

# Blue Ridge LEADER

NOVEMBER 2023

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# & LOUDOUN Today

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## Planning Commission decides Philomont fire station options need another look

BY LAURA LONGLEY

The Oct. 24 Loudoun County Planning Commission public hearing on a new Philomont fire station started the same way previous public presentations have — with a slide show of the designs and need for a new, 18,800 sq. ft. station to be built on seven acres less than a half mile from the current station at the center of the historic village. The power point highlighted the new station's safety and comfort, its architectural harmony with the 18th and 19th century village, its buffered siting, set back from National Register's historic Snickersville Turnpike.

Most important, it emphasized the

county staff's recommendation for approval of zoning ordinance exemptions necessary to proceed with the \$22 million project. Staff also mentioned another, community plan calling for renovation of the existing firehouse with a 12,000-sq. ft. addition. Staff said they reviewed that plan and found it not feasible and not meeting the fire chief's requirements or national standards.

The presentation closed with Loudoun Fire Chief Keith Johnson stressing the importance of response time to a call to protect the citizens, which he also stated was the same for both locations, and the vital importance of hot/cold facilities to

protect fire personnel from cancer.

Planning and Zoning's Lori Radcliffe-Meyers concluded, "The application has been conditioned to minimize the visual environmental and heritage impacts of their proposed fire and rescue station. Staff supports Planning Commission approval of the commission permit and a recommendation of approval of the special exception. Staff finds that the general location, character and extent of the proposed fire and rescue station are consistent with the Loudoun County 2019 General Plan and 'generally' consistent with the rural historic village place type.

Following the county's presentation,

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over 40 Philomont area residents showed support for the 17 speakers including representatives of organizations such as the Loudoun Historic Village Alliance, Snickersville Turnpike Association, Piedmont

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## “As a council member it’s my duty to prioritize the well-being of our citizens” – Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut

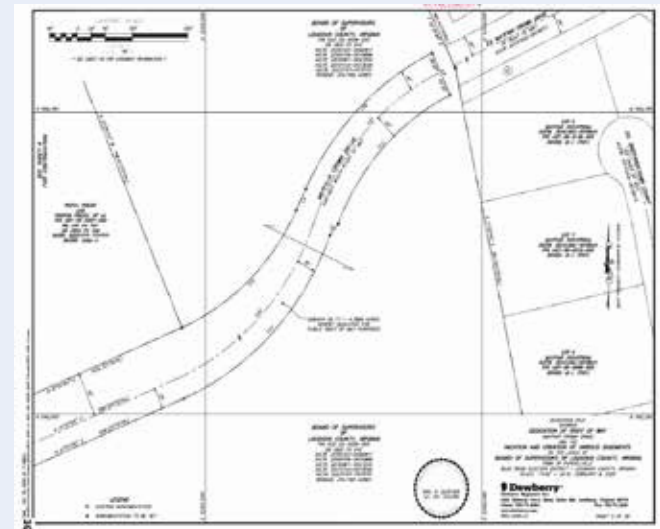
BY VALERIE CURY

The Oct. 24 Purcellville Town Council meeting was full of back-and-forth discussion, but two issues stood out above the others. The first is the approval of an easement which would align Fields Farm Road to Mayfair Crown Drive but not join them together. Both roads would be separated by 120 to 140 feet. The second is the discussion of the Vineyard Square project, which was put back on the agenda by Mayor Stan Milan, who said he has a possible new vision for the plan.

Regarding Vineyard Square, Milan said he put the 21st Street topic on the agenda because he wanted to talk about the area. "I was just going to inform the council that the town manager and I met with Mr. Chapman on 21st Street, and talked about some options for the Vineyard Square [project] and the vision I have for the downtown."

He said, "That downtown area needs to be revised, revitalized." Milan said the Chapmans own a "majority of the property in that area."

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This is what Fields Farm Road would look like and it would have bollards. The length between the two roads is approximately between 120 to 140 ft. This drawing has incorrectly labeled the Fields Farm Road as Mayfair Crown Drive.

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

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

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

It is terribly common that peripheral neuropathy and its debilitating symptoms interfere with a person’s ability to live their life. Dan was now reliant on his wife to drive him around, even the simple pleasure of cruising down to play golf or taking her out to dinner was outside his capabilities.

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

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

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

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

**“I can’t lie,” confides Dan.**

**“I was skeptical at first. The folks down at my pain center told me there was nothing that could be done and then there’s a doctor right here in Loudoun who tells me she can help.**

**Turns out she was right!**

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

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

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Photos by Kim Wells DCR PR and Marketing Specialist

## Youngkin dedicates Sweet Run State Park

42nd Virginia State Park offers hiking, equestrian trails with expansive views of the Blue Ridge Mountains

Gov. Glenn Youngkin officially dedicated Sweet Run State Park in Loudoun County on Oct. 6. The 884-acre park, crossed by Sweet Run and Piney Run streams, features expansive views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is located at 11661 Harpers Ferry Road in Hillsboro.

“Sweet Run State Park will be the first State Park in Loudoun County, and will preserve this valley’s steeped agricultural, natural and cultural history,” said Youngkin. “Expanding our stellar Virginia State Parks system, this new park demonstrates our continued commitment to invest in Virginia’s future and ensure that it’s the best state to live, work – and get outdoors and play.”

Sweet Run, which had a soft opening in late May, is the 42nd park in the Virginia State Park system. The park connects to the Appalachian Trail and complements the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park system. It offers 11 miles of hiking and 9 miles of equestrian trails along streams, through mature forest, meadows and mountain-side terrain. Amenities include a picnic pavilion and nature play area for children.

“Our State Parks provide valuable public access to nature for people and families all over the Commonwealth and with the addition of Sweet Run, Loudoun County residents and those visiting will have access to outdoor experiences that they otherwise would not have had,”

said Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles. “Our administration is committed to providing new and expanded opportunities for Virginians to recreate outdoors and enjoy the Commonwealth’s natural resources.”

The state acquired the property from the Robert and Dee Leggett Foundation in two phases, beginning with a donation of 604 acres in June 2016. An additional 280-acre parcel, which included the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, was paid for by Loudoun County and transferred to the state in February 2022. Local land trust Old Dominion Land Conservancy temporarily owned and assisted with facilitating both transfers to DCR.

“We’re excited to dedicate Sweet Run along with our many partners, including local county officials, Old Dominion Land Conservancy, the Blue Ridge



Center for Environmental Stewardship, and especially Robert and Dee Leggett,” said Matt Wells, director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, which manages Virginia State Parks. “DCR and Virginia State Parks are fortunate to have many established partnerships to support this park, including the Between the Hills Conservancy, which recently became designated as the park’s Friends group, as well as U.S. Trail Ride, which helps to maintain the park’s trail system.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42 »

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# Just like nothing (else) on earth: Snake Hill Road

BY TIM JON

Complete isolation, peace and quiet can be quite rare commodities these days in the thriving Northern Virginia County of Loudoun, but these conditions prevailed on my first-ever drive down the entire length of today's subject of discovery. The relative tranquility I found fought for attention, though, with the general rural nature of the roadway: washboard surfaces and enough potholes to make one thankful for shock absorbers but worried about the tires and wheel rims.



TIM JON

I don't recall coming across a single other vehicle on my early morning "safari" down Rt. 744, Snake Hill Road, so I felt pretty secure in dodging any really dubious-looking patches. The chipmunk I saw in the first quarter-mile just seemed anxious to avoid confrontation, and the cows on the latter portion appeared indifferent to the day's events—including (from their

perspective) a slightly deranged storyteller on his way to enlightenment.

So, I kept to our deal: I didn't go out of my way to bother Chip (or Dale?), and the bovines remained behind their fences, pretending they didn't care about the entire proceedings. I probably—for that matter—could have parked my vehicle at one of the few turn-offs and taken a nap in the middle of the roadway, it seemed so deserted. But—recall that I said only "slightly deranged," so I continued my progress along this almost secret passageway through the heart of south-central Loudoun.

"How did I get here," you ask? I figured the quickest way to access what I considered the beginning of my exploratory trip was by way of Rt. 626—Foxcroft Road—taken north from the Town of Middleburg, then turning off on Snake Hill a few miles north of town—just

beyond the Goose Creek bridge. The trip started as a corridor of green: green upon green upon green—seemingly unending. I started to wonder—amid all



the trees, shrubs, grasses, and vines—if any other colors existed, or if I were destined to exclusively study this hue until the end of time.

And then, about halfway through the drive, the forest opened up and gave way to open plains, many still very green, serving as roaming space for cattle and horses. Miles and miles of space. I've lived in Loudoun County for over 25 years, and I still find myself taken aback whenever I confront these truly open spaces—frequently with views all the way to the Blue Ridge to the west.

We keep packing in more houses and businesses (along with schools, utilities, and other supporting infrastructure) at such a pace I sometimes wonder that we have any greenery left at all. And then, I take a drive along a rural stretch like Snake Hill Road, and my equilibrium seems to return to a more horizontal configuration. Or something like that.

I'm lucky enough to have a "day job" that takes me out into the wide-open

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## How to talk to your child about the Hamas-Israel Conflict

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

Technology is ubiquitous, and as a result, our children are constantly being bombarded with information. Certainly, we as parents can do our best to make sure that the information our children view is age-appropriate, however, sometimes that's not enough or sometimes the stories our children learn about are confusing and upsetting. While it's one thing to roll up your sleeves to talk about the Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce romance with your 9-year-old daughter asking questions, discussing terrorism and conflict/war are much more complex subjects to manage.

As a child psychologist, I am perforce in the role of treating children with emotional, social and behavioral struggles, but there are times when larger societal issues can enter the therapy space, Hamas's recent attack on Israel and the ensuing Hamas-Israel conflict is one of those times.

Many of my child and teen patients have broached the very tragic situation in Israel and Gaza with a heightened sense of anxiety. Children and teens have

asked, "Why do those two countries hate each other so much?" and "It seems like World War III is going to happen?" and "Did you know that Hamas called for a Global Day of Jihad?" and "I get that Hamas was wrong to attack Israel, but now Israel is killing thousands of Palestinians."

### Ask Dr. Mike

By Michael  
Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Incidentally, some of the parents I work with chose to keep their children home on the so-called Global Day of Jihad on October 13, fearing the possibility of terrorism here in the U.S.

And these questions are eerily similar to the questions that child patients asked of me in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, in the wake of the 2015 Paris terrorist attacks and at the start of the Russia-Ukraine war. That is because the need for safety and security is a very real human and universal need; and even more so for children who do not possess the internal resources—intellectual or emotional—to fully understand, make sense of or tolerate multifaceted topics such as terrorism or of conflict/war.

I offer the following recommendations to parents on how to talk to your children about the current situation.

#### 1. Check your anxiety level before talking to your children about the Hamas-Israel conflict.

Children can be very perceptive to how their parents are feeling, so make sure you are calm, reassuring and confident if and when you choose to discuss the topics of terrorism or conflict/war.

#### 2. Consider your audience when determining what you share or do not share with your children on the topics of war.

Regardless of the concerning or upsetting information we as parents receive via the media, we must always be mindful of what our children are capable of handling before discussing things. Thus, your child's age, maturity level and threshold for worry/anxiety are all things to consider before discussing terrorism or conflict/war.

Just as you would not discuss natural disasters or school shootings in the same way with 4, 8 or 16-year-old children due to developmental differences, you would not do the same for the topics of terrorism conflict/war with your children of varying ages.

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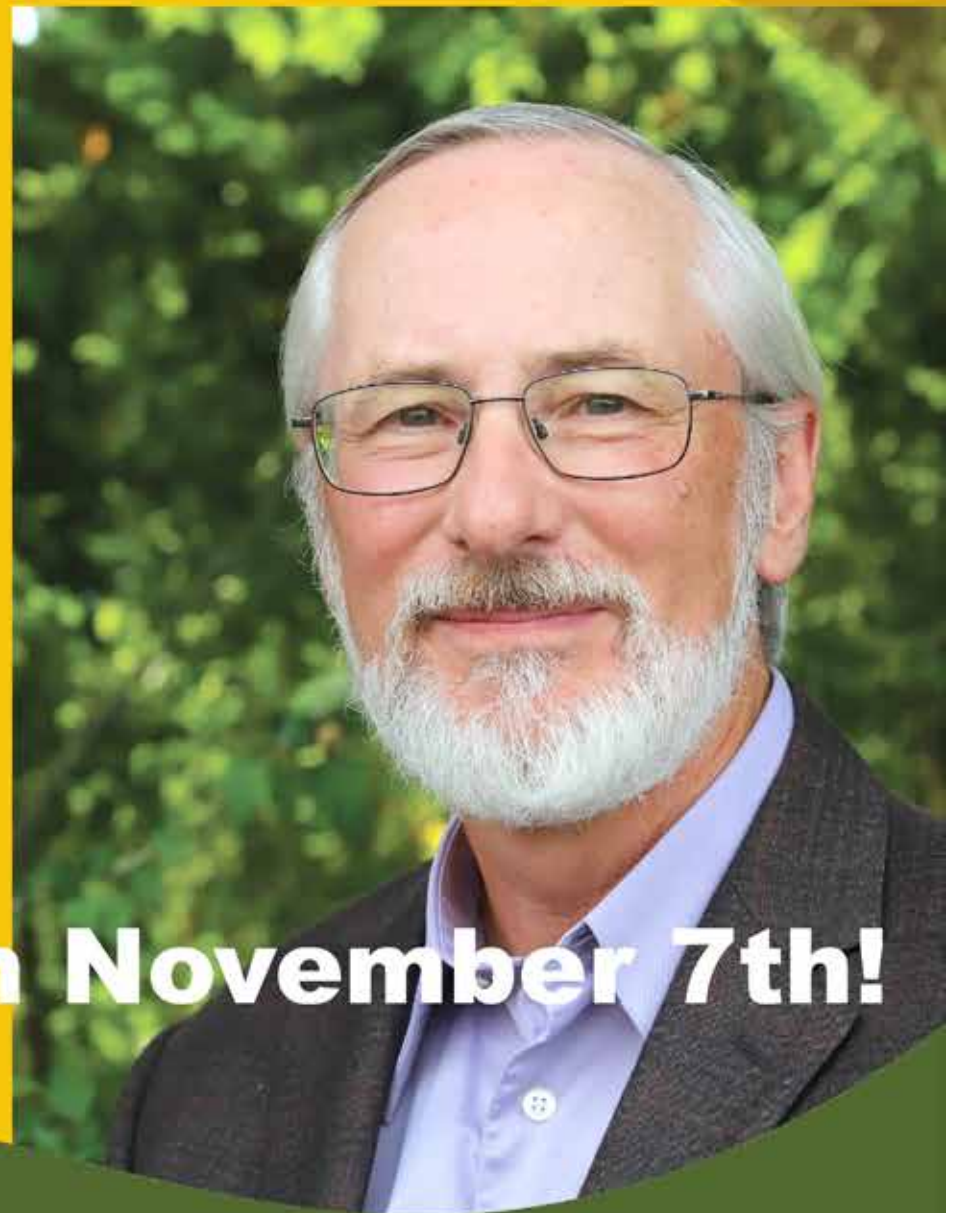
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# Ideas, wishful thinking and some snark

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Many simple ideas would make our lives more pleasant, and I've listed some. I also delve into politics and land use issues, inter alia. I've ignored practicality and difficulty, so this list is aspirational. I'll start with a slam dunk:

## Daily Life

### OPINION

Call centers must be located within the US, preferably in some place like Iowa. Ban all robocalls. Let you escape telephone prompts by requiring that you can always speak to a live human by pressing "O." Chat Bots on websites must use a human for interaction; canned, computer-based responses are forbidden.

Landscapers must use bungees to tie down all their equipment to end the irritating clash-clatter as their trailers go by.

Hate traffic? Then know that "Sprawl" means congestion caused by population growth.

VDOT should be proactive in maintaining our roads, instead of waiting for problems to be reported. Synchronize traffic lights to help traffic flow in areas such as East Market Street in Leesburg.

## Politics

At all levels of government, impose term limits, even with the potential loss of institutional knowledge. Election ballots should not indicate party affiliation or incumbency. No one over the age of 70 should be able to run for president or other office.

Ethics issues and conflicts-of-interest should be vigorously enforced, with violations considered to be felonies with five-year jail time. Conflicts-of-interest must be broadly considered. A lawyer or engineer who represents developers should not be allowed on any County board that might consider an item with potential monetary benefit to them, direct, indirect or prospective. If your website says "I help developers," you have a conflict.

## County Government

Before plunging into planning and zoning, there should have been a vision of how citizens want things (population size, green space, data centers, et al) to be. The "Envision Loudoun" effort to discern what we want was weakened by developers and then was often ignored by Staff and its consultants. Zoning tends to be based only on location of properties and the ensuing land use decisions simply let things happen. That's how our ballyhooed Comp Plan projects another 12,000 houses coming to western Loudoun.

I think the Supervisors deserve a raise. If you knew their workload, you might agree.

The Zoning Ordinance Rewrite has been underway for years. Pass the damn thing and handle corrections next year.

As the Supervisors work on the zoning ordinance, they've anointed a group of Stakeholders to help. There are three developer and business members vs. a single conservation member in that group. No wonder we feel violated. The zoning process cannot even define the word "farm!" For example, a brewery that does not grow its ingredients is not a farm, but the zoning ordinance says it

is. That's special interests at work.

County staff should never grow faster than population growth.

Loudoun Parks and Rec has a record of proceeding with big projects without taking the pulse of neighbors. Sometimes the neighbors win; their vehement protests carried the day against Parks and Rec's grotesque plan to turn Mickie Gordon Park into an enormous, intrusive cricket center.

A conceptual countywide network of trails was called "Emerald Ribbons." Nice, eh? Bureaucrats disagreed and used the acronym L-PAT, for Linear Parks and Trails. Why did they waste time doing that? Now they're at it again, and are hiring a "naming consultant" to advise them. Just use "Emerald Ribbons."

## Land Use and Buildings

Developers must attend at least one college-level design course to improve their taste, which today is banal and repetitive. Parking spaces should be comfortably wide, at least 8'6". (Some developers shoehorn skinny 7'0" spaces to provide save money on paving.)

Roadway medians usually end with a bull-nose of plain concrete, and at night it's easy to drive over the things. Your suspension doesn't like that. Instead, use optic yellow paint around the bullnose.

Do not pave our historic gravel roads.

Zoning enforcement is a farce. Its goal is to protect citizens, not find loopholes though which malefactors can skate.

Developers cannot use the words farm, preserve, reserve or estates in the name of their subdivisions.

A "dark sky" has become a mirage because of development. Drive somewhere far away, turn off the car lights and look up. You can't take that heavenly vision back to Loudoun, but remember the stars and contemplate what's been lost here because of sprawl and commerce.

Many developments are now excused from notifying neighbors in advance of zoning applications or impending construction. That's special interests again, and bad.

"Affordable housing" is an aspirational chimera promoted by people who want government to create

some sort of egalitarian utopia. I am cynical. Developers will find a way to scam any such program that involves the private sector. Politicians will wastefully throw money at the issue. The aesthetics of cheap housing may be poor.

Ban dark brown or black buildings. Why? Just scope out the dreadful multifamily projects along Claiborne Parkway; they look like old Soviet worker housing. A giant data center is about to open on Old Ox Road. It's completely black, and it evokes images of old, shuttered, grimy factory buildings. I've quoted Frank Lloyd Wright before: "An ugly building makes my teeth hurt." He'd be in agony here.

There's great controversy about data centers, but the goal is straightforward: Keep letting them in until they become problems to neighborhoods. Many of them already intrude on homes. Solving the data center problem means we must unravel a spiderweb of details.

Above all, remember that government is of, for and by the people. Not promoters and their skills. The concept of "stakeholders" is misguided and gives businesses too many seats at the table.

## A New County?

Actually, no. Some years ago, there was a quixotic attempt to break off western Loudoun, and form a new Catoctin County. There were just too many necessary approvals and the nascent idea died. 'Twas a good concept, though, considering western Loudoun seems to get shafted at every turn.

But I found something.

It's a simple procedure for two counties to enter into a boundary line adjustment. Use the crest of Furnace, Catoctin and Bull Run Mountains as the new eastern border of Clarke County, and remove us from Loudoun County. As a new part of the bucolic Clarke County to our west, we'd be protected instead of plundered.

*Charles Houston developed corporate office buildings throughout the south and now lives on a nice gravel road in Paeonian Springs. Sometimes he has too much time on his hands.*

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# County to hold public hearing on zoning ordinance revisions

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors held its final work session on the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Oct. 30. This is the final in a series of eight work sessions the Board has held in advance of a second public hearing on proposed revisions to the county's Zoning Ordinance, which is scheduled for Dec. 13.

The Oct. 30 work session covered attainable housing and definitions.

**GOVERNMENT** The Board also considered any additional motions to amend text in all chapters of the July 6, 2023, Draft Zoning Ordinance. To date, the Board has approved dozens of amendments to the Draft Zoning Ordinance that was recommended by the Planning Commission earlier this year.

The dates and times of all Board of Supervisors public meetings are posted at [loudoun.gov/calendar](http://loudoun.gov/calendar). Meeting documents for all of the Board's meetings are posted on the county's website at least three days prior to the

meeting date at [loudoun.gov/bosdocuments](http://loudoun.gov/bosdocuments).

Following the Oct. 30 work session, county staff will update the Draft Zoning Ordinance to include all of the amendments approved by the Board during the recent work sessions.

The Board of Supervisors has scheduled a public hearing on Dec. 13, at 6 p.m., during which members of the public may provide input on the proposed ordinance in person and by phone. The final version of the Zoning Ordinance that will be proposed by the Board of Supervisors for adoption will be available for review on the county's website in advance of the Dec. 13 public hearing.

Members of the public may provide input to the Board of Supervisors any time by going to [www.loudoun.gov/FormCenter/Planning-and-Zoning-19/Zoning-Ordinance-Rewrite-Board-of-Superv-384](http://www.loudoun.gov/FormCenter/Planning-and-Zoning-19/Zoning-Ordinance-Rewrite-Board-of-Superv-384). Anyone who does not have access to the internet may call 703-777-0246 to

submit comments.

The Board's work sessions and public hearings are held at the Loudoun County Government Center, located at 1 Harrison Street SE in Leesburg. The Board's meetings are televised on the county's cable channel, Comcast Government Channel 23 and Verizon FIOS 40, and live-streamed online at [loudoun.gov/meetings](http://loudoun.gov/meetings).

The complete text of the July 6, 2023, Draft Zoning Ordinance currently under review by the Board of Supervisors is available on the county's website at [loudoun.gov/zoningordinancerewrite](http://loudoun.gov/zoningordinancerewrite). Note that the Board has passed dozens of motions to amend the draft text during its work sessions in September and October. The final version of the ordinance proposed for adoption will be available for review prior to the Dec. 13, public hearing.

The county's existing zoning ordinance, the Revised 1993 Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance, is posted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 »

## LAURA TEKRONY

FOR LITTLE RIVER SUPERVISOR

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### LAURA TEKRONY KNOWS Putting Community First Protects Our Quality of Life



-  Commit to passing the lowest possible tax rate while adequately funding our schools.
-  Accelerate building a new high school to alleviate overcrowding.
-  Advocate for more parks, green space, and multi-use trails.

-  Continue working with the community to address concerns with airplane overflights and noise.
-  Diversify our economy and improve standards for data center development.

-  Prioritize crosswalks, roundabouts, turn lanes, and traffic calming to improve safety and reduce congestion.
-  Protect rural Loudoun and preserve our natural and historic resources.


ENDORSED BY:

Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton

Vote Democrat Laura TeKrony on Nov 7th

[www.tekronyforsupervisor.com](http://www.tekronyforsupervisor.com)



Paid for and Authorized by Friends of Laura A. TeKrony



# EICKELBERG

★ TREASURER ★

“THIS NOVEMBER, LOUDOUN VOTERS WILL ELECT A NEW TREASURER.

**ROGER ZURN  
ENDORSED** 

CURRENT TREASURER, ROGER ZURN, IS RETIRING AND HAS ENDORSED ME.

I’M THE ONLY CANDIDATE WITH EXPERIENCE MANAGING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

I’D APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE NOVEMBER 7TH.”

*- Henry C. Eickelberg*



VOTE NOVEMBER 7TH  
ELECT EXPERTISE,  
ELECT EXPERIENCE,  
ELECT **EICKELBERG**



# To sell or not to sell – another go-round for Pullen House

BY VALERIE CURY

At the Town of Purcellville Town Council Meeting on Oct. 10, council voted to approve the subdivision plat for the Clark property located at 331 E G Street. The property is a 1.01-acre lot. The owners are subdividing the lot into one lot consisting of the original home and an additional lot which required certain easements necessary for a future dwelling to include water, sewer and sidewalk easements.

Council Members Boo Bennett said she wanted to separate the sidewalk easement from the subdivision lot vote. She said voting on the subdivision plat and the sidewalk easement were two separate items. "I feel differently about the two items; I would not lump them together," she said.

Said Bennett, "Sidewalks are a pretty big thing in that particular side of G Street. You go 6 ft. or 5 ft. in and you are at peoples' door." She said that she and Council Member Carol Luke "talked to the residents and they are not interested [in sidewalks]."

Bennett said, "We are discussing a historic home, and it will lose a couple of pillars in the front."

The surveyor for the applicant

Steven Chen said, "We are not opposed to the sidewalk easement." He said to do another subdivision plat would cost the applicant extra time and money.

Director of Engineering Planning and Development Dale Lehnig said the sidewalk easement was a request for a future sidewalk "at some point in the future. It would take time and money to the town to acquire a sidewalk easement. So given the opportunity, we had requested it."

Council Member Carol Luke said she had an issue "with that premise. The sidewalk easement on that property won't do any good because there's the whole rest of the street to do. That sidewalk will take their front yards.

"We went to every house on the block and nobody wants that." She said the narrowest road in the town does not have room for a sidewalk.

Lehnig answered back and said, "And neighbors could change ... at some point people may want a sidewalk. All this does is reserve it for the future."

Luke responded, "My issue with that is if we leave it on the property here, what about the rest of the street?"

Lehnig said, "At some point if there was a sidewalk to be put in, at some point then we would have to do the

design. Then we would have to require easements. All this does is for the future. It doesn't hurt the property right now."

Lehnig explained that if she has one sidewalk easement then it is easier to get all of them. She said it took 2 years to get 32 easements on 12th Street. "If we would have had one sidewalk easement in place then we wouldn't have had to go" so long – "It does no harm."

"And it wouldn't have done," said Bennett, "no harm to keep them separated. These narrow streets are in our old part of town and are what is the charm, that I know, I speak of."

Bennett said it was wrong for the applicant to bear the cost to do a new subdivision plat without the sidewalk easement, because the town asked them to put it in. Lehnig said that everything typically "goes on one plat."

"But you made the decision about the sidewalks without anyone talking to citizens or anyone else," said Bennett.

Lehnig said, "There was no decision made to put a sidewalk there." Bennett answered, "But you made a decision to include it in this drawing." "Correct," said Lehnig.

Bennett said that Lehnig made the decision to put the sidewalk easement in

the plat and now that it will be separated the applicant should not bear the cost.

Regarding the sidewalk easement again, Council Member Luke reiterated that if anyone "followed through with a sidewalk, it would take off the steps off the porch. It just seems illogical that someone would even think of doing that."

The council voted no to the sidewalk easement and yes to the subdivision plat. The town will pick up the cost for the applicant to redo their plat.

Mayor Stan Milan put the sale of the Pullen House back on the agenda as he said he had second thoughts about "selling this asset." The half-acre property is located a 301 S 20th Street.

Milan said he visited the old town hall on Main Street when attending a ribbon cutting and he wondered why the property was sold over 12 years ago. He also said it was a shame that the gun shop on Main Street which was at one time a town hall is not still owned by the town. He said the Pullen house property "is large and has potential."

Bennett pointed out that the property has been boarded up for 12 years and there has been a "lack of maintenance

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37 »

## Ram Venkatachalam for Supervisor Little River District, Loudoun County

# BOLD, NEW LEADERSHIP

I am running to make a positive difference in the lives of every resident of Loudoun County, to support a strong local economy, to keep your taxes down, and to keep divisive social politics out of local government.

We have a great county, but we can do even better – and that requires bold, new leadership.

I will bring my 20 years of business experience and community service to the Board of Supervisors – along with my ability to bring people together and achieve common sense results.



The first Supervisor from Little River District should be representative of the most diverse district in our county, while also serving Loudoun as a whole -- from its most suburban and commercial areas to its most rural and historic ones.

I will be that Supervisor, and I welcome your ideas and support.

Ram

Early voting starts September 22nd

November 7th is election day

Paid for and Authorized by Friends of Ram Venkatachalam

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Sheriff Mike Chapman, 12 Years as YOUR Sheriff!

# VS



Craig Buckley, 2 Years as Town of Louisa Police Chief

Number of Personnel Supervised



Annual Budget



Crime Rate Per 1,000 Residents



**BUCKLEY = LESS EXPERIENCE, MORE CRIME  
DON'T PUT YOUR SAFETY AT RISK!**



## Over 600 years of Loudoun law enforcement endorses Buckley

Dear Editor:

In our democratic society, few positions carry as much responsibility and public trust as that of the Sheriff. This role demands a combination of law enforcement expertise, community engagement, and unwavering dedication to upholding the principles of justice and public safety. Craig Buckley brings a wealth of experience and a distinguished career in law enforcement to Loudoun County. Craig

recognizes law enforcement extends beyond enforcing the law; it requires proactive community engagement and building strong relationships with the public through transparency and accountability.

We, the undersigned, have invested years in serving the citizens of Loudoun County with pride and professionalism to make Loudoun County a great place to raise a family and to conduct

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42 »

## Tekrony is ready to lead

Dear Editor:

A Supervisor race to watch is in the Little River District between Laura Tekrony and Ram Venkatachalam. Ms. Tekrony has had eight years' experience working as a staff aide to Chair Phyllis Randall. It is therefore not surprising that she has laid out specific actionable projects and programs she is committed to work for.

In comparison Ram Venkatachalam, who has no overview experience in Loudoun County's challenges and opportunities, has nothing to offer but generalities and cliches. His campaign theme is "Bold, New Leadership." This sounds impressive if one doesn't ask the

question compared to whom? The who happens to be Tony Buffington, also of the Republican Party, who for eight years provided tremendous leadership to his then Blue Ridge constituents. Sorry Tony, your eight years of hard work and leadership get a zero grade from the party's successor candidate.

As for me, I would prefer Ram's campaign promise to be the "The Solid, Old Leadership of Tony Buffington." Then he could be more specific in his priorities instead of: Better Transportation Solutions, Better management of our schools, Sensible Zoning east of 15 and preservation of our land west of 15,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40 »

## I support National Sheriff of the Year – Mike Chapman

Dear Editor:

Loudoun is fortunate to have Sheriff Mike Chapman running for re-election. I know him well, and his opponent too.

For the past 12 years, Mike Chapman has made sure Loudoun is the safest county in the metro region by far – with serious crime down 47%.

That's in stark contrast to the failures of Loudoun's two previous Sheriffs, and to his opponent's inexperience, which would put public safety at risk.

I've spent 35 years in law enforcement and can honestly say that Mike Chapman embodies the best traits of a Sheriff – one who leads with integrity, purpose, and competence, and who consistently delivers results that make a positive difference in our daily lives.

When first elected, Sheriff Chapman embarked on his signature "Step Up" strategy, a cultural shift to improve Service, Technology, Efficiency and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42 »



## Segura gets massive wave of law enforcement endorsements

Dear Editor:

We are now almost at Election Day.

There are big things at stake this fall and we need Virginians to go vote early NOW! Don't wait!

In case you needed some motivation to

get to the polls, I wanted to give you one final campaign update.

Did you know that I was just endorsed by 31 County Sheriffs and Commonwealth's Attorneys representing nearly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42 »

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Cut through the confusion – vote for John Ellis

Dear Editor:

This year's election for County Supervisor in the Catocin district is critical for the future of western Loudoun. Both candidates say they want to preserve the small town and rural character of this beautiful area, but only one is willing to do something about it.

John Ellis' opponent claims the

County is already "winning the race" against over-development, thanks to private conservation easements done by wealthy landowners. In other words, he believes we can rely on the charity of individual citizens without asking the County government to do more.

To confuse the issues, Ellis' opponent likes to throw out cherry-picked

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42 »

## Bob Anderson for Commonwealth's Attorney will put safety first

Dear Editor:

I'm a Democrat. I have been one all my life. But in this upcoming election, I am voting for a Republican, Bob Anderson, for Loudoun County's Commonwealth's Attorney. I'm voting for him because I know him very well, and I know that he will run the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office without even a hint of political, racial, gender

or any other kind of bias.

I served in the Army for 30 years, then I graduated from law school and worked for a well-respected law firm in Washington DC: Venable, LLC. But when I heard there was an opening for a prosecutor in Loudoun County, I decided to apply. Bob was then the Commonwealth's Attorney, and he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 »

## I support Chris Reed for Purcellville Town Council

Dear Editor:

The Town of Purcellville is holding an election on November 7 for the vacated seat on town council.

This race is very important. Purcellville is facing tough issues next year. Council will be working on a budget for next year. We need Chris Reed, who will carefully question the town consultant's high estimates for utility rates and help

come up with solutions that minimize utility rate hikes as debt payments come due. This is exactly what supporters on Council of Chris Reed did in 2023.

We need someone who will pay close attention to how the taxpayer's money is spent by the town. Your tax dollars and utility rates are at stake, and will be too easily compromised by Chris Reed's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42 »

## Ram will be an outstanding member of the BOS

Dear Editor:

As the recently retired Chief of Police for the Town of Middleburg, I know how important it is to work with public servants who care deeply about our community and act with integrity. I was fortunate to work with many of them in the Town and throughout Loudoun County.

Ram Venkatachalam is one of them

and will be an outstanding new member of our Board of Supervisors. Loudoun needs more leaders like Ram. Not political insiders. Someone like Ram, who truly cares about public education and will invest in academics and teachers. We need someone who fully supports and trusts our public schools through and through. I can attest that Ram was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 »



## Setting the record straight

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter as the wife of candidate Geary Higgins for House District 30. I have been through many election cycles but this year's campaign has hit an all-time low.

Candidate Rob Banse presents himself as a retired pastor, a caring "listener who brings people together" while wearing his clerical collar. He says he will reject divisiveness and work with all parties. Yet, Pastor Banse is putting out divisive attack ads that are outright lies.

Geary Higgins has never led or headlined a Stop the Steal rally or stood arm in arm with an Oath Keeper. He did not attend the Jan. 6 rally as inferred.

There is no mention that Banse is a progressive liberal democrat, who is funding his campaign and accepting money from radical PACS that support "Defunding the Police" and "Anti-Semitic" groups. Anyone can fact check this on vpap.org.

His wife proudly posted on Twitter (now X) a photo of him masked and wearing his collar, marching in the BLM defund the police riots in June 2020 in Washington DC. This post has since been removed.

Pastor Rob Banse has proudly campaigned with Delegate Kathy Tran, who sponsored HB2491 the "infanticide bill" (abortion up until the moment of birth and voted NO for medical attention for a baby

abortion survivor born alive) Pastor Banse refers to this as "protecting" reproductive health.

Geary, on the other hand, supports working to find consensus on a common-sense bill to protect life at 15 weeks, when a baby begins to feel pain, with exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother.

As a Loudoun County School Board Member, Geary helped create the Academies of Loudoun, secured the largest pay raise for teachers, added lacrosse as a sport and voted to return unused snow days to the school calendar year. These days were referred to as "Higgins Days" by the teachers and he was previously "Teacher Endorsed" by the LEA when educational excellence was their goal.

Geary has never opposed background checks for purchasing a firearm. He's endorsed by Sheriff Mike Chapman, Sheriff Jeremy Falls, Attorney General Miyares, the Police Benevolence Assoc. and the Police Officers' Defense Coalition.

I don't know what Bible Rob Banse is reading from but as a former CBS INT. Community Bible Study Teaching Director, my Bible tells me in Proverbs 6:16-19 "These six things the Lord hates ... a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that rush to evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community."


*Gail Higgins, Waterford*

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## DEAR LOUDOUN COUNTY NEIGHBOR,

It's been an honor and a privilege serving the citizens of Loudoun County as Clerk of the Circuit Court. I would be honored to continue using my unique qualifications and collaborative leadership approach to serve you for one more term of office. Thank you for putting your trust in me as I have faithfully and impartially served you. I ask all voters of Loudoun County to re-elect me as your Clerk of the Circuit Court on November 7th.

— Gary Clemens





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# “Energy and Freedom” — Gov. Youngkin speaks at energy summit

BY SOPHIA CLIFTON

On Wednesday, Oct. 18, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin spoke at the 2023 Energy Freedom Summit in Tysons, hosted by the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as well as the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

## GOVERNMENT

Youngkin began his speech by addressing what “the future of the energy and power industry is all about. It’s about innovation. And that is at the heart of accelerating to the future.”

“It’s groundbreaking, because when we come together and collectively put ourselves against an objective, we will move mountains.”

The governor then got to the crux of his whole address: “It’s not energy, it’s energy and freedom. It’s energy and freedom. And these two words go together in so many ways.”

Youngkin said he was first using the word freedom to refer to “the entrepreneurial freedom that having reliable and affordable and increasingly clean power presents to Virginians and all Americans.” He then explained his deeper reasoning for using both terms.

“But almost more important today — than the national security interest of having a power and energy sector that fully takes advantage of America’s ability to supply itself — is America’s ability to embrace all aspects of our natural resources and our great innovation.”

“The way we’re going to achieve great things together is through collaboration,” Youngkin said. “We in fact, know that the American Dream is available to everyone. But if we don’t collaborate in opening up opportunities, it’s harder for some versus others.”

Youngkin then began to speak about the Hispanic American community across the nation, citing a couple key statistics in the state.

“The Hispanic community start businesses faster than any other group. On average here we see in Virginia now that we have over 30,000 Hispanic owned businesses, and of course, the Hispanic population is approaching a million Virginians.”

The governor continued. “Exciting things are happening in the Commonwealth of Virginia if you hadn’t noticed. In fact, there’s a lot of people paying attention to what’s going on. We for the first time in 10 years, are seeing every ounce of data point to the fact that the Commonwealth is growing at an

unprecedented rate.”

“I had to go buy new scissors because I’ve worn out mine on ribbon cutting so much over the course of the last year,” Youngkin quipped.

“We have more people working in the Commonwealth of Virginia than in the history of the state. More people in our labor force, more labor, higher labor participation in any time in the last now 12 years,” he said.

With all this growth comes a much greater demand for power — “five times” as much, to be exact. But Youngkin assured summit attendees that “Virginia is ready” to rise to the occasion.

“Innovation is in our hearts for one of the largest hydroelectric pumped storage facilities in the nation, which is in Bath County to the first commercial

that need to always be functioning ... our many seniors who now recognize Virginia’s ranking as the number one place in America to retire. We need the air conditioning to work in their homes in the summer. This is all part of the demand equation, which is stressing the system,” Youngkin stated.

“Three years ago, Virginians were told that the future of powering our homes and harnessing the business aspirations of the future were limited to a single approach that narrowed our options, demanded the retirement of clean burning natural gas facilities and rejected the concept of innovation going forward,” Youngkin said. He explained that such an approach set unrealistic expectations and unleashed increased costs, “putting Virginia’s power future at risk.”

“One of these bills created the Virginia Power Innovation Fund, which will provide support to research and develop innovative energy technologies.”

The new legislation also includes “nuclear hydrogen carbon capture, yes investing in a more advanced battery storage,” Youngkin said. “We have to innovate our way to success as opposed to hoping that it will happen and already taking actions that put the Commonwealth’s power future at risk.”

The governor also highlighted the nuclear education grant fund among the recent legislation, saying it will empower Virginia’s higher education system “to make us the absolute leader in talent development and technological research in order to make sure that nuclear power is at the cornerstone of our power future.”

Youngkin then circled back to the challenge the commonwealth faces in meeting the growing demand for power.

“Last year, the state corporation commission, our regulator here in Virginia, warned in an annual report that the energy reliability in Virginia is in jeopardy. ... If states like Virginia continue to turn off power generation without bringing new resources online, the Mid Atlantic may see blackouts and brownouts at a rate never seen before,” Youngkin said.

“This is where we collectively seize an opportunity to run towards this need,” he said. “I pledged and we are working towards reducing 25% of the regulatory burdens in Virginia. But we also know that we have to take major strides in making it easier to do business.”

“Our Department of Environmental Quality has made huge strides in shortening the permitting process for air and water permits. So new opportunities, new manufacturing facilities, new power generating facilities can come to market faster. We’ve rolled out real transparency in the whole process,” Youngkin said.

“Finally, when we grab hold of an opportunity, and treat it like the groundbreaking, fundamentally changing the future opportunity that they can be, we can move mountains.”

Youngkin continued, saying Virginia should “face our own moonshot opportunity” and become “the very first state to operationalize in a commercial fashion, a small modular reactor.”

The governor wrapped up his speech by sharing how he believes Virginia can accomplish this incredible feat.



nuclear reactor in the nation,” he said. “To our two nuclear facilities now having 80-year licenses, which truly lead the nation.”

“We’re ready to lead. And as the Secretary said just this past Monday, with the award from the Department of Energy for our Jefferson Lab to build a high performance data facility, which will be the world’s most modern super computing and data analytic capability. We are ready to solve big problems, from Northern Virginia to southwest Virginia, to Virginia Beach,” Youngkin said proudly.

“Now as we grow and unleash opportunity families and businesses need to have confidence that when they flip the switch, the lights will come on. That confidence extends to our neonatal units

He continued, “But we collectively have a different plan in motion. We believe that we can, with confidence, march towards a future that has reliable, affordable and increasingly clean power and energy.”

“Earlier this year, I was pleased to work alongside our partners at our state utilities ... to pass legislation that then I was able to sign that reduces power prices for consumers across Virginia. These legislative actions will reduce the per monthly bills for the typical Virginia family by \$14 a month.”

Youngkin said he also signed 10 additional new bills that “take a giant step towards enabling a power future that is affordable, reliable, and increasingly clean.”



# SUPERVISOR CALEB KERSHNER HAS BEEN WORKING TIRELESSLY FOR YOU



- Fighting Joe Biden's inflation and cost of living increases.
- **Opposed yearly tax increases** imposed by the current Board of Supervisors.
- Supported reduction in car personal property tax.
- Advocated for tax rebates from data center revenue.



- Successfully lobbied Richmond and secured operating funding in Governor Youngkin's budget so the new **Sweet Run State Park** in Loudoun County could open.



- Protecting and Promoting Loudoun's Agriculture and Equine Industry. **Working on establishing a Loudoun Agriculture and Equine Center.** Fighting regulations on agriculture and rural businesses.



- **Secured a \$73 million fiber-to-the-home broadband project** to serve over 8,600 homes in Western Loudoun. Scheduled for Summer 2024.



- Restoring, securing, and expediting **critical transportation improvements:** Route 15 North, Route 287/Route 9 Roundabout, Route 15 South and Route 9 safety improvements.

## LOUDOUN COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AGREE CALEB KERSHNER GETS THINGS DONE



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- Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary Clemens



"Caleb has been wise steward of taxpayer dollars and fiscally responsible."  
- Loudoun Treasurer Roger Zurn

"Caleb has been a champion for Loudoun law enforcement!"  
- Loudoun Sheriff Mike Chapman



"Caleb is a good friend and a great Supervisor."  
- Loudoun Commissioner of the Revenue Bob Wertz



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# LCPS Superintendent holds listening session at Tuscarora High School

BY AUDREY CARPENTER

As part of his commitment to increased engagement and transparency, Loudoun County Public School Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence hosted a Community Listening Session at Tuscarora High School in Leesburg Oct. 26.

Dr. Spence began as the new superintendent Sept. 1 after former Superintendent Scott Ziegler was fired in December 2022 by a unanimous school board vote a day after a special grand jury report criticized the school system's handling of two sexual assaults by the same student in 2021, which drew national attention and scrutiny from Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares.

Last month, a jury found Ziegler guilty of retaliation against a special education teacher at Rosa Lee Carter Elementary School in Ashburn when he did not renew her contract after she reported repeated inappropriate sexual touching from an autistic student in her classroom. According to case documents, both the teacher and her aide were touched inappropriately up to 40 times a day.

The teacher has filed a \$1 million civil suit against Zeigler for wrongful termination.

Zeigler is set to be sentenced Jan. 4, 2024 for the unlawful termination conviction by Loudoun County Circuit Court Judge Douglas Fleming Jr., and faces up to a year in prison on the misdemeanor.

According to court records, Ziegler is scheduled to begin another trial on Feb. 20 on one count of making a false statement for claiming during a televised school board meeting that he was unaware of any reports of sexual assaults at Loudoun County Schools.

A \$30 million civil rights lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Alexandria against LCPS in early October 2023 by the first victim of the sexual assault on school grounds in 2021, alleging that school officials did not heed warning signs about

her attacker, attempted to cover up the sexual assault, and did not follow Title IX protocol.

## Rebuilding trust

Due to all the controversy surrounding Zeigler and the school board, several parents expressed at school board meetings throughout 2021-2022 that they had lost trust in the school system regarding the safety of their children and proper handling of complaints from teachers and parents.

In order to help repair that trust, Dr. Spence began hosting listening sessions in September that will continue until April 2024, holding these meetings at each of the county's 18 high schools. Dr. Spence is the former Superintendent of the Virginia Beach City Public School system and was named the 2018 Virginia Superintendent of the Year by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents.

At the meeting Oct. 26, the attendees were asked to participate in small group discussions which focused on three areas: What are your hopes and dreams for students? What is LCPS doing well? Where does LCPS need to improve?

Erika Ogedegbe, the school board member representing the Leesburg District, attended the meeting and said, "I sat in on the interview process to hire Dr. Spence and one of the things we asked him was what his approach would be to getting into schools to be visible and connect with students, staff and parents." She said Dr. Spence's response was that "any leader must do this as part of an entry plan" into the school system.

"He's making good on his promise," she said.

Ogedegbe stated the listening sessions give the public the opportunity to be heard to a greater extent than regular school board meetings because school board meetings limit speakers to a few minutes while listening sessions give more time for attendees for dialogue and

present their suggestions to the superintendent directly.

The school board consists of nine members and all nine seats are up for vote in the upcoming November election. Lauren Shernoff is running for the Leesburg seat against Ogedegbe and also attended the meeting. She said, "In the past, school leadership has not authentically engaged the students, educators and families to know what is needed and how people will be impacted by their policy decisions," and was pleased to see the superintendent holding the listening sessions.

An advocate for school parents' rights, Shernoff has been a public educator for 16 years and currently works as an English and Language Arts facilitator at Guilford Elementary.

## Parent feedback

Becki Dannenberg, a Leesburg resident whose children attend Tuscarora High School, stated, "LCPS does a good job of safety in the schools, communication district-wide and having committed staff who care about the students." Improvements her small group suggested were enhancing the cell phone policy, consistently applying policies across all schools, unified communication tools and bringing back school ranking to recognize high achieving students.

Lori Levine, a Leesburg resident with a child in middle school, added, "High expectations should be set for both academic achievement and also discipline, making sure that students are respectful to teachers and staff."

Other comments from attendees included helping to inform parents whose children are entering kindergarten on what the school policies and procedures are to make the entrance into the school system easier, along with making sure parents and students are aware of what resources are available within the school if a child needs help.

After all the listening sessions are

concluded, Dr. Spence explained a research and evaluation team will do a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the information collected and then that information will be forwarded to the superintendent's cabinet. Smaller focus groups will then meet to further discuss conclusions from the listening sessions. The top priorities will be shared with the school board with associated funding requests.

For priorities identified that don't need funding, such as policy changes for student conduct or grading, Levine asked Dr. Spence whether those are actionable in the short term.

"Yes, it is actionable," Dr. Spence said, but made it clear that it could be several months before changes are implemented.

## Office of the Ombuds

LCPS established the Office of the Ombuds in September 2022 which provides students, families, employees and members of the school community with assistance to help resolve concerns, conflicts and issues arising within the school system.

Carey Williams is the Ombuds and her role is impartial, independent and informal, keeping information received confidential.

Ombuds cards were available at the listening meeting and distributed to attendees. Dr. Spence made a point to let attendees know that while it may take some time to synthesize all the information collected from the listening sessions, if there is a current need or concern, parents, students and staff can use the Ombuds to facilitate problem solving. Williams reports to the Chief of Staff for LCPS.

A list of future listening sessions can be found here: <https://www.lcps.org/Page/250740>.

If you are unable to attend a listening session but would like to offer feedback, you can do so here: <https://www.lcps.org/Page/251934>.



Photo: Audrey Carpenter





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- Fought for Competitive Teacher Pay Raises
- Established the LCPS Academies of Loudoun
- Fought to Preserve the Small Schools in Western Loudoun

#### Improving our Local Community While Serving as Catoclin Supervisor

- Reduced Loudoun County Property Tax Rate by \$.28 cents Over Eight Years
- Funded Key Loudoun Transportation Projects with \$2.6B in FY2019 Capital Improvement Program for Roads
- Led County efforts to purchase Sweet Run State Park
- Initiated long overdue Route 15 improvements

#### Preserving Our Past

- Secured funding for the old Waterford Mill rehabilitation and restoration
- Led efforts to establish Bluemont as a Historic District
- Received the Loudoun Preservation Society 1984 Award for the Restoration of The Brooks Tavern House in Bluemont, VA
- The Higgins family donated the Historic E.E. Lake Store in Bluemont, Virginia to Loudoun County

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# Candidates for BOS Chair debate key Loudoun Co. issues

BY SOPHIA CLIFTON

On Friday, Oct. 13, the candidates for the Chair at Large on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors attended an early morning debate which was sponsored by the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce. The event was held at the National Conference Center in Leesburg. The three candidates running for the position are two-term Chair Phyllis Randall (D), the Republican candidate Gary Katz, and Sam Kroiz who is running as an Independent.

Kroiz kicked off the debate by introducing himself as a local goat farmer and explaining why he chose to run as an independent.

"I'm running as an independent because all of our



problems are the result of our political parties and the fact that they can't solve any problems. They're too busy fighting about typical partisan things that they like to fight about all the time. [They] can't ever seem to reach any practical compromises. And that kind of distracts from the main thing that they do which is give sweet-heart deals to developers at every turn," Kroiz said.

Incumbent Chair Phyllis Randall introduced herself by highlighting some of the economic success Loudoun is experiencing despite the nationwide downturn that occurred during the pandemic.

"We have the lowest unemployment rate. We created over 93,000 private sector jobs, and at \$153,000 still have the highest median income in the country. And we did all that while retaining our triple AAA bond," she said.

Randall then thanked the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce for endorsing her as a "friendly incumbent, meaning that my policies and our policies in Loudoun County were so business friendly."

Republican candidate and businessman Gary Katz had the final introduction, and he cut right to the chase regarding his plan to reduce taxes in the county.

"I know what it takes to incentivize the client. First, the destructive impacts of the zoning ordinance rewrite need to be mitigated. Second, we need to create more commercial zoning. There's space for new businesses to actually come in to Loudoun County. Third, we need to create affordable housing.

"We need people to be able to live here and work here to be able to sustain those new businesses that we'd like

to have come. If we accomplish these three initiatives, we'll succeed in keeping taxes low and everybody wins."

The first point of discussion in the debate was each candidates' top priorities.

Kroiz began by saying his "first priority would be to take political parties out of local government decision making." He added, "I'll do that just by being elected as the chairman." Kroiz said his second priority would be to "not move any of the policy area boundaries."

"The public overwhelmingly does not want any boundaries to be shifted," he said.

Randall said her top three priorities included a strategic housing plan, a rewrite for the zoning ordinance, and building a Human Services campus that would include nonprofits, the health department and county government all in one place.

"It's hard to hurt in Loudoun County," Randall said. "You shouldn't have to go to the five different places."

Katz echoed his introduction with his top priorities, reiterating that he wants to work on the zoning ordinance, affordable housing and getting businesses to come to Loudoun County, especially data centers. "You need to create commercialism," Katz said.

Throughout the debate, the candidates kept coming back to their top priorities, with data centers being one of the first major discussions.

"If the data centers were to leave overnight, our taxes would all go up by 63.4% and we don't want that," Katz stated. "At the same time, we have areas that are right for data centers. Not near anywhere someone would want to live."

Katz continued, "We shouldn't be biting the hand that feeds us, we should be working with the data center community to find equitable and good solutions for Loudoun County."

"We do have to make sure we manage the data center industry appropriately," Kroiz replied. "It's not the data centers' fault, but the data centers have enabled us to get to this point where we are having to approve these new developments to get the billions of dollars up front to pay the costs from past projects."

"And we're almost having to approve new data centers to get more data center money to make up for those costs," he said.



"Data centers bring about \$800 million revenue in Loudoun County every year. They are a vital part of our economy," Randall said. She later added that "data centers do not belong 200 feet from a person's front door. They just do not."

"With the data centers come powerlines, and no one wants humongous powerlines in their backyard," Randall continued. "We have to get the zoning ordinance done so that we can get some restraints where data centers are allowed."

Randall's determination to finish the zoning ordinance during her next term was evident in her remarks during the debate.

"We started a zoning ordinance rewrite after the last time it was done in 1993," Randall said. "I want to see that through to completion."

"At this point, of the 12 chapters of the zoning ordinance, we've put to bed five of those 12 chapters," Randall added.

"I think that doing the zoning ordinance rewrite notionally is a good idea, but why is it being crammed down everyone's throats on such an accelerated schedule? That just is completely baffling to me," Katz said.

"Former supervisor Geary Higgins was saying that they had a zoning ordinance that was done before the last election and that they could have passed it then but they decided to put it off," Kroiz said. "So, they had already put a lot of work into it four years ago, they've been working on it for four years. And to me that is just a sign of lack of vision from the top and leadership."

Kroiz came back to the issue of affordable housing that both Katz and Randall had already brought up in their priorities.

"I think a better way to tackle [affordable housing] is to incentivize developers to build units that are affordable by design, because of the nature of what they are rather than through a government program, which has not been working out pretty well," Kroiz said.

Randall chimed in. "I made the motion to put five cents on the tax rate. All that money goes to our affordable housing trust fund — the first time Loudoun County



# OUR LOUDOUN SCHOOL BOARD IS FAILING OUR CHILDREN



## FAILING ACHIEVEMENT

Student Achievement Data Shows Little Growth from Last Year

"Students are still struggling to reach pre-pandemic levels in reading, math, science, history and writing."<sup>1</sup>



## FALLING ENROLLMENT

Loudoun County Public School Enrollment Falls Again

Enrollment is down by 2,046 students since the COVID pandemic. LCPS had 84,175 students in Fall of 2019 and only 82,129 students this fall 2023.<sup>2</sup>



## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Loudoun Schools Accreditation Affected Under New Chronic Absenteeism Model

"66 out of 98 Loudoun County Public Schools have a chronic absenteeism rate of 16-25%."<sup>3</sup>

1. [https://www.loudounnow.com/news/student-achievement-data-shows-little-growth-from-last-year/article\\_9d2027de-690b-11ee-bd77-b78cb213331e.html](https://www.loudounnow.com/news/student-achievement-data-shows-little-growth-from-last-year/article_9d2027de-690b-11ee-bd77-b78cb213331e.html); 2. [https://www.loudounnow.com/news/loudoun-county-public-school-enrollment-falls-again/article\\_e700d8fa-6936-11ee-a051-a3b8347ee4a0.html](https://www.loudounnow.com/news/loudoun-county-public-school-enrollment-falls-again/article_e700d8fa-6936-11ee-a051-a3b8347ee4a0.html); 3. [https://www.loudounnow.com/news/loudoun-schools-accreditation-affected-under-new-chronic-absenteeism-model/article\\_0e8d9256-eb46-11ed-8141-63b791b7549b.html](https://www.loudounnow.com/news/loudoun-schools-accreditation-affected-under-new-chronic-absenteeism-model/article_0e8d9256-eb46-11ed-8141-63b791b7549b.html)

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# Purcellville Council contentiously debates letter to VDOT re 7/690

BY VALERIE CURY

At the Oct. 10 Town Council meeting Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut asked the town council and the town attorney to review a draft letter written by the planning commission to VDOT Commissioner Stephen C. Birch and Deputy Chief Commissioner Cathy McGhee. The letter lays out concerns regarding the Rt. 7/690 Interchange. After review the letter was forwarded to the Oct. 24 Town Council meeting for discussion.

The letter outlines previous town council and planning commission

concerns and questions regarding modifications to the interchange. These modifications include properties that would be required for the project; the safety implications to the citizens; the traffic conditions expected; and the impact of the flood plain conditions along the South Fork Catoclin Creek to town citizens.

The letter says that the information provided by county representatives is “in direct contradiction to what we have learned from various interchange documents to include the Environmental

Assessment, the VDOT approved 2019 Rt. 7/690 amended Interchange Justification Report and the 2019 technical memorandum.”

The letter reviews in detail the safety concerns regarding crash fatalities and injuries mentioned in the IJR, and crash analysis and conclusions. There is also concern that the county knew that town private properties and common space would be used for right of way and drainage easements.

The letter asks for an “in-person response from your team regarding this pressing matter.”

Council Member Mary Jane Williams didn't like that the letter mentioned concern for only “our cherished residents, including parents, children and teachers.”

“Do we not care about our guests in town? You need to include anybody, not just who you mentioned.”

Council Member Erin Rayner said she “didn't like the way the letter has been written. It's not truly objective,” and has “a lot of emotion written in it.”

Mayor Stan Milan said it's the first time he was looking at it and he didn't like the language.

He also said he was introduced “today on the crash analysis for the build and no build. The fatalities, yes, will increase and the accidents will increase because there's a no build and then there's a build.

“Accidents for the build shows an increase. And the reason is because you build the road and added more inflections and more obstacles on the road. So therefore, that would be logical that you will have more accidents because it's built then if you didn't build it.

“So there should be more accidents,” said Milan. “If you don't build it nothing happens.”

He said the wording in the letter was aggressive. “I would like to change our image that we present to the county, since we're on a good track to improve that relationship.”

“So as it stands now, I can't put my signature on it.”

Citing a paragraph that was “very respectfully pointing out that the town council was provided with answers [from the county] that contradicted the IJR and other reports,” Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said, “That's a polite way of saying that we were being lied to, so if you find that aggressive, I don't understand.”

Interrupting Bertaut, Milan said, “I didn't say that was aggressive, OK.” Milan said he didn't like the word immediate and “It's critical to emphasize. Those are the language I am referring to.” He said he didn't like “urgently request either.” Bertaut said the “examples were

helpful.”

Council Member Boo Bennett said, “I'll just say quickly, I'm for no deaths. So I don't want it built.” She reminded Milan that the letter was being sent to the state, not the county.

She continued, “VDOT needs to be aware. FEMA needs to be aware of what the heck is going on. I know the county knows. We need to make people at the state level aware. That's why it is important. So it's old news to us; but I don't think these people have been informed properly.”

## October 10 Town Council citizen comments regarding Rt. 7/690

In the Purcellville Town Council citizen comments portion of the Oct. 10 meeting Ron Rise Sr. opened with a question. “What does the County Rt. 7/690 approved 2019 Interchange Justification Report say about safety?”

He said crash rates resulting in fatality and injury on the proposed interchange ramps “are 10 times greater if the interchange is built in Purcellville.

“The increase in crashes is attributed to the increase in traffic volumes through the interchange due to the reversion of traffic from Rt. 9 during the peak a.m. and peak hours.

“The county and VDOT rationale is that these predicted crash rates resulting in fatality, injury and property loss for the no build and the 690 Interchange are 30 to 40 % lower [when compared to] the Northern Virginia District interstate average, and 60 to 65 % lower than the Northern Virginia District primary Road average crash rates.”

He said, “according to a Northern Virginia VDOT traffic engineer's email in August 2019, the Interchange Justification Report safety analysis is no longer valid and a new analysis is needed for the roundabout interchange design.”

Concerning traffic according to the IJR, Rise Sr. also said “it predicts a decrease of a level of service to a D on the Rt. 7 east and west bound main lanes and east of the Rt. 287 Interchange for both the no build and the 690 Interchange scenarios.

“The Rt. 7 westbound off ramp at Purcellville and the 287 Berlin Turnpike will continue to operate at an E level of service in both the no build 690 Interchange build scenarios in 2040.

“Also on Purcellville's Main Street in 2040 queuing simulations show significant queuing and blocking along Main Street under both the build and no build scenarios. It is attributed to insufficient capacity of a single westbound lane through downtown Purcellville.”

Rise Sr. continued that according to the same NOVA traffic VDOT

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 »

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On Oct. 11, the Virginia General Assembly celebrated the public opening of the General Assembly Building with a ribbon cutting ceremony, plaque unveiling and public tours of the first purpose-built office building for America’s first and oldest legislative body that’s been serving the people of Virginia since 1619.

The new building, known as the GAB, features spacious meeting rooms, modern technology, inviting food services, and many other amenities and public spaces designed to make it easier for the public to visit and participate in the legislative process. It is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays from Oct. 12, and when the General Assembly is in session on weekends. It is located at 201 N. 9th Street in Richmond.

“This new GAB will enable constituents, visitors, and all interested parties to more easily observe and actively participate in the lawmaking process,” said Virginia House of Delegates Speaker C. Todd Gilbert. “This new building will better ensure that the people’s business is conducted in a much more timely, open, accessible and transparent manner. In fact, the GAB’s opening underscores the continuing resolve of all Virginia’s leaders to help facilitate more understanding of, learning about, and involvement in the conduct of sound public policy and sensible lawmaking.”

“It’s an exciting day for the commonwealth when we can come together to celebrate the opening of this much-anticipated building,” said Sen. Mamie E. Locke, Chair, Senate Rules Committee. “The GAB is a symbol not only of creative architecture, careful preservation, expert craftsmanship and steadfast project management, but of Virginia’s commitment to providing a modern, welcoming space for the public participate in the legislative process.”

# New General Assembly Building opens



“It is apt that we gather here on the GAB’s front steps, at the very heart of our Commonwealth’s civic life and ongoing experiment in representative self-government, to open the first purpose-built legislative building in over 400 years for the Virginia General Assembly,” said G. Paul Nardo, Clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates and Keeper of the Rolls of the Commonwealth. “It’s a towering accomplishment, but it’s also a fitting tribute and long-lasting testament to the patience, perseverance and alacrity of so very many. We are thrilled to finally mark this major milestone.”

“This beautiful building you see before you is the culmination of years of planning, countless hours of meetings,

and close collaboration between so many people for so many years. It’s truly a labor of love for many of us,” said Senate Clerk Susan Clarke Schaar. “I’m thankful we are at a point where we can open the doors and share this with everyone.”

A time capsule that will be buried at the GAB at a later date was on display following the ceremony. More than 70 items – including legislative publications, popular pins, ornaments highlighting Capitol Square, photos, electronics used in the old building and materials associated with the House and Senate Page Programs for 13- and 14-year-old youth – will be placed in the time capsule.

Legislative offices moved out of the old General Assembly Building in 2017 for construction of the new building, overseen by the Department of General Services. Constructed on the same footprint as the former building with the same name, the GAB is 414,000 square feet with 14 stories above grade and one below. The Modern Classical design incorporates the existing original 1912 façade of one of the previous buildings that were combined to form the original legislative office building. That façade was stabilized in place during demolition and the new building rose around it.

The lower four floors include various key public functions, including committee rooms, food services, a constituent center and other useful meeting facilities. It is connected via tunnels to the new parking deck at the corner of Broad and 9th Streets, which opened earlier this year, and to the Capitol’s underground Visitor’s Center. The tunnel from the GAB to the Capitol is expected to open ahead of the 2024 session of the General Assembly.

For more information, visit <https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/>.

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This project was supported, in part by grant number 90SAPG0064, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.





# Clemens taps Deputy Clerk to lead probate division

On Sept. 1, deputy clerk Bill Loy retired after 49 years of service in the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office. Loy served as the probate manager for Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary M. Clemens for the past 22 years. “Bill was a valuable public servant and offered the best probate services in the entire Commonwealth of Virginia,” said Clemens. “Loudoun residents were truly well-served by this outstanding public servant.”

Clemens recently selected the next probate manager for his office by promoting deputy clerk Joy Hayes for the post in his office. Hayes has worked as a deputy clerk for the past 18 years, serving as a probate specialist for the past 9 years.

During her tenure the volume of probate cases and proceedings has increased 33% and some probate matters are also more complex. “Joy Hayes has demonstrated

exceptional knowledge and expertise with the delivery of probate services to Loudoun residents,” said Clemens after announcing her promotion to the leadership post in his office. “While Joy has many strengths and talents to lead this team, her most important virtue is her sincere and genuine empathy for individuals

going through a very challenging and stressful situation in their life after losing a loved one.”

In addition to appointing a new manager for the probate division, Clemens has plans to launch a new probate technology system that will enhance probate services. He also recently added a new full-time position to the probate team.

“In light of the 33% growth in probate cases, an additional position is necessary to address the needs of our probate clients,” Clemens said. “We have the best

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 »



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# Smith selected as Loudoun's Director of Building and Development

Betsy Smith is the new director of the Loudoun County Department of Building and Development, announced County Administrator Tim Hemstreet. Smith, whose appointment was effective Oct. 26, was selected after a nationwide recruitment. She has been serving as acting director of the department following the retirement of former director Alan Brewer in July.



Prior to joining the Loudoun County government as deputy director of the Department of Building

and Development in June 2022, Smith held a variety of positions in the land development field in the public and private sector, including the Fairfax County government in Virginia and the Frederick County government in Maryland.

"Ms. Smith exhibited outstanding knowledge and experience among a competitive pool of applicants for this position," said Hemstreet. "She has demonstrated exceptional leadership since joining the county and I believe her

expertise in all aspects of building and development throughout our region has prepared her well for this key role in the county government."

As director of the Department of Building & Development, Smith will be responsible for enforcing the construction-related codified ordinances, which provide for the public's safety and welfare as structures and facilities are constructed in the county.

The department also enforces best engineering practices, statewide building codes and other environmental regulations during design and construction, approves plans, conducts a broad

range of inspections and issues building, trade, zoning and grading permits.


In addition, the department is responsible for ensuring construction sites remain compliant with the erosion and sediment control and stormwater management regulations of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and managing public improvements through bonding, proffers and water resources programs.

Smith holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Union College.

More information about the Department of Building and Development is online at [loudoun.gov/bd](http://loudoun.gov/bd).



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# 'Maintenance' defined in onsite sewage treatment system ordinance

During its Oct. 11, public hearing, the Board of Supervisors amended the Loudoun County Codified Ordinances related to the "maintenance" of onsite sewage treatment systems.

An amendment to Chapter 1066.01 (Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems) adds a definition for "maintenance" that serves to identify sewage treatment system components which, when replaced, will require a permit issued by the Loudoun County Health Department.

The change follows the department's transition from administration by the Commonwealth of Virginia to the county. The department's Environmental Health Division has identified parts of the ordinance that require amendments because of the transition, including those that govern onsite sewage treatment systems.

Previously, the Loudoun County Codified Ordinances did not reference "maintenance;" repair or

replacement of certain components of an existing onsite sewage treatment system were subject to Virginia Department of Health requirements and procedures. This amendment defines "maintenance," which in turn

identifies what components do, or do not, require a permit to replace.

For more information about the Health Department's environmental services, go to [loudoun.gov/eh](http://loudoun.gov/eh).

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# Loudoun General District Courthouse is open

Loudoun County's new General District Courthouse opened to the public on Oct. 31. The new courthouse is located at 2 Church Street NE in Leesburg, adjacent to the existing courthouse, which remains open. The Loudoun County Courthouse Complex is now comprised of three courthouses: the Loudoun County General District Courthouse, the Loudoun County Courthouse and the historic Charles Hamilton Houston Courthouse.

With the opening of the new courthouse, which was celebrated at an Oct. 25 ribbon cutting, several courts and judicial services are moving. The General District Court, Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney and Department of Community Corrections are currently in the process of moving into the new courthouse.

## GOVERNMENT

The Loudoun County Courthouse, located at 18 E. Market Street in Leesburg, will continue to house the Circuit Court, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Juvenile Court Service Unit and the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Up-to-date information regarding all courts and judicial services are posted on the county's website at [loudoun.gov/courts](http://loudoun.gov/courts).

The Department of Community Corrections' Leesburg operations will be consolidated into the new General District Courthouse, located on the lower level of the building with operations at its current Leesburg locations closing permanently. The department's

Probation Services located at 107 Loudoun Street SE in Leesburg closed to the public permanently on Oct. 27; and the department's Pretrial Services located at 209 Gibson St. NW in Leesburg closed to the public permanently on Oct. 30. More information about the department is posted at [loudoun.gov/communitycorrections](http://loudoun.gov/communitycorrections).

The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney also will now be located within the new General District Courthouse. This new, primary office is where staff will interact with members of the public. The existing location of the Commonwealth's Attorney in the historic Valley Bank Building at 20 E. Market St. in Leesburg closed to the public permanently at 5 p.m. on Oct. 30. The building will be renovated for future use. More information about the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney is posted at [loudoun.gov/commonwealthsattorney](http://loudoun.gov/commonwealthsattorney).

All visitors to the courthouse complex should pay close attention to the building in which their business is located. To ensure you arrive on time for court and other appointments, all visitors are encouraged to allow ample time to locate the courthouse, park, make your way from the parking area to the courthouse, and pass through security screening. Detailed information about planning your visit to the courthouse is posted online at [loudoun.gov/courthouse](http://loudoun.gov/courthouse).

### • Court Services:

The public can verify their court date and time on the state's website at [vacourts.gov](http://vacourts.gov).

### • Accommodations Requests:

Visitors can request accommodations or

auxiliary services by contacting the county's ADA Coordinator at 571-258-3282 (TTY 711) or by email.

### • Parking:

Free public parking is available at the Pennington Lot and Pennington Garage, located at 210 Church Street NE in Leesburg.

The courthouse is located approximately 3 blocks away from the Pennington Lot and Garage.

Free shuttle service to and from the Pennington Lot and Garage and the Courthouse Complex is currently available weekdays.

In addition to the accessible parking located at the Pennington Lot and Garage, accessible parking for the Courthouse Complex is available at the Semones Parking Lot, which is located at the intersection of North Street NE and Cornwall Street NE in Leesburg.

### • Security Screening:

Visitors who enter any courthouse are required to pass through security screening, which is operated by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office.

Cameras, including cell phones with a built-in camera, laptops, tablets, smartwatches, etc. are prohibited in the courthouse. Weapons are also prohibited.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 »



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# Leesburg Council discusses Liberty Street ground study

On Monday Oct. 23, the Leesburg Town Council discussed the finding of the recently conducted Liberty Street parking remediation study performed by USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc.

**GOVERNMENT** The site of the current parking lot was previously used as a municipal landfill from the 1940s to the mid-1950s. The town council has been considering possible redevelopment opportunities for the site. The study, which was conducted in several phases from April to August, investigated and

characterized the material contained beneath the pavement, in order to determine what level of site remediation would be necessary.

The investigation, which included geophysical testing and drilling, along with water and soil sampling, identified materials consistent with the former landfill to depths of up to 22 feet below grade. Complete removal of refuse material would generate approximately 35,000 cubic yards of combined soil and refuse material.

Soil sampling indicated that there is

a significant portion of material that would need to be removed for full site remediation that would be classified as hazardous material based on the levels of petroleum hydrocarbons, lead, and cadmium. Much of the mixed material would not be accepted at the Loudoun County Landfill due to the concentrations of lead and other constituents present.

Following Monday's presentation, the council was asked to determine the long term intended use of the Liberty Street parking lot before deciding on a course

of action.

If left as a parking lot, no remediation would be needed. However, if the town decides to remediate part or all of the property, they could consider the Voluntary Remediation Program administered by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The voluntary program is designed to help property owners remediate contaminated sites. It would provide a pathway to obtain state regulatory approval of future remediation and limit potential

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40 »

## Loudoun expands farm equipment property tax exemptions

During its Oct. 11, public hearing, the Board of Supervisors amended the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County related to tax exemptions for farm equipment.

**GOVERNMENT** Chapter 860.06 – Exemptions for Farm Animals, Certain Grains, Agricultural Products, Farm Machinery, Farm Implements and Equipment was amended to exempt the following from personal property taxes effective Jan. 1, 2024:

Motor vehicles used primarily for

agricultural purposes where the owner is not required to obtain a registration certificate, license plate, decal or pay a registration fee.

Privately owned trailers primarily used by a farmer in the farming operation for the transportation of farm animals or other farm products.

Season-extending hoop houses used for in-field production of produce.

More information about taxes in Loudoun County may be found at [loudoun.gov/taxes](http://loudoun.gov/taxes).



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## Increase awarded for Rt. 7/287 Interchange improvements

At a recent meeting of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Finance, Government Operations and Economic Development Committee, staff, serving the Committee, recommended a contract increase for the Rt.7/287 interchange improvements.

Located in the Town of Purcellville, the increase recommendation is for \$80,232.94, bringing the overall total amount to \$2,616,687.24. Volkert, a planning, engineering, and construction services company, is the lead contractor performing the work.

### GOVERNMENT

The interchange improvement is a Capital Improvement Program project slated to provide operational improvements to the entire interchange. This includes pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements to the W&OD Trail. Local tax revenue, cash proffer contributions, and Smart Scale money currently fund the initiative.

Thanks to a Virginia Department of Transportation study in 2012, proposed improvements became an integral

part of the Smart Scale application. In 2019, an RFP was issued for Roadway and Civil Design Services for Rt.7/287 Interchange improvements.

Of the nine proposals received and evaluated – carried out by a Proposal Analysis Group from the Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure – Volkert Inc. was chosen. Loudoun County entered into a contract with Volkert, under staff authority, not to exceed \$2,000,000. The total negotiated cost of the contract was \$1,992,802.20.

In 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved unanimously “an award authority increase of \$61,900. The revision of the 30% plans include the American Disability Act compliant shared use path and associated modification to the designs, and revision of the 30% signal plans to incorporate an additional signalized pedestrian crossing at the Hirst Road intersection. This includes the addition of pedestrian actuated signals and pushbuttons.”

Since the contract award, updates to

VDOT and County standards and policies have occurred and have required modifications to the design outlined in the Smart Scale application.

VDOT maintains Rt.7/287, but Rt.287 is also included in the Town of Purcellville’s 2009 Adopted Town-wide Transportation Plan. As a result, according to staff, town staff has commented on the interchange improvement plans and has requested modifications. Several comments related to safety concerns were addressed and integrated into the design by the design team.

According to a County report, the proximity of the proposed Rt.7/690 Interchange has also affected the analysis of traffic at the Rt.7/287 Interchange. Authorities anticipated Rt.7/690 Interchange would be operational when the Rt.7/287 Interchange was completed. Due to delays in the Rt.7/690 development, additional traffic analyses have been conducted to determine the effects of the Rt.7/690 delay on the operation of the Rt.7/287 Interchange.

The current request is pursuant to the Board’s Adopted Procurement Resolution, which requires agreements in excess of \$2,000,000 be approved by the full Board. The design team has been tasked with conducting additional work on the Rt.7/287 Interchange due to updated VDOT and County standards and policies, as well as comments and actions taken by the town regarding this interchange and the proposed Rt.7/690 Interchange. As a result, Loudoun County Transportation staff requested Volkert perform additional tasks to support the interchange design since the Sept. 21, 2021 award authority increase.

Sufficient funding is available in the Rt.7/287 Interchange Improvements Capital Improvement Program project’s budget to increase the award of the contract for the Roadway and Civil Design Services to Volkert, Inc. by \$80,232.94 for a new award amount of \$2,616,687.24.

## Dulles Airport to break ground on new concourse

BY AUDREY CARPENTER

Dulles International Airport plans to build a new 14-gate concourse and is just weeks away from breaking ground, with plans to open in 2026.

Though the new concourse would be located the farthest from the main terminal, it would have an AeroTrain station below it, alleviating commute times. The AeroTrain is a 3.78-mile underground shuttle, similar to the Metro system, and transports passengers between the Main Terminal building and Concourses A, B and C.

The trains run every two minutes, which makes it a popular and effective way to get passengers where they need to be quickly, according to airport officials.

The 400,000-square-foot Tier-2 Concourse (East) will be above the current underground Concourse C/D and will replace gates built in the 1990s which force passengers to go outdoors onto the tarmac to board planes, said Robert Yingling, spokesman for the Metropolitan



Washington Airports Authority.

MWAA CEO Jack Potter said the new concourse represents the most significant upgrade at Dulles in many years and would be four times larger than the current footprint of Concourse A, which was built as a temporary structure but is now too small to meet demand.

The project is estimated to cost \$675 million and MWAA has selected Bethesda-based Clark Construction

as the contractor. The contract was awarded on Jan. 18. MWAA plans to pay for the new concourse through bonds and a new Federal Aviation Administration grant, made possible by the Infrastructure Act of 2021, that helps airports upgrade or replace aging facilities.

In addition to the 14 indoor gates, an airline lounge, concessions, restrooms and offices will be built along with operational areas for servicing aircraft, handling baggage and other airport and airline functions, said Yingling.

United Airlines, the largest carrier at Dulles, will determine how the gates are used and will accommodate a wide range of planes, he said.

“The amount of growth in the region makes this project necessary,” Yingling said. “Annually, 25 million passengers travel through Dulles Airport.” With the opening of Metro’s Silver Line in November 2022 which includes a Dulles Airport stop, airport authorities anticipate airplane travel will continue to increase.

## Ogden Music to hold recital at Bethany United Methodist Church

Ogden Music, at [ogdenmusic.org](http://ogdenmusic.org), will sponsor a recital by piano students of Alan Ogden Sunday afternoon, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. in Purcellville at Bethany United Methodist Church. The church is located at 100 W Main Street in Purcellville. Bethany United Methodist Church is an older stone structure located in the center of Purcellville at the intersection of Main Street and Nursery Avenue.

### COMMUNITY

Music is a universal language, and beautiful music is a gift to the world and to our future, and it is an art form in which anyone can participate. “Great music can lift us above pettiness, anger, envy, and fear, and help us lift our faces to the stars,” said Ogden.

As stated in the mission statement in their website, “For us, musical education is both a concentration on good technique and a commitment to

aesthetical development. There is a wide world of beautiful classical music, and a many-centuries’ old tradition which we should challenge ourselves – and in particular our children and youth – to become involved in and to advance.”

The recital will be held at Bethany United Methodist Church in Purcellville. For more information about the recital, or further interest, contact [Questions@ogdenmusic.org](mailto:Questions@ogdenmusic.org).



# Loudoun Health Department comments on preventing respiratory illnesses

Loudoun County health officials encourage residents to stay current on the latest recommendations for preventing respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, seasonal flu and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). As colder weather arrives and

**HEALTH** Loudoun residents increase indoor activities, the potential for the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses also increases. Health officials advise that getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent illness due to viruses.

“We recommend that Loudoun residents talk to their health care providers about receiving the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine, as well as the flu and RSV vaccines,” said Loudoun County Health Department Director Dr. David Goodfriend. “COVID-19 and flu vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older and is especially important for people who are 65 and older and for people with compromised immune systems because they are at higher risk for severe illness and hospitalization.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its COVID-19 vaccine recommendation in September. The updated COVID-19 vaccines made by Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax have been approved by the federal government for use this season.

The new COVID-19 vaccine is now available at many pharmacies and physicians’ offices. Visit [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov) or text your zip code to GETVAX (438829) to find available vaccination appointments at nearby medical offices and pharmacies.

While the federal program that made COVID-19 vaccines free for everyone during the pandemic is no longer in effect, the CDC states that most residents can still get a COVID-19 vaccine for free to them. For people with health insurance, most plans will cover COVID-19 vaccine at no cost. Adults who do not have health insurance or have health plans that do not cover the cost can get a free vaccine from local pharmacies participating in the CDC’s Bridge Access Program.

This year, Loudoun County will not be a provider of COVID-19 vaccine to the general public as the county was during the earlier stages of the pandemic. The Loudoun County Health Department is prepared to provide vaccine to income-eligible residents and to residents who do not have health

insurance.

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, consider getting tested. The federal government is once again offering residents four free COVID-19 rapid test kits. Residents can order the free test kits online at [covid.gov/tests](http://covid.gov/tests).

Residents also can take action to protect themselves against other respiratory illnesses, including the seasonal flu and RSV. Health officials recommend that residents protect themselves against the seasonal flu virus by getting a flu vaccine, which can be administered at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine. Residents can find flu vaccine providers in the community online at [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov).

Vaccines also are available to protect infants and older adults from severe RSV. RSV vaccine is recommended for those under 8 months and over 60 years of age, as well as for pregnant women to help protect their babies. To learn more about RSV, visit [cdc.gov/rsv](http://cdc.gov/rsv).

In addition to getting vaccinated, there are a few simple steps that everyone in the community can follow to help prevent the spread of the germs that cause all types of respiratory illnesses. Health officials encourage everyone to practice these prevention measures throughout the year:

- **Stay home when sick:** Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If you are sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them. Also consider getting tested for COVID-19 or the flu.
- **Cover coughs and sneezes:** Cover your nose and mouth with your inside of your elbow, or with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- **Wash your hands properly and often with soap and water:** If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth:** Germs spread this way.
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects:** Surfaces may be contaminated with viruses that cause flu.

For more information about the Loudoun County Health Department, visit [loudoun.gov/health](http://loudoun.gov/health).



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# When Thanksgiving was the start of the holidays in Purcellville

BY LIZ TENNEY JARVIS

Looking back to a time when holiday decorations were not out in stores before Halloween, many long-time Purcellville residents reflect on when Thanksgiving was the exciting start of the season. The shopping, celebrating, dreaming and the gathering together would then begin in earnest.

Nancy Walsh bought a Radio Flyer wagon for her daughter's first Christmas (won't say how many years ago). "The nice thing was that you did not have to put it together," she exclaimed.

A good number of memories float back to Nichols Hardware as downtown was lively and exciting that time of year. Valerie Gallahan remembers going to Nichols Hardware and sitting on Santa's lap. "My parents would go there and put our Christmas on layaway."

Debbie Allen Stamper said, "remembering when I worked for my step-dad who owned Jim's Shoe Repair which was across from Nichols Hardware Store back in late 60's/early 70's. At Christmas, Nichols used to play 'Snoopy and the Red Barron' on outside loudspeakers."

Not only would the music set the level of holiday excitement downtown but the prospect of window shopping and purchasing a tree would also be a much anticipated event. Cathy Crosen Kennan recalls shopping at Pancoast Brothers, "but I hated buying clothes as a kid so I couldn't wait to leave there and look at all

the shiny toys and gadgets at Nichols Hardware. Then go to Demory's and get bags of candy that I couldn't wait to fill in all our candy dishes at home. The last thing on the list was stopping off at the White Palace and getting dinner before heading home."

One gentleman had this memory from long ago, "We bought our Christmas tree from Lynn Adams. He had a building and lot across from the mill. The building was demolished to make the parking lot there today." Longterm Purcellville resident, Beverly Chiasson had a similar fond memory: "I remember picking out trees there every year with Dad [then] bringing it

home and putting it in a pail of water that always froze."

Joanna Garber Miller said she remembers going to, "Demory's Store for Christmas candy, Mr. Thompson's 5 & 10 Ben Franklin Store for Christmas decorations, and Nichols Hardware to visit Santa Claus." With Christmas candy so dazzling youngsters, Sue Lynn Peoples remarked, "My father, William P. Lynn, owner of Lynn Furniture, would buy candy for our family at the little market store around from his work – Demory's I think – the week of Christmas. He would come home with all sorts of candy; all separated into little brown paper bags. I always thought it was so magical to peer into each bag and discover what treat was there."

The tradition of mailing a letter to Santa was facilitated by a special red mailbox that moved around town over the years. Nat Leiby expressed wonderful memories from her childhood, "I remember in the early 2000's (and possibly before) there used to be a mailbox outside of Purcellville Marketplace (where the Autozone is now) where we could 'mail' our letters to Santa. It was so exciting. And then Purcellville Marketplace always had a whole section decked out for the holidays too." Chris Santonicola St. John added, "When we moved to Purcellville and my daughter wrote a letter to Santa – we got a response from Santa." Nichols Hardware Store would like to bring

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 »



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Also, many thanks to you, our neighbors, for your support throughout this year. Happy Thanksgiving to all!



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## Mister on Main holds open house – register now

Gentlemen and anyone who shops for them, get ready for a new way to shop. Newley established menswear shop, Mister on Main, will be hosting an after-hours event to showcase their latest fall and winter collections. Mister on Main is located at 142 E Main Street in Purcellville.

Located inside Nostalgia Boutique, the exquisitely curated vintage clothing and antique furniture store, Mister on Main sets out to offer a new way for men to shop in Loudoun. “The options for men have been far and few in-between, usually ranging from consignment shops or a trek to the big box stores. The reality is, most men simply want to pop into a store and buy a new shirt or refresh their wardrobe and be out the door. What we are doing is providing variety, without it being overwhelming; a stress-free shopping environment, while offering help where needed,” said owner Silas Redd.

Customers can expect traditional menswear with a punch. Flannel shirts coexist with cashmere sweaters. Toggle coats from the UK mingle with American made leather motorcycle jackets. Speaking on



the mix, Redd said, “Ideally, we want to create a space where a man can easily shop lines that mirror his personality, but if he wants to try a new style he can easily do so without breaking the bank. The traditional easily blends with the more flamboyant, colorful items.”

“I really try to keep an eye on the market and see what is happening in the apparel industry. I’m confident in saying that we have similar styles to that of the big box stores that compete with and even rival the quality and designs they offer.”

“While Mister on Main has been open for about a year, we now feel that we have pinpointed exactly what has been missing for men in the Purcellville and surrounding areas.”

On Nov. 11 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., just in time for the gift shopping season, Mister on Main will have an open house where customers can shop their latest collection as well as peruse Nostalgia Boutique. This event is free, but registration is required. To sign up, please visit: <https://misteron-main.eventbrite.com/> or email [shopatnostalgia@gmail.com](mailto:shopatnostalgia@gmail.com) to reserve your space.



## Parva Plastic Surgery holds ribbon cutting

Parva Plastic Surgery has moved from their Leesburg office to the Town of Purcellville. They held their ribbon cutting on Oct. 12; and Dr. Behzad Parva and his team were welcomed to the Town by Purcellville Mayor Stan Milan. The office is located at 205 E Hirst Road, Suite 101, Purcellville. Parva Plastic Surgery offers nonsurgical fillers, skin care, phototherapy, laser treatments, mommy makeovers, cosmetic breast and breast reconstruction, liposuction and more.



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## Purcellville holds ribbon cutting for Guidepost Montessori

The Town of Purcellville held a ribbon cutting for the Guidepost Montessori located at 130 East Main Street on Friday, Oct. 14. Pictured from l to r: Council Member Boo Bennett, Tina Curlis, Mayor Stan Milan and Council Member Carol Luke.

## JK Community Farm develops food education curriculum

The JK Community Farm, a 150-acre farm in Purcellville, that grows crops and donates both crops and meat from their livestock, to non-profits to alleviate hunger, has developed a food education curriculum, with funding from Truist, Junior League of Northern Virginia and 100 Women Strong.



The curriculum complements and enhances its current curriculum that is used with the farm's field trip program.

"As part of our work to alleviate food insecurity, we are committed to educating people about food justice and healthy eating—

### COMMUNITY

starting with kids. By offering hands-on educational programs and fields trips, we can share our passion for farming and help them understand the connection between soil, plants, people, and health," explained Samantha Kuhn, Executive Director, JK Community Farm.

"Our new curriculum is an important and awesome tool to help us generate excitement and appreciation for nutrition, and we are grateful to our supporters for making this possible."

The new curriculum, developed in partnership with FoodPrints DC, integrates gardening, cooking, and nutrition education into the current curriculum. FoodPrints embeds comprehensive food education in public elementary schools with the goal of improving health and academic outcomes for children and families. For JK Community Farm,

FoodPrints adapted its standards-based curriculum for learning about gardens, kitchens, and food access to develop a curriculum specifically for the farm that will help students obtain greater understanding about growing and eating nutritious foods.

The curriculum works with the farm's tailored programming used with field trips that are tied to Virginia Standards of Learning to teach about farming and nutrition. As part of the field trip program, the farm provides activity guides for each grade level and a food education workbook that can be downloaded from the farm's website.

The guides are tied into Virginia's math, science, health, PE, English, and history/social science Standards of Learning. Examples of activities include finding Farmer Mike to learn more about the farm, going to the greenhouse and identifying the parts of a plant, and using the farm's sundial to learn about time. Field trips are offered on Mondays. Thirty slots are available in hour increments from 9 a.m.-12 noon. A minimum donation of \$5 per student will help cover the cost of materials. Every

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 »

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**WHEN THANKSGIVING WAS,** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

back that beloved box.

Holiday shopping traditions could be found in other areas of town. Kim Easterday McGaha remembers her Dad taking her to the now long gone Drug Fair and “buying my mom a hand mixer for Christmas one year. That’s when Drug Fair sold radios, small electronics and even some clothes. I can’t remember the ladies clothing store’s name (Door of Fashion) but we would go in there and buy her sweaters. Such good memories of growing up in Purcellville.”

For many who grew up in the Purcellville area, one had to make do with very little. The joy of the holidays would come in non-material ways.

Vicky Payne found this family story to be astonishing: My dad told me

this story once and it blew me away. My great grandmother, Carrie Ball Payne would go into Purcellville only once a year and always at Christmas to buy a small Christmas present for each of her six children and one pound of sugar. That sugar would last her an entire year. Everything else they ate came from their farm. The children received no other presents during the year. This was early 1900’s.

The Simms family here is a large one and for Larry Simms, the holidays were steeped in traditions and in special gatherings: African American families were especially busy during this time of year, making every attempt to fulfill family needs as opposed to family desires. A sense of “family” was far more important than material things. Kinship, and

extended family gatherings was the norm.

“A family of seven siblings along with both parents was enough motivation to make our holidays a true time of joy.” He adds that with 17 aunts and uncles, Sunday gatherings in particular were always an adventure, but everyone always left happy and full.

Ashley Payne nostalgically recalls: “I do know that one of my favorite things for the holiday season in Purcellville is right after Thanksgiving, and the Merry Christmas sign on the Purcellville Family diner is lit till after Christmas. The parade has always been big in our town. But little things like that Merry Christmas sign being lit up each year sure does make it still feel like home.”

**JK COMMUNITY FARM,** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

\$35 donation enables the farm to grow an additional two weeks of food for a person in need.

JK Community Farm, a nonprofit started in 2018 with the support of JK Moving Services, seeks to have an impact on struggling families within the Washington, DC region by growing and donating chemical free, healthy produce and protein to those struggling with hunger. As the nation’s largest community farm with 100% of its yield donated, the farm will produce more than 245,000 pounds of healthy food in 2023, which is distributed by nonprofit partners: Loudoun Hunger Relief, Food for Others, Arlington Food Assistance Center, and DC Central Kitchen. To learn more, go to [www.jkcommunityfarm.org](http://www.jkcommunityfarm.org).

**PURCELLVILLE COUNCIL,** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

engineer email dated August 2019, “The 2040 delays for the westbound Hirst Road 690 are levels of service F for both the a.m. peak hours and the p.m. will be 866 seconds – which is almost 15 minutes.”

He said that the VDOT engineer pointed out that the IJR says improvements at Hirst are out of scope. “Ignoring this will only postpone the inevitable” and the VDOT engineer recommends “not going forward until VDOT looks at what can be done at Hirst to reduce the 15-minute peak delay caused by the introduction of the roundabouts to the interchange.”

**LOUDOUN GENERAL DISTRICT,** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

- More information about courthouse security screening is posted on the county’s website at [loudoun.gov/courthouse](http://loudoun.gov/courthouse).

The opening of the new General District Courthouse is part of the Courts Complex Expansion project that includes the design and construction of the new 92,000-square-foot courthouse and renovation of existing courts facilities. The project has also created new parking facilities,

including the Pennington Garage and accessible parking at the Semones Lot in Leesburg.

The next phase of the Courts Complex Expansion project includes the renovation of the existing Loudoun County Courthouse and the historic Valley Bank building. Design work for this phase is ongoing.

For more information about the expansion project and to sign up for email and text updates on the project, visit [loudoun.gov/courts-expansion](http://loudoun.gov/courts-expansion).

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# A Beacon of Light

BY REVEREND TRACEY B. LYONS

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church has been a beacon of light in the Leesburg Community for 155 years. It is the oldest continuing African American United Methodist church in Virginia. It has its roots in the Old Stone Church in Leesburg, Virginia established in 1766.

The Old Stone Church was a Caucasian Methodist church where Blacks attended services but were not certified as members until 1789. The church split before the Civil War because of slavery disputes, and the Southern Methodists began holding their services in the church's courtyard.

After the Civil War, because of slavery disputes, Blacks decided to establish their own church under the leadership of Rev. Robey. The Trustees of the church and Rev. Robey raised money to purchase the land on 12 North St for two-hundred and fifty dollars. An additional two-hundred and fifty dollars was given by the Washington Annual Conference. In 1867, Mt Zion was established as a church.<sup>1</sup>

Since its establishment, Mt. Zion has been indispensable to Loudoun County and the Leesburg Community. It supports the needy through monetary gifts and food supplies given to area food banks. At the onset of the pandemic,

Rosemary Moten, a member of the church, and her committee visited area homes carrying food to elderly persons who had difficulty getting food due to Covid restrictions.

This past year the church partnered with other churches to support a young Afghanistan couple who had been displaced during the conflict in their country and came to America with just their clothes. This young couple was also pregnant and expecting their first child. Together we were able to provide a place for them to stay, furnish their apartment with donations from the members, and supply needed transportation for job interviews and doctor's appointments.

In addition, each month, we would supply them with the necessary food, rent, and clothing. The members even helped provide for the infant's needs after birth. Finally, a year has passed, and they can live independently. This family was from another faith, and they needed our help.

In the United Methodist denomination, we believe that everyone is created in the image of God. And the Biblical scripture it says, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34 NIV) So, like God, we should love and care

for anyone in need if we have the means to do so.

My name is Reverend Tracey B. Lyons, and I am the Lead Pastor of three African American churches in the Loudoun County area with Mt. Zion UMC Leesburg being the oldest congregation. In February, with the support of these congregations, I completed interviews and papers to become an Elder in the United Methodist Church, one of a few African American female Elders in the Virginia Conference. I was appointed here in 2017; this was my first appointment.

My vision for ministry is to love God with both words and deeds, to teach others of God's love for them, and to compel persons to extend God's love to others. Mt. Zion has demonstrated that belief. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, said it best, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Church History | Mt. Zion United Methodist Church - Leesburg

([mtzionunitedmethodistchurchleesburg.org](http://mtzionunitedmethodistchurchleesburg.org))

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.christianquotes.info/quotes-by-author/john-wesley-quotes>

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# 21st Annual “Freeze Your Gizzard” on Nov. 18

The Leesburg Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with Loudoun Hunger Relief, is hosting the 21st Annual Freeze Your Gizzard Cross Country 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run on Saturday, Nov. 18. Runners of all skill levels and ages are invited to join this community tradition.

The cross-county style 5K run will begin at 9 a.m. near the gazebo in the front field of Ida Lee Park. It will run through a scenic cross-country course along Ida Lee Park’s 138 acres. A 1-Mile Fun Run will begin at 9:45 a.m. No dogs, wagons, or baby strollers are allowed on the course due to uneven terrain.

Registration for the 5k is \$30 through November 11. Prices will increase on November 12. Registration for the one-mile fun run is \$15. Prices will increase on November 16. Register at [potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2023-freeze-your-gizzard-5k/?sel=ea43a9fa-](http://potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2023-freeze-your-gizzard-5k/?sel=ea43a9fa-c7c9-46df-89ee-fbfa8b573e5c)

[c7c9-46df-89ee-fbfa8b573e5c](http://potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2023-freeze-your-gizzard-5k/?sel=ea43a9fa-c7c9-46df-89ee-fbfa8b573e5c).

All pre-registered 5k participants will receive a commemorative “Freeze Your Gizzard” long sleeve performance t-shirt. Awards will be given to the top three overall male and female finishers as well as the top three male and female finishers of the 5k in each age category. One-mile fun runner will receive a commemorative finishers’ medal.

All participants are being asked to consider a monetary donation for Loudoun Hunger Relief, which can be made during online registration. Participants may also bring non-perishable food items on the day of the race.

Parking for the event will be in the festival parking field and can only be accessed from North King Street. There will be no access to race parking from Ida Lee Drive. For more information, call 703-777-1368 or visit [www.idalee.org](http://www.idalee.org).

# Nominations are being accepted for teacher and principal of the year

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 *Washington Post* Teacher and Principal of the Year. The nominees for these awards will be considered for the 2024 Loudoun County Public Schools Teacher and Principal of the Year.

Nominees for Teacher of the Year must be certified, full-time teachers (including itinerant and resource) in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 working for LCPS. All nominees

must have completed a minimum of two years of teaching experience, one of which must be in LCPS at the time of nomination.

Nominees for Principal of the Year must be full-time principals in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 for LCPS. Each nominee must have a minimum of two years experience as a principal, one of which must be in LCPS. Nominees must be serving as an administrator for the 2023-24 school year.

To learn more about the Principal of the Year and/or Teacher of the Year, including nomination packets and instructions, visit our Employee Recognition website at [lcps.org/employeeRecognition](http://lcps.org/employeeRecognition). Completed nomination packets must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15, for a nominee to be considered.

# Sign up for Stop the Bleed™ workshop

As part of the national Stop the Bleed® campaign, the Inova Virts Miller Family Emergency and Trauma Center at Inova Loudoun Hospital is hosting a free, in-person workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. This free course is designed for community members who may find themselves at the scene of an emergency.

During an emergency, no matter how quickly emergency professionals respond, the individuals on-scene are best positioned to assist and potentially stop life-threatening blood loss. This is critical because a person who is bleeding profusely can die from blood loss within five minutes.

Workshop attendees will enhance their emergency preparedness by learning the difference between bleeding and life-threatening blood loss, and how to react to both. Participants will practice with tourniquets and wound packing.

The workshop will be held at Inova Loudoun Hospital, 44055 Riverside Pkwy., The Ladies Board Education Center, Suite 160, Leesburg. Follow signs for the South Hospital Entrance. Free on-site parking is available.

Participation is free but space is limited. To register visit [inova.org/stopthebleed](http://inova.org/stopthebleed).



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# Soul of America: A Tribute to the Legendary Ladies of Soul

November 18 8:00 pm Tickets: \$25 - \$40



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*Tickets are Reserved Seating with stairs to all rows except accessible seating in row K. Refreshments are included in the ticket price and will be available during intermission in the lobby; only water is permitted in the theater.*



## Goose Creek Players:

### Miracle On 34th Street

November 24 - 26 & December 1- 3 Tickets: \$19.25 per person

*Is Kris Kringle Santa Claus? Or just an old man that smells like a cookie? Will Fred Gayley, Esq., be able to save Kris from being committed to the sanitarium? Will little Susan Walker get her Christmas Wish? And believe? Join us with a great cast of characters in the retelling of the story that was once brought to the Silver Screen.*



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- **Columbia Marionette Theater**  
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- **Last Ham Standing**  
November 10 8:00pm



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## ACOY is conducting a survey to meet needs of youth

The Loudoun County Advisory Commission on Youth is conducting a survey to gather information that will help inform county leaders when making decisions about services and programs designed to meet the needs of young people in the community.

The survey is intended for parents of elementary, middle and high-school-aged students, and youth in middle and high school. The survey is expected to take about ten minutes to complete. The survey covers four topic areas:

- Activities and interests
- Drug and alcohol use
- Mental health and stress management
- Online access and activity

Responses are anonymous. Participants

are not required to provide any individually identifying information such as their name, home address, birth date, IP address, etc.

The survey is open through Tuesday, Dec. 5. Information gathered from the survey will be used to inform ACOY's "State of Loudoun Youth" annual report to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

This survey was first opened in 2019 as part of the Board of Supervisors' initiatives involving youth, which, in part, aim to ensure there are effective programs and services available to help Loudoun's youth thrive. The survey is intended to be an annual feedback mechanism to help county leaders stay current on trends in youth behaviors, interests and needs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42 »

### CANDIDATES FOR BOS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

has ever put money in our housing trust fund."

"With that money, we have leveraged \$32 million in loans from 11 different sources to put attainable housing on the ground. We have 858 units in Loudoun County," Randall continued. "That doesn't mean we're finished. There's a lot to be done."

"These units graduate out, right? Eventually you have one that's built and then 15 years later, they're no longer in that program," Katz said. "We are constantly

playing catch up. We need to be able to diversify the housing market within the county, not just from the ownership perspective, but also for those who are just starting out."

The three candidates also touched on other issues throughout the debate, such as rising Metro expenses, mental health, and education.

"We have things we need to fix, but you do not fix things by standing and throwing stones at it," Randall said. "You fix things by going in there and being the solution."

### COUNTY TO HOLD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

at [loudoun.gov/zoningordinance](http://loudoun.gov/zoningordinance). Once adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the new zoning ordinance will replace the existing ordinance.

Following each work session, an "Action Report" is prepared that summarizes the action the Board took during the work sessions. The action reports are posted online with the other documents for each work session.

The zoning ordinance regulates land use throughout the county and is the primary implementation tool for the Loudoun County 2019 Comprehensive Plan, a policy document that provides guidance for

elected officials and other governmental decision-makers as to where and how the community will grow over many years.

An update to the zoning ordinance is necessary following adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in 2019. The new zoning ordinance is intended to be more modern and user-friendly, with new district regulations that reflect the land use policies in the Comprehensive Plan.

Detailed information about the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite project, including a history of the process and a link to sign up for email and text updates on the project, is available on the county's website at [loudoun.gov/zoningordinancerewrite](http://loudoun.gov/zoningordinancerewrite).

### CLEMENS TAPS DEPUTY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

probate team in Virginia and I want to make sure this valuable team has all essential resources to continue offering these premium services."

Hayes is ready to take on the challenges and opportunities as the new Probate Manager for the Clerk's Office. "I am humbled and honored that Clerk Clemens is giving me this opportunity to lead a great team of public servants. My goal is to build upon a strong foundation

established by a great team in the Clerk's Office and expand our probate client services," Hayes said.

Hayes commenced her new management role on Oct. 1 and commenced her new role by hiring a new probate specialist last week. "I am fortunate to have a great staff that truly understands our mission in service to our probate clients."

To find out more about the probate services offered by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, visit [loudoun.gov/clerk/probate](http://loudoun.gov/clerk/probate).



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DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

**3. Teach your children about terrorism and war.**

By educating your children about these topics, they will understand things better, which in turn will serve to decrease their anxiety. It is important to be clear and accurate with the information you share and keep your points and message simple. What does the acronym for Hamas mean? What is the history of the Israel and Palestine struggles? Perhaps you could find educational articles to read on the history of that region of the world you can read with your children.

For a younger child, simply introducing the concept of deep-rooted area history good versus evil is a nice way to help a child begin to understand why people sometimes do bad things in the world. Using movie characters or actual events that may have occurred in your child's life (e.g., a bullying episode) may also prove helpful.

For middle school age children and teens, you can address the complexities of the current situation in Israel and Gaza more with greater depth – the cultural, political and religious histories and differences that

have contributed to the longstanding and ongoing conflicts in that region of the world.

**4. Minimize your children's exposure to the media.**

Turn off the news. News agencies have been on fire with terrorism and conflict/war stories since the Israel and Gaza conflict occurred. Such widespread exposure can cause increased anxiety for our children.

**5. Be Positive.** There is power in positive thinking, and being positive with your children regarding this situation will help them to cope. As complex as things currently are in that region of the world, messaging hope that the crisis in Israel and Gaza will not lead to a larger conflict or war is a good thing. Letting your children know that world leaders are working hard with President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu toward some sort of resolution or cease fire could also be affirming.

*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

spaces five or six days a week, and I really enjoy those sections, but it's always the same route, and even I forget just how much territory remains—at least to my finding—a virtual wilderness. And these places (we have so many parks, historic sites, and rural roads in this county—and I count more every year) never fail to have at least a minimal—and sometimes much more—effect on my mental and spiritual health (and probably physical, too).

The day-to-day 21<sup>st</sup> century stress levels, personal concerns, information overload, unending to-do lists—and probably much more for other folks—all these factors, as overwhelming as they can seem, diminish at least ever

so slightly when I'm alone amid acres of open, yet personal, space. I've come to think that our Spirits require more "breathing room" than you'd find in a typical office cubicle; I'm finding that what we really require—at least periodically—is a chance to "let the horses out of the barn" and just be free. Or just Be. Don't worry, they'll come back—they know where their feed and water are kept.

So, the next time I take a drive down Snake Hill Road, heading west toward the Blue Ridge Mountains, avoiding the chipmunks and the cattle, enjoying the breathing room, I just hope I don't come across every other resident in Loudoun County—doing the exact same thing. We all need to find our own path.

"ENERGY AND FREEDOM", CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

"You see in Virginia, we're builders, we're innovators, we're doers. And this is just the beginning. This is why this conference matters so much. Energy and freedom."

He continued, "It is the energy of the Hispanic community that we want to absolutely harness. It is the freedom that we all celebrate at the bedrock of this great nation. It is the partnership that brings together capabilities that when brought together allow us to accomplish amazing things. It is the uniform belief that we all in God's great image have unlimited opportunity and capability. And when we unleash all of that — hang on folks because Virginia is on the move."

TO SELL OR NOT TO SELL,  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

to the point that [the town] has violated their own ordinances. "We had a private citizen come and cut the vines off the tree. "I bring that up because we paid an employee for printing and mailing a flyer to go to our own citizens about vines choking trees. We are Tree City USA; and here's one we can't even take care of."

"If this house is sold it becomes a home. The zoning allows for businesses and it will be a business that will bring in revenue to the town."

At previous meetings Milan said that the Pullen house could be used for more parking. Addressing a parking lot Bennett said the town could move their cars and trucks off the parking lot during the Cannon games.

Luke said she wasn't changing her vote and the town could use the funds from the sale to pay bills.

Council Member Ron Rise Jr. said the first couple weeks of the Cannon games are crowded. "Taking a property and turning it into a slab of concrete... where it will sit empty most of the year," wouldn't have his

support.

Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said the sale of the property could go to paying off \$340,000 of Fireman's Field debt. He said approximately \$218 yearly appears everyone's tax bill for the Parks and Recreation portion. Bertaut said "if we apply the results from the sale of the Pullen House ... We can eliminate basically about three years of debt and give our citizens some serious debt relief."

"So I see this as an opportunity that the sale is a bonus for citizens to get a break on our taxes."



**PLANNING COMMISSION**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Environmental Council, Loudoun Equine Alliance, and Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area, as each one stepped to the podium to address environmental issues, the project in the context of the county's zoning ordinance rewrite, threats to Loudoun's historic villages, and the loss of the seven acres that for almost six decades hosted the annual fire department fundraiser, the Philomont Horse Show.

Only two spoke from the Philomont Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors in favor of the design on the Horse Show Grounds.

Madeline Skinner, chair of the Loudoun Historic Village Alliance, began, "I have been at this podium too many times to count to speak on behalf of various threats to our rural historic villages ... and here we are again, defending the very core of the vision"—that uses in rural historic villages must be compatible with the historic development pattern, community character, visual identity, intensity and scale of the individual villages. Rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings are essential strategies being supported in the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite.

"So, definitely, it's not compatible in construction. The proposed suburban structure on our only community green space goes against all of the Comprehensive Plan policies, strategies, and action plans. The zoning revisions will only further support this."

She referenced photos of two other stations—one built in Reston and one built in the City of Fairfax. Both were built by FMG architects—the same architects for the Philomont project—dealing with restricted space of one acre. "These were winners of awards," Skinner said.

"There is a lot going on here," she added. [The Philomont Fire Department] "will give the horse show grounds to the county for free. But if you decide to add/

renovate in place, they will charge the county \$2 million for that [original] building" and its land ... They've already said they will sell the Horse Show Grounds to a developer ... Those Horse Show Grounds were purchased in 1962 by funds raised by the community. That is why we consider this our seven-acre community green space ... When the fire department found out that we were going to try to revive the horse show, they went in there, tore down the horse show rings, got rid of the judges stands, and put No Trespassing signs everywhere. So even if we made a request, we were always denied use of those grounds.

Skinner concluded, "I request that you deny the special exception and get better information when it comes to this project."

It was also clarified that the Heritage Commission has supported the adaptive reuse concept with two letters to the Board of Supervisors.

**Philomont resident and architect Bill Ridge** provided the details of the adaptive reuse plan. "I'm an architect with 45 years experience, 30 years were with the Environmental Protection Agency designing, planning and executing the renovation of the EPA's laboratories all across the country, all of which were done to bring laboratories up to state-of-the-art conditions while they're in operation. So, it was very frustrating to see this couldn't be done with the existing Philomont fire station.

"First, I want to say that [only] renovating the existing building for fire operations is not feasible because of the difference in floor heights. However, there's plenty of space on the site to build a 12,000-sq.-ft. new building on the flat area directly behind the existing station, which will meet all the requirements of the program, including the apparatus bays, the hot-cold zone/decontamination separations, all the gear and office space for the fire operations. And I think that's

critical in this whole discussion.

"To me, this is an architectural issue, not a fire department requirements issue. The new building on the existing site can meet the requirements of the fire department. All of them. The program for the [proposed] station is 18,800 sq. ft. and about 12,000 of it is dedicated to fire operations. About the remaining 6,000 sq.ft. is for dormitory space, baths, shower, locker rooms, kitchen, dining day room, exercise room, office space, and storage space ..."

"It's pretty easy to renovate the existing building for office space. There's an existing kitchen-day room there that can be done pretty easily. The new building will provide the hot-cold area and will allow access from two directions. In other words, this site is unique, and you have access for returning trucks off Philomont Road but the apparatus going out to a fire would go directly onto the Snickersville Turnpike ... It's a very efficient layout without having to do a quarter of a mile of driveway around an open field."

Ridge described confusion among county staff, the fire chief, and the architect over details of his plan—separation of hot-cold areas, grade for the existing site's old and new buildings that added \$300,000 to the bottom line.

"Basically," he said, "if you take out the unnecessary items—about \$1 million worth of things which were not necessary, that plus the 40% additions for fees, escalations and so forth—the total should be \$18.2 million. I wish the Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure had the courtesy of discussing their proposal with me before wasting the county's time and money on the study."

Ridge concluded, "I strongly believe that the scheme ... is a very viable alternative ... and will give the fire department all the requirements they need at a lower cost. I urge the Planning Commission to reject this special exception request as not being in the best interest of the village of Philomont, the county, or the fire

department.

**The remaining speakers addressed** other concerns such as the potential for contaminants and carcinogens entering the wells and Goose Creek, noise and light pollution, the economic impacts to those who will eventually try to sell a home next to a large firehouse, and the county's equine business that generates \$180 million a year.

After discussion among the commissioners—with only Mark Miller, the Catoctin representative appointed by Supervisor Caleb Kershner, objecting to a future work session—Blue Ridge Commissioner Roger Vance moved to take up the Philomont fire station project in a future work session.

**Vance summed up:** "I think there's plenty of issues to look at in a work session. And I think the community deserves some more hearing on this issue. I think it's incredibly important for us to make sure that the community is heard and is collaborating on this.

I'm concerned that maybe enough time has not been spent having the community really involved and really have a back and forth, not just being able to come to a meeting and stand up for two minutes and talk but to really have a back and forth ... I think as we go forward, hopefully... we will help facilitate a better collaboration, better, closer look at the needs ... looked at all the pros and cons based upon the needs, based upon the realities.

I was very interested to hear the comments about other fire stations in the suburban area. This is not a suburban area. I think ... we have to be very cognizant of scale and appropriateness for the area ... There's a lot of good work that can be done. Much better understanding and maybe a result that everyone will feel good about.

The commissioners voted to send the matter of the Philomont fire station to a work session.

**LETTER: RAM**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

supporting all of Loudoun County and the various schools when there was not an election approaching.

Loudoun needs someone like Ram, who supports a strong presence of School Resource Officers (SROs) in our schools and who will vote to keep our kids and communities safe. We need someone who fully backs our SROs and Sheriff's Office.

I know Ram, and I know the virtues that motivate him to serve our community. No one is pulling his strings, and his agenda will be solely for the betterment of Loudoun County.

Through his actions and temperament, Ram

has demonstrated time and again that he is someone who listens, cares, and can be trusted to do the right thing.

Those virtues are rare, and they should be first to mind when we consider how to vote. For me, local elections are not about voting Democrat vs. Republican. What matters is who will represent the community's interests most effectively and with integrity.

This one is easy, and I urge the voters of Little River District to support Ram Venkatachalam as the first Supervisor from Loudoun's most diverse and fastest growing district.

*A.J. Panebianco*

*Chief of Police (Retired) Town of Middleburg*

**LETTER: BOB ANDERSON**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

became my boss.

Bob always delegated his authority to his prosecutors, and he never directed or tried to micro-manage an outcome. Bob always, always had his prosecutors' backs. Politics were never an issue. No attorney was ever expected to take a position based on anything but the facts of the case, the criminal history of the defendant, the evidence at hand, and the impact on the victim.

No politics, no "status in the community," no financial considerations, and no sexual, racial, religious, social, or political beliefs were

considered. Prosecutors were assigned cases based on whose workload or experience was appropriate for a case. Period. That's not the way the office is run today. Ms. Biberaj is pushing forward her personal political agenda without sufficiently considering the political and social consequences of her actions.

Our community deserves a Commonwealth's Attorney like Bob Anderson, who will put our safety first, and who will hire prosecutors not based on their political beliefs, but rather on their legal expertise.

*Thomas V. Mulrine  
Leesburg*



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**"AS A COUNCIL MEMBER"**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We discussed the modification to the Vineyard Square."

Milan said he was "hoping to get an update from the planning commission liaison" regarding Chapman's presentation to the planning commission.

The Chapmans presented the same plan to the planning commission as they presented to the town council in September. They suggested decreasing the condo portion from 40 condos to 36. They would change the project from one large building into the retail building going on 21st Street and then put 4 condo buildings at 4 stories each behind the retail building.

**In June or July 2024, the permits to build this approved 6-story project on 21st Street should expire** unless the town's zoning administrator approves another extension. Or there's a possibility of lobbying the General Assembly to pass legislation to extend the project. The project has been extended twice this way.

If the project were to expire, then the applicant would have to present something that is in line with the C-4 District. The C-4 District does not allow for either multifamily in the area, or a 6-story building.

The Vineyard Square's permits were allowed by a town council vote over 12 years ago during Robert W. Lazaro's tenure as mayor. The town council, the town attorney and the town manager did not comment on the fact that multifamily is not allowed in the district. A comprehensive plan and a zoning amendment were also never done.

The Lazaro council also overruled the Board of Architectural Review Committee which voted to recommend three stories and to preserve one brick façade building on 21st Street.

Milan said they looked at the Valley Business Park, which is owned by the Chapmans and their investors, and said he discussed affordable housing, office, commercial and residential for that area.

He said they also went to Vulcan Materials Company, which is behind Dragon Yong In Martial Arts on 21st Street. Milan said this location would be "an ideal place for a condo" due to the proximity of both

690 and Hatcher Avenue.

"It was all discussion; nothing is firmed up," said Milan. "I am looking for a comprehensive revitalization of the downtown area."

Council Member Boo Bennett said she "would like to see the citizens involved in discussions. I will just say about condos, there's not multifamily housing [allowed] in that area."

Milan said it would require a rezoning, then it's up to the town council. Bennett answered, "First it starts at the planning commission."

"Well whatever," said Milan. "It's an idea. I don't understand when I say things it's gospel ... It's just an idea."

Milan said they would be getting input from the town citizens because the Chapmans did "charettes and all that other stuff when they did Vineyard Square."

The Chapmans did not do a charette for the Vineyard Square project.

"Before anything is even implemented and put to paper, we check with the citizens to make sure it's in line with what they desire," said Milan.

He said the citizens are "involved. They are hearing what we are saying and they can weigh in on what we say."

"It doesn't really seem," said Bennett, "there's anything to discuss. This developer has had these permits and these rights. Supposedly he went through a process. So we are waiting for it to be built," said Bennett.

**Easements for the town water tower**

The second issue discussed was concerning the easements for the water tower. When Mayfair town resident Dan Carvill asked council if the county had removed the Northern Collector Road from its County Transportation Plan, Mayor Milan said "a letter was sent to the county" they "came back and said there would be no connection."

"So it's dead, right?" asked Carvill. There was no answer.

In a letter dated Sept. 19 to Town Manager Rick Bremseth, County Administrator Tim Hemstreet said that it would take a Board vote to remove the Northern Collector Road from the County Transportation Plan.

At the June 13 Town Council meeting,

council deferred the approval of drainage easements the county had negotiated for discharge of stormwater in the vicinity of Mayfair Crown Drive near their cul-de-sac. At the time, the reason given for these easements was vague and council asked for more time.

At that same June 13 meeting when council went into executive session, the Blue Ridge Leader asked Dale Lehnig, Director of Engineering, Planning and Development, and Andrea Broshkevitch, GIS and Special Projects Coordinator, why the easements were needed. They said it was for the extension of Mayfair Crown Drive to Fields Farm Park Road, and the county needed a second entrance and exit to the school complex.

**At the Oct. 24 meeting, both Lehnig and Broshkevitch** said the easements are needed for both access to the school and the town's proposed water storage tank.

Milan said he spoke with engineering and they said the easement is for drainage only. They have no plans to connect Fields Farm Road to Mayfair Crown Drive.

Looking at the plat of the proposed Fields Farm Road, only approximately 120 to 140 ft. separates the road from a Mayfair Crown Drive extension.

Mayfair resident Dan Carvill asked if there were any plans to move the access road further away from the Mayfair development.

Milan said the engineers told him if they move the road west it would encroach on the boundary for town property. "The answer is no," said Milan.

Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said that the tank is needed to provide additional water pressure for the entire town system. "It would also allow for maintenance for the 1-million-gallon fresh water storage tank which is quite old."

"Citizens have expressed their concern that granting easements for drainage in the vicinity of Mayfair will pave the way to eventually connecting Mayfair Crown Drive with a Northern Collector Road which is still not off the County Wide Transportation Plan. [It would go] from there all the way to Rt. 690, making Mayfair Crown Drive a thoroughfare through a residential community. So this gives rise to questions about the drainage and construction easements."

**"As a council member it's my duty to prioritize the well-being of our citizens,"** said Bertaut.

The project must be completed by December 2026 and obligated by December 2024. The funding is through ARPA funding and is estimated to cost \$3.746 million.

Lehnig said the county needs the drainage easements. "They are drainage easements only that will convey stormwater from the Fields Farm Road and the school access road."

Council Member Ron Rise Jr. said, "I understand the rationale and I'm not a civil engineer, I am a software engineer, but from a person looking at this and I think why there's discussion about this - is what it looks like. It looks presumptuous. When I saw that [plat] the first thing that I thought, it looks suspect. I know that's what other people are going to think also."

Bertaut said the right of way is "fairly large, so I would ask that we determine what the actual minimum requirement is under state standards."

Broshkevitch said Fields Farm Road wouldn't just open up between the end of the road and the Mayfair Crown Drive cul-de-sac. "There will be traffic delimiters up there, barricades and signs and such."

Milan said the communities' concern is that they're saying the easement is just the camel's nose under the tent to make connection to Mayfair Crown Drive.

Lehnig said, "If the town council would deny the approval of these easements, then we may not be able to meet the deadlines."

"So I've heard a couple of times," said Bennett, "that you are passionate about the project. We all understand that. But I am passionate about that road not going through and I have been sitting up here for 10 months."

"Just about every project that comes up here for us to discuss and vote on is last minute and it carries this threat of lost funds and lost opportunity. I don't know. Is that more of a lost opportunity for these people that own homes and have families? So I'm pretty darn passionate myself."

**LETTER: TEKRONY IS READY,**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Fund Public Safety, and Low taxes.

Is it possible to be more bland, generic, and wishy washy as a list of priorities?

In the 35 years I've been voting in Loudoun elections I've yet to hear a candidate say they aren't for low taxes, great schools, and congestion free transportation. Yet here we are today with problems in all three. Could it be

we too often elect inexperienced candidates like Ram Venkatachalam who can shout the cliches but have no specific ideas for solutions.

I'm not in the Little River District so I can not cast my vote for the experienced and ready to lead Laura Tekrony, but I hope those of you who can, will vote for her, because she will make a difference.

*Al Van Huyck  
Catocin District*

**LEESBURG COUNCIL DISCUSSES,** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

liability for the town and any future owners of the site.

Full site remediation would cost an estimated \$16.9 million, which would include everything from design plans and permitting, further site testing and investigation, permitting, waste disposal, contingency, and management costs. Partial remediation of the site is also an option and pricing would be less than the full \$16.9 million estimate.

"I would say this certainly gives the entire

council pause for the price tag," said Vice Mayor Neil Steinberg. "I would prefer not to give up the conversation entirely until we can see what other options may present themselves for this site, which at some point hopefully we will do something with. It's a pretty valuable piece of real estate and can serve a variety of functions."

Town Council members agreed they would like to continue the conversation regarding the future of the site. No action was taken during Monday night's meeting.



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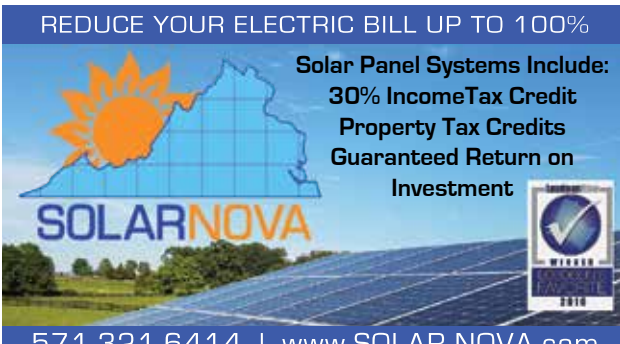
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**LETTER: I SUPPORT CHAPMAN**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

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He reduced crime dramatically, produced citizen satisfaction ratings of 90%, and turned the Sheriff's Office into a national leader for best practices in professionalism and training, crisis de-escalation, school safety, and community outreach. These forward-looking changes were rejected by the "good 'ole boys" who left law enforcement along the way but show up every four years to support his opponent. I also know Craig Buckley, the opponent, a former police officer who, at the pinnacle of his career, managed a 5-person department with a budget of \$599K, patrolling a rural town of 2,000 people. He was there for two years, doing a job that is comparable to the one I held for many years as Middleburg's Chief of Police. Neither of these jobs prepares you to be Sheriff of Loudoun County.

By contrast, Mike Chapman leads the largest full service and most complex Sheriff's Office in Virginia – managing law enforcement, courts, and corrections with over 850 employees, a budget exceeding \$132 million, and 21 specialties.

It's no surprise that Mike Chapman was named 2023 National Sheriff of the Year by his Democrat and Republican peers throughout the nation, or that the readers of Loudoun's two newspapers named him "Best Public Servant" and "Favorite Public Servant" for the past two and three years, respectively. Mike Chapman is delivering the results that Loudoun needs, and there is more good work to come.

*Anthony "A.J." Panebianco  
Former Chief of Police, Town of Middleburg  
Past President, Virginia Association of the Chiefs of Police*

**LETTER: OVER 600 YEARS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

business.

Craig has repeatedly demonstrated the vision, competence and heart required to excel in this role. His leadership will enhance law enforcement efforts and strengthen the bonds between law enforcement and our community, ultimately making our county a safer and more inclusive place for all. So we know what it takes to be the Sheriff of Loudoun County.

Therefore, with great enthusiasm and confidence, we wholeheartedly endorse Craig Buckley for Sheriff, confident that he will lead the Sheriff's Office with distinction and ensure the safety and well-being of our community.

*Sheriff Steve Simpson (R - Sheriff 1996-2011), Sheriff John Isom-(D - Sheriff 1984-1995), Lieutenant Colonel Randy Badura-31 years, Major Beverly Tate-29 years, Master Deputy Randy Broaddus-27 years, Captain Jeff Brown-25 years, 1st Lieutenant Collette Cunningham-20 years, 1st Lieutenant Chris Athey-28 years, Detective Dawn Taylor-17 years, Detective Christina Evans- 22 years, Major Thom Shaw-29 years, 1st Lieutenant Steve Remick-28 years, Detective Mark McCaffrey-30 years, 2nd Lieutenant Jammie Kontz- 30 years, Detective Ron Walker-44 years, Master Deputy Jay McKeever-21 years, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Harmison-45 years, Deputy First Class Steven Kelly -21 years, Detective Ken Fognano-30 years, Deputy First Class Jeff Bruggeman-34 years, Detective Mike Boone -37 years, Deputy First Class Ed Ayoub-26 years.*

**LETTER: SEGURA GETS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

2.3 million Virginians?

Many of these endorsements came from law enforcement officials who are concerned by my opponent's record on crime.

Specifically, these law enforcement officials are recommending that voters support me because my opponent has celebrated receiving the endorsement of close to 10 Defund the Police groups, and she worked for notorious ultra-progressive Loudoun County Commonwealth's Attorney Buta Biberaj.

I deeply appreciate this

outpouring of support from such an esteemed group of people who keep us safe. I'll always have the back of law enforcement – I've heard from so many officers who have worked their fingers to the bone to get a dangerous bad guy behind bars then a left-wing prosecutor lets the bad guy off easy.

My opponent has done exactly that in a number of situations.

Send me to Richmond and I'll do everything I can to join with law enforcement to protect our state and community.

I appreciate meeting so many

of you on the campaign trail. My message is simple: I want us to be Successful Together. We need to empower parents, back the blue, and lower Virginians' costs.

I'm ready to get to work for Loudoun and Fauquier Counties, so please go vote as soon as you can. There are so many things that can go wrong if you wait for Election Day to vote, so please vote early.

*Juan Pablo Segura  
Segura is an entrepreneur and maternal health care tech company founder who is running to represent Senate District 31.*

**LETTER: CUT THROUGH**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

statistics that sound impressive but mean nothing. For example, to back up his case that we're already "winning the race," he mentions that we have "only" 75,000 more acres of developable land left in western Loudoun, as if preserving that much land is no great challenge.

Our Zoning Ordinance currently allows developers to build 1 house for every 5 acres of rural land. Dividing 75,000 acres by 5 suggests they could still build another 15,000 houses in our rural areas – more than double the current number.

Because not all properties can be subdivided, the actual number is closer to 10,000. But as we sit in rural traffic jams, who among us thinks it would be a good idea to put 100,000 more vehicle trips per day

on our roads? VDOT estimates that each rural residence generates an average of 10 vehicle trips per day.

Ellis' opponent claims we don't have to worry because private easements will take care of the problem. But in 2022 western Loudoun landowners put only 543 acres under permanent easement, the lowest annual total in at least 20 years. At that rate, it would take 138 more years for private easements to preserve all western Loudoun's remaining developable land – assuming we have no additional development for the next century and then some.

Of course, rural development is already barreling ahead and will continue to do so unless the County takes action to control it. More than 30 rural subdivisions are currently under construction, and plans for many more are underway.

John Ellis recognizes that the status quo is unacceptable, and the County needs to move quickly to reduce future development, prevent even worse traffic congestion, and preserve the surroundings and lifestyle that western Loudouners love so much. When elected, John Ellis will seek immediate zoning reforms to fix the problem, including a reduction in the number of new houses that may be built "by right" in rural cluster subdivisions.

So western Loudoun voters have a very clear choice. They can stick with the existing policies that Ellis' opponent believes are working so well or they can support John Ellis' plans for slowing down development. That's why we'll be voting for John Ellis for Catoctin Supervisor.

*Tim and Beth McClain  
Leesburg*

**YOUNGKIN DEDICATES**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"Adding Sweet Run to Virginia's State Park system helps to fulfill our mission to conserve the natural, scenic, historic and cultural resources of the Commonwealth and provide recreational and educational opportunities consistent with the good stewardship of these lands, waters and facilities that

leaves them unimpaired for future generations," said Dr. Melissa Baker, Director of Virginia State Parks. "The park already boasts a volunteer program with over 50 volunteers who assist across all aspects of park operations."

"We continue to offer programs for all ages that showcase the park's historical, cultural, and

natural resources," said Sweet Run State Park Manager Kevin Bowman. "This park is still under development and parking is limited so I encourage all guests to review the park's Know Before You Go web page before their visit."

To learn more about Virginia State Parks, visit [www.virginiastateparks.gov](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov).

**LETTER: I SUPPORT CHRIS REED**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

opponent who favors congeniality with town staff over the interests of residents.

I am supporting Chris Reed and I encourage everyone to join me in voting for Chris Reed for Purcellville Town Council. He is not supported by developers and has not taken developer money. He is especially not supported

by the developers of Vineyard Square, as his opponent is.

Last year Reed's opponent ran with a slate that lost. They were heavily funded by developers. This is not in the best interest of the Town of Purcellville.

Vote Chris Reed. He is committed to supporting the citizens of the Town of Purcellville and not special interests.

*David L. Eno  
Purcellville*

**AKOY**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42

More information about the current youth survey is online at [loudoun.gov/youthsurvey](http://loudoun.gov/youthsurvey). More information about ACOY, including a link to the commission's "State of Loudoun Youth – 2023" report (PDF), is online at [loudoun.gov/acoy](http://loudoun.gov/acoy). More information about existing youth services offered by Loudoun County is online at [loudoun.gov/youth](http://loudoun.gov/youth).





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