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Rezoning riches, rural resistance

Plan defies land use goals, stirs concern over water, traffic, and rural impact

BY VALERIE CURY

On July 29, the County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Valley Commerce Center proposal to rezone 117.07 acres at 17110 Purcellville Road from JLMA-3 (residential) to PD-IP (industrial). The property, owned by Chuck Kuhn (17110 Purcellville Road, LLC), is currently zoned for up to 39 homes. The applicant seeks approval for up to 1,274,892 square feet of industrial development and a zoning modification to waive certain road,

water, and wastewater infrastructure requirements.

County staff is not recommending support of the rezoning to the Board of Supervisors for approval, citing inconsistency with the Loudoun County 2019 General Plan. The staff report states the proposal conflicts with the land use guidance for the Purcellville Joint Land Management Area's Rural Neighborhood Place Type and introduces development patterns that do not align with the plan's policy recommendations.

The report further notes that the impacts of a proposed industrial zoning "are not adequately mitigated given the immediate proximity to residential uses." It concludes that "the proposal to develop the site with industrial uses is not consistent with the Rural Neighborhood Place Type."

As part of the proposed zoning modification to remove the requirement that industrial uses connect to public water, the applicant seeks to use well water instead. Given the scale of the proposed development—over 1.27 million square feet—staff notes it could impact water availability for nearby areas that also rely on wells. The development, staff said, would be more appropriate within



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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

the Town of Purcellville.

Since 2015, the property has been proposed for annexation into the Town on two occasions, but different majority Town Councils have voted against it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 >

Families appeal after students suspended in locker room incident

BY SOPHIA CLIFTON

Two 16-year-old boys at Stone Bridge High School were notified this month that they would face 10-day suspensions after a Title IX investigation concluded they were responsible for sexual harassment for complaining about a transgender classmate in the boys' locker room.

The incident, which happened on March 31 and was partially recorded on the transgender student's phone, led the school district to notify the students on Aug. 15 that their suspensions would begin Aug. 25.

The boys' attorney, Josh Hetzler of the Founding Freedoms Law Center, said that one of the students has since left the school division and that the family filed a



Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears

Title IX appeal of the suspension on Aug. 19. "If LCPS again fails to do the right thing, we will have no choice but to pursue swift legal action in the coming days," Hetzler said.

Hetzler, who is representing the boys along with America First Legal, said the students "never used slurs or hate speech or spoke directly to the trans student." Instead, he said, they expressed "confusion and discomfort" to each other about the presence of their classmate, whom Hetzler repeatedly referred to as a "female student" during a news conference outside the Ashburn school on Aug. 20.

Loudoun County Public Schools has declined to discuss discipline specifics because federal student-privacy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 >



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Cochran shines as Miss Teen Virginia at Miss Teen International 2025

Montana Cochran, Miss Teen Virginia, represented the Commonwealth at the Miss Teen International pageant held in late July in Kingsport, Tennessee. The event brought together excep-

COMMUNITY

tional young women from across the globe, each with a passion for service and a platform close to their hearts.

As part of the pageant’s community outreach, Cochran and her fellow contestants spent a day with the Boys and Girls Club of Kingsport. They donated school supplies, enjoyed lunch with the children, and painted crafts together—creating lasting memories and emphasizing the importance of giving back.



The contestants also participated in a vibrant Moroccan-themed photo shoot, showcasing their creativity and cultural appreciation. The competition featured several judged categories, including personal interview, fitness wear, fun fashion wear, and evening gown. Each segment allowed contestants to demonstrate their confidence, communication skills, and personal style.

For those who advanced to the finals, the pageant offered a powerful platform segment to present their cause and answer questions about their advocacy.

Cochran was incredibly honored to be named one of the top six finalists—a moment she described as surreal. This recognition gave her the opportunity to share her platform, “Go Green for Lyme,” on the national stage.

Wearing lime (Lyme) green in solidarity with those affected, Cochran spoke passionately about her personal journey with chronic Lyme disease and her mission to raise awareness, promote prevention, and advocate for a cure.

Her message resonated deeply with the audience and judges alike. Standing

on the national stage in Lyme (lime) green was more than a moment, it was a message. “Sharing my journey with chronic Lyme disease wasn’t just about my story but about giving a voice to so many others still fighting. I am honored to represent Virginia and to turn my platform into purpose,” Cochran said.

Cochran’s reign as Miss Teen Virginia will continue through next spring. During this time, she will continue to make public appearances and further her advocacy work, focusing on Lyme disease education and outreach. Her dedication to this cause is rooted in her own experience battling chronic Lyme disease, making her efforts all the more impactful and meaningful.

A native of western Loudoun County, Montana is the daughter of Nancy Griffith-Cochran and Allen Cochran of historic Stone Eden Farm. She also participates in her family’s annual sheep drive every January—which is a cherished tradition that reflects her strong ties to her community and heritage.

This fall, Montana begins her studies with the University of Alabama, pursuing a degree in Communications.

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“A very bare bones document”

Fraser, Nett appear in court; legal motions Sept. 4

BY VALERIE CURY

As of press time, a hearing is scheduled for Sept. 4, during which legal counsel for Purcellville Town Manager Kwasi Fraser and Vice Mayor Ben Nett are expected to file motions in their respective cases. Both men face two felony counts each, including allegations of bid rigging involving a government contract and commercial fraud against the government. Additionally, Nett faces four separate charges related to the unlawful acquisition of identifying information.

They were arrested on July 23, after a grand jury returned six indictments against Nett and two against Fraser. The four additional charges against Nett allege that, during his time as a town police officer, he used a law enforcement database to obtain personal data through deceptive means, including misrepresentation and trickery.

Stafford County Commonwealth's Attorney Eric Olsen has been assigned as the prosecutor on the cases instead of Loudoun County Commonwealth's Attorney Bob Anderson.

After the brief hearing on July 28, Charles King, Fraser's attorney, stated that he intends to request the unsealing of the grand jury transcript. To date, the transcript is not ready, and neither party has been able to review the evidence against them.

King said he is still reviewing the case and described the charge as unusual. He noted that he won't fully understand the allegations until discovery is provided by Olsen. For now, he called the indictment a “very bare bones document.” Fraser's current attorney is John Boneta.

Former State Senator Dick Black, who represented the Town of Purcellville during part of his long career first as State Delegate and then State Senator, attended the court hearing. After the meeting he spoke with the press.

“This is the most outrageous case I've seen in my life,” said Black. “To read all of the publicity about it, you would think this was about hundreds of millions of dollars. This boils down to a single \$12,000 petty contract”—a one-time consulting contract to do a little study about the police department to see if there is an efficient way of doing things.

The designated budget range for the contract was publicly posted at \$12,000 on the town's bid board section of its website, where any qualified vendor could see and apply for the contract

“You have to ask the question ‘Why



if all we're talking about is a \$12,000 contract, about the size of replacing your home air conditioner—why is there state level action?’ And it comes down to this—for over a decade there has been a desire on the part of land owners and I am not critical of them—but they want to annex property and they want that property to be upzoned to have density 12 times what it is currently.”

“You're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars at stake,” said Black. “They can't seem to talk the people of Purcellville into voting their way.” Black speculated that the effort might be politically motivated, suggesting the charges could be a tactic to remove a town council member rather than a

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LCPS transgender bathroom policy remains obstinate against federal government

BY GRACE BENNETT

On August 12, the Loudoun County School Board assembled to discuss its noncompliance with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights in order to determine its next steps. The result was a loss of over \$50 million in federal funding.

According to Policy 8040, the generalized policy addressing the rights of transgender and gender-expansive students, “Students shall be allowed to use the facility that corresponds to their consistently asserted gender identity. While some transgender students will want that access, others may want

alternatives that afford more privacy. Taking into account existing school facilities, administrators should take steps to designate gender-inclusive or single-user restrooms commensurate with the size of the school.”

But these bathroom and locker room policies do not sit well with all LCPS parents—or the federal government’s law.

Public information officer Dan Adams explained, “The OCR recently determined that such policies conflict with its interpretation of Title IX, creating a direct tension between federal agency guidance and binding judicial authority. As a result, they asked LCPS to sign a proposed resolution agreement. After consultation with the legal counsel, the Board voted 6-3 not to comply with this request due to the tension between the OCR position and current law.”

The result of the continued disagreement bore risks for Loudoun County’s public schools. Deana Griffiths, a member of the School Board for the Ashburn District, commented that “another \$50 million in federal funding is now at risk—all to fight over bathroom and locker room access for 0.01% of our more than 80,000 students.”

She has called out LCPS’s decision as “fiscally irresponsible” in the face of \$30 million currently owed in federal funding and a decline of academic scores.

Parents and teachers of LCPS took sides on the debate during the meeting. With 78 speakers signed up to present, the audience assembled to total over 75 in the crowd supporting Policy 8040 and around 20 protesting.

An eighth-grade science teacher who had taught at LCPS for 10 years stepped

up to the podium. “I’m speaking to you as an out-and-proud transgender man advocating for the rights of my community,” he said. “Policy 8040 is absolutely crucial to safeguarding the wellbeing of Loudoun’s transgender students ... Respecting and using the student’s chosen names and pronouns and allowing them to use the bathroom they identify with costs nothing, and yet it means everything.”

“There’s no moral high ground for



teachers or parents who dehumanize our students,” agreed speaker Brenda Bengtson. “Courage is contagious. Please fight for our LGBT students, privacy, and 8040.”

Speaker Candice Tuck added, “These are children. They’re not ideologues. They’re not indoctrination. They’re trying to live a life—a life that, if any of us were given that chance to be our authentic selves, it would only make us better, stronger, and happier. This policy is not about ideology or politics. It’s about protecting children. I know a little boy that started Kindergarten as a boy. He should finish his school without being thrown into dangerous situations. Please protect these kids.”

A recently retired teacher shared a differing opinion. “Americans, both liberal and conservative, are waking up to the harms of transgender ideology,” she said. “I recognize you are trying to do the right thing, but they have structured their thinking and decision-making to align with the oppressor-or-oppressed paradigm ... With this mindset, you feel justified by telling other people to keep their mouth shut, quash their

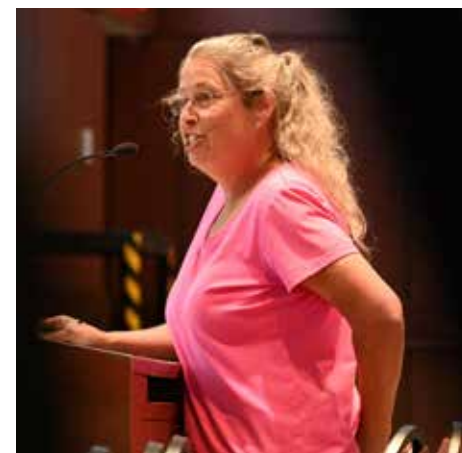
feelings, and be willing to change their clothes in a locker room next to a student they know is the opposite sex. That is profound oppression.”

“Your ideology will not allow you to end Policy 8040 or DEI,” said speaker Matt Malone. “The only trans policy you don’t promote is transparency ... You have oppressed the students and denied parents their rights.”

Delegate Geary Higgins contributed to the discussion with his own perspective. “Children have the right to their privacy and safety, and parents have the right to know what’s going on with their children,” he said.

“Further, as a taxpayer, I’m absolutely amazed that you could actively walk away from as much as 100 million federal dollars rather than comply with these policies ... [This is] a decision to insist on the most radical of social agendas at the direct expense of the taxpayers.”

Jessica Smith, another parent speaking against the policy, said, “The LCPS commitment to every student is a feel-good statement which is far from the truth. It states, and I quote, ‘LCPS is a place of trust and belonging. No child should feel unsafe at school. No family should fear sending their child to learn. Our responsibility is to educate and support every student to the fullest extent possible, and we take that seriously. At the core of LCPS is a belief in the dignity



and worth of every person.”

She went on to say, “The only way to come close to meeting this statement is to abolish Policy 8040 and comply with Title IX. You’re in violation. You’ve been in

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— View from the Ridge —

On principles, pressure, and the role of a free press

In any healthy community, the free exchange of ideas is not just a right—it is essential. Disagreement is natural, and even necessary. But when that disagreement crosses the line into coordinated efforts to intimidate or silence, something vital is lost.

OPINION

Recently, several local businesses were contacted and urged to stop advertising with this publication—not because of unethical conduct, but simply because the callers disagreed with what is being printed. These kinds of pressure tactics aim not to engage, but to suppress.

We remain committed to strong and responsible journalism. Our reporting is rooted in fact, informed by context, and guided by professional standards. We distinguish between news coverage and

commentary, and we approach each story with the goal of informing the public—not swaying opinion. Covering complex local issues—including growth, governance, and fiscal policy—sometimes means presenting facts that challenge strongly held positions. That’s part of honest journalism, and we don’t shy away from it.

Efforts to punish businesses for supporting the free press do not strengthen our community. They shrink the public square, discourage open dialogue, and ultimately do a disservice to everyone—no matter where they stand.

The path forward is not to silence voices we dislike, but to add our own—thoughtfully, honestly, and with respect. That is the kind of community worth building. And that is the kind of journalism we remain committed to providing.



Effective Policing, Not Profiling

BY FRANK HOLTZ, CHAIRMAN, LOUDOUN COUNTY CRIME COMMISSION

In recent weeks we have witnessed a reckless effort by anti-public safety activists to undermine the outstanding work of Sheriff Chapman and our Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO) in keeping Loudoun the safest locality in the metro Washington area—and one of the safest major counties in the nation.

First, anti-public safety activists distort what the LCSO is doing with ICE.

OPINION

Wrong location for a commercial kennel

Dear Editor:

We write as concerned, longtime homeowners living near 19211 Silcott Springs Road in Purcellville, which is the subject of a pending Special Exception LEGI-2024-0014, SPEX 2024-0028

LETTER

The LCSO does not participate in ICE enforcement activities, nor are any county taxpayer resources being used to assist ICE in our community. Sheriff Chapman has repeatedly made clear that the only involvement the LCSO has with ICE is with respect to persons taken into custody for a criminal offense unrelated to immigration.

Deputies have no idea what a person’s immigration status is until they have been arrested on unrelated charges and taken to the Adult Detention Center

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request to operate a 15-dog daycare and kennel 24/7.

We oppose this special exception. Our neighborhood is not composed of large agricultural parcels but rather a rural residential community of approximately 5-acre lots. A 24/7 commercial kennel housing 15 dogs is fundamentally incompatible with the character, scale,

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What Exactly Do You Think ‘Parental Rights’ Means?

BY DELEGATE GEARY HIGGINS

You’ve probably heard the phrase “parental rights” a lot lately. Maybe you’ve even seen it dismissed by pundits, the school board, or activists as some kind of dog whistle. But here’s the truth: there’s nothing extreme about believing that moms and dads—not bureaucrats, not activists, and certainly not politicians—should be the ones raising their own children.

OPINION

when we say parental rights:

It means parents should be told—before, not after—the school starts calling their child by a different name, different pronouns, and treating them as the opposite sex.

It means parents have a right to know what books are being assigned, what lessons are being taught, and whether ideology is being smuggled in under the banner of “diversity.”

It means parents should decide if and

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The Last Flower of Fall

BY CHARLIE HOUSTON

Those words popped into my head one morning with a poetic ring—love, death, autumn’s crisp days, tenderness. They seemed rich with meaning. Maybe they could even make me rich and famous. I tried turning them into a song, scribbling stanzas without music to guide me. My wife said that couldn’t work. A songwriting specialist in Brooklyn agreed: “Nice title, Charlie, but it’s poetry, not a song.”

I sent the piece to a poetry magazine. Rejected again: “Does not fit our program.” Still unwilling to quit, I thought, Why not start an op-ed with it? So here we are at the onset of autumn.

Candy from the Board

For years, most data center rezoning requests came with a “SPEX”—a Special Exception. A SPEX allows developers to exceed base density rules. A data center’s base density is 0.6. On a twenty-acre lot, that equals 522,720 square feet of building. With a SPEX bumping density to 0.9, the building grows to 784,080 square feet—an enormous freebie to a problematic industry.

Base densities exist for a reason: they reflect Loudoun’s Comprehensive Plan and its Zoning Ordinance. SPEXs, in theory, give the Board of Supervisors

discretion to allow uses that might “harm public health, safety, or welfare” or to adjust development standards, e.g., density. In practice, purpose number one is ignored, while purpose number two gets rubber-stamped for every slick developer who asks.

It’s not corruption so much as weakness. Developer’s sweet talk replaces scrutiny. If someone tallied all the extra building area granted by SPEXs, the number would likely top ten million square feet. When elections come, voters should remember who handed out all that candy.

Acronyms

The federal government loves acronyms: DOD, CIA, HUD, FBI. The military, especially, thrives on them. In World War II, Admiral Nimitz was CINCPAC—Commander in Chief, Pacific. Below him was COMPACFLT (Commander, Pacific Fleet), then COMNAVSURFPAC (Commander, Pacific Surface Forces) and COMNAVAIRPAC (Pacific Air Forces). Acronyms save time in speech and writing. They also create a closed fraternity of initiates.

Hand acronyms to bureaucrats and they turn goofy. Take Loudoun’s “Emerald Ribbons”—a visionary trail project named by citizens. County renamed it

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Don’t let affordable health insurance slip away

Dear Editor:

If Congress doesn’t act soon to extend federal health care tax credits, 350,000 Virginians could lose access to affordable health insurance. That includes the hardworking individuals who power our small businesses, whether they provide child care, repair our vehicles, or keep our homes clean.

I’m the President and CEO of You’ve Got Maids NoVa, a locally owned cleaning company based in Loudoun County. I also serve on the Board of StoneSprings Hospital Center and am an active

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

Don’t look up

Dear Editor:

That’s the name of a 2021 Sci-Fi movie where two insignificant astronomers spot a comet on a trajectory to hit the Earth. No one believes them until the threat becomes real. I feel I am in a similar movie right here in Loudoun County. I am not talking about a comet hitting the Earth but, a natural hazard of a lesser nature, which never the less has the potential of causing loss of life and/or severe damage to vehicles.

As of Aug. 30, 2025, there is a large branch suspended about 25 ft. over a roadway, Lincoln Rd., which is ready to come down and damage or kill anybody or anything it falls on. You can see it for yourself, on the right side of

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Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth: Blue Ridge Mountain Road (Revisited)

BY TIM JON

I had made the decision in all innocence: “It’ll be kinda fun to drive this stretch on a misty, foggy morning.” Right.

In the 10 years or more that had passed since I’d been on top of ‘the Mountain’ under these conditions, I had blissfully forgotten just how limited the



TIM JON

visibility could be. Limited?! After I’d left Route 50—John Mosby Highway—and started the real climb on Route 601—Blue Ridge Mountain Road—with hairpin turns

that call for crawling speeds anyway—I started wishing I’d just headed back to Leesburg along more ‘pedestrian’ paths, and it was right about then I discovered I couldn’t see whatever driveways I was passing, in which I may have been able to reverse course.

At 15 to 20 miles an hour, I didn’t trust myself to select a turn-around spot. This was unheard-of, at least to my ears. So I continued, knowing I had something like a dozen miles (like this) to go, until I’d reach the relative security of Route Seven – Harry Byrd Highway.



This all started with a simple photo session in the nearby village of Paris (Virginia, not France or Texas); this little hamlet lies nestled on the shoulder of the Blue Ridge, much like Bluemont just to the northwest. I knew the drive

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Boredom: The hidden ingredient to raising resilient kids

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

As a psychologist—and a parent—I often reflect on the childhood rhythms of the 1980s. Back then, free afternoons meant roaming the neighborhood on bikes, playing pick-up games

Ask Dr. Mike



DR. MIKE

in the yard, or having adventures with friends, all with minimal adult supervision. With only a handful of TV channels and classic toys like Rubik’s Cubes and Lite-Brite at our fingertips, our play was open-ended

and imaginative.

Sure, there were arcades and new technologies like home computers and video game consoles were making their debut, but most of our days were spent offline, guided by curiosity and

creativity rather than scheduled activities or screens. We were expected to manage our own boredom—a skill that seems elusive for many kids today.

Boredom, while often uncomfortable, is one of the most valuable gifts we can give our children. It’s a natural—and essential—part of growing up. When children experience boredom, their brains are released from the constant tug of external stimulation, opening the door to mind-wandering. This is the space where creativity blooms, problem-solving skills develop, and self-discovery begins.

Left to their own devices (and I don’t mean tablets), kids invent new games, stories, or projects. They learn to plan, cope with frustration, and tolerate discomfort—all skills vital for tackling

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Planning your business exit: Start with the end in mind

SUBMITTED BY JOSHUA WOLINSKI, EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL ADVISOR

If you own a business, you've probably spent countless hours thinking about how to grow it, manage daily operations and serve your customers.



JOSHUA WOLINSKI

But have you thought about how you'll eventually step away from it? While it might seem premature, planning your successful exit from your business is one of the smartest moves you can make as an owner.

The reality is that most business owners have 80% to 90% of their net worth tied up in their companies, according to the Exit Planning Institute. That's a significant investment that deserves careful planning to protect. Unfortunately, 70% to 80% of businesses put on the market don't sell, and about half of all business exits are involuntary due to unexpected circumstances like health issues, family emergencies

management disputes or economic downturns.

Exit planning is more than preparing for retirement. It's taking control of your future and ensuring you can transition away from your business when and how you choose. You can start with the end in mind – a proactive approach that can inform your current business decisions and help increase your company's value and marketability.

Begin by articulating your personal goals for both the transaction and your life afterward. Maybe you want to sell only a portion of your business, stay on as a paid consultant or use the proceeds to start your next venture. Understanding your vision helps shape everything else.

You'll want to calculate how much money you'll need to fund your desired retirement lifestyle, accounting for expenses that may be currently covered by the business, like your cellphone, vehicles, travel and health care. Don't forget about your legacy goals too

– what you want to leave for your family or charitable causes.

Getting started requires building a strong professional team. At the center should be a financial advisor who can help you through the planning, execution and post-sale phases. You'll likely also need a tax professional, legal advisor, commercial banker and business valuation expert. Depending on your exit strategy, you might later add specialists like business brokers, investment bankers or employee stock ownership plan advisors.

Understanding your business's current value is crucial. It's a good idea to get a calculation of value at least three to five years before your planned exit. This isn't as formal or expensive as a qualified appraisal, but it gives you a realistic range of what your business might be worth.

This step may reveal a gap between what you need financially and what your business could sell for. If so, don't panic.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 »

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ORBCOMM celebrates new Sterling headquarters

BY SOPHIA CLIFTON

With a packed crowd of state officials, county leaders, and ORBCOMM employees on hand, Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Assistant Director Colleen Curtis of the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development, and Secretary of Commerce and Trade Juan Pablo Segura joined CEO Sameer Agrawal to cut the ribbon on ORBCOMM's new global headquarters in Sterling on Aug. 14.

The move represents a \$3 million investment in Loudoun County and is expected to create at least 51 new jobs, according to the governor's office. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors also approved a \$100,000 Commercial Business Incentive Fund cash grant to support the relocation.

Youngkin praised the decision as a show of confidence in Virginia's economy. "We are celebrating a company that is committing to be in Virginia and to hire," Youngkin said. "I want to thank you, Sameer, and your entire team for



understanding what Virginia has to offer, to give us a chance to bring you to Loudoun County—but most importantly, for trusting us. Because this is a moment of trusting the company's future, and ORBCOMM has said we believe in Virginia, and so we believe in you."

The governor framed ORBCOMM's move as evidence Virginia's economic strategy is delivering: "Virginia is proud to welcome ORBCOMM's global headquarters to Virginia. This decision highlights our commitment to innovation, workforce development, and creating

an environment where advanced industries can thrive."

Secretary of Commerce and Trade Juan Pablo Segura echoed Youngkin's enthusiasm, describing Virginia as a state on the rise. "Virginia is going through a business renaissance under Governor Youngkin's leadership," Segura said, pointing to more than 200,000 job openings created in the past few years with "60,000 more coming."

"Northern Virginia continues to be a magnet for cutting-edge technology and innovation. Their decision to expand operations and invest in a larger

office space reflects the strength of our highly skilled workforce and the strategic advantages Virginia offers," Segura said.

For CEO Sameer Agrawal, the decision to bring ORBCOMM's headquarters to Sterling was both strategic and personal. "Loudoun County for us was a very obvious choice," he said. "It is at the heart of technical innovation with the industries we have around us; the talent, the infrastructure, the community support, so thank you."

He emphasized the role of Loudoun's workforce and community culture in the company's decision, even pointing to the county's Economic Development Department inviting his team to a Loudoun United soccer match as a meaningful gesture that sealed the deal.

Agrawal also explained that one of ORBCOMM's next big steps is applying its technology toward public safety, including a \$500,000 investment to bolster container tracking and combat smuggling. "One of the big things

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 >

ITS ALMOST THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR

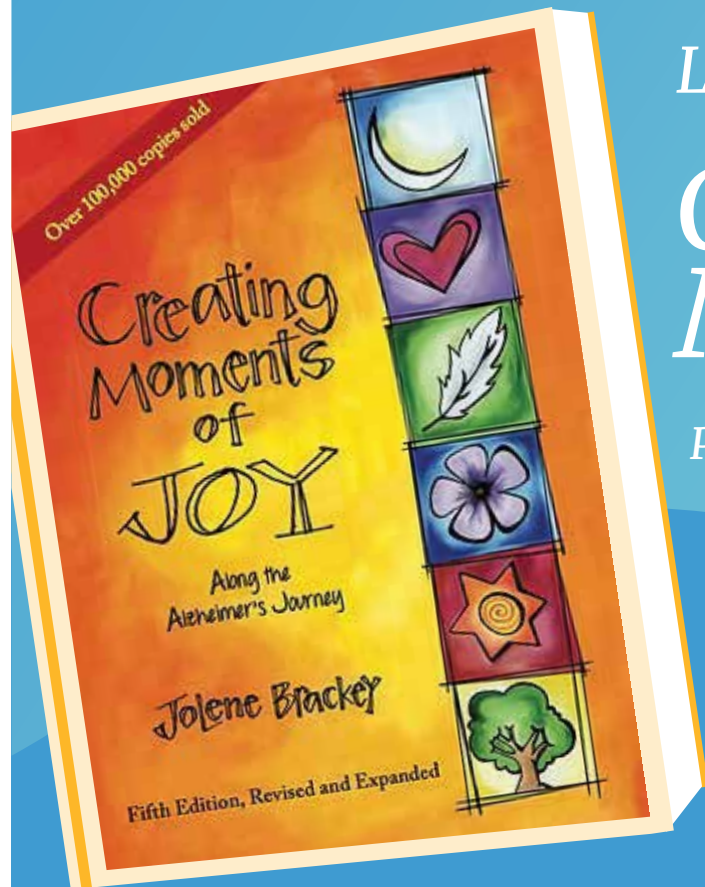
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Wednesday, October 15
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Event Timeline

- 9:00am Check-In & Coffee
- 9:30am Keynote and Q&A
- 11:30am Lunch (complimentary lunch provided)
- 12:00pm-12:45pm Caregiving and Dementia Resources
- 1:00-2:00pm Memory Enhanced Activities, Bathing & Care Advice
- 2:00pm Complimentary Book Distribution & Signing

This is a free event, but registration is required.
 For more information or to register, please call 571-439-9776,
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LOUDOUN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

If you require a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability or need language assistance to participate, please contact prcsaccess@loudoun.gov, 703-777-0343, TTY-711. At least three business days of advance notice is requested; some accommodations may require more than three days of notice.

Loudoun Valley High School's football team prepares for another stunning season

BY GRACE BENNETT

As school doors reopen and students dust off their sport jerseys, Loudoun Valley High School is already well under way to capturing a victorious season for their football teams. During the summer, they have been preparing through weight rooms, field work, and classrooms, and they have every intention of maintaining their three-year streak of winning records at all levels.

Even the off-season featured multiple broken records in the weight room. Head football coach David Bishop proclaimed that they "expect to do the same on the field this season."

Bishop explained what sets the Valley Vikings apart. "We are by far the smallest high school in the county," he said, "and yet we have 100-plus players in the program. Only 3-4 schools in the county can say that. We have developed a culture and family atmosphere. The players take pride in being a Valley Viking."

And preparing the school's teams is no small task. Loudoun Valley High School

has three different levels of football—freshman, junior varsity, and varsity—and cycles through several important district and major rivalry games each season.

"We truly do our best as a coaching staff to develop all of our players from seniors to freshmen," said Bishop. "We honor our seniors every season with a banquet before the last home game ... and honor them again at our last home game along with their parents."

Bishop identified the district games as against Tuscarora, Heritage, Rock Ridge, and Dominion. Major rivalries include County and Woodgrove.

And the students have been working just as hard as their coach to get ready to face off against their opponents.



Jolyon White
LVHS



Mack Gaffney
LVHS



Warhammer Aiden Oliver
LVHS



Ethan La Follette
LVHS



Iron Viking Chris Toranzo
LVHS

Already, Bishop has been able to recognize off-season leaders, drawing particular notice to Mack Gaffney, Jolyon White, Isaiah Rice, and Aiden Oliver.

The Loudoun Valley Vikings are no small threat to the county's other high school football teams. Their distinct approach to training and their tight-knit culture will make them quite the force to be reckoned with.

"Our theme for 2025 is to 'Be Different,'" announced Bishop. "If they want to accomplish more than previous teams, we have to be different. Prepare different, practice different, do things different. The boys have put in the work ... but now need to come together as a team."



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Purcellville Tag Sale almost sold out—register now

The countdown is on for one of the region’s most anticipated fall event. The 22nd Annual Purcellville Tag Sale returns rain or shine on Saturday, Oct. 11, transforming the town into a pop-up paradise for bargain hunters, collectors, and shoppers from across the area.

With vendor spaces already 80% sold, now is the time to lock in your spot before it’s too late.

Registration closes Monday, Sept. 22. Visit PurcellvilleVaTagSale.com to register.

“There’s something magical about seeing the entire town come together like this,” said Silas Redd, event organizer and owner of Nostalgia Boutique and Mister on Main. “Whether you’re a seasoned collector, a DIY enthusiast, or just out for a good time, there’s always something unexpected to



discover—and take home.”

From 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, shoppers can explore vendor locations, including yard sales, sidewalk setups, small businesses, and pop-up markets. Expect to find everything from vintage treasures and antiques to hand-crafted goods, collectibles, fall décor, and unique gifts.

Calling All Local Businesses

This is more than just a tag sale—it’s

a town-wide celebration. Local businesses are encouraged to sign up and participate. It’s a great way to attract foot traffic, showcase your shop, and connect with new customers.

In late September, a promotional push will highlight special deals and in-store sales planned by local merchants, so sign up now to be included.

“Hosting the Tag Sale each year is one of my favorite things,” Redd added. “It’s not just about finding great deals—it’s about the connections. This event brings out the best of Purcellville, our small-town charm, our thriving local businesses, and the amazing people who call this place home.”

Vendor Perks

The first 40 registrants will be featured on the printed event map.

Vendor spots are selling out—only 20% remain.

All participants are listed online and included in promotional materials.

Become a Sponsor

Want to show your support for Purcellville’s biggest community event? Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Sponsors receive name recognition, exposure, and the satisfaction of supporting a homegrown tradition.

“Our sponsors are true community partners who help make the Tag Sale possible year after year,” said Redd. “It’s more than just a one-day sale—it’s a real boost to our local economy. Visitors discover our shops and restaurants, and many come back throughout the season.”

Don’t miss your chance to be part of something special. Register now at PurcellvilleVaTagSale.com. For questions or sponsorship info, text Silas at 540-751-8252 or email ShopAtNostalgia@gmail.com.

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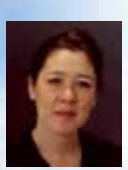
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White coat ceremony celebrates LCPS Health Academy Students

Briar Woods and Tuscarora High Schools celebrated the start of the 2025-2026 school year Health and Medical Sciences academies with a white coat ceremony on Aug. 18. The event, held at Tuscarora High School, honored the coating of 134 students.

“We are living in a time when healthcare is changing faster than we can imagine,” said LCPS superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence. “These changes are exciting—but they also require professionals who are adaptable, lifelong learners, and are committed to improving people’s health and lives. That’s why this program matters so much, and we are grateful to our community partners who are helping to open pathways to careers in these fields for our students.”

Funding partners include the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, the Loudoun Education Foundation, and Inova Health System.

The white coat ceremony marks the beginning of a significant journey for students entering the four-year HAMSci program, which is designed to prepare them for future careers in health care. The presentation of white coats serves as a visual symbol of students’

readiness to meet the rigorous requirements of the program.

It also signifies their commitment to demonstrating proficiency in health literacy—understanding and using information and services to make informed health-related decisions for themselves and others. This milestone paves the way for further postsecondary education or professional roles in the healthcare field.

“Claude Moore is pleased that so many young people are taking on this challenging but rewarding program that can lead to a meaningful career in healthcare,” said Dr. William H. Hazel, CEO of Claude Moore Opportunities.

“This white coating ceremony is a wonderful way to mark the beginning of their journey, and an important reminder of the supportive network these students can lean on throughout their time in the program. We are grateful to partner with Loudoun County Public Schools to provide this opportunity for career exploration,



training, and education,” said Hazel.

HAMSci connects students’ interests with workforce needs. The academy is a unique program designed to prepare students for careers in the rapidly evolving fields of health and medical sciences. Its goal is to provide health science literacy, develop critical thinking skills, and offer opportunities for students to be well-prepared for in-demand healthcare careers, with the possibility of earning industry credentials.

Residents encouraged to check for recalls after e-bike fire in Leesburg

The Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Fire Marshal’s Office is encouraging community members with electric bikes (e-bike) to check their specific model for safety recalls after one resident was burned following an e-bike fire earlier this week. If your specific

product is affected by a current recall, stop using the recalled item immediately, move the item outside, and follow the directions within the recall.

LCFR units from Leesburg, Dulles South, and Lansdowne were dispatched to a reported explosion of an e-bike battery in the 1200 block of Cannon Court NE at approximately 3:53 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 27.

Crews arrived on scene and located an e-bike on fire in the driveway of the home. The investigation determined the resident woke up and discovered their e-bike on fire in the living room, filling the house with smoke. The resident then carried the bike outside, sustaining burn injuries, where the bike continued to burn, ultimately catching

the tires on fire, as well as items inside the home that were stored next to the e-bike.

The LCFR FMO investigation determined the fire was accidental, due to a failure within the battery. Two residents and one dog were displaced. Damages are estimated at \$10,000. The resident who was burned declined medical treatment.

E-bikes and e-scooters have grown in popularity over the last few years. While they provide a great alternative to getting around, community members should be aware of the risks associated with the lithium-ion batteries used to power them. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode. Keep these safety tips in mind from the National Fire Protection Association when charging or storing these devices.

Only purchase and use devices, batteries, and charging equipment that are listed by a nationally recognized testing lab and labeled accordingly.

Always follow the instructions from

the manufacturer.

- Only use the battery and charger that were designed for, and came with, the device.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it’s been fully charged.
- Only charge one device or device battery at a time to prevent overloading the circuit.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32 degrees or above 105 degrees.
- Do not store batteries in direct sunlight or inside hot vehicles and keep them away from children and liquids.
- Check for recalls and product safety warnings by visiting the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website. If your product is affected by a current recall, stop using the item and follow the directions within the recall.

If you notice any issues with the battery of your e-bike or e-scooter, including unusual odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, smoking, or not keeping charge, stop using the e-bike or e-scooter immediately. For more information go to www.loudoun.gov/797/Fire-Prevention-Safety.

Winners of Loudoun County “I Voted” sticker contest announced

The Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration announced the winners of its “I Voted” Sticker Contest.



- **First place:** The winning design is by Tonya Sutherland and features the state flower, dogwood, and the state bird, a Northern Cardinal, over the outline of the Commonwealth.
- **Second place:** The second-place design is by Melissa Lew and features raised hands and a red checkmark.
- **Third place:** The third-place design by Samantha Widjaja incorporates elements of the United States flag and the Statue of Liberty’s torch.

Loudoun County residents were asked to submit designs during the month of July of a circle, two inches in diameter, that included the phrase “I Voted,” or a variation of the theme, and no more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19 »

Subramanyam moves to honor firefighter Trevor Brown

On Aug. 26, Congressman Suhas Subramanyam (VA 10) introduced legislation to name a local post office in Sterling, Virginia after Firefighter Trevor Brown, who lost his life in the line of duty while serving with the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company. Firefighter Brown was a husband, a father of three, a youth soccer and baseball coach, and a beloved member of his community.

“Firefighter Brown touched so many lives in our community and made the ultimate sacrifice in service to it,” said Subramanyam. “This has been a hard time for his family, for our community, and for the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company. My hope is that when people see his name on this post office, they will remember

the sacrifice he made and be inspired to serve the way he did.”

This bill designates Firefighter Brown’s local post office in Sterling, VA, as the “Firefighter Trevor Brown Post Office Building.” As a permanent fixture in the community, the renamed post office will ensure that Firefighter Brown’s courage, honor, and sacrifice are never forgotten.

Trevor Brown was a firefighter with the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company who died in the line of duty on Feb. 16, 2024. He spent his formative years in Pennsylvania and Florida before attending the American University in Cairo, Egypt.

A devoted husband and father, Trevor chose to be a

stay-at-home parent and shared a powerful bond with his three children. His commitment to service was also evident through his roles as a volunteer firefighter and a dedicated youth soccer and baseball coach. Trevor’s life motto, “If not me, then who?” reflected his deep sense of responsibility to his community. He is survived by his wife, children, and a wide circle of family and friends.

The bill is currently cosponsored by members of the Virginia delegation including Representatives Don Beyer (VA-8), Ben Cline (VA-6), Jen Kiggans (VA-2), John McGuire (VA-5), Jennifer McClellan (VA-4), Bobby Scott (VA-3), Eugene Vindman (VA-7), and Rob Wittman (VA-1).

Free professional development workshops in September

In observance of September as Workforce Development Month, the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center will fea-

ture free virtual and in-person professional development events for job seekers, career changers, aspiring entrepreneurs, individuals affected by layoffs and those seeking to learn how employers hire workers.

The in-person events will take place at various locations. Visit loudoun.gov/WorkforceMonth for detailed information about each event and how to register. Events will include:

- **The Resume Roadshow (Two date options):** Thursday, Sept. 4, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Sterling Library, Thursday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Brambleton Library

- **Ground Up Trade and Talent Solutions (GUTTS) Plumbing and HVAC Pre-Apprenticeship Training Information Session:** Thursday, Sept. 4, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Workforce Resource Center
- **Identifying Customers and Competitors for Your Small Business:** Tuesday, Sept. 9, 10 – 11 a.m., Workforce Resource Center
- **The Hiring Lens: Perspectives from Recruiters and Hiring Managers:** Wednesday, Sept. 10, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Cascades Library
- **Burn Bright, Not Out: Strategies for Sustainable Success:** Monday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Workforce Resource Center
- **Introduction to State Government Contracting:** Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.,

- Workforce Resource Center
- **Atlas Institute of Technology: Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Information Session:** Tuesday, Sept. 16, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., Virtual
- **Pathways to Career Growth: NOVA Workforce Certification Programs (Two date options):** Tuesday, Sept. 16, 5 – 6:15 p.m., Workforce Resource Center, Friday, Sept. 19, 12 – 1 p.m., Virtual
- **Understanding Your Credit Report:** Tuesday, Sept. 16, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Virtual
- **Changing Careers at Any Age:** Wednesday, Sept. 17, 9 – 11:30 a.m., Workforce Resource Center
- **Loudoun County Travel Training:** Wednesday, Sept. 17, 9:30 – 11 a.m., Workforce Resource Center

- **Launch Your Business in Loudoun County: A Practical Step-by-Step Guide to Starting and Growing Your Small Business:** Tuesday, Sept. 23, 10 – 11 a.m., Workforce Resource Center
- **Creating a Financial Recovery Plan:** Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Virtual

Anyone who requires an accommodation for any type of disability or needs language assistance to participate, can contact the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center at 703-777-0150. Three business days’ notice is requested.

For more information, contact the Workforce Resource Center at 703-777-0150 or visit loudoun.gov/wrc.

WINNERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

than four colors. The top three designs were among eight finalists that were selected out of a total of several dozen entries for online voting between Aug. 1 and 17.

The winning sticker design will be used for the upcoming Nov. 4, general election and given to voters at early voting sites and those who vote on Election Day.

More information about voting in Loudoun County, including important dates and deadlines for the November general election, may be found at loudoun.gov/Vote. Early voting starts Sept. 19 at the Office of Elections located at 750 Miller Drive SE, Suite C, Leesburg.

Annual Dog Swim scheduled for Sept. 6

Registration for this year’s annual dog swim is now open. The dog-only event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 6 at the AV Symington Aquatic Center from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Local pups will have the



opportunity to have fun in a safe, enclosed area while swimming off-leash with other dogs. All dogs must be six months old, legally licensed, vaccinated, and wearing a visible dog license. All exits will be gated, and a veterinarian will be on-site as a precaution. Bring a doggie dish for

water, if needed.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required with a two-dog max, per person. The cost to attend is \$5.00 per person. Walk-up registration will not be available. Those attending must be at least 12 years of age with dog handlers being 16 years or older.

Registration is currently available through WebTrac at www.leesburgva.gov/departments/parks-recreation/programs/online-registration-webtrac, or by visiting the front desk at Ida Lee Recreation Center. For more information, please visit www.idalee.org or call 703-777-1368.

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ORBCOMM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

that we're going to be doing is figuring out how we stop people from putting things like human beings in containers or trucks," Agrawal explained. "We are doing that. Just this morning, I authorized about half a million dollars of investment in hiring more people into this location to accelerate that."

Although ORBCOMM has been headquartered in New Jersey in recent years, its roots run deep in Northern Virginia. The company grew out of Dulles-based Orbital Sciences Corp. in the early 1990s, pioneering low Earth orbit satellite messaging to track goods and equipment worldwide using the Internet of Things.

The Internet of Things (IoT) is a network of physical devices and other items embedded with sensors and software that allows them to collect and exchange data over the internet. Through this connectivity, devices are able to interact, share information, and be monitored or controlled remotely. These devices range from smart home appliances to wearable health trackers, connected cars, and industrial machinery. Today, ORBCOMM connects more than 2.4 million devices across industries ranging from shipping lines to cold-chain trucking fleets.

Colleen Curtis, assistant director of Loudoun County's Department of Economic Development, said the headquarters move reflects a broader pattern of tech reinvestment in the county. "This shows that Loudoun is a place for innovation, growth, and opportunity," she said. "Our job is to attract, retain and grow companies of all sizes, shapes, all industries across the country."

Youngkin used the ceremony to connect ORBCOMM's announcement to broader themes of job growth and Virginia's business-friendly climate. "We now have 270,000 more people working in the Commonwealth of Virginia," he said. "It's because Virginia understands what it means to work for you. What that means is that we have to have unbelievable talent, and our education system has to prepare that talent ... and most importantly, it has to open up the opportunity to gain that education to everybody."

"We have never been stronger, never been stronger as a state, and that makes me so proud," Youngkin said.

For Youngkin, ORBCOMM's expansion is not just about business— it's

about people and the impact of "incredibly powerful words" on their lives. "I think the most powerful three words are 'I love you.' ... Right behind them is 'You are hired.' It means I respect you. I see you. It means you can add value to our organization, and I want you in that organization, and it means I believe in your future and will help you have a great future," Youngkin said. "Thank you to ORBCOMM for getting ready to echo those words 51 more times right here in the Commonwealth of Virginia."

Local leaders say the arrival of ORBCOMM's global headquarters is another win for innovation, and a sign that Loudoun is solidifying its reputation as a tech hub and logistics gateway.

In a press release Buddy Rizer, Executive Director of Loudoun County Economic Development, praised the move. "ORBCOMM's continued investment in Sterling reinforces Loudoun County's reputation as a hub for innovation and connectivity. Loudoun is proud to be a place where companies like ORBCOMM can expand with confidence."

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D - At Large) emphasized the county's advantages, "We are pleased that ORBCOMM has chosen to grow right here in Loudoun County. Their expansion is a testament to the strong business climate, talented workforce, and unmatched quality of life that makes Loudoun an ideal location for businesses to thrive. We welcome this investment and the jobs it brings to our community."

Virginia State Senator Kannan Srinivasan (D - District 32) also shared his thoughts. "I am excited to welcome ORBCOMM's continued investment and expansion here in Sterling. This project will create new job opportunities for our skilled workforce, and it reinforces Loudoun County's reputation as a hub for innovation and advanced technology."

Before the ribbon was cut, Youngkin presented ORBCOMM with a small piece of ceremony—a Commonwealth flag he'd taken down at the State Capitol that morning. "This flag will represent the partnership between Loudoun County, between the Commonwealth of Virginia, in between ORBCOMM," he told the crowd. "I hope you will find a place to display this prominently ... so everyone who comes and goes will see it and know that we are together."

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North Fork Baptist Church to celebrate 260th anniversary

North Fork Baptist Church, located at 38130 North Fork Road in Purcellville, will mark a major milestone this fall with a celebration of its 260th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 28, at 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend the commemorative event honoring the church's deep roots in Virginia history.

COMMUNITY

Founded in 1765 as The First Baptist Church of North Fork, the church has witnessed over two centuries of change,

growth, and transformation. A pivotal moment in its past came in 1835, when a doctrinal split led to the construction of a second church building next door. The new structure became known as the Second Baptist Church of North Fork, a name that reflects its origins and connection to the original congregation.

The upcoming anniversary event will feature an abbreviated church service followed by remarks on the church's historical significance and its place in the

once-thriving North Fork community. A luncheon will be provided, and free tickets are required for the meal.

History enthusiasts will find additional cause for interest—on April 5, 1865, Confederate Colonel John Mosby celebrated the formation of his 8th Company, "Company H," on the grounds of the Second Baptist Church.

Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the new church building, stroll the grounds and gardens of the original

church, and take part in guided tours of the historic cemetery, now privately owned.

The tours will be conducted by the Ketchin Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The cemetery dates back to at least 1801 and includes the graves of soldiers from the American Revolution, War of 1812, and the Civil War.

For full event details and to reserve free luncheon tickets, visit northforkbaptist.com.



New Vet Clinic brings compassionate care and cuteness to town

Royal Oak Veterinary + Urgent Care officially opened its doors with a celebratory ribbon cutting on Aug. 16, bringing a fresh and compassionate approach to pet care right in the heart of the Town of Purcellville.

Located at 1232 Wolf Rock Drive, Suite 155, the clinic is the dream come true of co-owners Dr. Erika Friedrich and Dr. Sienna Church. Both veterinarians bring years of experience and a whole lot of heart to their new practice.

Dr. Erika Friedrich, whose love

for animals shines through in every aspect of care with a passion in emergency medicine, has dreamed of opening her clinic. Dr. Sienna Church adds her expertise in anesthesia and trauma to the mix, helping round out the full-service clinic's capabilities.

Royal Oak offers everything from emergency and urgent care to laser therapy, surgery, and onsite diagnostics—making it a one-stop shop for furry family members in need.

The clinic's hours are as unique as its offerings. They are open Mondays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. offering urgent care only. They are closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays to rest up for the busy days ahead.

Need to reach them? Call 540-554-1540 or email info@royaloakvets.com.

Welcome to the neighborhood, Royal Oak—we're paws-itively thrilled you're here.

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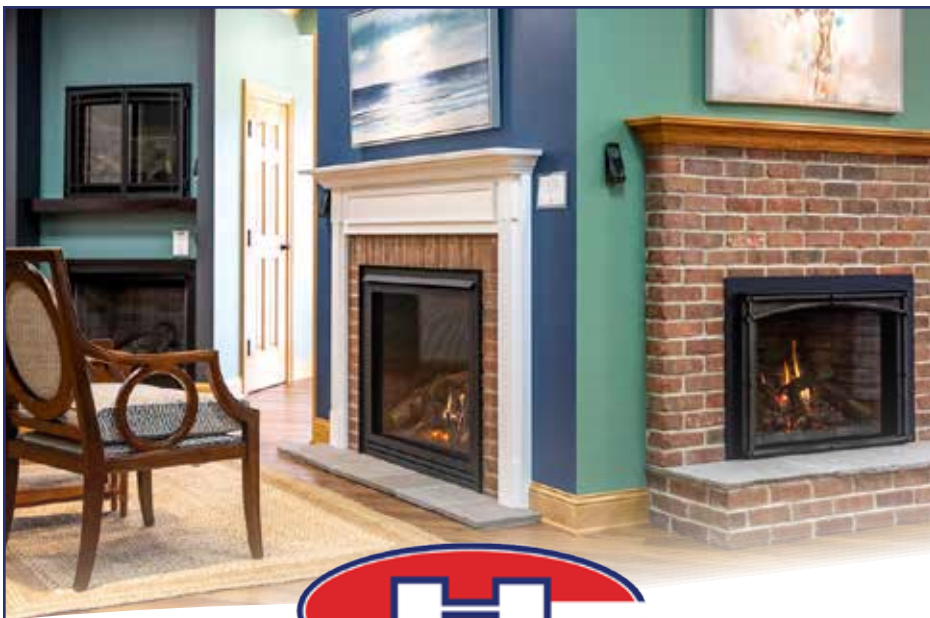
11:30 a.m. Remarks

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FAMILIES APPEAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

law limits what school divisions can say about individual cases. A district spokesman told media that LCPS “would not suspend a student simply because they expressed some kind of discomfort,” and noted that “there is a high bar to launch a Title IX investigation and an even higher bar to determine a student is in violation of Title IX.”

The suspensions come as LCPS faces increasing pressure from federal officials over Policy 8040, which allows students to use restrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity. Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) said it would withhold federal funding from LCPS after determining the policy violates Title IX. According to budget records, about \$47 million of LCPS’s \$2 billion budget comes from federal funds.



Del. Geary Higgins

The OCR is also reviewing the locker room confrontation after Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, at the request of Governor Glenn Youngkin, referred the matter for investigation. “Their rights must be protected,” Hetzler said of his clients. “We intend to see that they are.”

Seth Wolfe, whose son remains enrolled in LCPS, said that his child has been unfairly labeled. “The trans policy fails to acknowledge biological reality. My son has been branded for life for exercising free speech.”

Wolfe also complained that his son was filmed by the trans student and that the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office determined there wasn’t enough evidence to charge the student with creating non-consensual images. “Loudoun County Public Schools chose ideology over common sense, and every parent should be alarmed,” Wolfe said. “Because

if it can happen to my child, it can happen to your child.”

He also said that students and families were never prepared for this kind of situation. “They were pretty much just told, ‘This is how it is and to accept it,’ and they’re not supposed to say anything about it,” Wolfe said. “They never gave us as parents opportunities to even talk to our children about this.”

Another parent, Renae Smith, who withdrew her child from LCPS and moved out of state after the incident, said: “I specifically asked my son what they did to prepare them for this type of situation and the answer was absolutely nothing.”

“We’re absolutely floored that they came back and branded my son responsible for sexual harassment and sex based discrimination with no solid evidence whatsoever,” Smith later told a

local news station. “We’re talking about scarring him for life by a biased process that’s supposed to protect fairness, but it’s shocking. It’s wrong, and it should terrify every single parent.”

Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, a Republican candidate for governor who attended the news conference, told the crowd: “It’s time for the insanity to stop. It’s time for everyone to recognize what is settled

truth: Boys are boys and girls are girls.”

Earle-Sears shared more of her thoughts online. “For all the moms and dads out there, let me say what you’re thinking: This is not normal. It is not normal to force boys and girls to share locker rooms. It is not normal to punish kids for their fears. All parents want is a little normalcy. That’s what I’m fighting for.”

“Boys are not comfortable undressing in front of nude girls in the same locker room,” Earle-Sears told a local news station. “The boys are saying this, and the boys who should be applauded are not being applauded. Instead, they’re being punished for something that’s common sense. You know, for me, biological differences do matter. It’s not political, it’s common sense. And it’s parental rights, really. So, I’m speaking for parents and families all across Virginia. This is nonsense.”

Tree of Life's Annual Summer Giveaway helps with back to school

On Saturday, Aug. 16, Tree of Life Ministries held their Annual Summer Giveaway event at Purcellville Baptist Church, providing local families with much needed clothing and backpacks for back to school. This year, they had 711 attendees who received free clothing and shoes for all members of the family. Additionally, over 400 backpacks filled with school supplies were handed out to the children in attendance.

COMMUNITY

The event was made possible by widespread community support, with backpacks and supplies being provided by local churches, businesses, and individuals; clothing and furniture donated by the community, and more than 100 volunteers worked for approximately 300 hours in the week leading up to the event and on the day of to make it a success.

This year's event included a number of firsts as well, with medical care being provided by licensed doctors, including

general practitioners and specialists, an activity center for the children hosted by the Purcellville Baptist Church youth group, and breakfast provided by the church's "50 Connect" group.

Tree of Life has hosted back to school events for the community since 2012 and according to their Regional Director for Western Loudoun, Maddy Cockerill, "the Summer Giveaway has become an event that many families rely on to prepare for the new school year."

Additionally, Cockerill pointed out that LCPS family liaisons, particularly in Western Loudoun, refer families to the event and also work directly with Tree of Life to get backpacks and supplies to families in need. "Every student deserves to start the year off feeling prepared and cared for, and we are very proud this event helps make an impact for so many families," said Cockerill.

Tree of Life is faith-based non-profit serving all of Loudoun County. If you'd like to learn more visit their website at www.tolministries.org.



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LETTER: WRONG LOCATION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8 and intended use of this area.

The 4.85-acre property has already been operating such a kennel for years—exceeding the county's four-dog limit and violating zoning ordinances—with no apparent enforcement. Repeated complaints and inquiries have gone unanswered.

Why is the county failing to enforce its own rules? Zoning exists to protect communities from exactly this kind of intrusion.

Despite claims of sound mitigation, the barking is loud and impossible to ignore. It cuts through the air from both the kennel building and outdoor fenced areas, echoing across neighbors' yards and into our homes. No vegetative buffer can stop it. Picture sitting on your deck on quiet Sunday morning—only to be jolted by barking. This isn't hypothetical. It's already disrupting our lives.

Furthermore, the daily drop-offs and pick-ups for 15 dogs would potentially generate up to 30 additional car trips per day on a narrow, winding rural road already strained by speeding commuter traffic. This raises serious safety and compatibility concerns. Country roads were not built for this level of commercial traffic.

Approving this special exception would set a troubling precedent. If a 15-dog kennel is allowed on less than 5 acres, what might be allowed next? Western Loudoun's rural residential character depends on the integrity of existing zoning ordinances.

As longtime residents, we ask that our voices be heard. The consequences of this decision fall on us, not county planners. This is the wrong location for such an operation.

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REZONING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Community meetings were held in 2022 and 2024, and a design charrette took place in 2015. In each instance, residents have overwhelmingly opposed the annexation.

The property is surrounded by residential and agricultural uses, including the Mayfair subdivision to the west and Wright Farm to the east. To the north is a 119-acre agricultural parcel in the County's Land Use Assessment Program, and land in the New Hillsboro Agricultural and Forestal District lies about 200 feet to the northeast.

A 39-home development would generate an estimated 32 morning trips, 41 evening trips, and 424 weekday trips. By contrast, the proposed 1,274,892 square foot industrial park would generate 433 trips in the morning and evening peak hours, and 3,527 trips on an average weekday.

Citizens Weigh in

In an email to the Planning Commission, Audrey and Jonathan Young argued that a large industrial project is unnecessary in a rural residential area given available industrial land elsewhere. They, along with the Purcellville Town Council majority, said the proposal would harm public health, safety, and welfare.

Andrew and Elizabeth McCoy also submitted an email stating that the rezoning request is "ill-suited for the property."

Purcellville Mayor Chris Bertaut urged the Planning Commission to reject the Valley Commerce Center proposal, citing traffic impacts, environmental concerns, and what he described as a fundamental incompatibility with surrounding rural neighborhoods. He referenced JLMA guidelines that support low-density development and emphasized that residents both inside and outside the Town strongly oppose the project.

"I am here tonight to speak in strong opposition to the proposed rezoning for the Valley Commerce Center," said Purcellville Council Member Susan Khalil. She said that the Town Council majority voted to reject the annexation request for the same project. It was based on two things, "overwhelming public opposition and clear inconsistency with our Comprehensive Plan."

Khalil continued, "The citizens of our Town and especially the Mayfair community and the surrounding areas have made it abundantly clear they do not want industrial development on this

land. This is not just a local concern, it's a regional one."

Purcellville Vice Mayor Ben Nett said that in January the majority of Town Council voted no to the proposed annexation for the Valley Commerce Center. "The Town Council vote to deny the annexation was not arbitrary, it was a result of years of community engagement, data review and the careful adherence to our Comprehensive Plan."

Nett said the Town's Comprehensive Plan was not created in a vacuum—it had broad citizen input on how the Town grows. "This project completely ignores that vision. Moreover, your own County Planning Department has stated plainly this rezoning request conflicts with the County's General Plan."

Mayfair resident Michael Parish asked the Planning Commissioners to reject the application. He said that last year residents of Mayfair, Wright Farm and Chestnut Hill neighborhoods were surveyed and 93% of households opposed the annexation proposal.

Parish said the Mayfair community is a charming neighborhood, with children riding their bicycles, parents pushing baby strollers and there's even a neighborhood lemonade stand. "Residential and industrial do not mix, and the proposal before you would turn the scene that I just described into a nightmare."

Daniel Carvill, a Mayfair resident, said he was opposed to the project and emphasized the surrounding areas are all residential. "This property should be for single-family homes ... Single family homes are part of the American dream ... These types of projects kill the American dream."

Lloyd Harting said he opposed the application and noted it would cause a significant increase in traffic on Purcellville Road. He said that approximately 148 trucks use Purcellville Road in the morning with an average of 263 trucks using the road in the afternoon rush hour. Harting, who lives in Mayfair, said the property should remain at the current zoning of 39 homes.

Peter Dalton spoke in favor of the application, saying there is a "serious lack of commercial space. That makes it harder to grow and serve the community effectively," and he needed a place to park his work trucks.

Keith Mainland said he runs a landscaping company and he employs 16 people. "We are in urgent need of industrial space."

Jeff Tarae, who resides in Ashburn

and is a commercial real estate professional, said there is a limited inventory of flex industrial space. "This project will offer the type of modern flex space that businesses are actively seeking while respecting the character of western Loudoun."

Commercial real estate broker Chase Stewart said she specializes in industrial and flex space in Loudoun. "I am here tonight to express my strong support for this proposed industrial flex development in Purcellville." She said that industrial space is extremely low in the area. Stewart said that approving this development means supporting local business retention.

JK Moving president David Cox spoke in support of the application. Cox said that the site is not part of the rural area and is located near existing industrial areas. "This application is the right use in the right place," he concluded.

Gregory Paris said the project, if approved, could fail due to the lack of sufficient water. "There are so many water issues in western Loudoun. Round Hill routinely has droughts," he said.

"It's funny that everyone who supports it [has] financial interests," said Paris. "If there are so many modifications needed why is this up for discussion?"

General contractor Scott Moffat spoke in favor of the rezoning. "There's a great need for development in this region. This site will promote growth of existing businesses in the community as well as attracting new businesses."

Joe Parker said the project "is the right fit in the right place at the right time."

Emily Johnson with Piedmont Environmental Council said the proposal is "entirely inconsistent with its Rural Neighborhood Place Type," and it is immediately next to residential neighborhoods.

"This should be located within the Town," but the Town doesn't want it. It is completely out of character with County and Town planning goals. Johnson pointed out that it is not County practice to allow applicants to use their own wells for developments of this density.

"The impact to water resources is a major concern to us. We recommend denial that will introduce non-conforming uses in this area," said Johnson.

Council Member Carol Luke said she is firmly opposed to the rezoning. "This is a 1.2 million square foot industrial project placed on land currently zoned

for 39 homes on 3-acres each on rural land. It is a complete disregard for the County's General Plan, which states this type of development is not supported in the Purcellville JLMA." Luke added that the boundary protects the rural character and livability of western Loudoun.

There is a great demand for this type of space, said Scott Carpenter. He said companies need space to store their equipment, and that it makes sense to place an industrial park near an existing one since Purcellville is the hub of western Loudoun.

Owen Brown said the proposal is sandwiched between two residential areas, and the County's own staff noted that "this rezoning request is not consistent with the rural character or in keeping with the types of low intensity of rural residential."

He expressed concern that the Northern Collector Road is still on the County's Transportation Plan. "We have fought against this road for a decade and it has yet to be removed." He added, "The fact that it remains having access on the site plan does nothing to mitigate our concerns."

Regarding the scarcity of industrial properties in this county, "Through the magic of the internet, I myself have found 26 such properties for lease" and my wife found 50, said Brown.

Tia Earman with the PEC said the primary concern is the threat to local water resources. She added that the proposal would also contribute to the loss of community character and have negative impacts on area roads.

The very idea of an industrial park operating on its own well and septic should be a deal breaker in itself, noted Earman.

Town Council member and Mayfair resident Caleb Stought, who in January did not support the majority Town Council vote to oppose the Valley Commerce Center annexation, now said the current rezoning proposal is inconsistent with the County's 2019 General Plan and poses risks to water availability and traffic. He urged the Planning Commission not to support the rezoning.

Developer Casey Chapman said, "I am here to fully support the Valley Commerce Center application in its entirety. The application represents what the American Dream is." To argue that the application is too dense for the County "is kinda ridiculous."

OPINION: EFFECTIVE POLICING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8
 in Leesburg. Only then do jail deputies learn of a person’s immigration status when following the standard protocol of making queries to other law enforcement agencies about outstanding warrants or detainees.

If ICE wants the person arrested, they have the option of issuing a detainer and picking up that person upon his or her scheduled release from jail. Loudoun has been doing it this way many years, regardless of who occupies the White House. If, and only if ICE cannot immediately pick that person up, they will now have up to an additional 48 hours to do so. Releasing criminal aliens back into our community to risk further criminal activity instead of releasing them to ICE would be irresponsible of a sheriff whose job it is to keep Loudoun’s citizens safe.

Second, some falsely assert that some form of “profiling” is happening in Loudoun.

The truth is that LCSO deputies respond to calls for service and patrol where the greatest number of traffic incidents and crimes occur. Those numbers are highest in eastern Loudoun where a greater number of resources are allocated. This is a responsible, pragmatic,

analytics-driven and cost-effective utilization of County resources—a practice that is making all of us safer and something we should be thankful for.

Traffic stops result from traffic violations or crimes in progress. Nobody is targeted as deputies almost never know who they are stopping in a car until they walk up and greet the driver. Subsequent searches are conducted lawfully, and only if there is evidence of a crime. Recent searches have resulted in the recovery of drugs, weapons, and even an automatic weapon with a 50-round clip. These actions help prevent further crimes and have nothing to do with a person’s age, ethnic or racial group. This is good, proactive policing, not profiling.

Sheriff Chapman has spent more than 47 years in law enforcement working here in Loudoun and around the globe with the sole mission of advancing public safety. He was recently voted Loudoun Now’s Favorite Public Servant for the fifth year in a row and named National Sheriff of the Year in 2023. Loudoun’s crime rate is the lowest in the region, and the LCSO’s professional standards are among the highest. We are blessed to have him at the helm of our Sheriff’s Office for the past 15 years.

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REZONING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

Commissioners send application to work session

In a nearly unanimous vote, the application was moved to a work session for further discussion—with Commissioner Robin-Eve Jasper (Little River) voting against.

Mark Miller (Catocin) said, “There might be a middle ground. A property of this size can be operated by alternative well and septic”—though he questioned whether the water resources on the property are “large enough.”

Dale Polen Myers (At-Large) said she supported the motion to move the application to work session—saying if the well and septic fails, she wanted people to understand there would be a backup if needed. Myers pointed out that the Mayfair residential community has high density.

Ad Barns (Leesburg) said that the application reminded him of the Hiddenwood proposal, which twice failed to pass.

Robin-Eve Jasper said she wouldn't support the motion to go into work session. “This is a 1.3 million square

foot development in the middle of two residential neighborhoods in Purcellville.

“For context, [the] Loudoun Inova Hospital main building is 318,000 square feet and the total development there including the new tower brings us up to about 700,000 square feet. So you are taking a development of that scale and sticking it into the JLMA outside of Purcellville, which is incredibly relatively low-density development.”

Said Jasper, “We are taking a completely inappropriate development based on the 2019 zoning plan and everything that's on the ground and we're putting it right smack dab in the middle of two residential neighborhoods.

“The reason we're doing it is because there's not enough land at a cheap enough price left in eastern Loudoun and there is a shortage of flex space now. We're moving it out to western Loudoun. What is the impact of that?”

“That is the exact thing we fight all the time when we have applications,” Jasper said.

OPINION: THE LAST FLOWER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

LPAT (Loudoun Parks and Trails), pronounced “El Pat.” Awful. Then they hired a consultant and rebranded it “Loudoun Trails and Waterways.” Now they toss around LTAW (“El Taw”). Worse. The poetry of Emerald Ribbons was lost to bureaucratic vapidty.

What Is a Farm?

Our new zoning ordinance refuses to define “farm.” That omission speaks volumes. During the zoning rewrite, debates pitted business interests and speculators against conservationists. The businesses won.

Case in point: breweries are listed under “Agriculture” instead of “Food and Beverage.” Why? Because “farm” might have limited their metastases. Conservationists pushed back, but the Board and Staff caved. Leaving “Farm” undefined lets commercial operations masquerade as agriculture, eroding both land and language.

A Windfall, but for Whom?

Last year the County raked in \$259 million more tax receipts than expected, thanks largely to data center taxes. Officials called it a “one-time

windfall.” Citizens saw only a pittance—just twenty-five measly bucks from eliminating the license plate fee.

The Board stashed or spent the rest: \$69 million for future capital projects, \$60 million for a rainy-day fund, \$10 million for schools. Meanwhile, personal property taxes on our cars—\$200 million—kept pouring in. Imagine a fairer balance: \$290 million from data centers, \$200 million in tax relief to citizens, and the rest in reserve. Voters would then reward the Supervisors.

Unfortunately, the County has a spending addiction. Unless checked, every “windfall” will vanish into bureaucratic nooks and crannies. This is serious and also fodder for aspiring Board candidates.

Voters to Stop Sprawl

In 1999, a grassroots group rallied voters sick of sprawl. They threw out the entire Board. For a while, growth slowed. Then business interests crept back in, often hiring pricey lawyers to shill for them, and sprawl resumed.

Today, the threats are bigger: data centers, breweries, event centers (AKA party barns,) cluster subdivisions. Is it time again to clean house? In 2027,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 >

OPINION: WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU THINK,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

when their child gets exposed to discussions about sex—not some third-party contractor brought into a classroom.

It means no school nurse, counselor, or administrator should ever be allowed to facilitate a medical or psychological transition behind a parent’s back.

And it definitely means that when your child’s life or identity is in turmoil, the school shouldn’t be treating *you*—the parent—as the threat.

But that’s what’s happening in many school systems across Virginia. And let’s be clear: it’s not because of rogue teachers. It’s because of policies adopted by local school boards, encouraged by national groups, and too often defended by Democratic politicians.

They say they’re “protecting” kids ... From whom?

From the people who carried them? Raised them? Fed them, taught them right from wrong, and stayed up all night when they were sick?

They say “some parents won’t understand.” But if the school system’s first instinct is to cut moms and dads out of the loop, maybe they’re the ones who don’t understand what parenting actually is.

We trust parents with everything from feeding their kids to vaccinating them to signing permission slips for Tylenol. But suddenly, when it comes to the most consequential, irreversible decisions a child could ever face—like changing gender or starting hormone treatments—the Left wants parents out of the room?

That’s not compassion. That’s control.

And here’s the part that should make every parent’s blood run cold: About the only time the Left defends parental

rights is when a mom or dad wants to put their child on puberty blockers, start cross-sex hormones, or approve surgery to remove healthy body parts.

That’s the one moment Democrats suddenly discover parental authority: when it means approving a permanent medical intervention on a child who isn’t old enough to drive a car, smoke a cigarette or buy cough syrup.

They’ll fight tooth and nail to keep parents from seeing classroom materials, knowing about social transitions, or objecting to sexually explicit books, but they’ll stand up and cheer when a parent signs a consent form for “top surgery.”

That’s not consistency. That’s absurdity.

‘Parental rights’ means involvement, guidance, and love—not blind affirmation and irreversible harm. And we should never let the loudest voices redefine parental rights to mean anything else.

Right here in Virginia, Democratic delegates voted against Governor Youngkin’s model policies that simply required schools to notify parents if their child asked to socially transition at school. Not consent. Just notify.

Why? Because they know parental rights are a barrier to their agenda.

But here’s the thing, in the Commonwealth, children don’t belong to the government. They don’t belong to the school. They don’t belong to the state. They belong to families.

That used to be common sense. Now it’s a fight.

Let me say it plainly, you cannot be pro-parent and anti-parental rights.

So the next time someone rolls their eyes at “parental rights,” ask them a simple question: What exactly do you think it means?

Even if “The Last Flower of Fall” never becomes a song or poem, maybe it works best as a reminder: beauty, once lost, is hard to reclaim.

Charlie Houston formerly developed large office buildings as Senior Vice President of a huge Atlanta real estate company. His clients included Coca Cola, AT&T, UPS, MetLife, Norfolk Southern, Duke University and even the Dule of Milan, Italy. Now he lives on a small horse farm between Paeonian Springs and Waterford, where he tries—and often fails—to control his imagination. Or his opinions.

OPINION: THE LAST FLOWER,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

perhaps this Board would be remembered as the last flower of unchecked development, and evicted.

There are better ways than tossing out every Supervisor. Two reforms could make the difference: voter referenda and term limits. In 2027, citizens should demand candidates who back both ideas.

Epilogue

I once helped create Atlanta’s sprawl, developing office towers that paved farmland. Now I know better.

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JUST LIKE NOTHING (ELSE).
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

home would be about equidistant if I skirted the top of the Mountain, and I hadn't been up there for a while, and, yeah, sentimentality and romance got the better of me. Not for the first time, either.

Now, I'm climbing the Appalachians, at around 6:30 in the morning (fortunately it was a weekend, with no business traffic), with basically no visuals. Images flitted past my windshield that seemed to emanate from my memories of "The Wizard of Oz." I kept watching for Dorothy and Toto (wouldn't want to hit them), but instead of seeing any of those familiar characters, I began driving through a veritable 'deer barnyard.'

These animals seemed not the least concerned about a storytelling wayfarer driving something that looks a bit like one of the Blue Angels on wheels. Well, I was IN the clouds.

I hadn't come up here for 'an experience.' I hadn't come up here for pictures. I knew I should get some 'shots' of these atmospheric conditions, but I couldn't just stop in the middle of the road. I mean, I think I was still on the road. Who's to say? I kept driving. I

probably still have the etched pattern of the steering wheel on my hands. Yup.

And you? In all innocence, you truly believe, "Well, he's over the worst, this nut will soon reach the summit and start descending, and the fog will thin out." Keep thinking that.

Meanwhile, our intrepid traveler reaches the vicinity of the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center. Yeah, that place. Like, if you find out their secrets ... Well, let's just assure them we don't know about any of their doings.

Now, in the thickness of the fog, or the thinness of my sensory perception, I could barely make out the security fencing on my left and right ("Don't go that way!"); I continued under an overpass of some sort and through at least one intersection, hoping I was staying in the Public Right of Way.

I'd been to the turnaround area on Old Bluemountain Road, delivering mail—probably hundreds of times—but that was at least 10 years ago, and my memories don't always match up with current conditions. But I kept driving, and I evidently made it past this top secret facility with no bullet holes or

brain implants (that I'm aware of).

I was now at least in somewhat familiar territory, having previously served the remaining section of my drive for the US Postal Service. Of which I was very grateful. I found some very limited areas in which to pull over and capture some of the remaining fog, and clouds, and palpable moisture in the air.

Now, the photos I took up there are by no means the thickest patches of obscurity; I simply could not just stop in the worst sections. But I came home with some pretty good images of what it's like to be almost lost in the fog on top of Mount Weather.

And if you need any more chills from that day, I can say I didn't even see the memorial marker for the tragic crash of Flight 514 from 1974. All on board lost their lives when their Boeing 727 was flown into the Mountain.

I've written of this elsewhere, and I'll always remember taking phone calls at the radio station—every year on the First of December—from local rescuers who still felt immersed in the aftermath of the tragedy. The Mountain commands cautious behavior from its visitors.

LETTER: AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

member of the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce. In every one of these roles, I see how important health coverage is—and how damaging it would be if the enhanced premium tax credits expire at the end of the year.

Most of our full-time cleaners earn less than \$50,000 a year. They don't qualify for Medicaid, and small businesses like mine usually can't offer group health plans. That means the individual Marketplace is often their only option, and the tax credits are what make it affordable.

The work they do is not easy. It's physical. It involves repetitive motion, exposure to chemicals, and the risk of injury. Without health insurance, even small health problems can lead to worsening conditions or leaving the job entirely.

I'm lucky to have coverage through my husband's job. But I know many others in this industry who don't have that option. If these tax credits go away, premiums could nearly double. That would force many people to drop their coverage altogether.

If the tax credit expires, Virginia would lose more than 2,000 jobs and \$250 million in economic activity. That's not something our communities can afford.

Congress has the opportunity to protect families, support small businesses, and strengthen our economy. I urge them to extend the enhanced premium tax credits before it's too late.

*Natasha Magrath, President & CEO,
You've Got Maids NoVa, Sterling*

LETTER: DON'T LOOK UP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

the road, just 100 feet from the entrance to Brown's Farm on Lincoln Road, about 300 ft. from the Purcellville town limits.

I have called VDOT, Dominion Electric, Verizon and 911 and nothing has been done to remedy the situation. The next heavy wind or rain storm will most certainly cause it to fall. In early August 2025, a tree service chartered by a utility, trimmed branches on this tree, so this tree is easily identifiable—especially with the large hanging branch.

So, until this branch is removed, do look up and drive quickly past this point.

*Joe LaFiandra
Purcellville*

DR. MIKE: BOREDOM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

challenges both in school and later in life.

Navigating boredom helps children practice patience and emotional regulation. When they're allowed to sit with their discomfort and invent their own fun, they're building independence and self-confidence. These moments of "nothing to do" become the training ground for lifelong resilience and self-trust—not something to be avoided, but something to embrace.

The landscape today is very different. Our kids are surrounded by a constant stream of digital entertainment: smart devices, streaming shows, and video games that offer instant rewards and never-ending novelty.

These technologies are designed to supply frequent doses of dopamine, the brain's reward chemical, making traditional slower-paced

activities—like reading, drawing, or building—seem less appealing by comparison. Over time, this reliance on instant stimulation can reduce curiosity, make boredom feel unbearable, and erode valuable coping skills.

How can parents nurture the upside of boredom? The answer is simpler than it seems: create more opportunities for screen-free time and resist the urge to over-schedule every moment. Trust that leaving stretches of unstructured time isn't neglect—it's good parenting. During these open-ended intervals, children:

- Build resilience as they learn to navigate boredom and discomfort.
- Discover new interests and passions that structured activities and screens might otherwise crowd out.
- Practice important social and emotional skills through creative play and collaboration.

- Reflect, observe, and gain greater self-awareness.

Technology certainly has its place in our lives, but I encourage parents to see boredom not as an enemy or something that needs to be fixed for their children, but as a secret ingredient in raising emotionally healthy, resourceful, and imaginative children. When we leave room for boredom, we're equipping our kids with the inner tools they'll need to thrive—no matter how stimulating or fast-paced the world becomes.

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." —Dorothy Parker

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.

BARE BONES DOCUMENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4
straightforward pursuit of justice.

Black said, "I am speaking as someone who was formerly the Chief of the Criminal Law Division at the Pentagon. I don't lightly come to the aid of people who are accused" because there is usually more to the story.

He said he is familiar with what goes on in the Town of Purcellville and called the current situation "a classic case of political corruption and a weaponization of a criminal justice system in order to gain control." At stake are hundreds of millions of dollars in land profits, he said.

"I hate injustice. I hate the use of the criminal justice system in order

to gain political advantage that you can't get by appealing to the voters at the polls," he added.

Black noted that Ben Nett campaigned on improving efficiency within the police department and on getting the Town's finances in order. He also mentioned that the Sheriff's Office already provides evening patrols.

Under a previous mayor, Bob Lazaro, the wastewater treatment plant was expanded, which, according to Black, placed "enormous debt on the people of Purcellville" and created "pressure to expand the Town limits." During Fraser's eight years in office, Black said, his stance was

clear: "We're not going to expand; we're going to keep this Mayberry atmosphere of this town. We're going to apply fiscal austerity, which he did." Fraser kept taxes low, avoided annexing any property, and helped preserve Purcellville from becoming an urban center.

"This has nothing to do with some trivial \$12,000 contract. Honestly, when have you heard of a grand jury being convened over \$12,000?" he said. "I bet it's never been done in the history of Loudoun County."

"What's at stake is hundreds of millions, potentially billions of dollars in land profits and there are two people who stand in the way."

LCPS TRANSGENDER BATHROOM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

violation since my daughter's rape at Stonebridge, May 28, 2021."

LCPS's noncompliance with Title IX is yet a highly debated topic due to its safety and identity implications. While the Board voted to keep supporting Policy 8040, Dan Adams reported, "We will continue to monitor developments closely to ensure continued legal compliance and the protection of all students."

But the legal compliance in question soon experienced backlash. On August 19, the U.S. Department of Education placed five Northern Virginia school districts on high-risk and reimbursement

payment status, according to a recent press release. The schools' violation of Title IX did not go unrecognized.

Affected districts include Alexandria City, Arlington, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, and Prince William County.

"The Divisions will now be required to pay their education expenses up front and then request reimbursement for expenditures to access funds obligated by the Department," the press release stated. The title of "high-risk" is used as an indicator that the Divisions have not upheld the conditions of their federal grant agreements.

"The Northern Virginia School

Divisions that are choosing to abide by woke gender ideology in place of federal law," warned U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon, "must now prove they are using every single federal dollar for a legal purpose."

LCPS continues to debate safety, compliance, and acceptance in regard to school bathroom and locker room policies. A lack of federal funding is just one factor of many to consider.

"Our priority remains the same," said Adams. "Doing what is right for Loudoun County's young people; focusing on educating our students and ensuring our schools are places where every child feels like they belong."

LETTER: DON'T LOOK UP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Delegate Geary Higgins, a former School Board member now seeking reelection, also criticized Policy 8040. "As a late bloomer, I could relate to the boys saying they were embarrassed by having a trans student in the locker room," Higgins said. He called the policy "completely nonsensical" and warned that losing federal funds over it would be "financially irresponsible."

Legal advocates for the families say the district's planned corrective measures for the remaining student, including a so-called "behavioral correction plan," would force compliance with LCPS' Policy 8040, and that such requirements raise constitutional and statutory questions they intend to litigate. Hetzler said he had been prepared to file for an injunction in federal court but instead filed the Title IX appeal

that delayed the suspension.

Hetzler also pointed to disparities in discipline with the situation, explaining that a third boy in the locker room, who is Muslim, was cleared by LCPS while the two other boys, who are Christian, were not. "While we are celebrating our success in protecting at least one of our clients from unjust charges, that disparity raises serious concerns," he said.

FINANCIAL FOCUS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

You have several options: work longer, adjust your spending expectations, save more outside the business or focus on increasing your company's value. You can boost value by increasing profits through higher market share, new products, better pricing or reduced costs. You can also improve intangible assets like employee expertise, operational systems and customer relationships.

Finally, consider who your successor might be. Selling your interest to family members, business partners or employees often provide more control over timing and lower transaction costs, though they may result in lower sale prices. Selling the business to third parties typically bring higher proceeds but less control over the process.

The key message is simple: it's never too early to start planning your exit. Whether you're thinking about stepping away next year or in the next decade, taking proactive steps now puts you in control of your business's future and your own financial security.

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.

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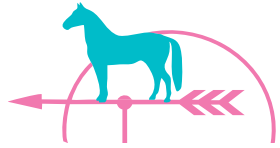
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