

Blue Ridge LEADER &

HAPPY Father's DAY



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER ECRWSS

STANDARD PRESORT U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 82 WOODSTOCK, VA Since 1984

JUNE 2024

www.blueridgeleader.com

blueridgeleader

LOUDOUN Today

“I’m taking my direction from the mayor, from the vice mayor, from the town manager” – Summer Wilkes, Planning and Community Development Director

BY VALERIE CURY

At the May 16 Purcellville Planning Commission meeting commissioners expressed surprise when they found out that Mayor Stan Milan and Vice Mayor Erin Rayner directed the town manager to put out a Request for Quotation, later revised to Request for Qualifications, for a Historic Downtown Master Plan along with Design Guidelines. A master plan for the downtown area is not a priority mentioned in the Town’s 2030 Comprehensive Plan. In addition, something of this nature is a legislative action, and should have been discussed

in an open meeting with a majority vote to approve moving forward.

The Vineyard Square approved plan in historic downtown on 21st Street is a 6-story commercial project with 40 condos – even though multi-family housing is not allowed in the C-4 District. This was passed by the Lazaro council (with two extensions) nearly 14 years ago but has not moved forward, although developer Casey Chapman has had active permits for the project during this period. His permits for Vineyard Square are set to expire June 2025. If they expire, he would have to resubmit a proposal with uses that are allowed in this district.

Since 2020 Vice Mayor Erin Rayner has received \$72,476 in campaign donations – over \$24,000 of which have been from Chapman, his affiliates and one of his relatives’ employees. Chapman’s footprint in the area has grown over recent years to incorporate three homes on Hatcher Avenue which he plans to tear down and replace with larger mixed-use buildings. He and other investors also currently own Valley Business Park on 21st Street.

Planning and Community Development Director Summer Wilkes, who is also the Town’s Zoning Administrator, informed the commissioners that the town has submitted an RFQ for a downtown master

HARTLEY
HOME EXTERIORS
ROOFING • WINDOWS • SIDING
540-441-7649
www.hartleyhomeexteriors.com
VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

plan and design guidelines. She said this “is something the comprehensive plan has obviously noted.”

Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman asked if there was “a vote taken to support this from the town council – from the planning commission? This seems like it’s moving ahead without any kind of legislative process.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 »

Citizens say a long-range plan for data center infrastructure is lacking

BY REED CARVER

Public comments on the Orme Farm application, proposed for 11.7-acres south of Leesburg, turned to the future of data centers in general during the Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on May 15. The proposal includes 508,000 sq. ft. of data center space, adjacent and south of Shreve Mill Road, east of the Dulles Greenway, right before the overpass.

Approval would mean moving the land out of the Leesburg JLMA - 20 Legacy Zoning District, to Planned Development - Industrial Park Legacy Zoning District (PDIP), which would allow data centers and sub-stations. Dominion is

planning power lines passing the site on the southeast.

Supervisor Laura TeKrony (D-Little River) clarified with staff that the by-right use of this part of the JLMA is rural business and light commercial. Staff said data centers are not allowed without approval; they cannot be installed by-right under the current zoning.

As part of the project, supervisors are considering special exceptions to increase the Floor Area Ratio from 0.6 to 1.0, and the maximum lot coverage from 0.45 to 0.60. These figures increase the indoor space. Staff suggested approval because they said this use is consistent with the place type.

Van Metre Companies are proposing

a tree conservation area, and a trail that would be able to be integrated into the Loudoun County Linear Parks and Trail Plan. They are also proffering truck queuing to prevent build-up on Shreve Mill Road. Serious equipment will be shielded from the public sides of the plot, said Denise Harrover, who represented Van Metre.

Chris Tandy with Loudoun Climate Project said, “The public is being forced to pay for infrastructure, while data centers buy energy in bulk and get a discount. If nothing changes, eventually data centers will have to run their back-up generators at peak mode in summer and winter, causing air-borne pollution ... I would ask

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 »



19550 Ridgeside Rd
\$1,250,000

CALL JOHN. GET MORE.
John Constant, Associate Broker
Tel. 703.585.6278 | john@atokaproperties.com
www.BlumontProperty.com

MCENEARNEY ASSOCIATES | MIDDLEBURG REAL ESTATE | ATOKA PROPERTIES
10 East Washington Street, Middleburg, VA 20117 | Tel. 540.687.6321
McEneaney.com | Equal Housing Opportunity



32638 Mount Weather Rd
\$629,500

Advertisement

"SHE SAVED MY LIFE"

Loudoun county resident Dawn R. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy, "my feet and legs were extremely painful and my doctor told me there was nothing they could do. That I would have to take Gabapentin for the rest of my life."

Then she met Ashburn's very own Rachal Lohr, L.Ac.

Peripheral Neuropathy is the pain, discomfort, and numbness caused by nerve damage to the peripheral nervous system. Dawn explained that daily tasks like opening doors and using the bathroom were overwhelmingly painful.

"How can you live for the next 30 years when you don't even want to get out of bed to do simple things?"

She was experiencing the burning, numbness, tingling, and sharp pains that those suffering from neuropathy often describe. "The way that I would describe it, it's equivalent to walking on glass." Dawn hadn't worn socks in five years and was wearing shoes two sizes too big so that nothing would 'touch' her feet.

Unfortunately, Dawn's story is all too familiar for the over 3 million people in the U.S. suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy.

If you're unfortunate enough to be facing the same disheartening prognosis you're not sleeping at night because of the burning in your feet. You have difficulty walking, shopping or doing any activity for more than 30 minutes because of the pain. You're struggling with balance and living in fear that you might fall. Your doctor told you to 'just live with the pain' and you're taking medications that aren't working or have uncomfortable side effects.

Fortunately, two months ago Dawn read an article about Rachal and the work she was doing to treat those suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy, without invasive surgeries or medications.

Rachal Lohr, founder of Firefly Acupuncture and Wellness, in Ashburn, is using the time tested science of Acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitating disease.

"Now when I go to bed at night I don't have those shooting pains. I don't have that burning sensation. I don't have pain coming up my legs," Dawn enthusiastically describes life after receiving Rachal Lohr's treatments. "I can wear socks and shoes!"

Dawn and her sister now operate a successful dog walking business, sometimes covering up to 5 miles a day.

"It's life altering. As far as I'm concerned Rachal saved my life!"

Rachal has been helping the senior community for over 16 years using the most cutting edge and innovative integrative medicine. Specializing in chronic pain cases, specifically those that have been deemed 'hopeless' or 'untreatable', she consistently generates unparalleled results.

What was once a missing link in senior healthcare is now easily accessible to the residents of Northern Virginia.

If you've missed too many tee times because of pain or you've passed on walking through the town centers with friends because you're afraid of falling, it's time to call Rachal and the staff at Firefly.

It's time you let your golden years BE GOLDEN!

Rachal Lohr, L.Ac. is once again accepting new patients. And for a limited time will be offering \$40 Consultations so call (703)263-2142 before August 1st to schedule a consultation.



**PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY?
Call (703)263-2142
to schedule a consultation!**

**Visit www.FIREFLYAcuAndWellness.com
to learn more and to take advantage of
their New Patient Offer!**

BRMS crossing guard Dave to retire in June

BY LIZ TENNEY JARVIS

Arrival and dismissal times at Emerick Elementary and Blue Ridge Middle School won't be the same without Crossing Guard Dave. After twelve years with the Loudoun County Sheriff's office, the legendary crossing guard Dave Becker will retire as of LCPS last day on June 14.

Former 30-year firefighter/EMT Becker plans to spend time with five grandchildren, including having lunch with them at their school. He will also be traveling with his wife.

Pedestrians, bus riders and car occupants all have come to love his



smiling, waving and heart/tip-of-the hat salute. Emerick Elementary school principal Dawn Haddock once said, "There is no better way to start your day than with a smile and wave from crossing guard Dave." He will be missed!

NOVA Teens' Solar project yields high school solar champion title

Five months of work on a solar-powered renewable energy project yielded big rewards for a team of Northern Virginia teens participating in the 2024 World KidWind Challenge, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 5-8. Team La Wai, made up of students from Purcellville and Leesburg (Loudoun County), Herndon and Oakton (Fairfax County), and Marshall (Fauquier County), won the event's Solar Champion award. The team, supported by community maker organization the Makersmiths, Inc., won the award after three days of skill-challenging events, testing and the presentation of their solar-powered project.

Teammates Scarlet Artz, Maximilian Burrus, Evie McConnell, Soren Ogelman, Zara Ramadan and Jocelyn Ro created their solar-powered water desalination project after considering water availability during the destructive Maui wildfires, incorporating the Hawaiian word for water – Wai – into their team name.

In creating their project, the team refined programming, circuitry design, 3D printing, laser cutting, communication and many other skills. Not all was smooth sailing for them, however, as they contended with melting circuits, learned to overcome structural support issues causing water leaks, and broke a critical battery mere minutes before their last competition.

Months of practice, construction, and working as a team taught them to overcome challenges such as these. Team coaches Justin McMillen and

Maria Busuioceanu guided the teens in their learning, refining and event preparation. Both coaches recognized the inspiration the event showcased and provided to all of the teams participating.

Team La Wai was invited to the World KidWind Challenge after winning the KidWind State Challenge in Virginia, hosted by James Madison University in April. The team advanced to the state competition after winning the Northern Virginia regional challenge, hosted by Shenandoah University in March. At each event, teams met with and worked alongside other participants to share ideas, inspiration, and tools. The 2024 World KidWind Challenge featured 94 teams, with nearly 400 students from 21 states and from Mexico and Taiwan.

Through each challenge, at the regional, state and world's level, teammates met with, heard from, and were judged by industry representatives and leaders. Among the 2024 KidWind Challenge sponsors were the Appalachian Energy Center, Apex Clean Energy, EDP renewables, Enel S.p.A., Invenergy, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), New Jersey Economic Development Authority, Orsted, Vernier Science Education, University of Maryland's College of Education, the Kahlert Foundation, and many more.

More information about KidWind Challenge go to www.kidwind.org/challenge/worlds, including how to participate in one of the solar or wind powered challenges.

Are you paying too much for Propane? Call Hunt Country Propane today!



WE'RE LOCAL. WE'RE LESS. WE'RE HONEST.

- We believe all customers should be paying the same low price for propane.
No games. No hidden charges.
- Receive a **FREE** Propane Tank Safety Check.
- A 5-minute call could save you **\$1,000 or more!**
- **We Sell and Install** New 500 & 1,000 Gallon Tanks!



Contact us today at **(540) 687-3608**
or visit us online at huntcountrypropane.com



PO Box 309 Middleburg, VA 20118-0188

LC# MD HVACR 01-2278



The Pollinator Problem

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Let's talk about sex.

A pollinator is anything that carries pollen from the male stamen of a flower to the female stigma of that or another flower. Honeybees are the most recognizable pollinator. Here's the usual vision: Pastel flowers on knee-high stems, sprouting in a sunny garden. Bees and a few other friendly insects, perhaps butterflies or dragonflies, flitting and buzzing around the scene.

The image is appealing.

Flower Gardens

In recent years I hear less "flower garden" and more "pollinator." Are people just showing off by using the botanical word? I often hear that term from the county's custodians, the Supervisors. I especially hear it in zoning and land use cases. Who doesn't want more flower gardens?

Developers have figured it out: Most requests for looser zoning or density-adding Special Exceptions emphasize that there'll be a pollinator garden. Then watch a good number of the Supervisors

swoon. The developer generally ends up getting whatever he wants. This happens time after time.

Fairfaxed

These scattered little pollinator gardens don't mean Loudoun will become Eden. More accurately, following this path increases the likelihood that Loudoun becomes Fairfax. Supervisors go ga-ga over any rezoning scheme that claims pollinator cred. The result is consistent approval of bad developments. If you doubt me, wait about three years and look at the sad Transition Policy Area between the suburban east and the mostly rural west. It will cease to exist as anything other than areas of banal subdivisions wedged between data centers, with a Sheetz or two around the corner.

An Unnecessary Celebration

It seems that at most Board hearings at least one Supervisor gushes after hearing some shyster or their shill brag about the generosity of their project. That tells me something concerning about the Supervisors' decision-making: Few of them have deep enough understanding

of the zoning ordinance. I also think that the County's planners sometimes drop the ball, or lack in-depth knowledge.

It's all so unnecessary. You don't have to take my word for it, just look at the zoning code's Chapter 7.04.07, Section B.2, Subsection f, paragraph 2. Or take an easier route and see what it says:

f. Native Plant and Pollinator Habitat Requirements. To support native plant and pollinator habitats, Plant units must be provided as follows:

2. Pollinator Habitat Requirement. A minimum of 75% of the small deciduous trees and shrubs provided must produce conspicuous flowers at some point during their growing season;

Simply, current zoning already requires pollinator habitats, so why give undeserved credit to a developer bragging about doing something he's already required to do? Why doesn't some staffer or Planning Commission member say, "Hold on, dude. Zoning makes you do that already."

Exception Addiction

I've heard more than one Supervisor brag that the Board has not done a single residential rezoning in western

Loudoun. That might be true, technically true, but why are we seeing so many new houses? Much is on grandfathered by-right lots and some may be via the Special Exception process. Developers beseech the Board for special favors of all sorts, and it looks like they are automatically granted. Shame, shame! How about something special for us ordinary voters, like lower taxes or reducing permitted residential density?

Why even bother with a zoning ordinance if you're going to give special dispensations to every slickster who asks for one? I would love to see the statistics on the SPEX history. The County loves land use acronyms like SPEX, ZMOD, CPAM and ZOAMs. These can immensely effect land use, but they sound like video games and tend to make land-use issues even more opaque.

While I'm At It

With an upcoming \$6.9 Billion budget, Loudoun is spending more than five U.S. states.

In the past two decades Loudoun's population has grown by 220,000 people.

I think the current budget for Loudoun's public schools has a \$112 million increase over the prior year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 »

Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

Publisher & Editor
Valerie Cury

Creative Department
Pam Owens, Layout/Design

Advertising
Sabine Bibb Tonya Harding
SabineBibb@gmail.com THarding455@gmail.com
571-437-9953 703-314-5200

Boo Bennett
BRLBooBennett@gmail.com
571-508-9895

Here's How to Reach Us

Advertising:
Email advertise@BlueRidgeLeader.com
or call 703-943-8806 or 540-751-8110

Editor:
(letters to the editor & press releases)
editor@BlueRidgeLeader.com

Reporter:
Reed Carver

Hot News Tips:

Valerie Cury, 703-943-8806
editor@BlueRidgeLeader.com

Mailing Address:
PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325

We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor!

Submissions can be sent to:
Editor@BlueRidgeLeader.com, or via mail to
PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325

Please include your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary. Deadline for print edition is the third week of each month, or, online any time.

Copyright 2024 Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today. All rights reserved.



"Honesty is the richest legacy one can leave behind."

— William Shakespeare

BY KWASI FRASER, FORMER TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE MAYOR

Mayor Stan Milan, Vice Mayor Erin Rayner, and Council members Mary Jane Williams, Caleb Stought, and Kevin Wright conspicuously avoid discussing the 2013 debt restructuring neces-

sitated by the enormous debt we inherited from my predecessor. This omission reveals the fallacy in their assertions and undercuts their attempts to undermine our accomplishments.

Instead, they produce charts riddled with half-truths to perpetuate their deceit. The chart below details the outcomes of the 2017 debt restructuring and refinancing, illustrating why we followed our Financial Advisers' recommendations. This chart is not new; it was shared both before and after our decision in 2017.

Curiously, Milan, Rayner, and Williams, Stought, and Wright fail to articulate what actions they would have taken in 2017 when confronted with interest-only loans and impending balloon payment increases of \$1.3 million and \$1.6 million. It appears they have no solution, except massive rate increases and development, yet they find it convenient to deceitfully criticize and discredit the strategies recommended by our advisors and unanimously adopted by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19 »



Mayberry Not Metropolis

Dear Editor:

I have an honest question for my fellow Town of Purcellville residents: Why did you move to Purcellville?

My family and I moved to Purcellville because we were tired of living in the big city. We were tired of the traffic, the noise, the graffiti, the trash, the air pollution. We were tired of deteriorating schools, rising crime, rampant drug use, and increasingly profane culture all around us.

We wanted out. Yet, we weren't

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 »

Let western Loudoun decide what our future looks like

Dear Editor:

Every day I travel between where I live in western Loudoun and where I work in Fauquier. My drive, which typically involves taking St. Louis Road and then Zulla Road, is absolutely stunning. There is something infinitely healing in the rolling hills and picturesque fields of our corner of Virginia. It is also, and we do not acknowledge this enough, the key to our economic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 »

LOUDOUN APPALACHIAN TRAIL FESTIVAL



SATURDAY JUNE 8

HILLSBORO'S OLD STONE SCHOOL
37098 CHARLES TOWN PIKE

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Vendors, Trail Talks, Food, Kids' Activities & More!

11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Live Music

Short Hill Mountain Boys
Justin Trawick & The Common Good
Frank Solivan & Jillian Lea
Shannon Bielski & Moonlight Drive

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

EAT, DRINK & BE LITERARY!

Art of The Appalachian Trail
Artist Michael Wurman



HILLSBORO FARMERS MARKET

Sundays
10 a.m.- 1 p.m.



#WHATSUPHILLSBORO2024

OLDSTONESCHOOL.ORG



Independence Day

the Hillsboro Way!

Fireworks Spectacular
By the People, For the People **FREE!**

SUNDAY JUNE 30 4 - 10 p.m.

MUSIC FESTIVAL FOOD, FUN BEERS & WINE FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR!

On The Gap Stage

The **DARBY BROTHERS**
Joey & The Waitress

MUSIC IN THE GAP

A SUMMER CONCERT SERIES UNDER THE STARS
2024
Free Friday Night Concerts

FRIDAY NIGHTS JULY 5 - SEPT. 6 ON THE GAP STAGE

Lawn opens at 6 p.m.

Local Beers, Wines & Great Food

JULY 5 Jumptown

JULY 12 22 Late

JULY 19 Dunlap & Mabe

JULY 26 Jules & The Agreeables

AUG. 2 Don't Look Up!

AUG. 9 Hard Swimmin' Fish

AUG. 16 Rick Reaves Jazz Band

AUG. 23 Born Cross Eyed

AUG. 30 Texas Chainsaw Horns

SEPT. 6 Mostly Fab

HOT SATURDAY NIGHTS IN THE GAP!

A HILLSBORO HOEDOWN

TRADITIONAL APPALACHIAN SQUARE DANCE



LIVE STRING BAND & CALLER

June 15/Sept. 21/Oct. 19/Nov. 23

BLUEGRASS IN THE GAP

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14, 3-10 p.m.

FREE!
ADMISSION



FOOD, LOCAL
BEER & WINE

Just like nothing (else) on earth: the Goose Creek Friends Oakdale School

BY TIM JON

I don't think about ol' Pythagoras very often, but I would probably need some of that legendary mathematician's insight if I were to make an attempt at calculating the number of times I've driven by this place. In this case, 'driven by' means coming to within a few mere feet (okay, yards maybe) of the actual structure. Bear with me here: at the time of this writing, I've been the regular mail carrier for ... good Lord, going on 10 years (at five or six days a week, 52 weeks a year) on the rural route into which this location falls. All I know is – that's a lotta passes.

But I'd bet that just about every one of the former 'customers' at this quaint little facility would have been able to help us out with the addition and multiplication; see, for several decades, the Goose Creek Friends Oakdale School taught readin', writin' and 'rithmetic to offspring of the Quakers living in and around Lincoln, Virginia.

The Village was actually called Goose Creek back when the school was built, in

1815 (the residents took on the name of Lincoln around 1860 – meaning, to me, at least – they weren't afraid to flex a little political muscle when they felt like it), and the location remained in official educational use – so I'm told – for around 90 years. All that history makes this familiar site – reportedly – the oldest one-room brick schoolhouse in Loudoun County.



It wouldn't surprise me if it was also one of the smallest. Taking my first-ever walk around the structure one recent morning, I felt as if I could just about pick up the whole building, wedge it into

a jacket pocket, and take it home for further study. Well, maybe not quite.

Now, here is where – I'm guessing – some of us may chime in with, "Well, I've been to Lincoln before, and I never saw this little School you're talking about!" And that may very well be, due to the size of the building and the tucked-away nature of its location. I'd been driving by the place for years before my curiosity got the better of me and I just had to find out more.

See, the Oakdale School sits just off the crossroads of Foundry and Sands Roads (which don't see a great deal of traffic), a couple of yards away from Lincoln Road as it passes through the historic community. Right across the Road you'll probably notice the much larger Friends Meeting House, and the nearby Goose Creek Burying Ground, also across the Road, at about ninety degrees. There I go again, showing off my higher

math.

And, yes, I'm old, but – no, I didn't attend the historic Quaker School. But, it's taught me a few things, just the same. I've driven by this place in every possible

kind of weather, at various times of day, year 'round for roughly 10 years. I've probably vented moments of extreme frustration, anxiety, anticipation, glee (yes, even in mail delivery), terror (ever driven one of our trucks on glare ice?) and even (however rare) mild relaxation.

The old Oakdale School puts on pretty much the same face, no matter what. This place doesn't seem to get overly excited about things. I've come to figure, over the last decade or so, that just maybe – that's not such a bad way to be.

I get worn out in flying off the handle about every little thing. Maybe I'll be able to weather the storms (internal and external) in better fashion if I just kind of let things be, and live through whatever events I encounter. Not to say I plan to bury my head in the sand: like this little Quaker School, I've still got my eye on things, and like the level-headed folks I've come to know in Lincoln, I can 'get political' if and when I feel it's really needed.

So, if you're on the south side of the Historic Village of Lincoln (just a couple miles south of Purcellville on Lincoln Road), remember to notice the small, but iconic one-room, brick schoolhouse just off the corner of Foundry and Sands

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »

The Power of Patience: guide your teen without losing your cool

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

The teenage years are a critical period of emotional development. During this time, teenagers experience rapid changes in their bodies, brains, and social environments. These changes can often lead to emotional turbulence, confusion and poor behaviors. As a parent, understanding the developmental challenges faced by your teen is the first step to providing him or her with helpful and loving support.

While the teenage years can be a challenging parenting time, remember that your son or daughter is going through a lot as they begin to age out of childhood on their journey toward young adulthood. Developmental experts view adolescence as an unfolding identify formation process which involves questioning and often rejecting previously accepted norms and values.

The pursuit for a more mature identity can result in



Ask Dr. Mike

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

mood swings, heightened sensitivity, and a desire for independence that might come across as rebelliousness or withdrawal. For teenagers, hormonal changes also play a significant role in emotional expression, often leading to avoidance, and increased irritability.

Much of the research on teen development has shown that patience is the cornerstone of effective parenting. It involves not just waiting passively but actively engaging with your teenager in a calm and supportive manner. Patience helps build a trusting relationship where the teenager feels understood and valued, rather than judged or dismissed.

When parents exhibit patience, they model emotional regulation and resilience for their teenagers. Modeling is crucial because teenagers learn a lot about handling emotions and about how they want to be in the world from observing their parents. Responding to your teen's difficult behavior with patience can de-escalate conflicts and open up important lines of communication.

Here are several practical strategies for supporting teen emotional growth:

Active Listening. Active listening is one of the best ways to support a teenager. This means giving your teen your full attention and acknowledging their feelings without immediately jumping in with advice or criticism. Reflective listening, where you repeat back what they have said in your own words, can help them feel heard and understood.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



OTTER CREEK
MILLWORK

"Your Window and Door Specialist"

10 S. Greenway Ave
Boyce, VA 22620

540.837.9351

ALLOW FRESH AIR INTO YOUR HOME
WITH A RETRACTABLE SCREEN
SPECTRUM™ STORM DOOR





GRANITE & CABINET CENTER

ONE-STOP-SHOP EXPERIENCE!



Google
Reviews

4.9 ★★★★★ 84 Google reviews
Countertop store in Sterling, Virginia

were stunning. I had an amazing experience. I will definitely be doing further house renovation projects with them. I wholeheartedly recommend Granite Center to anyone who is looking for a team that will make a kitchen renovation the most easy and rewarding process!" – Happy Customer

"The professionalism of the team is outstanding. The entire process was very efficient. They handled the entire process with diligence, attentiveness, and great communication. I had a hard time choosing because all of their designs were stunning. I had an amazing experience. I will definitely be doing further house renovation projects with them. I wholeheartedly recommend Granite Center to anyone who is looking for a team that will make a kitchen renovation the most easy and rewarding process!" – Happy Customer

KITCHEN REMODELING PACKAGE

FROM \$7,900

- 10' X 10' KITCHEN
- SOLID WOOD WHITE SHAKER CABINETS
- ADJUSTABLE HINGE WITH SOFT-CLOSE DOOR & DRAWER
- CUSTOM GRANITE COUNTERTOP INSTALLED
- 3X6 SUBWAY TILE BACKSPLASH
- STAINLESS STEEL SINK
- FREE STOCK HANDLES

2 WEEK TURNAROUND ON CABINETS

KITCHEN COUNTERTOP PACKAGE

GRANITE & QUARTZ PREMIUM COUNTERTOP

~~\$2500~~
LIMITED TIME ONLY!

\$1,250

INSTALLED PRICE
Minimum Job 35 sq. ft.

NO HIDDEN FEES!

NEXT DAY COUNTERTOP INSTALLATION

703-956-9470 | granitecenterva.com

SHOWROOM & WAREHOUSE: 22446 Davis Drive, Ste. 109, Sterling, VA 20164

HOURS: MONDAY - SATURDAY 8AM - 6PM



LAWN AND LANDSCAPE



Serving Counties of Loudoun, Fauquier and Clarke

- ISA Certified Arborist
- Tree Trimming
- Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding

530 E. G Street • Purcellville, VA 20132
 arbogast6@aol.com
 540-338-5714
 Cell 540-454-0514
 Cell 540-454-2832

Purcellville council to discuss Valley Commerce Center annexation proposal

BY VALERIE CURY

At a recent meeting Purcellville Mayor Stan Milan indicated that the town council will discuss the Kuhn Annexation Boundary Line Adjustment proposal, known as Valley Commerce Center, at their June 11 town council meeting.

Approximately three years ago Chuck Kuhn gave a presentation of his proposal to town and county residents and the meeting was well attended. At that time Kuhn did not ask for annexation into the Town of Purcellville because then Mayor Kwasi Fraser said publicly no one wanted it. A few years prior to Fraser making that statement, a majority of Fraser's council voted against (with then Council member Joel Grewe voting for) the annexation request for the same property which was under different ownership.

GOVERNMENT

On Feb. 20, 2024 Kuhn and his team met with Mayor Stan Milan and Vice Mayor Erin Rayner in private along with the town manager, the assistant town manager, the town's engineering department and the town's head of public works to discuss Kuhn's proposal. Nine days after their private meeting, Kuhn made a formal request for an Annexation Boundary Line Adjustment of Valley Commerce Center.

The 117.07-acre property is in the county and is located on Purcellville Road. It is currently zoned Joint Land Management Area-3 at one house per three acres, which totals 39 homes. It is located north of Rt. 7, and

east of Purcellville Road (Rt. 611).

Loudoun County Planning and Zoning has already weighed in on the proposed rezoning and recommended denial, when Kuhn approached the county for a rezoning from JLMA-3 to Planned Development Industrial Park (PD-IP) through the county.

In a first referral memorandum, on Sept. 21, 2023, Loudoun County Planning and Zoning weighed in on the proposal saying, "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."

If annexed and rezoned the buildout will be approximately 1,274,892 sq. ft. of M-1 Industrial uses with the initial focus "on establishing uses such as long-term storage," according to a May 6, 2024 response letter to Jordan Andrews, Planner for the Town of Purcellville, from Michael Romeo, Senior Land Use Planner with Walsh Colucci Lubeley & Walsh PC.

In that same response letter, Andrews writes, "As we have noted in previous discussions, the Town's water system does not currently have sufficient excess water

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 »



42660 LITTLE RIVER TURNPIKE (RT 50)
CHANTILLY, VA. 20152

For a free consultation **703-327-2233**
GREENWORKSLANDSCAPING.COM

Just the facts

It's the truth I'm after, and the truth never harmed anyone. What harms us is to persist in self-deceit and ignorance.
—Marcus Aurelius (121-180CE)

BY MAYOR STAN MILAN, VICE MAYOR ERIN RAYNER, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS MARY JANE WILLIAMS, CALEB STOUGHT, AND KEVIN WRIGHT

In a recent op-ed, former Mayor Fraser critiqued Purcellville's current financial management, suggesting it pales in comparison to his tenure from 2014 to 2022. However, an examination

of the facts presents a different narrative, one of financial decisions made during Fraser's administration that have long-term impacts on the town's fiscal health.

Fraser's piece celebrated a reduction of \$10.8 million in the town's debt across all funds, akin to making scheduled mortgage payments. Yet, this figure could have been \$17.6 million if not for two debt restructurings in 2017 and 2021. These restructurings deferred

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 »

“If it is not right, do not do it. If it is not true, do not say it.”

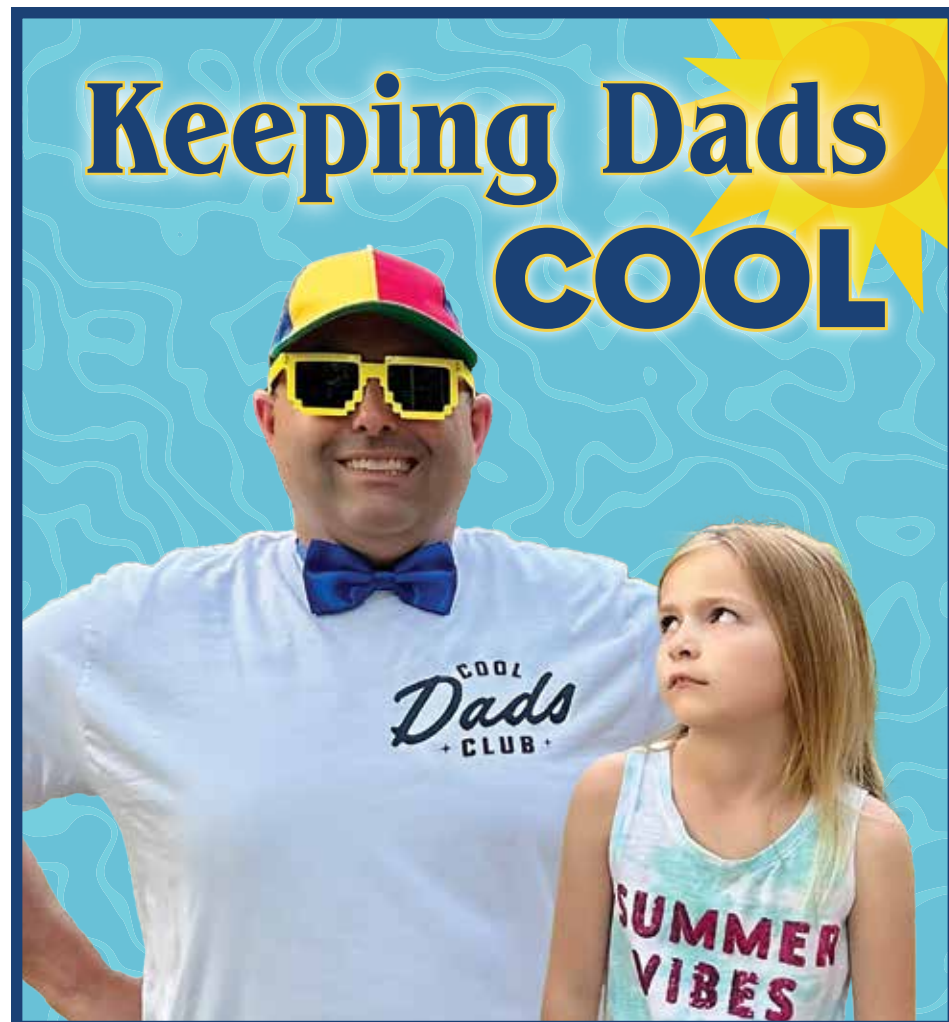
— Marcus Aurelius (121-180CE)

BY KWASI FRASER, FORMER TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE MAYOR

Mayor Stan Milan, Vice Mayor Erin Rayner, and Council members Mary Jane Williams, Caleb Stought, and Kevin Wright seem to have publicly acknowledged in their joint Letter to the Editor that during my four terms as Mayor, our town successfully paid our bills without incurring any new debt. This prudent approach is why our General Fund debt will be fully paid off in

less than ten years. However, it is concerning that these same officials now propose to burden taxpayers with over \$2.4 million in new debt for a PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, which are synthetic chemicals) issue that remains uncertain, and in addition no high levels


CONTINUED ON PAGE 19 »



Keeping Dads COOL

“The technicians are always thorough and knowledgeable.”
STEPH W.

APPLETON CAMPBELL
PLUMBING • HEATING
AIR CONDITIONING • ELECTRICAL
Built on Trust Since 1976



571.206.0176
appletoncampbell.com



Beautiful by
K&SA
Kitchens

211 EAST MAIN STREET • PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA
540-338-2613 • KSAKitchens.com

Majority council changes planning commission bylaws: fails to extend commissioner terms

BY VALERIE CURY

At the May 28 Purcellville Town Council Work Session, the town council voted to change the Planning Commission Bylaws. They changed the time period of commissioners' terms to bring them in line with the town elections which have been moved from May to November. This would give time for a newly elected mayor and town council to settle into their new

positions on January 1, 2025, and then in February address planning commission expiring terms if necessary. However, they excluded current planning commissioners' terms from this change.

Just a year and a half ago, Mayor Stan Milan served two years on the Planning Commission as town council liaison, and aligned himself fully with the citizens desires to preserve Purcellville's

character. Since abandoning his campaign promises of slow growth and of adhering to the town's comprehensive plan, Milan along with Vice Mayor Erin Rayner, and Council members Mary Jane Williams, Kevin Wright and Caleb Stought are eager to change the makeup of the slow-growth majority on the planning commission to a more developer friendly commission. Developers want zoning which promotes uses in areas in which they are not currently permitted, like multi-family, taller building and commercial.

In a 5-2 vote, even though previously stating their support for the bylaw changes, Milan, Rayner, Williams, Wright and Stought however, voted "no" and retained the status quo terms for the current planning commission members, which would mean Planning Commission Chair Nan Forbes, Vice Chair Ed Neham and Commissioner Nedim Ogelman will lose their seats at the end of August – instead of in February 2025.

The council vote also included not aligning commissioners Troy Brown, Brian Green and Ron Rise Sr.'s terms with the new town election cycle now in November, but their terms do not expire this year as they were all appointed at different times.

In another 5-2 vote Milan, Rayner, Williams, Wright and Stought voted "yes" to adopt the bylaw changes for future appointed planning commissioners. Council members Carol Luke and

Chris Bertaut voted against because they wanted to include the extension of the three current planning commissioners whose terms will expire in August, along with the three other commissioners whose terms expire in different years.

Rayner said she was "not OK" with extending the current planning commissioners' terms. Milan said he agreed with her. Wright said he didn't have time to fully understand the issue.

Forbes, Neham and Ogelman are the most senior members of the planning commission. They are also fiercely committed to protecting the town's small-town character and the desires of the town citizens as voiced in the Town of Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan.

Throughout the zoning rewrite the planning commissioners have been staunch advocates of standing up to relentless developer pressure at their bimonthly meetings. During the rewrite process commissioners had upward of 5 monthly meetings during a period of several months to get the zoning ordinance rewrite completed in its draft form.

The zoning ordinance will determine whether the citizens vision for Purcellville in the comprehensive plan will be upheld. In voting as they did Milan, Rayner, Williams, Wright and Stought have signaled their desire to unseat three of the strongest advocates for protecting Purcellville's small town character.

Veterans Land Rescue



Forestry Mulching Land Clearing and Tree Services

Schedule your summer mission now




BEFORE

AFTER

Summer is an optimum opportunity to get your projects for land clearing completed.

Enjoy land you already own as beautiful new space.

Our comprehensive land grooming operation will transform your overrun property into usable land.



www.veteransllc.us
540-900-1888 | major@veteransllc.us

Shop Mattingly's
in the Heart of Hamilton, VA

Mattingly's

Amish Lawn Furniture

Premium Quality Polylumber
Everyday Low Prices

Summer Comfort



**Hand Crafted by select Western Pa. Old Order
& Eastern Pa. Amish Craftsman families**

Family Owned & Operated Since 1973
Dealing in Amish Outdoor Furniture Located in Loudoun County Since 1973.

540-338-2060
55 E. Colonial Highway (Old Rt 7) Hamilton, VA 20158
Parking in rear

“I am trying to stay true to what people said they wanted in our comprehensive plan” – Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman

BY VALERIE CURY

At the May 2 Purcellville Planning Commission meeting, newly appointed Planning and Community Development Director Summer Wilkes presented her ideas for how she sees the character of the town. While Wilkes repeatedly stressed urban development, the Purcellville Comprehensive Plan emphasizes the rural small-town charm of Purcellville. The Purcellville Planning Commission has sought laboriously to adhere to preserving the small-town character.

GOVERNMENT

In their zoning ordinance rewrite they have been proposing zoning rules that discourage the destruction of structures that the nation and state have recognized for their contribution to the character of Purcellville. The comprehensive plan aspires to sustain these areas and their traditional character.

Wilkes however dismissed the planning commission's efforts and made a case for a more developer friendly alternative. Touting her training as an urban planner Wilkes argued that the issue of the town's character is still not defined.

She said, “The second week on the job, Casey Chapman walked into my office and said ‘What do you think the small-town character of Purcellville is?’ It is possible to capture that” and it is “not quite yet resolved in the zoning ordinance,” said Wilkes.

During the zoning ordinance rewrite based on Purcellville's 2030 Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Commission discussed thoroughly the R-2 and R-3 Districts, which includes the older part of town during their July 20 and July 27 work sessions in 2023.

The Planning Commission's draft recommendations for the zoning ordinance for these districts reflect Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan, which aspires to protect the town's character in these designated “Areas to Sustain.” Commissioners decided that preservation of historic buildings currently unprotected by town laws was the key to maintaining Purcellville's small-town charm.

During its July 2023 work sessions, the Planning Commission decided that zoning rules that install a “lightest touch process” for demolition of houses contributing to the historic character of Purcellville would best align with Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan.

Wilkes said she sees a disconnect in the R-2 District, and said, “No matter how big Purcellville grows, the heart of town is still a village. We have had a suburban pattern that has governed the core of town. If that continues, that will lead to a suburbanization of the town and it will begin to erode traditional town character.”

Giving an example of what she meant, she referenced two newer homes in the limited R-3A district consisting of three properties which have larger setbacks “and it gives a more suburban feel to a street.” She said the homes on Main Street have a 75 ft. lot width and are zoned R3, “so that's appropriate.”

Wilkes said formed based codes tell a developer or homeowner “what we want versus what we don't want.” She asked Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman if he preferred two new homes on 20th Street to the older homes on Main Street.

Ogelman said both were fine as they are built in one or twos and there are not 100 of them. They are all contributing to the character of the traditional part of town.

Ogelman said, “I think the character of the town is also defined by what the threat is. So what is it that people are concerned about? I don't think that it is right to just describe it as though it has always grown in a vacuum organically.

“Why do you think people in this town are saying they want to preserve the town as it is developed now? I wouldn't use Leesburg as a model for this. For one thing we are talking about all these different developments going on in a 3 ½ square mile space. It's a very compact space to begin with.”

Wilkes said that the town has at least 2 threats. “You have the threat that every charming desirable place faces in America of the come heres versus the been heres. You are going to have the growth pressure because Purcellville is a desirable place. So how are you going to handle the growth pressure?”

Ogelman said he would agree that growth is “the challenge; but I would describe the threat differently. I would describe the threat as ... really large, industrial-scale production.

“We rarely anymore build single units. What we do is we buy up a lot of space and then we build as much as

we can fit on that space within those regulations. That is why when we're talking about Leesburg as a model” that is a threat.

Said Ogelman, “Likewise for western Loudoun County in general there's a pervasive threat that Purcellville is the urban seat in this area that has been up until now – considered the rural area. This is under threat from those kind of industrial [scale] building projects.”

When you think about that threat it explains “better why the people of our town in its comprehensive plan are wanting suburban aspects” within our town protected together with the traditional neighborhoods.

“I do not think you are right that individuals coming and going are the real threat. I think the real threat is planned industrial-scale projects” like annexations, Ogelman said.

The Kuhn 117-acre 1.2 million sq.ft. of industrial annexation proposal on Purcellville Road is one example of this. The land currently is zoned in the county for 39 homes. If annexed it would have access to town utilities which would permit a massive density of industrial development, together with the traffic, administrative costs and other unforeseen consequences such big projects inevitably generate.

Wilkes said, “You are going to have the growth pressure. Do you expand your boundaries? Do you hold fast?”

Ogelman asked, “But isn't the comprehensive plan really clear on that? I think it's really clear on that.” People are saying that they don't want to expand the boundaries.

Wilkes said that if the land outside the town won't change, “the growth pressure goes where?” pointing to the Town of Purcellville.

Ogelman answered, “But people don't want to change boundaries. I am trying to stay true to what people said they wanted in our comprehensive plan.” Ogelman said the citizens do not want the residential areas to change.

“So what you are describing is a threat within the context of the town.” Ogelman said the threat is if there were to be zoning which would allow for a project to take place that's too big and out of scale to fail.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13 »

Remembering Rex Carl Milam

Rex Carl Milam, beloved father, grandfather, husband, and friend, passed away peacefully on May 29, 2024, surrounded by family and loved ones at the age of 58. Born on August 12, 1965, in Beckley, West Virginia, Rex lived a life full of love, tremendous generosity, and dedication.

Rex is survived by his children, Sean (Kaycee) Milam, Nathan (Lettie) Milam, Hannah Milam (Jeffy Ceresnie), and Olivia (Jake) Cummings; his grandchildren, Clayton, Hallie, Charlotte, Abel, Harlynn, Nicholas, Clarence, Maria, Edith, Levi, and soon-to-be-born Ira; his sibling, James (Gina) Milam; and his beloved wife, Monique Milam. He was preceded in



death by many loved ones, including his mother, Retha; in-laws, Francis and David; brothers, Harlon, Mark, Clarence, and David; sister, Christi; niece, Heather; and nephews, Davey and Landen.

A graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School and an Army veteran, Rex was not only committed to his professional life in construction but also deeply passionate about providing for his family and anyone in need. Whether coaching football, volunteering with his children's youth groups, or spending quality time with his grandchildren, Rex found joy and fulfillment in giving his time,

love, and service to others.

Rex welcomed everyone he met with curiosity, love, and acceptance, instilling these values in his children and grandchildren. Known for his kindness, love of music, sense of humor, and generosity, Rex touched the lives of everyone he met. His memory will be cherished by his family, friends, and all who knew him. His legacy of selflessness and love will continue to inspire and guide those fortunate enough to have had him in their lives.

A private ceremony will be held for Rex in the presence of close family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you pay it forward, be generous with your love, and give back when you can, just as Rex did.

“May your heart always be joyful, may your song always be sung, and may you stay forever young.” – Bob Dylan (Forever Young)

“My first observation is that we are being bound up and red taped” – Purcellville Planning Commission Vice Chair Ed Neham

BY VALERIE CURY

At their May 16 meeting the Purcellville Planning Commissioners weighed in on a Draft Revised Agenda Development Process proposed by town management. Mayor Stan Milan, who controls what goes on the agenda, put the item on the agenda to be voted on at the May 28 Purcellville Town Council Work Session. Planning Commission Vice Chair Ed Neham summed up the heavy handed proposed three-page process that the commission would have to follow. “My first observation is that we are being bound up and red taped...”

GOVERNMENT

However, at the May 28 Town Council Work Session Vice Mayor Erin Rayner removed the proposed Agenda Development Process from the agenda.

The Draft Revised Agenda Development Process for example stipulated that all meetings of the planning commission would be limited to two hours and “the use of staff time is not permitted for longer than two hours per meeting, unless approved in advance by the town manager. The commission would focus “exclusively on agenda items relevant to the commission’s purview,” according to the Revised Agenda Development Draft Process.

Regarding the 2-hour time frame for the planning commission Neham said, “This is quite arbitrary and given the

amount of work that we may have to do and the fact that we are not in control of our agenda – it’s not a good idea to limit it to 2 hours.” Neham said he would like to see the time limit increased.

Neham said as far as “focused exclusively on items in the agenda purview, my statement is, define what is the commissioner’s purview.”

Commissioner Nedim Ogelman said, “I am looking at this language and it feels to me like this document is written as though the planning commission works for the manager of the town. That is not the system we operate under.

“I think to some extent if this is about town staff and the amount of time and resources – the solution I would prefer in all of this is teach us how to record the meeting and if you need to leave,” then you can leave, and the planning commission could keep working. Ogelman said the process seemed backwards.

“This document is asking our town council to vote to support something by which the town manager and town staff are dictating the business of the citizens to citizen volunteers. That doesn’t seem correct to me,” said Ogelman

Other items on the draft Revised Agenda Development Process were that the planning department would also have control of the development of the agenda, and any requests from either the Chair or Vice Chair would have to be

submitted to the department 9 days prior to the commission meeting date.

Legal advice would not be allowed for matters other than matters actively pending pertaining to applications or other matters actively pending before the commission. “Legal counsel is not authorized for other matters unless specifically tasked by the Town Council. Further, legal research for the Town Attorney must also be directed by the Town Council.”

The planning commission’s access to the town attorney has been particularly vital during the rewrite of the zoning ordinance when aligning it to the town’s comprehensive plan. For example, Planning Commission Chair Nan Forbes along with planning commissioners have been asking for a legal explanation from the town attorney with regard to Catoctin Meadows Lot 74, and its sudden extinguishment from the Town of Purcellville and its boundaries.

This is referring to what happened on July 12, 2022, when Don Dooley, then Director of Planning and Economic Development, signed off on extinguishing Lot 74 from the Town of Purcellville and the Homeowners Association of Catoctin Meadows. On the same day, County Administrator Tim Hemstreet signed the Deed of Easement.

This resulted in removing Lot 74 from the county’s land records and ultimately

from the town’s official zoning map – violating due process of the laws of the Town of Purcellville. Also, this was done without the knowledge of the citizens, the town council, the planning commission and the Homeowners Association.

When commissioners have asked for legal advice Planning Manager Boyd Lawrence told them 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.”

However, typically planning commissions have access to legal advice as an established best practice because the work they do touches the most important laws, such as zoning. Additionally, Mayor Stan Milan and Town Manager Rick Bremseth making decisions without a council vote on such matters violates the most fundamental aspects of accountability and transparency for local government.

In September 2023 the planning commission made a motion which passed unanimously “That the Town Attorney make a determination as to the proper course of action to ascertain what the current legal status is of Lot 74.” To date the planning commission has received no actionable legal advice or a valid opinion from the town’s attorneys on Lot 74.

There are also outstanding unanswered

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

Board concerned about true affordability of Arcola Farms

BY REED CARVER

The proposed Arcola Farms neighborhood is situated on the corner of Evergreen Mills and Ryan Road. This is proximal to the Brambleton neighborhood, on a narrow slice between the suburban area to the east, and the rural west, in the Transition Small Lot Neighborhood Place Type. The developer is Toll Mid-Atlantic.

The proposal consists of 307 single family 3-4 bedroom detached dwellings with no basement, and no garages, on 80.28-acres. A less than 3,000 square foot [the maximum possible for ADU’s] limit will define the size of affordable units, these will be 2,500 sq. ft. Out of the 307 homes, 39 of these will be affordable cottage lots.

Staff evaluation

On the May 15 Board of Supervisors Public Hearing, staff said the style of ADU’s is

something they haven’t seen before. They said the Arcola Farms proposal as a whole does not meet the goals of the transition neighborhood, and it does not foster a visual transition, nor is open space the dominant visual feature when viewed from the road.

The comprehensive plan says this area can allow for up to 4 units per acre and it should be surrounded by natural buffers between other viewing points. The current density is 3.8 units per acre. According to the recently revised zoning ordinance, the architects are expected to achieve “innovative” designs, or meet more than the minimum requirement.

The planning commission suggested approval, with clarification on Ryan Road improvements and improved buffers along Evergreen Mills. Staff did not support the application.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

Commissioners Discuss Proposed Greenlin Park Data Center

BY GRACE BENNETT

With the anticipation of completing the full build-out by 2030, JK Land Holdings II LLC has submitted an application for the development

GOVERNMENT

of a new data center within Greenlin Park. The subject area would include 81.17 acres of forest and former farmland on a 467-acre parcel. The application is still pending due to outstanding issues that require resolution before the project is undertaken.

The property would first need to be rezoned from the Transitional Residential (TR-10) and the Joint Land Management Area (JLMA-20) to the Industrial Park (IP) Zoning District. Approximately two million square feet would be granted to data center and utility substation usage, which exceeds the 1.75

million square feet referenced in the most recent Traffic Impact Study.

The area under consideration within Greenlin Park is to the west of Sycolin Road and north of the Dulles Greenway, and is currently non-residential and occupied by vegetation, steep slopes, and major floodplains.

The subject area’s location relative to Sycolin Road raises concerns regarding the impact on traffic. “[The road is] getting busier, and busier, and busier,” said Sterling Planning Commissioner Clifford Keirce.

“It’s got the school on it—which a couple times a day leads to a mess because the turn lane is not long enough and blocks the through lanes because everyone is waiting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 »

“I’M TRYING TO STAY TRUE,” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

What would be the impact on traffic and taxes and other things, he asked. Countering, Wilkes said the threat to the town is that the suburban aspects are infiltrating the town.

Ogelman answered, “The threat is more that the borders would grow or that buildings that are historical get torn down in mass for a different kind of development, but not necessarily a suburban development. It could be for a big kind of building that is in the center of town. It could be a commercial building. It could be an industrial building.”

“People aren’t sanguine on ... the big shopping centers with lots of parking lots. There are lots of ways that the threat that I’m talking about could happen.”

It’s really important to have minimum protections so demolition isn’t a

by-right choice “whenever you want to do it, act.” It needs a pause, a time-out on homes and buildings that are considered to have contributing historic value to the town, said Ogelman.

Developer Casey Chapman owns three homes the nation and state recognize as contributing to Purcellville’s historic district, which are next to each other on Hatcher Avenue. He plans to demolish them and put up the highest density that is allowed by-right. Currently that is two story buildings with two apartments per building in the C-4 District, as multi-family is not permitted there.

Chapman has also expressed his displeasure, along with a majority on town council, at the fact that the commissioners’ draft zoning ordinance is not “business friendly.”

Ogelman said that looser zoning is

‘more enabling to these kinds of threats than restrictive zoning. The more layers of protection we have, the better it would be to preserve what exists. For example, if there’s something that’s going to invoke change in areas that our comprehensive plan says we want to sustain, that concerns me.”

Wilkes said one house per 3 acres zoning in the county just outside of the town limits, “that’s the worst form of sprawl imaginable. That’s too small to farm and too big to mow.”

Said Wilkes, “Let’s just say the golf course went away. How are we, let’s say, if they wanted to annex and they wanted to build more homes – how would we deal with that? This is a town. You can extend the town. In other words, you have the prerogative how you see the town growing, right? You can say ‘No

sorry we want town preservation or we want whatever.”

Ogelman rhetorically asked if there was an example of a place that has been annexed into town that was zoned to a lower density than it was in the county. Wilkes didn’t answer.

“So my point here is that the idea that the town controls things by annexing it empirically, that might not be very good.” Ogelman said it would be less taxing on town resources, the taxpayers, the traffic and the size of government administration not to annex as it would come in as a potential large increase in density “and to add 250 to 500 houses changes the town.”

Ogelman concluded that the end result that Wilkes is advocating is not what Purcellville’s Comprehensive Plan says the town’s residents want.

Support local business



MAIL IT ALL

- Packing and Shipping
- Private Mailbox Rentals
- Notary (No appt needed)
- Printing/Copying/Faxing/Laminating
- Packaging, Moving & Office Supplies

10% OFF shipping & supplies with this ad

**FEDEX
UPS
DHL
USPS**

609 E Main St, Suite CC, Purcellville
M-F 10-6, Sat 10-2, Sun Closed

OUR 15TH ANNUAL

50% OFF*

SUMMER CLOTHING SALE


Shoes & Purses 25% off *see store for exclusions

Designer Handbags & Jewelry 10% off

RE-LOVE IT
THE EVERYTHING CONSIGNMENT SHOP
ALMOST

701 WEST MAIN ST. PURCELLVILLE

SALE ENDS 6/16/24




Erie Insurance[®]

Above all in sERvIcESM

Auto • Home • Business • Life

Call us for a quote today.



Nikki Englund
Purcellville, VA
nikki@englundinsurance.com
540-338-1130



TUNE-UP AND PRUNE UP

Be ready to go when your grass is ready to grow

GENERATORS SMALL ENGINES  AUTOMOTIVE LAWN CARE

Bice Services LLC

(410) 707-9978
biceservicesllc@gmail.com

20 Years of Mechanical Experience • Honest, Trustworthy, Fair
Family-Owned • Serving Loudoun & Surrounding Areas




See Our Ad on the Back Cover!

 **On The Market...with Sam**

Sam Fisher
Principal Broker, Realtor[®]
Phone: 703-408-4261
onthemarketwithsam@gmail.com



onthemarketloudoun.com 

Lovettsville's changing culinary landscape

BY LIZ TENNEY JARVIS

The Town of Lovettsville's residents and visitors can now experience the cuisine of India, Mexico, and many parts of Asia with the opening of several new restaurants. On Monday, May 20, there was a ceremonial ribbon cutting held to officially welcome Train to Mumbai, the newest addition to the Town's growing list of culinary options.

Train to Mumbai, which defines itself as having "Real Indian Street food, made from scratch," is the concept of the husband-and-wife team, Sanjay and Menuka Gusain. Arriving from Toronto in 2001 and having worked in the hospitality industry for decades, Sanjay says that they thought the time was right to open a restaurant.

The Gusain family has been in Lovettsville for eight years but it occurred to Sanjay that rather than commuting to his job in D.C., he could open a small, simple place that featured dishes one might find

served by street vendors in India. Diners have proven to be adventurous as they have come in without any knowledge of Indian cuisine.

The staff is quick to answer any questions and explain the unique flavors of each dish. The Train to Mumbai website illustrates the various Indian spices with gorgeous photos and educates with descriptions of their use in Indian cooking.

Rodeo's Mexican Bar and Grill, while not new in its location, did undergo a recent post-Covid change in ownership. Felix Hernandez whose roots are in the Morelos region (the state south of Mexico City known as the "central breadbasket") brings a wide variety of old favorites and regional dishes to the table.

While Cassia Asian Bistro has been under new ownership for some time, the restaurant now has a new chef. The variety of Thai, Japanese and Chinese



Photo: Elizabeth Fontaine

L to R: Sarah Moseley, Lovettsville's Community Engagement & Economic Development Coordinator; Kundan Kumar, Head Chef; Ajay, Tandori Cook; Sanjay and Menuka Gusain (with kitchen team behind); Mayor Christopher Hornbaker, and K.C. Tregoning, Loudoun County's Business Retention Specialist.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

MAKE 'EM HEALTHY AND SMILE!

COW SHARES
.....
EGGS
CHICKEN & DUCK
\$4 DOZEN

JUST 3 MINUTES FROM MAPLE & MAIN STREETS
SPRINGDALE VILLAGE INN AND FARM
18348 LINCOLN RD, PURCELLVILLE
COW SHARES 540-454-6403

Support
local
business

LUCKETTS EXCAVATING INC

Lucketts Excavating, Inc. repaired, revived, and enlarged this picturesque lake and island along with installation of a custom wooden pavilion and dock.



- + Pond Installation & Repair
- + Gravel Driveways & Roads
- + Basement Excavation
- + Land Clearing & Grading
- + Equestrian Riding Arenas
- + Pad Sites & Lot Clean Up

703-443-0039 | LuckettsExcavating.com

AFFORDABLE
Expert Tree & Stump Removal

- HOA Maintenance
- Tree Planting
- Lot Clearing
- Storm Damage
- Pruning
- Trimming
- Crowning
- Bulk Mulch Delivery

Hes Company LLC
703-203-8853
HesCompanyLLC.com
JohnQueirolor1@gmail.com

Licensed & Insured
Member Angie's List & BBB

PIANO LESSONS
children & adults
CLASSICAL METHOD

Alan Ogden
Purcellville & Loudoun

cell: (703) 401-7022
ogdenmusic.org

Trombone, Euphonium, Organ & Voice

Bring Dad by for a delicious burger!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

we won **best burger**

Thank You Loudoun for Voting us #1 Burger.

- in Loudoun County
- in Northern Virginia
- In the State of Virginia!

When You Need A Great Burger... You Need MELT!

525 East Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176
(703)443-2105

STRESSING ABOUT MEDICARE?



Well, stress no more. I make Medicare sign-up and annual review EASY. And, my service is FREE. I guide you through the Medicare process:

- Part A Hospital Stays
- Part B Doctor Visits
- Part C Medicare Advantage
- Part D RX Drugs

Call me. I'm here to help make Medicare as easy as possible.



MP GROUP
NAVIGATE MEDICARE TOGETHER
703-930-5705 jeff@mpgroup.org



OLD DOMINION KITCHEN DESIGN

(540) 338-6338
194 N 21st St., Purcellville



ECLECTIC CHARM

of Hamilton

Antiques • Vintage • Gifts • Furniture

Shop inside for a unique gift or outside for garden decor, furniture or birdhouses!

Open Every Weekend

Friday 10-5 • Saturday 10-5 • Sunday 12-5

405 W. Colonial Hwy. Hamilton, VA 20158
Across from Lowry's Crab Shack

Support local business




LEESBURG
DECKS & PORCHES

Scott Pultz
703-727-5442
decksbyscott@gmail.com
35571 Suffolk Ln, Purcellville



LIVE BANDS, SAVOIR FARE CUISINE & SIGNATURE COCKTAILS

FRIDAYS IN JUNE

6-9pm

14TH
THE DULCETONES

21ST
ON EASY STREET JAZZ

LIVE BANDS, SAVOIR FARE CUISINE & SIGNATURE COCKTAILS at THE RAPTOR BAR

Visit cestbonbysavoirfare.com for a complete list of events or to book your next private celebration.

6 W Loudoun St Round Hill, VA



(540) 338-8300
cestbonbysavoirfare.com

f @ G




"Excellence In Real Estate"

Kathy Shisley
RE/MAX Executives
kathyshisley@comcast.net

703 314 5539 cell
540 822 5123 home office
571-210-7355 office




"WE WORK WOOD"

- Tree Removal
- Trimming/Pruning
- Stump Grinding
- Bucket Truck Service
- Lot Clearing
- Firewood

FREE ESTIMATES



MILLING TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS

- Solar Kiln
- Slabs for Sale & Slabbing
- Your Logs to Lumber

10% off any job
\$300 min. Stumps not included. Exp. 6/30/24

Curt Hilling
540-287-1970
www.HillingAndSons.com
Licensed & Insured • ISA Certified Arborist #MA-5110-A

Celebrating the Class of

2024

Maddie HS

Lima HS


Marlena HS

Eleona HS

Gigi HS

Sydney COLLEGE

Katie COLLEGE



Gruto's
SOFT SERVE

141 W. MAIN ST. PURCELLVILLE
f @
107 S. KING ST. LEESBURG

GENERATORS

Servicing All Brands

Over 80 years combined experience providing complete service that includes engine, generator and transfer switch.

PROPANE – NATURAL GAS – DIESEL

INSTALL OR UPGRADE — REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT



We won't leave you powerless.



Conservation Partnerships lead to Historic Battlefield Protection

The Land Trust of Virginia and the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Association have protected 75.9 acres in Loudoun County.

The historic “Crednal” property, located in southwestern Loudoun County about two miles southwest of Unison, is now protected by a permanent conservation easement donated to LTV.

The owners of the property, Stanley and Anna Dees, spent nearly a half-century restoring, preserving, and protecting the property’s historic resources. In 2010, they spearheaded the successful effort to get Crednal individually listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

The property was originally owned by a branch of Virginia’s renowned Carter family, and the original federal-style brick dwelling (ca. 1814) remains intact and well cared for. In the lead up to the Civil War, the land was owned as a plantation by J. Armistead Carter, and the property contains a Carter family cemetery, as well as an unmarked slave cemetery.

The property is entirely within the Unison Battlefield Historic District. On the evening of Nov. 1, 1862, J.E.B. Stuart and

his staff officers dined at Crednal, and the following day, the property was at the center of the fighting during Phase 6 of the battle.

In discussing their motivations, Stanley and Anna said that “placing an easement on the property was necessary to ensure the future protection of Crednal, as well as to increase a larger preserved area in threatened Loudoun County.”

The property also includes significant natural resources that will be protected by the conservation easement. More than 75% of the property’s soils are classified as “Prime Farmland Soils” or “Farmland Soils of Statewide Importance”. The property also contains a pond, stream, and associated floodplain that will now be protected.

The Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Association contributed generous funding to help cover the costs associated with the easement donation. Executive Director Alexander Nance said, “We are proud to provide financial support for this easement from our Bondi Family Land Conservation and Battlefield Preservation Fund and are honored to work with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

TUSCARORA MILL PRESENTS
 CRISP SUMMER WHITES & CHILLABLE REDS.
 SUMMER WINE DINNER
 WITH GUEST SPEAKER ROBERT
 JONES MS (MASTER SOMMELIER)

JULY 10TH
 STARTING 7 PM
 \$150 ALL INCLUSIVE
 WWW.TUSKIES.COM



"I'M TAKING MY DIRECTION", CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wilkes replied, "This was an initiative of the mayor and vice mayor, and the council. There was no vote."

"You said the mayor and vice mayor and the council? So they voted?" asked Ogelman. "There was no vote," said Wilkes.

Ogelman asked how this could then be an initiative. "How do you know this is an initiative of the council?"

Wilkes explained that an RFQ is "an implementation of the comprehensive plan – so anything that is in the comprehensive plan as implementation – is handed to staff to basically implement. Not everything requires a vote."

Ogelman pointed out that "there is nothing in the comprehensive plan that talks about this [doing a master plan of the downtown]." He explained that when the planning commission has asked the council for support in the past with the comprehensive plan and the zoning ordinance the council would conduct a vote.

Said Ogelman, "The reason you do that is so that you have a transparent process and citizens of the town know and are invested in the idea that you are going to be doing something." Ogelman said if the process was not discussed in public first and voted on staff could "just look at the comprehensive plan and just move right ahead with the zoning."

"This isn't the way you do representative democracy. This seems like some kind of bureaucratic authoritarianism, like you all are just doing things on your own."

Wilkes said that the downtown area is a focus area and therefore has a "recommendation" talking about "additional detail and planning."

Commissioner Ron Rise Sr. pointed out that there was a "very well done"

masterplan of the area in 2005. "I don't know what this costs to do, but as a taxpayer, do we really think there is going to be an additional change?"

"My concern is you are going to spend taxpayer money, which is my money and other peoples' money to do this again and the outcome is going to be the same," said Rise Sr.

Wilkes said the 2005 master plan was not detailed enough. She said the RFQ is asking for a detailed physical plan with a detailed set of standards to include roads, streets, right of ways, easements and design guidelines.

Rise Sr. asked if there is "an estimated cost to the taxpayers for this?" Wilkes said, "At this point we are soliciting quotes."

Ogelman said, "Looking through our comprehensive plan the only references to a master plan is for a Parks and Open Space Master Plan."

Wilkes said that the rationale is the "very fact that the downtown has been identified as a focus area."

"What about all the other focus areas of the master plan?" asked Ogelman. Wilkes said this is the first and there will be others.

Ogelman said, "I want to see direction and guidance from my elected officials. I want them to take responsibility for what is going on. I don't want people who are not citizens of the town, who don't live in town, and who don't pay the town taxes, making these decisions on their own without any transparency and guidance from the elected representatives."

Wilkes reiterated, "I'm taking my direction from the mayor and the council. This is not my initiative."

"Well you're not taking direction from the council because the council

did not vote on this matter," said Council Member and Planning Commission Liaison Chris Bertaut.

"I understand that, but I am taking my direction not from me but from my superiors."

"So who are you taking your direction from? Because citizens need to know if their elected representatives through votes are making legislative decisions, or if non-elected people are making decisions on their behalf with no accountability," said Ogelman.

Finally, Wilkes said, "I'm taking my direction from the mayor, from the vice mayor, from the town manager." She added she was taking "her direction from the comprehensive plan."

Ogelman said, "That is not a strong argument; that is a very weak argument. The comprehensive plan itself did go through a democratic process where the representatives held themselves accountable."

Ogelman said the process seemed backwards and before the work is done it should go to a vote and "you get your direction and guidance from the elected officials and then you move forward with that." He said that is what he did when he served on town council.

"The mayor and the vice mayor are members of that elected body; they are not a majority of the members of that elected body." He said the majority of council may decide to support this, but if it is done in a council meeting then the members would be accountable.

Wilkes said she is trying to implement the comprehensive plan.

Rise Sr. asked if "there is a line item in the 2025 budget for this activity?" Wilkes said, "We are investigating sources from the remainder of the FY24

budget as well as the FY25 budget.

"So there is a remainder of the FY24 budget that is not allocated?" asked Rise Sr. "Yet we have a huge debt payment coming. I would think that money would be put on that as opposed to this."

"The townspeople especially the most venerable in our town have taken on a very large utility increase cost in the 16 percentile." Rise Sr. said there is a process problem if monies that are left over are just spent on any project.

Rise Sr. said, "It should go through the town council in the proper way and be voted on." That way "they have accountability for it, and can explain why that money is not being put toward" paying down the town's debt.

Wilkes said the downtown is the "economic engine" of the town and it should be a top priority.

Ogelman answered, "I think this position you are taking is a values and policy position that in my opinion you don't have the authority to take.

"It is not your job to take those kind of value choices and I disagree with you strongly that our comprehensive plan privileges and highlights somehow, focusing on this masterplan idea for downtown over other aspects. That is not sourced in any kind of evidence whatsoever."

The planning commission voted unanimously on a resolution saying that the proposed downtown masterplan deviated from the "spirit and language of the 2030 Plan Purcellville Comprehensive Plan. The only master plan that the comprehensive plan highlights is to review and update the Parks and Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. They also stressed that completing the zoning ordinance rewrite was a top priority.

CITIZENS SAY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

you to represent the public, not the data center industry and do not approve the rezoning."

"As the county moves west ... there doesn't seem to be many data centers that this Board of Supervisors doesn't love," said Steve Teal, a long-term resident. "We never envisioned that Loudoun County was going to become another Chantilly, but it's getting damn close, and I don't like that ... All over this county, traffic is a big problem."

He said higher growth rates will worsen traffic, and travel times have already multiplied.

"Data centers have not only blotted our countryside; they have not produced expected revenue for taxpayers. Our taxes keep going up; you keep building data centers, and we don't see any tangible benefit. That concerns me also."

He said data centers are consuming 30 percent of the energy in the county, and "I'm not sure we're getting a fair shake,

for the infrastructure that we're providing ... I would oppose any new data centers until we do a more in-depth analysis of what the true cost is," Teal concluded.

"No design standards, buffers, trails, landscaping or even tax revenue in a county over-reliant on a single industry is worth deepening our undeniable energy crisis in Northern Virginia," said Dorna Taintor from Waterford.

"I don't think we should be approving data centers without understanding the infrastructure needs," said resident Erin Walter. She cited water and power as examples.

"Nowhere in the application is there any information on that [water], and I think we all know at this point that we're out of power in the county. The water situation isn't as clear to me, and I don't think we have public information regarding that situation. So I think you don't have enough information to be doing this," Walter called for more transparency about the cost to citizens.

Thomas Donahue, an electrical

engineer, is concerned about how the infrastructural pieces fit together. "We don't know how many substations there's going to be, how much power there's going to be, how they all interrelate to each other. There is the sub-station that Dominion is building, which I think will be around 300 megawatts because it's

supporting a 230-kilovolt transmission line so that would make sense ... but to me it's a land use issue, where does all this stuff go and how does it all fit together?"

Donahue said the water needs were unclear. "The question is what the heck are we doing? How are we going to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 >



**HALL FUNERAL HOME
OF PURCELLVILLE**

Serving the Community Since 1895

"Providing Memorable Tributes With Compassionate Care"

- Pre Arrangements • Monuments
- Military Funeral Services, For Both Service Members And Their Dependents
- Burial & Cremation Services
- Ship Out
- Memorial Service & Family Gathering

140 SOUTH NURSERY AVENUE • PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA

540-338-5561 www.HallFH.com

OPINION: JUST THE FACTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

\$6.8 million in principal repayments to future dates, effectively burdening current and future residents with increased rate obligations.

Debt restructuring is not without cost. These maneuvers in 2017 and 2021 led to deferring \$7.2 million in utility principal repayment and incurred an additional \$1.4 million and \$3.9 million in water and wastewater services respectively. Consequently, from 2025, annual debt payments for wastewater will jump from \$900,000 to \$2.5 million, and water service debt will increase by \$235,000. The total additional cost due to restructuring tallies up to \$12.5 million, extending debt repayment by a decade.

Moreover, Fraser's administration linked higher revenues from meals taxes and property valuations to its governance, whereas these are typically tied to broader economic and inflationary trends rather than specific municipal policies. Fraser also took credit for the nutrient credit bank—an initiative that while innovative on paper, resulted in financial losses and restricted the use of valuable town land under conservation, limiting its economic utility.

Further compounding these issues, Fraser points to a supposedly high revenue from water and wastewater bills compared to debt service to argue against current operational spending levels. However, this overlooks the depletion of reserve funds by past councils to artificially lower utility rates, a practice that severely reduced utility cash reserves and jeopardized the town's bond rating.

These financial strategies, including the misuse of reserve funds, have placed Purcellville on a federal bond agency's watch list, potentially affecting its ability to secure future financing—akin to the repercussions of a poor personal credit score.

As evidenced by the town's 2025 Fiscal Plan, formulated by an award-winning finance team and accessible on the town's website, the current fiscal strategy adheres more closely to principles of sustainability and prudent financial planning than the previous administration's approach. Residents are encouraged to review these documents to fully understand the financial stewardship of their community.

LETTER: LET WESTERN LOUDOUN DECIDE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

success.

Agritourism, meaning businesses like wineries, wedding venues, and open farms generates over half a billion dollars a year in Loudoun County and over 4000 jobs. In a recent survey of local businesses conducted by Visit Loudoun, 78% said tourism was important to their business; and the biggest concern of residents is over development – destroying our green and open spaces.

In her recent State of the County address, Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall said that updating the County's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances is crucial to

LETTER: MAYBERRY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

looking to live in isolation. We still wanted ready access to goods and services. We wanted to live in a small town. We found that in Purcellville – a community of neighbors; a small town surrounded by other small towns.

My family and I are committed to keeping Purcellville exactly that – a small town that feels like home wherever you go. Like Mayberry, if you will. Baseball games at Fireman's Field, breakfast at Purcellville Restaurant, ice cream at Gruto's, stopping in at Nichols Hardware for a quick fix to a household project, date night at Magnolias, taking a walk or bike ride on the W&OD Trail, driving down flag-lined streets on the 4th of July, stopping in at the American Legion for a cold drink on a hot day, forgetting to secure the garage at night but waking up to everything exactly as I left it because of our low crime rate in this, the "Safest

PURCELLVILLE COUNCIL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

to serve this development. Does the developer have a plan to offset the water usage with additional drinking water sources?"

Romeo responded, "There are currently no plans to offset water usage, however, it is anticipated that the individual businesses may provide bottled water for employees as an amenity, which can help to offset the public water supply."

The estimate water usage is 255,000

ensuring that Loudoun's rural policy area and western Loudoun remains intact.

In May, the County had launched a review of planning policies and zoning regulations for rural western Loudoun and sent the proposal to their Transportation and Land Use Committee to review. The motion, made by Chair Randall, also directed staff to proceed with initiating a public input process.

I applaud Chair Randall for moving to ensure public input is part of this process, because the importance isn't doing something, it's doing something right. Hopefully the County will invite public comment soon so that it is part of the process from the beginning.

Populations grow, and new people

City" in all Virginia.

Sadly, our quality of life is in danger. There are opposing forces who advocate a very different vision for Purcellville. They want Purcellville to become a metropolis. Let's be clear about what that means. That means big-box stores, skyscraper hotels, high rise office buildings, industrial parks, and data centers. With that mass urbanization comes more traffic, an ever-increasing transient population and, with that, higher property taxes, higher utility rates, more drugs, and more crime.

We need to manage growth so it fits the aesthetics of our town, as envisioned in our Comprehensive Plan, and ensure that our zoning ordinances reflect that desire. We must support our small business community, invest in our infrastructure, revitalize our many dilapidated buildings, preserve our green spaces and historic properties,

need new jobs, and I want to live in a region where the children living here today have a future right here if they want one. It is not reasonable to plan for a future in which nothing changes. But change is no more inherently good than it is inherently bad, it's what we make it.

Is our future to slowly lose the distinction between western Loudoun and eastern Loudoun? Or will we instead build on the success of industries like agritourism that are already flourishing here? As the County makes its plans for western Loudoun, I hope that it will let western Loudoun take the lead in deciding what our future looks like.

Ryan Ruzic
Purcellville

and serve as stewards of our financial resources while working to reduce our debt and mitigate what we all know as the "Purcellville Premium."

Mayberry Not Metropolis. That sums up my vision for the future of Purcellville. It's a vision of a small-town with thriving businesses; a community of neighbors dedicated to fiscal responsibility, common sense, and mutual respect. It's a vision of a Town Council free of personal animosities, childish insults, public sniping, and spill-over vendettas.

To those whose idea of progress is transforming our "Mayberry" into a metropolis, I reply with the words of John Dutton: "I am the opposite of progress. I'm the wall that it bashes against, and I will not be the one who breaks."

Join me at netfortowncouncil.com.

Ben Nett
Purcellville

THE POLLINATION PROBLEM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Enrollment increased by 203 students.

Leesburg has just eliminated by-right status for data centers. Why doesn't Loudoun? One possibility besides lack of will: Overly worried about lawsuits. Loudoun down-zoned once before and got sued. The County won.

In 2008 angry anti-sprawl voters ejected

the entire Board of Supervisors.

Charlie Houston developed millions of square feet of significant office buildings throughout the South. The suburban buildings usually had grand landscaping budgets while the largest high rises also had monumental sculptures. While there were marketing reasons to spend that kind of money, it was the right thing to do.

CITIZENS SAY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

respond to the proposal to turn western Loudoun into a national-interest electric transmission corridor?

"That's a two-mile wide corridor that's projected to go right through the county, and as we make decisions here ... How do we balance this decision to do more data centers against the desire not to be a



Local news in
print and online at
BlueRidgeLeader.com

OPINION: "IF IT IS NOT RIGHT," CON'T. FROM PAGE 9

have been found in our water. Meanwhile, other municipalities are lobbying the federal government for future relief and holding PFAS polluters accountable, which is a better approach than hastily accumulating new town debt which will burden our citizens.

Moreover, this majority council appears to be pursuing annexation and development schemes that betray the Purcellville Comprehensive Plan. Milan ran against annexations and for protecting Purcellville's small-town character. As we know, annexations do not pay for themselves and threaten our small-town character.

Before I address the factual inaccuracies in the Milan, Rayner, Williams, Stought, and Wright op-ed, I want to discuss a far more fundamental difference I have with this bunch that goes to the core of the Marcus Aurelius quote above. When I was Mayor, I always pursued the policies I promised Purcellville voters I would champion during election season. I listened to the voters, told them what I would do if elected, and did what I said.

Milan's new faction cannot make this same claim of honesty and transparency since he and Williams are pushing policies that contradict their campaign promises to pursue slow growth, low taxes and rates, innovative solutions and infrastructure improvements.

But don't take my word for it. Milan's campaign literature from his 2022 run for Mayor in a section titled, "My Commitment to You," says, "I reject and continue to fight the mantra that Purcellville's future relies on tax increases, growth, and annexations."

I kept my election promises to Purcellville's citizens; Milan and Williams have not. I will not say Rayner and Stought were untruthful to the voters of Purcellville because I did not run with them or support them.

I would ask the good citizens of Purcellville, did Rayner and Stought tell you that if elected, they would pursue exorbitant rate hikes, entertain annexation and extreme growth, and champion the interests of out-of-town developers and land speculators? That would have been the honest, transparent approach when they asked for your vote.

The claim by these officials that the town's debt principal would have been

\$17.6 million lower without the debt restructurings in 2017 and 2021 is completely false, because the amount of principal due would not have been reduced through refinancing.

Our unanimous decisions to refinance were guided by Purcellville's financial advisers to increase reserves and reduce the burden on our citizens. Our other option would have required an immediate and massive increase in rates to pay off the utility debt of around \$40 million inherited from the previous Mayor's administration, and ignores the time value of money.

They also neglect to mention that refinancing allowed Purcellville to gain more favorable terms for this inherited debt, avoiding an extreme financial burden on Purcellville citizens because the original loan package was in the form of interest-only bonds with balloon payments and prepayment penalties.

Recently they placed an insert in our utility bills to peddle misinformation by presenting their false narrative that we missed opportunities to raise water and sewer rates a few years ago. The so-called "missed opportunities" would have taken place during the COVID-19 pandemic timeframe. Really? Their chart fails to show that, with refinancing the lowered payments bought time and increased our cash reserves, as publicly advised by our financial advisor.

At that time there was no resistance from management, and the refinancings were endorsed by our financial advisor. In 2017 and 2021 the Town Council voted unanimously for the refinancings. This included Milan and Williams' support in 2021.

They claim that using reserve funds, during my tenure, to lower water and wastewater rates was irresponsible. What they neglect to mention is that \$12 million in availability fees from the Mayfair community and debt restructuring savings were put in reserves. These monies were intended to fund the utility enterprise and pay down the debt.

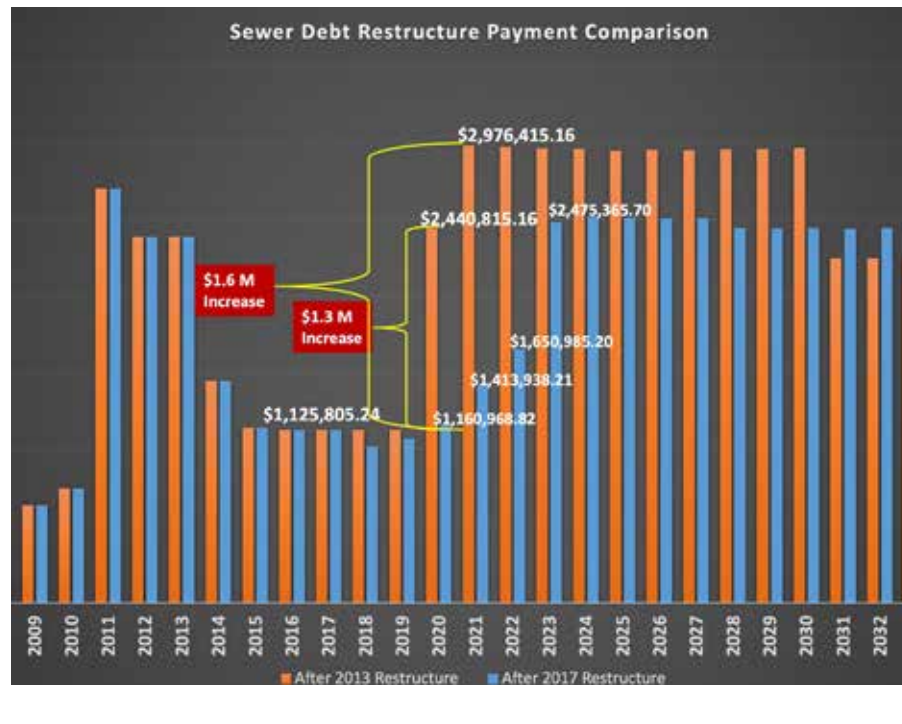
In a recent communication to the residents of Purcellville, Milan, Rayner, Williams, Stought, and Wright claimed that the historical increase in operating costs for utility funds has been 2-3% annually. However, an analysis of the annual growth rate from Fiscal Year 2020 to Fiscal Year 2025 reveals a different reality: excluding debt service,

OPINION: "HONESTY IS THE RICHEST,"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Town Councils. I urge them to embrace the truth and recognize that the sole debt challenge confronting the Town of Purcellville lies within the wastewater treatment fund. The solution involves having a policy that can allocate portions of the meals tax revenue to address the substantial \$1 million in chargebacks from the General Fund

to the Water and Sewer Fund, reduce operational expenses, pursue grants for future capital infrastructure projects, and embrace innovation in response to an aging workforce and advance technology. Massive rate increases and annexation are not sustainable options.

Let us all commit to honesty and integrity, for in these virtues lie the true strength and future prosperity of our community.



the growth rates are 5.9% for water and 7.8% for sewer. Compounded over five years, that's 41%, and 57%, respectively. Their push for annexations would only increase traffic, overburden our utilities, and lower property values; it would not address overspending.

Their criticism of the nutrient credit program, which resulted in planting 100,000 trees on 93 acres, which sat vacant for 12 years, is unfounded. It significantly benefited our environment by preventing agricultural chemicals from contaminating our water while still allowing the land to be used for its intended purpose.

The claim that this forest would inhibit water access is misleading; forests are vital for preserving clean water. Their claim that a pipe had to be rerouted to access our wells due to the new forest was never brought up in a public meeting. To obtain nearly \$1 million for our utility fund and benefit

the environment is an excellent return on our investment.

They also assert that economic conditions and inflation, rather than the actions of the Town Councils I led, resulted in a doubling of meals tax revenue and increased property values. During my four terms as Mayor, we created a business-friendly environment that spurred economic growth without burdening taxpayers with high rates or annexations, which would have increased traffic and strained our water resources, contrary to our town's best interests. More than 100 businesses opened in Purcellville and several existing businesses invested millions in expansions and renovation during my four terms as Mayor.

Despite our excellent AAA credit rating with S&P, Milan, Rayner, Williams, Stought, and Wright resort to scare tactics, suggesting that their appetite for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »

JOIN OUR TEAM.
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY.



Purcellville Electric LLC

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

540-338-2424 www.PurcellvilleElectric.com

40 Years of Experience

Servicing the Community's Residential and Commercial Projects

NOTICE ASPHALT PAVING

SUMMER SPECIAL

15% Off with ad

We are currently paving in your area.

With our crew and equipment close by, we are offering prompt service and reasonable rates to all area residents for a short time. Please call immediately if you are interested in having any asphalt paving done this year.



WE DO:

**HOUSE DRIVEWAYS • PARKING LOTS
FARM LANES • LONG LANES • DRIVEWAYS
PRIVATE ROADS • PATCHWORK
NEW HOMES • GRADEWORK • SEAL COATING
BASEWORK • ASPHALT MILLINGS**

Maybe you have a bit area you would love to have blacktopped but you can't afford to pave the whole thing right now. We install partial driveways. We can pave an area by your house just big enough to park your vehicles, or we can install as little as one load for you.

Tired of a Dust Bowl in the Summer and a Mud Hole in the Winter? Don't Fuss ... CALL US!

**Free Estimates • Fast Service • Quality Work
Full-Service Asphalt Paving**

Please call John Donohue for a FREE ESTIMATE

(571) 255-9187

1843218

Licensed and Insured

Green announces run for Purcellville Town Council

Brian Green has announced his run for town council in the Town of Purcellville town election on Nov. 5. Green and his wife have lived in western Loudoun for 25 years, and in the town for eight years.

"My wife and I chose to live in Purcellville for its small town feel and quality of life. Purcellville is the perfect place to live and to raise our family. Our two sons have enjoyed the benefits of growing up in this special town. Purcellville is a wonderful community," said Green.

Green began his career in the television industry and transitioned into Telecommunications, Internet Service Providers and currently the Financial Industry. He

has experience working in the areas of Engineering, Information Technology, Project Management and Customer Service in supporting and in management roles.



Green currently serves on the Town of Purcellville's Planning Commission where he has been working on the rewrite of the zoning ordinance getting it in line with the town's comprehensive plan. Said Green, "Since zoning is

paramount to protecting our town, I advocate for our updated zoning ordinance that conserves our town's character and preserves our way of life and well-being.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

COMMISSIONERS DISCUSS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

for people to turn. We are getting more industrial uses. You have a FedEx—I get the feeling that is going to be very busy with lots of vehicles coming and going," said Keirce.

The application for the project provides an approximation of added vehicular traffic during the building process. During peak hours, the interim phase predicts 373 morning trips, 358 evening trips, and 3,384 typical weekday trips.

The applicant, as a result, has agreed to provide monetary support and/or general improvements to Sycolin Road, and while clarification is still requested, the applicant has agreed to support the addition of a signal light and/or an intersection if deemed necessary by a traffic study. New turn lanes and a re-striping of the road will also be considered at no public cost.

Another outstanding issue with the construction of the data center on the property addresses the environment—due to the steep slopes and the major floodplain that would be occupied by the new building, storm runoff might be negatively impacted.

The applicant has promised to mitigate impacts via replanting trees and establishing stormwater facilities. In response to questions raised about potential harm to the endangered wood turtle native to the area, the applicant has also agreed to conduct a habitat study and is expected to take recommended action in preserving the species.

However, the location for the data center could not be easily altered. "... With every application submission," said Walsh Colucci consulting representative Sasha Brower, "we've further reduced our impact to the steep area there—and this is permitted encroachment per the

zoning ordinance—so we've dramatically reduced our encroachment with each submission, but we are constrained by where the site location has to be."

Further concerns over the preservation of archaeological sites have been in major part resolved by the conducting of surveys and the recovery of historically significant remains.

Several strategies will also be employed to optimize the data center's performance and minimize waste to water and electricity as well as monitoring air quality and phosphorus reduction. Regardless, the energy pulled by the data center would create the need for new transmission lines in the area, which could be a point of contention when combined with another outstanding issue of the project—building height and space occupation.

The applicant has proposed a 60-foot height for the data center (approximately five stories), which violates the Transition Light Industrial (TLI) place type limit of 36 feet for the project (approximately three stories).

While other data centers have been approved for a 60-foot height, none have been so close to the road, and even with the promise of planting trees on the border of the road facing the building, this point continues to be debated by the Planning Commission. Staff has also requested clarification on the architectural renderings for the data center to ensure compliance with the Concept Development Plan's policy on open space.

With the ongoing debate and the application submitted for Greenlin Park's potential new data center and transmission lines, the project has not yet been approved—the applicant will return for further discussion in July.

Taylorstown honors the fallen

BY ROBERT TALBOT

On Memorial Day, the community of Taylorstown gathered at the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church cemetery for an annual ceremony to honor those who served their country and especially those killed in action. The program featured armed salutes with period firearms and processions to the graves of soldiers who died in combat, performed each year by local youth.

The tradition of youth involvement began 15 years ago. Dave Whitmer, a military history devotee and town resident who trains the team, explains that the American Legion had been running Memorial Day salutes at the cemetery until it lacked the resources to keep going.

After throwing together a last-minute program of his own that year, he found that it could be enhanced by having youth participate and showcasing a little bit of history. "I devised that for the next year I was going to have youth do it, and that I would borrow [historical] guns from people I knew in order to walk up through history."

The ceremony is an opportunity to instill a sense of responsibility in the youth. "They learn gun safety first," Whitmer says. "Then they are reinforced [throughout the training] that they have a particular behavior that is expected of them, which all revolves around gun safety. It becomes a routine. It becomes a habit. It becomes a built-in skill."

The period firearms provide opportunities for learning history and gaining appreciation for the men who carried them into battle. "It becomes close to home . . . it becomes a live history class," Whitmer says.

Sarah Hart, a youth who has participated in the cere-



mony for six years, affirms the educational aspect of the training. "We learn the history of the guns and about the people who used them and the wars they were in. It's more powerful to know who you're honoring."

Some of the individual firearms have unique stories, like the Austrian-made rifle that was nearly destroyed in the Civil War, and the American-made rifle that was

leased to civilians in Great Britain during WWII for fear of a homeland invasion.

This year's ceremony included a speech from Brent Feito of the Army Historical Foundation on the town's Civil War history. It also included the reading of names of soldiers from Taylorstown who died in combat, and special processions to honor the graves of those buried at the cemetery.

The processions are a highlight each year. "When they read the names of those who are buried at the cemetery," Hart explains, "the sergeant of arms takes a group and marches them to the grave, with a weapon from that war period, dog tags, and a helmet. The gun is mounted on its bayonet in front of the grave, and the helmet and dog tags are placed on the gun to identify him."

New this year, the processions feature a "flower brigade" of children invited from the audience. Whitmer says that the processions "add a very emotional piece to the ceremony, calling out the individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for us. You learn the extent to which the Taylorstown community rose to the call of duty. It creates dialogue between parents and children as to why we do this and the significance of it."

Incorporating a team of youth into Taylorstown's Memorial Day ceremony has proved a worthwhile endeavor. "I never really thought about Memorial Day before I joined the team," Hart says. "This makes it more important; not just some random holiday." Whitmer recognizes the value—it instills in them a sense of respect, appreciation, and patriotism. "The youth are our future leaders. They're worth investing in."

17th Annual!

WLAST

June 7, 8 & 9
Western Loudoun Art & Studio Tour

FREE & open to the public

Visit more than 45 artists in their studios and at two welcoming arts centers, watch them at work, enjoy demonstrations, buy art and take in the beautiful Loudoun countryside while driving on this three-day self-guided studio tour!

WLAST.org

Visit our website for extensive information and on-line map
Phone: 540-338-7973

Magnolias at the mill

AUSTRIAN WINE DINNER

THURSDAY, JUNE 27 6:30PM

\$150pp all-inclusive

198 N. 21st Street
Purcellville, VA
magnoliasmill.com

BOARD CONCERNED, CON'T. FROM PG. 12

Supervisor questions

Supervisor Matt Letourneau (R-Dulles) asked what the difference was between what was proffered for road work, and what was required. Staff said \$17 million. Letourneau was concerned about the lot size. "There are five ZMOD's [zoning modifications] in here, and every one of them looks like it was intended to get a bigger building, with less yard," he said.

The requirement of open space for the place type is met, at 50%, but the greatest share of it is in the form of a floodplain running down the center, said staff.

It is the visual distinctness of the proposal that makes it inconsistent. An ideal development would have large setbacks, and greater screening than Brambleton does to the east, said staff. The comprehensive plan envisioned a smaller square footage than these units, at an average unit size of 2,700 square feet, basements not included. "The overall density is within the range of the place type," [3.8 in 4.0] they said, "but that anticipates that you're meeting all the other requirements of the place type as well ..." It has continuity with Brambleton, but there needs to be a clear transition here, staff said.

Natural Buffers

Colleen Gillis represented Toll Mid-Atlantic. She said they have enhanced the buffers with more meadow plants and trees. Along Evergreen, they will double the required amount of plants for a buffer. Gillis argued that they are making only a one-foot additional reduction in front yard size based on the new 2023 ordinance.

They will also be improving Ryan Road, for which the county's projected cost has gone up by \$3.3 million. The company wants to be able to control how the road looks

around the entrance to the development, Gillis said. She said the proffers will amount to \$28 million.

Cost of the ADU's

Given market forces, equivalent prices for houses the size of the ADU's are around \$1 million. If the funding is approved from Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, affordability is guaranteed for 75 years. LIHTC-funded, detached homes have never been built before. The cost of the units as ADU's is market-driven. If additions are built, which do not contribute to the square footage limit, they could bring the homes' value up to \$1 million or over.

Supervisor Laura TeKrony (D-Little River) said \$1 million and up is not affordable. Supervisor Koran Saines (D-Sterling) asked for the prices of the affordable units to be estimated, because, "to be honest, I'm a little leery," he said, given the size and the price of surrounding houses.

Tia Earman, Senior Land Use Field Representative for Piedmont Environmental Council advocated preventing developments like this proposal, which she said is similar to Brambleton, from being built in the Transition Policy Area.

Vice-Chair Juli Briskman (D-Algonkian) said, "I respectfully disagree, [with staff] I think this does meet what we were looking for in the general plan. If there were more unique, smaller units, together, I would feel it's okay to [even] go up in density." However, "the way this is designed, they will not be affordable eventually." Similar homes are on markets for over \$800,000 to \$1 million.

The vote is planned for the July 2 business meeting, Briskman said.

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

the Land Trust of Virginia on this important project. This property is located in the heart of the Unison Battlefield area, and support from the Bondi Family Fund is critical to ensuring the continued preservation of this important historic resource."

LTV also provided funding through its Deborah Whittier Fitts Battlefield Stewardship Fund.

Ashton Cole, Executive Director of LTV, comments, "It was wonderful working with Stanley and Anna to help them realize their goal to permanently protect their property. They have done an amazing job taking care of Crednal over many decades, and thankfully, it will now remain protected for future generations to appreciate and learn from. As with other recent easements, it was wonderful to partner again with VPHA to accomplish this high priority preservation goal."

This easement in Unison was the 259th conservation easement recorded by the Land Trust of Virginia. For more information about their work, visit <http://www.landtrustva.org>. For more information about VPHA, visit <https://www.piedmontheritage.org/>.

PET SUPPLIES PLUS®

Minus the hassle.

HAPPY
Fathers
day



Pet Supplies Plus of Purcellville

120 Purcellville Gateway Dr. | 540.299.7959 | Mon-Sat: 9-9 • Sun: 10-6



Independently Owned
and Operated



Self-Service Pet Wash
5 for \$30



Full-Service
Grooming



1 Hour Curbside
Pickup



Free Delivery
(order > \$35 before 1pm)

LOVETTSVILLE'S CHANGING CULINARY LANDSCAPE,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

found on the menu come from family recipes as well as from those close to the owner.

Sarah E. Moseley, Lovettsville's Community Engagement & Economic Development Coordinator, indicates that within the Town, both new and established restaurants serve as pillars of the community, enriching the social tapestry, cultural diversity, and economic vitality.

Moseley says, "these establishments not only offer dining experiences and social hubs for residents and visitors but also serve as opportunities for local job creation and as staunch supporters of our region's agricultural heritage, including farms, wineries, breweries, and other local industries."

As Moseley mentioned, there are also well-established places to eat within the Town. There are Thai dishes at Daughter Thai, Mediterranean offerings at Andy's, and Italian fare at Rasco NY Pizza. One of the Velocity Wings spots is in town as is the Lovettsville Diner, 1836 Kitchen and Taproom, Back Street Brews Coffee and Tea House and for the next-level earth-to-table dining experience, The Restaurant at Potowmack Farm.

The Town's new Co-op grocery has a deli filled with freshly prepared options (including sushi). The caterer Between The Hills provides yet another opportunity to enjoy chef-prepared, locally sourced meals for take-away or delivery. The Market Table Bistro has been renovated and reopened with its seasonal menu featuring product from local farmers and culinary artisans. Coming soon: El Pitayo which will be located in the new Lovettsville Commons in the center of town across from the Co-op Market and Train to Mumbai.

The highly popular, family-owned Mi Degollado of Ranson and Charles Town, WV will open El Pitayo mid-summer. The Rayas family has kept their family recipes for Mexican food on their current locations' menus, intending to do the same at their new place.

Recognizing the value of the growing list of places to eat, Moseley says, "thriving towns recognize the indispensable role of a vibrant restaurant scene, and Lovettsville is fortunate to boast a variety of culinary treasures. These establishments provide more than just meals; they cultivate spaces for celebrations, family gatherings, and casual connections, nurturing a sense of belonging and camaraderie within our town."

LOUDOUN COUNTY ADULT DAY CENTERS

For Seniors with Physical Limitations or Memory Loss



Our licensed adult day centers provide:

- A safe, social environment with therapeutic activities
- Respite for caregivers needing support & free time
- Reasonable sliding scale fees

Offering engaging activities, individualized personal care, nutritious lunch and snacks, exercise, medication administration, health monitoring and limited transportation. Open weekdays from 7:30AM to 5:30PM.

<p>Purcellville co-located w/ Carver Center 200 Willie Palmer Way 571-258-3402</p>	<p>Ashburn off Loudoun County Pkwy 45140 Bles Park Drive 571-258-3232</p>	<p>Leesburg near Leesburg Airport 16501 Meadowview Ct. 703-771-5334</p>
--	---	---

Video online at: www.loudoun.gov/adultday

Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services



IN-HOUSE FINANCING AVAILABLE!

WE'RE HIRING. APPLY TODAY!



HOLTZMAN OIL CORP. | HOLTZMAN PROPANE

FIREPLACE STORE

SALES. INSTALLATION. SERVICE. REPAIR.

YOUR LOCAL PROPANE & FIREPLACE EXPERTS

1201 WOLF ROCK DRIVE | PURCELLVILLE, VA 20132

(540) 751-9292

Hours: Monday – Friday — 8am to 5pm



Stop by our **Grill Cylinder Fill Station** today!
\$3.499* Per Gallon Cylinder Fill

*Prices subject to change without notice.

Enforce Premium Diesel & Lubricants For Your Agribusiness



HoltzmanCorp.com



THE POWER OF PATIENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Validation. Validate their feelings, even if you don't agree with their perspective. Saying something like, "I can see that you're really upset about this," shows empathy and understanding. Validation doesn't mean you condone their actions, but that you acknowledge their emotions as real and important.

Setting Clear and Loving Boundaries. While it's important to set boundaries, doing so with empathy makes a significant difference. Explain the reasons behind your rules and listen to their input.

Encouraging A Healthy Expression of Emotions. Encourage your teen to express his or her emotions in healthy ways. This might include talking about their feelings, engaging in creative activities like art or music, or physical activities

like sports, which can be a good outlet for pent-up emotions.

Providing Consistent Support. Consistency in your reactions and support helps teenagers feel secure. Knowing they can count on you to be there for them, regardless of the situation, builds trust and reinforces their own emotional stability. If you want to be the first person your son or daughter turns to when they're struggling, being consistently supportive will make that happen.

Modeling Healthy Emotional Behavior. Demonstrate how to handle emotions constructively and share your own experiences and coping strategies when appropriate. Transparency helps demystify emotional struggles and shows teens that it's normal to have emotional ups and downs.

Keep in mind that having patience and understanding during the teenage years, can lead to long-term benefits for a teenager's emotional development. Teens who feel supported and understood are more likely to develop strong self-esteem and emotional resilience. They learn to trust their own feelings and are better equipped to navigate future challenges.

The skills they acquire during teen years such as emotional regulation, effective communication, and empathy, are invaluable in later adult relationships and in professional settings. By providing a stable and understanding environment, you are laying the foundation for your teen to grow into an emotionally healthy adult.

Guiding teenagers through their emotional development requires a deep well of patience and a commitment to

understanding their many challenges. By actively listening, validating their feelings, setting empathetic boundaries, encouraging healthy emotional expression, and providing consistent support, parents can significantly influence their teen's emotional growth. Reflecting on a difficult moment or situation with your teen more deeply and then leaning in with loving support is the way to go.

"Being a teenager is as difficult as living with one. And we've all been there. Perhaps that's the reason we're so hard on them." – Melvin Burgess

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. "Dr. Mike" is a clinical psychologist in private practice. He can be reached at 703-7232999, and is located at 44095 Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn.

"MY FIRST OBSERVATION,"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

questions about the Vineyard Square project on 21st Street. The planning commission has asked for legal advice on this approved project in relation to their zoning ordinance rewrite.

Given the change in Milan from representing slow growth to now favoring annexations (he

recently said he wished he could have annexed then Valley Springs II) and working out deals with developers, and given that the developer of the Vineyard Square project is one of Rayner's largest campaign contributors, it seems unlikely that this planning commission will get legal answers on these issues.

GREEN ANNOUNCES, CON'T. FROM PAGE 20

"Our current planning commission is comprised of experienced town residents who are committed to preserving our small town by making sure our zoning protects our residents' wishes. We have been diligent in standing firm against inappropriate development pressure to allow uses which our citizens do not want."

He added, "Our town's future is determined by its citizens not by developer interests who want to extend our borders and also allow uses in our town that will threaten our town's charm. I am against annexations which will extend our borders and allow high density and out of character uses. This will also increase taxes, lead to higher utility rates, increase traffic and change our small-town dramatically."

Green is running on a slow growth platform, transparency, integrity, and keeping taxes low. "I will put citizens first, not developers and uphold our shared values and champion the interests of residents."

In his spare time Green is a handyman at home and one of his passions is cooking and making homemade pasta and ravioli, much to his family's delight.

generator 
SUPERCENTER

THE STANDBY POWER PEOPLE®

We'll Keep Your Life On.
703.880.9850

Quick Installation Available!

GENERAC®

Scan to Learn More!

Generac® Home Standby Generators automatically provide you backup power during a utility power outage – whether you're home or away. Whether it's for a few hours or several days, your family and home are protected. **Generator Supercenter is the #1 Generac dealer in North America.** We have the experience and expertise you need. From design, local permitting, installation and long-term maintenance support, we are there for you. **That's why they call us The Standby Power People®.**



© CHS NOVA 2024

SAVE \$500!*

on the purchase and installation of a Generac Home Standby Generator from Generator Supercenter of Virginia.

*Terms and conditions apply, call for details.

Schedule Your Free Estimate Today!

Generator Supercenter of Virginia

www.GeneratorSupercenterNOVA.com

Visit our showroom at 21005 Ashburn Crossing Drive, Suites 125-130, Ashburn, VA

The Blue Ridge Leader is pledged to the letter and spirit of Virginia's and HUD's Equal Opportunity Housing Policies. Virginia's Fair Housing Law makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status and handicap. This newspaper will not knowingly accept advertising for real estate that violates the Fair Housing Law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in the paper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. For more information about Virginia's Fair Housing Law, or to file a Fair Housing complaint, call the Virginia Fair Housing Office at 804.376.8530; toll-free 888.551.3247; for the hearing impaired: 804.527.4290; email – fair_housing@dpor.virginia.gov; web: www.fairhousing.vipnet.org.



JUST LIKE NOTHING (ELSE), CON'T. FROM PG. 6

Roads. There won't be much traffic, and you won't be interrupting anything.

Oh, and don't forget to stop at the very memorable Lincoln Post Office, within a stone's throw, just on the other side of the Friends Meeting House. You may learn a few lessons yourself. The community's got almost three hundred years of experience from which to draw.

OPINION: "IF IT IS NOT RIGHT,"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

rate hikes and tax-and-spend policies are necessary to maintain this rating. Household income, not their manufactured structural balance measure, is the major determinant of our credit rating.

The financial prudence and

strategic decisions made during my tenure have positioned Purcellville for a secure future. These Council members proposals threaten to undo this progress, menace our small town with inappropriate zoning and annexations, burdening taxpayers and undermining the fiscal stability we worked hard to achieve.

SHOP AND SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS AND NEIGHBORS

Flynn's Lawn Maintenance



"Bret Flynn lawn care is outstanding. This guy is a hard worker and does it right the first time." Charlie S.

General Yard Clean-up, Mowing, Mulching, Weedeating, Bush Trimming, Garden Tilling and more

Bret Flynn, Owner
(703) 727-9826

Licensed & Insured




Lynne McCabe Team
Lynne McCabe & Joe Korode
Phone: 571-242-0232
lynne@lynnemccabeteam.com



Lovestoryhomes.com

House Calls Contracting LLC

From the design stage of remodeling, or room addition, to the finished product all in one company.



If you don't like something we did, **tell us.**
If you do like what we did, **tell your friends.**

Will McCool, Owner/Master Plumber
703-932-2898
www.HouseCallsContracting.com
HCCLLC2@gmail.com
Va. Class A License #2705170117 • Bonded, Insured

*** Bobcat Services ***
*** Gravel Driveway Repair ***

BRAMHALL TRUCKING

540-822-9011

- STONE DUST • MULCH • TOPSOIL • SAND •
- LIGHT GRADING • GRAVELING •
- DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS • BACKHOE WORK •

LET US HELP YOU CARRY YOUR LOAD!



www.bramhalltrucking.com




Janet Emma Garbe
Selling Seven West
703-431-4192
JanetEmma@CarterBraxtonProperties.com
20 S. Madison Street
Middleburg, VA 20117

CARTER BRAXTON
PREFERRED PROPERTIES

Proud SPONSOR
Buchanan Hall
Farmers Market STAGE!

Mark Malan
(540) 751-8456



30 Years of Experience
Licensed/Insured
FREE ESTIMATES

Gravel Driveway/Road Installation, Maintenance & Repair - Excavating - Bridges
Erosion Control - Pond Installation & Repairs - Land Clearing & Grading (Tree Removal)
Storm Damage Repair & Clean Up

www.avalancheexcavating.com
avalancheexcavatingllc@gmail.com

Serving Purcellville, Round Hill, Leesburg & Middleburg

Tax Resolution Services

Tax Season is almost here
We Are The Key To Solving Your IRS Debts



Individual and Business Tax Returns
Offer in Compromise
Wage Garnishment
Back Levy & IRS Liens
Installment Agreement

Back Tax Returns
Business and Payroll
Innocent Spouse
Penalty Abatement



Seema Nayyar MBA, CPA
540-338-3967
seema@accuratetaxpc.com
www.accuratetaxpc.com
170 W. Main St., #101, Purcellville, VA 20132

AQS CONTRACTING




571-505-5565 • WWW.AQSContracting.com

Bathrooms | Decks | Structural Repairs
Basements | Additions | Interior/Exterior Home Repairs
Kitchens

Licensed Insured Bonded

Lydia Clark
(M) 732-309-2298
lydiasellsoudoun@gmail.com
www.lydiasellsoudoun.com




LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE


Long & Foster Realtors®
100B Purcellville Gateway Dr
Purcellville, VA 20132



REDUCE YOUR ELECTRIC BILL UP TO 100%



Solar Panel Systems Include:
30% Income Tax Credit
Property Tax Credits
Guaranteed Return on Investment



571.321.6414 | www.SOLAR-NOVA.com

Advertise your business with us.

Email us for more info at
advertise@blueridgeleader.com

Commercial and Residential We Come To You.



SAME DAY COMPUTER REPAIR SERVICE AVAILABLE

571.209.8250 | info@PremierComputerRepairs.com
www.premiercomputerrepairs.com



LINDA CULBERT
REALTOR®
Associate Broker
ABR

100 Purcellville Gateway Drive
Suite 100 B
Office: 540-338-1350
Cell: 703-431-1724
Fax: 540-338-1620
linda.culbert@longandfoster.com
LindaCulbert.com



SHOP AND SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS AND NEIGHBORS



MARY WISKER
REALTOR®, ABR/SFR
Multi-Million Dollar Producer
Licensed in VA & DC
508 E. Market St.
Leesburg VA 20176
Cell: 703-577-6015
Office: 703-777-2900
Mary.Wisker@LNF.com
www.MaryWisker.com

LONG & FOSTER **Forbes**
REAL ESTATE



SPRINGDALE VILLAGE INN
CIRCA 1832
WWW.SPRINGDALEVILLAGEINN.COM
1838 LINCOLN ROAD, PURCELLVILLE, VA 20132
PHONE: 540-751-8686 • TEXT: 540-550-2010



MRE MIDDLEBURG REAL ESTATE | **AP** ATOKA PROPERTIES
Call Marcy for your Real Estate needs
Full-Time, Local Experience since 1993

MARCY CANTATORE
Selling Homes, Farms & Land
Licensed in VA & WV
540-533-7453
www.MarcyC.com
MarcyC@MarcyC.com
Facebook@MarcyCantatore Instagram@MarcyCSells
Atoka Properties 115 N 21st St Purcellville, VA 20132



Specializing in Native and Local Gardening
Green & Eco-friendly

ABERNETHY & SPENCER
EST. 1925
Plants, Tree & Shrubs
Pottery, Gloves, Tools & Statuary
Flowering Pots & Gifts

18035 Maple Ave./Lincoln Rd., Purcellville, VA 20132
540-338-9118
www.abernethyspencer.com
info@abernethyspencer.com

Loudoun County's Oldest Greenhouse

B.R. MIDDLETON CONCRETE

50 YEARS EXPERIENCE
• DRIVEWAYS • EXPOSED AGGREGATE
• PATIOS • FOOTINGS • SLABS
• STAMPED CONCRETE • SIDEWALKS

Free Estimates • PatMiddleton@comcast.net
Ph: 703-437-3822 • Cell: 703-795-5621

S&S Handyman Services

No Job too Big or too Small, We Handle Them All!

Kitchen and Bath Remodeling • Deck Maintenance
Plumbing • Electrical • Tile • Drywall • Painting • Roofing • Snow Removal

AFTER HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES
540.683.0470
FREE ESTIMATES yourhandymanservice1@gmail.com LICENSED & INSURED

North's Custom Masonry

Fire Pits, Fireplaces, Chimneys, Columns
Concrete and Paver Driveways
Patio

Retaining and Decorative Walls, Stonework
Repointing Brick
Walkways

Call Brian at 540-533-8092
Free Estimates - Licensed & Insured - Angie's List Member - Member BBB

Lawn Mower, Small Tractors & Bushogs
Blade Sharpening & Maintenance
Oil Changes | Greasing | Repairs

Sharp Blades
We Come to You!

Ronnie Fox
540 338-3408
www.sharp-blades.com

NORTH'S TREE & LANDSCAPING
Tree Experts For Over 30 Years
Family Owned & Operated
540-533-8092
Call Brian Today!

SUMMER SPECIAL 20% OFF WITH THIS AD!

A COMPLETE TREE AND LANDSCAPE COMPANY
Grading - Masonry - Patios - Retaining / Stone Walls - Lot Cleaning - and More!
HONEST & DEPENDABLE SERVICE
24 HR. EMERG. SERV. • SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
Licensed/Insured • Free Estimates • Angie's List Member • BBB

LOUDOUN COUNTY MILLING
Feeding Loudoun County Over 100 Years!

HAY • STRAW • FENCING

Bulk Mulch • Top Soil • Sands • Gravels
Landscaping Stone • Erosion Control
Culverts, etc.

Nutrena TARTAR
540-338-7161 POULIN GRAIN
www.loudounmillingfeeds.com

Erie Insurance
Treakle Insurance Agency Inc
Darin Treakle

Auto • Home • Business • Life
8363 W Main St, PO Box 121, Marshall, VA 20116-0000
540-364-1853 • Fax 540-364-4210
darin@treakleinsurance.com

Your Virginia Pets R My Pets
Daily Dog Walks & In-Home Vacation Pet Care

Joe Pillera
(703) 867-7158
viriniapets@comcast.net
yourviriniapetsmypets.com
Fully Insured, Bonded and Licensed

Customized Special Cleaning Everytime!

SPECIAL CLEANING SERVICE

Weekly • Bi-weekly • Monthly or Just One Time!
FREE ESTIMATES • GREAT REFERENCES!

Call Maria Today!
703.477.1228
CallMariaToday@gmail.com

ALL WORKMANSHIP 40% OFF
HURRY, OFFER ENDS OCTOBER 31, 2024!

BEFORE AFTER
BEFORE AFTER

HomeAdvisor TOP RATED

HUGE DISCOUNTS ON ASPHALT OVERLAYS
The Lower Price Tag - Call for details

- ASPHALT EXTENSIONS (GRASS REMOVAL)
- Asphalt Sealcoating
- Commercial Grade
- Hot Tar Crack Repair
- Asphalt Patchwork
- Heated Oil Base Sealcoating

FRONTIER ASPHALT SERVICES
We Are The Frontier

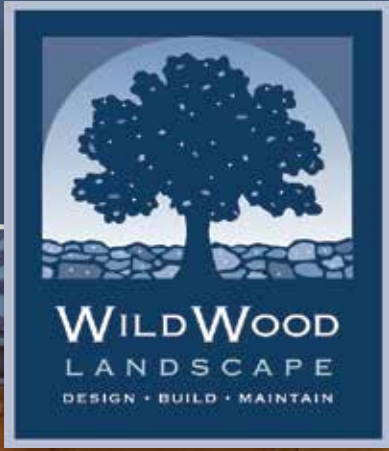
TEXT Today for A FREE Estimate!
703-582-9712
Paulwithfrontier@gmail.com
LICENSED • INSURED
frontierasphaltservices.com

Tommy Hackney
hackneyglass@gmail.com
Free estimates • Mobile service
Licensed & Insured • Home
Commercial Glass Replacement

HACKNEY GLASS
571.420.2637
Paeonian Springs, Va.

Mowing
Fertilizing
Aerating
Seeding
Spring & Fall Cleanup
Mulching
Leaf Removal
Bed Preparation
Landscape Maintenance

GRASSWORKS
Brian W. Ebelhare
703 989-1472
GrassWorksLLC@verizon.net
Locally owned and operated



DESIGN • BUILD • MAINTAIN

CALL US AT 540.338.7190 FOR A FREE CONSULTATION.

200 EAST MAIN STREET, PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA 20132
WILDWOODLANDSCAPE.COM

On The Market...with Sam

703-408-4261 | View our property videos at: onthemarketloudoun.com

There's no place like...



Just Sold!
144 Long Field Lane, Berryville
Multiple Offers over List Price!

Under Contract

Round Hill- 53 Acres. Custom-built stone home w/ a pole barn, plus an antique stone and frame barn with corn crib and silo. \$1,495,000.

5 stall barn and 40 mile views!

Bluemont- 40 mile views of Loudoun Valley. 9.35 Acres. Beautiful Main Estate Home circa 1920. Guest House and 5 Stall Barn. \$1,699,000.

Build Your Dream Home

Just listed prime building lot in Lovettsville with Water and Sewer tap fees paid! Close to downtown. No HOA-.41 Acres

Just Sold

JUST SOLD NEW CONSTRUCTION in Lovettsville-5 beds/5 full baths. No HOA! **1 lot is still available.**

STAR ADOPTED!

Star has been adopted! If you are looking to adopt a pet in need, visit humaneloudoun.org/adopt to find your next fur baby!

LAND! - 133 Acres

133 open acres in Slow Growth Clarke County- \$1,495,000. Multiple DUR's. By this land today-and you will thank yourself for years to come!

Are you receiving our bi-weekly newsletter? We include Community News & Events, Coming Soon Homes, Videos and MORE! Go to our website onthemarketloudoun.com to subscribe.



Sam Fisher
Principal Broker
Bluemont Resident
onthemarketwithsam@gmail.com

On The Market Properties



Sam Fisher, Principal Broker, Realtor®
Curt Schaber, Realtor®
Marci Huber, Realtor®



Curt Schaber
Realtor®
Round Hill Resident
schabercurt@yahoo.com

On The Market Properties | Bluemont, VA
Licensed in the Commonwealth of VA