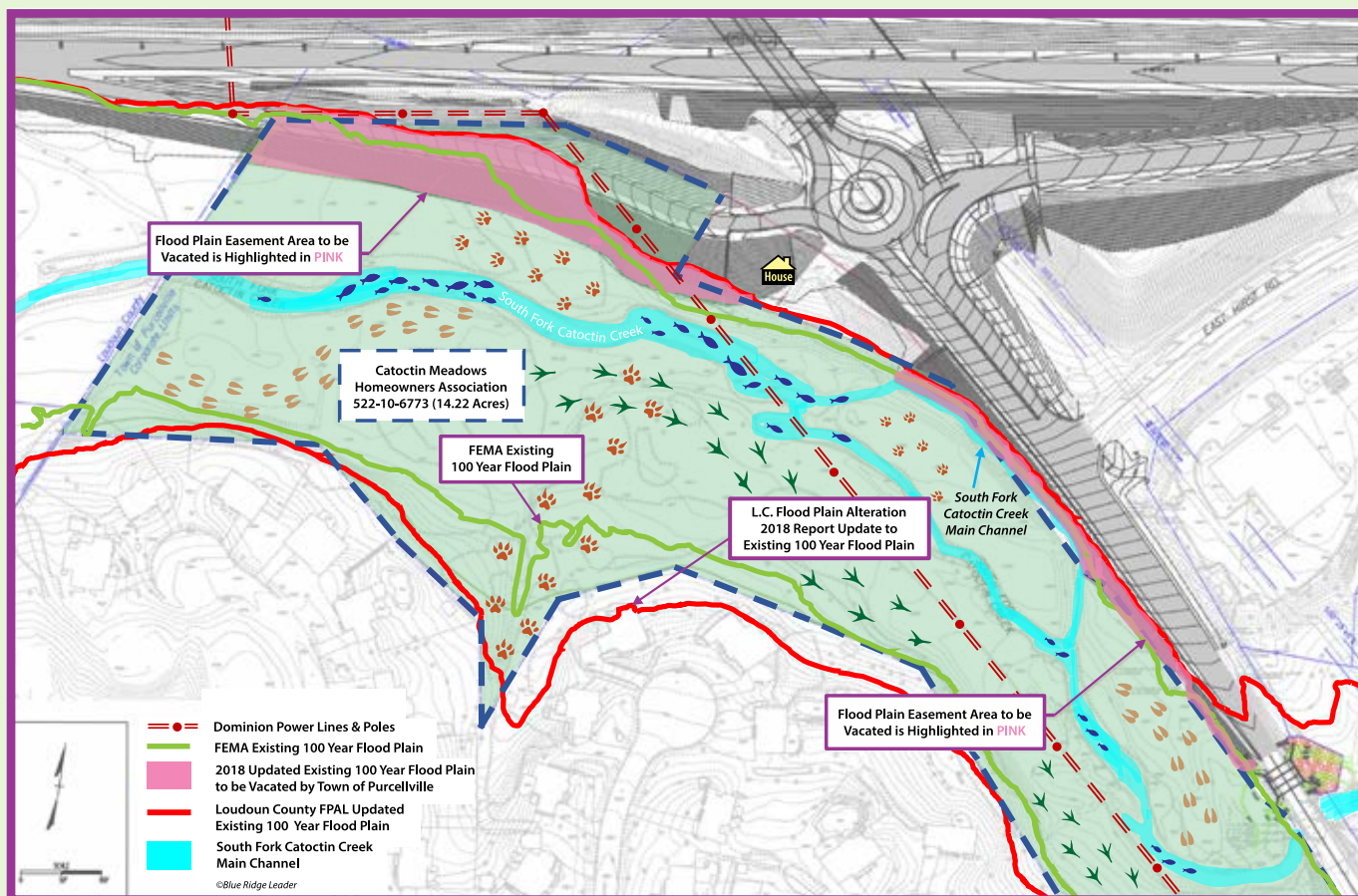


## 7 quick points on floodplain impact from Rt. 7/690 Interchange ramps



In the three minutes allotted to each speaker in the citizen comment portion of the June 27 Purcellville Town Council meeting, Catocin Meadows resident Ron Rise Sr. offered some quick points, which serve to clarify controversial issues between the town and Loudoun County. They address the planned Rt. 7/690 Interchange and its impact on a fragile floodplain.

1. First, Rise Sr. noted, in April 2018 Loudoun County published a public hearing brochure that stated the 7/690 Interchange would have potential impacts on the 100-year floodplain. "That same brochure stated that no stream work is proposed in the South Fork of the Catocin Creek."

2. "Also in 2018, VDOT published a Value Engineering Study stating that the interchange's eastbound and westbound ramps are not warranted for the opening year of 2020 or future 2040 years."  
 3. "VDOT predicted that only 130 vehicles in the morning and 70 vehicles

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## Parks and Rec to rethink expansion plans for Middleburg's Mickie Gordon Park

BY LAURA LONGLEY

On June 29, at the Middleburg American Legion Hall, a standing-room-only crowd of residents, officials, conservation leaders, and Loudoun County Cricket League members gathered to hear Loudoun Parks, Recreation, and Community Services

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# IT'S LIFE CHANGING

Finally! A local Doctor is helping cancer survivors live lives free from the constant pain and suffering associated with **Peripheral Neuropathy!**

Irreversible is not a word you want to hear from your Doctor but it's a common one if you've been diagnosed with Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy or CIPN.

Tom S. of Leesburg survived testicular cancer only to be living life in constant pain. He felt as though he were walking on pins and needles, becoming weaker and weaker every day. "I was beginning to be worried that one day I would be wheelchair-bound."

**Nearly half of the patients who undergo chemotherapy will develop Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy or CIPN.**

Chemotherapy meds travel throughout the body and attack cancer cells; sadly they can also cause severe damage to healthy nerves. CIPN can begin within weeks of starting treatment and can worsen as treatment continues. A high number of really unfortunate people will be forced to endure the symptoms associated with CIPN for months, or even years after they've completed chemo.

When asked how CIPN was affecting his quality of life, he responded, "It was difficult to even walk up and down stairs and do other things we usually take for granted."

**The most common symptoms include:**

- **pain, tingling, burning, weakness, or numbness in arms, hands, legs or feet**
- **sudden, sharp, stabbing or shocking pain sensations**
- **loss of touch sensation**
- **clumsiness and trouble using hands to pick up objects or fasten clothing**
- **loss of balance and falling**

For some, their nerves will recover over time. For most, the nerve damage is 'irreversible.' Tom had been told just that by a series of Doctors and specialists. Essentially they could cure his cancer but couldn't fix the damage done by the drugs used to cure his cancer.

Then Tom made a call to Rachal Lohr of FIREFLY|Acupuncture & Wellness right here in Ashburn. Rachal and her team are using the time tested science of Acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitating disease.

After a series of treatments Tom was taking stairs with stride!

"We have a beach house and it's up stairs. This morning I walked right down the stairs and got in the car," Tom shared.

**"I remember thinking 'that's become mighty easy for me', I didn't have to hold on to the hand rail or anything! It's life changing to have this mobility back!"**

Again and again, we meet with patients who were once diagnosed as "untreatable" or "incurable" but after receiving Rachal Lohr's treatments are now living lives free from pain and suffering. For 16 years she has been reversing the effects of CIPN and other varieties of Peripheral Neuropathy, including that caused by diabetes without invasive surgeries and medications that come with uncomfortable side effects.

If you've recently beat cancer only to find that you're living a life in constant pain and discomfort or you're struggling with the same symptoms as a result of either Idiopathic Neuropathy or Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy, Rachal and the incredible team at FIREFLY can help!

Rachal Lohr is now accepting new patients but only for a limited time. In an effort to protect her patients, both current and future, she has made the difficult decision to limit the number of patients seen in her clinic.

**Only 10 new neuropathy patients will be accepted monthly so call (703)263-2142 now to schedule a consultation.**

**Visit [FIREFLYAcuAndWellness.com](http://FIREFLYAcuAndWellness.com) to learn more and to take advantage of their New Patient Offer!**

# Bremseth takes the reins as Purcellville's Interim Town Manager

BY VALERIE CURY

On June 6, the Purcellville Town Council voted to appoint Loren R. "Rick" Bremseth as the town's Interim Town Manager. Bremseth, a former resident of Purcellville, lives in Round Hill with his wife, Marlena, a retired college professor who served as Campaign Finance Manager for former Mayor Kwasi Fraser. They have two grown children.



After commanding SEAL Team EIGHT, Bremseth served as Deputy Commander, Combined/Joint Special Operations Task Force, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and as Deputy Commander, Special Operations Command – PACIFIC (SOCPAC). While at SOCPAC, Bremseth also commanded the Joint Special Operations Task Force, Operation Enduring Freedom in the Philippines. From 2003 to 2005, he served his major command tour at Naval Special Warfare Group THREE in Coronado, California.

Bremseth's military awards include Legions of Merit, Defense Superior Service Medal and associated joint, unit, and campaign awards and decorations from the Department of Defense and the Department of the Navy.

In 2006, Bremseth retired from the Navy after almost 30 years of service. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of California, Riverside, and a Master of Science degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Marine Corps War College at Quantico.

Bremseth possesses over 34 years of experience in all aspects of Special Operations and the interagency domain. According to his resume, he is a "team builder with well-established performance in strategic and operational level planning" with an ability to "transition

operational concepts into executable plans and policy."

Bremseth assumed his position as Interim Town Manager on June 26.

In a June 5 parting email to the town council – after his abrupt resignation letter on May 24 when he found out he didn't advance to the next level for permanent town manager—then Interim Town Manager Glen T. Adams wrote, "I want to thank you all again for the amazing opportunity to serve as your Interim Town Manager ... It was disappointing that I was not afforded the opportunity to move forward [for consideration for the permanent position of town manager], but I understand why; especially with my email being made available to the public ... I carry with me mostly fond memories of my time here."

He continued, "If you all should decide, I would be willing to continue as the interim town manager from my home in Alabama – I can do the job remotely."

After three weeks with the Town of Purcellville, he concluded, "I know the staff very well and have the ability to execute the administrative things that keeps [sic] the town moving in a positive direction. I know the background, the budget, and for the most part, the "ins and outs" of the organization. Otherwise, I'll keep to advising based on the published direction of the Council and Comprehensive Plan."

On April 11, John Anzivino quit his position as Interim Town Manager. The majority on council clashed with his management style, which favored actions by management and did not take into account the concerns of the majority of the town residents.

He was not pleased that the council majority would not accept the proposed budget without cuts, and did not think any cuts other than changing the town attorney's position from a full-time employee to a firm on retainer should be considered, saying several times that the citizens of Purcellville were wealthy.

Anzivino also expressed his displeasure that the majority on Council did not support the proposed Fields Farm athletic field complex. He wanted council to approve the park and ride proposal even after the county withdrew their agreed upon changes. He also opposed the town council majority vote for the lower water/sewer rates that were one of the options endorsed by Stantec, the town's utility rate consultant.

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# Just like nothing (else) on earth: Franklin Park

BY TIM JON

The morning of my last visit, it felt as if the slate of the entire world would be wiped clean; a very pronounced wind made its presence felt, as the actual temperature hadn't risen appreciably enough above the freezing mark – at least for my sensitive tastes.



Sensitive, that is, for someone who grew up in the infamous flatlands of southern Minnesota, where we used to joke about anchoring our vehicles down so they wouldn't blow away in the blizzards of deep winter. Not so far from the truth. But here I was, on an early March morning, in Northern Virginia, choosing of my own free will to scale the largest, highest piece of elevation in reasonable walking distance.

Art – if you could describe this by that particular moniker – has certainly never been an intellectual pursuit for this writer. And, so I braved the cold and the biting wind for what I hoped would

be some rewarding views of ... well, just about anywhere you look; see, if you wanted to select a spot where one could clearly see out to the Blue Ridge Mountains in western Loudoun County, as well as much of the bowl-shaped valley to the east, you could do far worse than parking your car in the lot just above the Performing Arts Center in the largest municipal playground in that part of the locality – namely, Franklin Park – and walking skyward – up the hill, on and between a number of athletic fields.

And that was my plan, but Nature took a hand in matters and covered up most of the sought-after long-distance views – not only with frigid moving air, but irascible blankets of fog.

Oh, well, I thought, at least we got some exercise, and there's nothing like a thumping heart to soak up any creative inspiration in the vicinity, at least to my finding. I took temporary refuge in one of the hillside gazebos – which really didn't offer much in the way of a wind-breaker – before heading back down the

hill to take in some of the views of the aforementioned, local theatre building.

Now, I've been inside the Franklin Park Performing Arts Center numerous times; as the last news director for the



former Wage Radio in Leesburg, I'd been on hand to see some of the first artistic renderings of the construction plans.

Many of the people with whom I'd become good friends were on hand at this meeting, as well as the timber raising – oh, one summer in the late 1990's. I'd participated in some local fundraising events for the facility as well, donating talent from my local theatre group at the time – Not Just Shakespeare.

I even ended up directing one of my favorite plays of all time in this space – a production of Macbeth, in the spring of 2009. So, I guess (no, I don't guess, I feel very strongly) that I'm qualified to talk and write about the place.

But, between the closing of the Scottish Play and this latest morning's teeth-rattling visit, I'd only been inside the Performing Arts Center a handful of times – the last being a wonderful 'homecoming' concert by one of our favorite local musicians – Andrew McKnight. And even that show was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

## Understanding the far-reaching impacts of cannabis on teens

Cannabis became fully legal on July 1, 2021, in Virginia for adults 21 years and older. Cannabis is legal medicinally and recreationally, however, a final date for recreational or commercial sales has yet to be determined by the state. Currently, 38 states, three territories and Washington, D.C. allow the medical use of cannabis, and 23 states, three territories and Washington, D.C. permit commercial sales. Whether we like it or not, cannabis is here to stay in Virginia, and we're going to be seeing a heck of a lot more of it once commercial distribution is cleared legislatively.



### Ask Dr. Mike

By Michael  
Oberschneider, Psy.D.

What does this mean for our teens? As a psychologist in private practice, I work with a lot of teens, and I've witnessed the increasing prevalence and acceptance of cannabis use within that cohort as a result of the cannabis laws loosening. This is concerning because the teen brain is in a crucial stage of development, and introducing substances like cannabis can have lasting negative impacts.

The teenage brain is a busy construction site, with significant structural and functional changes

happening. Crucial to this process is the endocannabinoid system, which cannabis directly impacts.

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive compound in cannabis, can disrupt the brain's maturation, potentially leading to impaired cognitive function, decreased memory capacity, and reduced problem-solving abilities.

Research has shown that chronic cannabis use can impede learning in teens, showing a drop in IQ and academic performance. Prolonged exposure to cannabis may also affect the brain's plasticity, impeding the formation of new memories and the processing of learned information.

When it comes to mental health, numerous studies link heavy cannabis use to an increase of several mental health conditions for teens. Cannabis can potentially unmask an underlying predisposition to mental health issues like schizophrenia, especially when used frequently at a young age. It can also bring on or exacerbate feelings of anxiety, induce paranoia, and in some cases, lead to episodes of depression.

Socially, cannabis use can lead to a reduction in

motivation and social engagement. While cannabis is often used for social bonding, chronic use can result in social withdrawal, lack of motivation, and difficulties in forming and maintaining healthy relationships. Teens who use cannabis are also at an increased risk for exercising poor judgement and impulse control when in social situations.

While cannabis overdose is rare, its effects can be unsettling and possibly severe, characterized by paranoia, hallucinations, panic attacks, and in rare cases severe psychotic reactions. I recently spoke to a local emergency room physician who shared with me that there has been a dramatic uptick in emergency room visits among teens in recent years and this seems to be the case nationwide.

There is no denying that cannabis can be detrimental to teens. The psychological, cognitive, and social impacts of cannabis use are significant, especially considering that adolescence is a crucial period for brain development and personality formation.

So, how do we talk to our teens about cannabis? In my opinion, parents should approach the topic of cannabis use with care and understanding. Instead of

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# Wexton, Kaine visit Leesburg Airport to discuss air traffic control tower solutions

BY TABITHA REEVES

After the Federal Aviation Administration decided to end the remotely-located control tower program at the Leesburg Executive Airport in February, pilots and patrons alike were left with a nonideal interim solution to begin in June: an air traffic control trailer.

**GOVERNMENT**

Between the \$10,000 monthly trailer rent and hopes for an eventual brick-and-mortar tower, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-VA-10) met with Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk



and Vice Mayor Neil Steinberg at the airport on June 26 to discuss solutions, funding and timelines.

Sen. Tim Kaine, and Mayor Kelly Burk discuss solutions, and funding.

“Progress [was made] in that they

came to see the new temporary control site,” Burk said. “And they were surprised to see that, and realized that it really does need to be temporary.”

The mayor explained that a permanent control facility takes millions of dollars to build, which the airport lacks the federal funding for. In addition to financing those plans, the cost of monthly trailer rent will be a new expense for the airport, since the remotely-located ATC technology has been used for the last five years.

After pushback from Wexton and Kaine, the FAA agreed to pay for the



ATC trailer until September, as well as the salaries of the air traffic controllers beyond September.

Rep. Jennifer Wexton and Sen. Kaine tour air traffic control trailer.

“The solution isn’t ideal, but it’s

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# Exploring sustainable funding solutions for utility infrastructure investments in Purcellville and towns across America

BY KWASI FRASER, FORMER MAYOR OF PURCELLVILLE

A recent editorial in a local newspaper highlighted the vital importance of our town's utility infrastructure, a sentiment that resonates with all residents of the esteemed Town of Purcellville.

## OPINION

However, the editorial insinuated that we have been seeking elusive magic bullet solutions and intentionally keeping rates artificially low.

The editor clearly or intentionally has mistaken us for the town council prior to the ones that I led that placed the Town in \$63 million debt, decrease water and sewer rates prior to an election against the recommendation of advisors, and pursued the magic bullet of annexation for one-time unsustainable connecting fees.

Allow me to further set the record

straight and emphasize the commitment of the town councils I have led to responsible financial management.

Contrary to the notion of political expediency, the town councils I led never pursued the strategy of keeping rates artificially low. In fact, under my leadership as mayor since 2014, we implemented conservative rate increases to ensure the financial stability of our utility system.

These measured increases have enabled us to maintain our AAA credit ratings, generating annual water revenue exceeding four times our water utility debt payments and annual sewer revenue exceeding two times our sewer utility debt payments. These increases were projected out to the end of both water and sewer debt in 2038 and 2040, respectively.

It is important to learn from history,

and in our case, we inherited a significant sewer debt of over \$40 million from a previous town council. However, we have actively pursued innovative and common-sense solutions, rather than relying on magic bullets like annexation for one time connection fees and lifetime traffic congestion and increased cost of town services.

Purcellville is fortunate to possess over \$150 million worth of municipal-owned assets, which can be leveraged to generate revenue and reduce the burden on our taxpayers and ratepayers.

One prime example of our commitment to maximizing underutilized assets is the development of a nutrient credit bank on a portion of the land purchased by a previous town council to increase future water capacity.

Through this venture, we generated over \$900,000 in net revenue for our

utility enterprise fund, resulting in an impressive 800 percent return on investment. This achievement is not a result of magic bullets but rather American innovation and common sense. The revenue generated from this project significantly reduces the financial impact on our tax and ratepayers.

Furthermore, by creatively repurposing our dilapidated maintenance building and leasing it to Makersmith, we have transformed an underperforming asset into a community workshop and manufacturing center of excellence. This renovation project not only adds value to our town but also connects the facility to our water and sewer system, making it a rate payer.

While it is essential to consider diverse funding sources, we must refute the argument that consistently burdening

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## Loudoun's data centers: what citizens need to know

BY ROBERT A. POLLARD

As they proliferate across our county, it's worth asking if data centers are truly manna from heaven—or is Loudoun living its own version of The Little Shop of Horrors? In the 1986 movie, a little plant mutates into a carnivorous monster shouting “Feed me!” as it thirsts

## OPINION

for more and more sacrificial blood. Likewise, the first few data centers in Loudoun appeared harmless when they popped up some 15 years ago, but now there are well over 100 county-wide, each silently chanting “Feed me, feed me!” ever more electric power,

land, and labor.

To be sure, Loudoun's data centers have an upside—surging tax revenues, good jobs, and vibrant high-tech infrastructure. They are politically popular, too, as they use up less land and services than housing while helping to lower real estate taxes. But there are costs to this “free lunch.” Data centers are energy hogs, burning the equivalent of small cities. With their size, noise, and proximity to residential areas, they threaten many citizens' quality of life.

Meanwhile, data centers crowd out local business by sharply raising the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 »

## Elon Musk, data centers and addictive spending

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

July 8, 2026 (AP) Elon Musk today opened his hand and revealed a small, glistening 8-sided object, an octahedron, a prototype high-density data storage device which he named a “MegaServe.” According to Musk, each MegaServe holds up to 640 petabytes of data, 50% more data than is held in all the servers in a hyper-scale data center.

## OPINION

Musk

“Have you seen this?” Robert Rood asked his wife Byne, showing her that newspaper article.

She peered over his shoulder. “Sounds like a pretty big deal, though, depending on what a petabyte is.”

“I checked,” replied Robert, “A petabyte is a billion gigabytes. One of Musk's things could replace an entire data

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## Negotiating Purcellville's Identity

BY ADAM STEVENSON

Walking Orchard Lane, or Nursery Avenue, or 32nd Street, or G Street, or any of the town's old streets around dusk, and especially in the summer, is a meditation. The landscape to the west gently rolls up toward the Blue Ridge, and the sunset plays over a set piece of deep blue and green that gradually fades to a shimmering dark—washing over your soul and settling in.

Wandering around Purcellville at this hour is to find 21st Street gently active at its downtown poles—Bia Kitchen and the American Legion on one end, and Magnolia's at the other. Lingering there, you may see the occasional group of people strolling south towards Main Street, perhaps heading to Gruto's while light-heartedly passing judgment on the car's sitting at Purcellville Motors.

If you head west on Main Street from 21st Street the activity quickly subsides, and the quiet deepens. You could turn down Orchard Lane, continue around Nursery Avenue, or walk down Hatcher Avenue. There are many routes one may take, but all, at this hour, will be equally quiet. And this relative absence may be something of a companion to you. At this moment, you may even begin to reflect

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# Kuhn presents vision for Valley Commerce Center

BY VALERIE CURY

At the June 27 Purcellville Town Council Work Session, Michael Romeo with the Walsh Colucci firm, presented a plan called Valley Commerce Center. This plan envisions the rezoning of a 117.07-acre property on Purcellville Road from the current county zoning of 39 homes to 1.2 million square feet of industrial.

## GOVERNMENT

Owner Chuck Kuhn will be filing an application at the county level the week of June 27, for a zoning amendment to rezone his property within the county from the Joint Land Management Area-3 (JLMA-3) to the Planned Development-Industrial Park (PD-IP).

The property is located at 17110 Purcellville Road and was formerly known as the Warner Brook property. The previous owners turned in an annexation application to the Town of Purcellville several years ago, but it was denied. They were asking for 120 homes as well as industrial and commercial on the property.

According to the March 23 Valley Commerce Center pre-application meeting, county staff have requested that the "section of the Purcellville North [Northern] 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."

This has been requested even though the Town of Purcellville removed the Northern Collector Road from their plan in 2017. To date, the current town council majority has refused to extend the final portion of the NCR which would continue from Mayfair Crown Drive

through to Fields Farm Park Road.

Land in the Joint Land Management Area must have both the County and the Town of Purcellville's approval on any final change to the area, other than the current permitted use.

Romeo said that even though the rezoning application would be filed with the county the week of June 27, if the town showed interest for annexation into the town, then a discussion could occur "if that's what town council would like to pursue."

Romeo said the business park has been designed due to the increasing demand for commercial space in Purcellville. He said the traffic analysis of the road network shows that it can handle the additional traffic to the proposed site.

He added that there would be two entrances and exits to the property, with possibly a light at one of the entrances. The uses for the proposal would be more business-focused to include maintenance facilities, garages, truck storage, plumbing, and electric companies.

"We would improve Purcellville Road to VDOT standards," Romeo said. "There would be right and left turn

lanes at each entrance. They have already dug 6 wells, with one producing 100 gallons per minute. The proposed development would have 50-foot setbacks on each boundary."

In the citizen portion of the meeting, Mayfair resident Dan Carvill said his concerns with the Kuhn project were the same as two years ago when Kuhn made a similar presentation to the community.

"Having a road connect to Mayfair and to a community road, probably isn't the best idea," said Carvill. "Increasing the traffic on Mayfair Crown [Drive] is a terrible idea." He also said that Purcellville Road is a death trap, pointing out that there are no sidewalks. "Safety should be paramount."

Mayfair resident Christine Green said that the "land in question is zoned JLMA-3, one house per 3-acres, but only industrial is being talked about tonight. I wanted to know why? A majority of residents would prefer homes instead of industrial.

"I understand that the Town of Purcellville has a say in what's going to be built on this property. The majority of people in western Loudoun chose to live here for a reason; and I can tell you it's not to have an industrial complex across the street. The town has a say here; please have our backs."

Green said that the Northern Collector Road needs to be removed, and she urged the town council to resend



Michael Romeo

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

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# Trail's End development proceeds to a second submission

BY VALERIE CURY

Developer Casey Chapman who is one of the owners of the Trail's End mixed use development on Hatcher Avenue, submitted a second resubmission for his project – located on the first block off of

## GOVERNMENT

Main Street at 161, 151, and 141 N. Hatcher Avenue in the Town of Purcellville.

Since the town doesn't have a demolition ordinance in the Historic Downtown C-4 district, Chapman will demolish three houses and consolidate the lot into a total area comprising 1.21-acres.

He is planning to construct two buildings on the property. Both buildings will be two story and 35 feet high, which is the maximum height allowed for that area. Building 1, which is closest to the W&OD Trail, will be 4,500 sq. ft. with commercial on the bottom and two apartments on the second

floor. The plan shows a garage for 5 cars in the back of the building.

Building 2 is planned for 8,050 sq. ft. with retail on the bottom and 2 apartments on the second floor. There will be approximately 41 parking spaces behind the building.

In response to town planning comments asking for Chapman to remove a future extension of O Street from his plan, representatives for Chapman responded that they removed "any depiction and reference to proposed plans or easements on the adjacent western property [where Vineyard Square is planned to go on 21st Street]... including possible future connections."

The town planning department's request was referring to the fact that Chapman has previously asked for the town to put in the extension of O Street, which is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 »



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# Congressional App Challenge open for middle and high schoolers

Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) announced the launch of the 2023 Congressional App Challenge, inviting middle and high school students in Virginia's 10th District to design and create their own apps that would benefit their local community.

**GOVERNMENT** "I'm excited to invite all Virginia-10 middle and high school students to try their hands at Congress' annual coding competition, the 2023 Congressional App Challenge – open now," said Wexton. "This competition is a great way for young people of all abilities and backgrounds to learn more about coding and get hands-on experience putting to work skills that could benefit them far into their futures. I'm always so impressed by the brilliance, talent, and creativity of our district's students, so I can't wait to see what inventive new ideas this year's participants come up with to benefit

our community."

Officially launched in 2015, the Congressional App Challenge is a nationwide coding competition intended to engage students' creativity and encourage their participation in STEM fields.

The contest is open to all middle and high school students who live in participating congressional districts, and those who choose to participate are invited to design and submit their own software application using any programming language (example: C, C++, JavaScript, Python, Ruby, "block code," etc.) and platform (PC, web, tablet, mobile, raspberry Pi, etc.) of their choice.

The best app from each participating district is selected by a panel of local judges who work within the academic, software, and entrepreneurial fields, and will be featured in the U.S. Capitol and on the House of Representatives website.

All applications must adhere to the Congressional App Challenge's official rules. Submissions must include a demonstration video with the app's and participants' names, an explanation of the app's purpose and target audience, the tools and coding languages that went into the app's creation, and a demonstration of how the app works. Students may register for the contest as individuals, or as teams as large as four, and must submit their applications either to the district that they live in or the district where they attend school.

The deadline to submit applications for the competition is 12 p.m. on Nov. 1. The winners are announced by Dec. 31, and will be invited to participate in the annual "House of Code" event on Capitol Hill.

Learn more about Virginia-10's 2023 Congressional App Challenge, [wexton.house.gov/services/congressional-app-challenge.htm](http://wexton.house.gov/services/congressional-app-challenge.htm).

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# What does western Loudoun broadband expansion mean for you?

BY LAURA LONGLEY

For everyone living and working without high-speed internet service in rural America, the news from the White House on June 27 couldn't have been better: \$42.5 billion from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program funding— \$1.48 billion of that for Virginia—would be coming to their rescue by 2030.

In Loudoun County, however, the horizon is shorter: By the summer of 2024, 8,629 under- and unserved residents and businesses in western Loudoun are on track for installation of Fiber-to-the-Home service. FTTH will vastly increase the speed of downloading and uploading digital content from the internet. The project is funded from American Rescue Plan Act monies awarded to the county, a \$17.75 million grant from the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) expansion project plus a contribution of more than \$20 million from partner All Points Broadband.

Another 186 homes already have been identified and included in a second Loudoun County Request for Proposal, making them eligible for the same service once the county awards a contract when the RFP closes on July 14. For these fiber installations, Loudoun County will

neither own nor manage fiber or property.

**That's the big picture. But what does all that mean for you? Will you benefit? How, when, and at what cost?**

As U.S. Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (VA-10) said at a June 29 roundtable in Hillsboro with U.S. Deputy Commerce Secretary Don Graves, "Expanding broadband means kids don't have to sit in a McDonald's parking lot to connect to Wi-Fi just so they can do their homework. Expanding broadband means new opportunities for small business owners to grow and innovate their business."

**So how do you find out whether your home or business is included?**

Go to the All Points Broadband website at [allpointsbroadband.com](http://allpointsbroadband.com) and click on the blue "Register" button on the home page. On the next page, click on the green "Get Started" button. Then you'll enter your full address with city and zip code and click "Check address." You'll then learn whether you are in or outside the current areas. If not, you may be eligible for a future service area. Be sure to fill out the form for updates.

**What if you're not included in either the first or second project and want fiber service?**

According to county staff working on the broadband expansion, both the VATI project and the active RFP were "moments in time." Any additional homes determined in newer mapping cannot be added to the existing projects. The same holds true for newly constructed homes. Going forward, staff will work with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, which manages the VATI project, to identify homes that came back as unserved.

**When can you expect installation?**

The initial project is rolling out in two steps now: 1) All Points Broadband is currently visiting and acquiring permits for fiber attachment to all 10,600 utility poles needed for the project, and 2) once the permit work is completed, APB will install the fiber on the poles.

**Will All Points run the fiber to your home or business underground or overhead? Either way, what will the installation cost you?**

For the first 12 months after service is available to your home or business, the one-time installation charge is \$199, with the caveat that All Points plans to run fiber following the existing power entry. For example, if power is delivered to your home aerially, then broadband fiber will be as well. If you would prefer to have the fiber buried, expect extra costs so be

sure to get an estimate upfront. There's a \$5 fee for the standard router, which is required for service.

It's important to note that if you do not take advantage of the \$199 installation fee in the first year, you could incur higher APB installation fees. The county will not be able to assist you with those fees.

**If your household qualifies as low-income, can you get a discount on the price?**

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC benefit program that provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase one laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. You'll find the details at [fcc.gov/acp](http://fcc.gov/acp).

**What if another fiber installation/high-speed internet provider comes knocking at your door once All Points has strung fiber on the poles? Can you go with them?**

The county reports that if another broadband provider delivers to an address in the VATI project area, you are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

## Multi-Family housing loan program application process open for developers

Loudoun County's application process for the Affordable Multi-Family Housing Loan Program for developers has opened with the release of the 2023 Notice of Funding Availability.

For-profit and nonprofit affordable housing developers are eligible to apply for loans for the development of long-term, affordable, multi-family rental housing units in Loudoun. The loans are to be used in conjunction with the Virginia Housing Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program and/or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Federal Housing Administration 221(D)(4) mortgage insurance program.

The application process is competitive. Project applications will receive points in the following categories:

- **Consistency with Countywide Housing Needs:** Scoring will be higher for projects serving a mix of incomes below 60% Area

Median Income, providing longer affordability periods and in close proximity to transportation and jobs.

- **Project Design:** Scoring will be higher for projects that have universal design, innovative features, services, and project amenities.
- **Project Readiness:** Scoring will be higher for projects with construction plans that are permit ready, have a public participation process, and where project feasibility is clear.
- **Experience:** Scoring will be higher for projects with a design team, general contractor, developer and property manager with relevant project experience who have a track record of project completion, strong organizational capacity and success at building partnerships.
- **Budget and Leverage:** Scoring will be higher for projects that have a sound financing plan, clear budget

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 »

## Loudoun County adopts Regional Fair Housing Plan

BY TABITHA REEVES

Noting patterns racial segregation in neighborhoods across the county, as well as corresponding wealth distributions and access to quality education, Loudoun County has resolved to take a more aggressive stance towards furthering fair housing by passing the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Regional Fair Housing Plan.

At the Public Hearing on June 14, the motion to approve the plan passed 7-0-2, with County Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large) and Supervisor Matthew F. Letourneau (R-Dulles) off the dais.

To accomplish the ultimate impact of reducing perceived inequalities, the draft outlines seven action items, which include meeting the target of 16,000 affordable homes in Loudoun, as well as implementing anti-discriminatory procedures to prevent bias towards marginalized groups when

renting, selling or buying homes.

"This right here is what 'woke' and 'equity' means," Supervisor Michael R. Turner (D-Ashburn) said. "It's an acknowledgement that for three centuries we have built processes, programs and systems with a sometimes intentional, but often unintentional, bias in those programs that disenfranchise certain Americans of certain demographic groups."

Loudoun was the first to approve the plan for regional fair housing, but seven surrounding jurisdictions – Washington, D.C., Alexandria, Gaithersburg and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince William – are expected to follow suit in July.

"The last few years have been the first concerted effort for regions to come together based on a lot of the similarities and challenges that we face," John Hall, director of Housing & Community Development,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

# “I do not want to be a part of any actions that put our citizens at risk” – Mayor Stan Milan

BY VALERIE CURY

The June 13 Purcellville Town Council meeting started off with a Pedestrian Prioritization Study by Mark Phillips from Kimley Horn.

The number one priority for the Pedestrian Prioritization Study is a recommendation to put a sidewalk along Hirst Road from Hatcher Avenue along Hirst Road and all the way to Maple Avenue. This would be along the path of two of developer Casey Chapman’s developments: one already built, the other – called the Woodlands – still going through the planning process.

The second top proposed project would put a sidewalk on the east side of N Hatcher Avenue from Main Street to the W&OD Trail. This sidewalk would take at least 20 ft. from each property owner, but the houses are already very close to the road, and some have retaining walls. This is the block of Hatcher Avenue where Chapman plans to tear down three homes and put up two buildings on 3 lots.

The other recommendations included:

- The south side of E Main Street from 740 E Main Street to 9th Street
- The east and west side of Loudoun Stairs entrance from the W&OD Trail to Maple Avenue
- The east side of 9th Street from Main Street to E Stephens Drive
- The east side of N Hatcher from E Loudoun Valley Drive to the W&OD Trail
- The east side of N 21st Street from the Suzanne Kane Trail to the W&OD Trail
- East G Street from S 20th Street to Desales Drive
- The west side of Hatcher Avenue from the Town Police Station to the Chapman DeMary Trail
- E Cornwell Lane and N Brewster Lane Cul-de-Sacs to N Hatcher Avenue

Council Member Boo Bennett asked Dale Lehnig, Director of Engineering Planning and Development, how the top priority was chosen for “sidewalks on Hirst all the way to Maple Avenue.” Lehnig’s answer was “because of its proximity to the W&OD Trail.”

Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said, “There isn’t much pedestrian traffic on that road.” This was echoed by Mayor Stan Milan, who said he didn’t see people walking on Hirst Road. He said Hirst should be made safe for bike traffic.

During mayor and council comments, Mayor Stan Milan said there has been a

lot of discussion about the county and how they are working with the Catocin Meadows Homeowners Association in town regarding the Rt. 7/690 Interchange project. Milan said it seemed like the county is disavowing the HOA as a legal entity in the town. He explained that the county is at odds with the Catocin Meadows HOA regarding the floodplain issues.

“I have no personal intention ... to turn my back on a community that has to deal with an entity that is in town flexing their muscles. To have that community abdicate their rights for a project where the county is an owner of a property in that HOA and the petitioner for that project,” said Milan.

Milan said the second entity is the Mayfair community and their HOA. He said that the Mayfair HOA approved easements for extending Mayfair Crown Drive to Fields Farm Park Road without “getting any input from the community.” He said most of the residents of the Mayfair community do not want Mayfair Crown Drive extended, as this would become the Northern Collector Road.

“The town and the community did not accept that road,” said Milan. “We will not turn our back on the Mayfair citizens, nor the Catocin Meadows citizens.”

Council Member Erin Rayner said the issue is very complicated, but she supports extending Mayfair Crown Drive through to Fields Farm Road, although she would prefer it to be for emergency access. “It’s part of the Comprehensive Plan and part of the Town Transportation Plan,” Rayner said.

Answering Rayner, Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said, “Yes, it’s in the Comprehensive Plan, however, it’s in there because there’s something that’s no longer in the Comprehensive Plan and that is any mention of the Northern Collector Road. We asked the county to remove the NCR from their plans, and they have so far failed to do so.

“Any extension of Mayfair Crown Drive westward creates one more leg in that NCR, which will turn Mayfair Crown Drive into a thoroughfare. And completely wreck that community, both from a public safety stand point and from a noise standpoint.”

Addressing a second entrance to the Mayfair community, Bertaut said “that’s something that is recommended, but not required and that’s why no one has been making too much noise about this.” He added that a different second entrance plan “was floated by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 »

## WHAT DOES WESTERN BROADBAND...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

welcome to choose between services. However, under VATI guidelines, the county cannot provide any financial support to another provider for the delivery of broadband service to a home already accepted in the VATI project.

Nonetheless, if a second broadband option becomes available to you, APB will build fiber to your home as part of the VATI project.

### What about Comcast and Verizon? Are they part of this western Loudoun FTTH project?

Based on staff’s knowledge of Comcast’s technology, the expectation is that if they provide cable TV service to a residence, they also offer broadband. Staff is not aware of any Comcast address that only provides Cable TV services. The county’s Verizon franchise agreement renewal with the county is under active negotiation.

### If you live in one of the western Loudoun

#### LOUDOUN COUNTY ADOPTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

said. “It’s a voluntary activity to come together and streamline our resources to get the biggest bang for our buck.”

Prior to the motion’s passing, Supervisor Tony R. Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) expressed hesitation about the potential expenses and financial weight of the plan.

“Doing the affordable housing, which I very much support, costs money,” Buffington said. “It’s subsidized housing. Somebody’s paying for that. I want to make sure that we’re doing our fair share, but I also want to make sure that surrounding jurisdictions are doing their fair share.”

Though the Housing & Community Development staff did not have the exact spending distribution during the Public Hearing, Buffington asked them to provide the Board with those numbers via email later on.

The goal of 16,000 affordable units is expected to be met by both building new homes and enforcing affordability for what the county already has.

According to data from the American Community Survey’s five-year estimates for Loudoun County, the county has almost 140,000 total dwelling units, 52.7% of which are detached single-family homes. 29.9% are attached single-family homes, such as townhouses. The remaining 17.4% of dwelling places have more than one housing unit per structure, or are mobile homes and vehicles.

“We want to create more rooftops across the county, but we also want to give residents more options to live in various parts of the county,” Hall said.

13% of residents of the eight

### towns, are you included in this county-sponsored project?

County staff makes clear that the county does not differentiate between town and non-town residents but cannot definitively state that an entire town is served by none, one, or both county franchisees—Comcast and Verizon. There are non-franchisee broadband companies—wired and wireless—that provide service to county residents. However, those providers do not have agreements with the county, and staff has no information on which areas or residents they serve. For example, in 2020-2021 when Hillsboro built the underground infrastructure for utilities as part of its traffic calming project, the town contracted with KGI Communications for fiber and service to its residents and businesses.

*The Blue Ridge Leader thanks the Loudoun County staff for their help in providing these answers to the many questions we have fielded from western Loudoun residents.*

jurisdictions reported having faced monetary, racial or ethnic discrimination personally, according to the enclosed report within the Regional Fair Housing Plan. An additional 9.2% responded that though they had not experienced discrimination, they knew someone who had.

Of those who said they had been discriminated against, 75% did not report the incident. Over half of those chose not to report it because they did not believe it would make a difference.

“[The plan] doesn’t mean a handout,” Turner said. “It doesn’t mean you identify these groups and give them things simply because they’re in that demographic group.”

The accelerated push for equitable housing in the Washington Metropolitan Area comes shortly after the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development’s January proposal to “affirmatively further the purposes and policies of the Fair Housing Act.”

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 promised to eliminate discriminatory barriers in the housing system, but has faced widespread criticism that it failed to do so. HUD, under the Biden Administration, is attempting to fulfill that promise once again.

Loudoun awaits the approval of the remaining jurisdictions before a final version of the Regional Fair Housing Plan can be sent to HUD this fall and next steps can begin.

“If people don’t have a roof over their head, nothing else really matters,” Supervisor Juli E. Briskman (D-Algonkian) said.

# Commending resolution presented to Morven Park for 246 Years Project

Del. David Reid (D-32) recently presented a Commending Resolution from the Commonwealth of Virginia's General Assembly for the 246 Years Project to Morven Park in the presence of the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees.

**COMMUNITY**

The 246 Years Project is a social justice initiative dedicated to documenting and honoring the millions of enslaved men, women, and children whose names and life stories deserve to be known. For 246 years the life events of enslaved individuals were recorded in a variety of documents by enslavers.

These records survive today in the archives of historic sites, community history organizations, and local courts. Morven Park, in partnership with the Loudoun County Circuit Court, is creating a custom-built, on-line database, reassembling the pieces to reveal the



Pictured from left to right are: Gary Clemens, Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees and Clerk of the Loudoun County Circuit Court; Del. David Reid and Stacey Metcalfe, Executive Director/CEO, Morven Park.

life events of the men, women, and children enslaved in Loudoun County.

Del. Reid expressing admiration for the project said, "The work that you are undertaking, it's truly amazing."

For more information visit [www.morvenpark.org/246years](http://www.morvenpark.org/246years).

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# Loudoun (LoCo) youth rugby U14 team wins

The Loudoun U14, under 14 years old, Youth Rugby (LoCo Rugby) won the Virginia State Rugby Championship in "Fifteens" – 15 players per side – at the state final competition on May 13, in Culpeper, VA.

LoCo Rugby was able to pull away in the final 20 minutes of the match to beat a previously undefeated West End team, 36-13. LoCo was the number 2 seed heading into the playoffs and handled a talented Richmond team in the semi-finals before fac-

ing West End (Springfield, VA) in the final. LoCo was able to avenge their previous loss to West End during the regular season.

In the summer season, teams play an abbreviated version of the game that uses only 7 players per team that is known as "Rugby 7s." The LoCo 7's team travelled to



Cleveland, Ohio on June 9-11 placing 3rd in the nation at the National 7s Youth Championships.

The team went 4-1 at the tournament with the only loss to the eventual champion LA Tribe out of Los Alamitos, CA. The Tribe has now won two-straight national titles. The LoCo team regrouped after the semi-final loss

to take down the Cleveland Cats in the third-place game, 43-10. Team captain, Tyler Gilbert said, "It was fun to represent northern Virginia and get a chance to play so many big, fast, and experienced teams at nationals. The level of competition really made us better." In both tournaments, the team relied on several veteran players and some athletes new to rugby to create a dynamic, fast, attacking style that is fan friendly with lots of action.

Loudoun and Western Loudoun Youth rugby clubs have been active for several years and offer a fun, safe and competitive atmosphere to learn the game and develop young athletes' confidence and skills. Rugby offers players, of all shapes and sizes, an opportunity to improve their fitness, agility, and confidence. The clubs welcome athletes from all sports and no rugby experience is necessary.

# Scouts BSA Troop 962-B construct bridge

BY ROBERT TALBOT

As the 2022-23 school year came to a close, Scouts BSA Troop 962-B of Lovettsville kept itself busy with four different Eagle Scout projects in only a month and a half.

The first of these, organized by Max Simpson, took place on April 29. Max had Scouts construct a wooden bridge for the Lovettsville Game Club Property three miles northwest of town. The bridge lets visitors pass over a stream adjoining the property's pond. For years, the troop has held its annual ceremonies for the welcoming in of new Scouts at the Game Club property. "The Game Club has always been very generous about letting us use their property, and I wanted to do something for them

for all they did for us," said Simpson.

Hudson Geiger followed this with his project at the same property on May 19 and 20. He oversaw the construction of boardwalk sections around the pond to keep the trail accessible in muddy conditions. While adult leaders cut each block of wood to size, Scouts assembled sections of the boardwalk and hauled them to the proper places. Despite the heat and humidity that weekend, Geiger managed to finish his project in two days.

On June 10, shortly after schools across Loudoun County let out for summer break, Jonah Jimeno held his own project at the St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Purcellville. The troop arrived in force, armed with rakes and shovels, to create a path to the prayer garden outside the church building. Jimeno said he recognized



Scouts of Troop 962-B construct a bridge for the Lovettsville Game Club property.

the garden as a peaceful place for quiet reflection and wished to increase its accessibility. He oversaw the completion of a gravel walkway with mulch beds running alongside.

The next day, June 11, Henry Mercker began his Eagle project which was an outdoor food pantry for the St.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 »



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# Rep. Wexton and Deputy Commerce Secretary Graves discuss expanding Broadband

On June 29 Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) hosted U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves in Hillsboro to discuss new federal funding coming to Virginia to expand access to high-speed internet with a roundtable of local residents, business owners, and other stakeholders.

On Monday, President Joe Biden announced \$42.5 billion in Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program funding to close the digital divide by 2030, made possible by the

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Virginia is set to receive \$1.48 billion.

“Expanding broadband means kids don’t have to sit in a McDonald’s parking lot to connect to WiFi just so they can do their homework. Expanding broadband means new opportunities for small business owners like the ones here today to grow and innovate their business. Expanding broadband means not leaving our rural communities behind,” said Rep. Wexton. “That’s changing thanks to investments like the one announced



by President Biden earlier this week – made possible by our once-in-a-generation Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.”

Rep. Wexton and Deputy Secretary Graves heard from a wide variety of participants about their challenges with accessing and affording broadband in their homes, businesses, and classrooms, as well as discussed ongoing broadband expansion initiatives in Virginia – including a project being undertaken through All Points Broadband, made possible in part by federal funding in the American Rescue Plan, to connect thousands of rural homes and businesses across the region.

Participants emphasized the importance of reliable, high-speed internet to conduct business, particularly at

Loudoun’s many agritourism businesses like wineries and breweries, as well as ways lack of connection is holding students and teachers back from making the most of their learning opportunities in school.

The meeting participants included: U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves, U.S. Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (VA-10), State Delegate David Reid, Virginia Broadband Advisory Council, Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance, Beth Erickson, Visit Loudoun, Tia

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 »



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**ELON MUSK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

center. A stall in our barn could replace all the data centers in the county.”

“That’s huge,” Byne observed, “but that could be a problem. Data centers pay tons in taxes. If this is real, they could face extinction.”

“Let me run some numbers.”

**Fiscal Findings**

It took a while for Robert to find relevant information and digest it. He and Byne resumed the conversation the next morning.

“The data centers pay almost \$600 million in local taxes and Loudoun’s budget is around \$4.2 billion. If all those data centers go dark because of Musk’s thing, the county would face a real problem. I only see two ways out: Raise taxes or reduce spending.”

“Neither of those would be easy,” commented Byne. She did some mental math: “If you tried to recapture the data center income, our taxes would essentially double.”

“Ouch! I looked at taxes first,” Robert said, “and compared Loudoun’s taxes to those of other counties. “Our tax rate is \$0.875 per hundred dollars of value. That’s 30% more than in rural counties like Clarke and Frederick, but 30% less than heavily-developed counties like Fairfax. That seems okay, but with the increase in property values, everybody will have to pay more than last year.”

“The lesson is don’t get heavily developed,” Byne interjected, “which we

don’t want to do for a lot of reasons.”

Robert concurred. “Exactly. Houses cost the county a lot more in services than they pay in taxes. Trying to grow our way out of the problem would just make things worse.”

“I get that,” Byne answered. “That leaves spending cuts, which supervisors will have trouble making.”

“I looked at Loudoun’s spending, Byne, and compared it to other counties. Our budget is \$4.2 billion and we have 413,000 people. That means spending of just over \$10,000 per resident.”

“How does that look in context?” Byne prodded.

“Fairfax seems to spend only \$4,600 per capita. Arlington does \$6,500 and Clarke, \$3,000. Since I had to get those numbers from various places, I don’t think I can vouch 100% for those figures, but I think the comparisons are probably valid.”

That spending angered Byne. “So, the tax rate doesn’t seem out of line, but the spending looks crazy.”

Robert agreed, “That’s the problem. I think the County tries to do too many things. I know the Supervisors sweat bullets at tax time, but they’re trying to use a scalpel when they really need an ax.”

**Belt-tightening**

“What would you do?” Byne asked her husband.

“I talked to a friend in Paeonian Springs who developed a lot of office buildings. He said they would decide

how much they wanted to invest on a project, and then tell their architects to design the building to meet that budget. If they left out that step, he said, the designers would be tempted to present a Taj Mahal.”

“I get it,” Byne said. “Determine how much money the county has, and don’t spend more than that, no matter how alluring some program is.”

“The guy had an analogy that made sense,” Robert offered. “He writes a column for a local paper. If he goes over the allotted number of words, he has to cut his text, no matter how severe the cuts.”

**Tighter still**

Byne agreed, “Yep. Maybe instead of trying to figure out specific cuts, just tell each department to cut its budget by the same percentage.”

“Remember,” Robert said, “The data center money will dry up if Musk is right, so those cuts have to be deep.”

“Then there’s no choice but to cut spending ... a lot. Maybe 15% is the right amount.” Byne shook her head, picked up her mug of coffee and reached for the paper.

**Uh-Oh**

Then her face turned white.

“What?” Robert asked.

“Dominion Power is trying to put in two huge power lines along more than four miles of Route 7 east towards the data centers, plus six substations. Six! Can you imagine what that would look

like?”

Robert replied, “The Supervisors are trying to get a new overlay district to protect the aesthetics along Route 7 by prohibiting data centers there. That could never be done in time to affect these power lines. Besides, that data center overlay district might not address power.”

**An idea**

Byne digested that and said, “Data centers are fraught with all sorts of issues, more than just the buildings themselves. I’m not sure the County is taking a hard, overall look at them.”

“Agreed.”

Byne jotted some numbers on a piece of paper. After a moment she said, “See if this works.”

“Cut County spending 15%. Data centers pay about 15% of County taxes, so theoretically we should be able to do without their money after the spending cuts. So, we take half their annual taxes and pay down the County’s debt, which is around \$2 billion. After a few years the debt would be gone. Then we start weaning ourselves from data center revenue, maybe by creating a reserve fund of some sort and cutting County spending by an equivalent amount.”

“I like that symmetry,” Robert praised.

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

**REP. WEXTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17**

Earman, Rural Economic Development Council and Loudoun Farm Bureau member, Elizabeth Wallace, Loudoun Broadband Alliance, Kyle Rosner and Tom Innes, All Points Broadband, Bill and Bonnie Hatch, owners of Zephaniah Farm Vineyard, Harriet Wegmeyer, Owner, Wegmeyer Farms, Robert “Tony” Lunn, Warrenton VFW Post 9835, and Ronnie Ross, VA-10 resident and former Fauquier County Public Schools High School Teacher.

**TRAIL’S END, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9**

currently a dead-end, on the town taxpayers’ dime. This extension would dump traffic from Chapman’s by-right 6-story, 40 condo plan along 21st Street onto Hatcher Avenue.

Vineyard Square was approved by the Lazaro administration for 40 condos without going through a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and a Zoning Amendment because multi family is not a permitted use in the Historic Downtown C-4 District.

**MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11**

documents, multiple funding sources, developer participation, meet leverage requirements and have reasonable operating costs.

Loudoun County will hold a pre-application meeting Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 10 a.m. To register for a pre-application meeting or for more information about the application process, contact the Department of Housing and Community Development at housing@loudoun.gov or 703-737-8323. Complete applications must be submitted by 5 p.m., Monday, Oct. 2, 2023.

The Affordable Multi-Family Housing Loan Program is one of several initiatives created by the Board of Supervisors to increase the supply and retention of affordable multi-family rental housing units in Loudoun County. The program encourages private investment by providing gap financing to address unmet housing needs.

Loudoun County has a number of programs aimed at helping families achieve safe and affordable housing. More information about Loudoun County’s housing programs may be found at loudoun.gov/housing.

**“I DO NOT WANT TO BE ...”, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12**

one of the residents ... The HOA board shot that down claiming that they had to have unanimous consent from the homeowners.

“I am against extending Mayfair Crown Drive, even on an emergency basis, because it only takes a little bit of time to turn those bollards into a flat surface once again. It will become a thoroughfare if you build that road extension,” Bertaut concluded.

The county wants the road as a second entrance and exit to the Fields Farm

school complex and is taking steps on the administrative side of the issue with the town’s Engineering Planning and Development Department. However, the majority on town council will not vote to sign off on the needed easements that are necessary to move the project forward.

Council Member Boo Bennett said, “We have four other communities in this town that have one way in and one way out – and one of those was built after Mayfair. So, if it’s so much of a concern, why do we let the developers keep doing this?”

Milan said when he went into the town

office and looked at the drawings of the easements, that’s when he saw that the easements were needed for the extension of Mayfair Crown Drive to Fields Farm Road. “If we add 2,000 more cars of people who don’t live there and don’t care about the safety of those children, we are going to have another problem.” Milan has also said he has heard from the Mayfair residents that cars are already passing school buses in the neighborhood when their lights are flashing red.

“I do not want to be a part of any actions that put our citizens at risk. I will not do

it,” Milan stated.

Mayor Stan Milan, Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut, and Council Members Carol Luke and Boo Bennett voted not to proceed with a public hearing on the Rt 7/690 Interchange project. Council Members Erin Rayner and Mary Jane Williams voted for holding the public hearing, and Council Member Ron Rise Jr. abstained.

Said Milan, “The county has to resolve the issues with the [Catoctin Meadows] HOA before I can agree to a public hearing. We can’t have a public hearing with outstanding issues that have to be resolved.”

**LOUDOUN'S DATA CENTERS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

price of land, labor, and other resources. Over-dependence on a single industry for revenues and growth is also risky; a downturn could saddle residents with higher taxes, cutbacks in services, and layoffs.

The question is, how many data centers are too many, and how can we offset their ill effects?

**Welcome to the local grid**

The shocking announcement by Dominion Energy in September 2022 that it could not fulfill the energy needs of Northern Virginia's new data centers raised alarms about the industry's future. Dominion is racing to build the needed infrastructure, but that means new pylons and substations on an industrial scale. At 135 to 150-foot high, the new towers will absorb an enormous swath of land 150 to 225-foot wide from side to side.

Dominion plans two main corridors. The Wish-ing Star-Mars corridor, which Virginia's State Corporation Commission (SCC) recently approved, will stretch for 3.55 miles from the Dulles Airport area to Ashburn, costing \$715 million. A second major corridor, Aspen to Golden, twice as long and expensive (\$1.5 billion), will connect Data Center Alley to Dominion's 500-kilovolt trunkline. Though some oppose Dominion's preferred pathway along Route 7, the Board of Supervisors lacks legal or regulatory power to block it if the SCC decides this is the best alternative.

Those two projects are just the beginning; even more corridors are in prospect as data centers multiply.

**Good Neighbors?**

As the county has aggressively rezoned property to accommodate data centers, new ones are springing up in backyards of suburban neighborhoods. Homeowners complain of a continuous droning noise—like a lawnmower or a helicopter—up to a mile away. With Loudoun's meager setback of 100 feet, the tall buildings sometimes block the skyline.

While looking like bland warehouses on the outside, data centers are more like steel or cement mills in the vast quantities of energy they consume—about 30 megawatts for each of the 100+ existing ones and 60-100+ megawatts for newer ones. To feed them, Dominion must find an extra 3.5 gigawatts. Add rising consumer use and where will all the electricity come from?

Much of Dominion's power comes from "clean" nuclear plants, but since new ones take years to plan and build, natural gas and the grid must fill the gap. Locally, the \$2 billion Panda Stonewall plant on 101 acres outside generates up to 778 megawatts, but then it, too, does so by pumping in and burning tons of gas. Renewables cannot fill the gap for now.

In short, Loudoun is importing massive quantities of energy and exporting a huge quantity of emissions to neighboring states and the planet as a whole.

**What can be done?**

Options today are limited since planners failed to anticipate the industry's enormous growth. Still, the following modest objectives could mitigate the ill effects of data centers without driving industry out of the county:

- Approve no data centers that require rezoning of land that is out of compliance with the Loudoun 2019 Comprehensive Plan. Don't convert properties to data center use, don't permit special exceptions for larger buildings, and don't allow them in the West.
- Set performance standards (in zoning and other regulations) that increase setbacks from residential areas, limit noise and light pollution, and cut energy and water use.
- In cooperation with Dominion Power, develop land use corridors to reduce the impact of future high voltage towers, power lines, and substations.
- Reduce dependency on data centers' revenues and insure against a downturn by curtailing spending, tilting the balance back toward real estate taxes, and diverting surplus funds into a "rainy day" reserve fund.

Too often, we hear the refrain "There's nothing you can do." Let's hope that's not the case because it would mean Loudoun has no control over its own future—surely, an unacceptable legacy for succeeding generations.

*Robert A. Pollard is a former Senior Foreign Service Officer with extensive international experience in trade and macro-economic analysis, counter-terrorism, and nonproliferation. He currently serves as chairman of the Loudoun County Heritage Commission. The opinions expressed here are entirely his own.*

**EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ratepayers is the only viable option. I have always emphasized the importance of shared responsibility and exploring alternative funding approaches for our utility infrastructure investments.

Recognizing the critical nature of water and sewer services, we understand that uninterrupted delivery of clean water and

efficient sewage treatment is essential for public health and safety. Disruptions to these services can cause inconvenience, health emergencies, or even disasters. Therefore, we must explore alternative funding sources to ensure the reliability and sustainability of our utility infrastructure.

In line with this, I have encouraged and

advanced various alternatives for Purcellville, recognizing that not all towns possess significant municipal-owned assets. These alternatives include:

- Actively seeking grants and federal programs designed to support infrastructure investments. Despite claims that Purcellville's affluence disqualifies us from receiving

grants, we have successfully secured funding for numerous road projects and received over \$10.5 million in ARPA funds.

- Collaborating with private entities through public-private partnerships (PPPs). This approach allows for cost-sharing, innovative financing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

**7 QUICK POINTS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the p.m. hours were predicted to use the eastbound off-ramp."

4. "Loudoun County identified Catoctin Creek as a major floodplain as far back as 2013," said Rise Sr. "The county floodplain study," he pointed out, "says the 100-year floodplain flow rates have jumped about twofold, from 3,617

cubic feet per second to 7,447 cubic feet per second, or about the weight of a single modern locomotive every second."

5. According to the county, Rise Sr. went on, "the Rt. 7/690 Interchange will not change the floodplain or at least the fill needed to construct the eastbound ramp, or the new Rt. 7 main line east – and westbound

six lane bridges (total) that will be installed across Catoctin Creek east and west of 690" – not shown in the map."

6. "Additionally, the county has identified 24 properties affected by this new 100-year floodplain study with 21 of those located in Purcellville, including two town owned properties."

7. "Last," he said, "movement of the Dominion Power utility poles and lines located in the wetlands and floodplain areas have not been addressed by the county to date. Movement of these poles and lines will most likely cause off-easement land disturbance and tree removal required by the construction of this interchange just by itself."

**NEGOTIATING PURCELLVILLE'S IDENTITY**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

on the town's identity. You may find yourself trying to justify this identity, defend it, or simply understand it.

What makes up a place's identity? A non-exhaustive summary of its constituent parts would surely include the undeserved and unmade part, the part delivered by a sort of landscape-level grace, and the endlessly negotiated built environment, and of course the people

who live out their lives in the built and natural environment; the people identifying themselves with both.

However, it would be inaccurate to think of the current residents of a place as the only people involved in securing and constructing a place's identity. For there's an obligation to, and dependency on, those who came before us.

And what about our responsibility to the place's future residents? What will we leave them? How long do we expect

them to be here—and for what reasons? Will the stories we tell about this place make sense to them? Is there any flexibility in these stories, and in our identity? As a tentative response, following is a mix of theoretical and specific suggestions on this theme.

First, we should approach our individual conception of Purcellville with some amount of flexibility and openness. We should love it and relate to it with the obligations our lives and affections

require of us, while allowing the town to change, to grow, to assume new shapes and forms. Importantly though, such change should be directed by us, and though the forms may change gradually, we should strive to preserve the essence amidst change.

I've come to see Purcellville as an eclectic place that never took itself too seriously. This is perhaps partly due to it being a 'late bloomer,' at least relative

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

# PRCS announces Passport to the Parks during July

July is National Parks and Recreation Month. To help celebrate Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services is announcing Passport to the Parks – connecting residents to our parks and nature preserve.

Throughout the month of July, Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park, Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center, and Claude Moore Park will host programs allowing residents to discover and explore the county’s unique natural habitats, wetlands, and waterways.

Participants in Passport to the Parks will receive a stamp on their Passport when they visit the Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park Nature Center or the park’s Administration Office, the Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center, the Claude Moore Park Visitors Center, and the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve Visitor Center.

The first 100 participants to complete one of two Passport to the Parks tiers will win a prize. Participants can

complete the Loudoun Parks Grand Slam by visiting all four participating parks to win a tier 1 prize pack. If participants attend at least six programs (no more than two in each park), they will win a tier 2 prize pack. If a participant cannot make it to a scheduled program at all the parks, there are plenty of other activities, such as hiking and fishing, at no cost that can also earn you a stamp in place of a program.

To receive your Passport, complete the registration form at [form.jotform.com/231183974744161](http://form.jotform.com/231183974744161). You may also pick up a Passport at the Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park Nature Center or the park’s Administration Office, the Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center, the Claude Moore Park Visitors Center, or the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve Visitor Center.

Since 1985, people in the United States have celebrated Park and Recreation Month in July to promote building strong, vibrant, and resilient communities through the power of parks and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

## WEXTON, KAINE VISIT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

certainly better than the alternative,” Kaine said during the meeting, attributing the FAA’s agreement to the Virginia Congressional delegation’s ability to work quickly and in unison.

According to Burk, the FAA closed the remote ATC tower due to a dispute with Saab Inc. – the technology contractor that designed and implemented the necessary surveillance and tracking equipment for the remote site. She emphasized that the program was not removed due to safety issues or lack of success.

“They came to us and asked us to pilot this program, and we did so willingly,” Burk said. “It was very successful,

and to have it pulled was very, very dramatically disappointing.”

During their visit, Kaine and Wexton expressed their intentions to seek out funds for both a brick-and-mortar tower, as well as monetary assistance with the trailer rent when the time comes.

Rep. Wexton discusses plans.

“I’ve been working hard as an advocate for continued air traffic control services as the remote tower program



winds down, and during our visit, Senator Kaine and I reiterated our commitment to doing all we can to ensure that the airport can continue the growth and prosperity it has seen in recent years.” Wexton said in an email.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

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**PARKS AND REC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Director Steve Torpy explain plans to develop passive 100-acre Mickie Gordon Memorial Park into a three-field championship cricket complex.

The audience also wanted to learn why, as park neighbor David Blanchard asked, this community meeting was just happening now. "This should have been the first thing because now we've got this entire cricket community excited about something that we're getting upset about. And we're upset because this special exception came through without public input. Lord knows how much money you've spent to this point, and now we've got a situation where we're violating the dark skies policy, we're violating the traffic calming work. You should pull this exception."

"Obviously," Torpy acknowledged, "based on the number of people who are here, the number of emails we've seen, the signs that I pass every day when I'm commuting to work, I missed the mark on this one, and that's why we paused, and I want to come back and make sure we get this right."

**It's not about cricket**

It's not about cricket one speaker after another emphasized, it's about location and intensity. It's about the quiet and peacefulness of this rural area, the dark skies, gravel roads, and abundant

wildlife and why it cannot handle three 450-foot-diameter fields ringed with 18 100-foot-tall light towers, plus bleachers, concessions building, press box, rest rooms, parking for up to 200 cars, and a turn lane that would widen Rt 50, a nationally acclaimed model of traffic calming. And, while residents agreed that cricket is booming in Loudoun and the leagues need more fields, the proposed changes would erase the park's deep African American and Babe Ruth League baseball heritage.

Torpy addressed that heritage first at the conclusion of a Power Point presentation by a Timmons Group civil engineer. The Parks and Rec director took back the microphone and turned to a guest, 94-year-old Asbury Lloyd. "Before opening the floor for questions, I do want to start out by giving this gentleman the opportunity to speak first tonight."



Asbury Lloyd and his daughter Regina.



Carla Hall



Debbie Gordon Schleith

**African American heritage**

Lloyd's daughter Regina introduced her father, who was sitting in a wheelchair wearing his Korean War Veteran's hat. "My father pitched many a game in that field. I played softball in that field. He coached for a Little League team, for the teenage guys, and for the older men," and she handed the mic to him.

"We always looked forward to holidays there – Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day," Lloyd said. "We had kind of a field day—horse races, ball games, dancing. At that time, we didn't have many places that we could go for fun. I used to walk from Philomont to Macsville to the ball-field. You could get a 98-cent baseball, and any kind of stick would do for a bat. Baseball was my game. I liked to play it, and I liked to see other people play it. Let's fix this park and let's play ball."

"Mickie Gordon Park was once Mercer Park and also Hall's Field where my family's ancestors were part of that," said

Carla Hall. "I remember as a child going there for the events. That's history lost if we do away with this park. I beg to differ that the park hasn't been used. Last year, the Halls had a large family reunion there."

Debbie Gordon Schleith spoke up: "My father was Mickie Gordon. I feel like there are many of you who haven't been in Middleburg long enough to know the history of the park named for my father and the baseball field dedicated to my grandfather, Pop Gordon. My father started a Babe Ruth team in the mid 1960s and coached that team until the '80s. He also was a longtime member of the Loudoun County Parks and Recreation board."

Gordon went on to explain her dad's role in bringing the first Babe Ruth World Series to Loudoun at Fireman's Field in Purcellville. "That was one of the last things he worked to get done before he passed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 »



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**PARKS AND REC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20**

away in '96. So, if this goes through and there's no longer a baseball field there, then it's not Pop Gordon Field anymore and it's not Mickie Gordon Park, and I'd want the plaque removed and the sign removed because it's no longer my family's legacy."

**Lights, roads, traffic, and economic impact**

John Rizik, whose property adjoining Mickie Gordon Memorial Park has been designated an African American Historical Site, admitted that "living next to the park is not all peaches and cream. The current light situation is invasive; it lights up my whole yard like Dulles Airport." His neighbor raised concerns about the backroads. "I can tell you that cars from Snickersville Pike going over to Mickie Gordon Park come zipping down Carters Farm Lane where people are out walking jogging, bicycling, and riding their horses."

David Greenhill, owner of Greenhill Vineyards located directly across the road from the project, pointed out that Rt. 50 couldn't support the traffic. "It's already backed up enough as it is. It's not so much the park's existence but the construction alone. How long is that going to take—a year, two? Rt. 50 is going to be a mess. It's already the main artery from Gilberts Corner at 15 all the way to Winchester.

"The economic impact needs to be assessed," Greenhill went on, "because if there are fewer people coming to Middleburg, it's going to affect us negatively. It would decimate my business."

Tia Earman, Piedmont Environmental Council field representative, asked what attention had been paid to the Countywide Transportation Plan. "This stretch of Rt. 50 is called out by name in the CTP. It's highlighted as a National Historic Roadway District in the lead up to Middleburg, and in the CTP the County pledges to work with the Town of Middleburg to preserve the historic nature of their entrance cor-

ridor. That is county policy." Childs Burden, a resident of Loudoun since 1975, reminded the group of the \$35 million grassroots effort to traffic

**Needed: A new drawing board**

Megan Gallagher, a conservation activist, offered three asks she believes the community would support:

"The first is, you pull this special exception. It's an urban park in a rural area, and you'll never convince the community to



Megan Gallagher



Middleburg Mayor Bridge Littleton

support it. Two, you find room in the urban parks you're already building or the new ones you're planning where the infrastructure exists closer to the players and where they actually live, and you put that on a fast track, but give up the idea of a three-field championship complex out in a rural area. And three, you come back in the fall when we're rested and over this and you talk to the community about passive parks with active features that reflect their historic uses. We haven't seen or even captured this park's value to multiple constituencies."

Mayor Bridge Littleton agreed, emphasizing the importance of a win-win and the county's capacity to deliver one. "I'll never accept that this is a question about money. With a \$4 billion annual budget, whatever it costs to put the right types of cricket facilities near the players to meet their needs, we can pay for it. I totally respect why the cricket players want this to happen because there's nothing else on the drawing board. We need to have a new drawing board."



Larry Lloyd

ridor. That is county policy."

Childs Burden, a resident of Loudoun since 1975, reminded the group of the \$35 million grassroots effort to traffic

**SCOUTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14**

James United Church of Christ in Lovettsville. The church has a food bank for local hunger relief, and sought a storage unit to keep food for pets. Under Mercker's direction, Scouts made the measurements and calculations, and carefully assembled each part of the pantry. Learning a little about carpentry proved to be a bonus of the project.

The Scouts agree that far more goes into an Eagle project than just the manual labor. As Jimeno said,

"Finding the right people to contact and keeping those people updated" was the most challenging part of the process. "The planning took 2 months ... It started with the idea, then the proposal, then the permissions, then the fundraising, and then finally the execution.

Each step involved emails, calls, and meetings." An Eagle project is no small undertaking, but the four agree that the Scouts BSA program, with its focus on youth leadership, gave them adequate preparation for the task.



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**KUHN PRESENTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8**

a letter to the county asking them to remove the road from their plans.

Brian Green, addressing Chuck Kuhn, said if he puts in the NCR, "it will hit a cul-de-sac. It's a joke; where is everybody going to go?" he asked. Green asked the town council to look after their wellbeing and not to be influenced by outsiders who may not share "our same vision. We have a say in the JLMA.

"If we don't agree, you've got nothing – that's the bottom line." Resident Lydia Clark said the town and county residents have attended many meetings and charrettes over the years for this property "and the citizens have spoken loud and clear. They are against the NCR. That road will go right behind somebody's house."

"This is not in conformance with the surrounding areas. The NCR should be taken off the map."

Owner Chuck Kuhn said, "Change is difficult on everyone. Change is certainly difficult on a community. But we have to move forward." He said the same concerns were brought up when Mayfair and Wright Farm were being built here.

However, there were no public meetings when the Mayfair Community became part of the Town of Purcellville, as it came into the Town of Purcellville through a private lawsuit settlement between only the Lazaro Town Council and the County. Wright Farm is a county by-right community and did not go through any public hearings.

"I stand here tonight with an opportunity for this town because residential has been voted down twice on this parcel," Kuhn said. But there has only been one annexation request for this property, which was voted down, and it included industrial, commercial and 120 homes.



Lydia Clark



Chuck Kuhn

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**NEGOTIATING PURCELLVILLE'S IDENTITY,**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

to the old Quaker towns scattered throughout the Loudoun Valley. Because of this, the town doesn't have a recognizably colonial architectural style—I mean, I don't think I've ever seen a building in quite the same architectural pattern as White's Palace.

This eclectic nature, I believe, allows Purcellville to continue to experiment with new architectural forms, even as these styles draw inspiration from its graceful historic monuments—including Bethany United Methodist Church, Purcellville National Bank, and the Queen Anne-style Walter Hirst home on Main Street.

Second, the town should lean into the parts of its identity that are most self-evident. One of Purcellville's clearest comparative advantages is the fact that the W&OD trail ends in town. The town should be a pedestrian paradise. Currently, however, there aren't any dedicated bike lanes in town and there are too many missing sidewalk connections. The town should remedy this and install rectangular rapid flashing beacons at as many pedestrian crossing points as is feasible while constructing raised crosswalks at especially important connections.

Third, the town should prioritize infill development in a way that promotes graceful density. Row houses, low-rise apartments, and accessory dwelling units should all be part of the housing mix.

Fourth, the town should ensure that those

cultural amenities (libraries, parks, schools, etc.) which provide some of the most tangible benefits of proximity, are kept within the town.

Loudoun County recently purchased Chuck Kuhn's property west of town and intends to build a recreation center and library at the site. Although the property is contiguous to the town limits, there is currently no sidewalk access on Main Street west of Rt. 690 South.

By contrast, Purcellville Library's current location is eminently walkable and well-loved, and an essential part of our built environment. If the library is relocated, such a development will only further contribute to the low-densification of place which makes it all but impossible to have walkable, bikeable, and environmentally sustainable communities—and to live in a place in a real and meaningful sense.

Finally, as the Purcellville Planning Commission works to create a more intuitive form-based zoning code, the town should also consider developing a master street plan, detailing its preferred road network.

This should not be confused with County plans for a Northern Collector Road, which crudely imposes the highway bypass concept on a small town, in effect strangling it and freezing development in suburban limbo. A master street plan, done right, can ensure that any future annexation and development follows the contours of a walkable community in that public rights-of-way are, to quote urban planner and lecturer Luke

**WEXTON, KAINE VISIT,**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

In regards to timeline, Burk reported that Kaine and Wexton would be "working on it and getting it as soon as they can."

"It's really in their hands at this point," Burk said. "I mean, we're doing what we need to do, which is get the plans in place and be ready when it comes time. But it's really, at this point, mostly about funding."

In 2021, Leesburg Airport received \$3.7 million in federal funding with the passing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which ensured that Virginia airports would receive a combined \$400 million in funding over the next five years.

The airport was able to build a new apron and hangar with the money, prior to the need for

a permanent ATC tower.

"I'll continue working with the airport, local stakeholders and the FAA to find a long-term solution to help ensure the airport can continue to operate safely and be a critical economic engine in the community," Kaine said in an email.

In his Facebook post following the visit to the airport, Kaine reiterated a similar sentiment, describing local airports as the "heart of economic development in communities across Virginia," and assured readers that he is committed to the cause.

"We appreciate the help from the Congressional delegation," Burk said. "It was very important to get their involvement, but we've got a ways to go before we get final answers."

Juday, "organized with maximal intersection density to allow the shortest possible trip destinations" for pedestrians.

Acknowledging that a place's identity is collectively constructed,

we can strive to honor our place's past, present, and future identities by preserving the essence of Purcellville and Western Loudoun while allowing the forms to change gradually and gently.

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**EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

models, and expertise from the private sector, reducing the strain on ratepayers while ensuring high-quality utility services. Our management agreements with Bush Tabernacle and Fireman's Field demonstrate successful collaborations while retaining ownership of these historic assets. Additionally, we have lowered operational costs by utilizing county services for tax billing and collection.

- Leveraging underutilized assets through creative solutions such as selling or leasing unused properties or exploring public-private joint ventures. The examples of the nutrient credit bank and the makerspace demonstrate how we have extracted value from our underutilized assets while retaining ownership of the land. These initiatives provide additional funding streams without solely relying on ratepayers' contributions. It is important to note that claims of indiscriminate asset selling are unfounded, as the sale of the former Mary's House of Hope was the only instance of an outright sale for asset monetization under my leadership, and it was done in collaboration with a nonprofit management entity.

It is crucial to understand that exploring alternative funding options does not equate to neglecting critical infrastructure. On the contrary, shared responsibility among various stakeholders is a hallmark of effective governance. Utility infrastructure investments should be viewed as long-term commitments that benefit the entire community.

In conclusion, the argument that towns should solely rely on ratepayers to fund

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

outright rejection with threatened punishments, engage in open conversations about the potential impacts of cannabis on their lives.

Use research-backed evidence to explain the harmful effects of cannabis use during adolescence and promote healthy coping strategies and activities as alternatives. Cannabis is often referred to as a "gateway drug", so discussing how its use can increase the likelihood of experimenting with other substances is also important.

No level of cannabis use is considered completely safe for teens due to the ongoing brain development occurring during this period, but many teens will still experiment with cannabis or other substances (e.g., alcohol). If you discover that your teen is using cannabis, it's crucial to approach the situation without judgment. Encourage open conversation on the topic, set reasonable and healthy expectations, and if necessary, seek professional help.

In conclusion, I cannot stress enough

the importance of understanding the impacts of cannabis on adolescents. As parents, it is our responsibility to guide our teens toward safe and healthy choices, which will help them reach their full potential as adults. Cannabis use is a very important topic to cover.

*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

several years back—just as we were all learning a bit about the oncoming coronavirus epidemic sweeping across our world.

So – yes – I was able to ponder quite a few personal, public and professional details involving this local creative beehive. And many of the friends I'd made in the intervening years (over a quarter century), connected in some way to this Performing Arts Center, were by this recent morning, merely fond memories in the store-bank of my emotions.

So – on my last visit, did I venture inside the building, to soak up the vibes of years, productions,

relationships, and times past? No – I held to my solitary stroll around the 'Barn' and took some memorial photos, then moved on to some of the other facilities within the Park that competed for my attention.

I didn't circumnavigate the body of water just down the hill to the east of the Arts Center; like the early-arriving redwing blackbirds, I sought warmth – using just about any excuse to grab a couple of quick snapshots and head back to my vehicle and civilization. The setting was even more austere at the Franklin Park swimming pool; some maintenance workers, dressed head to toe in cold-weather garb, wrestled with their equipment – so I

presumed – in readying the popular local facility for the upcoming warm-weather season. I didn't even make it to the small, red barn that still stands in the southeastern corner of Franklin Park; I'd always enjoyed seeing it as a familiar landmark in delivering mail along the road that skirts that edge of the local facility.

And for that day, my visit sufficed; rest assured, I'll return, for another inside look at the theatre building, and a personal recounting of the many friends I'd spent time, energy, talent (at least on their parts) and a love of live performance. Maybe I'll be thinking of you, and maybe you can return the favor.

utility infrastructure projects oversimplifies the issue and ignores the potential for alternative funding sources.

Recognizing the essential nature of water and sewer services, it is imperative for town governments to adopt a comprehensive approach that balances financial prudence with community responsibility.

By actively exploring diverse funding

options, such as grants, public-private partnerships, and asset monetization, towns can share the burden of infrastructure investment while ensuring the long-term viability of their utility systems. It is through shared responsibility and forward-thinking strategies that communities can thrive without compromising essential services or excessively

burdening ratepayers.

As we move forward, let us embrace a collaborative mindset and continue to seek innovative and sustainable funding solutions for our utility infrastructure. By doing so, we can ensure the continued provision of reliable and resilient utility services for the betterment of our community.

**PRCS ANNOUNCES**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

recreation and to recognize the hundreds of thousands of park and recreation professionals and volunteers that maintain our country's local, state and community parks. This year's theme – "Where Community Grows" – celebrates the vital role park and recreation professionals play in bringing people together, providing essential services, and fostering the growth of our communities.

For more information about Passport to the Parks, visit [loudoun.gov/PassportToTheParks](http://loudoun.gov/PassportToTheParks).

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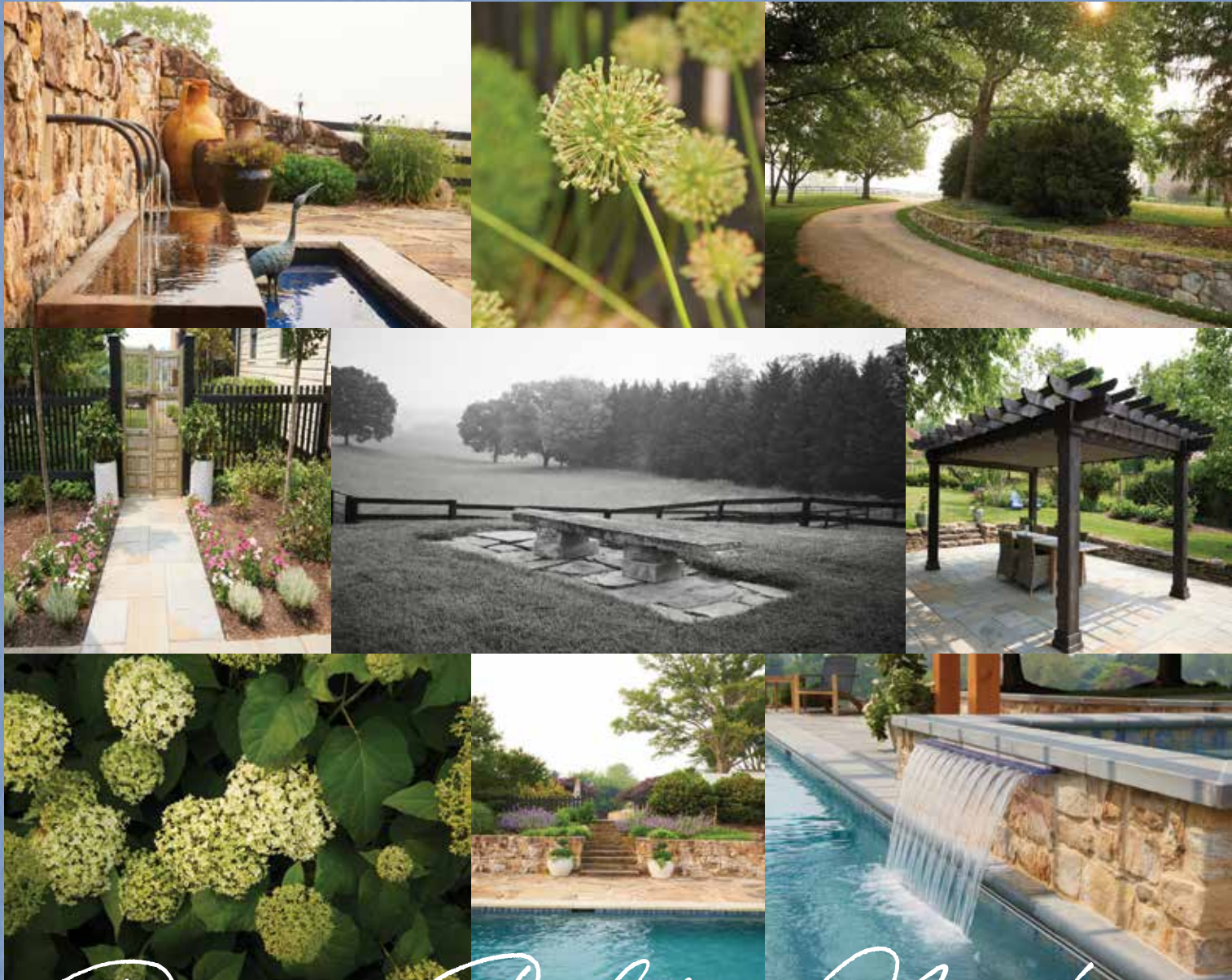
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# On The Market Properties

Please Call 703-408-4261

View our property videos at: [onthemarketloudoun.com](http://onthemarketloudoun.com)



**A little about us...** Our real estate firm is based out of a brick-and-mortar shop in historic downtown Purcellville, VA where we have strong ties to and are invested in our community. Our local market mastery and connections have made us one of the leading boutique Real Estate brokerages in the region. Whether we are representing buyers or sellers on a quaint in-town home, an impressive equestrian estate or a flourishing vineyard, you can expect the culture of our firm to be one of innovative and customized service for our clients and exemplary professionalism and ethics within our industry.



**Under Contract**

41590 Bostonian Pl, Aldie, VA. Pool & Sunset views backing to common area. Three finished levels in the Kirkpatrick Farms Neighborhood.



**Just Sold Lovettsville**

14336 Rehobeth Church Rd, Lovettsville, VA. 16.49 acres. SAND & STONE RIDING ARENA. Updated brick home. Red centre aisle barn and pool!



**Just Sold Lovettsville**

Taylor's Valley Ln, Lovettsville. 24.67 Acres with pool and barn. Listed for \$1,750,000.



**Just Sold Paeonian Springs**

*"Curt and Sam with "On The Market Properties" are wonderful! I was ready to sell but was nervous as it was my first time selling. The minute I met them, they instantly gained my trust. Their warm personalities combined with their expert knowledge of the real estate market, won me over in the very first meeting. Sam and Curt are not pushy or looking to just "make a sale". A win for them is making their seller happy and they did just that. They are down-to-earth people who helped me move boxes, clean, and do things to prepare my house for that most people would not do. They were very respectful of my time and comforted my fears during such a stressful time in our lives. They talked to me like a friend rather than just a number, and it made my first home selling experience very enjoyable. I truly miss seeing their friendly faces and look forward to one day working with them again. I would recommend Sam and Curt to anyone looking to buy or sell a home. They are truly the best of the best!" - Happy Client Review*



**Just Sold: Multiple Offers!**

Ebaugh Dr SE, Leesburg. Amazing townhome. Listed for \$649,900.



**For Sale: September Delivery!**



Jackson 5 model by POWERS HOMES is the perfect MODERN FARMHOUSE featuring a wrap front porch, stone accents, gorgeous wood flooring and an awe-inspiring main level. Kitchen w/ Shaker cabinets and quartz counters, a Morning Room, spacious Family Room w/ fireplace and a main floor office w/ bay window. 5 bedrooms, 5 full baths (including a full bath on main level). Finished rec room. Large .66 acre lot w/ Mountain Views and no HOA. \$959,000



**Do you have or know someone who has a property like this and is interested in selling? Please call us!**

1. Land- 25 to 40 acres, ideal parcel has 3 or 4 existing lots
2. Equestrian Property with Indoor Arena- minimum 20 acres, prefers gravel road
3. Detached home- brick rambler in Purcellville, Hamilton or Round Hill
4. Commercial property- Downtown Pville- office space- up to 850K

**Marci Huber**  
Realtor®  
803-920-0213  
[marci.huber@outlook.com](mailto:marci.huber@outlook.com)

**Curt Schaber**  
Realtor®  
703-338-7300  
[schabercurt@yahoo.com](mailto:schabercurt@yahoo.com)

**Sam Fisher**  
Principal Broker,  
Realtor®  
703-408-4261  
[onthemarketwithsam@gmail.com](mailto:onthemarketwithsam@gmail.com)

**Eleanor F Schlosser**  
Associate Broker  
703-795-9105  
[eleschlosser@yahoo.com](mailto:eleschlosser@yahoo.com)

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