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JUNE 2023

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Mickie Gordon Park: field of dreams or future cricket center?

BY LAURA LONGLEY

About a mile east of Middleburg on the north side of Rt. 50 near the historically African American hamlet of Macsville, there is a 99-acre park with open fields, old oak trees, a fishing pond, tennis courts, a baseball field, and a lighted cricket field, which was formerly a baseball field. After all, Mickie Gordon Memorial Park was a baseball park, which was known for decades as Hall's Park, one of the few places in highly segregated Loudoun County where a Black person could play ball.

Here, every year until African American civic activist, prominent contractor, and park owner William Nathaniel Hall needed to sell it, the Black community gathered annually for three gala field

days. Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Odd Fellows' Turn Out Day in early September always meant good times together—horse races, marching bands, and doubleheaders with the Middleburg Braves.

Hall lived in a stone home on Carters Farm Lane next door to his park property. Although enlarged since then, the



home still stands some 400 feet from what remains the oldest of the region's Black heritage baseball fields.

"Hall's was a nice park," recalls Asbury Lloyd Jr., the now-94-year-old former pitcher for the Middleburg Braves. Lloyd, who grew up in Philomont, played on that Black team with friends like Louis Haley, who lived in Macsville until his passing two years ago. They wore uniforms modeled after the Boston Braves (later Milwaukee, now Atlanta Braves). "Blue and white with red stripes, and they had two hip pockets. Most of 'em didn't have one," Lloyd laughs.



Lloyd played baseball in Loudoun for 27 years and loves telling stories of his exploits, especially the time he and his unstoppable curve ball retired 12 batters to deliver a 1-0 win for the Braves. Eventually, though, after Will Hall sold the land to a white horse breeder, Hall's Park became the property of Loudoun County Public Schools, which had considered it as a site for a segregated school until settling on the village of St. Louis for Banneker Elementary School. Since then, the school board has leased the land to the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services department, which renamed it for Mickie Gordon, the coach of Middleburg's initially all-white Babe Ruth League team.

Photo courtesy of Louis Haley Family.

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

Purcellville passes reduced FY24 budget

"For school D isn't good, but for engineering D is not bad"
— Dale Lehnig

BY VALERIE CURY

At the Town of Purcellville's May 23 Town Council work session, council voted 4-3 to pass the town's revised budget. Mayor Stan Milan, Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut, and Council Members Carol Luke and Boo Bennett voted for the lowered

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I started to move my foot from the gas to the brake as any normal person would do when they see brake lights in front of them but I couldn't. I couldn't feel my foot.

The car kept moving forward and I just couldn't get my foot on the brake. And CRUNCH! I finally came to a stop when I hit the car in front of me.”

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

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

This was the case with Dan. “I said I wasn't going to drive again. What if that had been a pedestrian?”

It is terribly common that peripheral neuropathy and its debilitating symptoms interfere with a person's ability to live their life. Dan was now reliant on his wife to drive him around, even the simple pleasure of cruising down to play golf or taking her out to dinner was outside his capabilities. And even more common, Dan's general practitioner and several specialists told him there was nothing they could do other than prescribe him pills that would ease the pain of his neuropathy.

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

“They're in constant pain from neuropathy and it prevents them from not only living their lives but more importantly, it prevents them from enjoying it.

Depending on the severity of their nerve damage, we typically see tremendous progress in 3-4 months of treatment. I like to say we're in the business of making your golden years golden.”

“I can't lie,” confides Dan.

“I was skeptical at first. The folks down at my pain center told me there was nothing that could be done and then there's a doctor right here in Loudoun who tells me she can help. Turns out she was right! About three months after treatment I was able to confidently drive myself to my appointments!

My wife and I celebrated by buying ourselves a new car! It's hard to put into words how incredible this is, quite frankly [Rachal] gave me my life back.”

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

You can learn more about Rachal Lohr and FIREFLY at FIREFLYAcuAndWellness.com. If you're ready to schedule a consultation call (703)263-2142 and do so quickly.

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Return to Chincoteague

BY LIZ TENNEY JARVIS

For centuries, wild ponies have roamed the islands of Chincoteague and Assateague just off of what is now the Maryland/Virginia coast. Originally thought to have been the descendants of horses introduced by settlers, extensive research has shown that they are in fact the survivors of a shipwreck.

Spanish galleons, making their way to the colonies along the Atlantic coast of North and South America were subject to storms and going off course, could have had their cargo of ponies cast into the sea. These ponies then swam to shore and adapted by existing on fresh water in local marshes/creeks and subsisting on the native cord grass.



Keara Bills and Cricket.

Starting as early as the 1700s, these feral ponies were rounded up and used by residents, but it was not until the mid-1800s that the annual “pony penning” became an event. The annual sale of young foals was established as a fundraiser for the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company in the early 1900s. Author Marguerite Henry captured the legend of these ponies in her 1947 classic, “Misty of Chincoteague.” Generations of readers have been captivated by their spirit, strength and hardiness.

Thousands flock every year to experience the “swim” as ponies are driven by the “salt water cowboys” across the Assateague Channel where visitors can relive their childhood dream to see a real “Misty” or “Stormy.”

It was through this annual fundraising auction that a family in Purcellville came to have a permanent care lease of a Chincoteague pony, named Cricket. The Bills family keeps Cricket while Emily Calle, the owner (friend/Sweet Briar College classmate of Katrina Bills), lives in Austria.

Cricket was bought by Calle at the 2001 Chincoteague Pony Penning (pony #83) and as Calle raised her, she proved to be every bit of her Chincoteague ancestry – hardy, smart, clever and quick. When Keara Bills, age 10 at the time, had outgrown her Shetland pony, the timely call came from Calle as Cricket needed a new home and a new “job.”

Having ridden Chincoteague ponies

on previous visits to the island, Keara and her mother Katrina, knew that Cricket would be a match. It was only five minutes after Cricket’s arrival that Keara said, “Wouldn’t it be amazing to take Cricket back to Chincoteague and ride on the beaches there?”

Katrina Bills states that the idea of making the trip did stay in their minds for three years but the weather had to be just right. As is the case on the coast there, Chincoteague and Assateague are subject to sudden storms and high winds. A horse trailer on the bridge from the mainland would not be able to cross with any sort of gale wind warning.

The Bills had to cancel the trip three times before they were able to load up on Mother’s Day this year. They met up with two other Chincoteague ponies brought by another Sweet Briar College classmate, Angie Abell, a native of Chincoteague. The idea was for the four to ride along the shores of their ponies’ “motherland.”

Having done the research as to where they could ride (the U.S. Park Service website), the trip from Purcellville was smooth. Once off of the trailer, their eyes wide, the ponies pawed at the sand inquisitively as if to say, “What is this? Where is the grass?” Cricket had not been back to Chincoteague since she was a foal 22 years ago.

Katrina says, “She did look surprised at first, then she literally took a big breath

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Just like nothing (else) on earth: Upperville

BY TIM JON

“What do you recall?”

Well, let's see: there was stately, iconic Buchanan Hall, some not-so-distant views of the Blue Ridge, then that initial ride through main street – rolling through the Village – the classic silhouettes of the Hunter's Head Tavern, an imposing physical (and spiritual) presence encountered at the Upperville Baptist Church, a quaint, almost doll-house sized local Post Office, an even smaller Library just a few yards down the street, an informational marker reminding us of the up-close and personal involvement during the American Civil War.

Don't forget the absolutely massive footprint (and verticality) at the Trinity Episcopal Church (and an official placard noting the artistic and philanthropic efforts of one of its members) – and, fittingly or no, a finale to my day's photo-session, wrapped up at an abandoned



TIM JON

property, with the barely-still-standing remains of a couple of well-used residential structures.

Yes, these images (and the transitional steps in-between) accompanied me as I drove the 25 miles or so back to my home in the County Seat of Leesburg, fortified with an adventure by foot, wheel, curiosity and camera lens.

And, I remember the distinct feeling of growing affection for a place I'd merely driven through a few times, over the past couple of decades, without ever really taking the time to soak in the local atmosphere and explore – even on this very cursory level. And just what was that 'historic village personality' I encountered?

Well, I would say, friendly, comfortable, and familiar; I enjoyed the welcome smiles on the few fellow pedestrians I came across, and appreciated (remember this is Northern Virginia, one of the traffic capitols of the known universe) the slow pace – and intermittent spacing – of the few vehicles passing through

on Route 50 – John Mosby Highway. I found interesting and unique local features nearly within touching distance as I drove by and parked for a leg-stretch.

And I haven't yet even mentioned that this historic community lies in the



veritable heart of the region's horse country. Now being an outsider, and a native northerner at that, I never feel quite qualified to rub shoulders with those who can afford the landed gentry status of estate ownership and the rarified air enjoyed by those in the circles of fine equine breeding. Imagine the 20th Century Welsh Poet, Dylan Thomas

(who wrote many of his poems in a boat-house) taking the assignment of interviewing Britain's Royal Family, and you may just begin to get the idea. And that ain't just hay.

Leaving the ponies and their cronies to the experts of their world, I also, undoubtedly, missed a treasure trove of other local adventures on my last visit to Upperville: the Mount Pisgah Baptist Church and nearby West View Cemetery, as well as the Upperville United Methodist Church (all just a block or so off main street).

I did make it to the western edge of the Village, and noted that further exploration waited (for another day) along County Route 619 – Trappe Road, on the other end of which I'd delivered the US Mail in serving the delivery routes for the mountain community of Bluemont. And of course, Sky Meadows State Park lies just to the southwest of the furthest extent of this day's outreach.

And these omissions are in the column marked "Positive." I highly value 'undiscovered country.' I hope I've got a long list of places to visit as I someday

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Nurturing soft skills: A guide for teenagers

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

In our ever-evolving world, the emphasis on soft skills is increasing in all spheres of life. These personal attributes, which enable individuals to interact effectively with others, are as valuable as technical skills -- for teenagers especially, soft skills lay the foundation for future success.

To understand how well developed your teen's soft skills are, ponder these questions. How well does your teen handle social situations? Is he or she polite and well-mannered? Do they treat others with respect? Is your teen an effective communicator; are they a team player? How comfortable is your teen with being in a leadership role? Is your teen good natured, adaptable and confident? Does your teen have integrity, and do they show interest in others?

If you answered yes to most of the above questions, your teen is likely developing adequate soft skills. If, however,

you are less certain of your teen's soft skills, learning more about the following skills and tips may be helpful.

Patience is the ability to tolerate delay or difficulty without frustration. For example, a teenager learning to play a musical instrument might struggle initially. Instead of giving up, the teen



Ask Dr. Mike

By Michael
Oberschneider, Psy.D.

who demonstrates patience will persist, understanding that mastery takes time. To cultivate patience, teenagers can practice mindfulness, and learn to reframe challenges as opportunities for growth.

Teamwork involves working together to achieve a common goal. For instance, a group project at school requires

students to divide tasks, and communicate effectively. This fosters mutual respect, a consideration for other ideas and a sense of belonging. Joining clubs, participating in team sports, or volunteering are excellent ways to enhance teamwork skills.

Effective communication includes expressing oneself clearly, listening attentively, and interpreting non-verbal cues correctly. A teenager who can articulate their thoughts during a class presentation, listen to a friend's concerns, or perceive a teacher's non-verbal cues during a lecture, showcases effective communication. Public speaking, working, and role-playing activities can help teens improve these skills.

Time management refers to the efficient use of one's time. For example, a teenager balancing schoolwork, a part-time job, and extracurricular activities demonstrates effective time management. Teens can enhance these skills by

setting goals, and minimize distractions.

Problem-solving entails identifying an issue and devising an effective solution. For example, a teen who notices a rise in bullying at school and initiates an awareness campaign shows problem-solving skills. Teens can enhance these abilities by adopting a proactive mindset, and seek diverse perspectives.

Leadership involves guiding and influencing others positively. A teenager who captains a sports team, or mentors a younger student exemplifies leadership. Leadership roles in school clubs, community service, and learning from inspiring role models can help nurture these skills.

Critical thinking is the ability to analyze information objectively to make informed judgments. A teen who evaluates multiple sources of information for a research paper displays critical thinking. Encouraging curiosity, promoting diverse viewpoints, and engaging in problem-based learning can foster critical thinking skills.

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Expanding Loudoun County's Clean Energy Potential: Embrace the Power of Plasma Gasification

BY KWASI FRASER

I would like to express my appreciation for the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors' efforts in adopting the 2023 Loudoun County Energy Strategy, which undoubtedly holds great promise for our community. However, I find the recent decision by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to explore landfill gas (LFG) as an energy source lacking the innovation and urgency that the energy strategy demands.

Allow me to propose an alternative solution that not only aligns with our goals, but also presents an opportunity to lead the way in clean energy transition.

Over a year ago, I had the privilege of sharing my vision with a few members of the Board of Supervisors, outlining a plan to transform a portion of

the Loudoun County landfill into a cutting-edge clean hydrogen generating facility.

A Request For Information was issued by the County following my clean hydrogen proposal. The proposed facility would utilize biogenic waste as a feedstock to produce hydrogen through plasma gasification technology, a process already being deployed in Lancaster County, California.

By replicating this approach here, we can achieve remarkable results. The plasma gasification technology that I propose offers several compelling advantages. First and foremost, it operates without combustion, effectively eliminating the emission of greenhouse gases.

This means that the hydrogen produced has a negative carbon intensity, removing greenhouse gas emissions from the Earth and serving as a carbon

sink. By gasifying waste, this process eradicates the potent greenhouse gas methane from the ecosystem, further contributing to our environmental goals.

Additionally, the plasma gasification plant operates as a closed-loop system, converting waste feedstocks into reusable gas while eliminating emissions of pollution, carcinogens, sulfur dioxides, and nitrogen oxides.

The California Air Resources Board, recognized as the state's leading governmental agency in carbon emissions matters, has determined that the carbon emissions from this process are not additive, as the carbon is not new but rather recycled from the existing ecosystem. Unlike traditional approaches that involve digging up fossil fuels, my proposed solution reuses carbon already present in the environment, significantly reducing overall emissions.

Crucially, the hydrogen generated by this process would find a ready market among the data centers in Loudoun County, one of our region's key customers. By capitalizing on this opportunity, we can create a sustainable energy ecosystem that serves our local needs while setting an example for others to follow.

In contrast, the proposed landfill gas (LFG) solution, while familiar and widely used, has its limitations. It captures only 40% of the LFG, allowing the rest to leak into the atmosphere. With methane accounting for half of the LFG and the remaining half comprising CO₂, the landfill emits more CO₂ than the reported 75 tons per year. Moreover, the projected return on investment (IRR) for the \$25 million investment remains low due to insufficient power purchase agreement (PPA) rates and overall process inefficiencies.

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Landsgemeinde for Loudoun

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

(Disclaimer: Characters mentioned here are fictional and do not reference any real person.)

Appenzell is Switzerland's most rural and traditional canton. Its best tradition is the annual parade of dairy cows up to Alpine pastures in the spring and back down in the fall. Its second-most appealing tradition is pure democracy, which they call Landsgemeinde:

On the last Sunday in April, Appenzellers cram into the square of the eponymously-named town and vote on issues. The Regierungsratspräsident (*the cantonal executive*) presents government matters such as the budget and the citizenry can accept any proposal, reject it or modify it.

Citizens can also make proposals of their own, which also may be accepted, rejected or modified.

Dreaming

On the last Sunday of April, just weeks ago, I dreamt that Loudoun followed Landsgemeinde and its citizens decided the paths they wished the county to follow. In this form of self-government all power resided with the people. A novel and glorious thought!

The Setting

All the buildings between Market and Loudoun Streets had vanished, leaving

a cobblestoned stadtplatz (*town square*) which was filled with Loudouners, shoulder-to-shoulder. Eight councilors and Herr Andl, the Regierungsratspräsident, stood behind a dais. I was at a lectern to the side.

A Task for Me

The Regierungsratspräsident was a tall man with a shock of gray hair, berobed in a black cloak. In this populist society honorifics were ignored, and he was simply called "Herr Andl." He turned to me and said, "Herr Houston, please conduct this meeting as zeremonienmeister?" I thus became the master of ceremonies.

A bell tolled and I commenced matters by calling on Herr Andl.

The Regierungsratspräsident

"Good day, citizens," he began. "I hope you read the annual budget. We mailed it to every address and posted it on our website. Briefly, we propose a budget of 4.2 billion CHF. (*Swiss francs, about \$4.6 billion US.*) About a quarter of this is for the school system."

"Nein! Nein!" the citizens protested. "Whatever," Andl said awkwardly. He recovered and turned back to his script. "A mandated amount is for interest on cantonal debt, about 700 million CHF. That leaves a general fund and school system budget of 3.5 billion CHF."

Appenzellers hissed loudly, "Nein! Nein!"

Andl seemed preternaturally calm. He turned to me and nodded.

The First Vote

"I call the vote on the proposed budget," I said with a stentorian voice. "Do you approve it?"

The crowd roared, "Nein!"

There were a few Ja's but the verdict was clear. I looked back at Herr Andl, who shrugged.

I shifted back to my normal way of speaking and told the crowd, "You citizens now must decide on the amount of the total budget. May I hear suggestions?"

The People's Turn

Some hotheads shouted. Most folks merely watched. Then some sagacious people offered more reasonable positions. Details were debated back and forth for almost three hours, but finally we had an accord: Cut the school's budget by 25 percent and the general fund amount by 20 percent.

"May I speak to the assembly?" Andl asked.

"Ja," I replied.

"That budget is your prerogative. It will mean major cuts in cantonal services but we will reduce spending by that amount for the fiscal year. In our next Landsgemeinde in 2024, we will see what will have happened."

Bagged

Andl continued, "Last year your sentiment was that there be no new taxes,

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Adams resigns after not advancing in selection process

BY VALERIE CURY

Purcellville Interim Town Manager Glen T. Adams will step back, effective June 6. Adams had expressed interest in becoming a full-time town manager, however he did not advance to the next stage in the selection process for a new town manager. He handed in his resignation May 24. In a phone call with the *Blue Ridge Leader* Adams said, "I have enjoyed my time working in Purcellville, and I love the community and staff."

According to an article in the *The Daily News* newspaper, Galveston County, dated Nov. 22, 2021, Adams' contract

with that city, which was supposed to end in January 2023, ended abruptly after a city council executive session meeting. The article states that following a council executive session, the governing body returned to unanimously vote to affirm a



separation agreement – effective immediately. The City of Santa Fe had hired Adams in January 2020.

The Purcellville Town Council majority remains steadfast in pursuing goals of slow growth, controlled spending, debt reduction, and innovation.

Nevertheless, the status quo, as seen with various town managers and interim town managers, is promoting growth of the town's boundaries; raising taxes to include utility rates; approving proposed projects without evidence-based justifications; and denying innovative solutions.

Whether reviewing the Fields Farm tournament proposal, or the park and

ride proposal, or the Rt. 7/690 Interchange project, Purcellville town managers, interim town managers, and planners have not pursued goals in tandem with the majority of the Town Council's promised principles.

The City of Williamsburg *Policy and Procedures Manual* explains the "will of the majority" policy this way: "Once a vote is taken and the issue decided, however, City Council speaks to the staff with a single voice. It is sometimes tempting for Council members holding the minority view to pursue their viewpoint, first through staff and later with Council."

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We don't have a revenue problem in Purcellville

Dear Editor:

Beware of politicians who resist embracing innovation and instead claim that our town's financial challenges stem solely from a lack of revenue. These politicians offer only one solution to their manufactured revenue problem: raising water and sewer fees, even when citizens are already curtailing their usage.

LETTER

Additionally, they prefer burdening our citizens with higher taxes and out of character developments rather than engaging in courageous discussions about reducing operational expenses. It is evident that our town no longer faces a debt problem, due to the prudent fiscal management over the last 8.5 years, but rather a spending problem because we increased the reserves over those 8.5 years.

Let's examine the facts. Over the next 15 years, from now until 2038, the projected water revenue, with a conservative annual rate increase of 3%, will be four times the amount of our water debt. Similarly, the projected sewer revenue, with an annual rate increase of 5%, will be twice the amount of our sewer debt from now to 2040 when that debt is paid off. Considering these figures, one must question the need to raise water rates

above 3% or sewer rates above 5% unless there are intentions to cover operational costs without assessing ways to reduce it.

It is important to address the actions of a former council member who recently spoke at a town council meeting urging the new council members to approve the proposed budget. While on town council, this same person voted to burden our town with a \$60 million debt – and also approved inappropriate development in our historic downtown area.

As responsible citizens, we deserve

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 »

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Chair Randall gives the 2023 State of the County address

BY SOPHIA CLIFTON

At the State of the County address on May 24, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large) began by speaking at length about the “historic times” that Loudoun County has faced since January 2020.

“Through this great challenge ... Loudoun weathered the storm with strategic calmness and sound economic policies that allowed our county to remain strong, and even flourish,” Randall said.

“Loudoun County government added 680 jobs, we had



more than four hundred economic development wins, and in Loudoun County we welcomed over 20,000 new residents.”

Randall credited some of that success to Buddy Rizer and his team in the Department of Economic Development. Their initiative to support small businesses in Loudoun with 21 million dollars in grant funding “helped to fuel one of the strongest local economies in the country,” she said.

“We seek to create a diversified and resilient economy built to withstand any downturns and ...

attract businesses from all over the world.” With these goals in mind, Randall said, the DED has started a program for small and minority-owned businesses called Launch Loudoun.

“The programming and education provided by Launch Loudoun will ... allow these businesses to start, scale, and soar,” she said.

Randall next addressed the attainable housing crisis, stating that “Loudoun is taking proactive steps to provide attainable housing – not just for rent – but, more importantly,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 »



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Wexton introduces bill to rename Purcellville Post Office

Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) introduced legislation to rename the Purcellville, Virginia, post office in honor of Madeleine Albright, the first female U.S. Secretary of State who called Virginia's 10th District home for many years.

"Secretary Madeleine Albright was a fearless trailblazer for women and a devoted public servant who touched the lives of so many whom she taught, mentored, and worked with – including me," said Wexton. "Her relentless defense of democracy and advocacy for human rights, inspired by her own lived experience fleeing Nazi persecution, made her an icon here at home and around the globe. It is my honor to lead this legislation to celebrate her historic life and legacy here in Virginia's 10th District."

"Our family is deeply grateful to Representative Wexton and

members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation for introducing this bill that will celebrate and honor our mother's legacy and connection to this special part of Loudoun County. For the past fifty years, she cherished her time in this community with family and friends, often found walking in the beautiful countryside or through the historic streets of Purcellville. This commemoration is a wonderful tribute to her memory," said the Albright family.

Madeleine Albright came to the United States in 1939 at only 2-years old as a refugee fleeing the Nazi invasion of her birth country of Czechoslovakia. Albright's career in public service began in 1976 as a legislative staffer to U.S. Senator Ed Muskie of Maine, before moving to the White House to work on the National Security Council under Zbigniew Brzezinski. Albright served as ambassador to the United Nations under

President Bill Clinton from 1993 to 1997 and then was appointed to serve as the first female Secretary of State.

Secretary Albright had a significant and lasting impact on U.S. foreign policy, including successfully advocating for military intervention in Bosnia to manage the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo, promoting the expansion of NATO eastward, and supporting the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on global climate change.

Following her time in government, Albright founded the Albright Stonebridge Group, an international strategy consulting firm, and taught at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service until her passing in March of 2022. She was a seven-time New York Times bestselling author. Albright was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the highest civilian award in the U.S. – in 2012.

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Purcellville senior management moves forward with extension of Mayfair Crown Drive

BY VALERIE CURY

At the Town of Purcellville's May 23 Town Council work session, council decided to delay a vote to approve three deeds of easements the county needs to extend Mayfair Crown Drive to Fields Farm Park Road – making this the second entrance to Mountain View Elementary and Woodgrove High School.

The majority on town council and the previous council have consistently rejected extending Mayfair Crown Drive through to Fields Farm Park Road as a second entrance to the two schools as this would divide the Mayfair community, and make the road unsafe for the residents and children. Most Mayfair residents have expressed opposition to extending Mayfair Crown Drive. Council Member Erin Rayner has supported the extension of the road which would be a two-lane minor collector road.

Dale Lehnig, Director of Engineering Planning & Development, referred to the cul-de-sac at the end of Mayfair Crown Drive as “temporary.”

This would be a county funded project which would include the construction of the second entrance to both schools

and give the required permanent storm drainage easements to the Town of Purcellville from the County Board of Supervisors. Loudoun County Public Schools plan to construct a secondary access road for Mountain View Elementary and Woodgrove High School.

According to the town's staff report “the Town's Engineering, Planning & Development Department has finalized their review of” the three Deeds of Easements – which are permanent drainage easements for the Fields Farm Park Road project. The project “requires that easements be granted to the Town by private property owners.”

The three Deeds of Easements submitted for approval are: WSMT-20-01 Deed of Easement between Mayfair Industrial Park Association, ESMT-20-02 Deed of Easement between Mayfair Community Association, and ESMT-20-03 Deed of Easement between Ranger Specialized Glass, Inc. All three would be between the County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Purcellville.

The county has acquired three easements for the project, and currently needs approval from Town Council and a signature from the mayor or the road can not be extended.

At the Sept. 7, 2022 Town Council Special Meeting there was a concern that extending Mayfair Crown Drive would be part of the Northern Collector Road. The NCR was proposed to start at 287 and go through to Mayfair Crown Drive to Fields Farm Park Road.

The Northern Collector Road was eliminated from the Town of Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan. But the County still has the NCR on the County's Transportation Plan – despite previous council's written requests to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, to remove the NCR from the county's plan.

County staff revealed at the Sept. 7, 2022 meeting that they were working with the Town's administrative staff to move forward on extending Mayfair Crown Drive. The Town Council was unaware of this and requested that town staff immediately stop the process of approving the extension of Mayfair Crown Drive. At the time, former Mayor Kwasi Fraser said he had at least four votes to stop the administrative process.

Fraser said to move forward with the extension of the road “will affect the health, safety, and welfare of our community.”

Mayfair residents have asked for the

second entrance to the schools to branch off 690 into the school property. Also the planning commission has suggested other alternatives as well.

Despite strong opposition from the residents of Purcellville and the Town Council, the county is still moving forward with the Northern Collector Road.

In a March 23, 2023 Pre-Application Conference Memorandum to Valley Commerce Center located at 17110 Purcellville Road, the property owner, Chuck Kuhn, is proposing to rezone a 117.07-acre parcel which is outside the town limits of Purcellville in the Joint Land Management Area zoning district. The JLMA-3- zoning district permits one house per three acres. Kuhn will be applying to rezone the property to the Planned Development-Industrial Park District PD-IP which includes light and medium industrial uses with supporting accessory uses and facilities.

In the March 23 memo, county staff requested the following, “Please confirm that the section of the Purcellville North Collector Road that is planned to run through the property between Purcellville Road and Berlin Turnpike is planned to be a two-lane minor collector within 70 feet of right-of-way.”

GOVERNMENT

Council votes to sell the Pullen house

At the Purcellville Town Council Meeting on May 23, the council voted 4-1-1 to sell the town-owned Pullen House which is located at 301 South 20th Street in Purcellville. Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut, Council Members Carol Luke, Ron Rise Jr., and Boo Bennett voted for the sale, Council Member Erin Rayner voted no, and Mayor Stan Milan abstained. Council Member Mary Jane Williams was absent for the vote.

The property which is 0.49-acres, and has a zoning designation of R-3 duplex, was purchased in 2011 by the Mayor Robert Lazaro administration for \$175,000 and has remained vacant since its purchase. The current assessment is \$367,680.

The town council had three choices, either to sell the property through the sealed bid process, use a real estate agent, or pay \$77,803 to tear down the house.



Some ideas to use the property were to use it for a playground, a parking lot, a tot lot or a farmer's market.

Although questioning if the property would be large enough, Milan suggested the possibility of using it for a skate park. Hooper McCann, Director of Administration, suggested building a pavilion which could be used for a farmer's market. Luke said that the location doesn't have the visibility needed for a market.

Rayner said she favored demolishing the building and holding a workshop to discuss ideas for the property. She was against selling the property and said “it would be a great loss” to sell it.

Bennett said she was ready to make a motion to sell the property, and read a motion to list the property with a real estate company. Next, the town will need to competitively procure services of a realtor.

Disability Services Board calls for FAIME Award nominations

The Loudoun County Disability Services Board sponsors an awards program that honors businesses and organizations that display a strong commitment toward the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace. Nominations are open for the 2023 Full Accessibility and Inclusion: Moving toward Equity (FAIME) Awards, which honor businesses and organizations that go above and beyond to recruit, hire, train and promote people with disabilities and that have an inclusive workplace and business model.

Eligibility Requirements for Award Nominees

Businesses and organizations must demonstrate a commitment to hiring people with disabilities, to providing accommodations in the workplace and to offering people with disabilities professional development opportunities so they can grow their skills.

Nominees may be for-profit or nonprofit businesses and organizations, but may not be government agencies, nonprofits or businesses whose mission is to provide services to people with disabilities.

Businesses and organizations may nominate themselves.

Nominations should be submitted by going to www.loudoun.gov/FormCenter/Public-Affairs-14/2023-FAIME-Award-Nomination-377. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, June 23.

Winners will be notified in July 2023 and an awards reception will be scheduled in October 2023, which is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

For more information, email Loudoun County Accessibility Manager Sahar Behboudifar at sahar.behboudifar@loudoun.gov, call 571-258-3282 (TTY 711) or visit loudoun.gov/FAIMEAwards.

Virtual Public Meeting on HMS Shared-Use Path

Loudoun County is hosting an online public meeting on the Harmony Middle School Shared-Use Path project. The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 6–7 p.m. via WebEx. Members of the public are invited to join the virtual meeting to learn, ask questions and provide input about the project.

GOVERNMENT

Meeting details, including login information, are available at loudoun.gov/HarmonyPath. Members of the public must sign up in advance to ask questions during the meeting no later than 12 p.m., June 6. Online participants may also send questions to the project team as Q&A messages, which will be answered during the meeting as time allows.

This project will design and construct a shared-use path, sidewalk and drainage improvements along the north side of West Colonial Highway (Business Rt. 7) in the Town of Hamilton. The shared-use path is proposed to extend from the

existing shared-use path near Green Top Drive, just east of Rt. 287 in the Town of Purcellville, to North Reid Street (Rt. 1106). The shared-use path will then transition to a sidewalk at North Reid Street and continue to the existing sidewalk east of South Hughes Street (Rt. 709) in the Town of Hamilton.

Comments will be accepted through June 21, on the online comment form at loudoun.gov/HarmonyPath; by mail to Carmine Parascandola, Loudoun County Department of Transportation & Capital Infrastructure, 101 Blue Seal Drive, Leesburg, VA, 20177; or by email to dcti@loudoun.gov. Reference “Harmony Middle School Shared Use Path” in the subject line.

For more information about the Harmony Middle School Shared-Use Path project, including a link to sign up for updates about the project and details about the upcoming public meeting, visit loudoun.gov/HarmonyPath.

Loudoun to cover Virginia’s School funding shortfall

During its May 16, business meeting, the Board of Supervisors increased the Loudoun County Public Schools’ FY 2024 Operating Fund budget by \$13 million and acknowledged the potential to cover a state shortfall in Loudoun’s public-school funding with its own year-end fund balance.

The action leaves open the possibility that the state could still resolve some or all of the shortfall. In addition, the Board authorized LCPS’ re-appropriation of its own year-end balance of \$3.3 million in FY 2024 to administer collective bargaining that the School Board approved in March.

GOVERNMENT

Statewide, Virginia public school systems this year received less money from the state than was anticipated after a Virginia Department of Education calculation error that was not addressed in a subsequent budget bill.

For Loudoun, that resulted in a \$13 million gap in the FY 2024 budget.

As part of the approval, the Board permitted some flexibility for how the funds will be appropriated, depending on whether the state makes up the shortfall, makes up part of the shortfall or leaves the entire shortfall in place:

If not resolved, the Board will provide up to \$13 million of FY 2023 year-end fund balance to LCPS.

If the state provides a portion of the \$13 million state revenue shortfall, the Board will accept it in the FY 2024 LCPS Operating Fund and provide the remaining shortfall to LCPS using FY 2023 year-end fund balance.

If the state covers the entire \$13 million shortfall, the Board will not need to appropriate any of its own year-end fund balance.

More information about the county budget is online at loudoun.gov/budget.

Remembering Karl Roger Phillips

Karl Roger Phillips, 64, passed away on Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

Phillips was born on March 19, 1959 in Hawthorne, California, and he was the son of Albert Virgil Phillips and Nancy Sterrett (Mathews) Phillips.

He graduated summa cum laude from George Mason University with a degree in Geographical History. He worked for a number of firms concentrating on the development of GPS. He also worked for Election Data Services, Loudoun County Mapping Division and for MapStory.org, and started his own Company, Dynamic Geographics.com with a focus on the mapping of historical United States boundaries.

Phillips’ commitment to serving his community included Volunteer Fire Fighter in Fairfax County, VA and holding a seat on the Purcellville Town Council – from 2002 to 2006 – committed to a slow growth, fiscally conservative platform. He was also a founding member of Citizens for Catocin County, an organization tasked with truly preserving western Loudoun by looking at the feasibility of the separation of western Loudoun

from eastern Loudoun.

Karl was married to Kathleen Jeffries (Hugus) Phillips. He was one of seven siblings, and is survived by his two sons Sean James Phillips and Ryan Francis Phillips; his mother Nancy Sterrett Phillips, three brothers Albert Virgil Phillips, Jr., Stephen Wendell Phillips, Perry Douglas Phillips and one sister Mildred Annette Phillips; and an extraordinary group of nieces and nephews of whom Karl was always proud. He was predeceased by his father Albert Virgil Phillips, and a sister Teresa June Phillips and brother Neil Emerson Phillips.

The family received friends on Friday, May 19, 2023 and a funeral service was held on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at Hall Funeral Home; 140 South Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, VA.

Memorial contributions may be made to Loudoun County Animal Services, 42225 Adoption Drive, Leesburg, Virginia 20175.

Arrangements were handled by Hall Funeral Home, Purcellville, VA.

To view the obituary and send online condolences, please visit www.hallfh.com.



LCPS students earned awards in art and writing awards

Four Loudoun County Public Schools high school students have earned national award medals as part of the 100th annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition. Young artists and writers in grades 7-12 submit work in 28 categories

COMMUNITY

Michael Pierson, Supervisor of Fine Arts for Loudoun County Schools. “The extraordinary dedication to their ideas and craft permeates each of their pieces; they communicate unique narratives with artistic expression. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments.”

Loudoun County High School

Katherine Garvey
“A Look into Parasociality”
- Sculpture’

Loudoun Valley High School

Delaney Sullivan
“Fern by River”
- Photography

Potomac Falls High School

Erin Ternovska
“Herr Herring the Red Herring”
- Ceramics and Glass
Linyue Tong
“Little Hope”
- Painting

ries of art and writing to a network of regional affiliates who present award ceremonies and exhibits for selected works on a local level.

One student from Loudoun County High School, one student from Loudoun Valley High School and two Potomac Falls High School students were awarded silver medals for their work.

“These student artists’ talent, voice and point of view are inspiring,” said

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation’s longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for creative teens in grades 7-12. Over 300,000 artworks were submitted from across the United States, with nearly 2,000 artworks earning national awards.

To view all national winners in art and writing, please visit <https://medals.artandwriting.org>.

National Renewable Energy Challenge Features Local Students on Makersmiths KidWind Teams

Local students with enthusiasm for advancing renewable energy technology are thriving in Western Loudoun, sponsored by nonprofit group the Makersmiths. Two teams have just returned from the 8th Annual National KidWind Challenge, hosted by the University of Colorado at Boulder, after advancing to the national competition from the regional, and then Virginia, challenges.

COMMUNITY

Neighborhood WATTS, a high school team participating in the KidWind Solar Challenge category, and Operation

WATTS and Operation Cheap and Clean, participated in the solar category with such varied designs that KidWind plans to expand the category next year.

The teams presented their designs and explained their processes to a panel of judges composed of industry representatives, who also tested them for originality and teamwork. Teams tested their knowledge in multiple Instant Challenges that included building a solar water pump and debating the merits and possibilities of creating a solar farm in a rural community (called KidWindLandia).

Both Makersmiths teams participated in a piloted Fixed Bottom Offshore Wind Challenge. They built and brought to the competition a foundation they installed into an on-site tank, testing for stability and efficiency using a scale model offshore wind tunnel.

The event featured several surprise challenges, in which students calculated energy efficiency and assessed circuitry safety. All teams participated in a Quizbowl to test their renewable energy knowledge.



Cheap and Clean, a middle school team participating in the Wind and Solar Challenge categories, packed up their projects and traveled to Boulder. There they were among 82 students from 18 states and Mexico, as well as participants in the Collegiate Wind Competition.

Team Neighborhood WATTS, with their solar-powered town design, won the Innovation Award in KidWind's newly created National Solar Challenge. The national competition had until this year featured exclusively wind teams. Ten teams of middle schoolers and high schoolers, including Neighborhood

A 2022 Google Data Centers grant to the Makersmiths, in support of STEM education initiatives, helped sponsor the teams' trek to KidWind's national competition. "We are very proud of the Makersmiths teams and their recent success at the KidWind National Challenge," said Amber Tillman, Head of Data Center Economic and Community Development for Google. "At Google we understand how important it is to invest in the next generation particularly in youth focused on STEM and developing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



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BY VALERIE CURY

As I was pulling out of a parking lot at Hatcher and Hirst Road in Purcellville, preparing to turn left, I saw a very young boy running down the sidewalk in front of my car. He got to the middle of the sidewalk and stopped, but seemed like he was getting ready to dash across the street towards the Purcellville Police Station. You could see on his face how badly he wanted to do so but had been warned not to.

I quickly put my car in park. As I scanned the area, I wondered where his parents were as I couldn't see any

adults in the area. I got out of the car and started walking towards him. At that moment, a Loudoun County school bus stopped in the middle of the road. The bus driver leaned out her door, said something to the young child, then asked me if he belonged to me. I said no and kept walking closer to the boy. I didn't want to alarm him as you could see on his face that he was thinking about running across the street. But he knew better, but he so wanted to.

As I got closer, he bolted back to the business center and jumped off a low

wall, taking his time to roll in a thin strip of grass.

An American Disposal Services truck was parked beside the Burgers, Fries & Chicken restaurant as the driver took a 3 p.m. snack break. Just then, the young child ran around the corner near the entrance of BFC, and I was thinking his parents might be in there.

But he dashed across the parking lot towards the medical building. By that time, the driver of the trash truck and more than a handful of other people were following the lad. The group

included the Bank of Clarke County team, who had initially seen him run across the back of the building.

Unbeknownst to us, all this occurred while his parent was frantically searching the medical building for him. Within minutes, the youngster was reunited safely with his parent.

All this goes to show that we live in a wonderful and caring community. A big shoutout to the school bus driver, the American Disposal Services driver, the Bank of Clarke County team, and all the other concerned citizens who joined in to protect this little fellow.

We would ask his parents to please update us on his cross-country career when he reaches high school.



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Celebrating the Appalachian Trail in Round Hill and Hillsboro June 10

This is the little festival that could. What started as an idea to celebrate one, small Northern Virginian town's commitment to getting more people outdoors keeps on growing. This year will be our fourth celebration of the Appalachian Trail—and all the Great Outdoors—at the Round Hill/Hillsboro Appalachian Trail Festival in the Gap in Hillsboro on Saturday, June 10.

The festival is back in 2023 with the Town of Hillsboro, new Appalachian Trail Community, teaming up with Round Hill to celebrate the Appalachian Trail, and everything Great Outdoors in a new venue: The Gap Stage and Old Stone School in Hillsboro.

Following 2,190 miles of mountain ridge lines, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail crosses 14 states, from Maine to Georgia. It's the longest and oldest marked footpath in the country—and here in Loudoun the Appalachian Trail is right in our backyard.

In the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Town of Round Hill sits between two Appalachian Trail centers – Bears Den to the south and Blackburn to the north. The town's inaugural festival in 2019 celebrated Round Hill's official designation as an Appalachian Trail Community, recognizing the Trail as a community asset and pledging to support ongoing Trail stewardship. The Round Hill/Hillsboro Appalachian Trail Festival in The Gap toasts the beauty of the Trail with tunes and talks, bites and brews. Enjoy live music, trail talks, kids'

activities, food and vendors.

Talk with reps from environmental/hiking groups and take part in hands-on learning from trail cooking to yoga for hikers. Discover a new day hike. Climb the rock wall, Get inspired by the "Wild Beauty" art show – which is an Appalachian Trail inspired invitational art show. The art will be available for purchase during festival hours – and artists include Nick Garnhart, Jill Jensen, Megan Caldwell, Amy Oliver, Kathleen Howsare and Johlene Hess. You can also try your hand at a nature craft.

At this free, family-friendly event, there will be a celebration of the Appalachian Trail and other outdoor opportunities in the area. Bands include Mink's Miracle Medicine, Justin Trawick and the Common Good and the Short Hill Mountain Boys.

There will be an event the night before the festival on Friday, June 9, featuring hiking/historian/author/adventurer Jeffrey H. Ryan, talking about "Secrets of the AT," as part of Hillsboro's Eat, Drink and Be Literary series at the Old Stone School.

This event will be held at the Old Stone School in historic Hillsboro. Eat, Drink, and Be Literary will kick off with light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, followed by Ryan's presentation at 7 p.m. In addition to having several books and several thousand miles of hiking under his belt, Ryan is a speaker who frequently appears in person and over the airwaves nationwide.

Dr. Cironi graduates from Tulane Medical School

Dr. Katherine Ann Cironi, 26 has graduated with honors from Tulane Medical School, where she achieved a Doctorate of Medicine in the class of 2023. She was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha, a national organization that recognizes the academic excellence of physicians graduating from medical school.

Cironi is the daughter of Louis and Elizabeth Cironi of Waterford, Virginia.

"I would like to thank the teachers and staff of Loudoun County Public Schools. Especially Waterford Elementary, Blue Ridge Middle School, Harmony Intermediate and Woodgrove High School, where I graduated in 2014.

"I would like to give a special thanks to the Math and Science teachers who prepared and inspired me for pursuing what

I love to do," said Cironi.

Cironi graduated with honors from Virginia Tech in 2018, with a major in Biochemistry. She was President of the Student American Medical Association at Virginia Tech and was heavily involved with undergraduate research at Virginia Tech's Carilion School of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health in Frederick, Maryland.

"These experiences have set the foundation for me to publish over a dozen manuscripts while studying at Tulane University School of Medicine," she said.

Cironi would also like to thank the nurses, physicians, and staff at Inova



PURCELLVILLE PASSES REDUCED BUDGET,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

budget. Council Members Mary Jane Williams, Ron Rise Jr., and Erin Rayner voted against the FY24 budget.

Water rates were proposed at 6.5 percent and lowered to 5 percent, while sewer rates were proposed at 9 percent and lowered to 7.5 percent.

The FY24 budget was proposed at \$28.2 million and reduced overall to \$27.8 million. The changes included a half-cent reduction of the proposed real estate rate from .21 to .205 cents. Real estate assessments did increase, so with the reduction, residents will see a \$7.25 increase per month in their real estate bill.

Committees, commissions and boards compensation – which has not been raised in 15 years – was increased by 4 percent. A council member, for example, receives \$5,750 annually, and will receive an extra \$230 per year with the increase. Council Member Erin Rayner said she would not accept a budget that includes a raise for council and committees, commissions and boards.

The legal department's budget was reduced by going with an attorney on retainer. The cost-of-living increase for staff was lowered from the proposed 5 percent to 4 percent. Pay for Performance was set at a one-time bonus with a range of 2 to 4 percent, at the town manager's discretion.

At the May 9 Town Council meeting, in the citizen comment portion, resident Michael Seipt again spoke in favor of the proposed 5 percent cost-of-living increase for town staff. He said he supported the 7/690 Interchange and urged council to approve it.

Kingsbridge resident Barbara Lucas said it was very difficult to exit her neighborhood and the 7/690 Interchange "benefits the people of our town and people of our county. I believe most residents are in favor of it."

The unsignalized entrance for the Kingsbridge neighborhood would remain at an F level of service with or without the interchange.

Kate Goddard spoke in favor of the proposed 5 percent COLA and said she was "concerned about having a poverty mindset in an affluent town." She said that Purcellville residents are primarily affluent people. She said that the average household income is \$117K per year and added, "There are 400 residents below poverty level ... Let's not plan as if they are the only residents in the community." She also

supported all 4 interchange ramps.

Former Council Member Joan Lehr, who voted for the Vineyard Square 6-story development on 21st Street and also approved the \$40 million dollars of town debt for the sewer plant upgrade, said she supported the COLA increase of 5 percent. She said she also supported the 7/690 Interchange.

Developer Casey Chapman said he supported the 5 percent COLA increase and the ongoing pay for performance for staff. He said the 7/690 Interchange "isn't new – isn't sudden. We need the 4 ramps [even] if it improves waiting time by one second."

Director of Engineering Planning and Development Dale Lehnig said the purpose of the 7/690 Interchange was to increase roadway connectivity for growth that has already occurred. She said she disagreed with the notion that it was to support new growth.

Lehnig said that the planning commission's findings regarding the fourth ramp – which would be in the Town of Purcellville – were flawed. She said the interchange would reduce volumes on town roads.

"All have a level of service of D or better; LOS of D is a typical design goal," Lehnig explained. "For school D isn't good, but for engineering D is not bad."

In council discussion regarding the proposed budget, Council Member Erin Rayner said she supported both the proposed 6.5 percent rate for water rates and 9 percent for sewer rates.

"We really need to get going on fixing the problem of our debt and our rates," Rayner said. "We need to listen to our consultants and raise our rates 6.5 percent for water and 9 percent for wastewater."

She said council has subsidized the town's utility rate by taking from "our reserves" to balance the budget, and that has "gotten us in the hard place we are in."

All of the Town's Reserve funds currently contain more than required by the amount set by the Town's very conservative fiscal policies. The Reserves are intended to be used for emergencies, to pay down debt, and to support the operations of the Town. Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut has previously said when discussing the Reserve fund that sitting on excess cash is harmful to the citizens. Why tax them more in order to keep putting money into the Reserves when there's more than enough there already?

Rayner said the proposed budget "was a sound budget. It's a lean budget. We literally have found nothing

to change that is substantial. Our previous town manager and our new one both agree that this is the budget we should adopt. We don't have a spending problem; we have a revenue problem."

Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said this was the second year in a row "with double digit increases proposed for the annual budget."

"While salaries are just a part of the picture, they are important both to those receiving them and to those supporting them – that is the taxpayers and the rate payers of this town," said Bertaut. "The economy today is uncertain and very few outside of the government have a great deal of faith and confidence in the security of their jobs."

Bertaut said that the town's practice of "charging the utility fund for services rendered by the general fund staff means the utility funds are getting hit twice. Once by increases in pay within the utility fund and again when the chargebacks are exacted."

He reminded council that the Baker Tilly compensation study was published in 2019 and since then the town has "made great strides in making jobs and Purcellville government pay comparable to other jurisdictions ... in the region."

The council has heard some criticism about council's relationship with the county. "Town council, and the committees, commissions and boards have no reason to apologize for not having been informed by the town of the existence of several applications for an entire year," said Bertaut – referring to the delay from management in bringing the Fields Farm Projects and the 7/690 Interchange to the council's attention. Once council and the planning commission were made aware of the plans, they "devoted many hours to examining the applications, surveying residents and holding public hearings."

"But," he continued, "no favors were done when the county brushed aside concerns about late night lighting ... because they were driven by the lure of rental fees from tournaments."

Regarding the 7/690 Interchange, Bertaut said, "Both the town and the county have been reluctant to admit that the application was made using data from old studies. In the case of the town, they are holding on to floodplain mapping that became effective in 1986. The county applied for a remapping in 2012, but when they made their application to the town the modeling failed to

include 3 additional lanes – and the 3 off ramps that aren't within the town boundaries."

The eastbound off-ramp is the only part of the interchange that is in the Town of Purcellville.

So the determination that there would be "no impact on the Catoctin Creek floodplain is based on incomplete data." Bertaut said that the county is pressuring the town to sign a deed of vacation that "would hold the county harmless and permit them to cut down however many trees they deem necessary."

Bertaut pointed out that both the county and the town are only looking at pieces of the floodplain map instead of the whole picture, without collectively assessing the risk this poses to residents.

"There are 21 properties in town that are affected by this new floodplain mapping," Bertaut said, "and no one wants to acknowledge this. Which scenario poses a greater liability threat for our residents – informing the affected landowners they are at risk and should get flood insurance or not informing them and waiting for those who have not been informed of enhanced risk [that they need] to get flood insurance – then sue when they realize they could have been better prepared had they known the risks?"

Bertaut said that a few years ago, Stantec, the town's utility rate advisor, told the town council that they could have increases of 3 percent for water and 5 percent for sewer for the foreseeable future. "That certainly changed in the last 2 years."

"Regarding the utility debt," he said, "There's a can being kicked down the road, but the can got its start years ago under former Mayor [Robert] Lazaro. He gave it a good swift kick in the form of balloon payment bonds which are now coming due. That's why we pay interest year after year and then suddenly have a great big payment that comes due in one particular year."

"This is a problem that cannot rest entirely on the shoulders of the town rate paying residents," Bertaut said.

Rebutting Council Member Erin Rayner's statement that the town has a revenue problem, Mayor Stan Milan said the revenue the fund brings in is 4 times the debt for the water fund and 2.5 times the debt for the wastewater fund. "So the question is: Where is the excess money going?"

It's going into the operations and maintenance.

As the semester closes these seniors are looking up

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains are sponsoring a Video Contest with this year's Loudoun County High Schools Capstone Students. The video has to be about the significance and preservation of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and it can only be up to 4 minutes long.

COMMUNITY

The goal is to heighten the awareness of the majesty of and the dangers to the Blue Ridge Mountains.

They gathered recently with some members of the Friends board at Bears Den to discuss the project.

L-R: Juanita Tool, Maddie Pavon, Devin Adu, Roger Zanes, Norman Myers, Caston Wilder, and Ella Walsh.



MICKIE GORDON PARK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Goodbye to all that?

In 2005, PRCS found there was enough interest to launch a Loudoun County Cricket League. They started out with seven teams. Today, that English cousin of baseball is the largest adult sports program operated by PRCS. According to PRCS Communications Manager Kraig Troxell, the Loudoun County Cricket League (LCCL) now boasts 60 teams serving nearly 1,800 participants

With that growth has come the growing problem of where to play. A few years ago, the department looked around and saw one solution at Mickie Gordon Park, where it would be possible to convert a baseball field into a cricket field. That move proved to be but a stopgap, even as the county modified fields at Leesburg's Philip A. Bolen Park by adding temporary and later permanent cricket pitches on shared use fields.

Meanwhile, fewer than 10 miles east of Mickie Gordon Park at Brambleton, the county proceeded to plan and build the \$100 million, 257-acre Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park. Now open, Hanson Park features 17 lighted athletic fields, but only one of them is dedicated to cricket.

The ongoing lack of available fields in the county frustrates avid players like Kaushal Kansara, who learned to play in his native India. "Cricket is an old sport, the national sport of the UK, that became the game to play throughout the British Empire, in India, Asia, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa. Here it's new, and Americans are eager to learn and play new sports. You can see that now with pickleball."

While finding fields for adult LCCL teams to play is challenging, Kansara says it's even harder to find places for the 1,000 kids in Loudoun who want to play. Many parents drive them to fields in Maryland for games.

Given the need, PRCS is now moving ahead with plans for a full-on cricket center at Mickie Gordon Park. Nothing would remain of its past as a Black baseball park beloved as Hall's Park.

The park renovation calls for a championship field with permanent bleachers, press box, concessions building, and restrooms, requiring construction of a park septic system; two additional large cricket fields also with permanent



bleachers; and a new path connecting the fields to new parking lots for some 250 cars.

The transformation requires Board of Supervisors approval of a Special Exception to make the existing park in the AR-2 (Agricultural Rural) zoning district eligible for "active recreational uses." The Planning Commission has set a public hearing for June 27.

Are cricket fields right for Mickie Gordon Park?

Cricket fields are bigger than other athletic grounds. At 450 to 500 feet in diameter, they are much larger than football or soccer fields, which means they need brighter lighting. Also, cricket matches are longer than other games, ranging from 3.5 hours for short play to 7 or 8 hours for a traditional match. Games can stretch over multiple days.

Originally, PRCS proposed lighting only one of the new fields. Later, the park design was revised to light all three fields with six 100-foot-tall light towers each. At three or four stories above the tree line, they would be visible from both Carters Farm Lane and John S. Mosby Highway, the historic gateway to Middleburg and Hunt Country.

With lights on from 6 to 11 p.m. daily throughout the May–November athletic season, many residents envision permanent negative impacts to the night skies, local wildlife, and rural character of western Loudoun. They see the 18 light towers as adding insult to injury after the county last year approved construction of a 150-foot cell tower in this park.

Furthermore, area residents contend the larger facilities and increased park

use usage would lead to greater noise. Although the application doesn't say it, they fear one or more fields may be fitted with loudspeakers.

Also troubling to residents is the proposed paving of a new entrance from Rt. 50 and the widening and paving of the existing Carters Farm Lane entrance. The plan calls for two paved parking lots to accommodate more than 250 cars while sidewalks and paths would be added inside the park. County planners also want a 10-foot-wide asphalt path to run alongside Rt. 50.

Residents also are concerned about erasing the rich history of this rural baseball park. One resident said he moved to the Middleburg area from Ashburn to escape large-scale lighted athletic fields which are not appropriate for the rural community and character of Middleburg.

To handle runoff, the existing fishing pond is earmarked for conversion to a stormwater management facility.

VDOT estimates current park usage will rise to 346 vehicle trips on weekdays and 1,681 vehicle trips on Saturdays.

While VDOT concluded that traffic projections didn't meet its standards for requiring turn lanes, the county's planners want dedicated westbound and eastbound turn lanes anyway.

The introduction of turn lanes is contrary to the traffic-calming design and engineering of the highway from Aldie through Middleburg and Upperville, including the portion at Mickie Gordon Park.

Places that instill shared memories of community are at the heart of heritage. For African Americans in Loudoun

County, Mickie Gordon Park—still called Hall's Park by most folks over 60—created a sense of place and belonging not to mention a love of baseball.

Perhaps it is pure coincidence, but this proposal is reaching county decision makers precisely at the time two county-sponsored projects are underway to better address Loudoun's Black history. With Friends of Thomas Balch Library's Black History Committee and EHT Traceries, Inc. of Washington, D.C. the county is updating and expanding the Cultural Information Systems database of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

This database is the one planners use to assess architectural and cultural resources as they impact Special Exception applications. SPEX-2022-0020 for Mickie Gordon Park was reviewed two years ago against the outdated version of the database.

Also, through the Board of Supervisors, a community-based reconciliation task force is examining past and continuing institutional racial inequities in education. Loudoun's Chief Equity Officer Carl Rush described it as "a restorative approach to reconcile division and heal from the shared, troubled past in Loudoun County."

Across the county, key officials are only now learning about PRCS's plans for this heritage park.

"Many members of the Middleburg community and I are very concerned with the county's proposal to convert Mickie Gordon Park and its baseball diamonds to a large, three-field cricket facility," said Middleburg Mayor Bridge Littleton.

"Mickie Gordon Park has a deeply important history within our community. It served, during segregation, as the only baseball field where African Americans were allowed to play in this area of Loudoun.

"We should not abandon this history lightly; it teaches us all valuable lessons," Littleton added. "It is unfortunate that the county has progressed these plans this far without public engagement and outreach to the community to understand their thoughts and concerns on Mickie Gordon's future. I hope this can happen before any final decisions are taken. We owe it to this important legacy."

Barrett to hold book signing of his local history books at Twigs

Visit Twigs Boutique on June 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and meet Jack Barrett, a Purcellville native who has written four local history books. He will be holding a book signing at Twigs located at 613 East Main Street in Purcellville, on



Saturday, June 10. Barrett's first book, *A History of Loudoun County Baseball: 1869 to 1987*, focuses on organized adult baseball that became the center of social entertainment and pride for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 >

Pottery show/sale at The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

The Shenandoah Potters Guild will present a pottery show and sale on Saturday, June 10 and Sunday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., hosted by The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester.

On display, and available for purchase in the museum lobby and first floor halls, will be unique works created by members of the Guild, ranging from functional pottery to art pieces. Despite each potter using the same basic materials the range of their works differs widely, showing the art, skill, and creativity of each artist.

Additionally, demonstrations of the pottery making process will take place at 1

p.m. and 2 p.m. both days. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about this ancient craft and take home a one-of-a-kind treasure.

Museum admission or registration is not required for show, sale, and demonstrations. MSV admission fee applies to visit the gardens and galleries. The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley is located at 901 Amherst St, Winchester, VA 22601.

For more information about the event: <https://www.themsv.org>. For more information about the Shenandoah Potters Guild: <https://shenandoahpottersguild258631015.wordpress.com>.

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LETTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

leaders who prioritize efficient spending and actively seek innovative solutions to our town's challenges. Rather than resorting to tax increases, uncharacteristic development, and excessive fee hikes, we should engage in thoughtful discussions about reducing operational expenses.

Let us demand transparency and accountability from our politicians, urging them to explore alternative avenues for revenue generation and cost-saving measures.

By embracing innovation, fostering dialogue, and electing leaders with unwavering commitment to responsible financial management, we can secure a brighter and more prosperous future for our town. It is our collective responsibility to hold our elected officials accountable and work towards sustainable and prudent fiscal policies.

Together, we can overcome the spending problem plaguing our town and build a stronger, more financially resilient community.

Kwasi Fraser, former Purcellville Mayor

BARRETT'S BOOKS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

more than thirty different Loudoun communities.

Purcellville: A Journey from a Wilderness to a Rural Town, Vol. I which explains the various phases of growth of the "Purcellville" area: from a wilderness to farmland, farmland to a crossroad settlement, a crossroad settlement to a rural village and finally, to an incorporated town.

Purcellville: A Journey from a Wilderness to a Rural Town: 1910 to 1940: Vol. II which continues to reveal the people,

CHAIR RANDALL GIVES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

for purchase."

One of these proactive steps is the Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan, which "will not only increase our housing stock, but ensure we have the required infrastructure to welcome new residents to Loudoun," she said.

"Leveraging 32 million dollars in loans from the County's housing trust fund, affordable housing developments in Loudoun have now captured almost \$270 million dollars in additional investment from a variety of sources," she said.

Having just brought up the importance of transportation, Randall turned to the arrival of the Metro Silver Line, describing the long-awaited openings of three new Silver Line stations in Loudoun as a

events, organizations and businesses of the Purcellville: the fires of 1911 and 1914; World War I; the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression.

Purcellville: A Journey from a Wilderness to a Rural Town: 1940 to 1970: Vol. III. The book continues to tell the story of the people, events, organizations and businesses of Purcellville during World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam War. Volume III includes six map sketches, over 150 photos, 200 news articles/advertisements and over 2,000 names of the individuals who experienced this time period.

"game-changer."

"Metro expands access to jobs and presents new opportunities for housing that never existed before," Randall said.

"With Dulles and its fifty-six direct flights to cities all around the world, and now with direct access to DC via rail, we look forward to Loudoun being a destination for business investment from around the globe."

Loudoun's growing reputation as "D.C.'s Wine Country" was Randall's next topic, as she highlighted the farms, bed and breakfast facilities, equestrian industry and top-ranked vineyards that make this county such an attractive tourist destination.

"In a recent survey, visitors also identified shopping, dining, historic sites, breweries, and scenic outdoor activities among

Barrett's goal is to have a written record of local history, providing an opportunity to make a contribution to his native community.

There will be a limited number of books for sale. The books may be purchased at Darrell Barber Shop and Twigs, in Purcellville, and the Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg.

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission recognized Jack Barrett for "his many accomplishments in preserving and interpreting Loudoun County history" by presenting him with the 2016 History Award.

the primary reasons Loudoun's tourism revenue topped \$3 billion dollars," she said.

Randall thanked Visit Loudoun's CEO Beth Erickson and her staff for being the reason that Loudoun County is the "top generator of tourism revenue in the Commonwealth of Virginia."

She said that the partnership and "brain trust" between Erickson and Rizer makes "Loudoun a place where everyone has a chance to thrive, where small businesses can grow, where citizens can find the job of their dreams, and where visitors can enjoy unique, memorable experiences."

In discussing Loudoun's status as a welcoming community, Randall broached the subject of mental health. Randall

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 »

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DR. CIRONI GRADUATES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16
Loudoun hospital where she worked as a nurse assistant through her undergraduate degree. "This experience assisted in leading me to pursue a doctorate of

medicine."
She will now start a five-year surgical residency program at the University of Southern California hospital system in Los Angeles.

CHAIR RANDALL GIVES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20
explained that many of the calls that first responders answer are due to mental health crises, not physical ailments. "Loudoun, if we are to provide the best possible treatment for residents experiencing a mental health emergency and allow our first responders to do the jobs for which they are extensively trained, a Crisis Receiving Center is essential," she said.

Randall also introduced the first two winners of the "Ryan Bartel Heart of Humanity Award" – Gabby Guambo from Dominion High School and Katelyn Lanham from Loudoun County High School.
The Ryan Bartel Foundation was started by Ryan's mother Suzie Bartel after her 17-year-old son died by suicide. "In memory of Ryan, a \$2,500 scholarship was created for graduating high school seniors who have gone out of their way to support their peers struggling with mental health and hopelessness," Randall said.

Randall said that within the past month, Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner as well as Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton have requested fifteen million dollars in federal funding for a Loudoun-based Crisis Receiving Center.

Reviewing each topic she spoke about, Randall described the State of the County as superbly managed, caring and supportive, as well as globally engaged and economically stable and robust.

Randall gave a touching tribute to three retiring officials who had served Loudoun for a combined 67 years – County Treasurer Roger Zurn, Deputy County Administrator Charles Yudd, and Supervisor Tony Buffington.


Citing all of these reasons, Randall concluded, "The State of Loudoun County is not just strong, the state of Loudoun County is ... exceptional."

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Red, White & Blue Wheels Workshop, Parade and Puppet Show
Friday, June 30th
Bring your bikes and other wheels to our decorating workshop, then ride in the Red, White & Blue Parade. Snow cones and a puppet show follow.
3:30pm Workshop, 4:15pm Parade, 4:46pm Snow cones and Puppet show
Fee: \$8



Blue Sky Puppet Theatre: Pig Tales
Wed, June 14 10:00am
(Ages 2 & up)
The adorable pig rod-puppets will charm you!



Beech Tree Puppets: Rainbow Crow Brings Daylight
Wed., June 21
11:00am and 1:00pm
(Ages 5 & up) *This adaptation weaves two Native-American creation tales from the Lenape and the Inuit tribes. Features gorgeous sets, shadow puppets, rod puppets and marionettes.*



River City Puppets: The Hungry, Hungry Bookworm
Wed., June 28
11:00am and 1:00pm
(Ages 5 & up)
The librarian is on the hunt for a story eating bookworm. Giant puppets, music, and masterful storytelling.



Tom Teasley: THE DRUM – Ancient Traditions Today
Wed., July 5
11:00am and 1:00pm
(Ages 5 & up) *This program is a unique journey through the history of percussion. With Tom Teasley, world /jazz percussionist.*

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Moreover, landfills impose tipping – gate – fees for waste disposal, with costs varying based on location and waste type. As per the Waste Business Journal, the average tipping fee for municipal solid waste in the United States was \$53 per ton in 2020. By diverting 40,000 tons of waste from landfills, we could save approximately \$2.12 million per year in landfilling costs alone.

Additionally, the plasma gasification plant would significantly reduce the need for landfill space, leading to substantial savings in landfill space rental costs in areas across the country where space is rented. Assuming a conservative estimate of \$20 per cubic yard for landfill space rental, we can estimate an additional annual saving of

approximately \$0.88 million, resulting in a total estimated annual savings of \$3 million.

If the Board of Supervisors truly believes in the urgency of the present moment, it is imperative that they take bold actions and apply for a fraction of the billions of dollars allocated to the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. By seizing this opportunity, Loudoun County can spearhead the clean energy transition and demonstrate our commitment to a sustainable future.

Let us embrace the power of plasma gasification, a groundbreaking technology that not only addresses our energy needs but also mitigates environmental concerns. By investing in this innovative solution, we can unlock the full potential of clean energy and create a lasting positive impact for our community and beyond.

Kwasi Fraser served as mayor of Purcellville from July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2022 and represented the town on the National League of Cities' Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee and was appointed by EPA Administrator Michael Regan to the EPA Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee.

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RETURN TO CHINCOTEAGUE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

of the ocean air and completely settled in." That being said, the ponies wanted no part of the ocean. They were careful to stay clear of protected areas that were roped off. Katrina says that Chincoteague ponies are surefooted and incredibly athletic beyond their size. They would have no trouble on this adventure.

The small band of four-legged visitors made their way down the beach much to the surprise of tourists there on a nice day. Katrina's husband Kevin walked behind the group and engaged

with curious onlookers as they had questions. Given the enormous fame generated by the Marguerite Henry books, it was a shock that many on the beach that day had no idea there were wild ponies in the area, that there was to be an annual pony penning or that one could ride on the beach.

However, as the Bills family (Katrina, Keara and home-from-college son Kenny) plus their friend rode along, those who fish on the beach regularly were used to such a sight. Katrina indicated that they did not encounter any

wild ponies as they were probably hunkered down deep in the surrounding woods as storms were moving in.

Because of the weather changing, there was not much time spent on the beach. However, in those precious hours of making a dream come true, Katrina reflects saying, "it was truly a magical, amazing experience. To bring Cricket back to her birthplace was a full-circle, self-actualizing moment. We all call her 'Queen of the Ponies' and she embodied that standing in the dunes, taking in the salty sea air." It would be pure

speculation that Cricket or the other ponies with Chincoteague ancestry had any memories of that location on that day. However, the entire Bills family shared the adventure and created a memory together that they will always remember.

Inspired by the impressions left by Marguerite Henry books, Katrina Bills has just published the true story of her own equine legend, "Dragon: The Story of a Fiery Thoroughbred and the Girl Who Loved Him." <http://www.katrinabillingbills.com>.

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

and we complied. Now, though, there is one small fee we would like to propose: .05 CHF (*about a nickel*.) per plastic bag that you use. That will help reduce the amount of plastic in the oce ..."

Andl couldn't finish that word before shouts of "Nein! Nein! Nein" sealed the fate of that idea. He looked surprised.

"Herr Andl," I said. "That tax would be regressive – hurting the poor the most."

"Oh."

Others Address the Assembly

I called on others who called themselves "Stakeholders." Perhaps that was the name of their cabal.

First was the King of Conservation. He opined that his conservation easements were more important than protecting good agricultural soils. The people were having none of it, driving him from the stage with cries of "Schwein, schwein!"

Next was the Queen of Tourists. Her plea for funds to promote more tourism rang hollow. She, too, was shouted from the stage.

A data center doyen fared a bit better. Her presentation – more data centers, more "flexibility," was simply ignored.

The developer's mouthpiece was next, speaking with the speed of a machinegun. Sensing the mood of the crowd, she proposed a one-year hiatus

in implementing the Landsgemeinde's decisions. That met with angry shouts and some profanity.

A brewery baron was next. He tried humor: "We Swiss like our bier. (*beer*) We like our breweries, don't we?" The people were silent, sullen. "Uh, what do you want?" After a burst of jeers, someone said, "Have new breweries require special exceptions from the Council because of the traffic they cause. They should not be allowed on a by-right basis." The assemblage applauded.

The Chamber charlatan was last. "Without more businesses Loudoun will wither."

The people were having none of it.

They were tired of self-serving supplicants and started to leave. The Landsgemeinde was ending.

Our Alps

I looked westward over the stadtplatz and saw the Blue Ridge, snow-capped and somehow grown to 8,000 feet or higher. Then I blinked and woke. The Blue Ridge were once again our soft, low, forested hills. That was just fine.

Charles Houston developed six million square feet of office buildings. He lives in Paeonian Springs. A bit of Swiss blood courses through his veins.

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ADAMS RESIGNS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Nevertheless, the City staff must respond to the majority view, regardless of whether or not an individual Council member agrees, and regardless of whether or not the staff may agree."

The manual goes on to say, "While staff may like to be responsive to each individual Council member, an impossible situation develops when staff is requested to accommodate a Council member apart from the Council-to-Manager-to-staff line of authority."

Implementing the will of the majority policy in Purcellville has been a challenge for the Town Council majority. Consequently, the lack of adherence to and respect for governing body laws, rules and protocols sees a minority of Purcellville's Town Council members going directly to staff to give direction on project implementation independent of the entire governing body and absent a consensus.

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Organization involves maintaining order and efficiency in one's tasks and environments. For instance, it's good to keep a clean study space and systematically plan a study schedule

Decision making refers to selecting the best course of action from several alternatives. A teenager choosing to spend time studying for an important test instead of going to a party is demonstrating decision-making skills. Weighing pros and cons, seeking advice from trusted individuals, and reflecting on past experiences can help improve these skills.

Adaptability is the ability to adjust to changing conditions. A teenager who moves to a new city and manages to adjust to the new environment exhibits adaptability. Encouraging an open mindset, teaching stress management techniques, and providing diverse experiences can help foster adaptability.

Creativity goes beyond artistic expression—it's about innovative thinking and problem-solving. Brainstorming sessions, arts and crafts, and open-ended projects can help nurture creativity in teens.

Integrity means being honest and adhering to ethical principles consistently. A teenager who admits to a mistake instead of blaming others or who stands up against cheating in an examination demonstrates integrity. Parents and educators can instill integrity in teenagers through their actions and conversations, setting a positive example.

Manners matter. From "please" and "thank you," to opening the door for someone and greeting people respectfully; being polite, courteous and considerate of others will pay back in dividends for your teenager. Using proper table manners when eating, asking permission, maintaining good eye contact when having a conversation, avoiding

your phone when talking to someone, and waiting your turn, are some things parents can reinforce. The Golden Rule: treat others the way you want to be treated – is a very helpful rule to follow.

Soft skills equip teenagers with the necessary tools to navigate the complexities of life effectively. As we prepare our youth for the future, let us remember that these skills are as crucial as academic knowledge. The nurturing of these soft skills in teenagers paves the way for their personal growth, societal contributions, and professional success. Let us commit ourselves to foster these skills in our children and teens, and in doing so, ensure a promising future for our younger generations.

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.

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

return from my last, ever, trip. Give me something to do in my 'ghost years.'

So: whether I ever find myself a comfortable and affordable place to stay in Upperville, and whether I ever attend a community event at the familiar and historic Buchanan Hall on the eastern edge of the village, whether I get the pleasure of warming a barstool and imbibing in a 'warmer' adult beverage at the esteemed Hunter's Head Tavern, if I get a chance to collect my mail at the official Post Office on main street, and select a book or two (and maybe even donate some I've already read)

at the charming little Library down the block, if I ever attend a service at any one several impressive local houses of worship – or, say – if I fall into a fortune and buy some of those derelict properties and build a unique, modern dwelling for myself – or no, (probably no to all) I will feel, for at least a very long time (perhaps to the end of my days) that I've at least sort of, in my own way, gotten to know this little Village of Upperville, some 25 miles to the southwest of my home in Leesburg, Virginia.

And you can possess that feeling, free of charge, for as long as you'd like. We may even meet there. And, as was I you're welcome.

NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CHALLENGE,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

technology skills. We were happy to support these teams and their tremendous work!"

Neighborhood WATTS teammates are Scarlett Artz, Soren Ogelman, Zara Ramadan, Jocelyn Ro, and Andrew Stern. The team's coaches are Makersmiths members Justin McMillen and Diane Painter. Operation Cheap and Clean teammates are Rowan Artz, Max and Nick Burrus, Cameron Clarke, Evie and Curran McConnell, and Aidan Young. Their coaches are Makersmiths members Nora Young and Diane Painter. Both teams featured students from Loudoun County Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools, and homeschools.

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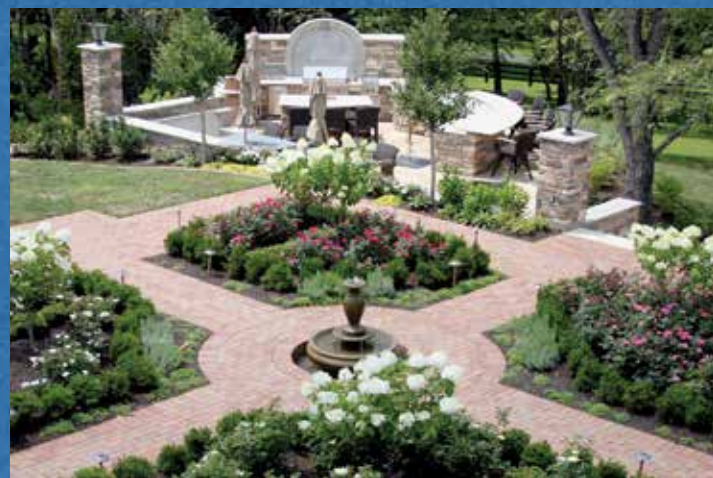


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