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Purcellville Mayor Stan Milan makes another big about-face

BY VALERIE CURY

At the Purcellville Town Council meeting on Feb. 13, Mayor Stan Milan made another about-face from issues he ran on just a year ago. From his commitment to removing the Northern Collector Road from the Town Wide Transportation Plan, to Rt. 7/690, to not working out deals with developers like the developer of Vineyard Square, to complaining about the Planning Commission and its council liaison – these issues were all discussed.

GOVERNMENT

In the citizen comments portion of the meeting Chair of the Planning Commission Nan Forbes said she was speaking “in

regard to the change of the Town Council liaison to the planning commission.”

The council new majority wants to change the makeup of the planning commission as the zoning ordinance they were working on will shape the town into the future. They want a more favorable ordinance with more lax restrictions for developers, higher building heights and more density.

Forbes pointed out that unlike “a lot of the Committees Commissions and Boards, the planning commission is a creature of statute – a creature of the Virginia code and certainly our assumption is that town council first wishes to comply with state law and the town code.”

“This law is not a suggestion to be disregarded if the governing body and the town is so inclined. I would ask you to look at the Virginia code section 15.2212.”

“The first has to do with the term of office and what the Virginia statute says is that one member of the planning commission may be a member of the governing body.” Said Forbes, “We have a member of our governing body – a member of the town council.”

She said the code states that the term of the member of the town council “shall be coexistent with the term of office to which he has been elected or appointed, unless the governing body at the first



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regular meeting each year appoints someone else.”

Forbes said the town code “also indicates that one of the members who may be a member of town council whose term of office shall correspond to his official

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Commissioners reject data center/residential combo

But accept dense housing in the Transition Policy Area

BY REED CARVER

On Feb. 8, two development companies pitched applications to the Loudoun County Planning Commission.

GOVERNMENT

The first, Innovation Gateway, applied to build a combination community park, residences and two data centers in the Urban Transit Center Place Type. This project would require re-zoning.

The second, Arcola Farms, applied to build a dense neighborhood in the Transition Policy Area, at the intersection of Evergreen Mills and Ryan Road.

The Commissioners unanimously rejected the first application, but passed the second 6-2, with conditions. Michelle Frank (Chair-Broad Run) and Ad Barnes (Leesburg) gave the opposing votes.

The Innovation Gateway application totals approximately 29 acres, with about two-thirds or 700,000 sq. ft. for data center usage. The site is in Sterling, at the corner of Rt. 28 and Old Ox Road. The applicant also requested an increase in housing density from 0.6 Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to 1.0

FAR. Used to analyze density, FAR is calculated using the floor area of buildings on the lot divided by the total area of the lot.

Staff recommended denial on the first application because non-residential uses so close to transit areas are inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

The only public comments were from Tia Earman, with PEC. “We cannot support more data centers; we highly recommend rejecting this request,” she said, referring to the demand such a project would place on the grid. If this were built, the precious land could not be used for Urban Transit Centers, nor would it have residential uses, said Earman.

“This is trying to density-pack data centers,” Earman added. “We [PEC] wonder how reducing green and open spaces serves our community.” The proposal was in direct opposition to the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, she said.

Tony Calabrese, representing the applicant, said construction measures would be taken to reduce noise from data centers. He said there would be a park with trails next to the apartments. The company modified their proposal several times to create a compromise, he noted.

Nevertheless, “if this happens, this will be doomed to be an area filled with data

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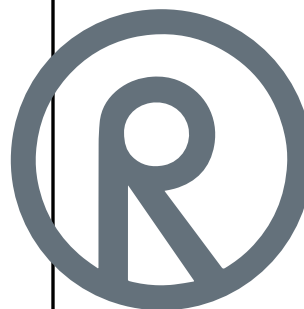
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Arts for All to Celebrate 35 Years

BY LIZ TENNEY JARVIS

In celebration of their 35th Anniversary, Arts For All-Loudoun will revive the musical The Wizard of Oz. This is the same show that started decades of theatrical productions by the organization featuring individuals with disabilities.

It was brought to Loudoun in 1989 after Cindy Welsh saw a presentation of Very Special Arts, sponsored by the Kennedy Foundation. Welsh, then Recreation Supervisor for Loudoun's Parks, Recreation and Community Services, immediately said to herself, "I'm going to start this program in Loudoun County."

Welsh says that coincidentally at around the same time, the County's Special Needs Summer Camp was coming to a close. They had planned for the production of The Wizard of Oz at the end of camp and Very Special Arts took off from there.

Welsh's daughter, Lauren, was cast in the show as the little dog Toto with Welsh saying, "I shadowed her with the supportive role of 'barking'." In a full circle moment, Lauren will be part of the cast in this year's The Wizard of Oz. Welsh states that in those early days, "we soon realized that we needed an individual that would be in charge of the growth of VSA and take it to the next level, and I knew no one but Alice Power would fit the job."

VSA's The Wizard of Oz is described by Alice Power as, "the first production done with so little beyond dreams!" Power says there was no money so the costumes, set and production know-how were based just on the drive to do the best they could.

"I had been doing some children's theatre at the community center [Purcellville] so she [Welsh] convinced me I could pull it off. We settled on The Wizard of Oz because it was everyone's favorite story!" exclaims Power.

According to Power, everyone in the cast had some kind of challenge but from the very beginning there were always supportive people to make sure that all could participate. "I was flying by the seat of my pants but there was such a beautiful spirit about the show that it could not help but be successful," said Power.

Welsh reflects on 35 years saying, "VSA became so important to so many parents. The smiles and fun that all the



participants had made everything possible for the desire to grow. Seeing the cast perform on stage made all the hard work worthwhile as the love, kindness and support glowed in each and every actor/actress and the smiles on their faces couldn't have been replaced."

Welsh sums up her sentiments by expressing that bringing VSA to Loudoun County was one of the best things that ever happened to enhance the lives of Individuals with Disabilities in Loudoun.

Kellie Goossens, Arts For All Programming Specialist II, and volunteer Coordinator has been involved with VSA/AFA for the past 19 years. "I have seen lives change by being a part of this organization. This is not just a place for individuals with disabilities to spend time in an inclusive environment – it's much more," said Goossens.

She states that throughout AFA's 35 years and to this day, friendships are made while supporting each other through teamwork on stage, self-confidence is boosted, and calculated risks are taken by the Artistic Team to challenge their actors to act, sing and dance more, and try something new, in a safe, friendly environment. Goossens' daughter, Amanda Barr, was also involved over the years and she knew that theatre was the place for her.

Barr's journey with VSA/AFA reflects many similar stories as told by Loudoun families participating in the non-profit's 35-year history. Barr started 18 years ago when she was 10 years old. She said she continued to grow with the program and after performing for a few years, she moved on to be part of the backstage crew and then stage manager for Charlotte's Web and Winnie The Pooh.

Involvement in the program is continuous for many participants and familiar cast members will appear year after year. Barr decided to further her stage experiences by attending Radford University and graduating in 2018 with her

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Rt. 7/690 Interchange – ‘Measure twice to cut once and the divorce before the marriage’

BY KWASI FRASER

Citizens of Purcellville, let me clarify my position on the Rt. 7/690 Interchange. I once supported this proposed project based on the Loudoun County Interchange Justification Report (IJR) design.

I envisioned relief for Hirst Road congestion as documented in the IJR. My endorsement was based on an earlier design presented in the IJR. I had not yet seen a comprehensive picture of the impacts of the County’s design changes, and trusted that such data would be forthcoming. The IJR design that informed my support for the proposed project, differed starkly from the current design.

Supporting the project for its promised traffic improvements, I championed its development after being elected mayor in 2014. Since 2014, however, both the project design and the surrounding area have undergone much change.

In 2021, during my fourth term, I pressed

for the project’s advancement, not fully aware of the new design change implications or of the County’s flood plain plans. As we learned more about the floodplain encroachment and potential damage to homes and the South Fork of the Catoctin Creek, along with increased traffic from an eastbound ramp, I reevaluated my position on the proposal. I sought input from the community, transportation experts, and more information from the County. I expressed concern about the increasing fast-tracking without due diligence.

The County continued to make claims of reduced congestion, even while data from their hired experts warned of dangers. As such, I do not support the recent irresponsible decision by Mayor Stan Milan, and Council Members Caleb Stought, Kevin Wright, Mary Jane Williams, and Erin Rayner. Their support is without updated studies and fully transparent disclosure of its impact

on Purcellville and Western Loudoun County.

Unfortunately, Mayor Milan avoided addressing my questions that were submitted for the Public Hearing and instead sent out an email misrepresenting my past support as current support. He completely disregarded my inquiries. Here are my unanswered questions:

- Does the Town or the County have any professional estimate of the increase in the number of trucks coming to Purcellville from the west via the future eastbound ramp on the 7/690 Interchange with access to Hirst Road and Berlin Turnpike, leading to the truck station behind the Catholic Church?
- What impact is anticipated on Berlin Turnpike and Rt. 7 from the expected rise in truck traffic originating from the west?
- What percentage increase in

flooding is projected during and post-construction of the 7/690 Interchange?

- Where can I access an analysis detailing the environmental impact on nearby homes resulting from the construction of the 7/690 Interchange within the floodplain?
- Is there a potential for increased flood risk from the interchange’s construction that might expose the Town to legal action from affected communities?
- How is the 7/690 Interchange expected to alleviate congestion on Main Street and Berlin Turnpike in Purcellville?
- Was the removal of Lot 74 (601 N 21st Street) from the Town Map and tax roll to facilitate the interchange’s construction subject to a public hearing? If not, what determined this decision?

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Publisher & Editor
Valerie Cury

Creative Department
Pam Owens, Layout/Design

Advertising

Sabine Bibb Tonya Harding
SabineBibb@gmail.com THarding455@gmail.com
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Boo Bennett
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Valerie Cury, 703-943-8806
editor@BlueRidgeLeader.com

Mailing Address:

PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325

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Deadline for print edition is the third week of each month, or, online any time.

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Our Zoning is Fundamentally Flawed

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Time to nerd out a bit.

At the end of this piece there’s a two or three-line, italicized bio. Yes, I was a developer and yes, I handled millions of square feet of major office buildings, from Miami to Louisville, and from New Orleans to Richmond. My biggest building was 1.2 million square feet, the tallest was 40 floors. Each of them was

for a Fortune 50 firm. Doing that meant working with planning and zoning staffs on every project, and often digging deeply into many zoning codes.

Now, years later, I’ve finally understood a fundamental flaw in almost every zoning ordinance I’ve read. Including ours.

The Law vs. The Map

Zoning has two components – a code or ordinance, and a zoning map. In practice, public debate has always seemed to be about the ordinance or about making a one-parcel change in the zoning map. Preparing the zoning map is generally done by planning and zoning bureaucrats.

Perhaps elsewhere there are public hearings and comments about a zoning map, but I don’t think that happens in Loudoun. So, what does happen? Here’s my educated guess:

County Staff looks at a map of the county, finds swaths of land that seem to share common characteristics, and anoints them with the same zoning classification. Thus, almost all of western Loudoun’s 230,000 acres are labeled ARN for the northern part or ARS for the southern part. (“AR” means “Agricultural Rural” and N is for the northern part of the county while S is for the southern area.) Aside from different allowable densities, these two areas have essentially the same zoning.

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Just Say No to the Second Largest Data Center in the Country

BY JOHN LOVEGROVE

When you think about Loudoun County and why you settled here, what comes to mind? Is it the Western Loudoun countryside filled with horses, rich Fall foliage and sweeping views? Is it the vibrant economy of Eastern Loudoun, the state-

of-the-art schools, or the beautiful suburbs and mixed-use communities? For members of our

Political Action Committee, Loudoun’s Future, our mission is to protect all of these advantages that make our county such a wonderful place to live.

But what happens when overdevelopment encroaches on our way of life, East and West? This is exactly what’s happening as the Board of Supervisors debates rezoning parts of our County for a data center at the Belmont Campus on the west side of Belmont Ridge Road south of Route 7.

The zoning of the property’s 111 acres is as follows: 41.5 acres zoned PD-IP for Industrial Park, 15 acres zoned PD-GI for General Industry, and 54.5 acres zoned A3 for Agricultural or Residential use.

Data Centers are allowed on the PD-GI and PD-IP parcels. That means 56.5 acres are available, by right, for data centers. The developer can build a 1,344,150 sq. ft. data center on this land and is within his rights to do so. We have no argument with that, if we have the power capacity for the facility. But the applicant, through a requested zoning change and special exception, asks for more than three times the size of what he is allowed.

At the next Board meeting on March 13, our elected officials

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Let us renew our commitment to serve those who serve us

Dear Loudoun Community:

Loudoun, on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, our community suffered an almost unbearable loss. As the governing body of Loudoun County, every member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors understands and acknowledges the extent to which the men and women

LETTER

of our Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System and the men and women of our Loudoun County Sheriff's Office put their lives on the line every day to keep our county safe. We never take for granted their sacrifices or the sacrifices of their families as they perform their duties admirably and heroically. It is, in fact, this very real understanding of the risks they face in service to our community that makes the loss of a member of our Combined Fire and Rescue System,

as well as the multiple injuries—some severe—sustained by eleven other firefighters, so tragic.

The loss of Firefighter Trevor Brown is devastating to his family and to all who knew and loved him. Firefighter Brown was a committed public servant, and like every member of our combined system, he was, indeed, a hero. His loss is deeply felt not just by the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company, but by the entire combined Fire and Rescue System and every member of the Loudoun County community.

As a body, we, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, speak with one voice as we offer prayers and support to all firefighters who were injured on Friday night and to their families. We speak with one voice as we encourage all members of the combined system to be aware of the mental health implications

that come after this type of tragedy. And of course, we speak with one voice in offering our most profound and heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and coworkers of Firefighter Brown.

At this time of great sadness, let us renew our commitment as a community to truly serve those who serve us. Let us resolve to lift them up and sustain them, not just with our words but with our deeds—individually, through our contributions, and collectively, through our steadfast legislative advocacy to ensure our first responders always have the resources, training and health benefits they need to do their jobs and return home safely at shift end.

And perhaps above all else, let us always remember to thank them for their extraordinary, selfless service to our community. To the men and women of the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System, please accept our enduring thanks for all you do.

With gratitude and respect,

*Loudoun County Board of Supervisors:
Chair at-Large Phyllis Randall, Vice Chair Juli Briskman (Algonkian), Mike Turner – Ashburn Supervisor, Matt Letourneau – Dulles Supervisor, Laura TeKrony – Little River Supervisor, Koran Saines – Sterling Supervisor, Caleb Kershner – Catocin Supervisor, and Sylvia Glass – Broad Run Supervisor.*

There is no room for special treatment for developers

Dear Editor:

I am once again compelled to address Mayor Stan Milan's recent statements regarding the Vineyard Square project. It seems Mayor Milan may have conveniently forgotten his own involvement as a member of the Town Council in crucial discussions surrounding this matter.

During a Town Council meeting with Mayor Milan, then Council Member Milan present, Casey Chapman explicitly stated to me and the

LETTER

Town Council that it was not our business to be informed about the project plan for Vineyard Square. Additionally, then Council Member Milan was present during a meeting with the same developer representative. The developer representative not only arrived an hour late, but also refused to scale back the Vineyard Square development to better align with the character and charm of our beloved Town.

Over the past eight years Purcellville refused to surrender its cherished small-town charm to the dictates of a developer unwilling to embrace our community's vision. The allure of our town, both for residents and tourists, cannot be enhanced by succumbing to the imposition of a sprawling commercial and residential development in our downtown core. We unequivocally reject the notion that yielding to the demands of an unreasonable developer is ever an acceptable solution.

Over the past eight years, numerous businesses including Bia Kitchen,

Nichols Hardware, Southern States, Tree of Life Ministry, Catocin Creek Distillery, American Legion, and Another Turn Tac Shop have collectively invested over \$8 million to establish and expand their presence along 21st Street in Old Town Purcellville. These endeavors were undertaken in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan and proper processes, without seeking out deals with the Town Council.

Furthermore, over the last 14 years substantial road and water infrastructure upgrades have been carried out along 21st Street, funded by hard-earned taxpayer money. To suggest that there was no effort to engage the principals of Vineyard Square to realign their project with the Comprehensive Plan is not only inaccurate but also disingenuous.

For businesses to thrive, they require three fundamental things from their government: honesty, predictability, and fairness. There should be no room for special treatment or clandestine dealings behind closed doors, if that's what Mayor Milan is pursuing.

It is imperative that Mayor Milan and our local government uphold these principles and ensure transparency and accountability in all dealings related to development projects. If you meet with a developer disclose to the people what you discussed and explain how it's in alignment with their Comprehensive Plan. Better yet, meet developers in a public forum – such as a town council meeting.

Kwasi Fraser, former Purcellville Mayor

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Just like nothing (else) on earth: Hal & Berni Hanson Regional Park

BY TIM JON

I was so anxious to explore this place, I arrived long before sunrise and forced myself to wait in my car until I could at least justify the camera in my pocket; I'd made the discovery – just a few days before my visit – of a new 'sleeping giant' of a location, and tried to keep my excitement in check as I made my preparations, drove to the site and awaited the day.



TIM JON

You see, my quick research on Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park showed merely a lot of 'undeveloped land' in South-Central Loudoun County. The aerial views on any internet maps – quite literally – revealed a bare-bones

landscape. Even I can recognize good, old Virginia clay from the sky.

How could this be a park? Well, I'll leave that one for the 'slide rule boys' to answer, but my early morning walk turned up a massive collection of brand spanking new facilities: a lodge big enough for hundreds of visitors, a nature center on the opposite end of the largest body of water in the park, an administration building near the entrance and parking lots, a series of pavilions and other small shelters across the landscape – a mind-boggling array of sporting fields, for various uses – and maybe the coolest feature of all – a playground built for the kid in all of us, put into



practice – one recent morning – by an aging, but willing, story teller.

And this rather lengthy description paints only about one-third of the picture; Hanson Regional Park spans over two hundred and 50 acres. The boundaries of the facility stretch out on both sides of Evergreen Mills Road (I explored only a portion on the eastern side),

reaching up to Creighton Road in the North and down to the intersection of Arcola Mills Drive (the Route 659 split) in the south.

It's a hefty expanse of land – and water: I skirted the largest of at least a half-dozen ponds within the Park boundaries, each featuring

wooden docks to take the visitor right out over the surface.

And, about half-way 'round this little lake, I noticed an impressive stand of mature trees – mostly hardwoods – on the other side of the paved trail; I even noticed – to me – an impressive sign posted: Tree Conservation Area.

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Ask Dr. Mike

By Michael
Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Dr Mike,

Our 18-year-old daughter who is a senior in high school, is addicted to her phone, and we don't know what to do. The phone is always in her hand, and even though my husband and I don't disapprove of most of what she's doing with the phone, we also think she's on it way too much. We've tried to set limits, we've taken it away, we've talked to her, but nothing has worked. Everything we've tried so far has led to disagreements or really bad fights.

Her position is that she gets great grades, she plays a team sport, she has

a part-time job, she has an active social life, and she helps out around the house, so we should just leave her be. How is she going to do well in college if she's always on her phone? Life was simpler and better when we were growing up and technology wasn't the driving force for everything. Your help is appreciated.

– Worried Parents in Loudoun

Dear Worried parents in Loudoun,

Based on what you've written, it doesn't seem that your daughter is addicted to her smartphone. Perhaps she uses it compulsively at times, but I'm not so sure her phone use merits serious changes or parental intervention. If your daughter does well academically, has a part-time job, plays a team sport, has a solid social life, and helps out around the house, then she is arguably succeeding and she seems to have achieved impressive balance in

her life.

I encourage you to reflect on the ways in which your own biases or beliefs may be impacting your negative opinion of your daughter's phone use. Is it possible that her phone use worries you because of your own discomfort with technology?

Every generation is proud of their time, and it's common to romanticize our childhoods, but to believe that life was better when technology was less available or less pervasive probably isn't completely accurate. Smartphones also allow us to do so much.

You need to give your daughter the space she needs to figure out her relationship with technology. You write that you're worried she will not do well in college if she's always on her phone, but you also write that she's on her phone too much for your comfort level now and

doing well.

Senior year of high school is the perfect time for you to afford your daughter with age-appropriate opportunities to increase her independence and autonomy in the world in preparation for college life.

I also recommend that you have a conversation about this topic. Make the focus of the conversation on your concerns and not your position. It's not that your daughter's wrong and you're right, it's more about talking things out and getting to a better place. Letting your daughter know that you will work on respecting how she chooses to engage with technology, and asking her to respect your basic parental expectations, is a fine compromise.

If your daughter's phone use continues to be a problem for you, I recommend that

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Village at Clear Springs re-zoning calls for 1,077 homes and tennis complex

BY REED CARVER

At the end of the Jan. 10 Board of Supervisors Public Hearing, the Board listened to county staff's evaluation of the Village at Clear Springs development proposal, the applicant's arguments, and public comments, until 2 a.m. The decision was not made that night.

The applicant is Leonard S. "Hobie" Mitchel, of Clear Springs Development, LLC. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission with 2 opposed.

Loudoun County staff presented the application as an assemblage pieced together from 29 parcels totaling 245.95 acres. It is sandwiched between Evergreen Mills Road to the west, and the Dulles Greenway to the east. The north border is the Leesburg Town Limits. Its southern border is Shreve Mill Road.

It is currently zoned AR-1, Agricultural Rural, and is within the Transition Policy Area, and Transition Compact Neighborhood Place Type (TCN). The application would require a zoning map amendment. Special exceptions must be made to accommodate yard sizes and playing fields with 106 overhead lights.

The proposal calls for 1,077 dwellings with 28 outdoor courts, an indoor tennis facility, two parks, and trails. They consist of:

Two hundred and thirty are typical houses – single family detached, with 121 age restricted units, for 55 and over.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

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Purcellville Police Chief Cynthia McAlister announces retirement

Purcellville Chief of Police Cynthia McAlister announced she will retire on May 1, after nearly nine years of service to the Town of Purcellville, and over 42 years of law enforcement service to the Northern Virginia community.



Chief McAlister has led the Purcellville Police Department since June 2015. During that time, she has expanded the Department to include adding two sworn positions: Deputy Chief of Police and Administrative Lieutenant; and one civilian position. She has overseen such projects as the implementation of a new Records Management System for electronic police records, e-citation (electronic) summonses, and body worn cameras.

GOVERNMENT

Chief McAlister also expanded the Purcellville Police Department's community outreach opportunities through the formation of the Books and Badges library partnership program, adoption of the Coffee with a Cop initiative, creation of the

Purcellville Bike Safety Rodeo, and growth of the Homework Club.

Led by Chief McAlister, the Purcellville Police Department joined the multi-jurisdictional Northern Virginia Critical Incident Response Team to investigate critical incidents involving law enforcement officers within cooperating jurisdictions. In addition, under Chief McAlister's direction, the Department partnered with LAWS Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services by officially joining the Loudoun County Lethality Assessment Program.

Additionally, Chief McAlister initiated the Department's update of its general orders, and oversaw the re-accreditation by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission in 2017 and 2021, with an anticipated fifth re-accreditation in 2025. She also implemented the Volunteers in Police Service program.

Chief McAlister has also directed the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 »

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Loudoun begins Foster Youth to Independence Initiative

Loudoun County is scheduled to launch the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative Friday, March 1, with the opening of a targeted waitlist for the county's Housing Choice Voucher Program strictly serving eligible young adults who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

The Foster Youth to Independence Initiative is a special purpose voucher funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to expand the availability of housing assistance to young adults with a history of foster care. The program pays a portion of participants' monthly rent based on household income for a period of up to 36 months. After this time period, the participant may receive continued assistance under the general Housing Choice Voucher program, depending on budget availability and continued participant eligibility.

The Foster Youth to Independence Initiative is a collaborative effort of the Loudoun County Department of Family Services – to assess eligibility

of applicants, and the Loudoun County Department of Housing & Community Development – to allocate vouchers to eligible applicants.

Waitlist Eligibility

All applicants for HCV vouchers under the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative must work with the Loudoun County Department of Family Services to determine their eligibility for the HCV waitlist. The population eligible for assistance under this program are young adults meeting the following conditions:

- Are between the ages of 18 and 24.
- Have left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act.
- Are homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older as these terms are defined in the Code of Federal Regulations at 24 CFR 578.3 and 24 CFR 576.2.
- Meet general HCV eligibility

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

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Milan and Rayner hold private meeting with Kuhn to discuss Purcellville annexation

BY VALERIE CURY

On Tuesday Feb. 20, Mayor Stan Milan and Vice Mayor Erin Rayner held a private meeting with Chuck Kuhn and his team regarding the potential annexation of his 117.07-acre property on Purcellville Road. His property is located in the county. Attending the meeting along with Milan and Rayner were the town manager, the assistant town manager, the town's engineering department and the town's head of public works.

GOVERNMENT

According to an email from Rayner to town council "Kuhn's team presented to us their desire to apply for annexation of the property into the town. He presented potential site uses, types of industry that he would like to see there, a complete traffic study, a well and water study, and a fiscal impact study."

Continued Rayner, "This was an informational meeting to gain more insight on the development of that land, which is happening if the annexation occurs or not."

This is a misleading statement as Loudoun County Planning and Zoning has already weighed in on the proposed rezoning, recommending denial.

Rayner said that Kuhn has applied for rezoning with the county to go from

R-3 residential to light industrial. She said the buildings would look like office buildings.

The property is zoned Joint Land Management Area-3 (JLMA-3) which currently allows for one house per 3-acres, which would total 39 homes. It is located north of Rt. 7 and east of Purcellville Road (Rt. 611).

Kuhn has an application with the county to apply to change the zoning to Planned Development – Industrial Park (PD-IP) – with total build out at 1,274,892 sq. ft. of industrial.

According to a VDOT memo dated Aug. 24, 2023, there is an estimated 4,297 weekday vehicle trips for the proposed site.

A first referral memorandum, on Sept. 21, 2023 from Loudoun County Planning and Zoning stated, "Community Planning finds the proposed rezoning and development of a business/industrial park on the subject property is inconsistent with types of rural business, land development pattern, and design characteristics anticipated for the Purcellville JLMA Rural Neighborhood Place Type."

Community planning further stated, "The proposed business/industrial park is not in keeping with the types of low intensity rural business uses identified

within the Purcellville JLMA Rural Neighborhood Place Type, nor does the use contribute to the rural character of the area.

"Community Planning finds the proposed rezoning request to allow the development of a business/industrial park on the subject property is not supported by the land use policies or design characteristics for the Purcellville JLMA Rural Neighborhood Place Type.

"Community Planning cannot support the rezoning request due to fundamental conflicts with the land use and land development policies of the 2019 GP for the Purcellville JLMA Rural Neighborhood Place Type."

The county planners recommended if the applicant wanted to continue to pursue a development with "commercial and industrial uses," to discuss a possible annexation or boundary line adjustment with the Town of Purcellville.

Annexation into the Town of Purcellville would be the only way for the owner to achieve the industrial use zoning on his property, and the massive density that comes with annexing a property into the Town of Purcellville.

Rayner's email invited the rest of the members of the Purcellville Town

Council to email her if "they would like to meet with Mr. Kuhns and his team." She wrote, to comply with the FOIA laws, council members would have to meet with Kuhn two members at a time, to avoid it becoming a public meeting.

She said meeting with Kuhn would give council members the opportunity "to hear the presentation and ask questions before he presents to the public."

"If you would like the Mayor or myself to be one of the council members in the meeting with you, so we can add more context or answer questions from the first meeting that were discussed, please say, we'd be happy to," wrote Rayner.

Kuhn made a similar presentation of his proposal to turn his property into an industrial complex to the community several years ago. The meeting which was held at Patrick Henry College, with then Council Member Stan Milan in attendance, was well attended. At that time, Kuhn's plan received an overwhelmingly negative response from the community, who favored leaving his property in the county, and with current zoning.

Dulles International Airport receives \$35 Million for terminal

On Feb. 15, Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) announced that Washington Dulles International Airport will be receiving \$35 million in federal funding thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to aid in the construction of a new 14-gate regional and commuter terminal. This is the third consecutive fiscal year that the new terminal project has received funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Airport Terminals Program, after receiving \$49.6 million in 2022 and \$20 million in 2023.

"I'm proud that our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is improving the passenger experience here at Dulles Airport by making the new highly-anticipated regional and commuter terminal possible," said Wexton. "The renovations supported by this funding will make it easier and more

convenient for local travelers that rely on Dulles as well as spur new economic growth in our region. I'm proud to have supported the once-in-a-generation bipartisan legislation that continues to transform and upgrade our community's infrastructure."

The new terminal will be conveniently located atop the underground Concourse C/D Aerotrain station, providing quick and easy access to passengers and reducing transit times for passengers with connections at Dulles who must currently use shuttle buses or long walkways.

The new terminal will allow for jet bridge boarding that reduces boarding times and is more accessible for passengers with disabilities, rather than forcing passengers to board using outdoor covered walkways and aircraft stairs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

Purcellville Planning Commission's access to town attorney restricted

BY VALERIE CURY

The Purcellville town attorney has only attended a few of the planning commission meetings since Resolution Number 23-04-01 was presented and adopted on April 11, 2023. In it, the town council says the Purcellville town attorney shall attend one monthly regular meeting of the planning commission. Despite the town's obligation and commitment to provide legal support to the planning commission, the mayor and town manager continue to deny the planning commission access to the town attorney.

GOVERNMENT

Planning commission access to the town attorney is particularly vital at this point as the planning commission is finalizing its advice to the town council on aligning the zoning ordinance to the comprehensive plan.

There are also significant outstanding legal issues.

For example, at the Feb. 15 Planning Commission Meeting Chair Nan Forbes again asked through the planning commission staff for a legal explanation from the town attorney with regard to Catoctin Meadows Lot 74 and its sudden extinguishment, with no explanation, from the town's boundaries. This action was done without going through a public process. When the planning commission makes inquiries about this issue, the staff has been silent.

Said Forbes, "My concern is that the town may have substantial legal liability and there certainly could be a significant title issue if that transaction is flawed. It certainly has been subjected to a lot of questions.

"This board certainly thinks it is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

Remembering Gerhard Leonard “Jake” Jacobson

Gerhard Leonard “Jake” Jacobson of Ashburn, Virginia, passed away on February 13, 2024. Jake was born on May 28, 1928, at Terrace, Minnesota, to the late John Jacobson and Gina Aslakson Jacobson. After completing elementary years in a one-room school, he graduated from Glenwood, Minnesota, High School where he served as class president.

In 1950, Jake graduated from West Point and received a commission in the Regular Army. He served as Battery Commander during the Korean War and later as a Battalion Commander during the Vietnam War.

Jake and Ann Natalie Gandrud were married at the Glenwood Lutheran Church on August 8, 1953, and then moved to military assignments around the world. After completing the Army Command and Staff College in 1965, Jake and Ann studied Russian for a year prior to his service as a Military Attaché in Moscow.

He served in the Pentagon with the Defense Intelligence Agency with a focus on the Soviet Military and as the Inspector General for the Army Chief of Staff for Intelligence. In 1976, he retired from active duty as a Colonel. His awards include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Air Medal, and the Department of Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

For the next 16 years, Jake worked for BDM Corporation where he provided support to the Defense Nuclear Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency. In 1980, Jake and Ann purchased a circa 1800 farm in the foothills of the Blue Ridge which they restored and successfully placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ann and Jake traveled extensively and

were both active in their church where Jake served as Council President and Trustee. He was a lifetime member of the VFW and served as Commander of his American Legion Post. He organized numerous fundraisers in support of the Legion’s Boys and Girls State program.



They were early supporters of the General George Marshall International Center in Leesburg where Jake served as M. C. at several Veterans Day events.

As a Rotarian, he served as an Assistant District Governor and was a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, a Paul Harris Society Member, and a Benefactor of the Rotary Foundation. As Rotary Club

President, he was named the President of the Year among the 53 district clubs. A satisfying event was attending the university graduation of a single-parent boy he had mentored as part of the YMCA Big Friend/Little Friend program.

Devoted to his church, family, and country, Jake is survived by two children: Marie (Robert) Johnston of Winter Park, Florida; Paul (Gail) Jacobson of Heber City, Utah; eight grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren. Jake was preceded in death by his wife of sixty years and his daughter, Gretchen (John) Zeltner of Leesburg.

A funeral service was held on February 28 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 605 W Market St, Leesburg, Virginia. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to Loudoun Cares, PO Box 83, Leesburg, VA 20178; Blue Ridge Hospice, 333 W Cork Street, Suite 405, Winchester, VA 22601; or Shepherd of the Hills Music Fund, 4090 Sudley Road, Haymarket, VA 20169.

Remembering Philip A. Forbes

Philip A. Forbes, a highly decorated Marine veteran, died on January 23, 2024, at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Charlotte Hall, Maryland. He was 86 years old. He died of Parkinsons Disease.

Philip was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on February 6, 1937. He was a Southern Gentleman to his core. He was the only child born to Philip Bosman Forbes (1892 -1977) and Lillian Goff Forbes (1902 -1991).

Philip attended Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, Georgia for four years (1951-1955). He attended Virginia Military Institute for one year and then returned to his beloved Louisiana to attend Louisiana State University. He graduated from LSU in 1960. While there he ran track, played baseball and was in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.

He served as the Cadet Colonel of the ROTC. He was in the fraternity Phi Kappa Theta for four years where he served as Vice President.

In 1960 he joined the United States Marine Corps, attending Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia. He served as an Infantry Officer throughout his time in the Marine Corps and he loved every day of it. Philip was in Force Recon having received training in Guerilla Warfare Intelligence (1966), Amphibious Warfare (1969), 5th Force Recon Co Jumpmaster Training (1969) and SCUBA @er Training (1970) among other training.

He held badges for parachuting 198 jumps, and underwater demolition. He served two tours in Vietnam and worked as an advisor for the Vietnamese Marines. He talked happily of eating rice balls with the men he trained.

Philip was in combat often and held eight Personal Awards for Valor. He earned two Purple Hearts. He is the most highly decorated Marine from Louisiana from the Vietnam War. He served on the United States Marine Corps Competitive Rifle Team.

Philip retired from the Marine Corps In 1984, however, he remained a consummate and passionate Marine. While working for the Veterans Administration post-retirement his office voice-mail was “Perimeter is secure, troops are fed and morale is very high. Semper Fi, Philip Forbes.” People would call just to hear the message.

Philip’s interests were eclectic. He loved reading Hemingway and in 2000 he and a number of his friends were in Pamplona, Spain for a week where he ran with the bulls. He was close enough to touch them and one horn did “poke” his arm, for him a badge of honor.

He was a lifetime fan of the New York Yankees and one spring in 1995 he attended Yankee Fantasy Camp in Fort Lauderdale, Florida where he was able to play baseball with Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford, Hank Bower, Yogi Berra and so many other wonderful players.

He loved old movies and collected films. He could tell you the names of the stars and directors of all the old classics.

Philip loved the music of the great composers; Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Bobby Short, Hank Williams. He

knew so many of the lyrics and could belt out the tunes while doing a little soft shoe.

The books on his shelves were divided into sections. Some were biographies of the stars – Humphrey Bogart, John Wayne, Fred Astaire, and John Ford. Most were history with an emphasis on the Civil War and military history.

Philip had a quick wit, a twinkle in his

eye and loved a good party. He often wore his Forbes kilt and opened the champagne bottles with a swipe of his Marine Corps sword.

He married Deanna Bergeron in 1959. They divorced in 1981. He married Nan M. Joseph in 1983. They were married for forty years.

His survivors are his wife, Nan M. Joseph Forbes, his children, Philip Forbes, Jr., Michelle Paddock, Nan M. Forbes and Robert R. Forbes, his grandchildren, Jack Henry Paddock, Andrew Forbes, Charles Paddock and Matthew Forbes; great-grandchildren Emet Paddock and Levi Paddock; and his former wife, Deanna Bergeron.

The family gives thanks to all the staff at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, especially Haley Mozie, Shannon Kauffman and Stacy Cheek.

He was truly a unique individual from a time long past. His generosity, his thoughtfulness and his spirit will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Funeral arrangements will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a date and time to be determined.





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Funeral service for fallen firefighter Trevor Brown on March 4

Funeral services for fallen Sterling Volunteer Fire Company firefighter Trevor Brown will be held Monday, March 4 at 11 a.m. at Cornerstone Chapel located at 650 Battlefield Parkway SE, Leesburg, VA.

Our hearts go out to his family, the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company, Loudoun County Fire and Rescue, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, and all the system members who sustained injuries during this Feb. 16 incident. Additionally, please keep community members who lost either their home, or have damaged homes due to the explosion.



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A Cappies Review of *The Hamilton Conspiracies*

BY EMILY GRUSSING, ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Red beams of light pan across the room of suspects, flashing across their faces, each looking guiltier than the next. Time will tell who has blood on their hands, and history will tell the rest.

The Hamilton Conspiracies, originally titled "The Hamilton Murders," originated locally at StageCoach Theatre Company in Ashburn, Virginia. This interactive show grasps the audience with six different possible endings (conspiracies) based on

historical facts around the time of Alexander Hamilton's death, with influences from the hit Broadway musical *Hamilton*.

Written by Terry Smith and produced by Jerri Wiseman, the show was originally created as one of StageCoach's signature dinner theater experiences in 2020. Since then, the show has been both adapted for the stage as well as fit for high school performers, with a name shift from "murders" to "conspiracies."

The high school version of this show

makes its debut with a wonderful performance from Foxcroft School.

On July 11, 1804, Alexander Hamilton is found dead in New Jersey, 10 paces away from Aaron Burr's smoking pistol. Back at home, Hamilton's wife, Eliza, entertains a room full of federalists (the audience) awaiting his return before the Messenger delivers the fateful news.

The suspects range from Alexander's mistress to his sister-in-law, all the way to his political enemies and the President of the United States. As viewers explore six possible conspiracies, the question is raised: who writes history, and what do they want us to believe? Aaron Burr pulled the trigger, but who really loaded the gun?

Each of the actors showed incredible commitment to their characters while still adding their own unique take on their personalities. One performer evident of this was Anna Carey as Thomas Jefferson. Carey brought countless lighthearted comedic moments, allowing the otherwise dark

show to breathe. Her sassy mannerisms hilariously contrasted with her broad, presidential stance. Not only did she bounce off of her scene partners, but she fearlessly walked straight through the fourth wall, playing off of the audience as well.

Eliza Hamilton (Moriah Friendly) also created beautiful relationships throughout the show. Every time she addressed someone, she demonstrated incredible attention to the moment, from the focus in her eyes to her body language. She stood with poise and walked with grace that was appropriate for her character and the period. Still, she

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 »



The Company of "The Hamilton Conspiracies" in Foxcroft School's production of *The Hamilton Conspiracies*. Photo: Ginny Riley.

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COMMISSIONERS REJECT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

centers,” said Robin-Eve Jasper (Little River). The decibels may be too high for human health and the housing included will attract those who can’t afford single family homes, she said.

Ad Barnes said when the main electric power to data centers turns off, generators kick in, and this process creates noise which would disturb the residents — even sometimes in the middle of the night. “I cannot get over the fact that this is a UTC area and we’re trying to build data centers,” Barnes said.

Eric Combs (Vice Chair-Ashburn) commented, “We somehow need more robust conversations on how these uses might coexist,” he said, referring to data centers being incorporated with residential areas. “For that reason, I’m not going to support this.”

It unanimously failed to pass.

Referencing the Arcola Farms residential application, Tia Earman said, “The TPA [Transition Policy Area] is intended to be a visual and a spatial transition from the urban east, to the rural west ... this application is not in keeping with the rules of the TPA, nor with the small lot neighborhood place type. It inappropriately sacrifices the open space aesthetic, tree canopy, and unique look and feel ... in favor of too much density for the vision and guidance of our county documents.”

Loudoun, if they adhere to their documents, is gifted with the ability to offer rural and suburban spaces to residents. If not, they will be reduced to “a one-size fits all suburban sprawl,” she concluded.

The Arcola Farms application is a request for re-zoning of 80 acres from Transitional Residential [TR-10] to Single Family Residential.

The change would be necessary to build 307 houses on 80 acres, equaling a density of 3.82 houses per acre, which a Transitional Residential zoning will not allow. The applicant also wants to be released from meeting requirements of lot width, garage setbacks, front and side yard sizes, limited impervious surfaces, and planting street trees.

Michelle Frank analyzed the surrounding neighborhoods to see if this proposal would fulfil the Comprehensive Plan’s intent to fade urban places into rural ones, particularly in this area [the TPA]. If this was a rural village, she said, only 64 houses would be allowed on 80 acres.

“To the immediate north on Ryan Road we have a TR-10 development, so it’s 0.1 units per acre ... the most dense thing around is a PDRV, with the 80% option so it’s going to be at 4.0, but with 80% open space, which gets you to that 64 number. To the west is Willowsford, which is TR-3, so about 0.33 of a unit per acre,” Frank said.

Part of the argument from developers is that this neighborhood is meant to be an extension of Brambleton, which is adjacent to the southeast. Twelve and a half percent, or 39 units, will be affordable housing, which is the basic requirement of the ordinance.

“We want to highlight there is a more than a one-acre park in the center. Front doors literally lead out into this space,” said Colleen Gillis, an attorney

representing the developers. “We are providing more than is required because it [each Affordable Dwelling Unit] is not an apartment, but is an actual detached home,” she added.

“I think it is a denser layout than would be preferred,” Jasper said. “Even though these are single units they feel more like attached, they will be really reliant on the public space, that’s going to be their only outdoor space. I think this space will be stressed, because there isn’t a lot of common area.”

“On Evergreen Mills, is where we are making the transition. The buffers are incredibly important there, and what’s going to be behind the buffers is a very dense development. You’re going to be driving down Evergreen Mills and see a suburban style neighborhood in what’s supposed to be a rural area,” Jasper added.

A large swath of open space curves through the neighborhood. Nothing can be built there because it is a floodplain. It is presented as open green space, but its social use is limited because of its draining function. The neighborhood density is calculated from the gross area of the site, including the floodplain. “If you take out the floodplain [and evaluate density based on usable land] you’re at 4.8 units per acre,” Jasper concluded.

Mark Miller (Catocin) said he thinks the use of different lot sizes and integration of the floodplain as an open space make this neighborhood innovative. The floodplain can still be used as open space most of the time, “because it is not a wetland,” he argued. He concluded that the proximity to four high schools makes it a

sensible addition to the area.

Robin-Eve Jasper supported the proposal, with Eric Combs’ change — adhering to the required buffers. Madhava Madireddy (Dulles) supported it as well. “I would have liked some redesign I wanted some more open space,” but he said he was persuaded by the developer’s proffer to build supporting infrastructure on Ryan Road, saving the county \$17 million.

“It has feasible market-rate affordability,” said Combs, and the developer can build them faster than the county. “We need to pay for them, [ADUs] and we pay with more density. But the place type is consistent with more density.”

“I love ADUs being put on the market,” Michelle Frank said. “But this would be less than 1 unit per acre if it was in the Rural Policy Area, to the west, about a third of the unit per acre. But we are at 3.8 ... right up against 0.1, 0.33, [surrounding low density].”

“We’re not close enough ... I have pause about it just not meeting the plan. This is in the TPA, and just doesn’t feel TPA to me.”

Six commissioners moved Arcola Farms forward to the Board of Supervisors with recommendation of approval.

Even though commissioners recommended denial for Innovation Gateway, the authority to approve an application lies with the Board of Supervisors. Their public hearing for both applications is tentatively scheduled for April 10, beginning at 6 p.m.

PURCELLVILLE POLICE CHIEF, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

expansion of the Department’s social media presence and digital outreach to include a significant increase in its Facebook presence, the creation of its Instagram page, X (formerly Twitter) account, and Nextdoor neighborhood service platform.

Under her leadership, the Purcellville Police Department’s facility was renovated and expanded to add an additional 1,994 square footage.

In addition to her duties as Chief of Police, Chief McAlister has maintained involvement in the following law enforcement groups to include, but not limited to, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the FBI National Academy Alumni Association, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Police Executive Research Forum.

She also plays an active role as a board member of the Executive Board of Directors for the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy. Chief McAlister holds a Bachelor of Science degree from George Mason University, a Masters Certificate from American University, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and

the Police Executive Leadership School.

Chief McAlister previously served the Fairfax County Police Department for 35 years before joining the Purcellville Police Department. While at Fairfax, Chief McAlister started as a patrol officer in March of 1982, later holding the position of Criminal Investigation Detective, and rising to patrol supervisor upon her promotion to Sergeant.

She also served in the roles of acting Animal Shelter Director, and Assistant Station Commander as a First Lieutenant. In 2007, she was promoted to Captain as the Sully Station Commander. Upon her promotion to the rank of Major, she fulfilled the role of Director of the Fairfax Criminal Justice Academy, later serving as the Commander of the Resource Management Bureau, and then Commander of the Patrol Bureau II.

“Leaving Purcellville is filling me with many mixed emotions,” said Chief McAlister. “My time here has included many challenges, but also numerous advancements for the Department as a whole. I hope my legacy for Purcellville is that of progress. Progress in terms of professionalism, community involvement, and advances in technology.

“We have come so far in regards to

building relationships within the community, improvements in training, updates to policy and procedures to align with best practices and state requirements, as well as basic technological advancements to allow our officers to more efficiently do their jobs. It has been my privilege to serve alongside the members of the Purcellville Police Department and my

fellow Town of Purcellville employees. I am proud of their dedication, hard work, and ability to grow and learn from challenges. They truly have a servants’ heart; always giving their best to our team, and our community. I leave knowing our Department members will honorably serve and protect not only our town, but also each other.”

A CAPPIES REVIEW, CONTINUED FROM P.16

carried a heaviness in her tone, underscoring her tenacity with grief.

Contrasting with Eliza’s control, her sister Angelica’s (Emmy Queen’s) free spirit filled the room. Angelica goes to show that her bubbly, teasing personality is not a marker of lower intelligence. In fact, she is cunning and quick-witted, unapologetically putting every man in his place. She fiercely contributes to the show’s sub-theme of feminism and female empowerment.

This show’s ability to paint a dramatic picture is straight out of an Agatha Christie novel, thanks to the talents of Foxcroft’s terrific technical teams. The set (Manabi Kono and Elise Rovde)

pulled the audience into the room with the characters, built and decorated just like a home from the period.

Additionally, the lighting team (Lauren Graham) did an incredible job setting the tone of the show, such as cold, blue spots on a memory of the late Alexander and red angry flashes during heated moments. The hair and makeup team (AnnaMaria Clarke) completed the characterization with sharp choices such as lip color, contouring and masculinization, and aging lines and gray hair.

Foxcroft’s production of *The Hamilton Conspiracies* will go down in history as an amazing entrance to Blue Ridge Cappies. I guess you could say that they KILLED it.

PURCELLVILLE MAYOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tenure of office as a town council member” – which in this case runs until Nov. 5, 2024. She said the code also says a member may be removed for malfeasance in office.

“None of those are things that are true in this case ... It does not appear that there is any basis to do this,” said Forbes. She had two more sentences to finish, and asked for additional time. Milan said her time was up, and kept repeating it – cutting her off.

Milan said he had already run the matter to appoint a new council liaison (more in line with his new agenda) to the planning commission by the attorney but he would ask again to “cross his t’s and dot his i’s.”

He said the performance of the current liaison was in question. “We have been in session for over a year and there has been failure to provide updated information on the rewrite of the zoning.”

However, Forbes comes before council with quarterly and now monthly executive summaries that include progress on the zoning rewrite. She just gave a detailed report last month.

In early January 2024, the planning commission completed their work on the zoning ordinance and sent it off to staff to implement.

As recently as Sept. 14, 2023 Mayor Milan attended a planning commission meeting and said he would like to speak on the process for the zoning ordinance.

“I just wanted to drop by and extend my appreciation for all the hard work that the planning commission has been doing for the past 7 months. It’s not gone unnoticed by me. I know you had a hard road to tow with the departure of our zoning administrator and the lackluster performance by the consultant in doing the rewrite.” He said in many instances the planning commission had to start over “from what we were asking to be done originally.

“You have taken the reigns guiding it on its way to completion” and he said he was looking forward to that. I wish I could do more for you, but I’m just a servant like you, volunteering,” Milan said.

The planning commission has been going through the ordinance line by line. From June 22 to July 27, 2023 for example, the planning commission held 7 meetings including special meetings.

On Feb. 13, 2024, Milan complained that he has asked for the “reinstitution of the HPOZ [Historic Preservation Overlay Zone] and it’s fallen on deaf ears.” However, this very issue is already addressed in the new draft zoning ordinance.

“When I was on council, I would provide weekly updates to inform the town council on what’s going on. That has not happened for over a year,” Milan said.

However, between July 2020 through Jan. 11, 2022 then Council Member and Planning Commissioner liaison Stan Milan gave only two executive reports to the town council on the Planning Commission’s work. He also gave a brief statement on July 12, 2022 asking for guidance from the town council on priorities.

The Northern Collector Road

Purcellville resident Christine Green spoke in favor of an amendment to remove the Northern Collector Road from the Town Wide Transportation Plan. Several members of the town council ran against the Northern Collector Road. When it came time to let the Planning Commission work on an amendment to remove the road from the town’s transportation plan, however the motion failed in a 5-2 vote, with Mayor Milan and Council Members Caleb Stought, Kevin Wright, Mary Jane Williams and Vice Mayor Erin Rayner voting no.

Said Green, Vice Mayor Erin Rayner made a motion “to cease deliberations on the Town Council and consideration of Planning Commission recommendations regarding the NCR. This proposed action raises significant concerns about maintaining open lines of communication and transparency.”

Green continued, “Their refusal to amend the 2009 Transportation Plan despite three opportunities to do so and then to require a transportation study raises questions about this delaying tactic.”

“Failure of the Council majority to address urgent public safety concerns raised by residents regarding the NCR” has a detrimental effect, said Green.

“Instead of taking concrete actions, the Council majority has merely offered verbal assurances that the NCR will not be built. The County and Town Transportation plans reference each other. If the NCR remains in the Town’s Transportation Plan, there is no reason for the County to remove it from their own Transportation Plan. It can then potentially be used to justify future County and Town efforts to build the NCR. Words of assurance mean nothing when documents that guide Purcellville’s planning staff are at odds with the desires of the town’s residents as expressed in our Comprehensive Plan.”

Green said the council “also needs to address concerns about the potential annexation of Mr. Kuhn’s property on Purcellville Road and its implications for the neighboring communities. This includes the potential impact of a large industrial complex. As you are aware, residents support the current zoning with 1 home per 3 acres.

“It is crucial for the council to

prioritize the safety, health, and well-being of the community they were elected to represent. The Commonwealth of Virginia created the Town of Purcellville to serve the interests of this town’s citizens, not Loudoun County” concluded Green.

County staff has told the owner of the proposed Valley Commerce Center to place the Northern Collector Road on their proposed plan.

Developer Casey Chapman said, “I don’t really care about the NCR. I don’t view it as a public safety concern, but as of right now it’s a moot point. It’s not funded and I don’t care if it does or doesn’t [get built].”

Defending himself Milan said, “Regarding the NCR, if we don’t state and say what the intended purpose of the NCR is and explain to the citizens that it’s a moot point – there’s no funding for it – there’s no need to continue on with this. The NCR is not going to happen from what the county tells me and what we decided here – there’s no funding.”

Rt. 7/690

At the very end of the meeting and deviating from council protocol, Milan said he didn’t get to finish his council comments so he was going to take the time to address more issues.

“I had put myself out there and said I would support the community [Catoctin Meadows] and their efforts to deal with the county on their [flood plain] easement.

“Come to find out that the HOA and the county were not working in good faith, particularly the HOA.

“I was hoodwinked into believing the HOA for Catoctin Meadows was working in good faith with the county. Once revealed that was a fallacy, it was a blow to my word of conduct. I live by what I say,” he said.

“But when you betray me and I put myself on the line to support you, then I cannot trust you anymore. My responsibility is to the residents of Purcellville first.”

The county withdrew their offer to purchase the one-half acre property from the HOA, and the HOA has yet to hear from the county. The county suspended land acquisition efforts on June 26, 2023 to pursue a phased implementation approach for the project as a result of a town council determination not to consider vacating interest in the HOA one-half acre until things were worked out with the HOA. Presently, no action has been taken.

Vineyard Square

Milan also said he looked at the Town of Purcellville as “a diamond in the rough. It’s constantly stated that Purcellville is the hub of western Loudoun.

As I travel through the communities ... we service Lovettsville, Round Hill, Bluemont, St. Mary’s [sic], Hamilton and Hillsboro. They come here for grocery stores, restaurants. They come here for Wine and Food Festivals.

“So, we have a broader responsibility outside of Purcellville; so, I accept that as a duty for the citizens of Purcellville and the surrounding community.”

Milan said, “Those who disagree with that, you know, I’m sorry – residents first, community, special interests.”

Justifying meeting in private instead in public, Milan continued, “We have met with several private parties to enhance and look at opportunities to revitalize our downtown community.”

Milan might have been referring to a Feb. 2 private meeting with Sam and Casey Chapman, Vice Mayor Erin Rayner and four other men. They were walking on 21st Street and O Street looking at the Chapman property in detail. If the approved project doesn’t expire due to failure to start the project the permits should expire in June 2025.

The current site plan is approved for a six-story project of retail plus 40 condos. If the permit for Vineyard Square expires, any new proposal must be in accord with zoning which limits the by right height to 35 ft. (two stories), with no more than 2 apartments or condominiums per building. Any new proposal would have to go through the public process.

Among Rayner’s largest campaign contributors were the Chapmans, their affiliates, his uncle and a staff member – who contributed \$10,000.

The current plan was approved by the former Lazaro town council nearly 14 years ago. Chapman has had extensions due first to a zoning determination which allowed the project to continue as long as it was “diligently pursued,” and then due twice to COVID legislation.

“It’s been 14 years that nothing has been done [with Vineyard Square]. 8 years when no one has talked with the developer at all to see what alternatives,” said Milan.

However, in a council meeting with then Mayor Kwasi Fraser and then Council Member Stan Milan present, Casey Chapman said it was not the town’s business to view any new designs for Vineyard Square. Additionally, at another meeting with Mayor Fraser and Milan present, Chapman said he would not be interested in reducing the density of his project.

Milan said as soon as he says “I need to talk to the developer to see what’s going on, people turn their back.”

“I’m like why not? But we are moving forward in the future of Purcellville,” said Milan.

Purcellville Farmers Market to open Saturday, April 6



“We’re thrilled to bring the Purcellville Farmers Market to life and add it to our list of events and programming,” said market organizer Silas Redd. “This market is more than just a place to buy

Purcellville is about to get a whole lot fresher with the grand opening of the Purcellville Farmers Market. Locals and visitors alike are invited to celebrate the unveiling of this vibrant marketplace, set to become the new hub for farm-fresh produce, artisanal goods, and community connection.

Scheduled to launch on April 6, the Purcellville Farmers Market promises to be a haven for those seeking high-quality, locally sourced products.

COMMUNITY From succulent fruits and vegetables to handcrafted cheeses and baked goods, the market will showcase the best offerings from regional farmers and artisans.

At the heart of the market’s mission is a commitment to sustainability and supporting local producers. By providing a platform for farmers and small businesses to directly connect with consumers, the market aims to foster a stronger sense of community while promoting environmentally friendly shopping practices.

groceries; it’s a gathering space where people can come together, support local growers, and enjoy the freshest produce our region has to offer.” He continues “This market will be small, but mighty!”

The Purcellville Farmers Market will be located at 142 E Main Street located behind Nostalgia Boutique and will operate every Saturday, April through October, from 8 to 11 a.m. Whether you’re a foodie looking for unique culinary delights or simply seeking a welcoming community atmosphere, the market promises something for everyone.

Don’t miss out on the excitement! Join us for the grand opening of the Purcellville Farmers Market and experience the freshest flavors Purcellville has to offer.

For more information or to apply to be a vendor, please visit www.PurcellvilleFarmers.com, email purcellvillefarmers@gmail.com, follow us on Instagram and Facebook @PurcellvilleFarmersMarket.

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Up, up and away

On Feb. 9 at Evergreen Christian School on Evergreen Mills Road in Leesburg, the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center released a rehabilitated immature eagle that had been in its care for over two weeks. The young eagle who does not have a white head or tail yet was found unable to fly near a Loudoun County landfill facility.

When it was taken in, BRWC veterinary staff noticed it had abrasions on its face, a clay-like material in its mouth along with a sore—all demonstrating that it was down and uncoordinated for an extended period of time. Upon testing, the eagle had elevated levels of lead in its system (as with many eagles taken in by BRWC).

It is suspected the bird may have ingested other heavy metals as well. BRWC had been treating the bird for its lead poisoning with chelation therapy since it was admitted. Once the levels dropped, the bird was moved to BRWC's outdoor pre-release enclosure so it could fly and demonstrate it was ready for release.

Lead toxicity in wildlife comes primarily from wildlife eating the lead fragments of ammunition in gut piles or dead deer that were previously shot but survived long enough to get away from the hunter, or that the hunter left behind. Lead toxicity is particularly high in birds close to hunting season, and wildlife organizations have long advocated for hunters to



use lead-free ammunition.

Said Christy Titus who is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and also an elementary school teacher who has taught for 30 years, "I take in about 400 orphaned animals baby mammals a year and rehabilitate them and send them back in the wild."

Titus said she did a quick assessment and triage and let the vets know what's coming. He is very, very feisty. He's a juvenile bald eagle; so he has a brown head. They don't get their white heads until they're about five. But he is more than ready to go, she said.

The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, the only dedicated wildlife hospital in Northern

Virginia, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization caring for native wildlife by integrating veterinary medicine, rehabilitation, education and research. To learn more, go to www.blueridgewildlifectr.org.

George C. Marshall International Center honors Boulder Crest Foundation

The George C. Marshall International Center presented a \$2,500 check to Boulder Crest Foundation on Feb. 14 as a result of their fundraising efforts for their

COMMUNITY

2023 Veterans Day Commemoration. On hand for the presentation were Marshall Center board member Paul Michaels and Boulder Crest Director of Philanthropy Janet Reid.

The Marshall Center's annual Veterans Day Commemoration at Dodona Manor is an opportunity to honor military veterans and their remarkable contributions to our nation and community. The Marshall Center is committed to supporting the Boulder Crest Foundation as a way to honor and support veterans and their families.

The Marshall Center held its 19th annual Veterans Day event last November. Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk and Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair-At-Large Phyllis Randall welcomed guests, which included representatives from Boulder Crest, VFW Post 1177 and American Legion Post 34.

"Honoring veterans for their service is the primary goal of our November 11 event," said Marshall Center Board Chairman Tom Greenspan. "But it is also important to express that honor in tangible ways — and we can think of no better way to do that than to support the valuable work of the Boulder Crest Foundation."

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BRMS social studies teacher honored with awards

Teaching the youth that will be the community leaders and voting citizens of tomorrow is not a small responsibility. Blue Ridge Middle School's Civics teacher, Erik Sassak is doing this job to an award-winning level.

Erik Sassak received the Virginia Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is a nationally acclaimed accolade that celebrates educators who excel in promoting awareness and understanding of civil rights issues, fostering critical thinking, and empowering students to become informed and engaged citizens.

Sassak has also received these other top accolades: Loudoun Business Magazine – Top 30 Young Professionals Under the Age of 30, Washington Post's Agnes Meyer Outstanding – Teacher Award nomination, Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution – Teacher of the Year, Mount Vernon – Teacher of the Year runner up, Shepherd University Alumni Award – Finest Under 40. He has also been recognized on the floor of the Virginia Senate for his teaching accomplishments.

"I just try to work hard to help my students reach their potential, be successful, and learn to love history." Sassak said when reflecting on his most recent award.



Sassak with Virginia State Senator, Russet Perry, after a video interview to help teach his Civic students about state and local government.

Cohen Ballinger, an eighth-grade civics student said, "Mr. Sassak truly is such a remarkable teacher who has always been so understanding and considerate of his students. He has done such a great job teaching not only me, but my peers as well and he is always willing to help anyone who asks. I cannot stress enough how lucky we are to have him here at Blue Ridge with us."

Another one of Sassak's students, Lulu Leach said, "Mr. Sassak is the best Civics teacher. The way he teaches the lesson is so entertaining. He makes the lesson enjoyable and captivating. Mr. Sassak has such a fun personality and he is a great teacher!"

Sassak is known for his passionate approach to the civics instruction and has been a beloved educator within Loudoun County Public Schools for almost two decades. His classes are characterized by lively discussions, thought-provoking activities, and a safe space for students to explore complex societal issues. He ensures that his students not only understand the historical significance within the curriculum but also recognize their application in contemporary society.

Said Brion Bell, Principal of Blue Ridge Middle School, "This recognition is a testament to Mr. Sassak's dedication to fostering an inclusive and enriching educational environment. We are proud of his efforts both at the Blue Ridge classroom level and now at the state level. We believe this achievement reflects positively on our school and community, highlighting the outstanding educators who contribute to its success. Please join us in extending our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Sassak for this well-deserved honor."

Hillsboro Hoedowns bring dance and music to Hillsboro


Traditional string bands and top callers from across the country headline the inaugural season of Hillsboro Hoedowns.

Coming up March 30 will be Baltimore's Brad Kolodner, fresh off a tour in Australia and New Zealand. Accompanying the extraordinary clawhammer banjo playing of Kolodner will be multi-instrumentalist Rachel Eddy and bassist Alex Lacquement, with caller Janine Smith, founder of the DC Square Dance Collective.


On April 27 Appalachian fiddler Dakota Karper from Capon Bridge, West Virginia, joins *Devil in The Mill* with Kim Forry, a top Mid-Atlantic caller and world-class flatfoot step dancer – and so much more.

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OPINION: OUR ZONING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Then what?

Down to the Last Decimal Point

With scalpel-like precision, the recent “General Plan” for the county projects 11,643 new houses in western Loudoun by 2040. Wow! This number should be updated to reflect development and conservation easements done since the plan was adopted in 2019. I’d hazard a wild guess that around 9,500 houses remain to be built. That’s waaay too many, but I’ll save that topic for a later day. We usually forget that the 11,643 Staff estimate is only through 2040. Who knows how many houses could be built after that year?

Staff used a numbingly detailed approach. They examined every parcel of land in the west, then lot-by-lot, deducted land that was already developed or was in easement, and then divided the remaining (undeveloped) lots into two categories: Parcels over 20 acres in the north or over 40 acres in the south, and then, smaller parcels.

Next, they applied the maximum allowed density for each parcel. Thus, an undeveloped 100-acre farm in the north would be assigned 20 houses, every undeveloped plot less than 20 acres would be assigned one house. Applying simple arithmetic to Staff’s lot-by-lot assumptions yielded the projected 11,643 houses.

Many conservationists correctly ignored the five-digit precision and simply shouted, “Too much!” Some even asked, “Why did you assume the maximum density? Others should have asked, “What did you assume about future conservation easements?”

Good observations and questions, but two more important things were missing in the General Plan.

Football With No Goal Line

First, the Plan does a poor job of answering the “then what?” question: What’s the fiscal impact? What additions to infrastructure will be necessary to accommodate those new houses and 100,000 more vehicle trips each day? The Plan just tosses out a stunning number new houses, then stops.

Second and more important, the Plan never opines whether seeing that many more houses is a good thing or something unacceptable. It never describes what western Loudoun would look like with that many more houses. There was no vision. Repeat, there was no vision.

Staff would disagree and laud their plan. I won’t – it’s full of grand aspirations but few details. It’s also full of contradictions. How about this: “Residential development should conserve land for ... the rural economy...” Or this: “to protect and preserve this valuable land to sustain

the rural economy.” Those statements are diametrically the opposite of what western residents want. Putting businesses over citizens is ludicrous, but Loudoun’s done exactly that over the years, going as far back as a 1980’s Board that was so controversial that the FBI had to investigate.

Moreover, what exactly is meant by “rural economy”? Does it conjure farms, nurseries, artisan meats and cheeses, flowers? Instead, the rural economy and helpful zoning provisions generally support the brewery industry, whose roadside bars make Loudoun a great drink-and-drive location.

Mainly, we wanted to be left alone. That would be a clear goal line.

They Forgot the Key Vision

The planning effort should have begun with agreeing upon population targets, for the county as a whole and then allocated between planning areas. When the Plan was written there were around 415,000 residents in the county. The Plan used growth rates and estimated that we’ll have 695,000 people by 2040. That would be truly horrible.

Instead, I would have suggested a build-out population target of 500,000 people and adjusted zoning to meet that target. It would have been so easy: just use simple arithmetic. My suggestion posits 195,000 fewer people than did the

plan, so divide the Plan’s 695,000 number into 195,000.

Presto! In every zoning category, just reduce allowable residential density by 28% and we’re set.

A Ratchet

Media pundits and politicians constantly wonder why citizens are unhappy with the economy. After all, inflation rates and unemployment have dropped, so why aren’t we happy? Compared to a few years ago, consumer prices are still sky high, and worse, they ain’t coming down as much as they went up. In economic terms, that’s the ratchet effect at work. That’s a huge problem which the pols and pundits just don’t understand.

The ratchet effect also applies to our population growth. Many thousands have moved here in the past few decades, and I doubt if they are planning on going back. This does not mean that we have to accept ad infinitum growth at unsustainable rates. Through better, citizen-oriented zoning, we can limit the ultimate population to a number we can accept.

Charles Houston lives on a small horse farm outside Paeonian Springs and used to develop large office buildings for big corporations.

OPINION: JUST SAY NO, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

can rezone part of this parcel for a nearly-five million sq. ft. data center, or they can refuse to bend to the pressure from big development and disapprove the rezoning. It’s that simple. But what’s at stake is critically important to the future of Loudoun County.

Loudoun’s Future isn’t opposed to thoughtful development that pushes our County forward while paying tribute to our rich history. Similarly, we aren’t opposed to the data centers that are here today or new ones in the future. These centers provide help funding County initiatives, schools, and needed services through the taxes they pay. They employ our residents and have become a critical part of our county’s budget. We have welcomed them previously and have no plans to stop moving into the future.

What we are opposed to is rezoning current land set aside for other uses into more land for data centers. We are wrestling with issues such as the power for these centers and the impact on nearby communities; the noise and sheer size of some of these buildings.

We should not approve rezoning requests when we cannot accommodate the developments that are already approved. We call on the Supervisors and the Planning Commission to pause these applications until the newly formed Zoning Ordinance Amendment group creates the regulations necessary to

accommodate the needs of the industry without the destructive consequences we have seen so far.

The Belmont project’s proposed 4.8 million additional sq.ft. of data center bring with it a tremendous amount of problems that must be considered. For starters, the nearly-five million sq. ft. would make Belmont the second largest data center in the country. Regardless of any buffers or setbacks, a project this size would negatively impact many residents. There’s no denying its size and the impossible task of blending it into our community – by comparison, the largest office building in the world, the Pentagon, at six million square feet, is not much bigger than the Belmont deal.

Are the residents of Belmont ok with 150 diesel generators—the backup power for this data center—starting up at any time of the day or night, and at least once a week for testing purposes?

With a project this big comes a massive need for power. Imagine the power needed for 600,000 homes – roughly 600 megawatts – that’s what would be needed for this project. Our area is already strained for power thanks to the energy needed to power our existing data centers in Loudoun County.

The County and state don’t have the power available for a center this big, which means the additional power will need to come from across state lines, through new transmission lines.

Hoover Dam, which powers the city of Las Vegas, would have to be 30% larger just to power this one data center!

Data centers pay a lot of taxes, but they bring problems like this: The Belmont project and others like it could wind up doubling Loudoun citizens’ electric bills. We would be on the hook for paying for the controversial transmission lines that would be needed to ship in new power. The cost of these new lines will be included in our electric bills.

All these negatives notwithstanding, at the crux of our opposition to the Belmont plan is the request by the developer to turn all 111 acres, about twice the area of The Vatican, into a data center that’s far larger than zoning allows.

The County can simply say no to this proposal. No justification or legal reason is required. Zoning exists to balance the uses of the land so that all parties, not just developers, are well served.

The land was zoned this way to create that balance. Almost 56 acres of this woodland on the banks of Goose Creek are zoned A-3 by the intent of the people of Loudoun.

It is in everyone’s best interest to pause this project until the Board of Supervisors has more time to develop a comprehensive approach to data centers. We encourage a pause on approving this center until a new data center plan is officially approved by the County. The Board can just say ‘no.’

Show up at the Board Meeting on March 13.

You can sign up to speak at the following website www.loudoun.gov/4853/About-Board-of-Supervisors-Meetings. You can contact your Supervisor here: www.loudoun.gov/86/Board-of-Supervisors.

Now is the time to Stop the Madness!

John Lovegrove is the President of Loudoun’s Future, a Political Action Committee dedicated to preserving our way of life in Loudoun County. He lives on a farm outside Hillsboro with his wife Judith and six horses, three dogs, one bird, and five goldfish. Go to Loudouns-future.org.

**PURCELLVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11**

worthy of a review by an attorney,” said Forbes.

Planning Manager Boyd Lawrence said the process is for him to communicate the request to the mayor and town manager. He said if the “parties think questions should be taken up, then they will be.”

In yet another attempt to get legal answers to planning commissions’ concerns Forbes said, “It would be helpful to know if it is moving through channels or we’ve been told no.”

VILLAGE AT CLEAR SPRINGS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

percent of the AMI [annual median income] in the county.

One hundred and eighty will be Multi-Family Attached Affordable Dwelling Units. These units will have varied facades to break up their profile.

The Village at Clear Springs is also just outside the Airport Impact Overlay District but within 1 mile of LDN 60 [day-night average sound level] airport noise contours. One mile away will be an average of 60 decibels 24/7.

Staff in February 2023 wrote that the project does not fit the vision for the Transition Compact Neighborhoods. They believe that the development is more fundamentally suburban.

The concept of TCNs calls for a mix of attached and detached housing, which is dense, but accompanied by deep setbacks to preserve open space as the dominant feature.

The project includes two large non-residential areas which are a tennis facility, and a linear park running through the middle. There is also going to be a park on the southernmost end.

The developer is willing to build with or without the tennis facility, an L-shaped building, that is the indoor club/HOA headquarters. Since it reaches a height of 45 feet, staff rejects it as the TCN standards set a limit on building height at three stories or 36 feet.

The applicant is also proffering \$16 million to widen Evergreen Mills Road to four, median-divided lanes.

Nevertheless, staff rejects the proposal because it doesn't make a transition between the suburban areas and rural areas. Its scale, intensity, and density are

inconsistent with the TPA. In order to be consistent, "open space and natural vegetation," according to the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, need to be the dominant visual feature of the landscape.

Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk said that residential uses are not compatible with this spot because of the proximity to the airport. The Leesburg Airport, she said, is the second busiest airport in Virginia, with 90,000 takeoffs and landings last year [247 per day]. The key reason for denial, is that the development will be directly below these flight paths, she said.

Burk said, "future residents will be subject to a significant amount of noise ... and the airport continues to grow." At the minimum, the builder should be required to build in noise reducing materials, she said.

As of Jan. 10, the builders are not planning to use any construction measures to reduce noise.

J.C. Silvey, a Leesburg resident and airline pilot said that air contamination from the lead present in jet fuel must be considered. The public expressed concern about the increased amount of light pollution.

The public comments displayed a tension between the desire for affordable housing versus protection of the rural elements necessary to preserve the TPA. However, many supported the application due to the affordable housing.

Supervisor Caleb Kershner (R-Catoc-tin) made a motion to differ the decision until the March 13 BOS public hearing, at 6 p.m.

LOUDOUN BEGINS FOSTER YOUTH, CON'T. FROM PAGE 10

criteria as outlined in the HCV Administrative Plan found at loudoun.gov/hcv.

Eligibility is not limited to single persons. For example, young adults who are parents are eligible to receive assistance if they otherwise meet eligibility requirements.

All eligible applicants will be placed on the HCV waitlist in order of date and time the referral and application are received. Vouchers are limited by federal funding (HUD allows a public housing

agency to issue no more than 25 vouchers within a federal fiscal year); being added to the waitlist does not guarantee receipt of a voucher.

Individuals interested in participating in the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative must begin by contacting the Loudoun County Department of Family Services at 703-737-8824.

Anyone who requires a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability or needs language assistance in order to participate in this process, may call 703-737-8323/TTY-711. Advance notice is requested.

ARTS FOR ALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Bachelor of Science Degree in Theatre. Shortly thereafter, Barr started directing for the program and with the upcoming The Wizard of Oz, she is now on her fourth show.

Barr said, "The organization is so incredibly near and dear to my heart as it opened my eyes to so much love and understanding. As someone who is diagnosed and lives with ADHD, which

is often overlooked and not taken seriously, AFA is an incredibly safe space and I strive to create that space for all of our participants. The arts is beyond important and the participants that I've watched grow over the many years brings me so much joy and warmth."

The show will run from March 8-17 at the Franklin Parks Art Center in Purcellville. For more information go to artsforalloudoun.org.

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ASK DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

you seek out the help of a family therapist.

Dr. Mike,

My husband and I have done very well financially. Neither of us came from money or inherited anything substantial, but we've worked hard and have acquired quite a bit of wealth. We live in a \$12,000,000 house, and we have other properties, several businesses and a large amount of money saved and invested.

My husband is adamant that we should not leave a dime to our kids, and he believes they should instead work for everything, like we did. While I agree with him that our children need to find their own way in life, I also don't think it's a terrible thing to help your adult kids or to leave them an inheritance if you can.

Our financial advisor agrees with me, and he pointed out in our last meeting several very reasonable ways we can leave our adult children money without making their lives too easy. My husband became so upset in that meeting that he stormed out and threatened to divorce me if I didn't side with him to leave our children absolutely nothing.

I was humiliated, and am confused about so much, including my marriage. What's so

bad about leaving our adult children our money once we've passed? Isn't that what loving parents do if they're able to?

What's crazy is that we have great kids whom we haven't spoiled and who work hard and are caring to others. They go to public school and do well. They drive used average cars, and have jobs. They attend church and volunteer. Our oldest son just got accepted to a top university based solely off of his hard work and grades.

I don't want a divorce, but it seems this is the hill my husband wants our marriage to die on if I don't fully comply with him. Please help.

– *Upset in Loudoun*

Dear Upset in Loudoun,

While it's admirable that your husband wants your children to make their own way in life, his extreme position to leave them absolutely nothing and to threaten divorce if you defy him, is concerning.

Money means different things to people, and achieving wealth is determined by a myriad of factors – intelligence, overcoming a difficult upbringing or adversities, talent, ego, status, luck, opportunities, etc. It's not clear to me what personal wealth means to your husband, but based on what you've shared, I assume his relationship

with money is complex.

I encourage you to talk to your husband with an open mind and loving heart to gain a greater understanding of why he feels the way he does. What are his absolutes about inheritance and divorce all about? Who does he plan on leaving the money to if none of your children receive anything? I imagine that there's much more to his views, and I hope he's able to openly discuss things with you. It's possible that your husband is just very anxious about ruining or spoiling your children and their drive to be productive and successful in life.

Perhaps he has other and deeper emotional conflicts about the topic that have more to do with him. However, if the conversation doesn't bring you closer together regarding the topic, I would recommend scheduling a consultation with a couple's therapy.

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.

JUST LIKE NOTHING (ELSE).
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

In my quarter-century-plus timeline in Loudoun County – seemingly Ground Central for the housing (and just about any other use they can think of) development world, I had not once seen – or heard – this exact phrase. I recall much smaller (miniscule, in fact) Tree Save Areas within other building projects, but Hanson Regional Park has ACRES of trees – vast enough to feature walking trails which I placed on my wish list of activities for my next visit.

I also missed out on getting a closer look at the historic Mansion House on the southern end of the facility. And I never crossed the

highway to even get a good look at the western portion of the Park. Just a cursory look at my printed map (created by Loudoun County Parks and Recreation) shows multiple sporting facilities, pavilions, maintenance buildings, more ponds, and walking trails over there.

Like I said, this is a BIG place, and I just happened to see it (on my computer) while doing an aerial search of that part of the County, scouting out new territory for this series of stories. Go figure. And I did.

And, during that walk along the edge of 'the woods,' I noticed a vast difference in the smells – even the tastes – of the air. I felt privileged to share this little portion of the

atmosphere with these (mostly) silent beings, and slowed down to my 'listening speed' in walking. You know how people usually move slower in Church? That's how I am in the wild. It's a reconnection with things spiritual. Maybe this is where at least parts of the spirits of Hal and Berni Hanson like to reside.

I'll be back to visit them as soon as I can. And, if you should make an extra-early morning trip to the Park Playground, and you happen to see an ill-balanced, aging story teller, camera in hand, giving the textured slopes and other equipment a try – that just may be yours truly. Or – hopefully, someday – the better portions of my spirit.

DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

It will be nearly four times larger than the current facility, which will reduce crowding, allow for expanded concessions and passenger amenities, and create additional space for operational areas, offices, aircraft servicing, and baggage handling.

The new regional and commuter terminal project will also improve Dulles's environmental footprint, as the proposed new facility will be built to LEED Silver Certifiable standards. Environmental improvements include support for electric aircraft servicing vehicles and the use of modern energy efficient construction methods and materials.

The Airport Terminals Program provides \$1 billion in grants annually for five years to address aging infrastructure at our nation's airports.

OPINION: RT. 7/690, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

- What procedure is involved in removing a residential home within the Town of Purcellville and an HOA, from the Town Map and tax roll in support of a project like the 7/690 Interchange that is yet to be approved?
- Why is the county moving forward with the construction of the eastbound exit ramp despite the findings in the 2018 traffic study conducted by the County and VDOT, which indicated that the projected traffic volume from the first year

- up to estimates for 2040 does not justify the necessity of an eastbound exit ramp?
- Where is the traffic study that justifies the need for the 7/690 Interchange project now and in the future?
- What's the impact to traffic on Main Street and Berlin Turnpike if the 7/690 Interchange is not constructed?
- If approved, what is the estimated timeline for completing the 7/690 Interchange project?

Mayor Milan's approach, which seems to be driven

by cognitive dissonance, undermines the importance of policymakers being able to adjust their course in response to new and significant data regarding threats to the well-being and safety of our citizens and their properties.

In response to Mayor Milan, I emphasize the importance of careful consideration, stating, 'Measure twice to cut once, and the divorce before the marriage is the best one.'

Kwasi Fraser is the former Mayor of the Town of Purcellville.



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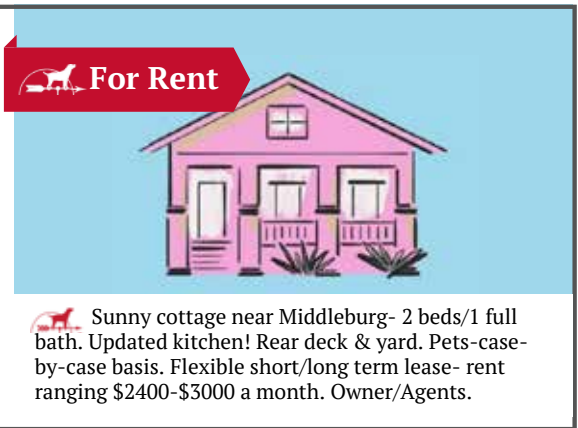
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