticide DDT, bald eagle eggs had become thin and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 »

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Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth: Hughesville Road

BY TIM JON

“What is it, exactly? ... I mean, it must be something concrete – something to be weighed, measured, described, somehow quantified... or perhaps, qualified, to satisfy this nagging interest?”



Well, I was going over this very question – this complicated, yet simple, inquiry as to just why in the heck I push myself out of doors – before sunup – to drive (sometimes for many, many miles into unknown territory) out to some – often ‘neglected’ – destination – just to gather basic impressions on the camera, and on the sensory and emotional well, buried somewhere in the heart and soul.

You see the conundrum? How would you answer such an inquiry?

Well, I had at least part of my answer before I got halfway to my chosen field of opportunity; I noted that distinct, pinkish glow in the east and the emerging silhouettes of trees and houses as I made my way south of Leesburg, and kept savoring the ground fog that appeared to sort of steam out of the wet soil along the way.

Now, fog, trees and sky may not sound like earth-shat-

tering discoveries, but these three components – taken at just the right time of day – can always take me by surprise, as if I’m coming upon them for the first time – maybe even as if I’m the first human, the first organism to witness a spectacle laced with all this magic. (You know, it doesn’t always turn out that way: sometimes the dawn comes in all gray and not very stimulating – leaving the trees with a hum-drum lack of luster – and the mist I’m seeking stays wherever it was in the first place.) But, as often as not, I’m treated to a miraculous wake-up call of images and sensations as I approach a place like the scenes I encountered that morning on Route 725 – otherwise known as Hughesville Road.

This narrow, very unimproved dirt corridor snakes through the midsection of Loudoun County – running east-west from Harmony Church Road to Telegraph Springs Road – and features some of my favorite landscape views in the locality. And, having been primed along the way for my little road trip through the heart of Loudoun, I overworked my digital camera and just



about ran out of battery juice before I passed the halfway point of my day’s assigned route.

No worries: a place as remote and unaltered as this dirt road has been – since my first drive here a quarter-century ago – always leaves me with memories – mostly natural features, but some man-made structures as well.

There are those fields of indeterminate grains or grass or weeds, which were planted there for my pleasant sightseeing. There was that familiar, certainly historic, red barn at the crest of the hill, just past the well-remembered bottom-land where the deer grazed. And, of course, here was the unique, one-lane concrete bridge spanning the friendly little creek by the name of Crooked Run. Yes, these and many more wonderful memories of my fond sightseeing trips down Hughesville Road.

“So, why don’t you tell ‘em about all the trouble you’ve had on that dusty little stretch?”

Well, good point. You see, I’ve been delivering the US Mail along this road for, well – at the time of this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

Farewell, my dear reader

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

It’s time for me to bid you farewell, my dear reader. After nearly eleven years of writing, this will be my last column.



I wrote my first column in November 2011. At the time, I was in high school, and I had submitted a story to my school newspaper about the upcoming election. I was excited, as this was the first election in which I could vote. Before publication, my school newspaper cut the story. Never one to give up, I decided to ask local newspapers if they’d be willing to publish my story, hoping to see my work in print.

I’ll be forever grateful that Valerie Cury, editor of this newspaper, agreed to run my story. Which led to me writing this column, submitting copy each

month, brimming with excitement that my work would be shared with the world.

It truly has been an honor to write this column. I’m humbled that it has run for as long as it has, and that you, my dear reader, have accompanied me on this journey. I have written this column throughout formative years. As I look back on past columns, I see how I was working through many aspects of adolescence and early adulthood. The anxieties around submitting college applications, adjusting to college life, and entering the workforce. I was also wrestling with the accident I had suffered as a teenager and all that went along with that experience.

In June 2011, I wrote what I thought would be my last column. “This column has been a great way to voice my frustrations, and to educate others about what challenges and fears a high school senior

faces,” I wrote. “But most of all I think it was a way for me to try to prove that young people don’t always deserve the bad reputation that they are often given.”

A variety of factors drove me to start writing again in July 2013. I missed having the opportunity to share my thoughts, and the ability to make a small difference in the lives of others. I also had more to say. There were different causes I wanted to highlight, lessons to glean, and stories to share.

I’ve come to see how this column was a vehicle for me to share my thoughts, and more importantly, my heart. As someone who often felt unheard and misunderstood, this column was a salve. It kept me going in times of darkness, especially when I felt like no one else was listening.

Yet even more importantly, I wrote this column because I wanted to make a difference. I wanted to share my perspective, in the hopes that it encouraged

others as they faced adversity. Years of practicing the craft of writing through this column led me to write *Can You See My Scars?* I wrote the book with the same goal in mind: to make a difference.

Over the last year, I’ve found that I simply have less to say, and even less time to say it. Part of that was the pandemic – I’d always used interactions with others and experiences out in the world as a jumping off point for topics I covered in this column. Life changes have also pulled me in different directions—such as getting married, increased work responsibilities, and time-consuming efforts of book promotion. I also think this decision is borne out of a happy circumstance; mainly, that over the last few years, I’ve really come into my own. I’ve heard it said that from great struggle comes great writing. I simply am not struggling in the same ways I once was.

And while it’s time for me to drop the pen for now, I couldn’t be more grateful

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 »

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A family feud

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Byne Rood was in the sunroom when her husband returned from his office. She had a wan smile and was still in barn clothes.

OPINION

“What’s up, Byne?” queried Robert. “You don’t look happy.”

“I’m just puzzled. Maybe a bit irritated.”

“’bout what?”

“You know how much I’m trying to follow the new zoning ordinance that’s being drafted?”

Robert nodded.

“Well, the good guys seem to be fighting each other. They all want to save western Loudoun, just like we do, but their ideas don’t always mesh. You’ve got the active preservationists. That group keeps pushing for a lower density for new housing.”

“A worthy goal. Everyone hates sprawl.”

“Yep, but they are tilting at windmills,” stated Byne. “There’s no way politicians are going to reduce density, at least for now. Even without the developers chiming in. Now you have landowners - especially large farmers - squawking that lowering the density would reduce the value of their land. Then you hear conservation easement people complain that lower density would make easements less attractive.”

Robert had his own perspective. “Even with a lot of easements in the past few years, we would still expect more than 10,000 new houses out here. Easements can’t fix everything. Some of the easement folks are our good friends, and I hate to say it, but it usually comes down to money and a conservation easement itself is not the entire picture.”

“What do you mean?” Byne asked.

“Well, if somebody buys a good piece of property and does an easement, they might also get stream bank credits, nutrient credits, money for carbon sequestration. That could do a lot towards offsetting any effect of lower density.” Robert opined.

Byne’s strained smile was gone; she was animated. “Alright, that’s the preservationists versus the conservationists, but there’s another group. Farming advocates have focused on soil quality.”

“Dirt,” Robert chortled.

“Dirt with names like ‘Eubanks Loam’ or ‘Tankerville,’ and all dirt is not equal,” explained Byne. “Prime agricultural soils only amount to 19 percent of the county. That’s why the Supervisors want to protect them. There’s more.”

“Like what, Byne?” Robert asked.

“It’s not like there’s one large, contig-

uous area of prime soils. It’s more like a checkerboard of small pieces. That makes it hard to figure out just how you could really protect good soils and have parcel sizes that could be farmed. Plus, some people seem to think that protecting prime soils would be a *de facto* way of reducing housing density.”

Robert understood. “That wouldn’t be bad.”

Byne explained, “The easement people worry that the prime soils initiative would do exactly that - reduce density, which, they say, would make conservation easements less attractive.”

Robert smiled wryly and mentioned another nuance. “There are really two farming groups. One advocates for agriculture in general, and then there’re the farmers themselves. I’ve heard one of those guys refer to his land as his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »

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Is Western Loudoun already gone?

BY LAURA LONGLEY

While the Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance Committee works its way through revisions of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, a process that will take at least until summer, an increasing number of farms in western Loudoun are disappearing fast. Four large farms around Hillsboro have been sold since June, a fifth a few months earlier.

At least four of them have sold to developers planning to build rural cluster communities before zoning changes could limit the number of houses they can put on their property. In fact, at least two of the developers are currently seeking density increases above the rural cluster limit.

Cluster subdivisions are characterized by smaller lots and dense housing set in groups and common open space comprising over 50 percent of the whole property.

Developers who recently purchased the properties around Hillsboro will each design their own unique rural cluster communities as no property has the same terrain, water resources, and access to roads. Despite the challenges, however, they are wasting no time buying open land and selling lots for their designed homes.

With conservationists lobbying for zoning closer to that of southern Loudoun, which is one house per 15 acres, and the entire elimination of rural clusters, the cluster developers around Hillsboro alone are rushing to

beat the clock.

The properties recently sold around Hillsboro include 47 acres of rural land on Short Hill Road, a 113-acre farm on Heskett Lane off Rt. 9, 122 acres adjoining the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, soon to become a state park, 196 acres at Harpers Ferry and Sagle roads, and a 167-acre property, currently a winery.

At least three of the farms were purchased by Carrington Builder, one of the most active developers of rural clusters in western Loudoun. Among the communities Carrington has already sold out or has on the market are Black Oak Ridge, James Farm, Short Hill View, Huntwick Place, and Meeting-house Farm, all in the Purcellville area; Old Wheatland Estates in Waterford and The Crest at Waterford in Paeonian Springs; Chudleigh in Aldie; Eagle Creek and Downey Farm in Lovettsville; Ivandale Farms in Hamilton; Highlands and Blue Ridge View in Round Hill.

Carrington’s latest acquisitions, now in the County applications pipeline, have already been named and prepped for marketing.

Carrington’s 113-acre farm on Heskett—a narrow, steep, dirt road just west of Hillsborough Vineyards and Brewery—will become a 22-home HOA called “The Ridges at Hillsborough.” Its immediate impacts will be agricultural land lost and traffic gained. Using the County’s and VDOT’s conservative estimate that each new residence yields

a minimum of 10 vehicle trips per day, the Ridges at Hillsborough could be expected to create 220 more vehicle trips not only on Rt. 9 but also on north-south routes. Drivers headed east and south to the future 690/7 interchange could choose to stay on 9 through the recently traffic-calmed Town of Hillsboro, then turn right onto Hillsboro Road, or cut through via Cider Mill and Woodgrove roads.

Either way, the residents of the Ridges at Hillsborough will meet up with vehicles coming and going from the other new developments.

“Hillside,” to be built on the 196-acre property at Harpers Ferry and Sagle roads, is slated for 39 residential lots. Using the 10 trips yardstick again, Hillside would generate almost 400 more trips per day on Harpers Ferry Road. Some of the traffic might go north to Maryland, but more likely the bulk would end up on Rt. 9.

The 47-acre property on the Short Hill will become “Westview at Short Hill,” a nine-home residential community off another narrow, steep, and heavily potholed dirt road.

In addition to these Carrington projects, another application has been submitted for 10 homesites on 120 acres on Koerner Lane off Hillsboro Road. On Harpers Ferry Road, Maggie Malick Wine Caves, with nearly all its 167 acres in agricultural use, sold in December for \$4.5 million. While no subdivision

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

The importance of activities in a post pandemic world

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

COVID-19 may be ending, or at the very least its control over us all as a pandemic may be coming to an end. But what does getting back to life as normal (or some version



Dr. Mike

of it) look like for our children?

Research has shown that the protracted changes, adjustments, and uncertainties due to COVID-19 have taken a toll on children; in significant ways, these past two years have negatively impacted our children's social, emotional and academic development and functioning.

As a child psychologist, I've seen firsthand the ways in which children have been most impacted by COVID-19, and the social impact is what concerns me most. Children can always catch up academically (i.e. their hard skills and content learning), but getting back to a solid social self isn't going to be easy for a lot of children.

Research in this area has already shown that, over the past two years, children have missed out on learning durable soft skills that make it necessary to succeed at both college and the workplace. And those delays or gaps are occurring for children of all ages with research showing that even babies born during COVID-19 have higher reported rates of social and motor delays.

One recent study revealed that universities and employers are reporting that today's applicants are lacking several durable soft skills, the two most important ones being communication skills and leadership skills.

Surprisingly, another study found that only 3 percent of high school students actually view leadership skills as something important to them. This finding is disturbing given that leadership is one of the most sought out skill for universities and employers and later success in life.

So, how do you help your child actively cultivate the skills they need to do well in college and beyond after a global pandemic? Extracurricular activities. By reintroducing

your children to clubs, camps (at home or away), sports teams, enrichment programs, etc., you will be providing them with experiences – very important ones – that will serve to get them back on track.

It's important to note though that the transition back to extracurricular activities will not go smoothly for all children, and parents need to be sensitive to that. While many children can't wait to get back out there, others may feel anxious about re-entry. Also, so many children have over relied on technology during the pandemic, which has in turn negatively impacted socialization. Thus, managing screen or technology time is an important step to take to get your child more engaged and social, but that task is easier said than done for a lot of parents and children.

In my experience, the best way to increase socialization for a child that overuses technology is to communicate your social expectations of them openly and positively. If your son or daughter is outside of the house on a sports team or in a club, he or she is not at home on a screen. As a parent, you may be able to avoid restrictions (and fights) altogether if you can proactively convince your child of the importance of getting out of the house, of getting engaged with others again and of striving for balance.

This has been a very long two years, but the light at the end of the tunnel is bright. Now that it's safe to be social again, I encourage parents to increase their children's involvement in extracurricular activities; not only is it good for them now, but it will pay back in dividends later.

The mind gathers its grain in all fields, storing it against a time of need, then suddenly it bursts into awareness, which men call inspiration or second sight or a gift. – Louis L'Amour

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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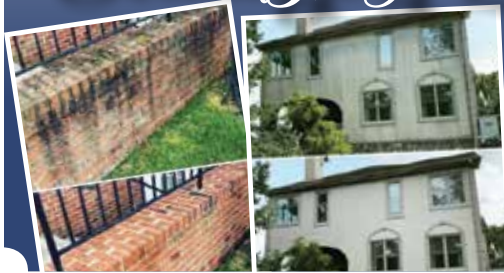
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In defense of Purcellville's Historic Preservation Overlay Zone

BY ADAM STEVENSON

At the Feb. 8 Purcellville Town Council meeting, I was disappointed by many of the comments made in opposition to the Historical Preservation Overlay Zone discussed that night.



STEVENSON

Many citizens condemned the HPOZ as an act of government overreach, and an overt attack on property rights. However, the proposed ordinance would only slow down the demolition process, and not ban demolition outright, in the area that the overlay zone incorporates.

It wouldn't eliminate a potential action on pertinent property, it would simply ensure that things like community values, preservation, neighborhood coherence, etc., are given time to be defended.

There is an uneasy tension between personal rights and community values. This is a necessary tension, probably. That is because our rights don't inhabit a vacuum.

We are necessarily entwined in all sorts of relationships ranging from the very close and directly related, to the distant and tenuously connected. Our right to do nearly anything is checked by the effects of that action on others.

These checks sometimes take the form of law, which is, in essence, the formal prohibition of certain actions because of their negative effect on the community, the neighborhood—and others' rights as well.

As a simplistic example, any assumed right to pour toxins into a community's watershed would conflict with resident's rights to clean drinking water and the general value placed by the community on such a clean source of water.

Similarly, any right to tear down one's house as soon as one so desires is held in tension by the concern of the community to live in a recognizable

neighborhood with historic structures that have been cherished over the years. This is echoed in our town's newly adopted Comprehensive Plan.

In Jane Jacobs' "The Death and Life of Great American Cities," a classic of urban planning literature, the author makes the point that successful areas of large cities (and I would presume these characteristics would, to some degree, be shared by successful areas of towns as well) have a sufficient stock of "aged buildings."

The reasoning for this was fascinating, Jacobs points out that aged buildings have paid down their capital costs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 »



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- 41236 TYNE DALE COURT, ASHBURN, VA | SOLD \$2,000,000 *
- 16778 BOLD VENTURE DRIVE, LEESBURG, VA | SOLD \$2,004,204*
- 19631 GREENHAM DRIVE, LEESBURG,VA | SOLD \$1,962,500
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Lowering the tax rate by one cent equals “a latte a month.”

– David Mekarski, Purcellville Town Manager

BY VALERIE CURY

Purcellville Town Manager David Mekarski’s proposed budget for FY 22 is \$0.22 per \$100 of assessed value. Fireman’s Field proposed budget for the same year is \$0.03. At the March 22 Purcellville Town Council meeting, the Council voted unanimously to lower the proposed rate to \$0.21 per \$100 of assessed value.

Mekarski wanted to leave the proposed rate at \$0.22. He said that inflation currently is at eight percent and, encouraging the Council not to lower the proposed rate by one cent said that “one penny would take care of inflationary cost.”

The real estate tax assessments increased by on average 11.72 percent on average. The one cent reduction is equivalent to \$174,000.

“That penny will only save the homeowners \$50.00. As your manager, I’m telling you that citizens would rather see this Council invest in quality of life ... That \$174,000 is a latte not a day, a latte not a week, a latte a month ... [and] would help finance the kind of wages that our most important asset, our employees deserve.”

Mekarski is proposing a six percent cost of living increase for employees, and one time five percent pay for performance. On Feb. 8, Mekarski used \$300,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to give bonuses to 82 Town employees. Bonuses ranged from a minimum of \$500 for part time employees and \$1,000 for full time employees, to a maximum of \$7,500.

Council Member Mary Jane Williams had initially said “I prefer to leave the tax rate where it is ... we need to have that cushion there.” She said she could agree to a one cent decrease but not two cents.

Hearing Mekarski say that the Town needed to keep the rate where it is, Council Member Stan Milan countered, “The citizens of Purcellville have experienced the inflation rate as well.”

“They were surprised, I was sur-

prised that the assessed value of my home went up. So that causes me to pay more taxes,” he said. The citizens of Purcellville need some relief in some capacity, even if it is just \$50. Fifty dollars might be a life saver for some citizens in this town and I would like to see at least a one cent savings.”

“I would favor reducing it from \$0.22 by at least a penny, added Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut. “The savings are out there; we just need to comb through the budget and find them – and it’s really more than \$50. [increase] for most of the homeowners in this Town.”

Addressing current inflation, Bertaut said, “It’s greater than the amount of regular inflation that we are experiencing and we are experiencing an awful lot of inflation as homeowners – and not just in the value of our houses, but in groceries, and fuel costs ...” He added it was better to “invest in the community by letting them keep some of their money.”

Council Member Joel Grewe said the one cent reduction was right explaining that the residents are already facing a lot of increases.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser said he knew a great family who lived in Purcellville, and they moved out last year. When he called and asked them why they left, they said that every time they saw a tax bill from the Town of Purcellville, they felt like they were being robbed. “That’s the reality of a lot of folks ... through COVID a lot of families left Purcellville because they lost their jobs.”

Addressing Mekarski, Fraser said that when he walks out of Town Hall, he will hear from a resident, and you know who that resident is, that the Town Manager doesn’t live in Town and doesn’t pay taxes, but “is telling me to raise taxes.”

“I believe that the people of Purcellville stuck with us. They were resilient. They are paying their taxes, and they are paying their utility bills. Let’s give them a break,” said Fraser.

Purcellville CM Joel Grewe slows down zoning work with questionable accusations

BY VALERIE CURY

Purcellville's Planning Commission is laser focused on aligning the Town's zoning ordinance with its new Comprehensive Plan. In that ongoing work, the Town's seven Planning Commissioners have listened to the citizens and heard loud and clear that they want the Comprehensive Plan to ensure that Purcellville's small-town character is preserved.

But one Purcellville Council Member, Joel Grewe, is making it loud and clear that he is not on board with that community vision. He was the lone vote on the Town Council against the Comprehensive Plan, and the sole vote for annexing the 118.81-acre Warner Brook property on Purcellville Road.

According to members of the Planning Commission, Grewe has taken to disparaging commissioners through social media in his effort to undermine the zoning work and its preservation direction.

At the Oct. 26, 2021 Purcellville Town Council meeting, Nedim Ogelman, then Chair of the Planning Commission, came to speak in the citizen comments portion of the meeting and addressed Council Member Grewe's Facebook comments regarding the Commission.

"I am here to address postings brought to my attention on Council Member Grewe's Facebook site. The bullying, hypocrisy, and lies in these postings target me and the Town's Planning Commission, of which I am a member. I am here to set the record straight.

"He weaves these lies without engaging those he accuses," said Ogelman, "to mislead citizens and smear volunteers who are helping turn into zoning the wishes of citizens as voiced in the Comprehensive Plan."

Meanwhile, Grewe asserted that an investigation of Ogelman and the rest of the Planning Commission had been conducted and "the results substantiated the violations."

Ogelman responded, "No credible person has informed me through proper channels that there have been investigations. Nor have I been asked for my views ... Denying due process rights to the accused are not our way here in the United States."

Ogelman said if there were such an investigation, "it is that that needs to be investigated."

Grewe also asserted that Ogelman re-

fused to follow Virginia Freedom of Information law by failing to provide him with government records related to the investigation. "There has been no FOIA request of me," said Ogelman. Grewe also noted that the Planning Commission had a contentious approach to anything they don't like.

Grewe himself is not without FOIA infractions. In early 2020, Council Members Grewe, Tip Stinnette, Ted Greenly, later joined by Chris Bledsoe, violated FOIA by holding an unannounced meeting with the representative of someone seeking high density zoning. This meeting involved more than two Council Members after a Town Council meeting had ended. Grewe said the meeting involved only two Council Members, but changed his story when notified that there was a video of that meeting.

Grewe replied that he was careful and "made sure I could back everything I said with evidence. I can produce that." He said he had materials and a report that "all Council is privy to ... I have a report of the investigation. Every Council Member has that as well."

He continued, "I have the recommended letter that was to be sent to the Planning Commission and the rest of the committees addressing their behavior. It was not acted on by the Council ... I have pretty much evidence for all of it."

Mayor Kwasi Fraser said he needed to better understand the issue. "What was the investigation, and what was the outcome of the investigation?" He added that he was looking forward to seeing the investigation report.

To date, no report has been presented to Mayor Fraser, or to Council. As of the end of March 2022, in fact, there has been no report or record of Ogelman violating FOIA. The Town has provided no report or evidence of Grewe's allegations.

Council Member Grewe is the only Council Member who openly opposed the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Council Member Tip Stinnette had worked on and supported the Comprehensive Plan, but then has opposed or resisted Planning Commission efforts to bring the zoning ordinance in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan.

Zoning laws are the most important ways that communities and government have a say in the development of area real estate. The zoning laws control what uses go in specific areas. These

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 »



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Next hazardous waste event is April 23 in Hamilton

The Loudoun County Household Hazardous Waste collection event is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., at the Harmony Park and Ride, 39464 East Colonial Highway, Hamilton.

What's Accepted

Typical HHW includes: fluorescent light bulbs, dry-cell batteries (alkaline, Ni-Cad, Lithium, rechargeable, etc, but no automobile batteries), oil-based paints and stains, varnish, paint thinner, mineral spirits, metal polish, rust remover, wood strippers and preservatives, furniture polish, waxes, sealants and solvents, bleach, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fertilizer, pool chemicals, muriatic acid, sulfuric acid, ammonia, mercury, mercury thermometers and thermostats, gasoline, expired fuel, auto cleaners and flushes, brake and transmission fluid, windshield washer fluid, fire extinguishers, moth balls, flea and tick products, photographic chemicals and other hobby chemicals.

Anyone who has an item that is not on this list is encouraged to call the

county's Waste Management Division at 703-771-5500 to see if the item is accepted or if an alternate disposal option is needed.

HHW should only be brought to the event location on the scheduled date and event time. Please do not drop off material at any unattended site.

The limit per household is 15 gallons of liquid HHW (container size not to exceed 5-gallon), and 40 pounds of solid HHW (container size not to exceed 5-gallon).

Participants should be able to provide proof of Loudoun County residency such as a driver's license or utility bill.

What's Not Accepted

Motor oil, antifreeze, automobile batteries, propane tanks, helium tanks, CO2 tanks and cartridges, dry-wall compound and oil-based space heaters are not accepted at HHW collection events. These materials are accepted at the Loudoun County Solid Waste Management Facility (County landfill), 21101 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg. Visit loudoun.gov/landfill for more information.

Ammunition, explosives, fireworks, and gun powder are not accepted at the HHW collection events. For information about disposal of these items, contact the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office at 703-737-8600.

Electronics are not accepted at the HHW collection events. Information on how to properly dispose of unwanted electronics is online at loudoun.gov/electronics.

Medical waste and medications are not accepted at HHW collection events. Disposal information is available at loudoun.gov/hhw.

Latex or water-based paint is not hazardous and should be taken to the Loudoun County Solid Waste Management Facility (Loudoun County landfill), Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; fee applies. Visit loudoun.gov/landfill for more information.

Non-residential hazardous waste is not accepted. Businesses and organizations in Loudoun that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month are encouraged to visit loudoun.gov/bhwp or call 703-771-5500 for information about the coun-

ty's Business Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

Event Procedures

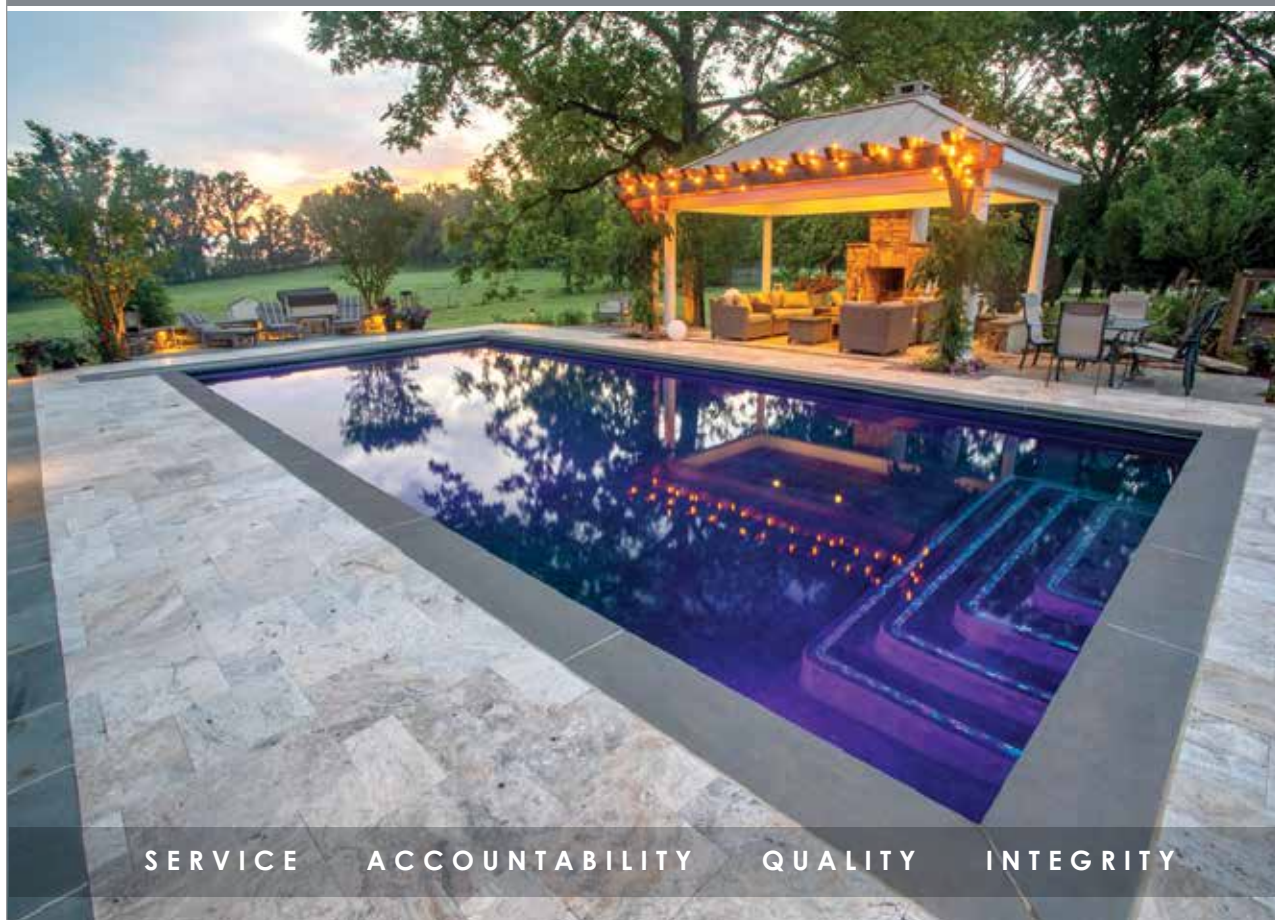
Because of safety concerns related to the handling of various types of hazardous materials, the events feature a drive-through process in which residents are instructed to remain in their vehicles and allow event staff to unload any items accepted for disposal. To ensure everyone remains in their vehicle while at the point of service, items must not be in sealed or tied plastic bags. Staff are not allowed to open any plastic bag containing HHW.

Upcoming Loudoun County HHW Events (All events are from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.)

- Saturday, April 23
- Saturday, May 21
- Saturday, June 25
- View the 2022 schedule of HHW events.

For more information about the Loudoun County Household Hazardous Waste Program, call 703-771-5500 or visit loudoun.gov/hhw.

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Warner meets with Afghan allies in Leesburg

On March 11 Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) met with Afghan evacuees at the National Conference Center in Leesburg. He toured the facility where 300 Afghan evacuees are temporarily housed each month until they are relocated.

This is part of Phase II of Operation Allies Welcome, which seeks to resettle vulnerable Afghans.

Warner said most families will rotate out, and you could see relief and joy on



L to R: Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), and Supervisor Mike Turner (D-Ashburn).

their faces. A majority of them have family and friends in the United States. The operation will last until September.

The tour was “home like,” said Warner, “... it’s truly an American welcome.” He said there was a remarkable amount of security in collaboration with the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office. He noted that everyone has been screened for COVID.

Loudoun County Supervisor Mike Turner said that, “anytime there is change, there is anxiety, and I understand that ... This will be a stellar operation.” He said that so many folks are helping. He was there on behalf of Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall (D-At Large).

The ADAMS Center insured both great Afghan and American foods. There is a library, a computer lab, and plenty of clothing and baby supplies. Some of the family members were learning how to use a smart phone. They are working with federal, state, and local agencies.

Virtual design hearing on Rt. 7/287 interchange improvements

In coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation, Loudoun County is hosting an online design public hearing to gain input from the public on construction improvements for the Rt. 7 and Berlin Turnpike (Rt. 287) interchange in the Town of Purcellville.

The public hearing will be held Thursday, April 14, from 6 – 7 p.m. Members of the public are invited to join the virtual hearing to learn, ask questions and provide input about the project.

Login information and hearing materials, including the public advertisement for the hearing, are available for review at loudoun.gov/route7-287interchange.

This project funds the design and construction of improvements for the Rt. 7 and Rt. 287 interchange in the Town of Purcellville. Within an estimated distance of 1.2 miles, the project scope includes lengthened and widened ramps, turn lanes and expanded turn and through lanes along Rt. 287 between Eastgate Drive and the westbound Rt. 7

entrance/exit ramps. It also includes expanded pedestrian access to the W&OD Trail and traffic signal modifications.

Comments will be accepted during the hearing, or by April 29, through the online comment form at loudoun.gov/route7-287interchange; by mail to Gary Pozzouli, Loudoun County Department of Transportation & Capital Infrastructure, 101 Blue Seal Drive, Suite 102, Leesburg, VA, 20177; or by email to dcti@loudoun.gov, and reference “Rt. 7/287 Interchange Improvements” in the subject line.

Funding for this project includes local tax funding and VDOT Smart Scale funding (State Project: 6007-053-177 P101, R201, C501, UPC: 111664, Federal Project: PE -STP-5A01 (959), CN – NHPP-5B01(192). This federal program is administered locally by VDOT.

For more information about the Rt. 7 and Berlin Turnpike (Rt. 287) interchange project, including a link to sign up for updates about the project and upcoming public hearing, visit loudoun.gov/route7-287interchange.

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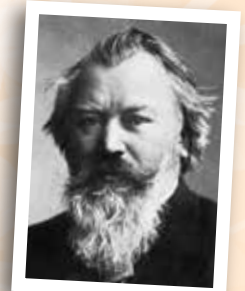
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Farm animals need protection, too

BY LAURA LONGLEY

Put yourself in the place of an owner of an equestrian property near Middleburg. Your neighbor, who just cleared his land, has built a burn pile the size of a house close to your property line, and only 200 feet or so from your stable.

This is not the first time the neighbor has put all his brush for burning next to your line. In the past, you've spoken to him, and he refuses to move the pile. He won't put his burn piles near his own barn, which stables horses.

COMMUNITY

In early March, within the Feb. 15 to April 30 period when open burning is allowed between 4 p.m. and midnight, the neighbor lit a large pile. Sparks flew, the fire crackled, your horses inhaled smoke, and were terrified.

Since his open burning was becoming more frequent and worrisome, the next day you called the Loudoun County Fire Marshal, who told you that a neighbor can build his pile on the property line, ignite it, and still be within code despite the nearness of your stable. Loudoun County's fire code restricts burn piles only if they are within 50 feet of a building and 1,000 feet of an "occupied" structure.

"For that reason," says the horse farm owner, "my stable full of animals is considered a 'non occupied' structure and is treated the same as a vacant building. Long story short, the fire code needs to change so people like my neighbor cannot smoke animals out of their living quarters, and scare them with fire. His burn piles are right next to my paddocks, so I cannot turn my horses out after 4 when the inferno commences."

There are no explicit protections for animals in the Loudoun County fire code.

Every year, the County reminds citizens of "open burning" restrictions. Open burning is defined as "combustion of solid waste without control of combustion air to maintain adequate temperature for efficient combustion, containment of the combustion." If it is "offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous," open burning shall be prohibited.

"Agricultural burning, such as clearing of a field or fence row, [is] for materials generated on site." The code uses the same distance restrictions for farms as it does for, say, housing developments. The burning may be "no closer than 50 feet from

a structure and 1,000 feet from an occupied structure, unless prior permission has been given by the occupant and may not pose a hazard to highways and airfields." A big concern for farmers is the unprotected "occupants" of agricultural structures when open burning is so close to them. That is, if you consider horses, dairy and beef cattle, pigs, sheep, and poultry as occupants.

Loudoun's fire code notes that the "Fire Marshal may impose regulations, at any time, based upon complaint, atmospheric or other environmental circumstances, to restrict or extinguish any fire that is otherwise permitted according to these guidelines." The code adds, "The Fire Marshal shall order extinguishment, either by the responsible party or local firefighting resources of any open burning which violates the provisions of this section or otherwise creates a nuisance."

The owner of the occupied barn filed a nuisance complaint, but the neighbor did not have to move his burn pile. In the larger scheme of things, while western Loudoun is still rural and some people are still farming, does it make sense for the fire code to treat a barn or stable housing animals as a "nonoccupied structure"?



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'I Voted' Sticker Contest deadline is April 22

The Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration is offering Loudoun residents the chance to design an "I Voted" sticker for the upcoming November 2022 general election.

Three winning designs will be used on "I Voted" stickers distributed to voters who cast their ballots at early voting and Election Day polling locations. The stickers will also be sent to those who vote by mail.

The contest is open to all Loudoun County residents. Entries may come from individuals as well as groups. People may enter as many times as they wish.

The basic sticker design is a circle, two inches in diameter, that includes the phrase "I Voted" or a variation of the theme and no more than 4 colors. The deadline for contest entries is April 22.

Eight finalists will be selected, followed by an online vote to determine the three winning entries. The winners are expected to be announced by June 2.

More information, including guidelines for the contest as well as the entry form, may be found at loudoun.gov/voter-stickercontest.



Piggott Bottom Road Bridge closed in Hamilton

The Piggott Bottom Road (Rt. 711) bridge over Catoctin Creek closed on Thursday, March 24 due to the results of the latest safety inspection, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

The bridge was scheduled to be closed and replaced starting in summer 2022. The original bridge was built in 1932 and rehabilitated in 1992, with several repairs made since. The new bridge will be slightly longer

and higher to better withstand flooding, and includes precast concrete beams to reduce long-term maintenance.

Those needing to reach properties along Piggott Bottom Road will have access; however, traffic will not be able to go beyond the point of the bridge in either direction.

Through traffic will be detoured via Berlin Turnpike (Rt. 287), Leesburg Pike (Rt. 7), and Hamilton Station Road (Rt. 704).

Youngkin calls on lawmakers to finish budget

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has issued a proclamation calling the members of the General Assembly into special session on April 4, to address the unfinished work from the 2022 legislative session.

Youngkin issued the following statement, "Today I am calling back lawmakers to Richmond to finish their work. Between high gas prices and rising inflation, Virginians are

more squeezed than ever and the General Assembly can deliver much needed tax relief to struggling Virginia families.

"Together, we can produce the biggest tax cut in the history of the Commonwealth at a time when Virginians need it the most and also make record investments in our education, law enforcement and behavioral health system, among other important priorities. Let's get back to work."



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Design hearing on Western Loudoun Park and Ride April 27

In coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation, Loudoun County is hosting an in-person design public hearing to gain input from the public on the design and construction of the Western Loudoun Park and Ride Lot.

GOVERNMENT

The proposed surface lot would have a minimum of 250 spaces and be located south of Allder School Road and adjacent to the Route 7/690 interchange in the Town of Purcellville. The public hearing will be held Wednesday April 27, from 6 – 8 p.m. at Woodgrove High School, 36811 Allder School Rd, Purcellville.

Members of the public are invited to attend the hearing to learn, ask questions and provide input about the project.

Currently, the Virginia Regional Transit parking lot in Purcellville serves as the only park and ride lot in western Loudoun County, with the closest alternative to the east in the Town of Hamilton.

The planned Western Loudoun Park and Ride will establish a dedicated lot in the Town of Purcellville. The design phase is underway, with an estimated completion date of late 2023.

The project adjacent to the Western

Loudoun Park and Ride lot is the Fields Farm Park project, which will provide rectangular and diamond athletic fields and parking. Construction for this project is expected to begin after the completion of the Western Park and Ride Lot project.

Comments will be accepted during the hearing or by May 7, through an online comment form available at loudoun.gov/westernparkandride, by mail to Tyler Cockrell, Loudoun County Department of Transportation & Capital Infrastructure, 101 Blue Seal Drive, Suite 102, Leesburg, VA 20177 or by email to dci@loudoun.gov. Reference “Western Loudoun Park and Ride” in the subject line.

Funding for this project includes local taxes, Smart Scale (VDOT Project - PRLO-053-178 (UPC 111470); Federal Project Number CMAQ-5A01(859)); and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement funds. These federal programs are administered locally by VDOT and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

For more information about Western Loudoun Park and Ride project, including a link to sign up for updates about the project and upcoming public hearing, visit loudoun.gov/westernparkandride.

Gov. Youngkin releases RGGI report

Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued the following statement March 15, on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative report, as outlined in the governor’s executive order 9.

“Costs are soaring for Virginia families and as governor, I pledged to address over taxation and Virginia’s high cost of living. That’s why I signed Executive Order 9 to direct DEQ to examine the impact of RGGI, and start the process of ending Virginia’s participation.

“This report reveals that RGGI is in reality a carbon tax passed on to families, individuals and businesses throughout the Commonwealth—it’s a bad deal for Virginians,” said Youngkin.

“Hardworking Virginians are having to do more with less as inflation steals a historic amount from their paychecks and the failed Biden Administration energy policies are costing Virginians more at the pump

and in their homes. We’re working every day to cut energy taxes and reduce costs – like the RGGI carbon tax – and make Virginia the best place to live, work and do business.”

During the review of the data, the report provides the following conclusions and findings regarding RGGI:

- Without and prior to RGGI, electricity generation has increased while CO₂ per MWh has almost been cut in half in Virginia over the last ten years.
- Because of the captive nature of their ratepayers, the ability for power-generators to fully pass on costs to consumers, and the fact that the Code of Virginia dedicates RGGI proceeds to grants programs, participation in RGGI is in effect a direct carbon tax on all households

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 »



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Commuters encouraged to ride Loudoun County Transit

As gas prices rise and more commuters return to their workplaces, Loudoun County residents are reminded that Loudoun County Transit is a cost-effective alternative to driving alone to work. Loudoun County Transit offers routes throughout the county and the region and will soon introduce bus routes to the new Silver Line Metrorail stations.

Consider riding transit for the following reasons:

- **Higher Gas Prices** – With gas prices surging, taking transit can save commuters money. Loudoun County Transit offers bus schedules and reasonable fares for travel around the county and the region.
- **Traffic Congestion** – No one likes to be stuck in traffic. As more workers are returning to the office, road congestion will increase. Loudoun County Transit offers commuters an alternate option to driving in traffic.
- **Loudoun County Buses are Easy to Ride** – Loudoun County Transit buses are reliable, clean and equipped for Metro SmarTrip® electronic fare collection, reducing the need for drivers and passengers to handle cash and accelerating passenger boarding time.
- **Enjoy Letting Someone Else Drive** – Loudoun County Transit can help commuters avoid the stress that comes from daily driving in highly congested areas.
- **Public Transportation Reduces Air Pollution** – Riding transit and keeping cars off the road lessens carbon dioxide emissions.

Loudoun County Transit App

Loudoun County Transit's Transit app allows riders to receive notifications, real-time vehicle locations and trip planning directly through a smart phone. In addition, a team of transit specialists is also

available to assist riders with trip planning.

Other Commuting Options

Commuters can also take advantage of the Ridematching system that helps individuals match with others who travel to work in a carpool or vanpool and the Guaranteed Ride Home program, which recently increased the number of free emergency rides home from 4 to 6 per year for those who carpool, vanpool or ride transit.

Upcoming Silver Line Service

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority is preparing for the opening of the Silver Line Metrorail Service to and from the Dulles Airport, Loudoun Gateway and Ashburn Metro Stations in Loudoun County. The extension of Metrorail will provide reliable transportation and an alternative to vehicular traffic between the Dulles Corridor and Herndon, Reston, Tysons Corner, Arlington and downtown Washington, D.C. The projected start date of Silver Line, Phase 2 service is not yet known.

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

COVID-19 Precautions

The health and well-being of Loudoun County Transit passengers and employees is a priority. As required by the Transportation Security Administration, masks are required on public transportation. The current mask requirement has been extended by the TSA through April 18. In addition, Loudoun County Transit has made operational changes to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure on its buses.

More Information about Loudoun County Transit

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

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TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

writing – just over 13 years. In fact, I've carried routes for the Office in Leesburg as well as those covered by the Post Offices in Hamilton and Purcellville (both of which now work out of our building in the latter Town); I may be the only one 'lucky' enough to have covered the entire road in mail service.

Lucky? It's allowed me to survive multiple (seemingly unending) truck break-downs, ice storms, shin-deep snowfalls, turbulent lightning displays, torrential rainfalls, school buses, road graders, wild turkeys, deer, joggers, hikers, other delivery trucks,

and riders on horseback.

I'd have to say deep snow was the worst: that's when all the hair on your body remains at standing attention as you negotiate your way down a pristine, snow-blanketed stretch of what you hope is the roadway underneath. And then, you've got to somehow guide that ornery critter of a vehicle close enough to the mailboxes to deliver the daily goods. Or, dismount and slog through 8 or 10 inches of snow at each stop. With no heat provided for your feet and legs (just an inadequate defrost system) your lower extremities freeze up in an awful hurry.

And, after you finish up on Hughesville, remember – you've still got Foundry, Sands and Cooksville Roads before you can relax enough to take a breath, and deliver down the main street in little, old Lincoln, Virginia.

Yes, I truly love Hughesville Road in my spare time, in my own (well-maintained and well-paid-for) all-wheel-drive vehicle – on a Sunday morning, with no obligations beyond a memorable pleasure cruise, down a tree-lined, wildlife-inhabited, seemingly-deserted (at that time of the morning) path of adventure.

And, I generally like it quite a bit when I'm working, too.

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Member sought for Loudoun Board of Zoning Appeals

Loudoun County is seeking applicants to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

GOVERNMENT There is one opening for a member whose term would begin immediately upon appointment by the Loudoun County Circuit Court.

The duties of the BZA include hearing and deciding:

Appeals of administrative decisions and notices of violations made in accordance with the zoning ordinance.

Applications for variances as authorized by the zoning ordinance.

Appeals from the decisions of the Loudoun County Zoning Administrator regarding interpretation of the zoning map where there is uncertainty as to the location of a zoning district boundary.

Applications for special excep-

tions when buildings or structures have inadvertently encroached into a yard or setback.

The BZA has five members and two alternates who are appointed by the chief judge of the Loudoun County Circuit Court for staggered terms of five years. BZA members must be residents of Loudoun County.

The BZA meets approximately once a month for a public hearing.

The deadline to apply for a seat on the BZA is April 11. More information, including a link to the online application form, is available at loudoun.gov/bza.

In addition, there are opportunities to serve on advisory boards, commissions and committees that advise the Board of Supervisors. Find out more at loudoun.gov/advisoryvacancies.

USTA Mid-Atlantic plans tennis campus near Leesburg

The United States Tennis Association Mid-Atlantic Section plans to build a state-of-the-art 36-court tennis campus along the Greenway near Leesburg, creating an unparalleled hub for year-round community health and wellness through tennis.

The USTA MAS tennis campus will draw local, regional and national level tennis events and feature daily tennis programming, allowing the nonprofit

organization to service the mission of growing the sport and attaining their vision for tennis in every community in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Tennis continues to see strong interest and growth with USTA Mid-Atlantic leading the way to introduce the sport to more people and fortifying a strong tennis community. In the Mid-Atlantic region 1.3 million people report playing tennis, the third highest in participation rate per population in the country.

The region has also seen strong continuous annual growth in tennis participants in the last five years. The tennis campus will harness the energy around the sport and pave the way for more people to easily access tennis.

“We have an enormous opportunity to use tennis as a way to impart meaningful

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 »



Hello Neighbors!

Welcome Spring! YAHOO!!!

With the weather warming up and folks returning to their places of work, everyone seems to be busier than ever. Give yourselves extra time with FREE DELIVERY and Auto-ship (also with FREE DELIVERY)! (\$35 minimum purchase required.)

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If you haven't been by the store in a while, remember that we carry food and supplies for dogs, cats, and other small animals including birds, rabbits, gerbils, hamsters, ferrets, fish, and reptiles. We carry live Betta fish, too. If we don't have something you need, we'll be happy to order it.

Rescue events resumed in March and the kitties should be arriving soon. Stop in for details. We hope to see you soon.

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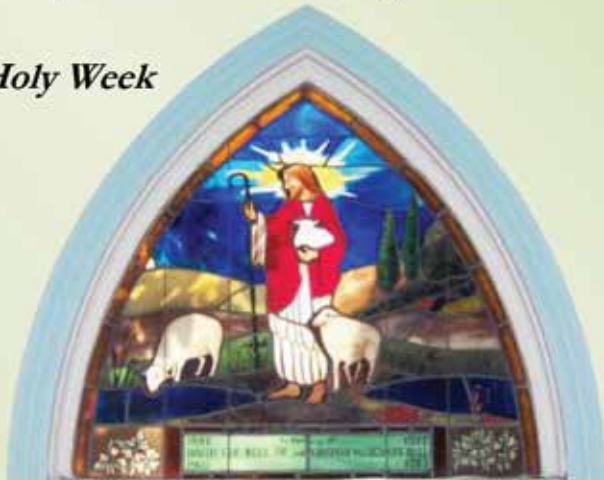
Palm Sunday (April 10) with the Rev. Martha Clark

Easter (April 17) with the Rev. Debbie Rutter

Sunday worship at 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday & 2 Good Friday services*

*See website for Holy Week service details



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Hillsboro hosts concert on April 2 to support Ukraine

The Town of Hillsboro and Hillsboro Preservation Foundation announce performers and business backers for concert to raise funds for Ukraine refugees.

The Town of Hillsboro, in conjunction with the non-profit Hillsboro Preservation Foundation, will host a *UkraineAid Concert in The Gap* to raise funds to support relief efforts for the people of Ukraine. Event organizers have announced the “all-star” performer line up appearing on *The Gap Stage*, noting additional acts and “special guests” are still pending.

The benefit concert will also feature area food vendors, restaurants, wineries and breweries providing food and beverages, starting at 5 p.m. on April 2.

“We are thrilled with the response and willingness to donate time and energy to support and show solidarity with the brave people of Ukraine,” said Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance. “We want to especially thank the Cooley-Dooley Foundation for a generous contribution and to Jeff Darby and OHM Productions for managing the concert sound.”

Performers for the *UkraineAid* concert include Calgary, The Talton Brothers, Joey & The Waitress, Out of The Coop, Jim Steele. Vance said an area group has organized to perform as “Young Voices for Peace” and a number of local musicians from various groups, dubbed “The

Hillsboro All-Stars,” are planning to perform.

In addition to musical performances, event organizers have confirmed support from Hillsboro’s Doukénie Winery and Old 690 Brewing Company, whose wines and beers will be on sale. Ford’s Fish Shack food truck will be on site and the soon-to-be-open Market in The Gap restaurant will be firing up its pizza oven just across the street from *The Gap Stage*.

“The outpouring of support and generosity from our musicians, businesses, and schoolchildren—on such short notice—is inspiring,” said Hillsboro Preservation Foundation President Amy Marasco. “We expect even more to join us as we get closer to the event.”

Marasco said all net proceeds and donations collected at the event will be directed to leading relief organizations that are working on the ground now assisting Ukraine refugees in neighboring countries and those still inside Ukraine. She added that those interested learning how they can support this relief effort can contact the Town office at 540.486.8001 or email info@hillsboro-va.gov.



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Animal Shelter adjusts adoption hours

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is temporarily adjusting its schedule for adoptions. Beginning Monday, March 28, adoption hours will be 12 - 6 p.m. Monday - Sunday. The one-hour per day reduction will be in effect through Saturday, May 14.

The change is designed to enhance the management of comprehensive animal care activities and facilitate increased training for employees. Training is a critical component for the staff of the Animal Services facility, which is the first public animal shelter in the United States to meet 100 percent of the Association

of Shelter Veterinarians Animal Shelter Guidelines.

The facility provides a wide range of services, including pet adoptions; humane law enforcement; housing of stray, abandoned, or relinquished companion animals; dog license sales; volunteer and foster care opportunities; dispatch services; educational programs; and pet retention counseling. The facility also features a veterinary clinic and surgical suite for medical treatment of shelter pets.

More information about the services offered by the Department of Animal Services is online at loudoun.gov/animals.

COMMUNITY

Sterling Playmakers touring *Dirty Work Afoot*

Sterling Playmakers is touring Loudoun County with *Dirty Work Afoot*, an old-fashioned melodrama featuring villains, heroes, heroines, and funny characters in a family-friendly show full of laughs, and a chance for audience participation.

Written and directed by Terry Nelson DiMurro, the show will perform on the following dates and locations on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2p.m. Tickets are \$15 general admission. Visit www.sterlingplaymakers.org for more information.

April 8, 9, 10: Seneca Ridge Middle School Theatre, 98 Seneca Ridge Drive, Sterling.

April 22: Leesburg

Elementary School, 323 Plaza St. NE, Leesburg.

April 23 and 24: Loudoun Valley Community Center, 320 W. School St. Purcellville.

April 30, May 1: Lucketts Community Center, 42361 Lucketts Road, Leesburg.



Robert Whitney (John Geddie) is about to be sawed in half by evil villain Ravenaw Blackwing (Scott Ruegg) as his two henchmen, Ralph the Rat (Tom Digre) and Sam the Snake (Ovi Sufitchi) look on, in *Dirty Work Afoot*.

Service Schedule

Palm Sunday
April 10 at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday
April 14 at 7:00 pm & All-night Prayer Vigil

Good Friday Stations of the Cross
April 15 at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

The Great Vigil of Easter
April 16 at 8:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service
April 17 at 6:15 am
at Montcalm Farm, 16471 Hillsboro Rd., Purcellville

Easter Holy Eucharist
April 17 at 9:30 am

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times! - St. Padre Pio



Please join our priests at Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Purcellville each night at 9pm to pray the Rosary for peace in Ukraine. Visit our website saintfrancisparish.org for the live video stream or join us in person.

Pray the Rosary for Peace in Ukraine

BRMS students represent Loudoun in culinary challenge

March 14, Blue Ridge Middle School Culinary Team represented LCPS at the Real Food for Kids Culinary Challenge held on March 5. Hayfield Secondary School in Fairfax hosted six teams from across the DMV area including BRMS.

Students were challenged to create a lunch or breakfast that meets nutritional guidelines for schools. This year's theme was "Farm to Table." All recipes were plant-forward and 50 percent of the ingredients had to be locally sourced. The Blue Ridge Culinary Team prepared months in advance, meeting after school since November.

COMMUNITY

The team's sponsor and Family and Consumer Science teacher, Mrs. Holly Myers, guided the team to research, test, edit and master the recipes they took to the competition. Ultimately, the Blue Ridge Middle School team presented the Confetti Skillet with Beurre Bosc Pears for the lunch showcase dish and Payne's Farm Hash for the breakfast showcase dish.

Students prepared a sample for the judges and presented in front of the panel of six judges that included area chefs and food critics. After judging, the event was opened to the public for tasting opportunities from each participating school.

"Students gain valuable workplace readiness skills from participating in events like the Real Food for Kids Culinary Challenge.

It is wonderful to have middle school students taking advantage of co-curricular opportunities like this. It could not have been done without the full support of the administration at Blue Ridge Middle School," said Holly Myers, FACS teacher and team sponsor.

"I enjoyed being able to make and plate our dish as well as see and meet our competitors. It was nice to come together as a group and be successful," said Sophie Hudziak, an eighth-grade team member.

"Making the dishes that we brought was the most fun

part for me. It was also fun to go around to the other groups and taste what they brought to the competition," said another eighth-grade student.

The Principal of Blue Ridge Middle School, Brion Bell said, "Both menu items were amazing, delicious and scalable for a school lunch. Teachers like Mrs. Myers that create these extra-curricular opportunities for kids enhance the school's positive climate and culture. Each participating student beamed with school pride and accomplishment. They nailed the challenge."



Students pictured with the student teams' mentor, panel of judges, program host, and event director. Front row students from l to r: Troy Glass, Hunter Phoenix, Sophie Hudziak, Kate Henry, Rachel Black, and Alli Hodges.



From l to r: Troy Glass, Sophie Hudziak, and Kate Henry stand behind their culinary tastings.



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Bob Ross Painting Workshop

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Planetarium Discovery Day

Thur, April 14
 10:00am-12:00pm &
 2:00-4:00 pm

(Ages 4 & up) Step inside our inflatable dome planetarium to experience the wonder of space. The 20 minute program is appropriate for ages 4 & up. This is held during Spring Break for Loudoun County Public Schools.

Tickets: \$3/person
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Earth Day Extravaganza

Sat, April 23
 10:00am-2:00pm

(All ages) Celebrate Earth Day with us! Take a walk around the pond and visit community groups to learn about environmental and conservation topics. Music from our DJ, mini farmer's market, tips to live a more sustainable life. Bring the whole family – there's something for everyone!

Register through Webtrac
 #362422-01 Free/4 & under
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Planetarium: What's Up?

Sunday, May 8
 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 & 4:00pm

(Ages 4 & up) Learn to use a star chart to identify and find constellations and find out what's up in the night sky. Program lasts 40 minutes, with an extra activity in our lobby before or after the planetarium program.

Tickets: \$8/person
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www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Lt. Dufek graduates from FBI National Academy

The Purcellville Police Department has announced that Lieutenant Barry Dufek has graduated from the 281st session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy Program at Quantico, Virginia.

Lt. Dufek was one of 269 law enforcement officers who graduated on March 17, from the ten-week program. This session included men and women from 45 states and the District of Columbia, 32 countries, as well as five military organizations and six federal civilian organizations.

COMMUNITY

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy in Quantico, offers 10-weeks of coursework in intelligence theory, terrorism and terrorist mindsets, management science, law, behavioral science, advanced law enforcement communication, forensic science, and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies.

The professional course of study serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad, and to raise law en-

forcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide. Lt. Dufek was able to complete a graduate certificate in Public Safety from the University of Virginia during the National Academy Program. He also earned graduate credits which he plans to apply towards his Masters in Public Safety.

Instruction for the program is provided by the FBI Academy training staff, Special Agents and other staff members holding advanced degrees, many of whom are recognized internationally in their fields of expertise. The National Academy is held at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico.

During his time in the National Academy Program, Lt. Dufek was selected to be an international mentor of a fellow law enforcement officer from Sao Paulo, Brazil. In addition, he participated and completed the optional 34-mile swim, which included 2,176 laps, obtaining the coveted "blue brick," on top of also completing the "Yellow Brick Road" challenge; a 6.1

mile run and obstacle course built by U.S. Marines.

Lt. Dufek has been with the Purcellville Police Department since 2016, but his career in law enforcement spans more than twenty years. He was first hired in 2000 as a dispatcher in the Emergency Communications Center, then became a sworn deputy with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office where he served as a patrol and motor deputy. Upon his promotion to sergeant,



he served as the supervisor overseeing recruitment and hiring.

At the Purcellville Police Department, he continues to serve as a vehicle and motorcycle lead training instructor at the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy's driver training track. Lt. Dufek has served as the Operations Commander of patrol operations for the Purcellville Police Department.

He is currently the Administrative Commander for the Department, over-

seeing the Property and Evidence function, Records Management System, Recruitment and Hiring, as well as the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission Accreditation program for Purcellville.

Lt. Dufek is the first member of the Purcellville Police Department to have graduated from the FBI Academy as a Purcellville officer, and he joins both Chief Cynthia McAlister and Deputy Chief Dave Dailey as fellow graduates of the FBI National Academy.

"From industry modernizations to the implementation of innovative technology, police agencies are evolving. The Purcellville Police Department is committed to a positive vision for police-community relationships, embracing strategic priorities that align with stakeholder expectations and ensuring transparency.

"The FBI National Academy experience afforded me an opportunity to collaborate with many rising police leaders, and I am excited to bring a fresh perspective back to the Town of Purcellville. I look forward to the future of our community, and remain motivated to continue the progress of my PPD colleagues," said Dufek.

"This program increases the profes-

32nd Annual Leesburg

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LCSO and LC-CFRS hold training for critical incidents

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and Loudoun County Combined Fire Rescue Services held an emergency drill on March 19, for a response to an active school threat utilizing expanded training and policies to respond to critical and active violence incidents.

The training simulated an active shooting at Trailside Middle School and involved nearly 200 public safety personnel, as well as personnel from Loudoun County Public Schools, Loudoun County Office of Emergency Management, Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Loudoun County General Services, and numerous volunteers.

As part of their combined efforts, the LCSO and LC-CFRS established High Threat Advisory Teams and developed protocols for front-line supervisors who are first on scene for critical incidents. In situations involving active violence, the first responding supervisors from both the LCSO and LC-CFRS immediately establish a joint command structure to work fluidly and efficiently to stop the threat and render aid to any victims.



Although both LCSO and LC-CFRS have collaborated on critical and active violence training for several years, the High Threat Training Advisory Team was officially developed in February 2021.

The team works cooperatively across disciplines to develop new levels of integrated training, policy development, and combined response initiatives. The integrated High Threat Team was recently recognized at the 2021 Governor's Fire Service Awards for exemplifying dedication to sound management, principles, and coordination.

The joint command, called Branch Operations, precedes the establishment of a Unified Command, and controls the specific needs and resources necessary to address the incident. For large-scale events, a unified command would be established

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 »

Artists needed for Purcellville Music and Arts Festival

Area artists are invited to showcase their creative works during the Purcellville Music and Arts festival this year on April 30. The Purcellville Arts Council hosts the Art Hall inside the Bush Tabernacle from noon to 5 p.m. during the annual festival.

The Art Hall features an art exhibit, hands-on activities, local art organizations, art demonstrations, and live music. All artists, professional or hobbyists, are encouraged to enter so that the exhibit will reflect the area's diverse and rich cultural presence. The application for the Art Show is available online.

Below is information for artists about the exhibit:

- The deadline for entries is April 8, at 5 p.m.
- There is no fee to enter.
- Artists are limited to 2 submissions.
- Artwork is accepted on a first come, first served basis. Submissions may be declined once capacity is reached.
- Artwork is juried for acceptance

only; there is no competition.

- Everyone is eligible to participate and encouraged to submit their best artwork.
- All work must be appropriate to display at a family-oriented festival.
- Artwork can be sold when the artist is contacted directly by the purchaser; each artist must make his or her contact information available if his or her artwork is for sale. The Purcellville Arts Council and volunteers will not be responsible for any sales.
- No individual or entity connected with the exhibit will be responsible for loss or damage, regardless of the cause.
- Artists are responsible for insuring their own work.

Additional information is available on the application. Submit one application per piece of art. For more information, visit www.Purcellville-MusicAndArtsFestival.com, and follow the Purcellville Music and Arts Festival on Facebook.

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Cana Vineyards Wins 2022 Virginia Governor's Cup®

During the annual celebration held at Main Street Station, Gov. Glenn Youngkin awarded the 2022 Virginia Governor's Cup® to Cana Vineyards & Winery of Middleburg for its 2019 Unité Reserve—a signature estate red blend of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The competition received a record-breaking number of entries this year—615 wines from over 100 Virginia wineries.

Winemaker Melanie Natoli received the prestigious Governor's Cup® on be-

half of Cana Vineyards, becoming the first woman in the competition's history to receive the award.

Cana Vineyards' first plantings were in 2012 with Natoli joining as winemaker and vineyard manager in 2015. The 2019 Unité Reserve is a particularly special wine for her as she notes, "it's in my hands from bud break to bottle."

"It is an honor to present this year's Virginia Governor's Cup® to Cana Vineyards and Winery of Middleburg and Melanie Natoli, the first woman winemaker to receive this award," said Youngkin. "The 40th anniversary of the competition saw the most diverse selection of award-winning wines to date, demonstrating the passion and experimental spirit of Virginia driving our wine industry to new heights."

Cana Vineyards' 2019 Unité Reserve earned the highest average score from a panel of esteemed judges who

evaluated the wines based on appearance, aroma, flavor, commercial suitability and overall quality.

The 2019 Unité Reserve will be featured alongside 11 other wines in the Virginia Governor's Cup® Case, a collection of the competition's 12 highest scoring wines. Cana Vineyards also placed a second meritage blend in the case with its 2019 Le Mariage. The full case includes:

- Cana Vineyards & Winery of Middleburg 2019 Unité Reserve
- 50 West Vineyards 2019 Ashby Gap
- Barboursville Vineyards 2020 Vermentino Reserve
- Cana Vineyards & Winery of Middleburg 2019 Le Mariage
- Maggie Malick Wine Caves 2020 Albariño
- Michael Shaps Winery 2019 Chardonnay
- Pollak Vineyards 2017 Meritage
- Rockbridge Vineyard 2018 V d'Or
- Shenandoah Vineyards 2019 Reserve Red
- Stinson Vineyards 2017 Meritage
- Trump Winery 2015 Brut Reserve
- Wisdom Oak Winery 2019 NINETEEN

The Virginia Governor's Cup® Case in-

cludes a variety of styles and represents three leading wine regions across the Commonwealth: Central Virginia, Northern Virginia and Shenandoah Valley.

Seven wines in the case are meritage, Bordeaux-style blends—wines that balance the subtlety of the Old World with the boldness of the new, embodying Virginia's unique place in the world. Elegant, expressive white varietals also tell the story of this year's competition with Chardonnay, Vermentino, Albariño, sparkling and a dessert rounding out the case.

For the second consecutive year, Virginia cider was judged in its own category with the highest scoring cider named "Best in Show." Earning three gold medals in this year's competition, Albemarle Ciderworks received the top cider recognition for its 2019 Virginia Hewes Crab.

"Virginia wines and ciders continue to cement their place in our exceptional agriculture and tourism industries and as major contributors to the Virginia economy," said Virginia's Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matt Lohr. "As the state's oldest operating cidery, this year's Best in Show Cider winner Albemarle Ciderworks has shown a dedication to bringing locally crafted cider to the table of Virginians everywhere."



L to R: Secretary Of Agriculture and Forestry, Matt Lohr, Melanie Natoli, and Gov. Glenn Youngkin.



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Pit stops offered for Bike to Work Day

Loudoun County will host two pit stops for participants of Bike to Work Day to be held on Friday, May 20.

COMMUNITY

This annual event celebrates a healthy and fun way to get to work at 100 different pit stops throughout the Washington metropolitan region.

Participants will ride to a pit stop, pick-up free t-shirts and giveaways, and enjoy refreshments before begin-

ning their workday.

Adults planning to participate in this free event are encouraged to register online to pick up a T-shirt at one of the Loudoun County pit stops. Both pit stops are adjacent to the Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail:

- Leesburg at Raflo Park on Harrison Street, 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- Sterling, just east of Rt. 28, at Ruritan Road behind

Northrop Grumman, 6:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Bike to Work Day is coordinated regionally by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and Commuter Connections and is held rain or shine. The annual event attracts thousands of cyclists in the region. The local festivities are planned by Loudoun County Commuter Services.

Find details and a link to register at loudoun.gov/BiketoWork.

FLOWER AND GARDEN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

home, as they are not permitted.

The Flower & Garden Festival runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, rain or shine.

This year's presenting sponsor is Loudoun Medical Group. Other festival sponsors include C2 Operations, Country Buick GMC, Heartland Foods, Kitchen Saver, LeafGuard, Loudoun Now, McLean Mortgage Corporation, Mountcastle Medical Spa and Laser Center, Polaris Financial Strategies Group, Power Home Remodeling, Washington Gardener, and Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.

For more information, call Ida Lee Park Recreation Center at 703-777-1368 or visit www.flowerandgarden.org.

Fostering volunteers needed to host cats

The Humane Society of Loudoun County is seeking short-term foster guardians to host older kittens and cats when they arrive from partner shelters.

Foster families are asked to open their homes for approximately two weeks while cats go through the process of updating their vaccinations and testing for FIV and FeLV. Veterinarian costs are covered by HSLC.

Fosters provide travel to the vets, food, litter, and socializing. Fostering is one of the most important aspects of the adoption process in the rescue community and there is an ongoing need. It is also an ideal opportunity for volunteers to decide if fostering is right for them.

Once the foster cats are fully vaccinated and determined to be healthy, they will be placed at the Catty Corner

Café, 116 Market Street, in Leesburg opening April 1. The café will feature coffee and sweets on the first floor while the second-floor lounge area will serve as a temporary home to cats who are being offered for adoption.

Guests will be encouraged to visit the lounge, spend time with the various cats who will live there full-time, and possibly find their forever-kitty. This is a joint collaboration between

Catty Corner Café owner, Heather Donahue, and HSLC.

Humane Society of Loudoun County is an all-volunteer, no-kill, registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. If you are interested in learning more about HSLC and this short-term fostering opportunity, visit www.humaneloudoun.org, or email the HSLC Foster Coordinator at foster@humaneloudoun.org.

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Makersmiths, Inc. KidWind sponsored teams score big

Three KidWind teams sponsored by Loudoun County's non-profit community makerspace, Makersmiths, Inc., performed very well at the March 9 Western Regional Renewable Energy Challenge at James Madison University.

KidWind.org is a renewable energy initiative that challenges students to use critical-thinking and ingenuity as they design, build and test their small-scale wind turbines and solar structures to determine energy production.

Students have to demonstrate their knowledge of renewable energy initiatives and present their projects in front of expert judges either in person at regional, state and national challenges, or through online challenges at the national level.

At the Western Regional Renewable Energy Challenge, the Makersmiths solar team members (a.k.a. Solar Middle School Smarties) Jocelyn Ro, Katie Choi, Soren Ogelman and Zara Ramadan won first place for their solar smart house. The house uses six solar cells that keep a rechargeable Lithium-Ion battery charged, providing power to



The Solar Middle School winners from l to r: Zara Ramadan, Jocelyn Ro, Katie Choi, Soren Ogelman.

an Arduio Pro Mini that operates a fan when the house gets hot, and turns on lights when it gets dark. The team also won the Circuit Masters award for their wiring diagram of the house.

The solar team created a movie that shows how the house was constructed, and how it operates. Go to https://drive.google.com/file/d/1asIfw2A_eAm56dH-FhvLH_OndMTux11CV/view.

The Silver Blades wind turbine team

The Solar Middle School Smarties (all eighth-grade students):
 Jocelyn Ro and Zara Ramadan attend Rachel Carson Middle School in Fairfax.
 Soren Ogelman attends Blue Ridge Middle School in Loudoun.
 Katie Choi attends River Bend Middle School in Loudoun.

The Silver Blades Wind Turbine Team members:
 Max Burrus attends Blue Ridge Middle School, sixth grade, in Loudoun.
 Nick Burrus attends Emerick Elementary School, fourth grade, in Loudoun.
 Ayden Young, fifth grade, and Cameron Clarke, fifth grade, attend Hillsboro Charter Academy, in Loudoun.

The Golden Wind Blades Team members:
 Jack Seiter, fourth grade, attends Good Shepard School, in Purcellville.
 Molly Seither, third grade, attends Good Shepard School, in Purcellville.
 Silas Herr, third grade, attend Hillsboro Charter Academy, in Loudoun.
 Amin Ziraknejad, third grade, home-schooled in Reston.

members, Ayden Young, Cameron Clarke, Max Burrus and Nick Burrus, tied for first place. The Silver Blades also earned the Good Sportsmanship award because as they were waiting to test their blades in a wind tunnel, they apparently helped other teams troubleshoot their turbines.

The Golden Wind Blades team mem-

bers, Jack Seiter, Silas Herr, Molly Seiter, and Amin Ziraknejad, won second place.

What is next for these Makersmiths KidWind teams? Makersmiths KidWind coaches Diane Painter and Jennifer Chu said that they are eligible to enter state competition on April 23 at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia.

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Inova Health System calling for applicants

Inova Health System is calling for applicants for its 2022 Health Equity Grant program. This year, the Health Equity Grants program will award \$1 million in funding – the largest level of funding to date for the program – to nonprofit organizations that provide services to address health needs for the under-resourced and promote equity for all.

In 2021, Inova awarded \$240,000 to 14 nonprofit organizations in Northern Virginia through the then named, Community Health Fund. With the healthcare inequities experienced by many in

our community exacerbated by the global pandemic, Inova nearly quadrupled its grant funds to \$1 million and refocused the program to specifically address health equity locally.

“Meeting the healthcare needs of the Northern Virginia community is a priority for Inova, and our community partners are instrumental in helping us identify effective ways to support under-resourced groups,” said J. Stephen Jones, MD, President and CEO of Inova Health System.

“Improving the health of our community is about more than direct healthcare, and we are proud

to offer these grants to the wonderful organizations who provide the resources our residents need to thrive.”

Inova is dedicated to supporting programs and opportunities that make a difference in the quality of life, health, and welfare of the communities it serves. Inova seeks to harness the collective power of community partners, agencies, and organizations to create positive social impact.

Special considerations will be given to those eligible organizations owned and operated by Black, Indigenous, and People of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 »

Class offered on researching court records

Jeanette Irby, Loudoun County Circuit Court Judge and former Leesburg Town Attorney, will teach “Researching Court Records” on Thursday, April 7 beginning at 10 a.m., in the lower-level meeting room at Thomas Balch Library, 208 W. Market Street, in Leesburg. Irby will discuss how to use court records and other resources for data that are frequently overlooked in genealogical and historical research. She will demonstrate how to mine court records for clues that can be used to collect information for genealogical research. Examples of these records include real estate records, chancery suits, estates, and indexes. Pre-registration is required for this event. Please call 703-737-7195, email balchlib@leesburgva.gov, or register online.

DOUBLE TALK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“a seriously flawed regulation.” He said it contains errors but “rather than correct it before legislating it, we are considering regulating it knowing it contains errors.”

Stinnette was referring to several homes that should no longer be on the list as contributing structures because they have either been torn down, or renovated entirely, and thus are no longer considered contributing.

A new survey doesn’t change the homes’ historic nature, unless the owners have dramatically altered them. The survey could be done at any time, and towns commonly have surveys that are over a decade old.

Stinnette noted that Town staff had proposed a way to update the survey “at a minimal cost, while minimizing the legal risk ... We have a witches’ brew here that will create significant liability for the Town if we don’t get it right before we sign onto the ordinance.”

Council Member Stan Milan responded that, “Council Member Stinnette said he wanted the HPOZ to be a different district than the Historic Corridor Overlay District ... and that was the creation of the HPOZ. He agreed to that.

Milan continued, “He was on the Planning Commission as the chairman for a substantial period of time, He knew of the 2006 survey ... So what is it? You want the ordinance? You want the HPOZ, or you don’t want it? It is to preserve the character of the Town.”

Mayor Kwasi Fraser weighed in and said he sees the HPOZ as “a tool or an instrument to prevent demolition.” Adding that, “today we don’t have a process in place. So I welcome this ordinance that would put a process in place, so we don’t wake up to see a historic structure demolished.”

Fraser noted the historic structures are limited to 283 properties “give or

take some of those properties ... over time may have changed. The Planning Commission has made allowance for us to also address that.”

“I heard Council Member Stinnette’s statement about updating the survey, so I would expect Council Member Stinnette to vote on it because his only issue is the updated survey, and I look forward to that,” Fraser said.

The cost of updating the survey ranged from \$13,000 to \$50,000, depending on the Council’s choice of survey methods.

Council Member Grewe said there was “a significant aspect of the Town’s population that is opposed to this – the whole idea.”

During the 16 months the Planning Commission had been working on the ordinance, they incorporated citizen input through two public hearings and a town hall style meeting. There was also one meeting at the Town Council level.

While both supporters and detractors attended these meetings to express their views, a small group of people continued to oppose the ordinance throughout the process. However, an overwhelming majority in the proposed district, however, expressed no opposition.

Grewe said that doing a survey would cost the Town money, and the ordinance “frankly isn’t going to get us more money.”

Council Member Erin Rayner accused the Planning Commission of being activists. “They have moved from a body of advisors to activists, and that is not their role,” she said. However, she provided no evidence or explanation of this characterization.

Rayner and Grewe both criticized the March 3 Planning Commission meeting as being outrageous, but provided no evidence.

The March 3 meeting members discussed the cost and process of redoing the survey, as well as its utility. They

concluded that the survey should be separate from adopting the proposed HPOZ.

Stinnette said he supported “the concept of maintaining our small-town charm,” and claimed that regulating the demolition process was “one of those ways.” He pointed out that Winchester, Middleburg, and Leesburg all have ordinances similar to “what the Planning Commission is proposing.”

Out of the blue, he mentioned that the Design Guidelines should also be updated. “This would be another cost with this overlay zone,” Stinnette said.

There are also 193 homes that could have, since the survey, aged into the HPOZ district as well.

Stinnette said, “So to be blunt and direct, the proposed ordinance before us right now, at a minimum, needs an updated survey before I will support the ordinance ... I do not support this ordinance as currently designed. It is not right, and fixing it is not a financial priority.”

Milan said the sequence of doing the survey can be accomplished expeditiously, but he noted that the majority on Council did not want to fund it.

Stinnette had not raised these issues during any of the numerous earlier opportunities with the Planning Commission. He had also previously acknowledged that the Commission had in fact addressed any concerns he had raised.

Milan pointed out that redoing the survey would entail adding and removing some properties from the list.

“The HPOZ ordinance is only addressing the demolition of historically contributing or historical structures ... we have adjusted the ordinance to Council Member Stinnette’s request ... Updating the historical registry does not affect the ordinance and Council agreed. So I don’t understand the delay,” he said.

Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said that he

thinks the survey update and the creation of the HPOZ are both necessary, and they can be worked on as distinct projects. “Any survey is going to be outdated the day after it is issued. It’s something that has to be refreshed on an occasional basis ...”

Fraser noted that the cost of doing a reevaluation could be \$42,450 at \$150 per home. He said that the Town has \$900,000 left in ARPA [American Rescue Plan Act] funds, and the Design Guidelines update could be done as well.

“We have the money from the Federal Government in the form of grants, so we can have a process, so we don’t wake up and see homes being demolished.

“Council Member Stinnette told me,” said Fraser, “he has no problem with this ordinance. The only problem he has with this ordinance is the lack of survey – he wants the currency of data, but my question is how can we get there on a schedule?”

“What I am hearing tonight Council Member Stinnette, is that you have more issues with it. It’s not just the survey ... Then the question becomes, do you want to spend the money?”

You needed a survey and the survey will bring it current and you are ready to support it. What I am hearing now is the cost. I didn’t hear that before.”

Fraser then addressed the Planning Commission at large. “I do not think you folks are activists. I think you are dedicated committed citizens trying to do the best, and trying to advance our Comprehensive Plan ... and I am sorry you had to hear that you are activists and you have lost your objectivity, without anything to substantiate that. That’s not fair for you folks to hear, and it’s frankly insulting ...”

“The way I am hearing double talk back and forth here, I think this is going to pass probably in the next five years,” Fraser commented.

LCSO AND LC-CFRS TRAINING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

to further coordinate and plan a joint response to the incident.

The training includes a Combined Command Competency Lab for LCSO and LC-CFRS front-line supervisors, placing them through scenarios to develop an understanding of the resources needed and available to handle critical incidents from each respective agency.

Training for front-line supervisors from the LCSO

and LC-CFRS from the High Threat Team is held annually. The training has drawn the interest of neighboring first responders, with members of the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System, and multiple federal agencies observing.

Additionally, members of the LCSO and LC-CFRS hold combined Rescue Task Force and Tactical Emergency Casualty Care training annually, which enables emergency medical services to provide medical intervention faster during an active shooter incident.

INOVA CALLING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

Color. Applications are due April 6.

Past awardees include but are not limited to: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, The Campagna Center, Loudoun Literacy Council and La Cocina VA.

For more information and to apply for grants, visit the Inova Health Equity Grants webpage.

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IS WESTERN LOUDOUN GONE? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

application has been submitted and Malick says she is not aware of any plans to create a subdivision, this sale worries Loudoun conservationists.

Even more concerning is the future of the land on Sawmill Lane. The 122-acre farm adjoining the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, soon to become Sweet Run State Park, has been purchased by Pleasants Construction and Development.

Pleasants created the master-planned Brunswick Crossing near Brunswick, Md., with townhomes, single-family homes, and amenities such as parks, tot lots, and grocery stores. While nothing so ambitious could be constructed on this parcel, now registered as "Sawmill Lane LLC," the parcel could be subdivided into 24 residential lots or more with the rural cluster option.

Besides the usual concerns about loss of another farm and more traffic, the prospective Sawmill Lane development could lead to water pollution of Cedar Creek and light pollution that would impact bats, birds, and other nocturnal animals at the new state park.

With so many new developments underway in the Hillsboro area, community activists and conservation organizations are urging the County and VDOT to immediately undertake traffic-calming studies of the north-south routes on both the east and west sides of the Short Hill between Rts. 9 and 7.

The aggressive build-out of northwestern Loudoun will come with new demands and costs—for more paved and widened roads, parks, ballfields, and other public amenities and services. And, lest we forget, there will be children in all these new developments. How many new schools, teachers, and buses will the Hillsboro neighborhood need?

Several Loudoun County Supervisors, including Mike Turner (D-Ashburn), point to voluntary permanent conservation easements and Purchase of Development Rights as the best tools to encourage farmers to keep their land in agricultural use. Rural residents are skeptical, however, anticipating the loss of the region's unique heritage, natural resources, rural roads, small schools, even those bingo games at the fire hall.

Ironically, as developers fill the west's farms with clusters, it is western Loudoun's wide-open spaces and rural environment that developers are marketing. Carrington Homes and sells western Loudoun on its website this way:

"Loudoun County encompasses a 520 square mile area, of which 75 percent of the land is considered western County while the vast majority of the population resides in eastern Loudoun. This means western Loudoun County maintains a rural, pastoral environment dotted with historic manor homes, original general stores, and thousands of acres of land protected eternally by conservation easement."

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

4.01(k) plan."

Byne suppressed a shudder. "His 4.01(k) is our traffic."

"Farming holds a mythic position in American lore, doesn't it?" Robert commented. "It has a strong emotional appeal."

OPINION

"True, but the question is what we do now."

"Well, there's a family feud, and there'd still be battles ahead with developers. Maybe you need to knock some heads, Byne."

She shook her head; that was not her style.

"Suggest some simple things that everyone likes. Get concurrence on them first. Maybe start by setting out a vision for western Loudoun that everyone likes," offered Robert.

"Yeah," answered Byne. "I could even show photos – horses, cattle grazing, forests, pretty barns, corn fields, the whole shebang. Get everyone to nod that this should be our future."

"After you get agreement on things like that, challenge the groups with this: 'You should think about what you could live with, not what you want in some perfect world.' When they finally nod, bring up more difficult topics."

"I could, Robert, but why don't you do it?"

"Because people like you more than they like me."

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

USTA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

change among individuals and communities and introduce the sport to so many more people," said Tara Fitzpatrick-Navarro, chief executive officer of USTA Mid-Atlantic. "Our community-first approach with our pursuit of the tennis campus will allow us to build something that will be transformative and unmatched in ability to elevate and enhance lives, the community, and the entire Mid-Atlantic region."

Plans for the tennis campus include 20 outdoor tennis courts, 16 indoor tennis courts, eight pickleball/youth courts and more than 190,000 total square feet of tennis infrastructure ample for daily tennis programs and match play, USTA Leagues, events, and community initiatives. USTA MAS intends to provide a robust offering of daily tennis activities and classes, wheelchair and adaptive programs, enrichment programs, and community events for players at every level and ability.

Holistic outreach and education programs will extend into the community to support under-resourced youth through tennis and education programs, and tennis programs integrated within schools as a way to provide access to a new sport they may not otherwise be exposed to.

"The new campus will bring people from different walks of life together and serve as a key part of

the Mid-Atlantic community, fulfilling their social and emotional needs, elevating and enhancing the lives of all who visit," said Beth Twomey, chief operating officer for USTA Mid-Atlantic. "It will be a hub of learning, teaching and growth that amplifies beyond its walls out to the larger community and Mid-Atlantic region."

In addition to community-based tennis and outreach programs, USTA MAS anticipates that the tennis campus will be a top venue to draw regional, national, and international tennis events that will engage fans and players from across the country and beyond.

The organization estimates hosting more than 50 annual tennis events and projects more than 78,000 event attendees. Coupled with daily tennis programming, tournaments and community events the campus is estimated to contribute \$8.5 million in economic impact annually.

The project will cost approximately \$42 million, and has an anticipated grand opening in 2025. The USTA MAS Tennis Campus is the anchor feature of a planned community.

"We are pleased that USTA Mid-Atlantic has chosen Loudoun County for their new headquarters and facility. This project will provide a place where the next generation of players can learn perseverance, integrity, and fair play," said Loudoun Chair-

at-large Phyllis Randall. "The pandemic has shown us just how important it is for all our residents to have access to open space and opportunities for outdoor recreation. This project will provide both outdoor and indoor courts which will provide a wonderful place for our citizens to get exercise and have fun safely."

USTA MAS has accepted a \$250,000 Loudoun County Business incentive from Loudoun Economic Development for the tennis campus project.

"The USTA Mid-Atlantic headquarters and facility adds another dimension to the diverse recreational options and sports assets in our county," said Loudoun Economic Development Executive Director Buddy Rizer. "We have been working with the USTA MAS team for years to bring this concept to reality, and today every step of that journey was rewarded with a great project that all Loudouners can be proud of."

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and the Economic Development Authority will have a public vote for final approval of the incentive package during the March 15, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting. The development is subject to legislative action on a pending rezoning application.

For more information about the tennis campus, visit www.ustamidatlantictenniscampus.com.



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MOORE-SOBEL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

for the opportunity to write this column. I'd be remiss if I didn't thank my editor, Valerie Cury, for her fantastic editing of my column over all these years. I'm also thankful to my wife, Megan, who edited each column since she entered my life, helped me hone my message, and taught me the art of saying more with fewer words. Lastly, I couldn't be more grateful to you, my dear reader, for the privilege

and honor of being a small part of your journey. I wish you and yours the very best.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is the author of "Can You See My Scars?" His book is available on Amazon. To read more of his work, visit www.samuelmoore-sobel.com. To book him for a speaking engagement, visit <https://washington-dc.freespeakers.org/author/samuelmooresobel/>.

SADIE'S RACE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

are frequently shunned by their communities, not allowed to attend school, or marry.

Sadie felt great compassion for the children, and she wanted to help. So that Christmas, instead of gifts we asked for donations, and we raised \$500, which fully funded two 'smiles.'

Reconstructive surgery for clefts has evolved over more than half a century, and today's techniques and procedures have come a long way. The surgery today is safe, and the transformation is immediate. Just 45 minutes can change a child's life forever.

After Sadie passed away, Sara set a goal for herself that was "as bold as Sadie's heart"—1,913 smiles for every day of Sadie's life. To achieve that goal, Sara would have to raise \$478,250.

A runner herself, Sara decided a 5K would be the route to success. She organized the first 5K for May 12, 2012, on what would have been Sadie's sixth birthday. This May 12, Sadie would be 16.

An easy, certified, chip-timed 5K course race through Purcellville, Sadie's Race is sponsored by a wide range of businesses, from Costco to the Philomont General Store, Valley Energy to Reiss Mobile Vet, Catocin Corner Dentistry to Ketterman's Jewelry, and many more.

Sadie's Race also welcomes walkers

and offers activities for children, including a race of their own. Racing awards are given for first, second, and third place for each age group.

Details on race packet pickups and payment options will be available soon. Check the Sadie's Race Facebook page or website.

Remember, your contribution is fully tax-deductible. All proceeds from the race go directly to Smile Train. Surgeries are often scheduled within 24 hours of your donating.

To be sure she meets her goal, with \$80,000 to go, Sara also is organizing Sadie's Smile Gala for Oct. 20 at Shadow Creek wedding and events center on Silcott Springs Road south of Purcellville. The gala will feature live bands, silent and live auctions, dance lessons by Social Graces, and catering by Savoir Fare.

This is the final event for the Sadie Smile Foundation as Sara Parelle and her friends and supporters cross the finish line on the big goal of 1,913 Smile Train surgeries honoring Sadie's life.

To sponsor the race or gala, contact Sara Parelle at (703) 431-3563 or saraparelle@gmail.com. For information on race registration and gala tickets, visit sadiesmile.org

To donate directly to Smile Train, click on this link: <http://support.smiletrain.org/goto/Sadie>.

RIGGI REPORT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

and businesses;

- In addition, consumers are unable to avoid the pass through of these costs because they do not have the opportunity to switch electric providers – Dominion and other providers are monopolies in most regions of Virginia.
- The imposition of the RGGI "carbon tax" fails to achieve its goal as a carbon "cap-and-trade" system because it lacks any incentive for power-generators to actually reduce emissions, due to

the ability to pass through costs to consumers.


- The costs of compliance with the trading rule and participation in RGGI have materialized in higher electricity rates as identified in the filings before the State Corporation Commission by Dominion Energy.
- Emission allowance prices have increased over time and substantially in the last year, just last week setting a new record-breaking price, and are expected to continue increasing which will increase the tax on ratepayers.

LT DUFEK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

sionalism of our leadership staff and enables our department to network with law enforcement agencies of all sizes, throughout the world," said Chief Cynthia

McAlister. "The relationships and skills Lieutenant Dufek has developed over the past 10 weeks will enrich and benefit both the Purcellville Police Department and our community."


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STEVENSON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

and are thus able to support fledgling businesses that couldn't afford the more expensive rents associated with newer buildings. Although the neighborhoods the HPOZ incorporates aren't mainly commercial districts, I think this line of thinking may demonstrate another reason why a mix of aged buildings is good for residential neighborhoods. Older residential structures are often cheaper than newer homes. The older homes thus provide housing to segments of the population that may not be able to support higher rents, or mortgages associated with newer construction.

Preserving these unique homes will ensure that Purcellville has a diversity of housing options across the income distribution. I believe that if we genuinely want Purcellville to continue to be a vibrant place to live, we need to ensure that not all housing lots are exploited to their maximum economic potential (paradoxical as that may sound).

Furthermore, if demolition and re-building run rampant in these historic neighborhoods, tax rates, and traffic will increase along with the newer (and often more expensive) structures. This may price some residents out and contribute to higher rates of turnover in the community population.

This would be doubly pernicious as rampant reconstruction would not only leave historic structures demolished, but lead to the depreciation of precious social capital that is quickly lost but only gradually ob-

tained.

A town generally needs to retain its population over the years in order to be considered successful. Of course, a certain amount of immigration and emigration is healthy and necessary—but wholesale and rapid emigration by longtime neighborhood residents always entails a loss of social capital—weakening not only that specific neighborhood, but the surrounding community and town as well.

Any built environment is a living tapestry of many distinct parts. If we begin to imagine Purcellville as a living organism, it seems natural to conclude that any changes should generally happen gradually and carefully.

The HPOZ proposal respects the way towns and cities develop, and is a measured and careful approach that makes sure changes to historic areas in the town proceed deliberately and conscientiously—ensuring that Purcellville continues to be recognizable to its own residents and adapted to their varied needs. Purcellville needs a process for demolition of these unique properties.

Adam Stevenson grew up in Purcellville and can be found most Saturdays walking around 21st Street with obligatory stops at Nichol's Hardware and It's Bazaar's LP collection. He's particularly interested in sustainable urban planning and Loudoun's flora and fauna.

LARRY AND BOB, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

easily breakable. A ban on DDT in 1972 marked the beginning of their return to our region.

At home on her farm in Leesburg, Schaufeld's fascination with the majestic bird grew after installing a camera of her own. With a front row seat to their parenting, she found real-life inspiration for *Larry and Bob* right in her own backyard.

"There was an eagles' nest in our backyard, and we were fortunate to have a camera that allowed us to watch the nest and see the baby eagles," says Karen. "Over time watching these powerful and beautiful birds and their attentiveness in parenting their new eaglets, I began to wonder ... what if?"

A story grew in the author's mind: a story of the possibility of

true friendship where it is least expected. Larry and Bob also reflects on the beauty and bonds of fatherhood, a rare narrative in children's literature.

Larry and Bob features illustrations by Kurt Schwarz, a northern Virginia-based realist painter specializing in portraiture, still life, and landscape. The book is available on Amazon, and at www.karenschaufeld.com.

Schaufeld is also the author of *The Lollipop Tree*, *How to Eat a Peach*, and the newly released, *Vultures, A Love Story*. Her nature-based fiction books include advanced vocabulary, as Schaufeld encourages parents to read aloud to their children, hoping to encourage further discussion.

GREWE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

laws also address setbacks – which define the required minimum distances structures must be set apart from lot lines.

Zoning also covers building heights in different areas and building coverage – which is the allowable percentage of a lot that can be covered by commercial or residential structures, barns, or sheds.

Purcellville citizens have expressed their desire to sustain existing zoning in large areas of the Town, such as areas that allow exclusively single-family detached houses. The work of the Town Council, Planning Commission, and Planning staff is to make sure that zoning fulfills the residents' desires as expressed in the Comprehensive Plan.

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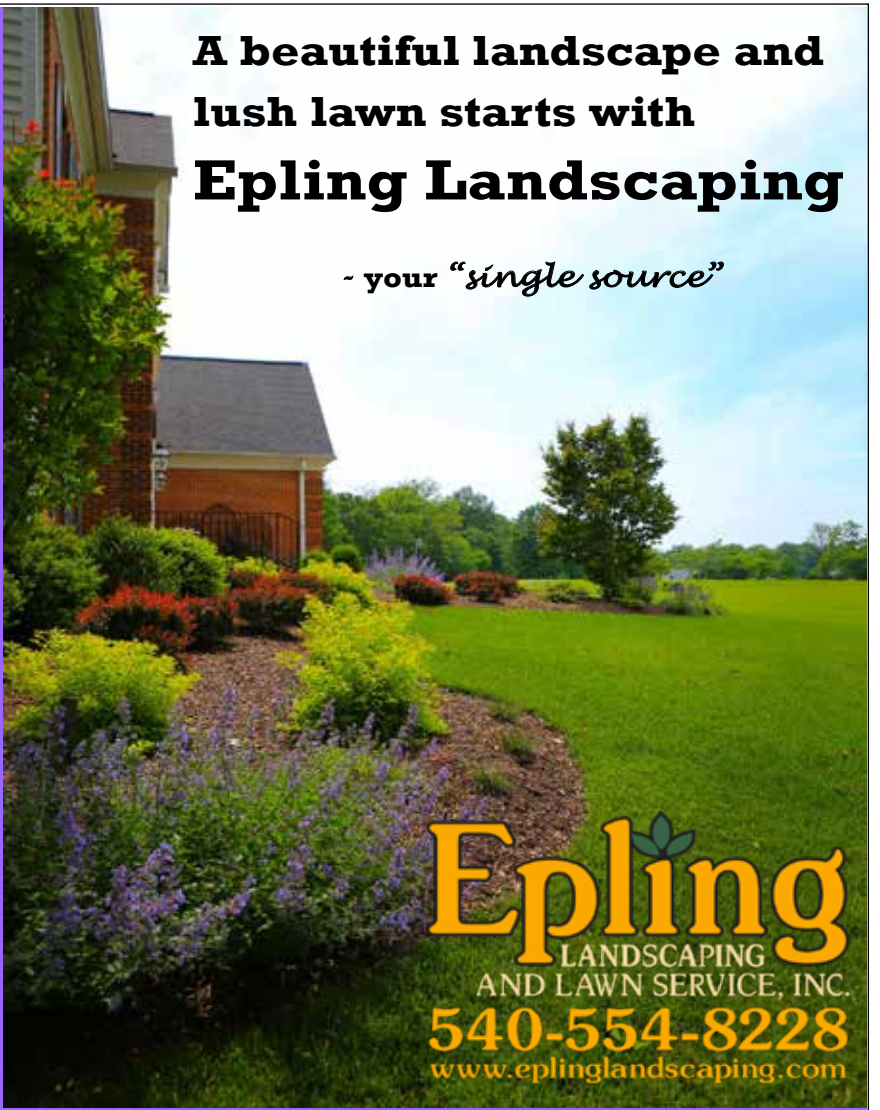
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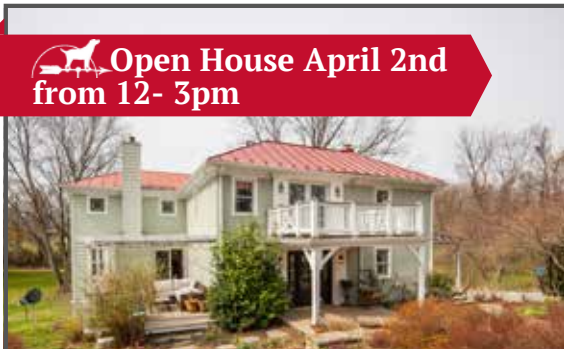
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