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JANUARY 2023

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County to Purcellville – Approve this new design now or else ...

BY VALERIE CURY

Loudoun County officials are trying to force the Town of Purcellville to accept the County's altered design for the Rt. 7/690 Interchange. This pressure meanwhile disregards the Town's due process and the expressed desires of most of the Town's citizens. Purcellville's legislative rules and procedures require the Town to make decisions on significant changes to projects, such as the County's proposed alterations to the Rt. 7/690 Interchange design, through its elected representatives on the town council and based on the advice of the town's boards, commissions, committees and staff.

Purcellville's citizens – who are also Loudoun County citizens – express their aspirations for the future of their town, including areas that the future Rt. 7/690 interchange will impact, through elections and through their Commonwealth-mandated comprehensive plan, which, in this case, seeks to preserve wetlands, floodplains, and the Town's Historic Corridor Overlay District.

In contrast, public statements by County officials advocating for the rapid implementation of the altered Rt. 7/690 Interchange design have focused on the prospect of losing Commonwealth funding if the town does not set aside its rules

and procedures and immediately accept the new design.

These County officials have provided scant evidence or explanation to Purcellville citizens on whether and how their proposed departure from the design to



L to R: Council Member Tip Stinnette and Mayor Kwasi Fraser in their final Town Council Meeting of their term in office.

which the Town and the County agreed in 2013 will improve the health, safety, and welfare of Purcellville and its neighbors.

The originally agreed on Rt. 7/690 Interchange design included traffic lights in lieu of roundabouts.

County officials, together with senior Town staff and the Virginia Department Of Transportation altered the design significantly on July 10, 2019 by incorporating two traffic circles with pedestrian crosswalks close to the circles that encroach on and alter 14.2-acres of wetlands in Purcellville belonging to the Catoctin Meadows Homeowners Association.

The Town's senior management failed to notify Purcellville's elected officials, its

Planning Commission, and its citizens of this new design – bypassing the required public processes, public hearings, and votes by the elected body necessary to approve such significant alterations.

One of the biggest issues requiring transparent, public discussion is evaluation of the benefits and costs that the altered design would introduce, if adopted. According to County and VDOT studies, the currently approved 2013 design for the Rt. 7/690 interchange provides roughly the same level of service as the proposed altered 2019 design.

No County or Commonwealth officials have provided citizens data indicating significant benefits from the altered design. By contrast, citizens from the Catoctin Meadows neighborhood have identified negative environmental impacts from the altered design and pinpointed added stresses the design would introduce to other intersections in Purcellville, such as the one at Hirst Road and Rt. 690.

The County would need temporary easements for construction, which would allow County officials to cut trees and disturb land and creek beds – and the County wants the Catoctin Meadows HOA to hold it harmless from any related losses or damages resulting from work on the interchange.

The Catoctin Meadows HOA is asking that the project introduce no changes in the current Federal Emergency Management Agency flood plain map, as it

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23 Neighbors to Watch in 2023

- 1. Neil Steinberg**
Will the popular Leesburg Councilman set his political sights on something higher?
- 2. Robert Duval**
Will the venerable actor come out of retirement for one more Oscar-worthy role?
- 3. Mark Herring**
Will Leesburg's former twice-elected Virginia Attorney General (with his awesome shock of white hair) throw his hat in the ring for another statewide run?

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PROPANE COSTS TOO MUCH!

This Winter is the Ideal Time to Make the Switch.

"So very happy we switched to Hunt Country. My only regret is that we didn't do it sooner. How much money we would have saved...However, we finally made the right choice about our propane. For years I have been receiving offers from other companies offering low rates, only to find out you have to enter a contract with them. It never made sense to me that you could drive around town and shop for fuel for your car, but not for your home. It's nice to see that a business owner understands this and caters to the customer. We received our first delivery this past Saturday and the owner himself brought it out. The service was excellent. Of course, I'm not surprised, as the initial account set-up was easy and the lady in the office was so pleasant!" —Caroline T.

"I have been buying propane from Hunt Country for about a year now. My previous propane provider was much higher priced. The staff was rude and didn't seem to care if you gave them business or not. When I was shopping around for a new company, thankfully I found Hunt Country. The staff is friendly, professional, knowledgeable and genuinely cared that you gave them your business. Hunt Country prices are consistently lower than their competitors. I highly recommend that you call Hunt Country Propane, if you don't, you're making a BIG(\$) mistake. Thanks Hunt Country!" —Ed, Leesburg

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“ SHE GAVE ME MY LIFE BACK

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“It started out as a normal outing. My wife and I had to run to the grocery store. We were driving down the road casually going over our shopping list when the car ahead of me started to slow down anticipating the yellow light. I started to move my foot from the gas to the brake as any normal person would do when they see brake lights in front of them but I couldn’t. I couldn’t feel my foot. The car kept moving forward and I just couldn’t get my foot on the brake. And CRUNCH! I finally came to a stop when I hit the car in front of me.”

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

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

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

It is terribly common that peripheral neuropathy and its debilitating symptoms interfere with a person’s ability to live their life. Dan was now reliant on his wife to drive him around, even the simple pleasure of cruising down to play golf or taking her out to dinner was outside his capabilities. And even more common, Dan’s general practitioner and several specialists told him there was nothing they could do other than prescribe him pills that would ease the pain of his neuropathy.

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

“They’re in constant pain from neuropathy and it prevents them from not only living their lives but more importantly, it prevents them from enjoying it.

Depending on the severity of their nerve damage, we typically see tremendous progress in 3-4 months of treatment. I like to say we’re in the business of making your golden years golden.”

“I can’t lie,” confides Dan.

“I was skeptical at first. The folks down at my pain center told me there was nothing that could be done and then there’s a doctor right here in Loudoun who tells me she can help. Turns out she was right! About three months after treatment I was able to confidently drive myself to my appointments!

My wife and I celebrated by buying ourselves a new car! It’s hard to put into words how incredible this is, quite frankly [Rachal] gave me my life back.”

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

You can learn more about Rachal Lohr and the FIREFLY team at FIREFLYAcuAndWellness.com. If you’re ready to schedule a consultation call (703)263-2142.

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

Bluemont Fair announces winner of 2022 Juried Crafts

Organizers of the Bluemont Fair have selected Seth Robinson of Seth's Custom Creations as Juried Crafts Winner of the 52nd Annual Bluemont Fair. The prize for winning Juried Crafts is complimentary display space at the 53rd Annual Bluemont Fair, to be held Sep. 16 and 17, a very large Blue Ribbon, and, of course, bragging rights.

Robinson is from Fishersville, Virginia, where he makes a variety of wood products, including wood turned bowls and hand-make epoxy/wood charcuterie boards. He says he has worked with wood for nearly ten years, which is all the more remarkable since he's just 18 years old.

"Most of the projects I make come from logs, firewood, and locally sourced live edge slabs.

I love using varieties of figured burls and live edge slabs. In addition to bowls and charcuterie boards, I also do custom builds such as bathroom vanities and kitchen tables," said Robinson.

Robinson says he is "beyond honored" to be the juried crafts winner of the 52nd Annual Bluemont Fair.

Examples of his work can be viewed on his Instagram page, @seths_custom_



creations.

Robinson's Custom Creations, and the work many other fine artisans, will be on display and available for purchase during the 53rd Annual Bluemont Fair. Some of the artisans demonstrate the process of creating their craft, which provides a fascinating learning experience, as well.

For more information about the Fair go to www.bluemontfair.org or call 540-554-2367.

Gringo Gordo opens in Purcellville – I'll have just one more of those empanadas, please.

BY LIZ JARVIS

Gringo Gordo has joined the growing list of ethnically diverse restaurants in Purcellville. Serving a variety of baked crescent-shaped empanadas, the restaurant celebrated its grand opening with an official ribbon cutting on Dec. 17.

Empanadas are savory pockets of dough filled with meats, cheeses and/or vegetables plus spices. They may then



be baked or fried (Gringo Gordo opts to use large ovens for baking). There are breakfast empanadas that feature eggs. Dessert may include a form of empanada made with apples, cheese and spices.

Empanadas are thought to have originated in Spain in the 1500s but were brought to Argentina and being an easy hand-held meal or snack, they

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Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth: Tail Race Road

BY TIM JON

"So - just where is this 'tail race' we're talking about? And, while we're at it - just what is such a thing as a tail race, in the first place?"

Well, good question. And, good question. Let's see: as far as what a tail race is, the way I understand it, it's just the portion of a creek - or 'run' - that's downstream from a mill or other type of waterworks - like a hydroelectric dam or something.



Okay, we got that straightened out. Now, back to the exact location of said tail race in today's story - I'd probably take a stab at the little trickle of water moseying along as the 'after-channel' from Aldie Mill - all

the way down along Rt. 50, in the historic Village of the same name.

But my mildly adventurous drive that morning didn't start down there; and, besides I'd set out not only ignorant of the geographic coordinates of the tail race, but I'd have failed a simple definition test: I may have described a tail race as some kind of antics performed by a litter of miniature dachshund puppies. Not that there'd be anything wrong with that.

No: my introduction to Tail Race Road started just off Rt. 15 south of Leesburg - as a narrow, gravel corridor turning off from the highway a few miles after I crossed Goose Creek.

I'd never driven this stretch of dirt road before that morning, and I was curious: what would I encounter along the way? Well, let's see: solitude - a

rare commodity in Loudoun County, quiet at least whenever I stopped to do a little footwork, darkness (that is, until sunrise), fog sort of hovering over the low spots in the terrain, and impending construction - evidenced by the giant earth-movers standing watch over the landscape. Some of the former agricultural fields were already laid bare by the motorized monsters still parked out on the acreage, looking ready for more action.

Incoming housing developments



would be a pretty good guess, I figured. Maybe by the time you read this, some of the new residents will be moving in

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

If you want a better 2023, change your mindset

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

There are several reasons why New Year's Resolutions fail - the resolutions are too vague or grand, the approach lacks planning, structure and accountability, and essential things are missing.



What can you do differently this year to maximize your success? I recommend that you try focusing on how you think about yourself in relation to a given goal over the actual desired results you're wanting to achieve.

If you really want to change something meaningful about yourself, the best place to start is with creating a winning mindset. Being more consciously

aware of your thought processes in an area you'd like to improve on can lead to improved feelings and more productive behaviors and outcomes.

Here are a few tips to consider:

Make sure you're ready to change: Sure, you might say to others that you want to lose 20 pounds, or drink less, or have greater work and personal life balance, but if you're not ready to change, your efforts will likely not last.

Research has consistently shown that alcoholics, for example, maintain absolute sobriety the longest only after they've hit a personal bottom. It doesn't matter how many close friends or family members tell them that they have a problem. Until that individual realizes that fully, sobriety often remains out of

reach.

You will be in a great place for change to happen when you are both intellectually and emotionally ready.

Identify and reframe your limiting beliefs toward the positive: Once you've fully accepted and prioritized what it is you'd like to change about yourself, identify your limiting beliefs. A limiting belief is a thought that restricts you from achieving your goals, and it has very real negative consequences.

An individual's limiting beliefs are largely unconscious and develop out of life experiences. The guy who believes that he's undeserving of a great relationship or job didn't just wake up one day thinking, "I'd like to ask that woman out, but she'll never say yes" or "I'd love to apply to that job, but I'll never get it."

Moments across that person's life created a false and negative internal narrative that stops them from feeling hopeful about a relationship or better career. Inaction, avoidance, and withdrawal cement their dreaded but expected negative outcome.

One way to challenge your limiting beliefs is to write down the things you want to change about yourself and the reasons you think you can't. After

identifying them, acknowledge that they're just beliefs. Challenge your beliefs and recognize the negative consequences they cause you. Reframe your thinking to adopt a new belief that you can begin to put into practice by using positive self-talk.

Research studies have repeatedly shown that positive self-talk serves to decrease stress and increase self-esteem and overall wellness. Individuals with anxiety, depression, and other forms of mental health struggles, have demonstrated significant symptom reduction as a result of positive self-talk.

Cultivate an attitude of gratitude: Positive Psychology research studies have shown that gratitude is strongly associated with happiness, and that increased levels of happiness lead to motivation, commitment, and change when it comes to achieving goals.

When it comes to cultivating gratitude in your life, put effort into focusing on the good. By seeking out the good things in our life, you will start to think more positively about all that you have.

You might benefit from keeping a daily gratitude journal, mentally reminding yourself of the various things you have

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Eighth Inning, Down 3 – 0

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Start at the Beginning

Western Loudoun is a special place, starting with its geography: rolling hills, forests, rivers and mountains. For almost three hundred years since it was first explored by European adventurers, the hand of man was gentle. Early settlers cleared land for crops and livestock and built attractive small homes – log cabins, fieldstone houses.

Roughly a century ago, wealthy northerners bought property in the southern part of the county and established grand estates. The northern part of the county lacks the grandeur of Middleburg's manicured horse farms, but is still a gracious place with a strong agricultural heritage. Now, though it suffers from zoning that's allowing rampart development.

Dulles Airport opened in 1962 and soon thereafter, eastern Loudoun yielded to developers' bulldozers. That lamentable encroachment has crept westward.

OPINION

being despoiled by tract housing.

Planning (Plotting?) Loudoun's Future

In 2017 the County began the process to update its Comprehensive Plan, which would address many aspects of our future: transportation, economy, agriculture, housing, fiscal matters and so on. As was the wont of governments, an early step was hiring a consultant and thus began the carefully-named Envision Loudoun project.

There was significant public input featuring many community meetings. That was a good thing, I guess, but only if citizens' opinions were heeded.

They weren't.

The County then empaneled a group called the "Stakeholders." Sadly, it was dominated by business interests and the end result was a Comp Plan that gave only lip service to protecting western Loudoun while encouraging commerce. The County uses the concept of "stakeholders" on many of its boards and committees. That's inimical to the principle that government should be of, for, and by the people.

I'll use a fictional committee to make the point. Imagine a Death Services Committee. As the County currently operates, it would include several morticians, a hearse company, a cremator or two, a florist and a monument maker, several cemetery operators and three ordinary citizens. Do you think the public will be well-served by that committee? I don't. There would be a clear majority of members whose financial wishes pose clear conflicts of interest.

The result of Envision Loudoun was

that the majority of Stakeholders had an economic self-interest in pushing for growth the citizens do not want. We lost.

It Gets Worse

Once the Comp Plan was baked, it needed to be translated into a new zoning ordinance. Thus, the Zoning Ordinance Committee – ZOC – was established. For about three years it has commented section-by-section on Planning Staff's draft ordinance.

This was a huge task, with hundreds and hundreds of pages to read and hours and hours of discussion on topics from affordable housing to parking to zoning districts.

About a third of the committee members were from the west, but almost every helpful idea we suggested was shot down by the other members. Unsurprisingly, developers got their way since ZOC membership was over-representative by people from land-use law, civil engineering, land planning and so forth.

Despite the disparate perspectives, ZOC members seemed to get along fine. In retrospect, though, some knock-down, drag-out fights may have helped. Early on, ZOC rolled over and ceded almost complete control to Staff, thereby emasculating itself.

All Dirt is Not Equal

In parallel with the zoning rewrite, our Supervisors passed a directive: protect prime agricultural soils. This seemed like an apple-pie-and-motherhood idea until special interests began carping at the plan. They consistently said worst-case scenarios would come true.

Prime soils are not always contiguous, and they claimed that site planning for subdivisions would be infinitely more difficult. Three powerful groups complained that the prime soils directive would reduce the number of houses. That, they said, would have consequences.

Some large landowners complained that the potential of lower density would reduce the value of their properties. A second group, developers and realtors, complained that any lower density would reduce their profits. I understand their greed. The third group was a dispiriting surprise.

Internequine Warfare

Several major donors of conservation easements believe that saving prime soils would result in lower lot density and hurt the value of their easements. They and their consultants, appraisers and engineers had access to the highest levels of county government, and worked that political access hard.

These donors have saved countless acres, for which we should be thankful. Some in this group are my friends. While I think common ground could be found, I suspect it won't be and that this prime soils squabble will continue.

We Lose

The recent meeting of the influential Loudoun Conservation and Preservation Coalition was Al van Huyck's swan song, as he's retired from its chairmanship. No one else who has worked so hard to save rural Loudoun.

Towards the end of that meeting

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Purcellville's outgoing Mayor addresses County's false narrative on Rt. 7/690 Interchange Project

Dear Editor:

I am writing to address the false narrative in recent articles in other papers about Loudoun County's Rt. 7/690 Interchange project in the Town of Purcellville.

It is disappointing to see other papers selectively obtaining feedback from the County Administrator and the County's Blue Ridge District Supervisor Tony Buffington, while failing to reach out to me or other members of the Purcellville Town Council, for our perspective.

The latest article titled "Purcellville Delays Likely Sink Route 690 Interchange Plans, \$13M in Funding" is a prime example of this biased and lazy reporting.

It suggests that the Town of #Purcellville

has delayed the project and put the County at risk of losing \$13M in funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia, based solely on the input of two County officials.

As the Mayor of Purcellville, I disagree with the County's version of events and their assertion that the Town has delayed the project.

I have consistently advocated for the acceleration of the Rt. 7/690 Interchange project, as it was voted on and approved by the Purcellville Town Council in 2013.

Since that time, the County has made significant changes to the design of the project. These are changes that will have negative impacts on the health, safety, and welfare of our community.

Rather than advocating for the County to engage transparently with the public

and complete the necessary due diligence for approval of the new design, Supervisor Buffington has falsely claimed that I am delaying the project.

It is important to note that I do not have the authority to delay the project. I have also consistently called for meetings and collaboration to move the project forward. In fact, I advocated for additional funding from Representative Jennifer Wexton for the project through the National League of Cities.

The County's effort to force through its proposed material changes to the design of the Rt 7/690 Interchange project, without first conducting any public engagement or undertaking an updated comprehensive impact assessment, has

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Don't turn Loudoun into *Animal Farm*

Dear Editor:

Loudoun County's Democrat supervisors are devising a plan to turn our county into George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

You'll recall that Orwell, in his 1945 allegorical novel titled "*Animal Farm*," detailed how a small gang of rebellious pigs overthrew their human farmer and devised a plan to create a society where all of the farm animals would be "equal, free, and happy." Their plan contained commandments, the most prominent of which was "All animals are equal."

Now, in 2022, our gang of Democrat supervisors are devising a plan similar to the plan devised in Orwell's novel. They call it their "Equity Plan for Loudoun County," which they promise will lead to a society where "social and racial disparities" are eliminated.

This so-called Equity Plan includes, in effect, the following commandments: "All humans are equal" and "All outcomes for all humans must be equal."

No, this plan does not say all humans are "created equal," as proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence. This plan does not say all humans have an equal opportunity to create their own

outcomes. This plan says all humans are equal and all humans' outcomes must be equal. Period.

This Equity Plan, of course, directly contradicts the ideals and legal principles delineated in our Declaration of Independence, and our US Constitution.

In Orwell's allegorical novel, the *Animal Farm* represents Russia during and after the 1917 Russian Revolution, and the rebellious pigs in the novel included "Old Major" (who represents the Communists Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin), "Napoleon" (who represents the mass-killer Communist, Joseph Stalin), "Snowball" (i.e., Leon Trotsky), and "Squealer" (who represents the corrupt journalists/propagandists at "Pravda").

As we now know, the plan devised by the rebellious pigs at Orwell's allegorical *Animal Farm* eventually failed as did the Communists' plan in the real Russia. Neither the animals at *Animal Farm* nor the citizens in Russia ever became "equal." They instead became oppressed subjects in barbaric, totalitarian states.

Unless the Democrats' Equity Plan somehow gets stopped in its tracks, get ready to change your county of residence from Loudoun to *Animal Farm*, Virginia.

*Mike Panchura
Sterling*

What is hate speech?

Dear Editor:

Loudoun County is once again in the national news.

This time it's for a petition by people who want to stop "hate speech" at our School Board meetings.

LETTER

Who gets to define what is and what isn't "hate speech?"

If someone says something that you strongly disagree with and makes you feel uncomfortable or disrespected, should they be silenced because of your feelings?

What does it say about people who want to silence the speech of others when they don't like what that person is saying?

Whatever happened to the old saying, "I wholly disapprove of what you say, and will defend to the death your right to say it?"

As has been stated by others, if we deny someone else the right to say what they think is wrong, it will not be long before we lose the right to say what we think is right.

We as a county and a nation have lost our way.

We've lost our ability to think clearly. In our desire to be seen as compassionate and caring, we've become hypersensitive and childish.

*John Smith
Sterling*

Thank you for all your support during the Town of Purcellville elections

Dear Editor:

This month the Milan team will begin serving as your Mayor and Town Council members of the Town of Purcellville.

LETTER

Please accept our sincere 'thank you' to all of you who supported us throughout our campaign and at the polls.

The greetings at your doors this summer and fall (many of you doing a slip-of-the-hip to beat the dog out of the door); your sincere conversations about the town's future, and the true neighborliness you showed, gave us the boost to keep on going. Night after night we would look at one another before going

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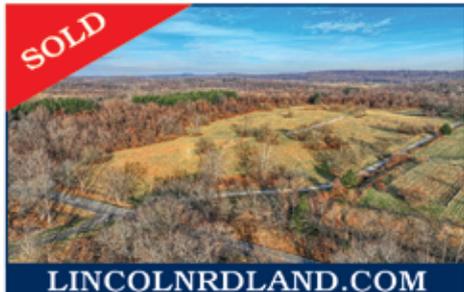
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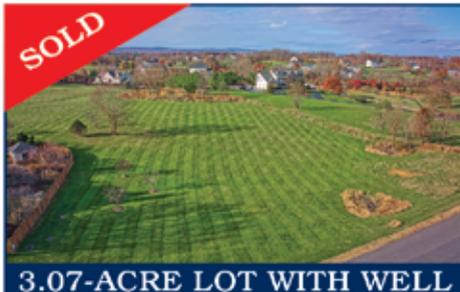
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Newly elected Mayor and Town Council take their seat

In mid-December Council Member Stan Milan was sworn in as Mayor along with Council Member Erin Rayner, who won her first four-year council term. Boo Bennett and Carol Luke were also sworn in for their first four-year term. Their terms started right after

GOVERNMENT

midnight on Dec. 31.

Pictured from left to right are: Council Members Erin Rayner, Carol Luke, Boo Bennett, Mayor Stan Milan, and then Mayor Kwasi Fraser who was the Master of Ceremonies that evening. Mayor Kwasi Fraser turned over the gavel to Mayor elect Stan Milan.



Youngkin bans TikTok and WeChat on State Devices and Wireless Networks

Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order #24, banning the use of certain Chinese-owned mobile phone applications and websites on state government technology.

GOVERNMENT

The Executive Order bans TikTok and WeChat, and any other applications developed by ByteDance Limited or Tencent Holdings Limited on state government devices and wireless networks and requires businesses who contract with the state government to also prohibit the use of those applications

on state-owned devices or IT infrastructure. The Executive Order applies to all Executive Offices and Executive Branch Agencies.

“TikTok and WeChat data are a channel to the Chinese Communist Party, and their continued presence represents a threat to national security, the intelligence community, and the personal privacy of every single American,” said Youngkin. “We are taking this step today to secure state government devices and wireless networks from the threat of infiltration and ensure

that we safeguard the data and cybersecurity of state government.”

“All Americans must be vigilant to stop infiltration by the CCP and all hostile governments and entities who wish the United States harm,” said Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears.

“Not only does TikTok pose a threat to national security and consumer privacy, but studies have shown that it negatively impacts the mental health of our youth,” said Attorney General Jason Miyares.

“In March, I joined a bipartisan coalition of 43 other attorneys general to investigate TikTok’s physical and mental impact on children. As this investigation continues, I am glad that Governor Youngkin is addressing the serious security risks TikTok poses for the Commonwealth.”

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Feedback encouraged on internet coverage before deadline

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) is calling on Virginians to provide feedback on internet coverage in their communities.

Last month, after a sustained push from Sen. Warner, the Federal Communications Commission released a new map with their best estimates of broadband coverage across the country. Now, Warner is asking Virginians to review the FCC map to ensure it accurately reflects the current broadband options available at their address.

Funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – the bipartisan infrastructure law negotiated and written by Warner – will be allocated to states proportionally based on the number of individuals living in each state who do not have access to high-speed internet. If Virginians disagree with

the information in the map, they should challenge the map through the FCC website. While challenges will be accepted on a rolling basis, Virginians must submit their challenges by Jan. 13, 2023 to ensure that it is adjudicated prior to the allocation of IJJA funding.

“There are folks all over rural Virginia who know that the FCC broadband map isn’t always accurate,” said Warner. “Now is the time to make sure that they are using the best data available, so Virginia can get the investments to which it is entitled and achieve the goal of universal broadband access.”

In an email sent to constituents, Warner asked households to look up their address on the FCC Broadband Map website and make sure that the information available matches their

broadband experience. If the FCC has incorrect information about either the address or coverage options, individuals can submit a “Location Challenge” or “Availability Challenge” directly through the website in order to accurately reflect current accessibility.

In addition to challenges submitted by individuals, The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development’s Office of Broadband is currently analyzing the data and is in the process of formulating a statewide challenge to the new FCC map. That challenge will include thousands of locations that are unserved but currently noted as served.

Ensuring this map is accurate is a crucial step to making sure that Virginia receives the investments needed to deploy universal broadband. Last

month, Virginia received \$5 million to help make a strategic plan to deploy coverage, courtesy of the bipartisan infrastructure law, and will be eligible for more once the initial plan is completed.

During negotiations for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Warner secured \$65 billion in funding to help deploy broadband, increase access, and decrease costs associated with connecting to the internet. The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, created and funded through this landmark legislation, provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in all states and territories. An accurate map will play a critical role in ensuring that this funding is used efficiently.

BOS authorizes studying impacts of Segregated Schools in Loudoun

At its Dec. 6, meeting, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved a plan to study the County’s history of segregated schools and consider ways to reconcile the impact of that history on Loudoun alumni, faculty, staff, their descendants and the greater community.

The study is intended to produce recommendations for future actions that the County and the community may take to help the community healing that is needed as a result of the past operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County.

The County plans to engage The Center for Race and Public Education in the South at the University of Virginia to help facilitate the two-phase, multi-year project.

Study Phase

The first phase of this project, which is expected to begin in January 2023, will result in a comprehensive study of the historical and current impacts of

segregated education in Loudoun.

CRPES experts will be charged with documenting and calculating the economic, social and educational impacts of segregated schools, assisted by a Study Task Force, which could include local historians and scholars.

CRPES will analyze the history of segregation in Loudoun, gather documentary evidence, meet with localities that have had similar experiences, consult with the task force, and provide a comprehensive report to the Board of Supervisors.

Community Reconciliation Phase

The second phase of the project will address the task force report through a Reconciliation Task Force composed of individuals representing Loudoun’s historic African American villages, Douglass High School and Carver School alumni, and descendants of the County Wide League of Black PTAs, which purchased and conveyed the Douglass High

School property. This task force will examine lingering educational inequities, conduct community listening sessions for impacted individuals and their descendants, and recommend reconciliation measures to the Board of Supervisors.

Background

The estimated cost of consultant services for both phases of the study will not exceed \$250,000, as approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Board’s

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 »



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Communitywide Survey now open

An online version of the Loudoun County 2022 Community Survey is now open to all Loudoun County residents. Loudoun County surveys its residents periodically to get their feedback on government services, the County's quality of life and priorities for government initiatives.

GOVERNMENT Residents may take the survey online by visiting loudoun.gov/survey through Jan. 9.

The online version of the survey allows all residents to provide their feedback. In addition, surveys were mailed to a statistically representative sampling of Loudoun County households in November. Responses are anonymous and will be analyzed to provide a full picture of the Loudoun County community.

The County contracts with the National Research Center, Inc./Polco, to participate in The National Community Survey, which was

developed with the assistance of the International City/County Management Association. This scientific survey allows Loudoun to make comparisons with peer counties and has been used in more than 700 jurisdictions across 46 states.

Loudoun is one of many communities across the United States that use this tool to help improve governmental performance, guide policy decisions, strengthen communications with community stakeholders and identify clear priorities for use in goal and budget setting.

Results of the survey are expected to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in 2023.

For more information on the 2022 Loudoun County survey, call 703-777-0539 or email budget@loudoun.gov. To view results of previous surveys conducted by the County, visit loudoun.gov/survey.

Applicants sought for Rural Economic Development Council

Loudoun County's Rural Economic Development Council has multiple open seats for service and is encouraging anyone passionate about supporting Loudoun's diverse rural industries to apply.

GOVERNMENT The REDC is comprised of Loudoun business owners and stakeholders, advising the Board of Supervisors, and supporting Loudoun Economic Development staff in implementing supportive business practices and promoting innovation and collaboration in Western Loudoun County.

"Loudoun County has a rich agricultural tradition that continues to evolve, leveraging our natural resources to bring local food, wine, craft beverages and unique experiences to residents and visitors alike. Supporting our landowners, farmers and rural business leaders is a key strategy in preserving land and the unique culture of Loudoun County," Loudoun Economic Development's Executive Director Buddy Rizer said. "REDC plays a key role in supporting today's businesses while focusing on what is #Loudoun-Possible well into the future."

REDC members are expected to be experts, advocates, and liaisons for their specific industries. There are fifteen REDC appointments available with terms expiring on Dec. 31, 2025, that will represent the industry sectors listed below:

- Horticulture
- Rural-based Business
- Protein Production/Processor

- Plant-based food productions/CSA/ Agriculture
- Fiber/Livestock
- Equine
- Outdoor Recreation
- Bed & Breakfast/Lodging
- Arts & Culture
- Farm Winery
- Limited Brewery
- Unmanned Aerial Systems
- At-Large/Emerging Opportunities (2)
- Farm Bureau Representative

"REDC plays a hands-on role in diversifying and strengthening Loudoun's economy, and we encourage anyone interested in working collaboratively to achieve this goal to apply," said Loudoun Business Development Officer of Agriculture and Business Services John Magistro.

To be considered, REDC applicants must submit an online standard application at <https://lfportal.loudoun.gov/Forms/AdvisoryApp>, and please include the sector(s) that you are applying for in the Statement of Interest section.

The Board of Supervisors will receive all applications within the County Application system and proceed with nominations and confirmations per the Board's standard process for advisory boards, commissions, and committees, which can be found here: <https://www.loudoun.gov/2474/Appointment-Procedures>.

To learn more about the REDC, visit biz.loudoun.gov/REDC.

Christmas tree recycling at several locations

Loudoun County is offering five locations for residents to recycle their Christmas trees through Jan. 20. Only natural cut trees and wreaths will be accepted: no artificial trees or artificial wreaths. The trees will be converted into mulch, which is available free of charge to Loudoun County residents year-round at the Loudoun County landfill.

Residents who receive curbside recycling service may contact their homeowners association, Town office or recycling service provider for Christmas tree collection schedules.

GOVERNMENT Whether dropping off at one of the County's Christmas tree collection sites or at the curb, remember to remove all ornaments, lights, tinsel, wire, stand and tree bag. If the tree is in a tree bag, remove and dispose of the bag with your regular trash. To recycle a natural wreath, remove and dispose of all wire, bows, twine, lights and ornaments before recycling the wreath. If removal of these items is not possible, then dispose of the tree or wreath with your regular garbage.

The Christmas Tree Recycling Program is a public service for Loudoun County residents only. Tree vendors operating in Loudoun County with leftover trees may recycle them at the Loudoun County landfill for \$68 a ton. Netting, rope, wire, tags and other items must be removed and disposed of prior to recycling.

Visit loudoun.gov/landfill or call 703-771-5500 for more information.

For residents, Christmas trees will be accepted for recycling free of charge at the following locations through Jan. 20:

- **Leesburg:** Loudoun County Landfill Recycling Center, 21101 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg, 20175, Open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Lovettsville:** Game Protective Association, 16 South Berlin Pike, Lovettsville, 20180, Open daily
- **Purcellville:** Franklin Park, 17501 Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville, 20132, Open daily, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **South Riding:** Town Hall, rear parking lot next to tennis court, 43055 Center Street, South Riding, 20152, Open daily
- **Sterling:** Claude Moore Park, 46150 Loudoun Park Lane, Sterling, 20164 (Use Loudoun Park Lane entrance, follow signs for ball fields.), Open daily, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- More information about the Christmas Tree Recycling Program and other Loudoun County recycling programs is available at loudoun.gov/recycle.

Community water and wastewater project assistance offered

The Loudoun County Water and Wastewater Program will begin accepting applications for County assistance with community water and wastewater projects starting Jan. 1.

The Water and Wastewater Program is designed to support Loudoun County communities experiencing issues with deficient or non-existent water and/or wastewater systems with funding and other resources. Properly functioning water and wastewater systems help to assure a cleaner and healthier community.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 1 through March 31.

Communities that need assistance are encouraged to learn more about the program at loudoun.gov/waterprojects or by contacting Loudoun County Environmental Program Specialist Scott Fincham at 703-771-5520 or Scott.Fincham@loudoun.gov.

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Proposals from rental property owners and developers for PVB's

The Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development will accept proposals through Jan. 23, from the owners of rental properties to contract with the County for Project-Based Vouchers.

GOVERNMENT

PBVs will be awarded to rental property owners for assistance tied to specific housing units, which may be newly constructed or rehabilitated rental housing. PBVs may be awarded to the owners of affordable rental housing who provide fully accessible housing for people with disabilities, in accordance with federal regulations for accessibility and housing quality standards. Housing units that are fully accessible and compliant with Section 504 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will be given priority.

Proposals will be evaluated based on an owner's experience and capability to manage or build rental housing as identified in the proposal. Proposals should address and include the following:

- The extent to which the project deconcentrates poverty and expands housing and economic opportunities.
- The extent to which the project fulfills

a critical housing need identified in the Loudoun County Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan.

- A site location near transportation, education and employment centers.
- If applicable, the extent to which services for special populations are provided on-site or in the immediate area for occupants of the property.
- Location in a census tract undergoing significant revitalization as a result of federal, state or local dollars invested in the area.
- Location in a census tract where there are meaningful opportunities for educational and economic advancement.

Proposals must be submitted electronically by email to hcv@loudoun.gov no later than 5 p.m., Jan. 23. The Department of Housing and Community Development reserves the right to not award PBV contracts.

For more information about the proposal review process and submission procedures, visit loudoun.gov/projectbasedvouchers or contact Tandi Butler in the Department of Housing & Community Development by email or phone at 703-771-5204.

Silver Line Bus Fares resume Jan. 3

As of Tuesday, Jan. 3, Loudoun County resumed collecting fares on its Silver Line bus routes, including the paratransit bus service. In November 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved a temporary waiver of fares on the Silver

Line bus routes to promote the use of bus services to Metrorail's Silver Line.

Riders can visit loudoun.gov/busfare for more information on bus fares on commuter, local, paratransit and Silver Line bus routes. Fares may be paid with Metro's SmarTrip® or exact cash.

Silver Line Bus Service in Loudoun County

Loudoun County Transit offers commuter, local, paratransit and Silver Line bus services, including new routes for 21 Silver Line bus routes that began Nov. 15, 2022, taking passengers to and from the

Ashburn and Loudoun Gateway stations in Loudoun County and to and from the Innovation and Reston Town Center stations in Fairfax County.

For a complete list of the Loudoun County Silver Line bus routes, the Metrorail stations they connect to, the route schedules and a summary of routes, visit loudoun.gov/silverlinebus-routes. Expanded service hours on these routes is being phased in over the next several months.

Users of the bus service are encouraged to visit the county's website for ongoing, up-to-date information regarding the county's Silver Line bus services. Regular updates are posted at loudoun.gov/buschanges.

Loudoun County Transit riders are also encouraged to sign up for alerts at loudoun.gov/rideralerts to stay informed about changes to the county's bus services.

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Pianist plays benefit concert for Ukrainian refugees

Internationally-celebrated pianist Neal Larrabee will perform a concert dedicated to and benefiting Ukrainian refugees who have fled to Poland in recent months.

The concert, a community effort sponsored by Abernethy and Spencer Greenhouses and Nursery in Purcellville, will take place on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Waterford Old School in Waterford.

Admission is by monetary donation at the door.

Donations can also be made at <https://gofund.me/1fc39a50>. The program will feature works by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt and Ravel. All proceeds from the concert will go directly to the "Fundacja Wolno Nam" (The Foundation Allowed To Us) in Krakow, Poland.

The foundation houses and oversees hundreds of refugees, almost all women and children, who have fled the onslaught of war in their homeland. Donations will go towards the purchase of shoes, blankets, food,

and other goods that are desperately needed by the refugees.

The pianist's wife Elzbieta, a Krakow native, will direct the funds to the Polish foundation and will personally participate in purchasing the needed goods. Photographs



and receipts will be made available to anyone wishing to know how their contributions are used.

Neal Larrabee, a Loudoun County resident, has performed in major music centers including New York, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Buenos Aires, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow, winning critical acclaim both as recitalist and as soloist with major orchestras.

He has toured in Germany, Russia, Poland, Romania, the former Yugoslavia, Argentina and Brazil. In Poland, Larrabee has become a well-known favorite of the concert-going public. There, his highly regarded interpretations of Chopin have led to recordings, national broadcasts on television and radio, and engagements in virtually every major concert hall.

Under the auspices of the U.S. State Department, Larrabee toured Eastern Europe and played recitals at Ambassadors' residences in Berlin, Warsaw and

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TeKrony announces candidacy for Little River District Supervisor

Current Legislative Aide Seeks to Lead the Renamed, Redrawn District

Laura TeKrony officially announced she is a Democratic candidate for Supervisor for the newly renamed and redrawn Little River District in 2023.

TeKrony has been a resident of Aldie for over 18 years. Since 2016, she has been the legislative aide to Phyllis Randall, Chair At-Large of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

She has strong roots in the Little River District and has spent almost two decades building relationships in local government, neighborhoods, and nonprofit communities.

COMMUNITY "I am running for Little River Supervisor because our new district needs an experienced public servant. We are the most diverse district, covering three distinct land-use policy areas with the highest growth rate in the county. As a current legislative aide, I understand public service, and land use policies. I have the

institutional knowledge and relationships needed to best serve our district."

TeKrony said she "promises to work hard to meet residents, listen to their concerns, and implement effective solutions. I am dedicated to protecting residents' quality of life through initiatives such as: supporting an effective multimodal transportation network, promoting public transit and bike and pedestrian facilities, adequately funding our public schools, keeping our communities safe, protecting the Rural and Transition Policy Areas, preserving historic and natural resources, completing the linear trails network, securing needed parkland, and increasing sustainability for Loudoun residents and businesses."

"In my current role, I am passionate about helping constituents with complex issues countywide. I believe Loudoun County and the Little River District provide an ideal home for families to live, work, and enjoy their community. As Supervisor, my focus will be on advancing the needs of residents. Whether it is the traffic congestion,



CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 »

Ram to run for the Loudoun BOS Little River District

Ram Venkatachalam, Chair of Loudoun's Transit Advisory Board and a 14-year resident of Brambleton, has announced his run for the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to represent the new Little River District.

Little River was created this year following the decennial US Census and redistricting. It is mainly comprised of the eastern portion of what was Blue Ridge District – including the communities of Aldie, Brambleton, Willowsford, and greater Middleburg.

COMMUNITY "The Supervisor from Little River should be representative not only of the district, but also the best interests of everyone in Loudoun County," said Venkatachalam, "and I am that candidate."

"I am committed to the core purposes of local government, including economic development, education, public safety, and transportation," Venkatachalam said, "and to keeping

taxes down while improving our quality of life."

"Common sense solutions should be the focus of our local Board," Venkatachalam said, "not getting wrapped up in divisive social issues and national agendas that have no place in Loudoun. I will have more to say about all of this, and expect Little River voters to have a clear choice next November."

Venkatachalam will seek the Republican nomination that is likely to be decided next spring. No other candidate has announced as a Republican at this time, while two Democrats have already announced.

Venkatachalam, 42, works for Deloitte as an IT consultant. He and his wife, Seetha, have two children in public elementary school. His community service includes an appointment to the Transit Advisory Board 2017, and election as its chair in 2020. His past service to the community includes Resident Vice President and Director of the Brambleton HOA; and as a Loudoun County election officer.




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Cold weather produce is ripe for winter meals

Some think fresh, local produce is off the menu now that the warm growing season has passed. But there are several cold-hardy crops that last throughout the winter months.

“Cold season crops are those that are adapted to low temperatures—when you get to less than 50 degrees, they can thrive,” said Leonard Githinji, a sustainable and urban agriculture Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist and associate professor at Virginia State University.

Githinji explained that a variety of hardy fall and winter greens like arugula, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, collards, herbs, kale, lettuce and turnips can withstand temperatures as low as 30 degrees. And now is the ideal time to find them in local markets.

For some consumers, the chilly weather enhances the flavor of the produce.

“There are people who like kale when it has gone through that chilling—they think it tastes better and it’s more tender,” Githinji explained. “People like it better than when it’s harvested in early spring. The cold brings out the flavor more, and people love it.”

These crops’ hardiness also makes them ideal for storing ahead of holiday meals. Greens like

kale and cabbage keep well in the refrigerator, and root vegetables like carrots, turnips, onions, potatoes and sweet potatoes can last for weeks if stored properly. Fall and winter squashes like acorn, butternut and delicata also are ideal for extended storage.

Many farmers use greenhouses, high tunnels and hoop houses to extend their growing seasons and protect their crops from the elements, allowing them to continue offering fresh, healthy produce to consumers at farmers markets.

“As colder temperatures set in, consumers can expect to find plenty of seasonal locally grown produce at their farmers market,” said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. “In addition to hardy winter crops, some markets will still have locally grown meat, poultry, fish and dairy products.”

And while many markets close down for the season, some extend their operations into the cold months.

“Produce selection can vary by market, so it’s a good idea to become acquainted with the farmers to learn what products they plan to have in the winter,” Banks added.

Centreville MRI Center set to open

Centreville area residents now have access to the community’s only full-service outpatient imaging center. Centreville MRI Center opened for appointments on Dec. 5, and shares some 12,000 square feet of space with Fairfax Radiology Center of Centreville. Centreville MRI Center is located at 6211 Centreville Road, Suite 400M, in Centreville.

“We are proud to have new GE ‘Signa Artist’ 1.5 Tesla MRI equipment which enables a comprehensive range of exams, including orthopedic, brain, spine, and breast MRIs,” said Kristi Prettol, center manager.

Prettol said that because services are performed at an outpatient center, patients often experience lower costs for their imaging services compared to hospital-based services.

Fairfax Radiology Centers, LLC, established in 2020 as a joint venture between the

physicians of Fairfax Radiological Consultants, P.C. and Inova, is the largest radiology practice in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Fairfax Radiology Centers, LLC has 90 sub-specialized radiologists and 650 employees, FRC provides leading-edge medical imaging at 20 outpatient locations throughout Northern Virginia. FRC works with local hospitals and health care providers to deliver top quality patient experience, and specialized care.

The radiologists at Fairfax Radiology Centers are affiliated with the region’s top-ranked hospitals and are consistently selected as “Top Doctors” by Northern Virginia and Washingtonian magazines. They have many years of experience in treating patients in Northern Virginia and the greater D.C. area.

For more information, visit www.fairfaxradiology.com.

Morven Park announces 246 Years Project

Morven Park’s work has begun on the 246 Years Project – a social justice initiative dedicated to documenting and honoring the millions of enslaved men, women, and children whose names and life stories deserve to be known.

For 246 years the life events of enslaved individuals were recorded in a variety of

documents by enslavers managing their “property”. These records survive today in the archives of historic sites, community history organizations, and local courts.

Morven Park, in partnership with the Loudoun County Circuit Court, will collect this fragmentary biographical data and organize it within a custom-built, on-line database, reassembling the

pieces to reveal the life stories of the men, women, and children enslaved in Loudoun County.

In February 2023, the database will be ready for information to be uploaded. Once populated and tested, the searchable database will be available on-line, free of charge, for public use.

“The 246 Years Project will bring to light thousands of untold stories of

strength, resilience, and persistence, creating an opportunity for truth-telling, recognition, and memorialization,” stated Stacey Metcalfe, Executive Director/CEO, Morven Park. “We are honored to be a part of the stories and healing that will come from these efforts to find their names and honor their legacies.”

“I’m honored to be part of a wonderful

Six things to know about dealing with winter weather

Officials encourage members of the community to take steps to prepare for the effects of a forecasted winter weather event.

Here are six things for every resident to know ahead of the storm:

Know the Forecast

Get updated weather information from the National Weather Service at weather.gov/lwx, Facebook or Twitter.

Know the Road Conditions

The Virginia Department of Transportation urges motorists to limit or delay their travel if road conditions warrant. Track VDOT’s efforts and get real-time traffic information at 511virginia.org. Follow VDOT on Facebook and Twitter. Call VDOT for more information at 1-800-FOR-ROAD.

If you have to travel on snow-covered roads, be sure to review driving safety and preparedness tips from the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office before heading out on the road, including having an emergency kit in your vehicle.

Know Who Maintains Your Street

VDOT and homeowners’ associations maintain most roads in the county, which includes snow removal.

Loudoun County has an interactive online tool to help residents determine who is responsible for the maintenance of their roads. Learn more at loudoun.gov/roads.

Know How to Be Prepared

The possibility of significant icing could lead to tree damage and power outages. Loudoun County emergency management officials suggest that you take time to charge cell phones and other electronics ahead of the inclement weather.

Know How to Contact Your Utility Providers

If you need to report outages, make sure you have contact information for local utilities, which is posted at loudoun.gov/winter.

Make a Plan and Build an Emergency Kit: Everyone is encouraged to review their emergency plans and have an emergency supply kit with items such as flashlights and batteries, battery-operated radio, water, first aid supplies, canned food and can opener, medications, etc. Learn more about emergency preparedness at loudoun.gov/ready.

Know How to Stay Informed

Check loudoun.gov for timely information on county operations, including the status of county facilities.

Follow Loudoun County Government on Facebook and Twitter. Sign up for Alert Loudoun to receive information alerts from the Loudoun County Government.

Find out about Loudoun County Public Schools operational status at lcps.org or via LCPS Facebook and Twitter.

Neighborwoods program funding for HOA's available

Homeowner Associations in the Town of Purcellville are invited to apply for funding to help plant native trees in their common areas. The Purcellville Tree and Environment Sustainability Committee and the Virginia Department of Forestry are working together on the new "Purcellville NeighborWoods Program."

COMMUNITY

Details and the online application are available on the Tree and Environment Sustainability Committee page of the Town website. Applications are due March 1, 2023.

Earlier this year, the Town of Purcellville was awarded \$3,834 by the VDOF as part of its Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant program. The grant funds, which are matched by the Town, are being used to establish the Purcellville NeighborWoods Program.

Town staff and volunteers on the Tree and Environment Sustainability Committee have established procedures, timeline, online application, and a prohibited species list as part of this new program, and are pleased to announce that HOAs may start applying now.

Purcellville NeighborWoods Program Timeline Below is the timeline for this new grant program.

- Until March 1, 2023—Applications accepted
- March 1 – 31—Applications reviewed, decisions made, and HOAs contacted about award
- April 1 through June 1—HOAs with applications that received funding plant trees, prepare documentation for reimbursement, and submit to the Town of Purcellville

- June 1 – 30—Town of Purcellville reviews reports, documentation, and prepares reimbursement checks
- July 1 – 31—Town of Purcellville prepares its final report to the VDOF with must include materials and information provided by the HOAs; the Town's final report is due August 1, 2023

What is the Virginia Trees for Clean Water Program?

The Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant Program, available through the VDOF, was "established to encourage the creation of **long-term, sustained canopy cover** to improve water-quality across the commonwealth. This grant is used to fund tree-planting efforts that raise public awareness of the benefits of trees and impacts on water quality." Details about the program are available here: <https://dof.virginia.gov/urban-community-forestry/urban-forestry-community-assistance/virginia-trees-for-clean-water-grant-program/>.

LETTER: THANK YOU, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

home and say "This is good." It proved to be great.

Now our work begins and we look forward to serving the citizens of our wonderful town.

Our mission has always been clear: keep our small town on track, vibrant, and family-friendly with many of the one-of-a-kind entrepreneurs we know and love; pursue and implement fiscal measures that work, and whittle away at the debt; doing just what we do as homeowners and business owners – control spending.

We will cut unnecessary costs and find innovative measures which save money.

All of us want to remain proud residents of our hometown. Doing the right thing is often a heavy lift. Resilience is key, as we stand up for the citizens – against the ubiquitous development pressures.

Finally, we encourage each of you to become involved. Even if it is showing up at one Town Council meeting a month – or maybe you apply for openings on the committees, commissions, and boards. These positions require a minimal amount of time and are rewarding. You could also send us an email with your ideas, as they are always welcome.

We wish everyone a prosperous and healthy new year!

The Milan team

LETTER: PURCELLVILLE'S OUTGOING MAYOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

led to the impasse we currently face.

In an effort to address this impasse, I reached out to Supervisor Umstaddt in October 2022 to express concerns about the changed design – raised by the community – and to propose a path forward.

I reached out to Supervisor Umstaddt instead of Purcellville's elected representative, Supervisor Buffington, because Supervisor Buffington has consistently failed to engage me in productive conversation and resorted, instead, to peddling misinformation about me and our community, through social media.

It is disingenuous for the County Administrator or Supervisor Buffington to characterize my request for transparency and community engagement on this important project as a delay.

If County officials want to develop in Purcellville, they need to adhere to the aspirations articulated in our Commonwealth-mandated Comprehensive Plan, present to our citizens transparent data on the value proposition and community impact of the proposed changes, and engage all impacted stakeholders openly and honestly.

Further, they need to stop looking at projects through the lens of the past and reassess projects based on the current circumstances and future outlook.

For example, Supervisor Buffington and the County Administrator claim that

funding for a County-proposed Park and Ride in Purcellville is at risk due to Purcellville delaying the project, when in reality the County is having discussions about possibly reconsidering the project due to a significant decline in bus riders in the post-COVID-19-pandemic era.

Taxpayers themselves are asking the obvious, reasonable question of why build another park and ride in Western Loudoun County that will be underutilized.

Likewise, Supervisor Buffington fails to reveal to the media and his constituents the true Level of Service traffic congestion impact that the revised design of the Rt. 7/690 Interchange project is likely to have on Main Street and the 287 Berlin Turnpike corridor, given the County's indication that the Northern Collector Road will be removed from its Transportation Plan.

Rather than face reality and reevaluate these key projects with community engagement based on current state and future outlook data, Supervisor Buffington has chosen to try to use Purcellville as a scapegoat by circulating unfounded claims.

Furthermore, the County has failed to engage with the residents of western Loudoun and Purcellville to disclose the value and risks associated with the changes to the design concept of the Rt. 7/690 Interchange.

It is only after months of requesting

this information that County officials finally provided information on the potential loss of funds, but they did not specify which design the funds were for, or note the specific risks associated with the new design, and likelihood of the Commonwealth withdrawing funds, given the overall poor planning and coordination by the County on this project.

I have yet to see an integrated project plan with work breakdown and schedule for this project from the County.

In conclusion, it is important for other papers to present a balanced and accurate portrayal of the Rt. 7/690 Interchange and associated projects.

To date, I have not received a phone call or email for an interview from reporters of these newspapers on this subject.

The Town of Purcellville has not delayed the project. The Town is not opposed to advancing any sensible traffic improvement project, but we do expect the County to follow proper procedures to engage all stakeholders, provide factual data and an integrated project plan, and to address negative impacts on our community.

*Kwasi Fraser
Mayor – Purcellville, Virginia*

Editor's note: This piece was written the end of December before Mayor Kwasi Fraser's term ended after midnight on Dec. 31, 2022.

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

someone asserted that, "We got 60 percent of what we wanted in the ZOC process." That might be true if you count t-crossings and i-dottings, but the fact is that the good guys are losing badly.

Skip the t's and I's and look at the big picture: The mountainsides remain unprotected. Intense uses such as breweries and event centers can still plop down wherever and whenever they wish. Housing density remains unchanged at a level that's killing western Loudoun.

A Nonth-inning Hope

We have allies on the Board of Supervisors, and at least one enemy. I'm certain our adversaries are politicking hard, but let's hope that the Board will see through their avarice and vote to protect the wonderful asset that is Western Loudoun.

Charles Houston developed more than six million square feet of office buildings throughout the south for an Atlanta based firm. He lives in Paeonian Springs.

MORVEN PARK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

historic endeavor related to the 246 Years Project. By virtue of my partnership with Morven Park, we hope this collaboration will allow both my office and the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation to offer valuable insights related to the people who lived and worked at Morven Park and in Loudoun County," said Gary Clemens, Clerk of the Loudoun County Circuit Court.

In August 1619, a group of twenty Africans were brought to Jamestown,

Virginia, and sold to the settlement. On Dec. 6, 1865, the ratification of the 13th Amendment liberated close to 4 million individuals from slavery.

In the 246 years between 1619 and 1865, vast numbers of Africans and their descendants were held in bondage and legally considered property. As property, their names are absent from most standard government records such as census, birth, and death registers. These 246 years of

Airports Authority Board welcomes Gibson, recognizes departing Director Session

In mid-December, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority board of directors welcomed new director Brett Gibson of Virginia and paid tribute to Warner Session, whose final term representing the District of Columbia will end on Jan. 5, 2023.

Gibson, an appointee of the governor of Virginia, is a Partner at Brown Advisory, a global investment firm that provides financial advice to individuals and institutions.

Prior to joining Brown Advisory, Gibson was co-founder and managing partner of NextGen Venture Partners, a venture capital fund that invests in emerging technology companies.

Gibson has been serving for over 20 years in the Army National Guard, where he is currently a lieutenant colonel and the commander of 1-183d Infantry Battalion. He has served in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait and is qualified as an Army Ranger.

Gibson is a graduate of Harvard Business School and the McIntire Commerce School at the University of Virginia.

Warner Session is the longest-serving member on the current board. His colleagues thanked him for two six-year terms of dedicated service.

Session was appointed by the mayor of the District of Columbia in 2011, serving two terms as Chairman, two terms as Vice Chairman, in addition to chairing several



Warner Session



Brett Gibson

Board committees. Additionally, he represented the District on the Airports Advisory Committee between 1992 and 2004 and served one term as chairman.

During his service, Session was a strong advocate for several Airports Authority people and programs, including disadvantaged business enterprise procurements, Small Business University, contracting manual revisions, airline service expansion, diversity, inclusion and social impact, as well as employee recognition.

“Through his leadership, Warner has brought invaluable perspectives and insights to our business,” said Jack Potter, Airports Authority president and chief executive officer. “He has been a champion of our programs to expand opportunities for small and minority businesses, especially in the concessions area. I will miss Warner’s leadership, his enthusiasm and energy, his wise counsel, his lively sense of humor and his friendship as he departs the board.”

PIANIST, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Moscow. More recently, he was sponsored by the State Department in a series of solo recitals and concertos with orchestras throughout Poland to commemorate the 100 Anniversary of Polish-American diplomatic relations.

After studying with the legendary pianist and pedagogue Rosina Lhevinne at Julliard, Larrabee was awarded a Fulbright scholarship for study at the Moscow Conservatory under Stanislav Neuhaus, becoming the first American pianist to study in the former Soviet Union under official government sponsorship.

He also studied with Eugene List at the Eastman School of Music and Martin

Canin at the Juilliard School, where he was awarded the Josef Lhevinne Scholarship. Larrabee won honors in the Fifth International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and the Ninth International Chopin Competition in Warsaw. He was the only musician to receive the Arthur Rubinstein medal as winner of the Young Musician’s Foundation Competition in Los Angeles.

Larrabee earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and from 1982-2010 was a member of the performance faculty of the University of Connecticut Music Department. He is a Steinway Artist.

MORVEN PARK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

omission prevent current descendants of enslaved Africans from being able to trace their ancestry through the many on-line genealogy services available today.

We invite the everyone to join us in this

effort to discover, recognize, preserve and share the names and stories of the millions of men, women, and children that history has ignored for too long. For more information visit www.morven-park.org/246years.

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DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to be grateful for.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Give back: Human beings are hard wired when it comes to pleasure, and research has shown that being generous and giving to others contributes to happiness and even success. Generous people focus on the good of others over the good for themselves, and thus they will do what they can to work harder to accomplish their goals.

Consider the character, Ebenezer Scrooge, from "A Christmas Carol. Scrooge's reframing of his life led to increased happiness, which then buttressed his altruistic drive to give back and help others. Everyone, including Scrooge, benefited from his generosity.

This holiday season is a wonderful time to give to others, and like Scrooge, your generosity could pay back in dividends and could help you to feel better about yourself, and the changes you want to make.

Visualize success: Visualization is a cognitive strategy that involves an individual using their imagination to change, achieve, accomplish, or obtain something desired and important. By mentally rehearsing an outcome, you can center yourself with positive thinking and relaxation toward whatever it is you are striving to achieve.

As a practice, visualization has been around for generations, and it is used by many cultures. Olympians, professional athletes, celebrities, and many others who have struggled to achieve, have been helped by it.

A Vision Board is an effective way to practice visualization. You will need a cork board to start. Then, place several pictures or ideas for change on the board. Ideally your ideas will include short or long-term goals.

Google Images is a great place to find what you might be looking for. A printout of a report card with all "A's," a printout of a baby if you are trying to conceive, a printout of someone close to your age and in shape or exercising – these are just a few ideas to visualize your success.

Place your Vision Board somewhere it will be seen. After you achieve a goal, put up a new one. Research has shown that visualization increases positive thinking and change.

Remember that achieving your goals is more mental than you think. Here's to getting yourself into a winning mindset for successful change in 2023.

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

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and getting settled. We humans have a funny way of using words like 'improve' and 'develop' in terms of manifest destiny and all that sort of stuff. And I got to kind of mulling over these issues that morning out among the behemoths and their handiwork; I'd been witnessing scenarios like this since moving to Loudoun over 25 years ago.

And, you know? Just maybe the tail race term sometimes refers to us humans chasing our own posteriors in an effort to win the 'rat race.' Images that come to mind whenever I encounter developers' activities that lay bare every inch of greenery within eyesight in order to install their 'improvements.'

And, no offense to those who move in: everybody's gotta be someplace, right? I just wish we could do it without losing every tree, bush and blade of grass. And part of our souls in the process. Oh, well – what's a little erosion and lack of shade when there's money to be made? Talk about a real 'tail race.' Yes, I just gruffly brought in the pessimistic portion of my personality. You noticed; you say?

But then the more optimistic, benevolent side of me sort of shoulders my bewailing negativity out of the way, and I imagine at least a

portion of the future for some of these new residents along Tail Race Road: as humans, we all possess the ability to learn, adapt and overcome the most dire conditions – leveraging this important lesson, I can't help but envision future generations developing a renewed reverence for the land on which they live, and for the various forms of life found in their immediate surroundings.

Families may even start learning about the history of their neighborhoods (in terms of our current place in the timelines of the region's geology, biology and anthropology – including 'indigenous' peoples) as a means of shared experience and entertainment; heck, we could witness a rebirth in plain old simple gardening – and perhaps an overall practice of actually raising useful crops on some of those multi-acre lots – instead of just an endless expanse of grass and its endless cycle of lawn-watering and lawn mowing. At least that's a little bit of the vision engendered by my more positive (perhaps creative) side.

And I'm just a humble storyteller with barely any education, accomplishments or innovative ideas; imagine if we ever get some real hearts and minds in on this thing. Could turn out to be my kind of 'tail race.'



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TEKRONY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

overcrowded schools, or residential development in the Rural Policy Area, I am committed to serving existing residents, finding solutions, and creating a thriving community.”

TeKrony received her BA from Bucknell University and her Master’s from Fordham

University. She and her husband Mark have three daughters, two dogs – Snoopy and Giggs, and two cats – Frosty and Cowcat. She enjoys spending time outdoors gardening, biking, and hiking.

Details of TeKrony’s platform are available upon request by emailing Laura-tekrony@gmail.com.

GRINGO GORDO, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

quickly became popular in the rest of South and Latin America. Each region is known for their particular fillings and special empanadas are served during various celebrations/festivals.

Purcellville’s shop is now the third one to open. Originally, Gringo Gordo was a building on the walking mall in Winchester. The second location was on Valley Ave in Winchester; subsequently, a food truck was obtained. Prior to the opening in Purcellville, Gringo Gordo’s food truck was at the recent Celebrate Purcellville event – attendees got a taste of their empanadas and sauces.

The source of the restaurant’s name comes from Gringo Gordo’s franchiser, Mark Pajak, who had lived in Argentina for almost ten years. On the plains, the “pampas,” the word Gringo was used to distinguish the native gauchos (cowboys) from the non-native workers. With the nickname Gringo Gordo, Pajak utilized his experiences living in Argentina along with working with a chef there. He came to learn the technique and the authentic ingredients that make up the twelve or so delicious empanadas served at the shop today.

Purcellville’s outpost is owned by franchisee Andrew Gingras, who grew up in Purcellville. Of the empanadas offered, Gingras says that not one stands out as a favorite. They appeal to a wide variety of tastes and preferences. For example, Spicy Beef is made with ground beef, onions, red pepper, garlic, pepper flakes, tomato and spices. The brisket empanada includes ground beef, smoked brisket, peppers, onion, garlic, green olives and dried cranberries. The

Argentine is similar but has hardboiled egg among its ingredients.

Though Argentina is world famous for its beef (and recent World Cup 2022 win), Gringo Gordo features empanadas made with smoked chicken, pepperoni or ham. There are vegetable offerings as well. Corn fillings and ones with mushroom and kale are popular as are empanadas with just cheese. Dipping sauces are a creamy chipotle or the traditional chimichurri (herbs with vinegar and oil). Menu items and their ingredients are on gringogordo.com.

With the recent opening, owner Gingras says, “the support we have received from Purcellville has been incredible and a lot more than expected both with the people coming into the shop and the people spreading reviews on social media.” Gingras adds that quite a few patrons have been curious about what empanadas are; however, he states that, “for the most part people have an idea what they are.”

Andrew Gingras is an enthusiastic entrepreneur who has big ideas for the introduction of their empanadas to the community and beyond. The current plan for the franchise is to expand to Leesburg next summer and add a few more locations throughout the year of 2023. “There are a couple of deals I am looking to add, but we have not completely set on any,” said Gingras. He added that Purcellville was a great town to launch that empanada trajectory as the town is attracting more and more spots to dine.

Gringo Gordo has most certainly arrived and delivered with another diverse dining option. They are located at 609 E Main Street, Unit N.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Finance, Government Operations and Economic Development Committee is scheduled to consider actual funding for this project later this month.

The approval of the school’s segregation study project plan follows a September 2021 decision by the Board to study the harm caused by Loudoun County’s past discrimination against Black students and to seek out ways to rectify disparities.

The Board also approved in September 2021 a review of the forced sale of eight acres of property in 1940 by the County

Wide League of Black PTAs, a group comprising the parent-teacher associations of all the Black schools in Loudoun County. The league raised funds to purchase land for a Black high school and had purchased property in Leesburg for \$4,000.

In December 1940, that property was conveyed to Loudoun County for the nominal sum of \$1 for the purpose of building Douglass High School. The Board requested the identification of possible recommendations for addressing the injustice contained in that property transaction.

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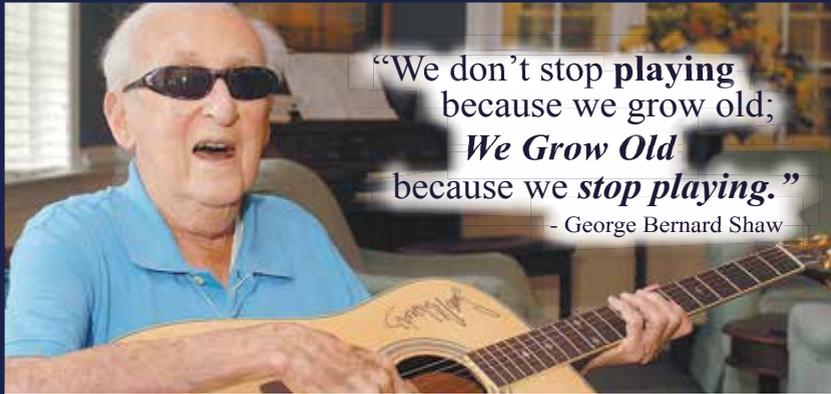
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 — George Bernard Shaw

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COUNTY TO PURCELLVILLE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

directly impacts Catoctin Meadows residents’ properties.

The HOA is asking for the County to maintain the wetlands and stream beds of the South Fork of the Catoctin Creek, to remain compliant with Purcellville’s ordinances. The HOA is also asking for the County to mitigate road noise, and to reinforce the view shed. The HOA wants the County to put any remaining property in a conservation easement.

All of these requests are in accordance



This is the South Fork of the Catoctin Creek which feeds the Town of Purcellville’s parks and trails. This is part of the 14.2 open space wetlands owned by the Catoctin Meadows residents.

with the aspirations captured in Purcellville’s comprehensive plan. The HOA’s requests are in keeping with the Town’s citizens’ vision for Purcellville.

The Purcellville Town Council at its Dec. 13 public meeting voted unanimously to send the Rt. 7/690 Interchange design alteration issue to the Purcellville Planning Commission for review.

Town Council Member Tip Stinnette, who is also the president of the Catoctin Meadows HOA, said the issue should go to the Planning Commission to “have them reevaluate the applications ... then proffer a recommendation to the Town Council.” He stressed, it’s a matter of process.

“There is currently an easement

between the Town and the HOA to maintain the floodplain ... The County needs to amend or change that easement agreement ... and the HOA members would have to examine what the changes would be ...,” said Stinnette.

The County owns lot 74 of the Catoctin Meadows neighborhood, which is in Purcellville’s HCOD. “If the County wants to demolish that property, they must comply with Historic Corridor Overlay District demolition requirements,” he said.

Stinnette said the County needs to talk to and share documents with the HOA and thus far it has not done either. He said that the County has asked the Town to vacate its rights to their easement with the Catoctin Meadows wetlands. Procedurally, this would have to be accomplished via a public hearing, first through the Town’s Planning Commission. The Catoctin Meadows wetlands are a consistent feature in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan.

Stinnette also called for “a public information session. This is a complex issue with a lot of branches ... I think we need to have a public information session that informs Planning Commission deliberation ... We need to put sunlight on this, and do it correctly.”

Stinnette stressed that the Catoctin Meadows HOA is not against the interchange, but that they “want the Town to comply with its existing processes. We want the County to comply with its existing processes, and we want the project to be fully compliant with the Town’s Comprehensive Plan.”

Mayor-elect Stan Milan said, “The important thing is the second and third level effects of this project moving forward.” The floodplain issue of the County’s proposed alternative to the agreed upon design, “is not in concurrence with our Comprehensive Plan,” he said. With the addition of the two roundabouts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

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Does the Level of Service change traffic flow with the 7/690 Interchange?

According to the Level of Service Charts for Alternative 1 and the Barbell – Preferred Alternative added in 2019 without public input, Planning Commission, nor Town Council review – the following has to happen and the level of service for both designs will be basically the same with not much difference in LOS even if the interchange is built.

- Alder School road extended to Berlin Turnpike
- Northern Connector Road from 690 via Mayfair to Berlin Turnpike completed

Five modifications to Town Streets

are as follows:

- Main Street and 23rd Street mitigation coordinated signal
- Main Street and 21st Street mitigation includes addition of a short eastbound left turn lane
- Main Street and 20th Street mitigation includes addition of a traffic signal and addition of a westbound left turn pocket
- Main Street and Hatcher Avenue mitigation includes coordinated signal
- Main Street and Maple Avenue mitigation includes coordinated signal



This is the Alternative 1 design which was approved by a previous Town Council in 2013. It has signalized ramps.

COUNTY TO PURCELLVILLE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

– “that’s going to encroach on our streams which will affect downstream vegetation and parks ... There’s a lot more involved here than approving this project ...”

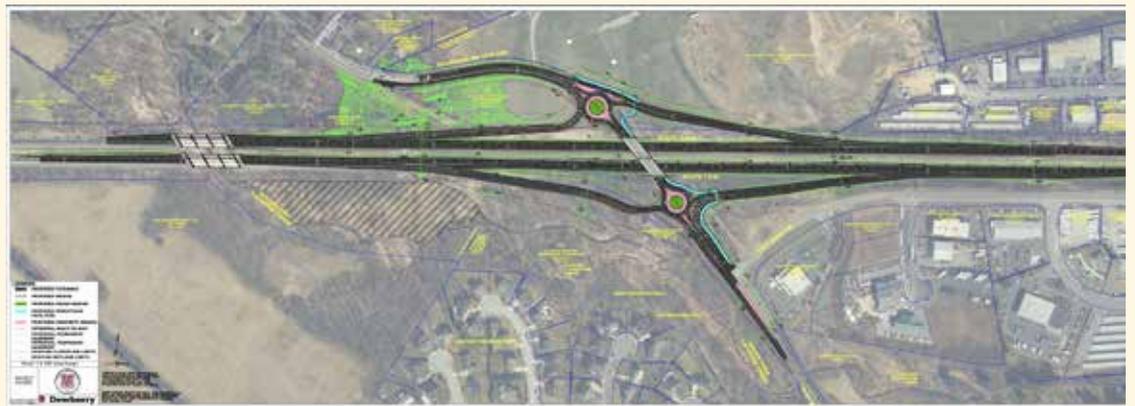
Mayor Kwasi Fraser said, “My concern is that in 2013 the then Town Council approved a design.”

He was then interrupted by Engineering and Planning and Development Director Dale Lehnig who said, “They approved a location and a concept.” Fraser asked, “So the concept. Is the concept a design?” Lehnig responded, “The concept is a concept.” Fraser said, “So they approved a concept which was Alternative 1 [the originally approved design].” Lehnig said, “They approved a concept showing a location of the interchange at that crossover.”

Asked Fraser, “Didn’t they call that concept Alternative 1, and they did a level of service study with multiple tables?” Lehnig replied, “They called it Alternative 1.”

“Yes,” said Fraser, and they did a level of service with tables showing the community the impact of Alternative 1 on several

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



The new design which has not been publicly vetted

Concerns were raised about the project implementing “uncontrolled” roundabouts also known as traffic circles.

In April 2018, Dewberry Consultants, LLC hired by the County for the roadway and civil design services, noted that the use of traffic circles was considered as part of the requirement for the Interchange Justification Report. In this report a roundabout study was performed and found “unfeasible in the project location.”

The previous design known as Alternate 1 was approved by a prior Town Council in 2013. The design had signalized modest ramp designs. This design was replaced in 2019 with open pass roundabout intersections pursued by the County, with input from VDOT and the Town of Purcellville senior management.

Neither the Purcellville Town Council nor the

community knew about this new design and thus were not provided the opportunity, through Planning Commission and Town Council, of public information meetings, public hearings, or detailed review of the revised design.

There has not been any community, land owner engagement, nor Council approval on the new roundabout design, encroaching further into the Catoctin Meadows owned 14.2 acres of green open space wetlands, forests and wildlife area also – home of the South Fork of the Catoctin Creek which feeds most of Purcellville’s nature parks with clear stream bed fed water.

This new roundabout design also includes pedestrian cross walks that require pedestrians to cross over four lanes of acceleration and deceleration ramps feeding to and from the roundabout intersections.



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COUNTY TO PURCELLVILLE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

road interchanges ... but there was a design attached to that concept which was Alternative 1. I saw several tables outlining Alternative 1 and the impact on different roads or arteries throughout the Town."

Fraser asked, "Wasn't that concept then changed into this diamond shape with two roundabouts in 2019?"

"So," said Lehnig, "the original concept was a diamond interchange, right, but it had signalized lights at the intersections as the ramps came off." Lehnig said that the original design had "at least as good a level of service with the roundabouts ..."

"But," asked Fraser, "in 2013 there were no roundabouts?" Lehnig said, "In 2013 there was an interchange; they didn't specify whether or not it was a

roundabout or a signal."

"Dale, I don't mean to go back and forth, but I read about 200 pages of documents before I ran [for office]. I was supportive of the Rt. 7/690 Interchange based on the decision that was made in 2013. The basis of my support was that in that 200 plus page Interchange Justification Report, it stated that with the 7/690 Interchange as conceptualized, it will improve the level of service on Hirst Road and that's why I supported it then."

Lehnig disputed that, "I don't think it said that it would improve the level of the intersection of Hirst Road."

Fraser said he could show her the table that confirms the data. "What I am hearing here is a need for transparency," he said. "That transparency was not provided when the new design in 2019 was

created. "I get it that the Town [senior management] and the County wants us to go at this with accelerated speed. But the question is velocity versus speed. Velocity has process, and has direction. Speed is just going mindlessly ... We can have everyone have agency in developing what is right for the community."

The Planning Commission will review the original and altered Rt. 7/690 design proposals and make a recommendation to the Town Council based on which option with which suggested alterations or mitigations provides the greatest benefit and least cost to the health, safety, and welfare of Purcellville's citizens. Then, the Town Council must decide how Purcellville will respond to the County's proposed alterations to the originally agreed upon Rt. 7/690 Interchange design.

23 NEIGHBORS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**4. Maggie Siner**

Will the world-famous painter from Hamilton dip her brush into the world of public murals and wow us big-time?

5. Rich Gillespie

Will the legendary historian pen a history of Loudoun County, warts and all, and infuse it with his wicked wit?

6. Bridge Littleton

Will Middleburg's Hizzoner cave to annexation pressure, or stand tall?

7. John Singleton Mosby

Will the signs proclaiming the Gray Ghost's name on Rt 50 finally come down?

8. Shelia Johnson

Will she sell the Mystics and buy the Commanders? (Hope so!)

9. Sandy Lerner

What imaginative new entrepreneurial venture will she put forward? (How about a Vet School at Shenandoah U?)

10. Chuck Kuhn

Will his ferry project finally float?

11. Kwasi Fraser

Will the former long-time upbeat Mayor of Purcellville get back into politics? He's too young to go quietly into that good night.

12. Jennifer Wexton

Will she lead the crusade to codify Roe? Election reform? Is she ready for prime-time as a statewide candidate?

13. Dr. Daniel Smith

Interim Superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools. Can he right the ship?

14. Dr. Edgar Hatrick

If Smith isn't up to the challenge, maybe they bring back the Ghost

of Good Schools Past to right the ship!

15. Kristen C. Umstaddt

Will Kristen Umstaddt run without opposition in this year's Supervisors' election? "Unopposed" is the general supposition.

16. The Chapman Family

Will they turn their prodigious property holdings on Purcellville's 21st Street into something popular, less intrusive, and aesthetic? Or is it just the money?

17. Norman Meyer

Will he vault the Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the upper echelons of area environmental groups?

18. John Flannery

Will this glib, central casting Irish politician finally suck it up and actually run for public office?

19. Michael Oaks

What will this relentlessly enthusiastic neighbor promote with his Discover Purcellville organization? Make it zany, Michael, make it zany!

20. Tom Sweitzer

Will the impresario of music therapy at A Place to Be in Middleburg take his one-man show to Broadway.

21. The Malone Family

What new delicious eatery/eateries do they have in mind? Bring it/them on!

22. Phyllis Randall

Will the Chair-at-Large help keep the BOS from easternizing Western Loudoun? (She better!)

23. Roger Vance

Will he be designated Hillsboro's Mayor for Life? And A Few More to Grow On:

24. Cate Magennis

Her Journey through Hallowed Ground was a blockbuster. Her brief time at Great Meadow, not so much. What does Waterford's Dynamo Diva have in store for us next?

25. Emily Houston

Our guru of the unpaved, rural road. Who serves on many a civic Board. But will she ever lighten that load?

26. Flag Man

Will the anonymous wanderer stay around, putting up scores - hundreds - of the red, white and blue on poles and posts and such, all over Loudoun?

27. Western Loudoun

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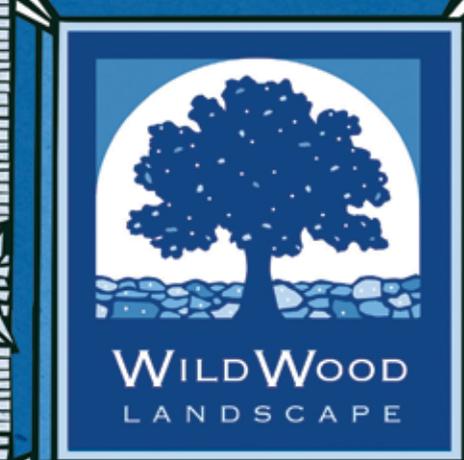
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