

Kershner, Randall pump the brakes on Purcellville annexation

BY VALERIE CURY

At the Sept. 17 Board of Supervisors Business Meeting, County Administrator Tim Hemstreet sought direction from the Board regarding a potential annexation request from the Town of Purcellville. Chuck Kuhn’s project known as Valley Commerce Center, is requesting annexation into the Town of Purcellville.

GOVERNMENT

INSIDE	Columnists.....	8
	Community	3
	Government.....	11
	Letters & Opinion	4

This issue was on the Supervisors agenda as an action item—with staff recommending that the BOS “direct staff, in the event the Town transmits an annexation application to the County, to pursue a voluntary agreement in settlement of annexation with the Town pursuant to §15.2-3400, of the Code of Virginia, 1950 (Virginia Code). This action was deferred until the BOS meeting on Nov. 7.

The process of a negotiated annexation would deviate from a very open, transparent and lengthy annexation process the Town of Purcellville has in place. There was only one time in over the last decade a “negotiated” annexation was used, and that was with the Mayfair annexation because it was a settlement after a lawsuit

was dropped.

Hemstreet explained that “six months ago in March, Town staff [started] sending referral requests to county staff regarding” the proposed annexation into the Town of Purcellville for the Valley Commerce Center.

“I have been sending responses to these inquiries to the Town staff, taking certain positions on behalf of the County. So in consultation with Mr. Rogers [County Attorney Leo Rogers] we kinda have gotten to a point where we’ve—I’m at the limit of where I’m comfortable doing for the last six months without bringing it to the Board’s attention in a formal setting.”

Hemstreet said he was “just confirming

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

Purcellville’s financial legacy at risk

How Mayor Milan’s policies could undermine years of fiscal responsibility

BY KWASI FRASER, FORMER
TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE MAYOR

For starters, I want to make clear there is a policy prescription for what ails our town. I fully endorse and ask the citizens of Purcellville to elect Christ Bertaut for Mayor and, for Town Council, Ben Nett, Brian Green, Susan Khalil, and Jon Arnburg. The entire slate, without exception, offers solutions and not manufactured issues.

It’s a sad time for Purcellville when the current mayor has to completely distort the progress we made prior to his

about face just a year ago. He says he was “duped.” I think Mayor Milan is being duped right now—by the big money interests funding his campaign. It seems like

OPINION

just yesterday that Councilwoman Erin Rayner was accusing Mr. Milan of taking inappropriate pics of her from the Council dais. Now, he calls her his “little butterfly.” The transformation in their relationship is, indeed, a sight to behold.

The previous administration—my administration—set Purcellville on a solid, sustainable path with a long-term debt

management strategy that minimized financial strain on taxpayers and ensured fiscal responsibility. Unfortunately, this progress is now at risk, as Mayor Stan Milan and his slate of candidates push for double-digit water rate increases and pursue annexations that could lead to large-scale industrial and multi-family housing developments, undermining the town’s financial health and resulting in traffic congestion and burden on water resources.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

10th Congressional District Candidates Debate Policy

BY KATIE NORTHCOTT

On Friday, Sept. 20, Congressional candidates Mike Clancy and Suhas Subramanyam answered questions concerning the economy, transportation, and immigration.

Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce hosted a debate between Clancy and Subramanyam for its 2024 PolicyMaker series.

GOVERNMENT

The questions focused on business and quality of life issues.

“Our intention is to provide our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 »

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“I have two words for Long Covid: The Worst,” shares Dave A. of Ashburn.

While the initial alarm of the Covid-19 outbreak has subsided, the fallout from the pandemic is ongoing. Many continue to feel long-term impacts from their infection. In fact, nearly 23 million Americans (and 100 million people globally) have learned that regardless of the severity of their initial infection, they may continue to experience debilitating symptoms for weeks, months, or even years. In a number of these cases, symptoms worsen with time, even turning deadly.

“I got Covid early last year and it was pretty bad,” shares Dave.

“I was hospitalized for 9 days and there was a point where I wasn’t sure I was going to make it. I’m still here so I guess God had other plans but months passed and I was still gasping for air. I couldn’t do everyday tasks like cutting the grass or working in the yard, much less enjoy a quick bike ride.

And then there was what my doctor called, ‘brain fog’. I’d lose my train of thought mid-sentence or forget words for stupid things like plates and toilet paper. It felt like I’d had a stroke more than it did a virus.”

Officially dubbed Long Covid, the aftermath of the original virus has taken on a life of its own. Dozens of symptoms have been reported and include everything from shortness of breath and cognitive issues to a sudden onset of diabetes and cardiothoracic conditions. These symptoms are so well-documented and common that those suffering now qualify for disability assistance.

Unfortunately for Dave and so many others, the treatment options thus far have been limited.

“I started with my primary care doctor and saw specialist after specialist. A pulmonologist finally told me, ‘This is the best we can do for you, it’s time you start thinking about how you’re going to live with Long Covid.’ Apparently, their best was letting me live what felt like half a life.”

Dave wasn’t satisfied with that and decided to do his own research, which is how he ended up at FAW, Firefly Acupuncture and Wellness in Ashburn, VA.

“I fully believe the human body has the ability to heal itself, but sometimes it needs a little push. I’ve used acupuncture in the past to help me through a bout of sciatica and just knew if anyone could help me with this Long Covid business, it was going to be Rachal Lohr.”

You might think that a novel virus needs a novel solution, but if so, you’d only be half right.

While the staff at Firefly Acupuncture does use innovative solutions like ATP Resonance BioTherapy™ to combat Long Covid, because it aids in the healing and repair of specific cells and tissues, it’s a much more time-tested science that’s getting patients back to living their lives.

“Our O3 ReBoot Therapy™ has all-encompassing and powerful healing capabilities,” shares Taylor, a Senior Patient Care Coordinator.

“Ozone therapy has been used since the 1800s and was actually a popular tool for Doctors during the First World War because of its antibacterial, antiviral, and anti-inflammatory properties. We use it today to inactivate any residual Covid virus, stimulate oxygen metabolism, and activate the immune system. The whole treatment takes about 15 minutes and is completely noninvasive.”

As with FAW’s other services, O3 ReBoot Therapy™ requires consistent and repeated treatment to achieve measurable and long-lasting results.

“I’m in my second month of treatment and back to riding my bike and breathing better than before I even had Covid. Everyone [at FAW] has been amazing! I really feel taken care of every time I walk in the door.”

Rachal Lohr, L.Ac., FAW’s founder and Director has been successfully treating chronic pain and complicated conditions for almost two decades. She has pioneered effective protocols to treat seemingly hopeless conditions like peripheral neuropathy, fibromyalgia, and postherpetic neuralgia. When COVID-19 emerged over four years ago, she and her team got right to work researching and developing therapies that would effectively address that complex virus. Based on the testimony of patients like Dave, it seems their efforts have been a smashing success.

For more information, visit FireflyAcuAndWellness.com. In an effort to do their part in helping people through this difficult time, they are waiving the \$40 new patient consultation fee for Long Covid patients. Call (703) 263-2142 to schedule.

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

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13th Annual Purcellville Halloween Party in the Woods on Oct. 26

On Saturday, Oct. 26 from 4-8:30 p.m., Discover Purcellville will be hosting the 13th Annual Purcellville Halloween Party in the Woods (formally known as Purcellville Halloween Block Part). It is located in Dillon's Woods at Fireman's Field. Said Michael Oaks of Discover Purcellville, "Moving to Dillon's Woods gave us more space, with plenty of parking, and a whole different feel to the event. I am looking forward to seeing all the creative costumes and categories."

As in the past, the main event is the Costume Contest in six different categories with cash prizes and trophies awarded.

Throughout the party we'll have Balloon Twisters, Face Painters, Magic by Tyler, Kids Music Show with Nancy Prestipino, Games for the Kids, Halloween Rock Painting, Unicorn Rides, really, plus more surprises.

New this year will be the International Food Truck Court featuring Pua's Hawaiian Food, Kovi Asian Street Food, Gringo Gordo, Mexican, Cajun, BBQ and good ole' American Fare along with great desserts featuring Gruto's and plenty more.

For more information go to <http://www.PurcellvilleHalloween.com>.



CONTESTS

1st Place \$150, 2nd Place \$75, 3rd Place \$25

- Infants to age 5 division starts at 5 p.m.
- Age 6 to 12 years division 5:45 p.m.
- Pets Division 6:15
- Most Horrific Scream Contest 6:30 p.m.
- Adult 13 plus division 7 p.m.
- Howl at the Moon Contest 7:30 p.m.
- Family/Group division 8 p.m.
- Best Costume of the Night 8:15 p.m.

\$500 cash award

Purcellville Halloween Party in the Woods is a production of Discover Purcellville a 501 (c)(4) community non-profit.

Inaugural "Race With a Cause" 5K

Tree of Life Ministries has announced the inaugural "Race With a Cause" 5K, set for Oct. 19 at 8 a.m. at Patrick Henry College. The event aims to bring the community together to raise critical funds for Tree of Life's Shelter Branch, including its transitional housing programs which address the growing housing crisis in Loudoun County. Funds raised from "Race With a Cause" will help Tree of Life continue its vital work, providing shelter and support for families, individuals with special needs, and single women seeking stability and hope amidst current housing challenges.

Since 2020, the population of Loudoun County has surged by 260,000 residents and Tony Howard stated, "new home construction has come nowhere near keeping pace." Over the past year, both home and rent prices have soared, leaving many families and individuals unable to find affordable housing. Tree of Life Ministries has been pivotal in addressing this challenge, offering transitional housing and pairing residents with mentors for practical and spiritual

support, helping them rebuild their lives with stability and hope.

In addition to housing, Tree of Life offers a comprehensive support system that includes mentorship, life skills training, and spiritual guidance to help residents achieve stability and self-sufficiency. This program plays a crucial role in addressing the immediate needs of those affected by the county's housing crisis while helping them transition to long-term housing solutions.

Since its founding in 2008, Tree of Life has made over 200,000 service impacts across Loudoun County and surrounding areas through its five branches: food, lifeskills, shelter, healthcare, and relief. In 2023 alone, over 32,000 of those service impacts were made, reflecting the increased need for support in the community. As housing affordability continues to challenge many, Tree of Life's work has become more essential than ever.

Unity Power Services (unitypower-services.com) is the sponsor of this event. Brian Ducharme, the company's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

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Greenlin Park—the Board needs a backbone

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

On October 16 our Board of Supervisors will vote on yet another rezoning request by JK Land Holdings, the biggest land speculator in the county and a frequent recipient of the Board's favorable votes. The owner of JK Land Holdings has probably made a billion dollars on its land deals. (That amount's just a guess, but probably close enough.) I wish I was that slick.

OPINION

Two Questions

There are two basic questions here. The first is whether millions of square feet of data centers should be built here. (Answer—"No.") Chair Phyllis Randall says she gets emails every day, saying "NO!" That's no surprise as many conservation and environmental groups have come together to oppose new data centers. The citizenry boils at the darn things.

JK is seeking a ZMAP—a change in the zoning map to allow a giant data center project of 2,121,000 square feet—on 84 acres of farmland along the Greenway—instead of its present residential zoning. Data center land in Loudoun is approaching \$4 million an acre. That's \$336,000,000.

The second basic question is whether a zoning ordinance is static or flexible. It seems quite odd to grant rezonings to a legal document—our Zoning Ordinance—that the Board enacted within the past year. Why change something you've just done?

As a matter of law, the Board has absolutely no obligation to grant this rezoning.

Section 1031

This section of the IRS code defines property exchanges that will avoid capital gains tax. As an example, assume that you sold land for \$300,000 that originally cost you \$100,000. You then face paying capital gains tax on a gain of \$200,000.

Section 1031 says that if you reinvest the proceeds into a similar property, then capital gains taxes can be indefinitely

deferred.

It's fair to assume that JK uses Section 1031 to defer taxes and as such, has an unending and voracious appetite for new properties to buy to avoid a massive tax liability.

Did JK Learn a Lesson?

A long time ago JK purchased White's Ferry from its Maryland owners. Unfortunately for JK, that price did not include landing rights on the Virginia side of the Potomac. Perhaps JK blithely assumed it could negotiate a deal with the Virginia owners.

Negotiations failed and JK was left with a useless ferry. It tried all sorts of desperate moves with Virginia and Maryland and with Loudoun County. It even asked the County to use its right of eminent domain to take the landing property so he could put the ferry in use. That's nervy. His efforts failed and some of his zillions remain tied up.

I do miss the ferry.

Frankly this was perhaps the worst real estate mistake that I've ever seen. It ignored a basic tenet: Any purchase

contract should have contingency clauses that lets the buyer back out if something was wrong. Every purchase contract of our Atlanta company had contingency clauses: Bad soil? We'd bail. Weak market? Color us gone. Can't get good financing? Bye-bye.

A typical contingency period is 90 days, which can be extended by making an additional deposit.

A Lawyer Spills the Greenlin Park Beans

JK's attorney Michael Romeo made an amazing admission: JK "doesn't have a user for the property." The gall is stunning and I'll translate it: "Rezoning this land will make JK hundreds of millions." It's a rare public admission of rank speculation.

If JK learned a lesson from its White's Ferry debacle, it would have put a zoning contingency in its purchase of the Greenlin park property: No zoning? Then no deal. A probable scenario is that it has only a purchase contract on the Greenlin property, exercisable only if it's rezoned.

Based on all the favorable results JK's gotten from the County, it would have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

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Dear Purcellville: How much more traffic can we take?

BY JOHN ELLIS

The citizens of Purcellville love their beautiful small town, as do many others like me who live nearby. However, we do have some complaints, including our frustration with traffic congestion. And, unfortunately, that particular problem keeps getting worse.

So how do we fix it?

There are two general approaches. The "go to" instinct of Town and County planners and engineers is to keep on building more road infrastructure, such as the new ramps going in at the intersection of Hillsboro Road and Route 7. Their premise is that traffic flow will improve because there will be more road for the same number of cars. And that could be the case—at least for a little while.

The problem is that the number of cars never stays the same.

When a new road or intersection is finished, drivers take advantage of the opportunity by taking more trips on it. The County's planning documents recognize that the 7/690 interchange will draw more traffic down Hillsboro Road and into town or on Route 7. This is called "induced demand." It has been documented in many national and international studies and is easy to see on all the major highways in our region, like I-66 and I-270.

In addition, road improvements in less densely developed areas, such as the rural areas around Purcellville, create strong incentives to fill up those areas with more houses. Almost immediately after Loudoun County decided to spend half a billion dollars to expand a section of Route 15 north of Leesburg, a subdivision developer announced plans to build another 70-unit subdivision along that section of road.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

Small town values and miracles

BY DAVID ENO AND JOHN PAYNE

David Eno and John Payne have been friends for forty years. They have some things in common and others not in common at all. They both moved to Purcellville, but were raised in other states. David in New York, John in California. Both worked at one time or another as reporters. John stayed in journalism. David moved to a career in government service and, they both bought old houses here in Purcellville. But, on the national level, not much in common at all. David is a Republican and John is a Democrat.

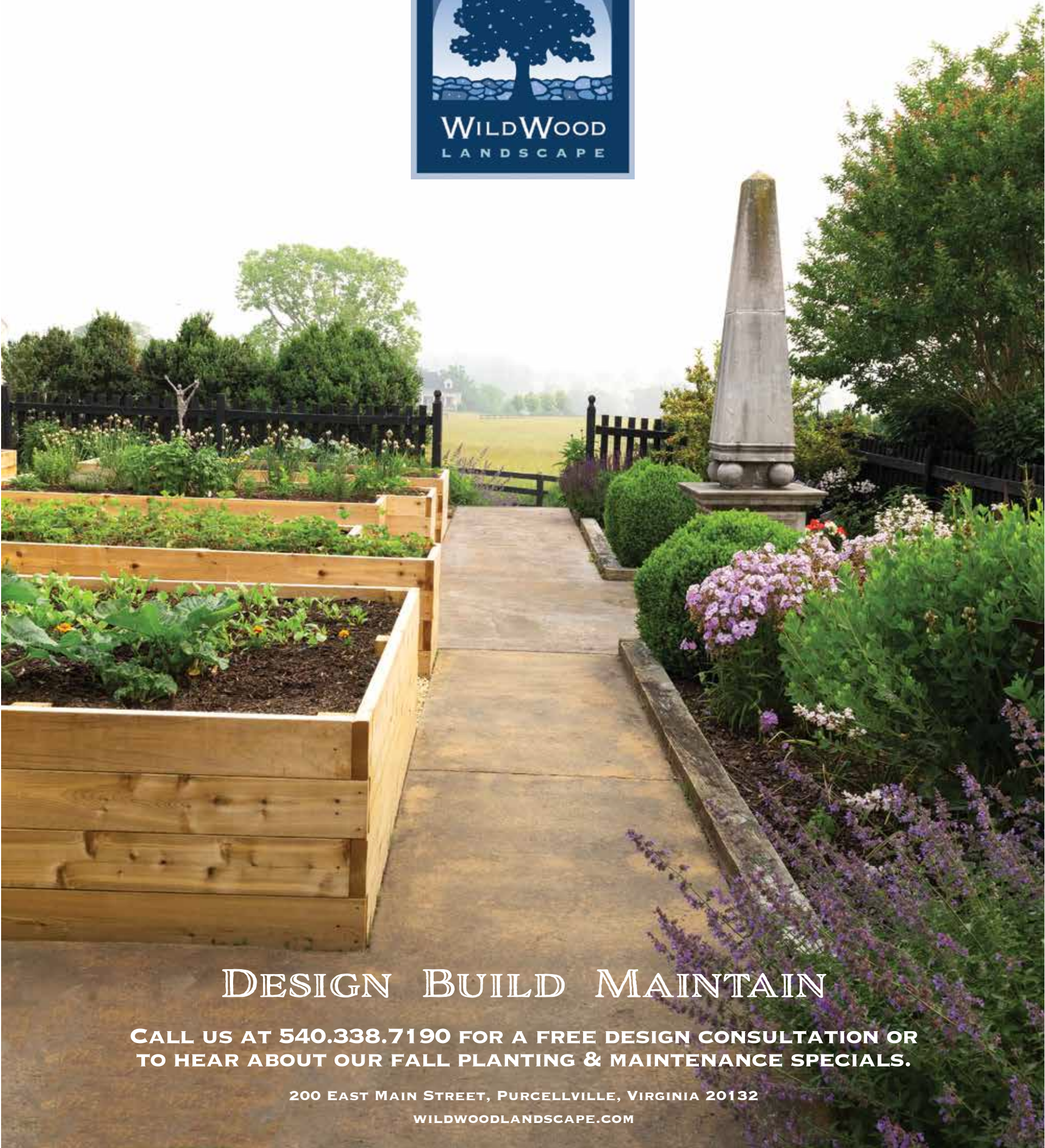
John: What we do have in common is the Town of Purcellville. And our desire, a commitment even, to the principle of slow growth, maintenance of the character that brought us here to begin with—a town responsive to the needs of its citizens in the fullest meaning of that phrase, and with that commitment, an opposition to

the untoward and unseemly hazards of reckless annexations. Annexations that serve only a few and policies leading only to higher taxes, congested roads, poor schools, all nightmares for its citizens and their families, equally so for businesses and public services.

David: Annexations are only part of the problem, John. You know that. Problems are everywhere. Look at the increases in water and sewer rates, for example. Everyone is talking about them and those increases will hit every family, every individual. And attacks on former Mayor Kwasi Fraser, who reduced the town debt by ten million dollars, and has spoken out against other accounting practices, is getting blamed and for doing the right thing!

And Mayor Stan Milan and his allies who sacked three of the most knowledgeable and veteran members of the planning commission, including Chair Nan Forbes, former

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 »



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Proposed annexation of Valley Commerce Center expected to increase Purcellville traffic

BY LLOYD HARTING

The number of commercial trucks passing through Purcellville will increase significantly if the pending application submitted by 17110 Purcellville Road LLC for annexation of its 117-acre property along Purcellville Road is approved by the Purcellville Town Council and results in the construction of a 1.2 million square foot industrial/commercial Valley Commerce Center on Purcellville Road across from the Mayfair Community Association.

OPINION

This is supported by a privately-funded unofficial traffic study report submitted to the Town of Purcellville Planning Commission which indicated that an average of 148 commercial trucks entered Purcellville at the Purcellville Road gateway during the morning rush hour, and an average of 263 commercial trucks exited Purcellville at the Purcellville Road gateway during the afternoon rush hour.

The study revealed that the majority of commercial trucks crossing at the Purcellville Road gateway come from and return to the Mayfair Industrial Park

at East Nichols Lane. Most commercial trucks enter the town at Purcellville Road in the morning and exit the town at Berlin Turnpike in the morning, while the truck traffic flow is reversed in the afternoon with most commercial trucks entering at Berlin Turnpike and exiting at Purcellville Road. This is because Purcellville Road north of the entrance to the Mayfair Industrial Park at East Nichols Lane is a Virginia Department of Transportation Road on which through truck traffic is prohibited.

Consequently, all commercial trucks entering and exiting a future Valley

Commerce Center would have to travel on Hirst Road in order to either turn in or out of Purcellville Road, thereby increasing vehicle traffic on Hirst Road and exacerbating the daily traffic jams that occur during the morning and afternoon rush hours at Hirst Road and Berlin Turnpike.

There is also a second possible route to the Valley Commerce Center if the Town of Purcellville exercises its existing right-of-way easement on the remaining 7,000 square feet of undeveloped land at the western end of Mayfair Crown Drive.

If the Town of Purcellville exercises that easement and extends Mayfair Crown Drive to the boundary line between the Mayfair Community Association and the Loudoun County Public Schools property, and if Loudoun County also extends the eastern end of Centerfield Road currently under construction and connects

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

Keep our kids safe!

Dear Editor:

We just made the connection that Purcellville Town Council candidate Carl B. "Ben" Nett is Officer Carl Benjamin Nett, who played an important role in last year's investigation and arrest of an illegal alien MS-13-affiliated middle school student who was taken into custody near his bus stop with a stolen, loaded handgun in his waistband.

We're sending this letter as a thank you to Officer Nett for all he has done to make our community a safer place. We also want to alert our fellow parents to the fact that this same student is back in a Loudoun County Public School this year. This is horrifying for us as parents and puts the entire school in harm's way.

The fact that LCPS is opening their doors to a known safety threat and endangering staff and students is appalling. We contacted the Loudoun County

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

Vote Harris, Kaine, and Suhas

Dear Editor:

If readers are (somehow) still on the fence regarding the 2024 elections, they should consider the potential impact of Project 2025 on Loudoun County.

It's not pretty. The only thing preventing one-in-four county residents from facing unemployment, loss of essential health insurance, elimination of basic childhood nutrition and/or vaccinations, is the election of the Harris-Kaine-Suhas ticket.

A very small sample of what Project 2025—the MAGA blueprint for a second Trump term—proposes:

Employment: Approximately 10% of Loudoun's workforce, approximately 25,000 people, are federal employees, according to the 2020 U.S. census, all of whose jobs could be in jeopardy if Trump returns to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

Private Facebook Group should change name to Purcellville Matters Censored

Dear Editor:

The developer-backed private Facebook Group Purcellville Matters Uncensored should change their name to Purcellville Matters Censored! This group was started by Sam Chapman, one of the owners of Vineyard Square after he lost his run for Purcellville Town Council.

I was kicked off by the moderator just for asking questions and challenging Candidate for Town Council Caleb Stought. I asked questions and corrected his erroneous information. Well, that got me booted off. So much for transparency!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

PRCS needs to listen to western Loudoun when redesigning Mickie Gordon Park

Dear Editor:

Mickie Gordon Memorial Park is a special place among County parks. Being

in the rural southwest, it's appropriate to emphasize natural space, rather than to maximize active uses like athletic fields. The local community values a natural park, and visitors traveling to historic

rural Middleburg also expect a more rustic, natural park experience—unlike the intensively developed parks in the east.

Natural space means preserving trees and natural areas—not maximizing the park with athletic fields, not having field lights, and leaving the entrance road and parking area unpaved. Concept A, as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 »

This election, let's go back

Dear Editor:

Let's go back to our country not being overrun by 21 million undocumented migrants and flooded with fentanyl that kills 65,000 Americans each year. Let's go back to a country that considers the needs of its citizens ahead of illegals.

Let's go back to where inflation is

not 26%, where we can afford groceries and gas, and one day a home.

Let's go back to an America that is not involved in "forever wars" and giving 100s of billions of dollars to Ukraine, and pushing the world to a nuclear war with Russia.

Let's go back to free speech being a constitutional right and not what

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Just like nothing (else) on earth: Mountain Gap School

BY TIM JON

I remember the blackberries; it was 'high summer' when I visited this little piece of local history, but I could almost feel the winter wind that must have howled in coming down the steep western slope, which leveled off a few, mere feet from the building. That towering hill at the back of this historic site represents the easternmost section of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and having myself toiled many a 'snow day' up at the heights, I could just about imagine the drifting that must have occurred during the years of use at this—today's subject of exploration.



TIM JON

Small wonder, then, that this one-room shelter took the name of Mountain

Gap School, erected in the 1880's—during segregation—open only to 'white' students. The attendees, ages five to 15 or so, reportedly came from the surrounding hills, farms, and small communities. I'm told they all studied together, which must have been quite an interesting and educational (in many ways, I'm sure) experience.

Now, the day of my visit, I could still see some of the historic artifacts through the windows (desks, flag, blackboard [this may have been part of the original interior], school bell and pot-bellied stove), placed inside by an individual (actually a graduate of the facility, Wilbur C Hall) who bought



the School building after it formally closed its doors in the early 1950's. The National Trust for Historic Preservation assumed ownership some 20 years later, and nearby Oatlands Plantation (one of the biggest visitor draws in the Commonwealth) currently uses the site for

educational purposes.

I know, the data trail of years and names—even in the study of local history—can make the head spin; you can be thankful that we're not in Mesopotamia. But, for those who need a better geographical perspective on the School building site, motorists along Route 15, James Monroe Highway, have undoubtedly noticed the deep red-colored wooden structure with white trim—a scant number of yards west of the roadway, between Oatlands and Gap Road. And the James Monroe reference: the Presidential estate, Oak Hill, lies just a few miles south on Route 15.

But to our story: what struck me about the place was the close proximity to nature that the little schoolhouse enjoyed: those berry brambles ran along

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

Ask Dr. Mike

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

Dr. Mike,

Our 18-year-old daughter went off to JMU for freshman year this fall. She's doing well academically and socially, but she's upset with us for being "controlling" and for "micromanaging" her.



DR. MIKE

My husband and I told her that we would be keeping Life360 on her phone to monitor her whereabouts on campus for her first year away. We told her that if she demonstrated maturity in making good choices, and if she gets good grades, we will then remove ourselves

from Life360 for her sophomore year and after.

She's always been a great kid, but we just don't trust that she's mature enough to manage things there without our help. We've had a few big fights over this topic already when we've shared with her that we saw on the phone that she's not where she said she would be. If you tell us you're staying in the dorm to study with friends, but then we see that you went to a party at a fraternity, that doesn't work for us. We think we're being reasonable, and your advice on what to do is appreciated.

—Help In Loudoun

Dear Help in Loudoun,

In reading your message, I'm reminded of the old saying, "One's perception is one's reality." Life360 reassures you that your daughter is safe and is being responsible, and that likely serves to

give you a greater sense of security. Your daughter feels controlled in that she finds your monitoring to be overbearing.

There are times when parental monitoring for college students may be appropriate—perhaps when a teen has repeatedly lied to their parents and there's diminished trust, or when a teen has very poor grades and needs increased structure and accountability, or when a teen has made poor choices. Your situation doesn't appear to require your involvement in this way. Your daughter is doing well both academically and socially and she has always been a great kid. So what are you so concerned about?

At 18 years of age, your daughter has aged out of childhood and has entered young adulthood. Thus, she is at a phase of her development where you as parents need to support her independence and autonomy, within reason, and her

right to privacy is a big part of that.

I ask that you keep in mind that making poor choices is also a part of learning and growing up. So, if she goes to a party, for example, you need to trust that she's done her work and that it's fine for her to be there.

You also need to trust that she will manage herself fine at the party. It's also possible though that she may go to a party when she should be studying, and she may then do badly on a test the next day. Or she may drink alcohol at a party and become sick. In my opinion, these sorts of life lessons are for her to experience and to learn from and are not for you to prevent or to protect her from.

If you continue to use Life360 in this way, you will probably end up driving the current wedge of disagreement and upset between her and you wider, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Know the risks of investing—and *not* investing

Investing involves risk—and so does *not* investing. You should know how both these types of risk can affect your ability to reach your financial goals.

Let's start with the risks associated with investing. There's not a single investment risk because different types of investments carry different types of risk. Here's a look at three investment categories and some of the risks connected with them:



JOSHUA WOLINSKI

• **Stocks** – When you invest in stocks or stock-based mutual funds, you will incur the risk that the value of your investments may decline. Stock prices can fall for any number

of reasons—lower-than-expected earnings, a change in management, change in consumer tastes, and so on. Although the historical trend for stocks has been positive, there will always be periods when prices are down. One way to help defend against this volatility is to hold stocks for the long term, rather than constantly buying and selling, and to own a mix of stocks from different industries and even different countries.

• **Bonds** – When market interest rates rise, the value of your bonds can decline because investors won't pay full price for them when they can get the newer ones that offer higher rates. Another type of risk associated with bonds is credit risk, which essentially describes the risk that the bond issuer may

default, potentially disrupting your flow of interest payments. However, you can help mitigate this risk by purchasing investment-grade bonds that receive the highest credit ratings from independent rating agencies.

• **Certificates of deposit (CDs)** – Although CDs are generally considered safe because their principal is guaranteed, they do carry reinvestment risk—the risk that you won't be able to reinvest the proceeds of a maturing CD at the same interest rate. To help protect against this risk, you could own CDs of varying maturities. When market rates are low, you'll still have your longer-term CDs paying higher interest, and when market rates rise, you can reinvest the money from your maturing shorter-term CDs into the new,

higher-paying ones.

Now, let's turn to a completely different type of risk—the risk of not investing. And this risk is easy to understand: If you don't invest, or if you consistently invest only in the most conservative vehicles, your money may not grow enough to allow you to reach your important long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

Of course, this doesn't mean you should never own conservative investments, including CDs and some types of bonds. When you're saving for a short-term goal, such as a down payment on a house, a wedding or a long vacation, you want the money to be there when you need it, so an investment that offers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »



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Elections are November 5th

Bertaut, Milan have two different views for Purcellville

BY VALERIE CURY

During the Sept. 16 Purcellville Mayoral Forum at the Carver Center, candidates Mayor Stan Milan and Council Member Chris Bertaut differed on their positions regarding growth, utility rates and spending. Milan spent his time trying to justify his switch to pro-growth policies and high double digit utility rate increases and increased public spending. By contrast Bertaut continued with his consistent agenda of slow growth,

low utility rates and disciplined spending based on his understanding of what citizens want. While saying he has kept his campaign promises of slow growth, debt reduction and controlled spending, Milan, defending his votes to the contrary, said he changed his stance because when he began signing his name on checks that exceed \$300,000, he wondered, “Where is it going, and where is this money coming from?”

“My eyes as mayor are truly opened to the reality moving forward.” As a council member “I was not exposed to how funds were spent and to whom it was paid.” He said he didn’t want “men in dark suits and sunglasses knocking at his door saying, ‘We are here from the government, and we are here to help.’” Milan said, “Supporting businesses is an integral part of my strategy.” He said the town has a revenue problem.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13 »

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Purcellville election
is November 5
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BERTAUT, MILAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Bertaut opened his remarks by saying his top priority is to bring relief to “our town’s residents for the high water [and sewer] rates. Right now, the current plan in place is for our utility rates to double in the next five years, and that is unacceptable and it doesn’t work for residents who are on a limited income or realistically speaking—anyone.”

He said he will look at the structure of the water and wastewater fund as well as the general fund—which is tied into the utility fund. He said he has already identified a number of opportunities for bring relief to the high-rate increases.

One way to do that, he said, is to create a town policy to devote a portion of the town’s \$3.1 million meals tax to the utility fund. The town’s financial advisor David Rose, Senior Vice President and Manager of Public Finance with Davenport & Co. has said this can be done if the town has a policy in place.

Bertaut said it is unfair for the town to ask “the residents to tighten their belts to pay their [utility] bills, and not to ask the town to do the same.” He said the amount of over \$1 million the general fund employees charge to the utility fund for supporting the department has to be addressed.

Milan linked the Fitch AAA rating to the majority of council raising the utility

rates by 16 and 18%.

Fitch upgraded the town’s bond rating for many reasons including the fact that over the last 10 years the town has kept healthy reserves in the general fund and reduced the debt by \$10 million under former Mayor Kwasi Fraser. Fitch has stated the town has a good outlook due in part to the town’s ability to further tax residents.

Addressing traffic and speeding, Milan said the General Assembly has allowed municipalities to lower speed limits. He said he is also looking at putting in rumble strips. He wants the county to do a regional study—which for over eight years the town has been asking for.

Bertaut said the solution has to be a comprehensive one regarding traffic issues and part of that is enhanced enforcement. He said rumble strips are not supported by the fire and rescue services because they damage their vehicles.

On the issue of the Northern Collector Road Bertaut answered right away, “I am not in favor of the NCR. I don’t believe it’s needed for connectivity in town.” He said the proposed road “places our residents at risk in Mayfair.

“I support removing it from the Town-wide Transportation Plan.” He said it would only take a town council vote to do so.

Bertaut has already twice made a

motion to remove the NCR from the town plan—only to have it defeated by Milan, Rayner, Stought Wright and Williams. He said a study wasn’t needed to put the NCR on the plan—and it wasn’t needed to take it off.

Bertaut said the County will remove the NCR from their plan when Purcellville does it first.

Milan said that taking the NCR off the transportation plan “is just words.”

When asked how both candidates would use the general fund, Milan answered he would use it to improve the atmosphere of the small-town charm and to improve our economic development—like having town business summits and implementing the Main Street Program which “allows us to get loans and grants.” Milan said he wants the downtown to be vibrant and livable. The Main Street Program addresses programs for affordable and workforce housing as well.

Bertaut said he assumed the question meant “discretionary funding or small amounts of the general fund, as much of it has been already committed.”

He said he was in favor of revitalization on 21st Street, and he said the town has spent \$2 million on improving the roadways and sidewalks in that area. “Businesses have already invested in revitalization in that area and spent over \$2 million.

Bertaut said the grants associated with the Main Street Program are very small in relation to “the use of staff time to chase grants that are associated with this program.”

He said he “would like to see a skate park and recreational opportunities for the residents of this town.”

To the question of whether the candidates support the annexation of the Valley Commerce Center, across from the Mayfair community, Milan said that “the applicant has an annexation proposal, and all we are doing is asking for additional information on that project to see if it’s in the best interest of the town ... and not shut our eyes and say no without knowing what is the best for the town.”

He lamented that Valley Springs Estates (across from Blue Ridge Middle School in the County) should have been annexed into the town when the town had a chance to do so. “So if you have the first time at bat and you don’t take it, you face the consequences.”

At the time when the previous Valley Springs owner came to the town asking for an annexation, the town council said no because the citizens overwhelmingly didn’t want the property to be annexed and developed at in-town densities.

To the question of the Valley Commerce Center annexation, Bertaut

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

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Latest employment figures for Virginia

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has announced that according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics Survey ("CES" or "establishment survey"), Virginia reported non-farm payroll employment declined 5,800 in the month of August. Despite the loss over the month, the over-the-year statistics show growth of 61,600 jobs over the year and 238,200 added since January 2022.

"For the past two and a half years, we have driven record job growth and business investment despite inflationary headwinds from Washington," said Youngkin. "This month's numbers draw our full attention to the importance of continuing to drive forward pro-growth, business friendly initiatives that keep Virginia accelerating."

"Recent data shows a reduction in the number of employed individuals, and a slight decrease in labor force participation. While these numbers reflect some of the current national challenges in the labor market, we are committed to targeted job training programs, improved employment services, and strategies to engage more people in the workforce. Our goal is to not only mitigate these short-term fluctuations but to build a stronger, more resilient labor market for the future," said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater.

"We are closely analyzing the trends shown in this month's LAUS and CES figures and will continue to better our businesses and workforce," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "By fostering innovation and supporting industries that drive growth, we aim to strengthen further Virginia's economic landscape and ensure a robust environment for employment creation and economic development. We will continue to work diligently to create opportunities for Virginians and build a resilient economy that can

withstand the national headwinds."

The CES survey uses payroll records of establishment employers and is designed to provide a count of jobs under which the employer pays unemployment insurance. CES data shows a reduction of 5,800 payroll jobs in August to 4,241,100.

BLS publishes an additional employment figure from its Local Area Unemployment Statistics ("LAUS", or "the household survey"). LAUS data shows the number of employed residents decreased by 5,572 to 4,440,411 in the month of August.

Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 2.8 percent, while the labor force decreased by 2,172 to 4,568,536 as the number of unemployed residents increased by 3,400 to 128,125. The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 66.0 percent in August. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

The LAUS survey is based on household interviews conducted each month for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provides comprehensive data on the labor force, including those who are employed and unemployed. Establishment survey data reflects changes for updated seasonal adjustment factors, and industry classification conversions (NAICS), as part of the annual benchmarking process.

The household survey only distinguishes between whether a person is employed or unemployed, whereas CES counts each employee that is on an employer's payroll. CES excludes business owners, self-employed persons, unpaid volunteers and private household workers, and those on unpaid leave or not working because of a labor dispute.

For more details, visit the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement website at <https://virginiaworks.com/>.

Loudoun Workforce Resource Center offers V3 Certification Session

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center will host a Virginia Values Veterans Certification Session for employers on Thursday, Oct. 10, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., at Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road NW in Leesburg. Loudoun employers are encouraged to attend this free event.

Employers will learn about the benefits of hiring veterans and how to support veterans in the workplace. Upon completion of the session, employers will become a V3 Certified Employer. The session will be presented by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

Space is limited: Employers are encouraged to register in advance

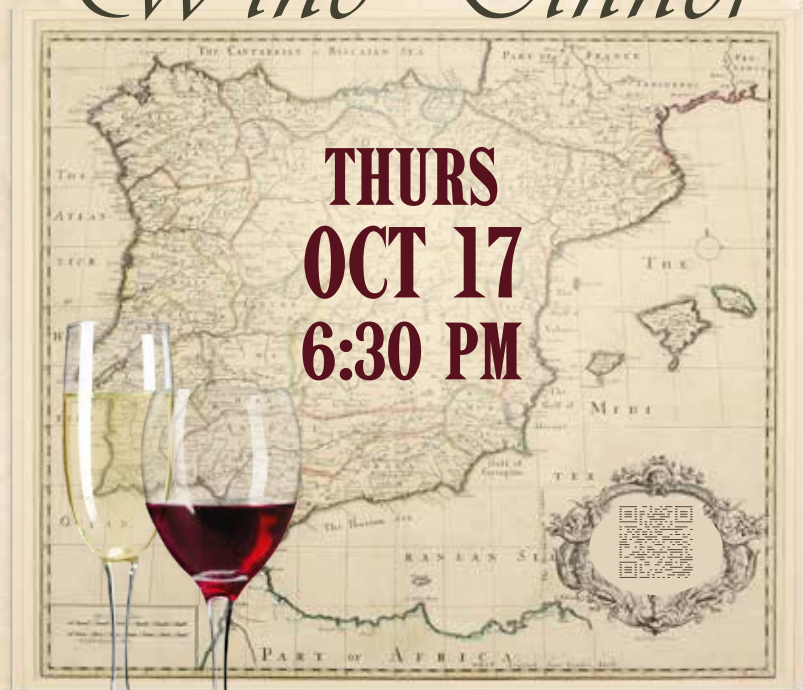
at loudoun.gov/EmployVeterans.

Anyone who requires a reasonable accommodation to participate in Workforce Resource Center events may contact the Workforce Resource Center at 703-777-0150. Three business days' notice is requested.

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center, a Virginia Career Works affiliate, provides no-cost resources and equipment to job seekers and businesses to help them achieve their employment goals. More information about the center can be found at loudoun.gov/wrc or by visiting the center at 705 E. Market Street, Suite E, in Leesburg. More information about the V3 Program can be found at dsvs3.com.

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Space Mission systems provider expands in Loudoun

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has announced that Optimum Technologies LLC, which provides space flight hardware design, manufacturing, integration and test, and other space mission systems services and program management, will invest \$999,000 to expand its Loudoun County Satellite Manufacturing Facility. The expansion will create 40 new jobs.

"Optimum Technologies' decision to expand its manufacturing facility in Loudoun County demonstrates the trust manufacturers have in Virginia," said Youngkin. "The company is a key component of the Northern Virginia aerospace industry, and we are gratified to see this investment."

"Virginia is a prime location for aerospace companies," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "I congratulate Optimum Technologies on this investment. This investment reinforces Northern Virginia as a key aerospace hub that offers the infrastructure for developing and manufacturing new

technologies."

"OpTech continues to expand due high growth in the space sector," said executive vice president of OpTech Timothy Rumford. "We have seen great demand for our hardware and services and have outgrown our original SMF that was opened in 2022. Our new facility will give us approximately 5 times the capacity and help continue our growth plans and, in turn, help support our nation's needs for rapid and low-cost access to space."

"The expansion of Optimum Technologies represents a significant investment in our community and underscores Loudoun's commitment to fostering a diverse economy where innovation thrives," said Chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Phyllis Randall. "Our county's skilled and dynamic workforce continues to attract and support high-tech companies like Optimum, ensuring that Loudoun remains a leading destination for companies to grow, succeed, and contribute

to our economic landscape."

"Optimum Technologies' investment in our region is a welcome one and demonstrates our commitment to innovation, job creation, and economic development," said Senator Suhas Subramanyam. "I will continue to champion growing business and investment in our region as we further establish Loudoun as one of the best places to do business in the world."

"It's no secret that Loudoun County is among the nation's best places for business, and Optimum Technologies' near million-dollar expansion is just another example of that prowess," said Delegate Atoosa Reaser. "From the superior education provided in Loudoun County Public Schools and from local colleges like the Northern Virginia Community College, to the incredible support provided by local business partners, Loudoun's workforce development pipeline is unmatched and continues to be an attraction to growing businesses."

Founded in Virginia in 2015, Optimum Technologies is a professional technical services company specializing in aerospace solutions related to satellite, ground, and mission systems engineering. Most staff members hold active Top Secret security clearances, and the company has a diverse portfolio of customers, including U.S. Department of Defense, civil, and commercial contracts. The Optimum Technologies team includes space industry experts specializing in full lifecycle support, from initial concept development to final mission disposition.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Loudoun County to secure the project for Virginia and will support Optimum Technologies' job creation through the Virginia Jobs Investment Program. VJIP is state-funded demonstrating Virginia's commitment to enhancing job opportunities for citizens.

Legislation passed to combat Alzheimer's

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA), co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, applauded House passage of two bipartisan bills he introduced that would cement and build on the important progress that has been made to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease. The National Alzheimer's Project Act Reauthorization Act and the Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act now head to the president's desk to be signed into law.

Nearly seven million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's costs our nation an astonishing \$360 billion per year, including \$231 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid. If we continue along this trajectory, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer's may grow to a projected 12.7 million and approach \$1 trillion in annual costs by 2050. Family caregivers provide 18 billion hours of unpaid care for loved ones with dementia annually, valued at nearly \$347 billion.

"I know from firsthand experience what a devastating illness Alzheimer's disease is, as I watched my mother battle with it for a decade before her passing," Warner said. "While we've made great strides in research, there is still so much work to be done to find

effective ways to prevent and treat Alzheimer's. On behalf of the millions of American families who have been touched by Alzheimer's, I'm glad to see these two bills head to the president's desk to be signed into law."

The NAPA Reauthorization Act would:

- Reauthorize NAPA through 2035 and modernize the legislation to reflect strides that have been made to understand the disease, such as including a new focus on promoting healthy aging and reducing risk factors; and
- Update language in recognition of the need to include underserved populations, including individuals with Down syndrome, who are at increased risk for Alzheimer's as they age.

The Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act would:

- Continue through 2035 a requirement that the Director of the National Institutes of Health submit an annual budget to Congress estimating the funding necessary to fully implement NAPA's research goals. Only two other areas of biomedical research – cancer and HIV/AIDS – have been the subject of special budget



Sen. Mark Warner earlier this year in Loudoun.

development aimed at speeding discovery.

Along with Sen. Warner, both bills were co-authored by Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ed Markey (D-MA).

The NAPA Reauthorization Act and Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act are endorsed by the Alzheimer's Association and UsAgainstAlzheimer's. The NAPA Reauthorization Act is also endorsed by the National Down Syndrome Society, the National Down Syndrome Congress, and LuMind IDSC Foundation.



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Loudoun County expands homeownership loan opportunities

Loudoun County is expanding opportunities for affordable homeownership with changes to two of its existing homeownership loan programs and the addition of a new program.

At its Sept. 4, meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved changes to the county's existing Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance Program and Public Employee Homeownership Grant Program as well as the creation of a new program, the DPCC Plus Program.

The homeownership loan programs are designed to help moderate-income, first-time homebuyers purchase a home in Loudoun County. The updates to these programs come as the down payment needed for the average home in Loudoun County continues to rise. The changes also support the county's goals for improving housing stability and increasing access to homeownership as identified in Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan.

Down Payment / Closing Cost Assistance Program

The DPCC Program's maximum loan amount is increasing from \$25,000 to \$70,000 and will no longer operate as a 30-year loan, but rather a 15-year forgivable loan. The updated program criteria include:

- For first-time homebuyers who earn between 30-70% area median income (gross annual income between \$46,450 and \$108,300, regardless of family size).
- Loan of up to \$70,000 or 10% of home sales price, whichever is less.
- Forgivable loan over a 15-year period with no interest.

Public Employee Homeownership Grant Program

The PEG Program's maximum loan amount is increasing from \$10,000 to \$25,000, the maximum allowed under Virginia Code, and will continue to be a forgivable loan over a five-year period. The updated program criteria include:

- Available only to full or part-time employees (minimum 20 hours per week) of the Loudoun County Government, Courts and Constitutional Officers, and Loudoun County Public Schools.
- For first-time homebuyers who earn between 30-70% AMI (gross annual income between \$46,450 and \$108,300, regardless of family size).
- Loan of up to \$25,000.
- Forgivable loan over a five-year period.

Down Payment / Closing Cost Assistance Plus Program

The DPCC Plus Program will be administered in the same manner as the DPCC Program, only it will serve households earning between 70-100% AMI (gross annual income between \$108,300 and \$154,700, regardless of family size).

- For first-time homebuyers who earn between 70-100% AMI.
- Loan of up to \$70,000 or ten percent of sales price, whichever is less.
- Forgivable loan over a 15-year period with no interest.

The homeownership loan programs are administered by the Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development. For full program information and all eligibility requirements, visit loudoun.gov/HomeLoanPrograms.



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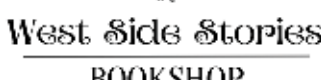
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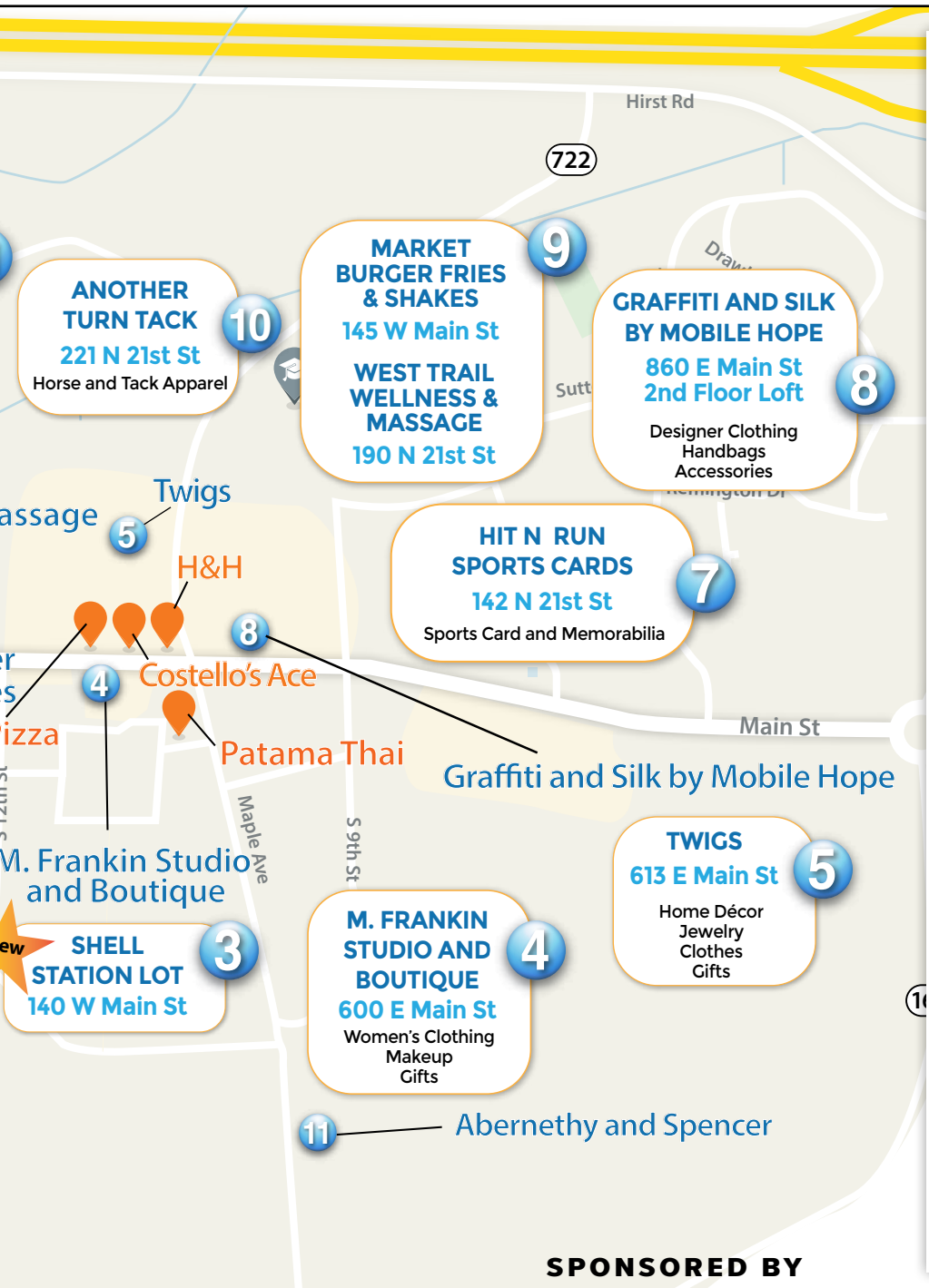
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On Sept. 13 the Town of Purcellville held a ribbon cutting for the grand celebration of The Ridge Performance and Training Center. It is located at 245 Shepherdstown Court in Purcellville. They offer agility training, group or private lessons, and have batting cages for softball and baseball—and more.



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Open burning regulations for fall and winter

The Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Fire Marshal's Office reminds residents that effective Oct. 1, through midnight Feb. 14, open burning is permitted for the burning of leaves and trees, brush, yard and garden trimmings generated on-site, except where always prohibited. Note: all fires must be called into the Loudoun County Emergency Communications Center at 703-777-0637 prior to ignition and when the fire is extinguished.

If current weather conditions for open burning deem it to be a high-risk activity, additional restrictions may apply. Burning is always prohibited in urban or built-up areas (such as subdivisions) throughout Loudoun County and the Town of Leesburg. Or in the town limits of Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville, and Round Hill.

Legally Set Open Air Fires are Subject to All Local Regulations

- Fires are to be constantly attended by a competent person(s) at least 18 years of age, with means to control and extinguish the fire. If unattended and/or a means of extinguishment is unavailable, the fire must be fully extinguished.
- Open burning may be no closer than 50 ft. from any structure and pose no hazards to a

roadway.

- Bonfires are allowed, provided that they consist of neatly piled seasoned wood, no more than five feet in diameter by five feet in height. The bonfire may be no closer than 50 ft. from any structure.

Prohibited Open Burning

- The burning of household trash, garbage, refuse, household waste, commercial waste, construction waste or debris, combustible liquid, hazardous waste, impregnated lumber, junk, rubber, stumps, products of salvage operations, plastics, tires, tar-based materials, oil or petroleum-based products, hazardous materials, chemicals, animal carcasses and similar materials or waste is prohibited countywide (Incorporated towns included).
- Open burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions, or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous, open burning shall be prohibited.

Development-Related Burning

- Agricultural burning, such as clearing of a field or fence row, is limited to materials

generated on-site. The burning may be no closer than 50 ft. from a structure and 1,000 ft. from an occupied structure unless prior permission has been given by the occupant and poses no hazard to highways and airfields.

- All land clearing (pit burn) operations by contractors/landowners for development purposes shall be approved by LCFR-FMO. Burning of trees, stumps or brush may require a permit from LCFR-FMO and the State Air Pollution Control Board.
- Warming barrels at a construction site shall be approved by LCFR-FMO. Only clean lumber can be burned, in a barrel or similar container that is screened or covered to prevent flying embers and is not within 15 ft. of any structure.

The Loudoun County Fire Marshal may impose regulations, at any time, based upon a complaint, atmospheric or other environmental circumstances, to restrict or extinguish any fire that is otherwise permitted according to these guidelines. For additional open burning information, please call the Fire Marshal's Office at 703-737-8600 during normal business hours or visit www.loudoun.gov/openburning.

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Growth without accountability: Mayor Milan's dangerous gamble with Purcellville's Future

BY KWASI FRASER, FORMER MAYOR TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE

In the struggle for justice, we must always be vigilant of the methods by which progress is pursued. The call for affordable and attainable housing is not inherently wrong, but its implementation without a thorough understanding of the needs and consequences, betrays a lack of foresight that could irreparably damage the very community it seeks to serve. Mayor Milan's push for affordable housing in Purcellville is one such example, where ambition has seemingly overshadowed responsibility, and where rhetoric has outpaced reason.

There is no doubt that affordable housing is an issue across many parts of our nation. Yet, we must ask ourselves, what problem are we solving in Purcellville? It seems Mayor Milan and his developer friends are intent on transforming our community into a metropolis, fueled by a vision that more housing equals more revenue, more people equal more prosperity. But this is not a question of dollars and cents. It is a question of justice, of equity, and, above all, of responsible governance.

"What gets measured gets improved," as the saying goes, but in this case, what has been measured? Where is the data, the research, the empirical evidence to support the notion that Purcellville needs such an influx of affordable housing?

Before we embark on a path that could drastically alter our town, we must first take inventory of the true need. How many families are truly in need of affordable housing here? What will be the cost—not just in dollars—but in terms of traffic congestion, strained water resources, and increased demands on public services? These are the questions that Mayor Milan has yet to answer.

We must be mindful of the burden that unchecked development places on our infrastructure. Consider the recent ruling in Arlington, where a judge overturned the county's zoning changes due to its failure to consider the localized impacts of increased density.

The court recognized that issues such

as wastewater backups and the strain on stormwater systems were not properly addressed. Should we not learn from this example? Purcellville is not immune to these very same concerns.

Without careful study, we risk overwhelming our roads, depleting our water resources, and overstressing our already limited services. Mayor Milan may believe that the creation of a larger, more populous Purcellville will usher in an era of prosperity, but growth for growth's sake is a dangerous path.

We must ask ourselves: who truly benefits from this vision? Will it be the residents who find themselves stuck in traffic on Main Street, struggling to access overburdened services? Or will it be the developers and businesses that stand to profit from a town transformed beyond recognition?

We must also confront the reality that affordable housing, when done recklessly, does not always serve the people it claims to help. In many cases, such housing remains out of reach for the very people it is intended to benefit, while the community bears the brunt of its negative impacts.

As we have seen in Arlington, the rush to build without consideration of infrastructure and community needs results in division and resentment, not unity and progress.

The time for responsible action is now. Mayor Milan and those advocating for affordable housing must pause and take a comprehensive inventory of the situation. They must engage the community, gather data, and study the impacts—traffic, water, public safety, and beyond. Only then can we move forward in a way that serves the health, safety, and welfare of all Purcellville residents, without sacrificing the integrity of our town.

We are called not to build a metropolis, but to build a community. And in that endeavor, we must ensure that progress does not come at the expense of our values, our environment, or our neighbors. Let us proceed with the wisdom of foresight, not the recklessness of ambition.

*"We are called
not to build
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— Kwasi Fraser,
former Mayor Town
of Purcellville

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Three LCPS Schools recognized by DWR

Three Loudoun County Public Schools—Blue Ridge Middle School, Farmwell Station Middle School and Woodgrove High School—have been recognized by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources for including environmental literacy in their curricula through the Virginia Naturally School Recognition Program.

This year marks the 16th year Blue Ridge Middle has been recognized, the second year for Farmwell Station, and the first year for Woodgrove. These three schools are among 58 statewide to receive this recognition for the 2023/24 school year.

As the Commonwealth's official environmental education school recognition program, DWR's Virginia Naturally School program honors exemplary efforts to increase environmental awareness and stewardship among K-12 students. Schools were evaluated based on hands-on real-world learning to include STEM connections, and learning beyond the classroom settings.

Go to www.dwr.virginia.gov to learn more.

ASK DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

you also run the risk of stunting her growth. Moreover, the risk of her lying to you or deceiving you will likely also increase over time as she may cleverly seek to find ways around Life360 to get away from your monitoring.

For many parents, anxiety can increase when children leave home for college. I think you and your husband should consider entering therapy to discuss your concerns and to understand your motivations for staying connected to your daughter in this way while she is at college. By talking through your thoughts and feelings on the topic with a parenting expert, and by trusting and communicating more with your daughter, my hope is that you can get to a place where you no longer need to rely on Life360 in this way.

Dr. Mike,

I know you do a lot of divorce work as a custody evaluator, and we're struggling as a family and could use some guidance. We went through a very contentious and nasty separation and divorce five years ago. I have full physical and legal custody of both of our children. The children have a visitation schedule with their father. My ex-husband remarried nine months ago, and my children truly hate their stepmother.

She's 23 years younger than my ex-husband, which has been very awkward for our teenage son and daughter. She's self-absorbed and doesn't care about my children at all. She also doesn't have kids of her own and is kind of a big kid herself. When the kids are over at my ex's house, she and my ex just do what they want to do and don't really include my kids or ever plan anything with them.

My children have refused to go for their visits with my ex for three weeks now, and my ex is mad at me and has even threatened to take me back to court. I have pleaded with my kids to go, but I can't force a 17-year-old and 15-year-old into my car. What do you recommend?

—Upset in Loudoun

Dear Upset in Loudoun,

Your situation is more common than you think where children and teens go through an adjustment phase when a parent remarries. Moreover, the stepparent and child/teen match isn't always great, which can add to problems. For your son and daughter, it seems they have three problems to contend with—their stepmother's style and behavior in relation to them, their stepmother's significant age difference with their father and the disconnect they are now experiencing with their father as a result.

While I would need more information to offer you more specific recommendations, I invite you to think about the following ideas. You could speak to your ex-husband openly about your concerns if your co-parenting relationship with him is good enough to do that. The two of you could try to come up with some ideas to better support visitation for your children at your ex-husband's house.

You could also suggest to your ex-husband that the two of you sit down to talk with your son and daughter together. Another option would be for your husband and you to see a family therapist who specializes in parenting and divorce. That professional could also meet with your son and daughter to improve things. The therapist could also eventually meet with your son and daughter and their stepmother to address their relationship problems.

I am sorry your family is going through this, and I hope things get to a better place with better communication and the right kind of support and structure.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. "Dr. Mike" is a clinical psychologist in private practice. He can be reached at 703-723-2999, and is located at 44095 Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn.



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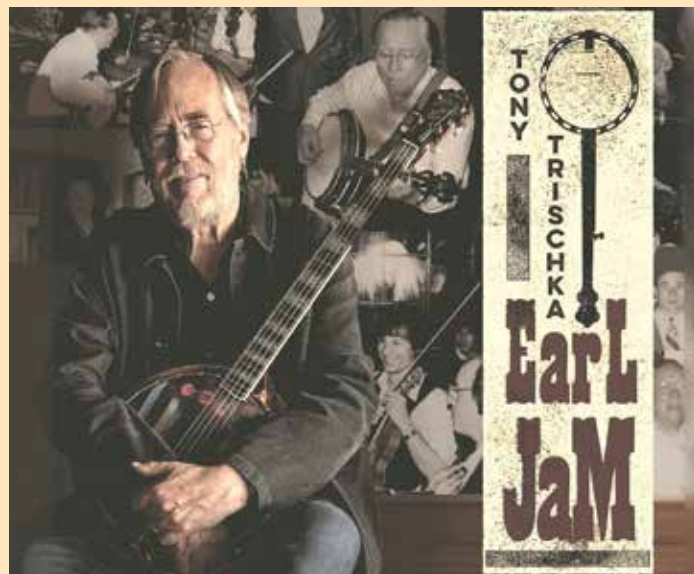
Tony Trischka's EarlJam—A Tribute to Earl Scruggs

Saturday, October 26 8:00pm \$30

Tony Trischka is considered the consummate banjo artist and perhaps the most influential banjo player in the roots music world. For more than 50 years, his stylings have inspired a whole generation of bluegrass and acoustic musicians with the many voices he has brought to the instrument.

Tony will be honoring the music of Earl Scruggs, pioneer of the three-finger banjo style and one of the most important musicians in bluegrass, or, in Tony's opinion, in any genre.

Presented by the Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center.



River City Puppets: Upside Down Fairy Town

Wednesday, October 9 at 10:00am \$5

The Fairy Tales have gotten all mixed up in Fairy Town. Help the storyteller untangle the tales in time to celebrate Fairy Tale Day. Music, comedy, and puppets of all sizes come together for your favorite stories. Written by Dylan Shelton, River City Puppets.

Main Street Chamber Orchestra: Peter & the Wolf/Wolf Tales

Sunday, October 27 at 3:00pm \$10

This 75 minute program features the classic Peter & The Wolf music with some added wild and wonderful wolf songs! The bassist performs "B B Wolf" (Big, Bad Wolf) by John Deak, soprano Mariana Zoeter sings two art songs, and the pianist plays and sings Duran Duran's hit, "Hungry Like a Wolf". A musical afternoon adventure for the whole family.

Halloween Spooktacular: Laser Light Show

Tuesday, October 29 at 7:00pm \$10

Treat your kids to this outdoor laser BOO-nanza featuring brilliant animations of classic spooky characters grooving to popular music. Outside, weather permitting.

In Our Gallery: Pathways Art Exhibit

Friday, October 11– Sunday, November 17

Admission is FREE Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm and during performances

Mental health education & substance abuse prevention trainings offered

Loudoun County offers ongoing mental health education and substance abuse prevention trainings. All trainings are free, but seats are limited and registration is required, with the exception of Rapid REVIVE! The schedule of upcoming classes for October is as follows:

Adverse Childhood Experiences Training

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) training aims to raise awareness of the impact of potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness and substance abuse in adulthood. The training teaches that ACEs prevention is a key to improving a community's well-being. The virtual training presentation lasts about one hour. Discussion and a question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. The next class will be held: Monday, Oct. 28, 12 – 1:30 p.m. For details about the training and to register, visit loudoun.gov/childhoodadversitytraining.

Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid offers training that teaches people how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. The training also teaches the skills that someone needs to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis. There are two versions of the program, a general adult program and a program for adults who interact with youth; only the general adult program will be offered in October. The trainings are usually held over a two-day period, with the class lasting for about three hours each day.

The next training will be held: Adult Mental Health First Aid (In-Person): Oct. 22 & 23, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. each day. The in-person training will be at the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services, 21641 Ridgeway Circle, Suite 210, Sterling.

For details about the training and to

register, visit loudoun.gov/mhfirstaid.

Opioid Overdose Reversal

REVIVE! is the opioid overdose and naloxone education program for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The training is free and anyone who uses opioids or knows someone who is using opioids is encouraged to attend a training. Loudoun County offers two versions of the program - Rapid REVIVE! and Virtual REVIVE!

Rapid REVIVE! is a shortened format that allows individuals to complete the training in six minutes. After watching a short video and then providing their contact information, participants receive free naloxone nasal spray. They may choose to receive naloxone by mail or arrange pickup. Rapid REVIVE! is available anytime. No registration is required.

Visit loudoun.gov/rapidrevive for Rapid REVIVE! in English.

Visit loudoun.gov/reviveespanol for Rapid REVIVE! in Spanish.

Virtual REVIVE! is a one-hour, scheduled training session that requires registration. Participants who complete the

training are also eligible to receive free naloxone nasal spray. They may choose to receive naloxone by mail or arrange pickup. The next scheduled training will be held: Thursday, Oct. 17, 5 – 6 p.m.

REVIVE! trainings can also be scheduled upon request. For details about the training and to register, visit loudoun.gov/revive.

Suicide Prevention Training

Question Persuade Refer training helps people recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to refer someone for professional help. The suicide prevention training teaches three simple steps that anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide; Question, Persuade and Refer. The virtual training presentation lasts about one hour. Discussion and practice opportunities will follow the presentation. The next class will be held: Monday, Oct. 21, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

For details about the training and to register, visit loudoun.gov/suicidepreventiontraining, and for more information on the prevention and intervention services offered by the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services, visit loudoun.gov/mhsadsprevention or send an email to prevention@loudoun.gov.



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PURCELLVILLE'S FINANCIAL LEGACY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The town's General Fund Debt was scheduled to be fully paid off by 2034, with no annual increases—just a steady, manageable payment averaging \$992,000 per year from 2022 to 2034.

Similarly, the Parks and Recreation debt was on track to be retired by 2037, with stable annual payments of \$82,700. Consistent progress without surprises.

The debt for Fireman's Field was planned to be completely paid off by 2027, with an annual payment of \$85,000—again, with no increases, just steady payments until it's cleared.

Water revenue had been positioned at 4.18 times the annual water debt payment, ensuring strong cash flow while keeping annual rate increases in the single digits. The water debt was projected to be fully retired by 2038.

Sewer revenues were 2.46 times the debt payments, with a prudent strategy of single-digit annual rate increases, ensuring the town would be free from sewer debt by 2040.

This disciplined approach kept Purcellville financially sound, balancing revenue growth with minimal impact on residents. Mayor Milan's current course, however, threatens to unravel years of careful planning, potentially leading the town into financial instability and eroding the fiscal health we've worked hard to maintain. Milan and his team are likely to do something no Purcellville government has done since the last pro-growth Town Council when Bob Lazaro was mayor: burden Purcellville residents with additional debt.

The Truth is Clear, and The People of Purcellville Know Better

During the mayoral debate on September 16, Mayor Milan asserted that his administration achieved more for Purcellville in less than two years than the previous administration did in eight. Milan and his team are railroading policies through at a rapid pace regardless of citizen input to the contrary.

Milan's assertion of "achievement" amounts to ignoring what people say at public hearings about the Northern Collector Road, ignoring citizen concerns about the traffic impacts of additional development, and ignoring Mayfair residents' request to leave county land in their vicinity as it is.

This is yet another attempt by Mayor Milan, Council Member Stought, and their slate of candidates to erase history—replacing fact with fiction. Their efforts began by removing the 2022 State of the Town Address from the Town's website. The voters of Purcellville deserve the truth, and for those who may not be fully aware, let's examine the significant accomplishments of the prior

administration over the last eight years:

1. **Protected the Town's Resources:** By rejecting two annexation proposals after carefully listening to citizens, we safeguarded Purcellville's water resources and road infrastructure. The Valley Springs development alone, if annexed, would have added over 250 cars to our roads. Instead, we reduced that number to 78. The Warner Brook annexation would have added over 3,500 additional weekday trips on Purcellville Road. Currently Mayor Milan and Council Member Kevin Wright support continuing annexation discussions. Council Member Caleb Stought, although voting against further discussions, has publicly said if the town doesn't annex the property—the county could approve the same project. This is false, and is a fear technique.
2. **Updated the Comprehensive Plan:** We successfully revised and adopted a new 2030 Town Comprehensive Plan, setting the stage for slow growth and responsible development.
3. **Invested in Infrastructure and Business Growth:** We prioritized investments in road, water, and sewer infrastructure on 21st Street, enabling key businesses like Southern States, Bia Kitchen, Tree of Life Ministries, Another Turn Tack Shop, Monk's BBQ, Catocin Creek Distillery, and Nichols Hardware Store to invest millions in the community.
4. **Led in Environmental Innovation:** We planted a forest, establishing Virginia's largest nutrient credit bank on municipal land, yielding over \$900,000 in net revenue for the town and an 800% return on investment.
5. **Supported the Construction of Adam's Bike Park:** With the support of private funding spearheaded by Adam Caudill's mother, we championed the construction of a space for recreation and community connection in Adam's memory.
6. **Pioneered Public Health Initiatives:** Collaborating with MIT and Harvard during COVID-19, we monitored community health using wastewater epidemiology, detecting virus spread in an innovative, cutting-edge way.
7. **Converted Blight into Innovation:** We transformed a dilapidated town property into a community makerspace, teaching valuable skills like welding, robotics, and drone research. During the pandemic, local students even built 200 desks for remote learning, and volunteers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 »

PURCELLVILLE'S FINANCIAL LEGACY,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

- crafted face shields for frontline workers.
8. **Reduced inherited Debt by \$9 Million:** Our administration made fiscal responsibility a priority, cutting debt by \$9 million and eliminating early prepayment penalties and balloon payments, saving millions in future interest.
9. **Protected Water and Sewer Rates:** We kept water and sewer rates low, allowing residents to keep more of their hard-earned money while reducing overall debt—resulting in \$8 million in cash flow savings.
10. **Maintained Our S&P AAA Credit Rating:** Despite economic challenges, we retained a top-tier credit rating throughout our tenure, a testament to sound financial management.
11. **Equalized the tax rate:** We lowered the Fireman's Field District tax, and found ways to deliver more with less.
12. **Prevented a Financial Crisis:** We restructured the wastewater fund debt, avoiding a looming \$2.9 million annual balloon payment that would have crippled the town's finances between 2020 and 2030.
13. **Fostered Transparency and Citizen Engagement:** Through initiatives like the OpenGovFinancial Portal and live-streaming town meetings, we built a culture of transparency that put the people of Purcellville first. Unlike Mayor Milan, and Council Members Caleb Stought and Kevin Wright, we conducted committee interviews in public—not private meetings.
14. **Record-Breaking Cash Reserves:** We grew the town's cash reserves to unprecedented levels, securing optimal interest rates for the future.
15. **Welcomed Business Growth:** Numerous businesses, including Chipotle, Chick-Fil-A, Petite Loulou, Mod's Pizza, Purcellville Pub, Giant, Catoctin Creek Distillery, Southern States, and McDonald's, opened or expanded under our administration—98 new businesses in 2021 and 83 in 2022.
16. **Laid the Groundwork for FIOS Expansion:** We led discussions with Verizon management to position Purcellville for future FIOS expansion, paving the way for better internet service for all residents. The contracts are now in the process of being signed and FIOS will now be coming to town.
17. **Secured a Natural Gas Study:** We championed and obtained a study from Washington Gas to explore the potential for extending natural gas service to Purcellville.
18. **Doubled Meals Tax Revenue Without Raising Taxes:** By boosting local business activity, we doubled meals tax revenue, all while keeping taxes stable.
19. **Completed Major Infrastructure Projects:** From the 21st Street, road and utility construction to multiple road and sidewalk upgrades, we ensured the town's infrastructure was beyond par.
20. **Secured Millions in Federal Funding:** Through lobbying efforts, we secured \$10.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds, allocating \$8 million to vital water and sewer infrastructure improvements.
21. **Built Recurring Revenue Streams:** We established new revenue sources from fiber optics in town rights-of-way and cell tower leases, ensuring consistent financial support for years to come.
22. **Commissioned the Train Station Kiosk:** Collaborating with the Makerspace and town committees, we built a kiosk at the Train Station to promote our businesses and provide visitors with a rich history lesson on Purcellville.
23. **Empowered Entrepreneurship:** From Discover Purcellville's painted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 >



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Purcellville Arts Council to hold new art show

The Purcellville Arts Council has announced the most recent art display in Town Hall featuring artists from the Purcellville Makersmiths. The PAC is hosting a meet-the-artists reception on Monday, Oct. 7 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. which is free and open to the public. During the reception, people may view the art, hear from the artists, and enjoy light refreshments. In addition to attending the reception, all are welcome to view the artwork Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except holidays, from October through December.

Artists featured in this show include Christine Dinger, Ken Fuenectilla, Dawn Martin, Makayla Martin, Diane Painter, Ralph Pugh, and Em Wang. The reception is part of the week-long Celebrate Purcellville event.

Bring your Celebrate Purcellville passport to the reception to get a sticker. Celebrate Purcellville passport can be picked up starting Oct. 4 at Purcellville Town Hall, the Purcellville Library, and the Bush Tabernacle Skating Rink. Get more information about Celebrate Purcellville at <https://purcellvilleva.gov/997/Celebrate-Purcellville>. Winners will be announced at the Celebrate Purcellville Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 3:45 p.m. in Dillon's Woods. You must be present to win. Prizes have been donated by participating businesses and organizations.

The first-floor corridors of Town Hall have a gallery-caliber hanging system which creates an opportunity for local artists to exhibit their work. Art exhibitions in Town Hall help ensure that everyone has access to art.

BERTAUT, MILAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

answered, "I'll give a quick no." He said some engineering data was asked for but it's against both the town's Comprehensive Plan and the County Comprehensive Plan.

"This project is not going forward if we do not annex it. We are not giving up control—it's already controlled in the County as JLMA-3—they can't do that development under JLMA-3.

The County is not going to rezone it because the project itself is more than 1.2 million sq.ft. of industrial space" and at that requested density if it were to remain in the County, it could not get the density with alternative septic systems.

"The citizens have said they do not at this time desire annexations," said Bertaut.

Later in the forum when addressing annexation again Milan said, "We can't put a moat around Purcellville. It's coming." Milan said if a developer wants to put in more affordable housing, "we have to accommodate the community."

The developers of Vineyard Square have broached the subject of putting multi-family housing in historic downtown on their properties.

When Milan and Bertaut ran on the same slate four years ago—what happened? This was the next question.

Milan said he was "misled." Bertaut said he has heard "quite a number of explanations" regarding Milan's about face on the issues he ran on. Bertaut said one has to "weigh and determine for yourself what the truth is here."

On whether either candidate has received developer money, Bertaut asked, "And we have three minutes to answer

this? No," he answered. His largest donor is a farmer whose 90-acre in town property is in a conservation easement.

Milan didn't answer the question but reiterated he has changed.

Milan has received a campaign donation of \$2,000 from a property owner next to the Valley Commerce Center property which is up for annexation. If the Valley Commerce Center is annexed then the donor's property—along with others—would have to be annexed as well.

When the question of trust came up, Bertaut said he has kept his campaign promises during his four years on town council. "I am committed to this body; I am committed to this town. I will keep my promises going forth—I have no intention of changing my mind."

He said he wouldn't come before the citizens of this town and "announce that I've changed my mind. I was given bad information, but not tell them what led me to it."

Milan said he has kept all his campaign promises. He said there has been no growth in four years. He added that the town needs to expand economically and "we need to build 21st Street. We need attainable workforce housing."

"I haven't changed my mind. I just got new information," said Milan.

Bertaut concluded, "I will commit to the voters to do their will by always being mindful of the health, safety and welfare of every single one of our residents. I will never commit tax payer funds in support of a single owner of land in this town under the guise of business development, and frankly it's crony capitalism.

"I'd like to close by asking each and every one of you, 'How can you be sure the incumbent isn't still being fooled.'"

10TH CONGRESSIONAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

audience, both here at the National Conference Center and those viewing via the online livestream, a better appreciation for where these candidates stand on the issues that are most important to your business and to the economy,” said Loudoun Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors member Tracy Baynard. Baynard also serves as Sr. VP of Infrastructure and Economic Development & Gov. Relations Services at McGuire-Woods Consulting, LLC.

Chamber President, Tony Howard, moderated the debate. Chamber Chair Angela Mitchell, 1st Vice Chair Scott Loftis, and Executive Committee member Dorri O’Brien asked questions.

Republican candidate, Mike Clancy, is a senior executive and lawyer at a global technology company and serves on the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce Policy Committee. He is a Loudoun County resident, husband, and father of four sons.

In his opening statement, Clancy stressed the damage that the Biden-Harris administration’s open border policies had caused Loudoun County. If elected, Clancy promised to be “that change agent” he believes voters across the 10th District wish to see when it comes to Biden-Harris policies.

State Senator Suhas Subramanyam (D-32) represented the Democratic Party at the debate though he advocated for bipartisanship throughout the debate. Subramanyam was elected to the General Assembly in 2019. Also a Loudoun County resident, Subramanyam is a husband and a father to two daughters.

In his opening statement, Subramanyam introduced himself as the son of Indian immigrants. His mother typically votes Democrat while his father typically votes Republican, which he offered as proof that good things happen when democrats and republicans come together.

“I want to take on the toughest fights for Loudoun County and produce real results like I did in the State Senate,” Subramanyam said. “We have to stand up for our district in Washington. We have to stand up for our economy.”

Economy

Multiple questions throughout the debate addressed economic problems. Clancy focused on the Biden-Harris administration’s policies, accusing Subramanyam of being a “rubber stamp” for liberal policies.

“This problem of inflation, which is devastating our community, is the product of the Biden-Harris administration, their trillion dollar spending spree,” Clancy said. “The first step is getting the budget under control, reining in spending sprees.”

Addressing affordable housing, Clancy said that builders have been heavily impacted by inflation due to the high cost of building materials and rising interest rates. In addition, he said the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors charges \$100,000 in proffers for every house.

“To make houses affordable, we have to address the economy,” Clancy said. “We need to lower taxes. We need to streamline the permitting process. And your local government needs to back off these exorbitant proffers that drive up the price.”

In addition to these policies, Clancy promised that he would be in favor of extending the Tax and Jobs Cuts Act, which is expiring in 2025.

Subramanyam countered that inflation came as a result of COVID-19, which resulted in increased spending under both the Trump-Pence administration and Biden-Harris administration. In addition, he said some “bad actors” took the opportunity to price gouge during the pandemic. He also listed supply chain disruption as a cause of inflation.

He said the idea was laughable that he would be a “rubber stamp” for the Biden-Harris administration’s policies.

“I think there are some legislators at home that are watching this and laughing at the idea that I was ever a rubber stamp for anyone in the General Assembly,” Subramanyam said. “One of the first things I did in the assembly is I started a caucus called the ‘Commonwealth Caucus,’ where we had democrats and republicans come together.”

As an example of his strategy to address the economy, Subramanyam pointed to SB 611, which he introduced in the state senate. It opposed raising tolls on the Dulles Greenway.

“A couple weeks ago, the State Corporation Commission ruled that they could not increase tolls by 40%, and they cited my bill as the reason why they did that,” Subramanyam said.

Subramanyam said he would look through the expiring Tax and Job Cuts Act line by line to determine which parts of it have been helpful before extending it.

Transportation

The candidates were asked to address their policies concerning the metro, buses, highways, and Dulles airport.

Clancy said that he would address low metro finances by putting “business experts” in charge of the metro system. Under their leadership, he wants to increase ridership by lowering tolls on the Dulles Greenway to make it more convenient to get to metro stations.



Mike Clancy



Suhas Subramanyam

Clancy wishes to address turnstile jumping, which he said could result in a 30% increase in revenue.

“We need to end lawlessness,” Clancy said.

Clancy advocated for protecting Dulles airport, a major contributor to Loudoun County’s economy. In addition to protecting the airport, Clancy advocated for a toll-free bridge from Loudoun into Maryland to relieve congestion on the highways. He hoped this would help commuters paying \$60 each day commuting to and from work. He advocated for a 50% rebate for these commuters.

Subramanyam agreed that in Congress, he would strive to increase ridership on the metro. He used Taiwan as an example of a metro system Loudoun

should strive to emulate.

“We need to make sure we support metro with funding at the federal level and state level while it’s going through its growing pains, right now,” Subramanyam said, “but long term, I think metro can be a huge economic benefit for our community.”

Subramanyam would also protect Dulles airport. He would like to lower the costs of toll roads long-term to make the airport more accessible.

“During the last FAA reauthorization, there was a big push to get more flights out of Reagan because the legislators in Congress were selfishly wanting to not have to drive out here to get home,” Subramanyam said.

Immigration

“Addressing immigration is the key to restoring America,” Clancy said.

If elected, he plans to support secure borders by ending welfare for illegal immigrants, ending catch and release, and ending sanctuary cities. He supports collaboration with local law enforcement to address immigrant crime and to enforce deportation orders.

“That’s why I’m endorsed by Sheriff

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

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KERSHNER, RANDALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that the Board is supportive of the policy positions that the staff and I have taken with respect to the inquiries we have received from the town staff.”

He said he has no idea if the town will proceed with the action that is in front of them. “I am simply here just to confirm what I have been doing is okay with the Board, and that you’re supportive of the positions that I have taken.”

Hemstreet said he has taken a position “that data center usage should be precluded as part of the agreement.” He also said if the town annexation goes through “there will not be any enclaves created.”

That means if the majority of the Town Council supports the annexation, then “the land that is still in the county, but entirely surrounded by town property—we want to avoid those types of enclaves,” said Hemstreet.

It has already been mentioned by Town staff that if the annexation should occur, then other properties would have to be annexed as well—like the 12.5-acre property which was part of the original property. The parcel contains a barn and house to the former Warner family farm. There are other properties which would also have to be annexed in the vicinity.

The owner of the 12.5-acre neighboring property is one of Mayor Stan Milan’s donors—donating \$2,000 to his campaign in August.

Hemstreet said he wanted to make sure that the improvements to Purcellville Road “will be the responsibility of whoever develops the property.”

“If the property is developed, there will be impacts to surrounding properties. So we want to make sure here that proper mitigations will take place,” to make a transition when it is developed, he said.

Said Hemstreet, “The County’s position is if the property owner and the Town are okay with it [the annexation], then the county typically won’t have an objection.”

Catoctin Supervisor Caleb Kershner (R) said, “I was concerned we were stepping forward too quickly.”

BOS Chair at Large Phyllis Randall (D) said, “The motion is not a guidance—it’s to go negotiate.”

Hemstreet replied, “We are getting questions from Town staff—it would be a triparty agreement.” He said the Town has to address the annexation first, then it comes to the Board. “We are kind of saying ‘This is our position on these issues.’”

Supervisor Mike Turner (D-Ashburn) said he wanted the County to negotiate.

Kershner asked, “Can we give you direction without putting guard rails on this?”

Hemstreet answered, “How much more general would the motion need to be?”

“Listen,” said Kershner, “I don’t want us to be in the position as we are being pointed as a Board ‘Oh the County is for this.’ ‘That is not what we are doing. We usually say, ‘Yes this is generally the direction we would give you.’”

County Attorney Leo Rogers said, “Annexation needs to be initiated by the Town. So that’s the first thing. This would be to work with the Town staff to determine whether or not an annexation is feasible...”

Kershner said, “So could we just say that we move to just work with the Town staff to see if an annexation is feasible?” Rogers said that is enough guidance to work with.

Kershner acknowledged that the Town has been “talking to you, but is it too early to work with the Town at this point?”

“No, absolutely not,” said Rogers. “We really do need to figure out what it is that they will be doing and an annexation agreement—the terms of an annexation agreement are really important. So those are the things that have to get worked out before the Town even says whether or not they want to go forward with it.”

Kershner said he wanted to make a motion to “defer this item for now. I don’t believe the Town Council has actually taken action on this. They have taken action to investigate and look at these items. But they haven’t actually taken action to annex.”

“I think we are a little bit premature on this. I would prefer taking time for my office to reach out to some of the elected officials to chat with them on this. I think we are putting the cart before the horse to work with them when they haven’t even taken a vote” to move “forth on annexation.”

Turner said, “They are getting calls from Purcellville and they need guidance.”

Randall replied, “I think they are saying they are getting calls from Purcellville staff. We want to make sure that the Purcellville Board is on board with Purcellville staff. Let the elected officials talk. The Council has not taken a vote yet.

“What we don’t want to happen is things start getting worked through and then either of the elected bodies ... say no, no, we didn’t want that—now everyone’s in an uncomfortable situation.”

Randall said the Purcellville Council has not given the Board guidance. “Can we just hold up until the bodies speak to one another or the Purcellville Town Council takes a vote?”

Action was deferred to the Nov. 7 Board meeting.

Valley Commerce Center Annexation Proposal

The 117.07-acre property is located on Purcellville Road, north of Rt. 7 and northeast of the Town of Purcellville. It is currently zoned Joint Land Management Area -3—one house per three acres, 39 homes. The property is bordered by agricultural production, large residential lot residences, other vacant parcels and residential properties—within the county.

If the property is annexed into the Town, the applicant is planning on 1,274,892 sq.ft. of M-1 industrial uses, like long-term storage. The applicant is seeking any by-right uses, and any uses permitted by special exception or special use permit. The allowed building height would be 45 ft, and up to 60 ft.—if at least 100 ft. from any lot line.

Loudoun County Planning and Zoning has already weighed in on the applicant’s County proposal to rezone the property from JLMA-3 to Planned Development Industrial Park (PD-IP).

“Community Planning finds the proposed rezoning and development of a business/industrial park on the subject property is inconsistent with types of rural business, land development pattern, and design characteristics anticipated for the Purcellville JLMA Rural Neighborhood Place Type,” according to the Community Planning Memorandum Sept. 1,

2023.

The memorandum further states, “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.”

Community Planning recommended the developer go to the Town of Purcellville to apply for an annexation/boundary line adjustment if they wanted to continue to pursue their proposal. The proposal would be subject to a vote by the Purcellville Town Council.

On July 23, in a 4-3 vote, Mayor Stan Milan, Vice Mayor Erin Rayner, and Council Members Mary Jane Williams and Kevin Wright voted to continue the annexation process. Council Members Chris Bertaut, Carol Luke and Caleb Stought voted against continuing discussions with the applicant.

Council Member Caleb Stought, who is up for reelection, has in the past when discussing the annexation, said that if the property were to be annexed, the Town would be able to control it. He also said that if the Town didn’t annex the property, then there is a risk the County could give the desired industrial zoning to the property owner.

The property is already “controlled” by County zoning of 39 homes and if annexed, the density would increase to allow 1.2 million sq.ft. of industrial. Also, it is unlikely the County would move forward with Kuhn’s desired zoning change at the County level because it does not fit the uses for the area.

The 2030 Town of Purcellville Comprehensive Plan states that the town does not wish to annex additional land and the support and approval of a majority of the town’s citizens is essential before annexation could be considered. Approximately 85% of the surrounding neighborhoods who answered a survey said they are against this annexation. The process the Town is considering regarding annexation is to bypass public input and enter into discussions with the County should the majority of Town Council vote to move forward.

OPINION: PROPOSED ANNEXATION, CONT. FROM PAGE 6

it to the western end of Mayfair Crown Drive—then commercial trucks would be able to reach the proposed Valley Commerce Center by travelling on Hillsboro Road, turning east on the future Centerfield Road across the Loudoun County Public Schools property, driving through the Mayfair residential community on Mayfair Crown Drive, and then crossing Purcellville Road to reach the proposed Valley Commerce Center. This route would be part of the planned Northern Collector Road that would stretch from

Hillsboro Road to Berlin Turnpike and which remains on both the town and county transportation plans.

The traffic study report revealed that 29,000 vehicles on average cross the town daily at eight key gateways during the morning and afternoon workday rush hours. Vehicles were counted crossing the gateways during the morning rush hour and during the afternoon rush hour. Vehicles were also counted by type of vehicle (passenger car, bus, or truck) and state license plate (Virginia, West Virginia, or Maryland). The town gateways with the numbers and percentages of vehicles

crossing those gateways were:

- Berlin Turnpike: 9,301 vehicles (32%)
- West Colonial Highway/Business Route 7 East End: 5,662 vehicles (20%)
- Main Street/Business Route 7 West End: 4,969 vehicles (17%)
- Hillsboro Road/North 21st Street: 2,737 vehicles (9%)
- Purcellville Road: 2,482 vehicles (9%)
- Silcott Springs Road/Route 690: 1807 vehicles (6%)
- Lincoln Road: 1,096 vehicles (4%)

- 20th Street: 969 vehicles (3%)
- Total of all gateways: 29,022 vehicles (100%)

The traffic study only compiled traffic data, analyzed that data, and reported conclusions, but did not offer any recommendations regarding solving the town’s rush hour traffic problem. The traffic study report did yield the following insights:

- The majority of vehicles crossing the gateways during the morning rush hour entered Purcellville from the west and exited to the east.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

PURCELLVILLE'S FINANCIAL LEGACY,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

benches to town-wide tag sales, we encouraged the entrepreneurial spirit, making Purcellville a vibrant place for creativity and business.

24. **Debt Management:** We effectively managed and reduced the town's debt, setting clear paths for paying off obligations without burdening taxpayers. This led to upgrading the town's Fitch rating from AA+ to AAA rating spurred by Fitch's updated rating process.

The list goes on. Our administration's achievements were made possible by a dedicated community working together for the common good. Mayor Milan's and his running mates' attempt to belittle these efforts is not only misleading but deeply troubling. His claim that we achieved nothing in eight years calls into question his judgment and capacity to lead this town effectively.

His support for annexations that will fundamentally transform our town into an urban metropolis and erase our status as "Loudoun's rural destination" combined with his support for more than doubling residential bi-monthly water and sewer bills within five years, threatens to wreck household economies and destroy our hard-earned quality of life.

The truth is clear, and the people of Purcellville know better. Please join me in supporting "Team Mayberry" – Team Purcellville – Chris Bertaut for Mayor and, for Town Council, Ben Nett, Brian Green, Susan Khalil, and Jon Arnburg.

10TH CONGRESSIONAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Mike Chapman and the Attorney General, because they trust me to go to Congress and push and drive for the legislation we need to secure our border and to address illegal immigrant crime and to ensure that we have collaboration between local and federal law enforcement," Clancy said.

Subramanyam's parents were able to get their green cards within two or three years when they immigrated to America in the 1970s.

"Now, it's taking 10 or 15 years for some people to get an appointment for applying for a green card," Subramanyam said.

Subramanyam said the immigration system must be addressed in a comprehensive way. He said he would "stuff in" the Border Act of 2024, a bipartisan bill that has twice been voted down by republicans in Congress.

"We need to actually support border security instead of just talking about supporting border security," Subramanyam said. "And we need to actually support legal immigration instead of just talking about legal immigration in Congress."

INAUGURAL "RACE WITH A CAUSE", CONT. FROM PAGE 3

founder, has long envisioned organizing a community 5K to benefit a local cause and decided to collaborate with Tree of Life because of its community impact.

Unity Power Services, known for fostering team unity and community engagement, has generously donated towards

the costs of the event which, with the help of other sponsors, will ensure that all proceeds go directly to Tree of Life's housing program.

Susannah Lee, CEO of Tree of Life Ministries, shared her enthusiasm about the partnership: "We have always wanted to host a race, and partnering with Unity

Power has made that dream a reality. This event will make a significant difference for those we serve who are struggling with housing insecurity."

For more information or to register for the race, visit #RACEWITHACAUSE – 5K for Shelter - Tree of Life (tolministries.org).

JUST LIKE NOTHING (ELSE), CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the entire length of the wooded hillside, which, as I already indicated, pretty much came to a rest at the back of the building. The activity of birds and insects accompanied my entire visit, and I imagined, back in the day, that a curious deer (or bear) may have sometimes interrupted the arduous studies on the interior.

And speaking of industriousness, I'm told that the pupils at Mountain Gap School took part in maintaining the building and its operation. Duties included carrying fresh water, hauling wood and stoking the stove for the boys, and cleaning the interior facilities like windows, lamps and blackboards for the girls. I imagine the attendees must have had intermittent assignments in snow shoveling and floor cleaning (most of us locals well know the properties of the omnipresent, reddish, and very stubborn Virginia clay) as well.

I said toward the beginning of today's program that Mountain Gap School served only 'white students;' not to leave out their counterparts (or perhaps, the mirrors of themselves), I've read that during those times, African American students in that area attended a separate facility named Mountain Gap Colored School, which I've yet to come across.

In either case, attendance would require walking, or perhaps

riding a horse to school, then using the same transportation system on the way home. Imagine the fortitude required to walk a mile or more, or feeding and currying a four-footed beast before and after your lessons. Far removed from waiting in your home for the bus, then running the mere length of a sidewalk to climb onboard (and, yes, I realize for many it's a bit longer wait and walk outside).

So, I'm gauging that whatever these primitive schools lacked in 'formal education' they more than made up in life skills—including socialization (yes, actually forming and maintaining relationships) with a group of prospective pupils of vastly different ages and levels of experience.

How memorable must have been those years of learning for these people. I imagine the determination, patience and multi-tasking abilities of a single teacher in these schools, imparting lessons in mathematics, geography, history, science and literature—for a class of students—some needing help in tying their shoes, others contemplating the choice of a profession, or a lifelong mate. As with today's educators, each of these teachers truly earned every penny they took home. And from that warm, sunny summer morning's visit to Mountain Gap School, I'll always remember, especially, the blackberries.

OPINION: DEAR PURCELLVILLE,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Residences in rural areas are heavily car-dependent. The Virginia Department of Transportation estimates that each new residence generates an average of 10 vehicle trips per day. That one new subdivision on Route 15 is expected to generate about 700 more vehicle trips per day. Opportunistic development blows a hole in the argument that "the number of cars will be the same" after a new road improvement is completed.

The developer of a new 60-unit subdivision on Route 287 south of Lovettsville advertises that the people who soon will be moving in there will be able "in minutes" to drive into Purcellville. When they try, those 600 or so additional vehicle trips will be going straight into the existing mess at the intersection of Routes 287 and 7. Technically, the developer's not lying—although it may turn out to take a lot more minutes than the new residents expect or the current residents of Purcellville want.

Rather than trying to out-build growth, another approach is to establish some limits, so that expensive road projects will actually create more room for the current traffic. For years, my organization, Save Rural Loudoun, has been trying to persuade the County government to change the zoning that allows over 10,000 more car-dependent

residences to be built "by right" in the rural areas around Purcellville. If fully built out, that would put 100,000 more vehicle trips per day on the roads in and around the town.

Unfortunately, our pleas have fallen on deaf ears. County supervisors, including the supervisor representing our own district, have responded in no uncertain terms that they intend to leave the rural zoning as it is and let the cards fall where they may. They're keen not to upset developers who hope to make lots of money converting more farms into more rural subdivisions. And, like the developer on Route 287, they show no concern for how that might affect traffic and the quality of life in Purcellville.

People who live in Purcellville may tend to think suburban sprawl in Loudoun's rural areas isn't their business. But if things keep going as they are now, Purcellville will eventually have no choice except to build more and bigger roads in and around town to accommodate a much larger population in the surrounding areas.

And we could be faced with another sore subject. If a larger rural population taps out all their wells—as has already happened around Round Hill—Purcellville will also have to start thinking about investing in a much larger water and sewer system. Isn't that something to look forward to?

So again, as a practical matter, how do we fix this?

The definition of insanity is to keep doing what we've always been doing (building more and more expensive roads) and expect it to produce a different result (less congestion). To fix the problem, we have to try something different. Something that actually works and has been successfully implemented in the counties around us. We need to put limits on dense, car-dependent subdivisions in rural areas.

That doesn't mean we should have no more residential development at all. But the growth should be concentrated in areas closer to shops, schools, workplaces and public transportation—places that don't force us to be in our cars for half our lives. We don't need to stampede to ideological extremes on this issue, just apply some common sense.

Those of us who live in and around Purcellville need to speak with one voice and tell the County that it must make an intentional effort to reduce the number of additional vehicles we keep putting on our crowded streets and roads.

John Ellis lives in the "Between the Hills" area north of Hillsboro. He is the President of the Board of Directors of Save Rural Loudoun. The Board includes residents of Purcellville, Leesburg, and Sterling.

LETTER: KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Sheriff's Office, who said that the decision to allow the student back into LCPS was made by LCPS. We have contacted LCPS to voice our concerns. We were told by school staff that the decision was made by the Office of School Administration, but have not heard back from them yet despite calling and emailing.

We have voiced our concerns to our School Board reps and the Superintendent as well. There are alternative schools, online learning, and other solutions for students like this. Most especially, in light of the recent shooting in GA, and sadly the many before that, LCPS needs to start practicing what they preach by truly putting safety first.

Students should not be forced to live in fear with criminals walking the halls alongside them. Thank you to Officer Nett and thank you—all of you, our fellow concerned parents and citizens—for anything you can do to shed light on this situation and help keep our kids safe! In consideration of this clear and present danger to our children, we ask that our names be withheld from public dissemination.

*Concerned Parents
Hamilton, Round Hill, Purcellville*

LETTER: PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The moderator of that group censors opinions he doesn't want his audience to hear. If you disagree with anything said by one of their top contributors, they eject you from the group. Among their top contributors are Beverly Chiasson (formerly Beverly MacDonald - no relation), a former Town Council member who lost to Kwasi Fraser in the race for Mayor in 2020, and current Council members Caleb Stought and Erin Rayner.

A few days ago, Caleb Stought appeared at my door while campaigning in my neighborhood. I told him not to waste his time and that I was irritated that I had been ejected from PMU for disagreeing with him over policy issues. He said I was harassing them. It's clear to me that the political types who hang out on PMU deem any pushback for their opinions to be harassment. They just can't cope with opinions other than their own.

Just two years ago then Council Member Stan Milan who ran for Mayor was kicked off just for

asking a question. That was of course before he flipped from slow growth to the developers new "darling." Milan is the only candidate for Mayor this year who has taken money from developers.

He is now promoting turning 21st Street into San Diego's Gaslamp District—complete with hotels and multifamily housing. Oh, but first he has to change the zoning in that area to allow for higher stories and multifamily in that district. Most of the benefit from the changed zoning will go to one group of property owners. I'll leave it to the readers to guess who they are.

Milan is also now championing annexations in the name of progress and business development for our town. All this focus for just one land owner and their investors. What about Citizens First? Then there is the high double-digit water and sewer rate increases for the projected next five years. Oh, and new town debt—the first time in eight years.

*Sean MacDonald
Purcellville*

LETTER: THIS ELECTION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Kamala Harris describes as "a privilege."

Let's go back to a country where our girls are not forced to share bathrooms and locker rooms with biological boys and where 14-year-old children are not allowed to have their bodies surgically mutilated or take castration drugs called "puberty blockers."

This election let's go back to a free America, founded under God, with liberty and justice for all.

For all these reasons and more, let's go back by voting for Donald J. Trump and JD Vance, along with Hung Cao, and Mike Clancy.

*Scott Pio
Chairman of the Loudoun
County Republican Committee*

LETTER: VOTE HARRIS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

power. One aspect of Project 2025 that Trump has publicly endorsed would eliminate civil service, dismissing thousands of workers whose loyalty to Trump is questionable, raising the specter of dismissing anyone not registered as a Republican.

Children's Health and Wellbeing:

Vaccines eliminated: More than 41,000 doses of federally funded vaccines were provided to Loudoun students during the 2023-2024 school year, according to the Virginia Office of Epidemiology, all of which would be eliminated.

Nutrition ended: Project 2025

proposes phasing out the \$18 billion school lunch program for low-income children, which provided nearly 25 million lunches and 1.8 million breakfasts in Loudoun during the past school year, according to Loudoun County Public Schools.

Medicare, "Obamacare": Roughly 30,000 Loudoun retirees receiving Medicare would see benefits slashed; key aspects of Medicare would be privatized, further reducing benefits. The Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"), serving 45 million, would be eliminated.

It's difficult to believe Trump and Vance when they disavow Project 2025, produced by key Trump

advisors—working for the Heritage Foundation, which vetted top Trump White House officials. Are they lying? Do a Google search for: Key Project 2025 leader Russ Vought. Or check out Vance's Sept. 15, CNN interview with Dana Bash in which he proclaimed their willingness to lie, intentionally spreading any vile disinformation to garner public attention.

Electing Kamala Harris as president, returning Sen. Tim Kaine to the U.S. Senate and placing Suhas Subramanyam in Congress assures that we have ethical, honest leaders caring for all residents of Loudoun and the USA.

*Michael Zuckerman
Round Hill*

FINANCIAL FOCUS®, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

protection of principal may be appropriate, even if it doesn't provide much in the way of growth.

For those long-term goals, though, you may need to build an investment portfolio that contains growth potential and that reflects your personal risk tolerance and time horizon. Over time, your risk tolerance may change. As you get closer to retirement, you may want to take a somewhat more conservative approach—but you'll always need some elements of growth.

When you invest, risk can't be eliminated, but it can be managed. Keeping this in mind, consider a long-term investment strategy that allows for risk but also offers the possibility of reward.

Remember, your individual financial goals and questions deserve individual attention. If you think you might need specific financial advice, please reach out to a local financial advisor.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC. Contact:

Joshua Wolinski at (540) 338-2291, or email him at joshua.wolinski@edwardjones.com. "Aligning your financial future with your personal goals, wants, and wishes."

OPINION: GREENLIN PARK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

had a plausible case for convincing the actual property owners that with its clout, JK was the perfect purchaser.

It's up to the Board

Each Supervisor faces a clear question when considering this scheme on October 16: "Should I vote to help a favored land speculator make hundreds of millions, or should I vote to keep the property zoned as it is in the zoning ordinance?"

The board could easily deny the application on general grounds of incompatibility, but I'd much rather see it deny the rezoning by adhering to the existing provisions of the zoning ordinance. It's the better decision for our county.

Charlie Houston helped develop six million square feet of Class A office buildings including headquarters for Fortune 50 firms. He consulted extensively for Coca-Cola and Norfolk Southern, served as an expert witness on real estate matters and occasionally lectured on real estate at Georgia Tech. He has serious real estate chops.

OPINION: PROPOSED ANNEXATION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

The majority of vehicles crossing the gateways during the afternoon rush hour entered Purcellville from the east and exited to the west.

- The majority of vehicles crossing the gateways were passenger cars with Virginia license plates occupied by commuters going to and from work. The number of vehicles with West Virginia license plates was small, and the number of vehicles with Maryland license plates was insignificant.
- The number of passenger cars entering Purcellville during the afternoon rush hour exceeds the number of passenger cars exiting Purcellville during the morning rush hour, which indicates that some commuters returning from

work during the afternoon rush hour stop in town in order to patronize businesses before driving home.

- The majority of commercial truck traffic passed through the Purcellville Road Gateway.
- The majority of buses crossing the gateways were Loudoun County Public Schools buses.

Also, the traffic study data is valid and is sufficient information for the Purcellville Town Council to use in order to remove the Northern Collector Road from the Town Transportation Plan—as a majority of council previously publicly stated was needed before they would support the removal of the NCR from the transportation plan.

Lloyd Harting is a six-year resident of Purcellville. He is a retired U.S. military officer, a retired U.S. government civilian employee, and a former federal government contractor employee.

OPINION: SMALL TOWN VALUES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Councilman Nedim Ogelman, and Vice Chair Ed Neham, who stood up against wholesale and reckless development pressure.

There is a long history of politicians in this area being for slow growth but end up voting 100 percent opposite after they take office. This year voters should understand that our small-town identity is at risk, and with it, a certain intangible thing. That intangible thing has many names. It is honesty, and something more, something at the very core of our national being.

John: That is why we both support Chris Bertaut for mayor, and the slow growth team for town council of Brian Green, Susan Kahil, Jonathan Arnburg, and cop

LETTER: PRCS NEEDS TO LISTEN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

presented by the County, gets much of this right, but the lights and pavement need to go.

Mickie Gordon Park is in a rural area noted for its historic, scenic gravel roads. It fronts on Carters Farm Lane, a landmark antique road popular with bicyclists, equestrians, pedestrians and tourists.

Light towers don't belong here. The current lights went up without public notice, are a non-conforming use under today's zoning, and are incompatible with Loudoun's policy to preserve "dark skies" in the rural west. Remember, County leadership prevented light

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turned candidate Ben Nett, whose campaign slogan "Mayberry Not Metropolis" neatly sums up the essence of not only his campaign, but his running mates' as well.

David and John: If you are a Democrat and plan to vote for Vice President Harris or a Republican who will vote for Former President Trump or anyone else, for that matter, whether you don't care for either or anyone else, whether you just would, at times, like to forget about both, whether the spectacle turns you off and makes you want to escape the noise of modern politics, you can still safely exercise that great privilege and awesome responsibility and vote for a team in Purcellville that will respect and honor that commitment,

towers at Scott Jenkins Memorial Park near Hamilton due to public outcry. Don't forget citizens want dawn to dusk use.

That includes the American Legion Post 295 baseball team who assured many in the community who fundraised for them that they would not go against the community consensus of Mickey Gordon Park being dawn to dusk.

PRCS should do more to minimize the impact of park facilities on neighboring homes. Beyond removing the lights, that means not siting new facilities, parking, athletics, and pavilions close to neighbors' properties. Noisy activities should be kept near the park's center.

Consideration should be shown to moving the existing recycling center, which is a non-conforming industrial use, to an area such as the water treatment plant within the town's limits.

I would like to further add there is a vast historic

a team that will be impressed only with its duty to its citizens, their future and their well being, whether you are Republican, Democrat or Independent.

The only qualifier is dedication to the town and its citizens and in that regard, Chris Bertaut and other members of the slow growth team have the support of both this Democrat and this Republican, who can understand each other but still after nearly forty years cannot fathom or understand the other's political choice for any place except those for this small town, Purcellville. And, perhaps, that is, undeniably, a small miracle, but still a miracle. And for everyone who believes in such things, miracles are not an end. They are a beginning.

relationship between Hall's Field (adjacent to the park), the home of the Middleburg Braves and Hall's Park aka Mickie Gordon Memorial Park. The relationship between these two is deeply heartfelt, historic and intertwined in Loudoun's African American community. as a sanctuary for the African American community during the period of segregation—with the assistance of William Nathaniel Hall, a prominent African American businessman. He provided a place for the Loudoun County African American Community to gather and celebrate when doors were closed to this community.

There are important cultural heritage considerations to ponder as plans for this park are formulated. We should consider adding the Hall name to the park—Mickie Gordon and Hall's Park—in honor of both men.

Holly Harrington
Middleburg

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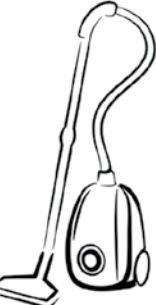
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Our opponents favor both annexations and escalating utility bills. They seek to distract from their agenda with mudslinging and libelous personal attacks. Ask yourself, how will giving them your vote do anything to preserve our small town?

We are running to solve problems. When elected, we will dedicate a portion of our meals tax revenue (no new taxes!) as an alternate revenue stream for our sewer fund. To achieve this, we will improve efficiency of operations throughout town government while reducing wasteful spending. We will support economic revitalization and in-fill business growth, while **opposing annexations, cronyism, and out-of-character development.**

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