

LoudounNow

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AUGUST 28, 2025

from the napkin:

Claude Moore Scholars Continues to Expand Medical Job Opportunities

BY NORMAN K. STYER
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It started with notes taken on a restaurant napkin in 2005. Today, the Claude Moore Scholars Program has helped some 35,000 students in 56 Virginia school divisions and 14 community colleges begin careers in health and medical fields.

And it is still growing, now fueled by the nonprofit Claude Moore Opportunities and the newly established J Hamilton Lambert Endowed Fund.

The scholars program is a cornerstone of the Claude Moore Foundation's mission of educational and charitable service.

The foundation was established in 1991 by Dr. Claude Moore, a Sterling physician and real estate investor, to ensure his estate would be used for the community's benefit. He recruited Lambert, the then-recently retired county executive in Fairfax County, to get it set up and rolling, and eventually take over as executive director.

Lambert retired from that role earlier this year. During his decades of leadership, the foundation nurtured the initial \$17 million in assets to distribute over \$100 million in grants to more than 345 organizations.

In a story recounted many times over the years, the concept for the scholars

CLAUDE MOORE
continues on page 43



Patrick Lewis/Loudoun Now

Staff and families from the Aurora School protest in downtown Leesburg on Aug. 21.

Amid Protests, Paxton Trust Explores Alternative for Aurora School Offerings

BY NORMAN K. STYER
nstyer@loudounnow.org

As teachers and parents of students at The Arc of Loudoun's Aurora School were protesting in the streets of Leesburg last week, another school was exploring options to provide those services.

After a years-long effort to establish a

new lease failed, The Arc was locked out of its campus by the Paxton Trust on Aug. 8. The nonprofit's lease expired last year.

The Arc, which provides special education services to students from around the region, has operated on the campus rent-free for the past 17 years. The lease dispute is rooted in an effort by the Paxton trustees to bring other child-service nonprofits onto

the 16-acre campus, a concept that would limit The Arc's use of the land.

The Arc has announced plans to move the school to The National Conference Center in Lansdowne but is seeking to continue operating on the Paxton Campus until that transition is complete. The Arc is

AURORA
continues on page 17

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On the Ballot: House District 29

This November will see all 100 House of Delegates seats up for election. Currently, Democrats hold a slim 51-49 majority in the House. Loudoun Now is speaking with each of the candidates to give voters an in-depth look at who will be on their ballot this fall.

House District 29 covers the Town of Leesburg as well as its surrounding areas to the south and east toward Lansdowne totaling just over 60,000 voters. Residents in HD29 have historically voted Democratic by over 10 percentage points. During the last year's presidential election, district voters went 55.8% for Democrat Kamala Harris and 38.4% for Republican Donald J. Trump.

DEL. MARTY MARTINEZ – DEMOCRAT



Hanna Pampaloni/Loudoun Now

Fernando “Marty” Martinez served on the Town Council for just over 20 years. He became involved in local politics by signing up to be a community advocate for former Attorney General Mark Herring when he was running for a seat on Loudoun's Board of Supervisors. Herring then appointed Martinez to the county's Parks, Recreation and Community Services Board.

“There was some stuff going on on that board that I was complaining to Mark about. And he goes, ‘well, why don't you run for council?’ And so with his support, I ran for Town Council in January. I started my campaign in 2002,” Martinez said.

During those two decades, Martinez

also coached his son's baseball team, went to graduate school at George Mason University and taught as a substitute teacher with Loudoun County Public Schools.

“It's 20 years and six months, and at the time, during all this period, we were represented by three different delegates, and then they did the redistricting, and it was a natural transition to go from Town Council to delegate, and I felt really good about it,” he said.

In 2007, Martinez ran against incumbent Del. Joe May for House District 33 but lost. Then in 2023, following the redistricting, he ran against Republican Jonathan Rogers, and garnered 57% of the vote.

“One of the reasons I wanted to run for delegate was because there are some things that you cannot do on Town Council that you can do as a delegate. Everybody says, ‘well, what's that?’ Well, the problem is this, we are a Dillon Rule state, and in a Dillon Rule state, the town cannot do anything unless it's expressly permitted by the state legislature. Not only that, the town can't change its charter on its own or its mission statement, it has to go through the state legislature to do that. And so there were things that I thought that I could help advocate for and be part of to help the town and having been on the council for 20 and a half years, I feel I can be a real

MARTINEZ

continues on page 42

SCOTT THOMAS – REPUBLICAN



Hanna Pampaloni/Loudoun Now

Scott Thomas is a native Texan and has spent much of his life in Virginia after moving to the state in 2010. He served in the Army and later contracted for the military, deploying to Bosnia and Iraq and spending 10 years in Germany.

His day job is as a senior director for a large network provider focusing on mentoring and developing team members. Although he doesn't have a background in politics, Thomas said as he's watched Loudoun over the past few years, he felt like running for delegate was the right thing to do.

“I've had many people ask me ‘why?’ And my only question to them is, ‘are you running?’ and it's that kind of set the stage for me, because I've seen so many issues that have popped up with schools, with the

voting, with the treatment of people in our society, and I've constantly heard people say, ‘well, I wish somebody would do something about it,’ and as opposed to asking them why, I just decided to jump on board,” Thomas said.

But his lack of political experience is not a handicap, he added.

“I have been in positions where I have been in evaluation boards. I have led executive teams. I have led large teams. So, the idea of trying to drive the mentality of myself across a large swath of people, doesn't intimidate me, but I do want to get more engaged with the people of Loudoun as well as Leesburg, because there are a lot of issues that probably go unnoticed and unchanged and a lot of frustration, between the different administrations, there's a lot of frustration that has happened. So, I'm willing to step up and try and fix some of those issues,” he said.

Concerns that he is hearing most about from residents center on the county's education system, he said.

“Since I have kids in Loudoun, I will focus on the fact that there's been a lot of activity that has upset education in general: assaults, drug use, sexual misconduct, that have all come to a head, right?” Thomas said. “And everyone, when it comes to these things, is to blame. So, you can't blame the Loudoun County School Board. You can't blame the parents. But you can try and

THOMAS

continues on page 42

Holsingers' Incredible Summer

Loudoun Author Lands National Bestseller with ‘Culpability’

BY NORMAN K. STYER
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Sometimes a phone call from an unrecognized number can be life-changing—especially if Oprah Winfrey is the one reaching out.

That's been the experience of author Bruce Holsinger this

year after his latest novel, “Culpability,” was selected as a top summer read for Oprah's Book Club.

“That was really incredible,” Holsinger said during a recent interview. “My book was supposed to come out in October. Around the middle of May, I got a call from my publisher

telling me that they were thinking about moving the publication date to July, and she needed to check a few things with me. I didn't know what was going on. It was a new publisher for me and I was confused and a bit rattled.”

The reason for the change became clear a

few weeks later.

“I was at a hotel in DC getting ready for an awards banquet, and I knew I had a phone call coming from my publisher. We had set up a Zoom meeting just to talk about publicity things, or so I thought.”

HOLSINGER

continues on page 27



Courtesy of Leah Fallon/Birch Tree Bookstore

Author Bruce Holsinger talks with Jabeen Akhtar during a March 13 appearance at Black Hoof Brewery in Leesburg.

Loudoun

Dominion Proposes Increased Rates Citing Higher Costs

BY HANNA PAMPALONI
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Every two years, Dominion Energy submits proposed rate changes for review by the State Corporation Commission. If approved, this year's submission would see the average residential bill increase by \$20 per month by 2027 – a cost largely attributed to inflationary pressure, not the demand of data centers, according to the company.

Unlike other utilities, energy prices are completely regulated by the state and all increases or decreases must be approved by the SCC. Stakeholders, including consumers, are also given an opportunity during each rate case to argue for or against the utility's request. During the hearing, each party has the opportunity to call witnesses, present evidence and make arguments. After reviewing all of that, the three SCC judges make a final ruling.

Dominion's rate request this year includes three main components. The first is an increase to the fuel rate that would go into effect July 1 and cause the average residential bill to go up by \$10.92 a month.

The second would be an increase to the

base rate that would go into effect Jan. 1, 2026, and cause the bill of a typical residential customer to go up by \$8.51 a month.

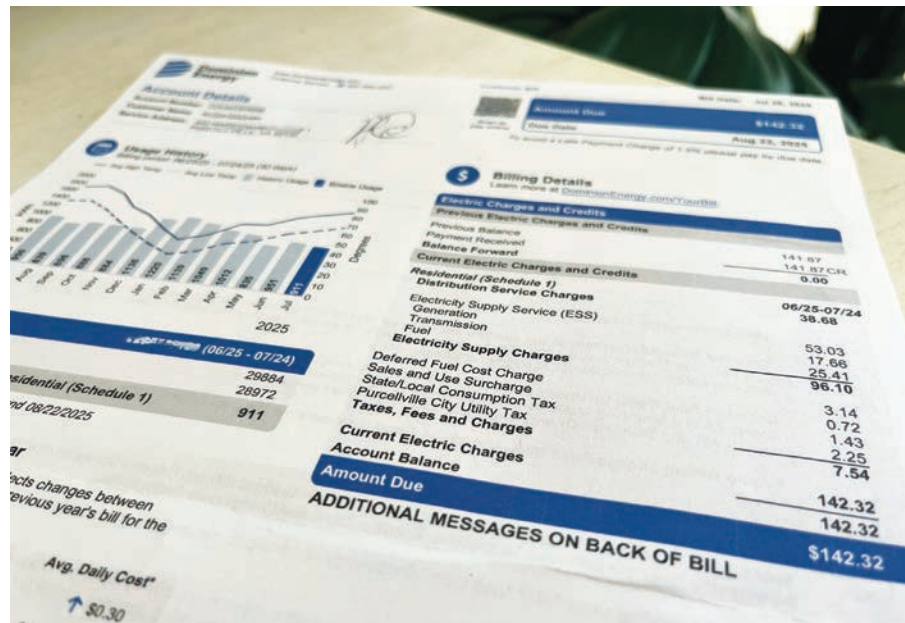
The third is a second base rate increase that would into effect Jan. 1, 2027, and add another \$2 to residential bills.

Those would see average bills increase by \$21.43 by 2027.

"For the most part those new prices reflect the increasing cost of generating and delivering more electricity, primarily due to significant increases in the cost of fuel for our power plants, significant increases in the cost of all the materials and equipment that we have to buy on a regular basis to generate and deliver electricity, and then also, to a lesser extent than those items, ongoing upgrades that we're making to the grid to serve growing demand," Dominion Media Relations Manager Aaron Ruby told *Loudoun Now*.

Labor, equipment and materials prices have all increased.

"It costs more to generate and deliver even the same amount of electricity," Ruby said, adding that this does not take into account any impact new tariffs may have on the cost of materials either.



Hanna Pampaloni/Loudoun Now

Dominion Energy has submitted a request to the State Corporation Commission that would see typical residential ratepayer bills increase by \$20 by 2027.

That will likely be taken into account during the next rate case, he said.

Community members and elected officials have raised concerns that increasing power demand from the county's data centers would lead to unfair increases for res-

idential ratepayers across the state because of increasing in infrastructure costs. Dominion has multiple transmission line and

DOMINION

continues on page 5

Environmental Group Launches Statewide Data Center Information Campaign

BY WILLIAM TIMME
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As the State Corporation Commission reviews Dominion's submission to increase utility rates, the Piedmont Environmental Commission is launching a statewide campaign to raise awareness of the impacts of data centers on all Virginia residents.

The campaign, called Virginians for a Smarter Digital Future, includes statewide advertising aimed at informing residents about the role of the SCC and its impending review of Dominion Energy's rates.

If approved this year, Dominion's submission would see the average residential bill increase by \$20 per month by 2027. Dominion has attributed most of the increase to inflationary pressures, rather than the power demand of data centers. A representative for Dominion explained to *Loudoun Now* that labor, equipment and material prices have all increased.

A December Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission study last December, on the other hand, found that "a large amount of new generation and transmission" would need to be built to keep pace with growing data center demand. It also asserted that if utilities are more reliant on power imported from other regions, that power is susceptible to spikes in energy market prices.

Piedmont Environmental Commission President Chris Miller said most short-term and long-term electricity option prices have spiked in the regional market.

"There really isn't extra power on the market," Miller said. "What is available is now being auctioned at multiples, I think actually 10 times the average price."

In February, Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Michael R. Turner (D-Ashburn) said Loudoun County has 117 data centers in the pipeline. Between March 1 and Dec. 1 of last year, the amount of data center

square footage in the pipeline increased from 36 million to nearly 60 million, Loudoun County Department of Planning and Zoning Director Daniel Galindo told the Board of Supervisors in February.

Public comment on the SCC's rate review ends tomorrow, Aug. 26. Miller said that makes the situation all the more pressing.

"We've done a digital advertising campaign that's reached two and a half to three million Virginians to try to get them to pay attention," Miller said. "This is about the impact on them, not on us. We're all suffering, but this is about direct impacts on all Virginians—one they have opportunity to weigh in on."

The PEC campaign is focused on improving transparency, state oversight, protections for families and businesses, and incentives for efficiency.

Among its goals are to enact local disclosures and statewide reporting on data

center energy use, water consumption and emissions; require SCC regulatory review, in addition to the existing local review, to evaluate the regional impacts of data centers; ensure that residents and businesses are insulated from the costs of building the data center industry's energy infrastructure; and to offer state sales and tax-exempt status only to data centers that demonstrate commitments to clean energy and high efficiency standards.

"A lot of jurisdictions across the state are getting their first data center proposals, and they are on a steep learning curve," Miller said. "The lack of transparency in data center proposals in our experience has been a real issue."

More information on VFASDF may be found at smarterdigitalvirginia.com.

Public Comment on the SCC's review may be submitted through the SCC's website under "Cases" and "Submit Public Comments." ■

Dominion

continued from page 4

substation projects underway in Loudoun.

A state-commissioned report from the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission last December found that residential rate payers were not subsidizing costs for larger users such as data centers, but said that is likely to change going forward unless mitigated.

“Data centers’ increased energy demand will likely increase system costs for all customers, including non-data center customers, for several reasons. A large amount of new generation and transmission will need to be built that would not otherwise be built, creating fixed costs that utilities will need recover. It will be difficult to supply enough energy to keep pace with growing data center demand, so energy prices are likely to increase for all customers. Finally, if utilities are more reliant on importing power, they may not always be able to secure lower-cost power and will be susceptible to spikes in energy market prices,” according to the report.

Ensuring that rate payers are not subsidizing other categories has always been an important principal of the company, Ruby said.

“The principle is every customer should only be paying for the power they use, and they should not be paying for the cost of serving other customers. And again, that’s always been the case, whether it’s related to data centers or other dynamics. We don’t want small businesses paying for the cost of providing power to residential subdivisions. We don’t want the cost of providing power to residential subdivisions to be paid by public schools or hospitals or office parks, etc. So we, also don’t want the cost of serving data centers to fall on the shoulders of residential customers or small businesses or any other, any other group of customers,” he said.

To prevent that, Dominion’s request also includes the creation of a new rate class for high wattage users.

“There’s a couple of criteria that we proposed for customers that would be included in that new rate class. One is they would be what’s known as a high-load customer, meaning they are using more than 25 megawatts of power. And then also that they are what’s known as a high-load factor customer, meaning they use all or most of that power at least 75% of the time,” Ruby said.

The request from Dominion also increases the collateral and up-front deposit required by those high wattage users based on the amount of power they estimate to need, regardless of whether they use less

than that. Users would be required to make a 14-year commitment to pay for their requested power.

Since Dominion is required by law to provide power to each user requesting it, the company builds new infrastructure based on estimates for future demand. Data centers have driven that demand up, which in turn, causes the company to plan infrastructure upgrades to meet those estimates. Even if the actual power usage ends is lower than the estimates, the cost has already been spent on building to the highest level of provision.

This change will require more risk from high-watts users up front, potentially resulting in more accurate or more conservative power estimates.

It costs more to generate and deliver even the same amount of electricity,”

— Aaron Ruby,
Dominion Media Relations Manager

Sen. Russet Perry (D-31) this year introduced legislation that would have mandated the SCC examine cost allocation among different classes, however that, and several other data center measures, failed to garner majority support. She said she is watching this rate case with interest to see how the SCC responds.

“My bill SB960 ensured that the drivers of new infrastructure -- data centers -- would be paying for that new infrastructure, and that the costs of neither the transmission or generation projects would fall on the backs of residential ratepayers. Families and small businesses should not be paying the way for some of the richest companies in the world,” she stated.

However, she said these changes do not go far enough to protect average ratepayers.

“In its current form, the requested return on equity is designed to line the pockets of Dominion’s shareholders at the expense of Virginians and Virginia businesses,” she stated. “In addition, I am deeply concerned that the proposed timeline Dominion offers for cost responsibility for data center customers will leave ratepayers on the hook for the remaining costs if those data center customers leave prior to the payback period of the infrastructure, what is essentially a 14-year contract for a 30-year payback period.”

A hearing on the case is scheduled for Sept. 2 in Richmond. Following that, a decision will be made by the SCC. ■

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Leesburg



William Timme/ Loudoun Now

Kurt Nguyen, and Dr. Cary Birkitt pose in front of Nguyen's paintings.

BY WILLIAM TIMME
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Leesburg artist Kurt Nguyen is showing off his paintings publicly for the first time at Dr. Cary Birkitt's Family Gallery in Leesburg.

The exhibit showcases five paintings: "Suburba," "Libson," "Rue Chardin," "Lagoon," and "Race Standards." Nguyen said his influences on the pieces ranged from the abstract Willem de Kooning to the impressionist Claude Monet.

The right side of the gallery features pieces that Nguyen said are more recognizable, while the left side veers into the abstract.

One of the first paintings seen on the left side of the gallery, "Rue Chardin," depicts a place in Paris that Nguyen visited a few years ago.

"When you first come in, it's the most obvious, probably the most recognizable piece and also the most colorful," Nguyen said.

He noted that while many paintings of the Eiffel Tower exist, with Rue Chardin, Nguyen tried to capture a different feeling.

"This is capturing the rain," he said, pointing to the painting. "As you can see, the texture that's bringing out here in these colors kind of gives you the vibrancy and the color of Paris that people come to expect," Nguyen said, pointing to the various distinct colors

Local Painter Showcases Art for the First Time

used to capture the raindrops in the painting's foreground.

Nguyen, a longtime resident of Loudoun County, depicted the growth and transformation of the county in his William De Kooning inspired "Suburba."

"When I moved here in about 2000, Loudoun County was just starting to grow, and now it's become much more vibrant," Nguyen said. "I wanted to celebrate the vibrancy that the growth is bringing in, the diversity, everything that's bringing in Loudoun County."

Nguyen grew up in Orange County in Southern California – an upbringing reflected in his love of depicting ocean scenes.

Nguyen painted his first complete piece in 2014 as a present for his wife on their 50th anniversary. A colorful recreation of a black and white photo he took of his wife and daughter, the piece marked Nguyen's shift towards a more vibrant palette.

Years of studying art in his free time, without formal training, preceded that first painting.

"I wanted to understand the artists," Nguyen said. "I did everything I could to research. Trying to understand their psyche, how they grew up, where they grew up, what inspired them, their life."

For years, Nguyen was one of Birkitt's patients and the two bonded over their love of music and art. The now painter DJ'd in high school and Birkitt is a part of the Lost Locals band, which plays in downtown Leesburg on occasion.

"There's a musical quality to the composition and the almost lyrical choices in the colors and your subjects," Birkitt said of Nguyen's paintings.

The two started talking more regularly because of a barbecue rub Nguyen was selling online. Years later, Birkitt opened the gallery in the hallway next to his dentist office and Nguyen asked what the qualifications were to exhibit. Birkitt said "good pieces," according to Nguyen.

"His background is similar to mine in the sense that, you know, we have day jobs and do different things, but we also have another side of us that was more creative," Nguyen said. "There's just a kindred spirit between us in terms of just music and creativity."

Cary Birkitt's Family Gallery is located at 18 Loudoun St. SE in Leesburg.

Nguyen's exhibit will remain open in the gallery until Sept. 27. His Instagram @kvnartstyle and website, kvnartstyle.portfoliobox.net, both showcase his paintings. ■

Tuscarora High School Launches Football Season with New Coach, Staff

BY WILLIAM TIMME
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As the start of the football season approaches, Tuscarora High School is introducing a new staff line up.

The program this year, backed by a fresh athletic booster club board, will be led by its new head coach James Carter.

Carter was teaching physical education at Rock Ridge Highschool when Tuscarora Athletic Director Tony Tallent recruited him for the position. The two had made connections years ago when Carter was coaching in Fauquier County and Tallent was coaching in Warren County. After Carter's 10-year stretch with Fauquier Highschool, he took a break from coaching.

Carter returned to the football world as an assistant coach for Rock Ridge Highschool for the Fall 2024 season. Tallent said he knew

Carter wanted to get back into head coaching right around the time Tuscarora's head coaching job became available.

Tallent said that when hiring someone with Carter's background as a teacher, "you're hiring somebody that knows that building that rapport (with students) is the first step to being successful."

"Obviously, we were excited to have somebody who had his experience, his familiarity with the area," Tallent said. "Coach Carter does a great job, actually, the whole staff does a great job of making connections with kids. That's what we look for."

Carter brought with him other coaching talent.

"I was able to bring over our offensive coordinator; from Rock Ridge, Josh Gadd," Carter said. "He is an invaluable part of our

TUSCARORA

continues on page 7



William Timme/Loudoun Now

Tuscarora Football's new head coach James Carter on the practice field.

Entries Open for Morven Park’s International and Fall Horse Trials

BY HANNA PAMPALONI
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Entries opened Tuesday for equestrians wanting to compete in this year’s Morven Park International and Fall Horse Trials.

The four-day event is the culmination of a series of 19 US Equestrian Open of Eventing qualifying competitions held across the country in the build-up to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

“Morven Park is delighted to welcome the US Equestrian Open Eventing Final as part of the Morven Park International & Fall Horse Trials,” Morven Park Executive Director and CEO told Loudoun Now. “As one of only five venues in the United States to offer what is called a CCI4*-L (the competition level offered at the Olympic Games), we are thrilled to celebrate these athletes in partnership with the United States Equestrian Federation. ... Spectator admission is free to the public. We invite you to join us in enjoying a beautiful weekend in Loudoun County at Morven Park.”

Taking place Oct. 9-12, there is \$200,000 in prize money at stake. The public is invited to watch the roughly 55 participants who will come

from the US, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Columbia and Great Britain.

Virginia is expected to make up 38% of the U.S. representation in the competition with approximately 30% of those equestrians coming from Loudoun directly.

The championship is intended to encourage the continued development and education of young horses in the U.S., while adding incentive for athletes bringing developing horses through the levels to further their career experiences. Morven Park has been home to eventing excellence for over 50 years, with the first recognized horse trial taking place in 1973.

The competition schedule is as follows: the U.S. Equestrian Open First Horse Inspection will take place Wednesday, the U.S. Open Dressage will be held Thursday followed by International and U.S. Open Dressage on Friday. On Saturday, show jumping and cross-country will begin with cross country continuing into Sunday. Sunday will also feature the Open Final Horse Inspection, Show Jumping finale and awards presentation.

Enter to compete online. Entries will close Sept. 23. ■

Thomas Balch Presents Leesburg History

Former Leesburg Economic Development Director and Public Information Officer Betsy Arnett is hosting a presentation on “A Brief History of Leesburg” on Thursday, Sept. 4.

The talk will be held both in-person at the library and virtually. Arnett will take attendees along a journey through three centuries of Leesburg history, from its inception to present day.

The class will take place in the lower-level meeting room of Thomas Balch Library, 208



Photo of the town of Leesburg from 1907.

West Market Street in Leesburg. Pre-registration is required, which can be done by calling 703-737-7195 or emailing balchlib@leesburgva.gov or register online at leesburgva.gov. ■

Tuscarora

continued from page 6

program.” Carter added that defensive coordinator John Crittenden brings “a veteran presence and a lot of intensity, with a great mind for football.”

“These men go out of their way to coach hard and take care of our guys,” Carter said of Crittenden and Gadd.

The program is also supported by a new board in the Husky Athletic Booster Club, which is looking for new members.

Currently, the booster program is fundraising by selling \$10 clear bags with the school logo at the gate at every varsity football game. Only clear bags are allowed inside stadiums. They also have a few more fundraisers coming down the line, including a mulch sale, and

a discount card sale where teams sell discount cards to the community.

President Melissa Martini said more community involvement in Tuscarora’s programs “allows each sport to feel support no matter how many athletes they have.”

“Our golf team has a very small team, but we still want to be there for them. Our football team is a very large program, but we still want to be there for them. We want to build access for all of our students participating in the programs,” she said.

Carter said the football team thus far has shown “tremendous character and grit.”

“They are just excited to get this thing kicked off” he said. Carter added that coaching the group has been a dream job.

The first game is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 28. ■

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Education

Back to School: 80K Loudoun Students Start a New Year

BY HANNA PAMPALONI

hpampaloni@loudounnow.org

Approximately 80,000 Loudoun students kicked off a new year this morning at the county's 100 public schools.

This marks 155 years since Loudoun County Public Schools was founded, when the county had an estimated population of just over 20,000 residents.

Administrators said the school division is especially focused on creating deep connections and a sense of belonging for students this year.

"We're just excited to welcome kids back," LCPS Superintendent Aaron Spence said. "We've been working hard all summer to be ready for this day. We know that when our kids are going to come into our schools, they're going to have a great experience this year, and our plan is to make sure that they thrive. Part of that is making sure that we build strong relationships with young people, that we create a culture where students really feel like, 'I know I'm supposed to be there, I know the adults care for me and they want me here,' and really just have this sense of real, deep belonging. We know that that's critical and is the foundation for the learning experience."

Programs, teachers and administrators throughout the county will work to strengthen relationships between students across varying grade levels to ensure that each student feels valued and at home.

"I think it's critical that we all understand that young people, in order to thrive, need to feel safe. They need to feel physically safe. They



Hanna Pampaloni/Loudoun Now

Students disembark a school bus on the first day of the 2025-2026 school year.

need to make sure that their needs are met. They need to make sure that they have food in the morning and great lunches in our schools, but we also need to make sure that they feel psychologically safe, right? So that means that they know there are people there. They have a trusted adult. They can talk to. Their teachers care about them. Their teachers want them in their classrooms and are really happy that they're there. And they build those strong relationships. And there's so much research that tells us that strong relationships between our families, our students and our educators, that's the foundation for success. So we're really focused on that here in Loudoun County,

because we know that, then we can teach kids anything," Spence said.

One of those programs, the Kindness Club, will be led by Evergreen Mills Elementary School Principal Jennifer Thiessen and the school's teachers.

"Of course, achievement is extremely important, but just as important is that a child feels like they belong and that they know that we love them, because then they have that feeling of self-worth, and then they can achieve because they're confident," Thiessen said. "And so we built this kindness club last year, and we're going to continue it this year, and I'll let my awesome teachers talk about

that a little bit, but we have daily morning meetings that we plan for every single day where students come in and they immediately feel safe and comforted with their teachers, and it's just they create that classroom community. We have a Python Pals program where it's cross grade level connections, where first graders will meet up with fourth graders once a month. And so, we're really just trying to build multiple opportunities for students to have confidants throughout the whole building, so that they can come into school and just know that this is a happy place where they're safe to learn."

"Kindness Club was started to engage our preschoolers more and to make our preschoolers feel part of the school community, as well. So, we reached out to our fifth graders to give them an opportunity to come into our classrooms and build and form those relationships with our preschoolers, and over the years, it's just blossomed," Preschool teacher Kristina Crowder said.

Fifth-grade teacher Robyn Mejia said the club has changed the dynamic in her classroom.

"They all end up becoming a lot more empathetic to each other and understanding each other's differences a little more. They get really excited they're missing their recess to go and help out in the preschool rooms," she said.

"We're just excited. We wait for this day all summer, and we can't believe it's finally here," Thiessen said.

The 2025-2026 school year will end June 15, 2026. Learn more about transportation, nutrition services, health and translation services at lcp.org/page/first-day-information. ■

Earle-Sears Protests Students' Suspensions at Stone Bridge; Lawyers Planning Federal Lawsuit

BY PATRICK LEWIS

plewis@loudounnow.gov

Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears was among several dozen people who held a press conference and demonstration outside Stone Bridge High School Wednesday afternoon to protest the suspension of two Loudoun County Public Schools students found guilty of sexual harassment and sex-based discrimination.

The protest comes after Founding Freedoms Law Center, which represents the two boys, announced Aug. 18 that LCPS' Title IX office had passed down 10-day suspensions

for both boys, who were investigated after reporting a transgender male filming them in a boys locker room. One of the boys has since moved out of the county.

Josh Hetzler, senior legal counsel at FFLC and the attorney representing the boys, announced at the press briefing that he has filed a final appeal with LCPS, which he expects to be denied. After that, he said, a federal lawsuit is expected to be filed against LCPS.

"We will now have no choice but to pursue swift legal action," said Hetzler. "The boys have done nothing wrong."

EARLE-SEARS
continues on page 26



Patrick Lewis/Loudoun Now

Lieutenant Governor and Republican nominee for governor Winsome Earle-Sears speaks at Stone Bridge High School on August 20, 2025.



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Towns

Summer Block Party Brings 1K Visitors to Downtown Purcellville

BY HANNA PAMPALONI
hpampaloni@loudounnow.org

The Purcellville Main Street organization's first event brought over 1,000 visitors to the downtown area Saturday evening, providing a welcome boost to businesses along 21st Street.

PVMS Board Vice Chair Becky Gardner told *Loudoun Now* organizers counted at least 1,000 attendees to the End of Summer Block Party by handing out stickers to each visitor.

"We ran out of stickers by 7 or 7:30 p.m.," Gardner said.

While economic impacts are still being tallied, preliminary numbers set the day as the biggest the American Legion Post has ever seen, a 300% markup for Blue Design from its typical day in business, and a high sales day for Nichols Hardware and Hardware Café ranking above its large July 4th event, Gardner said.

"Both Bia and Magnolias ran out of food because they weren't expecting as many people," she said. "So, now we know for next year. Overall, we're just so excited that anybody came. The feedback was tremendously positive. Everyone loved seeing the community out."

The nonprofit was founded to support the town's small businesses and provide support through revitalization.

"Main Street is all about measurable success. ... We want to be looking out for businesses downtown and investing in them is big priority and I think we've showed that we can do that," Gardner said.

PVMS' next event will be a Christmas Market featuring local businesses, artists and artisans.

Learn more at
purcellvillemainstreet.org ■



Hanna Pampaloni/Loudoun Now

Purcellville residents gathered along 21st Street Saturday evening for a block party hosted by the town's main street organization.

RFP Closes for Purcellville Town Attorney, Garners 1 Bid

BY HANNA PAMPALONI
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The proposal period for applicants to apply for an open position as Purcellville's town attorney closed last week and garnered only one applicant.

The position is held by John Cafferky who works for Blankenship and Keith law firm. The firm is contracted with the town with Cafferky as the primary attorney. Cafferky announced in May that he would be stepping down from the position as soon as a replacement could be found because of unexpected time demands from the town and a desire to spend more time with his family.

Cafferky said when he started in the position in 2023 he was spending 15 to 20 hours a week working for the town. By 2025 that had increased significantly, he said.

The town opened the request for proposals on July 21 and it closed Aug. 19. During a June 24 meeting, Assistant Town Manager Diana Hays said she had also reached out directly to four attorneys recommended by the Virginia Municipal League and had received one proposal back.

Prior to contracting Cafferky and his firm in 2023, the town employed a full-time attorney on staff and Town Council members are divided over whether to consider that option again.

Hays said the town could issue the wider

RFP and see what kind of results the town received, but during that June 24 meeting, the Town Council voted to limit the RFP to contract an attorney rather than hire a full-time staff member.

"We don't need to spend time coming up with an RFP because it's addressing all these different things. Let's get to the point, we want an outside attorney," Councilmember Susan Khalil said.

Councilmembers Kevin Wright, Erin Rayner and Caleb Stought said there wouldn't be any harm to widening the scope of the RFP.

"What if we get an awesome application from a lawyer who wants to be a part-time municipal lawyer and wants to dedicate those

hours and has all the expertise we need? Why do we want to exclude that?" Rayner said.

Khalil said hiring a firm, rather than an individual, opens the town up for a wider variety of expertise and contracting, rather than bringing on a new town employee would keep the attorney apart from town staff.

"It's important to me to know that our attorney is arm's length and not imbedded with staff ... to assist them to do their job better, it's better to be arm's length," she said.

Town Clerk Kimberly Bandy told Loudoun Now that a procurement specialist has already reviewed the attorney proposal for compliance with solicitation criteria and that the process will now move to the evaluation phase. ■

St. Louis Community Hears Next Steps in Village Plan

BY HANNA PAMPALONI
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St. Louis community members on Monday were updated by County Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large) and Supervisor Laura A. TeKrony (D-Little River) on the latest developments in the effort to adopt a small-area plan for the historic village.

The plan, which will serve a guiding document for future development, preservation or improvements in the community, has been years in the making. It was sent to the Planning Commission in March 2024, but the panel voted to send the plan back for further work. A task force spent 14 months working with village residents to continue efforts on the plan. It returned to the Planning Commission in June this year and was recommended for adoption.

The village plan includes policies for four topic areas: water and natural resources, heri-

tage resources, infrastructure and community facilities, and land use.

The plan also includes maps to identify important considerations including existing conservation easements, zoning districts, historic district boundaries and environmental constraints. Key issues identified by the community include improving water quality, enhancing road and shoulder maintenance, enforcing property maintenance codes, reducing speeding on St. Louis Road and Snake Hill Road, improving the appearance of the Virginia Department of Transportation headquarters and installing high speed internet.

TeKrony and Randall told community members Monday that they were working to have some resident concerns addressed ahead of the plan, which will be reviewed by the full board during a Sept. 10 public hearing.

One of those issues is the lack of cell service in the area. Finding property to build a tower on has been difficult but TeKrony and

Randall announced that Foxcroft School has indicated a willingness to allow a cell tower to be built on its property. While the details are still being worked out, that would provide an increase in service for area residents. Building the tower would require a special exception and commission permit through the county.

The latest version of the plan includes an implementation table with 31 action steps. Among those are conducting a feasibility study of a community water system, encouraging the use of conservation easements, engaging owners of large parcels to determine possible park locations and opening community dialogue regarding a historic overlay district.

Pursuing a designation on the National Register of Historic Places for both the village and Banneker Elementary School are also priorities for the community.

Randall said the St. Louis community is united behind most items included, but how the residents feel about changing any zoning

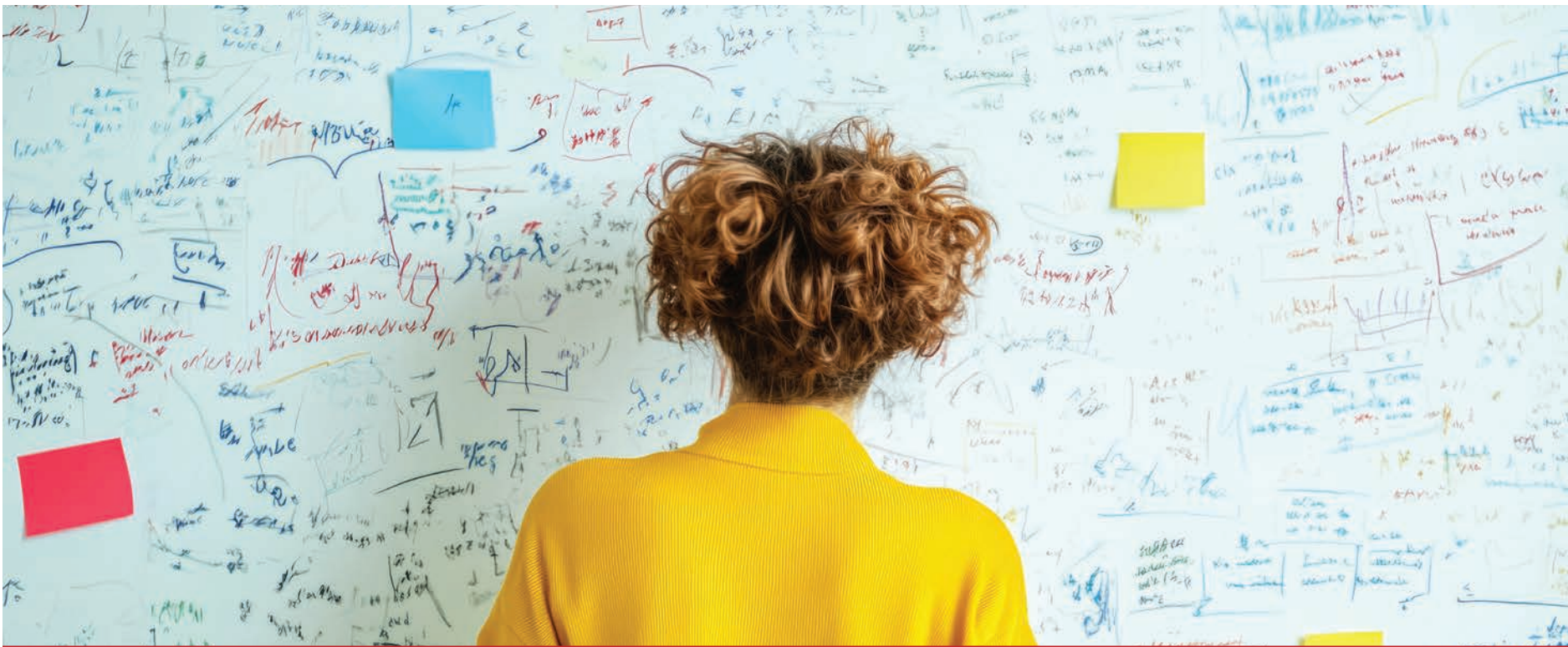
designations still needs more input. That will be done in a second phase of work, TeKrony added.

She encouraged the community to provide more feedback to the board regarding how they would like to see the community zoned.

"That one's not as crystal clear me as to what everyone wants. I think people want different things," she said.

That could also impact 42 acres owned by JK Land Holdings known as the Mojax property. That property is expected to be put into a conservation easement and acquired by the the county government. Randall said the county cannot leave the property empty and "do nothing" with it, but designating it as a passive park could be a possibility.

The Sept. 10 public hearing on the plan will begin at 6 p.m. at the County Government Center in Leesburg. Learn more about the plan at loudoun.gov/stlouis. ■



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Public Safety

3 Rescue Operators Sentenced in Cruelty Case

Three former leaders of the now-defunct Luck of the Irish animal rescue organization were sentenced in Loudoun County Circuit Court on Thursday, after pleading guilty to animal cruelty crimes committed in 2022 and 2023.

Nicole Metz, 52, and Kimberly Hall, 53, each pleaded guilty to five counts of cruelty to animals. They were each sentenced to a 40-month suspended sentence, three years supervised probation, a five-year ban on pet ownership, and a three-year prohibition on any involvement with an organization that cares for, treats or places companion animals. They also are subject to a mental health evaluation and subsequent treatment and must complete 150 hours of community service over the next three years.

Alex Hall, 24, pleaded guilty to three counts of cruelty to animals, and was sentenced to a nine-month suspended sentence, two years unsupervised probation and a five-year ban on pet ownership.

Cruelty to animals is a Class 1 misde-

meanor punishable by up to 12 months in jail and a fine of up to \$2,500.

The case stems from an investigation by Loudoun County Animal Services that found that Metz and the Halls had failed to provide veterinary care and basic welfare to the animals in the custody of the Round Hill-area rescue operation. Over the course of two months, 105 animals were received by the animal control department from the rescue, with the majority of them held in unsanitary and unacceptable conditions in the Metz and Hall residences and approximately half of them infected with contagious diseases and/or parasites, according to prosecutors.

In testimony during the sentencing hearing, LCAS Director Nina Stively indicated that a number of animals were also recovered from the homes with broken bones and other untreated medical conditions, while others died in the rescue's care without receiving veterinary treatment and were buried in mass graves between the two residential properties.

"Thanks to the successful intervention by Loudoun County Animal Services, over 100 animals were removed from deplorable conditions and the perpetrators were held accountable for their crimes," stated Commonwealth's Attorney Bob Anderson. "The professionalism and dedication of Loudoun County Animal Services led to almost all of the animals being successfully re-homed and put a stop to the suffering."

The Luck of the Irish organization also was not in compliance with state and local requirements for an animal rescue.

Loudoun County Animal Services staff members point to the case as an example of the need for oversight and regulation in animal rescue organizations. The agency encourages those considering adoption from a pet rescue to visit the Loudoun County website to understand the legal requirements of pet rescues in Virginia and ensure that the rescue they are working with is in compliance with the law. ■

Reporter Credited with Lifesaving Actions

A routine trip by *Loudoun Now* reporter Hanna Pampaloni on Wednesday to cover a story about the latest medical equipment upgrade at Inova Loudoun Hospital turned into a life-saving event.

Pampaloni was in the hospital lobby with Inova Loudoun spokeswoman Renee Brohard and another individual when someone came running in and said that a visitor had passed out in the middle of the street.

"So the three of us ran out of the building and while we were running, Hanna called 911. I called for some help from Inova team members," Brohard said.

"When Hanna arrived to the individual, she immediately began chest compressions with the help of the 911 operator," Brohard said. "She was so impressive. After a short time after, we had a cardiologist provider come out, and he offered to take over the chest compressions, but Hannah said she was OK, so that allowed him to assess the individual and do some other things for the individual. Shortly after that, EMS and our ER team arrived on the scene, and they took over."

"Later, the cardiologist provider said to me that if Hanna had not been there—I'm going to get choked up—and acted so quickly, this man might not be alive. She

definitely saved a life yesterday."

"It was like she was a hospital team member, not a reporter. I mean, she really acted with such skill and confidence, she was really impressive. I want to be with her if I'm ever in an accident."

After the incident, Pampaloni called the newsroom to let the staff know she had gotten delayed a would be a few minutes late for the weekly planning meeting. Some time later, she mentioned that she had performed CPR on a man.

"We called 911 and they said we should start CPR. So I did," Pampaloni said later. "Fortunately, it didn't take too long for the first responders to show up, and we were quickly surrounded by medical personnel from both Loudoun County Fire Rescue and the hospital, and they took over. It sounds like he's doing OK."

Pampaloni said she got her CPR training at a course offered at the Purcellville Rescue Squad years ago. However, she also has extensive experience performing life-saving compressions, although those have been on pets. Prior to joining the *Loudoun Now* staff, Pampaloni worked in an animal hospital.

"So I did CPR on a lot of very large dogs, and it's the same essentially, especially now, since you don't really have to give breaths for humans. We didn't do that for pets ei-



Renss Greene/Loudoun Now

Hanna Pampaloni

ther," she said. "So I spent a lot of time doing CPR on pets at the ER."

"I wouldn't say it's exactly the same, obviously it's more serious with person than with a dog, but the actual act of performing CPR felt exactly the same," she said.

Brohard said the situation was far from routine.

"It was definitely unexpected, but she was so impressive. She acted so quickly and had such confidence and really, really made a difference yesterday in somebody's life," she said. ■

SAFETY *briefs*

Lovettsville Teacher Charged with Solicitation of a Minor

The Leesburg Police Department has charged a Lovettsville Elementary School teacher with solicitation of a minor following an investigation.

In March, the Police Department was contacted by authorities in Florida regarding an investigation into solicitation of a minor through electronic communication.

Leesburg detectives launched a comprehensive investigation, which included the execution of multiple search warrants. Through the course of the investigation, detectives identified the suspect as Antonio G. Ford, 28.

On Wednesday, Ford was taken into custody at Lovettsville Elementary School, where he was employed as a teacher.

He was transported to the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center, where he was held without bond.

This remains an active and ongoing investigation, and anyone with additional information related to this case is encouraged to contact the Leesburg Police Department at 703-771-4500 or policeinvestigations@leesburgva.gov. Anonymous tips may be submitted through the Leesburg Police Department's Tip Line at 703-443-TIPS (8477).

Ford has been suspended without pay, according to Loudoun County Public Schools Public Information Officer Dan Adams.



Patrick Lewis/Loudoun Now

Loudoun Sheriff's Office and Loudoun Fire Marshal's Office deputies investigate at Seneca Regional Park on Aug. 21.

Deputies Conduct Investigation at Seneca Park

Officials are investigating after a person died of injuries sustained at Seneca Regional Park in Lowe's Island.

Loudoun County Fire and Rescue along with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue crews responded to Seneca Regional Park Aug. 21 for a reported structure fire. Units arriving on scene determined there was no fire but did find a person suffering from severe burn injuries.

The victim was transported to a hospital where they later died.

LCSO and Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office investigators are conducting the investigation. Foul play is not suspected.

BRIEFS

continues on page 13

Demonstrators Protest Sheriff's Office Agreement with ICE



Patrick Lewis/Loudoun Now

Around 130 people gathered at the Loudoun County Courthouse on Aug. 23 to protest cooperation between immigration agents and the Sheriff's Office.

BY PATRICK LEWIS
plewis@loudounnow.org

Around 130 people gathered at the Loudoun County Courthouse on Saturday evening to protest the ongoing cooperation between Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office.

The demonstration, organized by Indivisible NOVA West, a community activism organization, came in response to the 287(g) agreement signed by LCSO and ICE in April. The agreement directs LCSO deputies at the Adult Detention Center to hold inmates due to be released but have an immigration detainer out for them for an additional 48 hours to give ICE agents time to take them into custody.

Over 90 people released to ICE by LCSO this year have been deported. Dozens more have been taken into custody at the Sterling Immigration Court by ICE agents and officers with the Virginia Department of Cor-

rections who are working with immigration task forces.

"By being here, you are actively resisting the current administration and their policies," said Del. Marty Martinez (VA-29), one of the speakers at the event.

"Thank you for the resisting and showing our current administration that you will not allow anyone to be denied basic civil rights and due process," he said. "We need to continue to resist these policies that are affecting our families."

Other speakers said that community members need to unite to advocate for immigrant rights and pointed to increased traffic stops in Eastern Loudoun as evidence of biased policing. LCSO has said that the increased enforcement is for traffic safety reasons, not enforcement aimed at the Hispanic community.

A few people in support of LCSO's cooperation with ICE also attended the demonstration but did not speak or engage with the event. ■

Briefs

continued from page 12

Driver Dead in Fiery Crash

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office is investigating after a Berryville man was killed in a single vehicle crash Saturday night.

Deputies and crews from Loudoun County Fire and Rescue responded to the 40500 block of Hidden Hills Lane in Paonian Springs around 7:30 p.m. Saturday for a reported single vehicle crash. Firefighters arrived to find the car engulfed in flames and fire spreading to nearby trees.

The driver was transported to a hospital in

life-threatening condition and was pronounced deceased, according to LCSO. The victim was identified as 20-year-old Daniel M. Rivera of Berryville.

Deputies with the LCSO Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating the crash and are asking anyone with information to call 703-777-1021.

The deadly crash was one of two major crashes that authorities responded to within five minutes Saturday night. The second crash, in Lucketts, left two people in reportedly life-threatening condition after two e-bikes collided. That crash is being investigated by the Virginia State Police. ■

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Hanna Pampaloni/Loudoun Now

Inova Loudoun Radiation Oncology Director Punam Dutt and Inova Loudoun Radiation Oncology Department Medical Director Dr. Michael Eblan stand with Inova Loudoun's Radiation Oncology's new Varian Halcyon.

BY HANNA PAMPALONI
hpampaloni@loudounnow.org

Inova Loudoun's Radiation Oncology team is the first hospital in Northern Virginia to offer a new radiotherapy system equipped with cutting-edge imaging capabilities, providing more advanced care to more patients than ever.

The machine is the department's second linear accelerator and offers advanced radiation therapy treatments with enhanced form of image guidance, reducing treatment times from weeks to days, improving patient convenience and cutting down travel distances for county residents.

Currently, the oncology department serves 40 to 45 patients any given time, which is made possible by having two machines.

"We were surviving on one machine, but to accommodate patient needs in our region, we went to the state to request the second linear accelerator," Inova Loudoun Radiation Oncology Director

Punam Dutt said.

That process took two to three years and involved convincing a state board that the demand was there for another machine in the region.

Eventually the second machine will likely double the number of patients that the team serves, but Dutt said it also keeps community members from having to travel to further hospitals for the same treatment.

"We want to serve our patients and be able to provide them treatment so that they don't have to travel outside of the area," she said. "So when we were trying to accommodate all the patient load we had, we were extending our hours — long hours for the team and long hours for the patients. Still, we were sending to Fairfax or Fair Oaks to get treatment. So, we thought there's no need for patients to travel from the region, as long as we can provide the care here locally."

Prior to having the new machine and to serve as many patients as possible, the radiation oncology department would often

open as early as 7 a.m. and not close till 7 p.m. making for long days for the staff and early or late appointment times for patients.

"We were really constrained in our resources and in our capacity to treat this booming, growing county with one machine, and that resulted in patients having a delay for when they have to start, coming late into the evening, at inconvenient times, or having to go further away from home, just because we didn't have the capacity to start them in a timely manner, either to Fairfax or Fair Oaks," Inova Loudoun Radiation Oncology Department Medical Director Dr. Michael Eblan said.

Patients receiving radiation therapy can receive treatments ranging from five to 45, some multiple days a week.

"It takes a toll on a patient if they have to come here for seven or eight weeks of radiation," Dutt said.

The new machine brings additional capabilities.

"This machine came with the enhanced form of image guidance, what we call Hypersight, CBCT. That's what it's called. It's the highest quality and fastest CT available today for the delivery of precise radiation therapy treatment, and with this machine, it has the capability for us to move towards adaptive radiotherapy," Dutt said.

Radiation therapy has been used for a hundred years, Eblan said, but the advanced imaging capabilities in this machine provide more precise treatment.

"The ability to more accurately target the tumor and deliver the therapeutic radiation while protecting the normal tissues nearby, has really advanced in the past two decades with image guidance," Eblan said. "Thirty years ago, a breast patient was set up on the table just with marks on the skin, using surface anatomy and matching bony landmarks and now we can do a detailed Cone Beam CT or a mini CAT scan, basically, to see that lumpectomy cavity, target that tumor, make sure we're protecting the heart and the lungs, and what was a six week treatment for many breast cancer patients 20 years ago is now five days."

The Varian Halcyon machine provides more targeted treatment more quickly, reducing treatment times from 15 to 20 minutes to two to three minutes.

"It's just a privilege to serve the community, and I'm just excited and proud that we accomplish [getting] a second machine, and I think better serve many of our patients and accommodate the growth that we're seeing here," Eblan said.

Learn more at inova.org/our-services/inova-schar-cancer-institute. ■

Feds Allocate \$11.7M For Dulles, Leesburg Airports

The latest round of Federal Aviation Administration grants included over \$11.7 million for Dulles Airport taxiway reconstruction and runway rehabilitation at Leesburg Executive Airport.

The grants were made from the \$1.2 trillion 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The \$4,930,500 for Leesburg is for the \$7.3 million runway project, which also has been supported by previous federal grants.

"This funding will ensure continued

safe and efficient operations at both airports that will boost the local economies of Loudoun County and the entire Northern Virginia region," U.S. Rep. Suhas Subramayam (D-VA-10th) said in announcing the grants.

A status report on the airport runway rehabilitation project is on the Leesburg Town Council's agenda for its Sept. 9 meeting.

Dulles was awarded \$6,802,743 for its taxiway upgrades, one of six airfield construction projects planned in 2025.

Celebrating Your Favorites: Loudoun Now's Winners Reception

Some of the county's favorite people, as selected in Loudoun Now's annual readers' poll, celebrated last week at a reception hosted by one of the winners.

Contest winners and runners-up gathered Aug. 22 at Loudoun's Favorite Live Music Venue, the Tally Ho Theater, with Loudoun's Favorite Musician, Gary Smallwood, performing.

They are among the businesses and organizations that Loudouners recommended with their votes. This year, more than 4,200 names were submitted as nominations in the poll's more than 200 categories. Winners at the celebration reflected the wide range of services, professionals, nonprofits, and community leaders.

"Congratulations to all of you. You are the people held

out by our readers as providing something special in their lives," Loudoun Now Executive Editor Norman K. Styer said. "You are the people they trust to recommend to others. Tonight, we celebrate with the true fabric of our community."

See the full list of this year's winners at loudounnow.com/favorites.



Nonprofits

Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Expands Programming at 50-Year Mark



William Timme/Loudoun Now

Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Assistant Program Director Debbie Gerbich atop KJ at Loudoun Therapeutic Riding facility in Lovettsville.

BY WILLIAM TIMME
wtimme@loudounnow.org

Through the window in her office, Loudoun Therapeutic Riding President Laura Smith witnesses the impact horses have on kids, veterans, those with disabilities or mental health challenges and more every day.

She said it's the most fulfilling thing about her job.

"You get to see little miracles here," Smith said. "Sometimes you have a kiddo who's taken their first steps or spoken their first words because the movement of the horse stimulates the vestibular system. Sometimes things come out of a child with autism connecting with the animal in a non-verbal way."

Therapeutic riding, adaptive carriage driving, equine assisted learning, ground based equine therapy, therapy for veterans and seniors and hippotherapy are among LTR's current programs. In its 50th year, the nonprofit plans to expand its programming with a new workshop series. That series includes Heartmath with Horses, which explains the scientific connection between the presence of horses and a slower heart rate, and Pony Tales, an evening of storytelling.

LTR is also moving to accommodate those interested in wellness as part of its new Bloom Where You Are Planted strate-

Being here with the horses is very centering and very subtle."

—Elena Mussari-Fugate

gic plan.

"We're sort of broadening our scope from working with people who have cognitive, mental and physical challenges to include people who are interested in wellness and interested in connecting with horses within our community," Smith said.

That means using its 25-acre facility, 15 horses, classroom space and connecting with different charities to do more group, ground-based activities, she said.

LTR was the first therapeutic riding center in Virginia, its beginnings tracing back to 1974. The organization operated in Morven Park for 30 years before they bought its current property near Lovettsville. Smith said the newer space allows them to do more.

LTR is a PATH Premiere Accredited Center, the professional association for

therapeutic horsemanship.

"We have equine specialists in mental health and learning as well as certified therapeutic riding instructors on our staff," Smith said. "The equine specialist in mental health and learning specializes in working on that connection between the person and the horse for whatever purpose it might be."

Smith said that equine assisted learning leads to self-discovery because horses react to people's energy, which forces reflection.

"If you're excited and you come up to them and they kind of go 'whoa!' — they teach you to self-regulate. Like OK, I have to be gentle and calm and slow and present," she said. "I think of it as the antidote for cell

"Now you're the calm one," she said.

Last week, one LTR client was learning to drive a horse-drawn carriage.

Smith said it's "amazing" to see her climb out of her wheelchair and into the carriage. Through learning that new skill, she has gotten "tremendous confidence" and has developed balance, coordination and fine motor skills, Smith added.

Loudoun Therapeutic Riding employs a staff and gets help from volunteers. Assistant Program Director Debbie Gerbich has been with LTR for 25 years.

After graduating from Centenary College with a degree in equine studies, Gerbich competed event riding at the inter-



William Timme/ Loudoun Now

Debbie Gerbich walking KJ out for a ride.

phone addiction."

One of the organization's mental health equine specialists, Elena Mussari-Fugate, said most people find their experiences with horses to be very grounding.

"Being here with the horses is very centering and very subtle," she said. "There are some adults that are even more elaborate and they can really articulate, and they say things like 'I'm discovering more about me,' or 'I'm doing something that I never thought that I could do.'"

Smith said because horses are hypervigilant animals, stressed out people can find themselves telling the horses "it's OK buddy"

mediate level, eventually becoming a volunteer at LTR.

Gerbich said she loves being around horses because of the horse-human connection.

"They always seem to know what you're feeling that day and bringing to the table," she said. "They can help you work through that in all kinds of ways."

The center operates both its ground-based and riding therapy year-round. LTR takes people referred by the school system, psychologists, Veterans Affairs, and more.

Loudoun Therapeutic Riding is located at 14490 Berlin Turnpike south of Lovettsville. Learn more at ltrf.org. ■

Aurora

continued from page 1

seeking a restraining order and injunctions in Loudoun County Circuit Court to regain access to the property.

On Thursday and Friday, Aurora School staff members and parents protested in downtown Leesburg, chanting “unlock the gate” and appealing for support for students with special needs as other children around Loudoun were reporting to their first days of classes.

“We are out here asking for help. We need to unlock our gates,” Vanessa Maldonado, a behavioral lead at the Aurora school, said. “Our students cannot go into their classrooms and access their education. We should all be with our students right now. Our place is in a classroom, not on the side of the street.”

Meanwhile, representatives of Nova Day School in Chantilly advanced plans to offer the educational services.

On Aug. 18, after earlier seeking talks with The Arc leadership, they contacted the

launched it to success, and we’ve been operating it for a year. It’s our first school in Virginia, and we love the area and the kids,” he said.

As of Monday, The Arc representatives said they are continuing to press forward with plans to move the school.

“The Arc of Loudoun remains committed to moving forward with plans to relocate the Aurora School to the National Conference Center. This is a full-scale mobilization of leadership, staff, and families, and we are staying focused on our mission. The Nova Day School is welcome to submit a proposal for review by our board and counsel,” Board President Malcolm Cooke stated.

Among the potential hurdles is The Arc’s status as a nonprofit being asked to shift assets to a for-profit company and the status of the student service contracts between The Arc and individual school districts.

Trichter said The Arc’s options appear to be dwindling.

“We did hear some rumors about Aurora dating back six weeks. When things really came to the forefront, we reached out to the relevant stakeholders to offer our assistance,” he said. “After investigating things to the extent we can, it’s pretty clear to us that Aurora is struggling and unlikely to endure.”

He said his staff has talked with school districts working to find new placements for their Aurora students.

But, as of Tuesday, he has yet to enter talks with The Arc leadership.

“They seem intent on keeping their school intact, which we do hope they can do. But we think it’s becoming unrealistic,” he said. “We’ve offered to do what we can to help preserve the spirit of Aurora and its essence by situating the program back on its at its old home, on its old campus, with its entire staff, whom we will hire at their current salaries, immediately and under our management.

Trichter and Mary Louise Leipheimer, one of three Paxton trustees, say they cannot predict the outcome.

“I can’t tell you, and I don’t want to speculate,” Trichter said. “I understand that program was very well respected by reputation. I have no reason to doubt that. I will say that they are currently in a position that they have to take some responsibility for and focus and recenter on the experiences of the children and do what’s best for them.”

“I’m not one to speculate. I know what’s on the table. I know that it’s a good opportunity,” Leipheimer said. “I don’t know what The Arc’s circumstances are. They are not communicating with us. So, I really don’t know how it will work out. I do know that I want these children to be in school.” ■

I’m not one to speculate. I know what’s on the table. I know that it’s a good opportunity...”

—Mary Louise Leipheimer

Paxton trustees to explore opportunities to provide services to families impacted by the Aurora School lockout. Those talks resulted in a letter of intent to lease space on the campus and reestablish a special needs school.

The proposal sent by Jonathan Trichter, Day School co-founder and CEO of the special education school, to The Arc of Loudoun Board of Directors on Saturday includes retaining the staff and teachers at the Aurora School and working to reopen classrooms within days.

Trichter’s firm operates eight special needs schools serving children with autism and related neurological condition. He said most of those were established to replace schools that failed. The Nova Day School in Chantilly took the place of the Auburn School.

“When that closed, we came in, purchased the assets, reconstituted the school using its existing license and then re-



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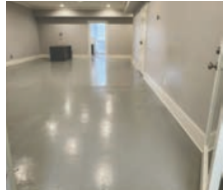


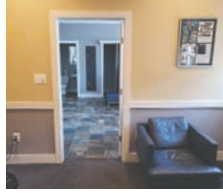
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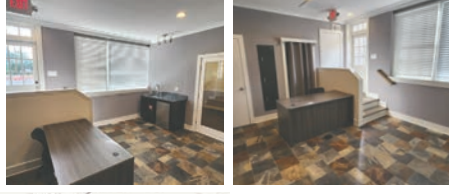
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GET OUT Loudoun

JUST DOUG

6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28
Spanky's Shenanigans, 538 E. Market St.,
Leesburg.
spankyspub.com

JON WATKINS

5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Vanish Farmwoods Brewery, 42245 Black Hops
Lane, Lucketts.
vanishbeer.com

DAVE MININBERG

5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Spanky's Shenanigans, 538 E. Market St.,
Leesburg.
spankyspub.com

CHARLIE GRAY

5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Lark Brewing Co., 24205 James Monroe
Highway, Aldie.
larkbrewingco.com

DILL PICKERS

5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Harpers Ferry Brewing, 37412 Adventure Center
Lane, Loudoun Heights.
harpersferrybrewing.com

CHRIS BOWEN

5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Quattro Gombas Brewery, 22860 James
Monroe Highway, Aldie.
quattrogombas.com

LEGAL IN THE DISTRICT

5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Village at Leesburg, 1602 Village Market Blvd.,
Leesburg.
villageatleesburg.com

JOHANNA HORN

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Old 690 Brewing Company, 15670 Ashbury
Church Road, Hillsboro.
old690.com

PART OF IT ALL

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Lost Barrel Brewing, 36138 Little River Turnpike,
Middleburg.
lostbarrelbrewing.com

NATE DAVIS

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Harvest Gap Brewery, 15485 Purcellville Road,
Hillsboro.
harvestgap.com

LIVE MUSIC

continues on page 19

Loudoun Musicians Join Forces for LoCo Fest on Sunday

BY NORMAN K. STYER
nstyer@loudounnow.org

In its eighth year, LoCo Fest, held at 868 Estate Vineyards, is a Labor Day weekend tradition in Loudoun County.

This year's lineup includes 17 bands and performers ranging from the best-known names in the county's music scene to young rising stars.

While the Sunday, Aug. 31 event offers attendees the chance to see many of the region's most popular musicians in a single day, it also supports the music community more broadly.

Organized by 868 co-owner Nancy Deliso and musician Todd Brooks, the festival is a fundraiser that has provided over \$70,000 worth

of music equipment to performers, schools, and community programs.

"Originally Todd Brooks was the person who had the really brilliant idea to do this. What he wanted to do was to have a place where a lot of local musicians could come together and really hang out for the day and experience each other's music because the musicians are playing in all these different venues every weekend. They never get a chance to hear each other," Deliso said.

The performers donate their time.

"They see this as a worthwhile cause. Our tagline is 'Keep Live Music Growing in Loudoun County' and the musicians really

LOCO FEST

continues on page 24



Lineup Announced for Crossroads Music Festival

Downtown Leesburg will be filled with live music Sept. 19-20 as the Crossroads Music Festival returns, headlined by an intimate performance by The Police guitarist Andy Summers. The music showcase is organized by BENEFIT, a nonprofit organization led by a coalition of musicians and community leaders that raises money and awareness for charities supporting children in Loudoun.

This year's festival kicks off Friday, Sept. 19 with a ticketed show at the Tally Ho Theater featuring Sister Hazel.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, stages throughout the downtown historic district

will showcase more than 30 local performers with music ranging from rock to Americana to jazz starting at 3 p.m. Performers include Airmont Road, ALLSK8, Annie Stokes, Big Brad and the Day Drinkers, Bob Cerie, Chris Ellinghaus, Chris Hammock, Chris Timbers, Cracked Sky, Crosscut Saw, Dave Mininberg, Frayed Knots, Good For Sunday, Intellect, Joey Bauer, Juliana MacDowell, Ken Kemp, Laurie Blue, Lesson Zero, Lil' Maceo, Loudoun Jazz Ensemble, Lucas Mason, Max Redding and the Dogwood Gospel, Metro to Paris, Mike McCabe, Mintons Academy of Music – The Voyagers, Ylodian, Rob Hoey, SunCrest, Peter Bollinger, The

Dead Queens, The Ragweeds, Thomas Hinds, Tripp McCullar, and Uncle Drew and the Scoundrels.

No tickets are required for the showcase performances.

The festival closes with a ticketed show at the Tally Ho Theater featuring The Police guitarist Andy Summers. The event will include an intimate interview-style performance with Summers sharing insights on his musical journey, the rise of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band and his celebrated photography.

For more information and tickets, go to crossroadsmusicfest.org.

BEST BETS



22 LATE

Friday, Aug. 29, 6 to 10 p.m.
Hillsboro Old Stone School, 37098 Charles Town Pike,
Hillsboro.
oldstoneschool.org
Enjoy a night of classic rock at 22 Late takes the Gap
Stage for an evening of free music.



OZZMOSIS

Saturday, Aug. 30, 7 p.m. (doors)
Tally Ho Theater
tallyhotheater.com
Celebrate the life and music of Ozzy Osbourne with this
Texas-based tribute band. \$15.



LOCO FEST

Sunday, Aug. 31, noon to 9 p.m.
868 Estate Vineyards
locomusiciansfestival.com
Enjoy a day-long showcase of the area's most talented
performers during this fundraising concert that support
those working in the Loudoun music scene. \$35.

GET OUT
LIVE MUSIC

continued from page 18

22 LATE

6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Hillsboro Old Stone School, 37098 Charles Town
Pike, Hillsboro. Free.
oldstoneschool.org

WAYNE SNOW

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Flying Ace Farm, 40950 Flying Ace Lane,
Lovettsville.
flyingacefarm.com

ALEXANDER KERNS

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Bear Chase Brewing Company, 33665 Bear Chase
Lane, Bluemont.
bearchasebrew.com

COUNTRY NIGHT WITH DELTA SPUR

7 to 11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Tally Ho Theater, 19 W. Market St., Leesburg. \$15.
tallyhotheater.com

JOSH CREWS AND FRIENDS

8 to 11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Monk's BBQ, 251 N. 21st St., Purcellville.
monksq.co

DAVID DAVOL

12 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Cana Vineyards, 38600 Little River Turnpike,
Middleburg.
canavineyards.com

GOOD FOR SUNDAY

1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Vanish Farmwoods Brewery, 42245 Black Hops Lane,
Lucketts.
vanishbeer.com

MATT BURRIDGE

1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Fabboli Cellars, 15669 Limestone School Road,
Leesburg.
fabbolicellars.com

TY BURKHARDT

1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
868 Estate Vineyards, 14001 Harpers Ferry Road,
Loudoun Heights.
868estatevineyards.com

TRAILIN SMOKE

1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Bear Chase Brewing Company, 33665 Bear Chase
Lane, Bluemont.
bearchasebrew.com

SHANE GAMBLE

1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Three Creeks Winery, 18548 Harmony Church Road,
Hamilton.
3creekswinery.com

KARMA CREAK BAND

1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Wheatland Spring Farm + Brewery, 38506 John
Wolford Road, Waterford.
wheatlandspring.com

DAVID ANDREW SMITH

1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
8 Chains North Winery, 38593 Daymont Lane,
Waterford.
8chainsnorth.com

JASON MASI

1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
50 West Vineyards, 39060 John Mosby Highway,
Middleburg.
50westvineyards.com

LUKE ANDREWS

1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Fleetwood Farm Winery, 23075 Evergreen Mills
Road, Leesburg.
fleetwoodfarmwinery.com

MIKE LEVERONE

1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Sunset Hills Vineyard, 38295 Fremont Overlook
Lane, Purcellville.
sunsethillsvineyard.com

BAD INFLUENCE

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards, 16804
Hamilton Station Road, Hamilton.
thebarnsathamiltonstation.com

LAURA CASHMAN

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Old 690 Brewing Company, 15670 Ashbury Church
Road, Hillsboro.
old690.com

JIM STEELE

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Lark Brewing Co., 24205 James Monroe Highway,
Aldie.
larkbrewingco.com

TRAIN WRECK ENDINGS

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Good Spirit Farm, 35113 Snickersville Turnpike,
Round Hill.
goodspiritfarmva.com

BILLY AND THE CURLY BROTHERS

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Harvest Gap Brewery, 15485 Purcellville Road,
Hillsboro.
harvestgap.com

DEANE KERN

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Two Twisted Posts Winery & Tavern, 12944 Harpers
Ferry Road, Hillsboro.
twotwistedposts.com

CHRIS COLLAT

2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Old Farm Winery at Hartland, 23583 Fleetwood
Road, Aldie.
oldfarmwineryhartland.com

SHANE HINES

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Breux Vineyards, 36888 Breux Vineyards Lane,
Hillsboro.
breuxvineyards.com

ALEX PAREZ

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Twin Oaks Tavern Winery, 18035 Raven Rocks Road,
Bluemont.
twinoakstavernwinery.com

DAVE MININBERG

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Quattro Goombas Brewery, 22860 James Monroe
Highway, Aldie.
quattrogoombas.com

SCOTT KURT

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Creek's Edge Winery, 41255 Annas Lane,
Lovettsville.
creeksedgewinery.com

MELANIE PEARL

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Chrysalis Vineyards, 39025 Little River Turnpike,
Middleburg.
chrysaliswine.com

JON G

3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Flying Ace Farm, 40950 Flying Ace Lane,
Lovettsville.
flyingacefarm.com

ERIC CAMPBELL

3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Barnhouse Brewery, 43271 Spinks Ferry Road,
Leesburg.
barnhousebrewery.com

PHANTOM JAY BAND

4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Lost Rhino Brewing Company, 21730 Red Rum
Drive, Ashburn.
lostrhino.com

GET OUT

LIVE MUSIC

continued from page 19

STEVE BOYD & FRIENDS
4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Lost Barrel Brewing, 36138 Little River Turnpike,
Middleburg.
lostbarrel.com

DOLLY SODDS
5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Vanish Farmwoods Brewery, 42245 Black Hops Lane,
Lucketts.
vanishbeer.com

WHOLE LOTTA ROSES
5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Spanky's Shenanigans, 538 E. Market St., Leesburg.
spankyspub.com

GRAYSON MOON
5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Harpers Ferry Brewing, 37412 Adventure Center
Lane, Loudoun Heights.
harpersferrybrewing.com

DELTA DUO
5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Village at Leesburg, 1602 Village Market Blvd.,
Leesburg.
villageatleesburg.com

SIDETRACKED
6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Harvest Gap Brewery, 15485 Purcellville Road,
Hillsboro.
harvestgap.com

BILLY T WILDE
6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Honor Brewing Company, 42604 Trade West Drive,
Sterling.
honorbrewing.com

FABIENNE & DOUG
6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Bear Chase Brewing Company, 33665 Bear Chase
Lane, Bluemont.
bearchasebrew.com

**NASHVILLE NIGHTS - THE ULTIMATE
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6 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Tarara Vineyards, 13648 Tarara Lane, Leesburg. \$20.
tararaconcerts.com

**OZZMOSIS: CELEBRATION OF OZZY
OSBOURNE**
7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Tally Ho Theater, 19 W. Market St., Leesburg. \$15.
tallyhotheater.com

DAVE MININBERG
7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
The Bungalow Lakehouse, 46116 Lake Center Plaza,
Sterling.
bungalowlakehouse.com

COWPOKE TRIO
8 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Monk's BBQ, 251 N. 21st St., Purcellville.
monksq.com

MISSION ROAD BAND
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 30
Spanky's Shenanigans, 538 E. Market St., Leesburg.
spankyspub.com

FELIX PICKLES
12 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Bear Chase Brewing Company, 33665 Bear Chase
Lane, Bluemont.
bearchasebrew.com

STEPHANIE BALL
12 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Cana Vineyards, 38600 Little River Turnpike,
Middleburg.
canavineyards.com

LOCO FEST 2025
12 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
868 Estate Vineyards, 14001 Harpers Ferry Road,
Hillsboro. \$25.
868estatevineyards.com

ACOUSTIC CHICKS BAND
1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Vanish Farmwoods Brewery, 42245 Black Hops Lane,
Lucketts.
vanishbeer.com

BAILEY HAYES
1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Lark Brewing Co., 24205 James Monroe Highway,
Aldie.
larkbrewingco.com

CHRIS ELLINGHAUS
1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Fabbioni Cellars, 15669 Limestone School Road,
Leesburg.
fabbionicellars.com

SCOTT KURT
1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Lost Barrel Brewing, 36138 Little River Turnpike,
Middleburg.
lostbarrel.com

BENJAMIN WEIMER
1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Fleetwood Farm Winery, 23075 Evergreen Mills
Road, Leesburg.
fleetwoodfarmwinery.com

LAURA CASHMAN
1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Sunset Hills Vineyard, 38295 Fremont Overlook
Lane, Purcellville.
sunsethillsvineyard.com

PATTY REESE
1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
8 Chains North Winery, 38593 Daymont Lane,
Waterford.
8chainsnorth.com

LENNY BURRIDGE
1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
50 West Vineyards, 39060 Little River Turnpike,
Middleburg.
50westvineyards.com

DAN CRONIN
2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards, 16804
Hamilton Station Road, Hamilton.
thebarnsathamiltonstation.com

KELLIN LITTLE
2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Old 690 Brewing Company, 15670 Ashbury Church
Road, Hillsboro.
old690.com

TOM O'NEIL
2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Good Spirit Farm, 35113 Snickersville Turnpike,
Round Hill.
goodspiritfarmva.com

ANDREW O'DAY
2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Harvest Gap Brewery, 15485 Purcellville Road,
Hillsboro.
harvestgap.com

HALL VOTE
2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Old Farm Winery at Hartland, 23583 Fleetwood
Road, Aldie.
oldfarmwineryhartland.com

DYLAN WOELFEL
2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Flying Ace Farm, 40950 Flying Ace Lane,
Lovettsville.
flyingacefarm.com

MATT BURRIDGE
2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Breux Vineyards, 36888 Breux Vineyards Lane,
Hillsboro.
breuxvineyards.com

JASON MASI
2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Quattro Goombas Brewery, 22860 James Monroe
Highway, Aldie.
quattrogoombas.com

THE COLD NORTH
3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Spanky's Shenanigans, 538 E. Market St., Leesburg.
spankyspub.com

SHANE HINES
4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Harpers Ferry Brewing, 37412 Adventure Center
Lane, Loudoun Heights.
harpersferrybrewing.com

TED GARBER
4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
The Bungalow Lakehouse, 46116 Lake Center Plaza,
Sterling.
bungalowlakehouse.com

CAZHMIERE
5 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Harvest Gap Brewery, 15485 Purcellville Road,
Hillsboro.
harvestgap.com

JOSH SOWDER
5 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Bear Chase Brewing Company, 33665 Bear Chase
Lane, Bluemont.
bearchasebrew.com

WILLIAM SHEPARD
5 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Twin Oaks Tavern Winery, 18035 Raven Rocks Road,
Bluemont.
twinoakstavernwinery.com

TOMMY & KIM
12 to 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 1
Bear Chase Brewing Company, 33665 Bear Chase
Lane, Bluemont.
bearchasebrew.com

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All real estate advertised herein is subject to Virginia's fair housing law which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status or handicap or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept advertising for real estate that violates the fair housing law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. For more information or to file a housing complaint call the Virginia Fair Housing Office at (804) 367-9753.

fairhousing@dpor.virginia.gov · www.fairhousing.vipnet.org

GET OUT

LIVE MUSIC

continued from page 20

JIMMY BUFFETT MARGARITAVILLE BASH
12 to 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 1
Lost Barrel Brewing, 36138 Little River Turnpike, Middleburg.
lostbarrel.com

EMMA BAILEY DUO
1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 1
Vanish Farmwoods Brewery, 42245 Black Hops Lane, Lucketts.
vanishbeer.com

THE HOPELESS SEMANTICS
2 to 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 1
The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards, 16804 Hamilton Station Road, Hamilton.
thebarnsathamiltonstation.com

JASON MASI
6 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3
The Lost Fox, 20374 Exchange St., Ashburn.
lostfoxhideaway.com

JUSTIN SUEDE
6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4
Spanky's Shenanigans, 538 E. Market St., Leesburg.
spankyspub.com

HAPPENINGS

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M. THURSDAY, AUG. 28
Crossroads Methodist Church, 43454 Crossroads Drive, Ashburn. Free.
wellnessloudoun.org

SOUND BATH WITH SPIRAL SENSATIONS
7:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28
Crossroads Methodist Church, 43454 Crossroads Drive, Ashburn. \$25.
wellnessloudoun.org

TEACHER WORK DAY TAKEOVER
9 a.m. to noon Friday, Aug. 29
Valhallan Esports Training, 405 Glenn Drive, Sterling. \$25.
valhallan.com

TRIAL OF MILES OPENING NIGHT
5:15 to 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29
Morven Park, 17339 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. \$20.
rungsiup.com

LEESBURG FARMERS MARKET
8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 30
Virginia Village, 30 Catocin Circle SE., Leesburg.
loudounfarmersmarkets.org

LOUDOUN UNITED FC VS. MIAMI FC
7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30, Segra Field, Leesburg.
loudoununitedfc.com

THE SECRET LIFE OF POLLINATORS
1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Chapman DeMary Trail, 355 N. Hatcher Ave., Purcellville.
loudounwildlife.org

MOVIE NIGHT: SING 2
6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Loudoun Station, 43751 Central Station Drive, Ashburn.
loudounstation.com

INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS VIGIL
7 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31
Loudoun County Courthouse, 18 E. Market St., Leesburg.
insightrecoverycenters.com

WRITING IN NATURE
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4
Morven Park, 17339 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg.
loudounwildlife.org

LOUDOUN RETIRED EDUCATORS PICNIC MEETUP
12 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4
Douglass Community Center, 407 E. Market St., Leesburg.
loudounlea.org

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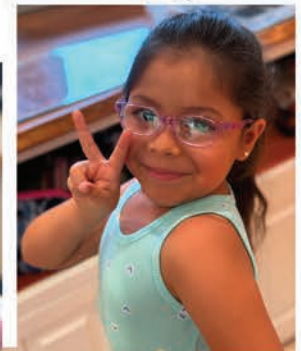
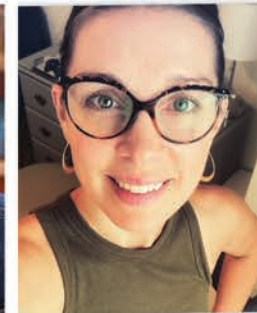
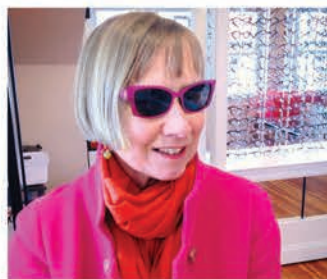
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Contributed

The concert area at 868 Estate Vineyards include picnic tables and spaces for popup tents.

LoCo Fest

continued from page 18

believe that," she said.

For Deliso, one of the highlights each year is the final performance that closes out the festival.

"There's a jam session on stage and all of the musicians who are still there at 9 o'clock when the regular lineup ends. They get up on stage and they just jam. They have a great time just being together and getting a chance to connect up and collaborate," she said.

Another point of pride is the Rising Stars performances that put the spotlight on talented teen performers—many of whom have gone on to build careers in the music industry.

"It is just a great program that Todd started. Primarily it's been young kids. We've had musicians as young as 13 up on that stage—including Sela Campbell, who's gone on to do just fabulous things; Emma Rowley, who's down in Nashville now; and Lillian Hackett, who is one of the performers who regularly plays breweries and wineries around here now," Deliso said.

A special Rising Star performer this year will be Farris Hallaj, who has a vision impairment. Hallaj works with the music therapy program at A Place to Be in Leesburg, a nonprofit that has received donated equipment from the festival.

"Farris is going to come play, and it's really special for us to have him

up there. He doesn't have access to transportation, and so he doesn't get a chance to play in front of a live audience very often. We are going to offer him an audience of over a thousand people and a chance to play on that stage. He's very excited about it and we are, too," Deliso said.

Others in this year's lineup are Mission Road, Dave White, Kate Elizabeth, Jim Steele, Chad Laughlin and Blue Ridge Rain, Savash, 41 North, Natalie Williams, Sarah Cooper, The Darby Brothers, Mike Ault and Gary Smallwood, Dylan Woelfel, Ronnie Wolford and 50 West, Jumptown, and Todd Brooks and Pour Decisions. There also will be food trucks, beer from Lost Rhino and plenty of wine and wine slushies from 868.

In addition to hosting two large charity music festivals each summer—the Nova Music Fest held Memorial Day weekend—868 Estate Vineyards features live music each weekend May through October.

"Everybody on our staff loves music. That's a really special thing. And I grew up playing piano and then I played band through all of middle school and high school and on into college. Music has always been a part of my life," Deliso said. "And it is the same for our business partners. So when we started 868, we knew that music and art, which is another thing we do at 868, were really things that we wanted to emphasize and to support in the community. I am just very excited that 868 really has

LOCO FEST
continues on page 25



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become a place that is known for supporting music in the community and not just the weekend musicians.”

Festival attendees can bring pop-up shelters, chairs or blankets.

“It’s a very easy festival to go to. We have plenty of parking. It’s very easy to get from the parking area to the concert area,” Deliso said. “We turn our whole system around so that the stage is out in a big field, and we have lots of places for people to set up their space to enjoy the day.

Tickets for the festival are \$30 in advance for the rain or shine event. People under the age of 16 are free, but registration is requested through the ticket system to track attendance.

“It is really helpful to us if people buy their tickets a little bit ahead of time so we know how many people are coming and we can plan for everybody. This is a fundraiser and we want as much money going to ticket sales as possible so that we can really grow this program of delivering musical instruments to musicians and community programs in our area,” she said.

Buy tickets and learn more at locomusiciansfestival.com. ■

LOCO FEST PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

12-12:15 p.m.	Mission Road	4:15-5 p.m.	Loco Rising Stars: Farris Hallaj * Natalie Williams * Sarah Cooper
12:15-12:30 p.m.	Dave White		
12:30- 12:45 p.m.	Kate Elizabeth		
12:45-1 p.m.	Jim Steele	5:15-6:15 p.m.	The Darby Brothers
1-1:40 p.m.	Chad Laughlin and Blue Ridge Rain	6:15-6:45 p.m.	Mike Ault and Gary Smallwood
1:50-2:30 p.m.	Savash	6:45-7 p.m.	Dylan Woelfel
2:40-3:20 p.m.	41 North	7-8 p.m.	Ronnie Wolford and 50 West
3:40-4:15 p.m.	Todd Brooks and Pour Decisions	8-9 p.m.	Jump town
		9 p.m.	Jam Song

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Earle-Sears

continued from page 8

Earle-Sears said, “Ladies and gentlemen, it is time for the insanity to stop.” She continued, “this school system has decided they are going to use the taxpayers’ money against them.”

Earle-Sears told the crowd that they should consider running for the School Board and other local offices if they want to see change in county policies.

“Our kids deserve better,” she said. “Our schools must do better.”

Hetzler said he believes part of LCPS’ decision involved religious discrimination. “We are also deeply troubled by the discriminatory

nature of LCPS’ actions as evidenced by the fact that while a student of the Muslim faith was charged with the same allegations was rightly acquitted, the two boys of Christian faith were still found guilty and punished.

“While we are celebrating our success in protecting at least one of our clients from unjust charges, that disparity raises serious concerns.”

Seth Wolfe is the father of one of the boys who was suspended.

“This is a gross abuse of authority,” said Wolfe. He continued, “We will not stop fighting until our son’s rights and the rights of all students are protected.”

After the briefing, Earle-Sears spoke to

Wolfe’s son by phone. She told the boy that he had done the right thing and was suffering for it and thanked him for his actions.

The U.S. Department of Education on Monday announced that they had placed LCPS on a “high risk” status for funding and were beginning the process of halting federal funding to LCPS altogether. Both DOE and the Department of Justice have also received referrals to investigate LCPS’ handling of the case from Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares.

The decision of the Loudoun County School Board to not comply with federal demands that it change its Policy 8040, which covers the rights of transgender students, has met mixed reactions in the county and state. Some have applauded it, including Loudoun4All and Equality Loudoun. Both organizations signed a letter to the five Northern Virginia school divisions, including Loudoun, that did not comply with the Trump Administration’s requirements.

“As parents and community members who are deeply committed to the human and civil

rights of all of our students in the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, and Prince William County, we thank you for standing up for our transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive students,” said the letter. “You faced down the illegal and cruel demands of the U.S. Department of Education and refused to sell out our students.”

The letter added that 812 residents of Loudoun County has signed a letter supporting the School Board’s decision.

Candice Tuck, executive director of Equality Loudoun, said in a statement, “We know through a title IX preceding that this young person wasn’t doing anything wrong, they were actually the victim. And so just the same story over and over again. Take something completely out of context, shove it at a national level, scream about how Loudoun is too progressive when we have counties like Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, that have been far more progressive than Loudoun has for a long time.”

“A couple of boys who were caught harassing someone and they decided to turn the narrative around.” ■



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Schools Using AI Software to Monitor Students’ Online Activity

BY PATRICK LEWIS

plewis@loudounnow.org

Loudoun County Public Schools is using software powered by artificial intelligence to monitor students’ online activity. The software alerts staff when it flags activity it detects as potentially dangerous or problematic.

Division spokesperson Dan Adams confirmed that the school division is using Gaggle and “some other tools.”

“Gaggle is one of many tremendous tools LCPS uses to safeguard students and staff. But we also remind students, staff and families that the most important safety protocol is to ‘see something, say something,’” he said.

Gaggle, according to its website, uses “machine learning technology” that “flags concerning content in students’ school-issued accounts for review and blocks potentially harmful content.” The software, if it detects alarming content, notifies school officials.

Gaggle did not reply to a request for comment for this article.

According to Adams, Gaggle generated 7,605 notifications in the 2024-2025 school year. Of those, 317 were in reference to a “Possible Student Situation,” which Adams said represents “an immediate threat to the student or students.”

The other 7,288 notifications were for “questionable content.”

“This is content deemed not an immediate threat to a student, but content that is cause for concern and should be brought to an administrator or staff member’s attention for analysis,” Adams said.

The division’s website says that the software

monitors all activity on LCPS internet networks and on school-provided student devices at all times, including at home. It also monitors students’ email accounts, Google Drive, Google Chat, and Office 365 products regardless of which device is being used to access it.

The software also blocks access to certain types of webpages, including adult and violent content, illegal content, overseas sites, and most social media platforms.

Gaggle and similar software has become controversial in the wake of Associated Press reporting that found that false AI-generated alerts have led to arrests of students.

Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office spokesperson Chad Quinn told *Loudoun Now* that LCSO has made five arrests as a result of Gaggle notifications since 2016. The Leesburg Police Department said the agency has not made any arrests following Gaggle notifications.

When asked what internal policies govern the school division’s use of the software, Adams said, “Several policies that would apply, particularly Policy and Regulation 3065.”

Policy 3065 for Information Security Protection, “establishes the practices for protecting against compromise or loss of Loudoun County Public School (LCPS) information assets.” The policy includes a clause that says, “Unless explicitly noted in other administrative policies, the School Division retains the right to observe, review or audit all assets and activity conducted on the LCPS network, stored on division provided computers, storage media, and any other devices or systems.”

Regulation 3065, “Information Security Regulation,” established practices for data and information owned by the school division. Neither document explicitly mentions Gaggle. ■

Holsinger

continued from page 3

Then he was told instead to expect a call from a number he wouldn't recognize.

"My phone rings. I pick it up, and there she is," he recalled. "My hands were shaking, and it was really, really remarkable."

His then-unreleased "Culpability" would be a selection for Winfrey's book club, one of just over 100 titles she has shared with her massive following over the past two decades. And it had to remain secret—NDA and all—for a few more weeks.

The book was released July 8. Holsinger was at the world headquarters of Starbucks to film the announcement with Winfrey. Then it was off to New York for film a segment for CBS Mornings. A few weeks ago, People magazine included "Culpability" in a feature pairing books with songs from the Taylor Swift's upcoming album, linking Holsinger's work with "Wi\$h Li\$t."

"The book came out, and the announcements were made, and everything in my life just exploded. It's really been an incredible summer," Holsinger said.

"Culpability" is the fifth novel by the University of Virginia English professor who grew up in Loudoun County. After two works of historical fiction, Holsinger's three latest books delve deeply into the challenges of modern life—parental obsessions with their children's performance in "The Gifted School," climate change and disaster planning in "The Displacements," and the rapidly expanding use of artificial intelligence in his latest work.

The novels not only create worlds with compelling, well-developed characters, but also provide readers with cutting-edge information in the topic areas.

"My last three novels, and then the one I'm working on now, they're tackling contemporary issues, but mostly they're trying to tell a good story," he said. "I'm a big believer that research is part of the creative act. I don't just read a whole bunch of books on subjects and then start writing. I really do the research I need to do while I'm writing, while I'm telling the story."

For "Culpability," in which a family deals with the aftermath of a fatal crash while riding in a self-driving car, the research involved interviews with people in the AI world—those on the front lines of tech development—along with sources in the legal field.

"I listened to an enormous amount of podcasts about chatbots and so on. I read a lot of research on the ethics of artificial intelligence and ethical philosophy in general. That's not my field," he said. "There's a number of elements in the book where I'm kind of mimicking the voice of a philosopher and I think mimicry is one of the things that gets stronger the more research you do. You write in different voices that you derive from ma-

terials that you research in. My research is always very eclectic."

For "The Gifted School," Holsinger spent time in the lab with a pediatric neurologist and her postdocs and grad students to understand that field of science well enough to make an authentic presentation.

"One of my main characters was a pediatric neurologist, and it was a field I just knew nothing about, but I needed her to have a job where she was thinking about her daughter's brain in a clinical way, just like she's think-

maybe next year or the feel of next year," he said. So I had to include some things about the pandemic and some of it was a bit of guesswork about how our moment right now when I was writing it would feel in a year and a half. That's a really kind of uncanny exercise."

After his deep-dive research into the fast-changing world of artificial intelligence, he is both curious and concerned about the industry.

"I'm scared about what it's doing to our

suits going on about the occasional fatality in these kinds of vehicles. It's going to be very interesting to see what happens there," Holsinger said. "But like everybody, I'm very wary of AI and what it's doing to us and the ways that it's taking autonomy away and this kind of surveillance state that it makes possible. I'm not quite as alarmist as some people I read, but I'm pretty worried."

The journey to national acclaim began in Loudoun where he was raised as the son of a Fairfax County high school principal father and a Montessori school instructor mother.

"They were really, really influential on my own development as a teacher, probably also as a writer. My mom was a writer. She wrote a nonfiction children's book and was dedicated to that throughout her life," he said.

Holsinger might have been slotted among the nerdy kids during his student experience that culminated with graduation from Loudoun County High School in 1985.

"I was definitely not the coolest kid in school. My hair was out to here. I had these big glasses, and I was a clarinet player, and I was just a smart ass," he said. "I was never an athlete at all. My sons are both athletes and it really got them through school. In a lot of ways, it was good for them, but for me, it was music and drama and Boy Scouts that got me through."

Today he writes in two different worlds.

For his job as an English professor, he is focused on works about medieval literature that require him to be in scholarly mode. "Transitioning back to fiction is easy. I could just do that in my sleep. And I, I really love the process of fiction writing. It is just a joy," he said.

Asked about advice for other would-be authors, Holsinger suggests putting down their devices.

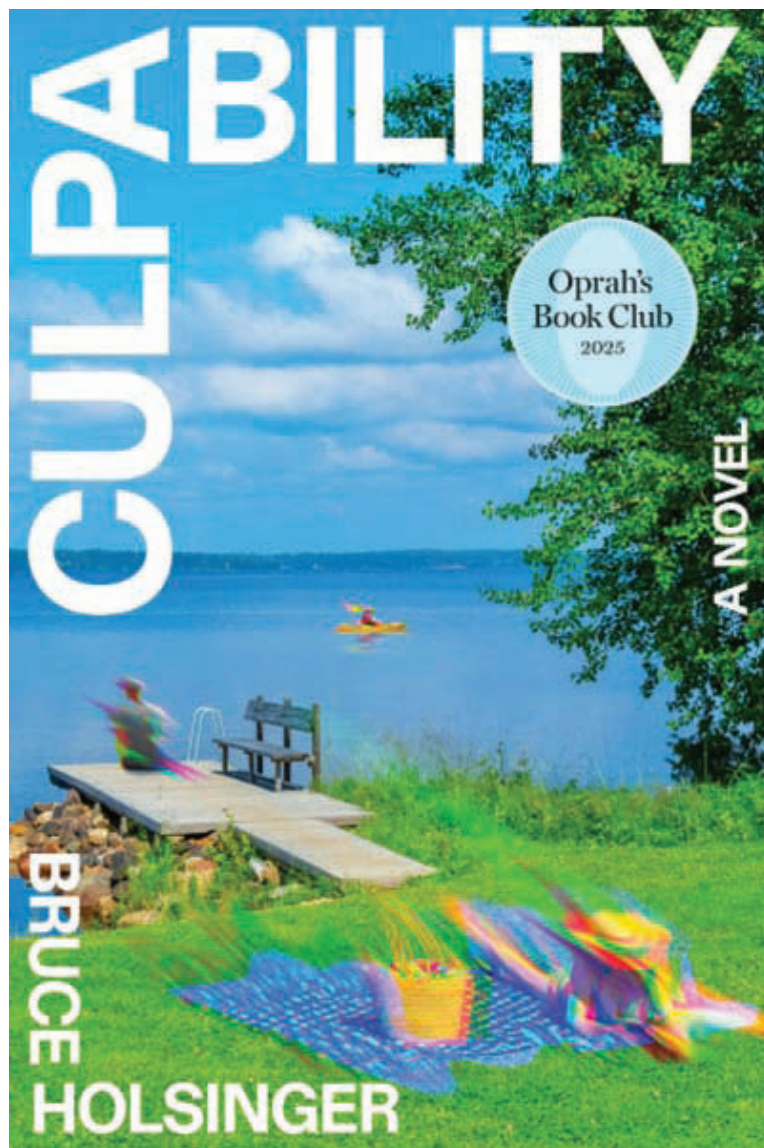
"I think young writers need to be pulling out their notebooks—or their parchments—and trying to de-digitize a bit," he said. "I worry about the loss of the process of putting sentences together, or even reading sentences together. I think AI is as much a threat to reading as it is to writing."

While a convenient tool, he is concerned about the impact the trend of having an AI chatbot quickly summarize an article or a book will have.

"I worry about the processes of reading and writing, those long, detailed processes that create not just critical thought, but just the experience of the word. We've been doing that for 1,000 years, and now I do feel like this is a new kind of threat to that."

While back in Charlottesville for classes, Holsinger continues to balance a national book tour schedule that includes The Virginia Festival of the Book in Alexandria on Sept. 27 and perhaps a visit back to Loudoun for an event with the library system next spring.

Learn more about Holsinger and his works at bruceholsinger.com. ■



ing about her daughter's brain in this kind of competitive-parenting way," he said.

An unintended consequence of its accelerated release date, "Culpability" was published just weeks before a much-watched court case that centered on a fatal crash involving Tesla's Autopilot technology—resulting in a \$240 million verdict from a Miami jury.

"I like to write on the very edge of our moment, at the edge of the present," he said, recalling that as he was working on the final revision of "The Displacements," COVID hit and he had to go back and weave that in.

"It's not a futuristic book. It's not a dystopian book. It's set in our moment— just

students—to reading and writing," he said. "I'm very worried about the environmental aspects of it. I feel like it's just contributing to this wholesale destruction of the climate and enormous amounts of water usage. So that's one of the things I worry about. I also worry greatly about disinformation, deep fakes, all that kind of thing."

Other aspects are intriguing, including advances in medical imaging and diagnostics, climate change scanning, and the technology at the center of his book, automated driving.

"Self-driving or autonomous-driven cars, that's an area where the arguments for safety are actually fairly accurate despite the law-

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Reminder: **We’re going digital!** You’ve probably already noticed that we’re doing more multimedia, online reporting ,and launching new things like Loudoun Now Voice and the return of the Morning Minute. We’re working on growing our newsroom, reaching more communities, and adding to our journalism with online, multimedia reporting.

But that also means the last edition of the printed version of Loudoun Now will be Thursday, August 28. Don’t miss a day of our local, nonprofit, trustworthy reporting—find us however you want your news!

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Legal Notices

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VA. CODE § 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Case No.: CA25-47

Loudoun County Circuit Court

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re

Kimberly Wilczewski

Desmond Wilczewski

v.

Troy A. Brooks

The object of this suit is to obtain the adoption of Zarihya Wilczewski.

It is ORDERED that the defendant(s) Troy A. Brooks appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before October 3, 2025, 10:00 am.

8/28, 9/4, 9/11, 9/18/25

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VA. CODE § 8.01-316; 8.01-317

Civil Action No.: CL-25-5129

Loudoun County Circuit Court

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re

THOMAS F. CARPENTER, *et ux.*,

Plaintiffs

vs.

LISA L. BALTIMORE

AND

CATHERINE BEALS, if living, or if she is dead, then her widower, heirs, devisees and successors in title, who are made parties defendant by the general description of PARTIES UNKNOWN,

Defendants.

The object of the above-styled suit is to effect the allotment to the Plaintiffs of a .25- acre parcel of land with a PIN of 463-20-4763 located on Lime Kiln Road (Route 733) near Marble Quarry in Loudoun County, Virginia.

IT APPEARING to the Court, by affidavit, that defendant Lisa L. Baltimore is a nonresident individual, whose last known post office address is 47291 . Rolling Rd., Windsor Mill, MD 21244; and that diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the location of defendant Catherine Beals.

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING to the Court, that the Complaint filed herein: (i) states that there are, or may be, persons, whose names are unknown, interested in the subject property to be disposed of by allotment; (ii) briefly describes the nature of such interest; and (iii) makes such persons defendants, by the general description of “parties unknown”; such persons being the widower, heirs, devisees and successors in title of Catherine Beals, if she be dead; wherefore

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to §8.01-316 VIRGINIA CODE, that LISA L. BALTIMORE, CATHERINE BEALS, and the persons made defendants by the general description of PARTIES UNKNOWN, do appear before this Court on **October 24, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**, and do what is necessary to protect their interests herein.

8/21, 8/28, 9/4 & 9/11/25

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VA. CODE § 8.01-316

Case No.: JJ049287-03-00

Loudoun Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re

ANNE MONSERRAT PENA MUNOZ

Loudoun County Department of Family Services

v.

Dayana Nicole Pena-Munoz, mother, Luis Caballero, Putative Father and Unknown Father

The object of this suit is to hold a foster care review hearing and review of Foster Care Plan pursuant to Virginia Code § 16.1-282 and §16.1-281 for Anne Monserrat Pena Munoz.

It is ORDERED that Dayana Nicole Pena-Munoz, mother, Luis Caballero, Putative Father and Unknown Father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before September 23, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

8/14, 8/21, 8/28, 9/04

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

A MESSAGE TO LOUDOUN COUNTY

OLDER AND DISABLED RESIDENTS FROM

Robert S. Wertz, Jr.

Commissioner of the Revenue

RESIDENTS 65 AND OLDER OR TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED who wish to apply for 2025 Personal Property (vehicle) Tax Relief for the first time must submit an application to my office by the September 2, 2025, filing deadline.

Please visit our website or contact my office for information or filing assistance.

Leesburg Office

1 Harrison Street SE

First Floor

Sterling Office

46000 Center Oak Plaza

Hours: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, M - F

Phone: (703) 737-8557

Internet: loudoun.gov/taxrelief

Email: taxrelief@loudoun.gov

Mailing Address:

PO Box 8000, MSC 32

Leesburg, VA 20177-9804

If you require a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability or need language assistance to participate, please contact Tax Exemptions & Deferrals, trcor@loudoun.gov, (703) 737-8557 / TTY-711.

Three business days advance notice is requested.

FIND LOCAL

EVENTS

GETOUTLOUDOUN.COM

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

WATER STORAGE TANK REFURBISHMENTS

CARR TANK 1 AND SYCOLIN TANK

The Town of Leesburg will accept sealed bids electronically via the Commonwealth’s e-procurement website (www.eva.virginia.gov), until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2025, for the following:

IFB NO. ~~3082~~- FY26-06

WATER STORAGE TANK REFURBISHMENTS CARR TANK 1 AND SYCOLIN TANK

The project includes installation of containment, abrasive blasting and re-coating of tank interior surfaces, abrasive blasting and re-coating of the tank exterior surfaces, removal and replacement of the Cathodic Protection System at both tank sites, and all incidentals related thereto.

For additional information, visit: <http://www.leesburgva.gov/bidboard>

8/28/25

TOWN OF LEESBURG

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Leesburg Board of Zoning Appeals on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, second floor in the Leesburg Town Hall, 25 W. Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176, to hear the following item:

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Case number TLVAR2025-0002 – Lydia Hurlocker, Applicant, requests a Variance to allow an encroachment into a required side yard. The encroachment will accommodate an accessible path to an existing side entry of the dwelling. The residence is located at 330 Whipp Dr. SE, Leesburg, VA, 20175. The property subject to this request is further identified with Loudoun County Parcel Identification Number 233-49-5752.

Full and complete copies of the above-referenced application and related documents may be examined in the Leesburg Department of Community Development located at 222 Catoctin Circle SE, Suite 200, Leesburg, VA 20175, during regular business hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by calling (703) 771-2765 and asking for Michael Watkins, Zoning Administrator, Secretary to the Board of Zoning Appeals, or Shelby Miller, Planner, Clerk to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

At this hearing, all persons desiring to express their views regarding this matter will be heard. Persons requiring special accommodation should contact the Secretary to the Board three days in advance of the meeting date at (703) 771-2765. For TTY/TDD service, use the Virginia Relay Center by dialing 711.

8/28, 9/04/25

LOUDOUN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

NOTICE OF IMPOUNDMENT OF ABANDONED VEHICLE

This notice is to inform the owner and any person having a security interest in their right to reclaim the motor vehicle herein described within 15 days after the date of storage charges resulting from placing the vehicle in custody, and the failure of the owner or persons having security interests to exercise their right to reclaim the vehicle within the time provided shall be deemed a waiver by the owner, and all persons having security interests of all right, title and interest in the vehicle, and consent to the sale of the abandoned motor vehicle at a public auction.

This notice shall also advise the owner of record of his or her right to contest the determination by the Sheriff that the motor vehicle was “abandoned,” as provided in Chapter 630.08 of the Loudoun County Ordinance, by requesting a hearing before the County Administrator in writing. Such written request for a hearing must be made within 15 days of the notice.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN	STORAGE	PHONE NUMBER
2013	CHEVROLET	CRUZE	1G11C5SA4DF209980	AL’S TOWING	703-435-8888
2013	HYUNDAI	SONATA	KMHEC4A1DA077520	ROADRUNNER	703-450-7555
2014	TOYOTA	COROLLA	5YFBURHE9EP014994	BATTLEFIELD	703-378-0059

8/28, 9/4/25

Legal Notices

COUNTY OF LOUDOUN, VIRGINIA
AVAILABILITY OF CONSOLIDATED
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
AND EVALUATION REPORT
FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development invites residents to provide comments on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The public comment period is open August 15, 2025, through September 8, 2025.

The FY 2025 CAPER must be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by September 28, 2025.

The Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development has prepared a CAPER for FY 2025 on the performance of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs within the County for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, to be submitted to HUD. Copies of the draft CAPER for FY 2025 will be made available starting Friday, August 15, 2025, through Friday, September 8, 2025, and may be examined at the office of the Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development, 106 Catoctin Circle, SE, Leesburg, VA 20175, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and at Loudoun County libraries during the hours of operation. The CAPER is also available online at <https://www.loudoun.gov/CDBG>. Written comments on the CAPER may be submitted to the attention of the Program Administrator II, Johnette Powell, at johnette.powell@loudoun.gov. For questions, please call 571-627-7707.

8/14, 8/21, 8/28, 9/4/25

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING
BY THE TOWN OF HILLSBORO, VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission and Town Council of the Town of Hillsboro, Virginia (the “Planning Commission” and “Town Council”) will hold a joint public hearing to receive public comment and to consider adoption of an ordinance amending the Hillsboro Zoning Ordinance to revise the Flood Hazard Overlay District regulations. A summary of these Amendments is provided below. Complete copies of the amendments are available for review by appointment at the Town office at 37098 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro, VA, 20132 between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM, Monday through Friday, holidays excepted.

- Summary of draft Zoning Ordinance Amendments:**
1. Amend ARTICLE II, Section 2-2: Definitions, Flood Hazard Overlay District, to add new and revise definitions relating to the Flood Hazard Overlay District;
 2. Amend ARTICLE XII, Part 3. Flood Hazard District. The amendment, in summary, will update the existing Flood Hazard Overlay District regulations to be consistent with standards and requirements established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and support the Town’s participation in, and compliance with, FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program. No revisions to the existing flood hazard zones as established by FEMA are being proposed.

The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be held before the Town Council and Planning Commission on **Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at the Hillsboro Old Stone School located at 37098 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro, VA, 20132. Any person interested in the Amendments may appear at the public hearing and present his or her views. The Town Council may set time limits on speakers and other rules and procedures for the conduct of this public hearing.

Written comments regarding the Amendments may be delivered prior to the public hearing in care of the Mayor at 37098 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro, Virginia 20132, or e-mailed to mayorvance@hillsborova.gov. All comments received will be presented to the Town Council and Planning Commission during the public hearing.

8/21, 8/28/25

TOWN OF LEESBURG
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

LEESBURG TOWN CODE AMENDMENT:

CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION); ARTICLE V (BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS);
DIVISION 1 (GENERALLY); SECTION 2-227 (LEESBURG COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ART)

In accordance with Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, Sections 15.2-1102 and 15.2-1427, the **Leesburg Town Council** will hold a public hearing on:

TUESDAY, September 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
in the Council Chambers of Town Hall
25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia

to consider the adoption of a proposed ordinance amending **Chapter 2, Article V, Section 2-227** of the Leesburg Town Code relating to the **Leesburg Commission on Public Art**. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to **update the membership eligibility criteria** for the Leesburg Commission on Public Art to allow **town business owners** to serve as members.

A copy of the proposed ordinance will be available from the Town Clerk, located in Town Hall, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia, during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); or by calling Eileen Boeing, Clerk of Council, at 703-771-2733.

At this hearing, all persons desiring to express their views concerning these matters will be heard. Persons requiring special accommodations should contact the Clerk of Council at 703-771-2733, three days in advance of the meeting. For TTY/TDD service, use the Virginia Relay Center by dialing 711.

08/21, 08/28/25

TOWN OF LOVETTSVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

LVZA 2025-0003, AMEND CHAPTER 30, SUBDIVISIONS, ARTICLE 30-I, IN GENERAL,
ARTICLE 30-II, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT, 30-III, APPROVAL
PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA, 30-IV, DEVELOPMENT SITE PLANS, Article 30-V,
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS, ARTICLE 30-VI, INSTALLATION OF
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, AND AMEND CHAPTER 42, ZONING, ARTICLE 42-I, IN
GENERAL, AND ARTICLE 42-II, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204, 15.2-2253, and 15.2-2286 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, the LOVETTSVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Wednesday September 2, 2025, at 7:00 pm, in the Town Council Chambers, 6 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Lovettsville, Virginia, to consider amendments to Lovettsville Town Code and Zoning Ordinance, specifically Chapter 30, Subdivisions, Articles I, II, III, IV, V, and VI, and Chapter 42, Zoning, Articles I and II.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider amendments to the Ordinances that would modify definitions, the submittal requirements for zoning permits, subdivisions, and site plans, revise the construction bond approval procedures, establish a preapplication meeting for subdivisions, establish a preliminary site plan process, and modify when site plans are required.

All persons desiring to speak will be given an opportunity to do so at this meeting. Written copies of statements are requested but not required. Written comments regarding this item can be submitted to clerk@lovettsvilleva.gov by 3:00 pm on the day of the meeting. Members of the public may access and participate in this meeting electronically.

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Town website at: www.lovettsvilleva.gov/government/planning-commission/. You may also request a copy be sent to you by contacting John Merrithew, Planning Director at (540) 822-5788 or jmerrithew@lovettsvilleva.gov, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm weekdays, holidays excepted. In the event the meeting is postponed, the public hearing will be convened at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Lovettsville Planning Commission.

8/21, 8/28/25

FIND LOCAL EVENTS
GETOUTLOUDOUN.COM

Legal Notices

TOWN OF LEESBURG

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO CONSIDER A RENEWAL LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH CABLEVISION LIGHTPATH LLC FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WITHIN TOWN RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §5.2- 1800, the **LEESBURG TOWN COUNCIL** will hold a Public Hearing on:

TUESDAY, September 9, 2025at 7 00 p.m.
in the Council Chambers of Town Hall
25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia

to consider a Renewal License Agreement with Cablevision Lightpath LLC, as successor to United Fiber & Data, LLC, authorizing Cablevision Lightpath LLC to use certain Town rights-of-way and publicly owned property for telecommunications purposes to install, operate, and maintain fiber optic cable, for a term of five years, upon certain terms and conditions.

Copies of the proposed Resolution, the proposed Renewal License Agreement for Telecommunications Facilities between the Town and Cablevision Lightpath LLC, and additional information regarding the proposed renewal agreement, will be from the Town Clerk located in Town Hall, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia, during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); or by calling Eileen Boeing, Clerk of Council, at 703-771-2733.

At this hearing, all persons desiring to express their views concerning these matters will be heard. Persons requiring special accommodations should contact the Clerk of Council at 703-771-2733, three days in advance of the meeting. For TTY/TDD service, use the Virginia Relay Center by dialing 711.

8/21, 8/28/25



TOWN OF LEESBURG

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SUMMITIG, LLC FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES PASSING THROUGH THE TOWN OF LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

Pursuant to Virginia Code §5.2- 1800, the **LEESBURG TOWN COUNCIL** will hold a Public Hearing on:

TUESDAY, September 9, 2025at 7 00 p.m.
in the Council Chambers of Town Hall
25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia

to consider an amendment to the existing License Agreement with SummitIG, LLC, which authorizes SummitIG, LLC to use certain Town rights-of-way and publicly owned property for telecommunications purposes, upon certain terms and conditions. The proposed amendment would extend SummitIG, LLC’s existing fiber optic cable systems to certain additional rights-of-way and publicly owned property under the terms of the existing agreement.

Copies of the proposed Resolution, the proposed Amendment to License Agreement for Telecommunications Facilities between the Town and SummitIG, LLC, and additional information regarding the proposed amendment, are available from the Clerk of Council, located in Town Hall, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia, during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); or by calling Eileen Boeing, Clerk of Council, at 703-771-2733.

At this hearing, all persons desiring to express their views concerning these matters will be heard. Persons requiring special accommodations should contact the Clerk of Council at 703-771-2733, three days in advance of the meeting. For TTY/TDD service, use the Virginia Relay Center by dialing 711.

8/21, 8/28/25

TOWN OF LEESBURG

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO CONSIDER A RENEWAL LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH ZAYO INFRASTRUCTURE HOLDCO, LLC FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WITHIN TOWN RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §5.2- 1800, the **LEESBURG TOWN COUNCIL** will hold a Public Hearing on:

TUESDAY, September 9, 2025at 7 00 p.m.
in the Council Chambers of Town Hall
25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia

to consider a Renewal License Agreement with Zayo Infrastructure Holdco, LLC (formerly Zayo Group, LLC), authorizing Zayo to use certain Town rights-of-way and publicly owned property for telecommunications purposes to install, operate, and maintain fiber optic cable, for a term of five years, upon certain terms and conditions.

Copies of the proposed Resolution, the proposed Renewal License Agreement for Telecommunications Facilities between the Town and Zayo Infrastructure Holdco, LLC, and additional information regarding the proposed renewal agreement, are available from the Clerk of Council, located in Town Hall, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia, during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); or by calling Eileen Boeing, Clerk of Council, at 703-771-2733.

At this hearing, all persons desiring to express their views concerning these matters will be heard. Persons requiring special accommodations should contact the Clerk of Council at 703-771-2733, three days in advance of the meeting. For TTY/TDD service, use the Virginia Relay Center by dialing 711.

8/21, 8/28/25

TOWN OF LEESBURG

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO A RENEWAL LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH LUMOS NETWORKS, INC. FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WITHIN TOWN RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §5.2- 1800, the **LEESBURG TOWN COUNCIL** will hold a Public Hearing on:

TUESDAY, September 9, 2025at 7 00 p.m.
in the Council Chambers of Town Hall
25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia

to consider an amendment to the existing Renewal License Agreement with Lumos Networks, Inc., which authorizes Lumos Networks, Inc. to use certain Town rights-of-way and publicly owned property for telecommunications purposes, upon certain terms and conditions. The proposed amendment would extend Lumos Networks, Inc.’s existing fiber optic cable systems to certain additional rights-of-way and publicly owned property under the terms of the existing agreement.

Copies of the proposed Resolution, the proposed First Amendment to Renewal License Agreement for Telecommunications Facilities between the Town and Lumos Networks, Inc., and additional information regarding the proposed amendment, will be available from the Clerk of Council, located in Town Hall, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia, during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); or by contacting Eileen Boeing, Clerk of Council, at 703-771-2733.

At this hearing, all persons desiring to express their views concerning these matters will be heard. Persons requiring special accommodations should contact the Clerk of Council at 703-771-2733, three days in advance of the meeting. For TTY/TDD service, use the Virginia Relay Center by dialing 711.

8/21, 8/28/25

Legal Notices

PUBLIC HEARING

The **LOUDOUN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** will hold a public hearing in the Board of Supervisors’ Meeting Room, County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, at **6:00 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, September 10, 2025**, in order to consider:

PROPOSED CONVEYANCE OF COUNTY PROPERTY
Conveyance of Easement within Lucketts Community Park to Loudoun County Sanitation Authority d.b.a. Loudoun Water

Pursuant to Virginia Code §5.2- 1800 et seq., the Board of Supervisors shall consider conveying to Loudoun County Sanitation Authority d.b.a Loudoun Water, a thirty-five-foot-wide access easement (the easement) to be located across County owned property known as Lucketts Community Park in the Catoctin Election District. The purpose of the easement is to provide access to the Loudoun Water facility known as Lucketts Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), installed on property adjacent to the access easement. The WWTF serves the Lucketts Elementary School, Lucketts Community Center, Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Station 10, and the Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company approved as part of commission permit application CMPT-2024-0003; special exception application SPEX-2024-0039; and minor special exception SPEX-2024-0091. The property on which the easement will be located is more particularly described as: 14560 James Monroe Hwy, Leesburg, Virginia, PIN: 179-30-6314-000, and Tax Map # /30///2/////7/.

Copies of the draft deed of easement and plat showing the location of the above-listed conveyance, and associated documents, are available for review and may be examined at the Loudoun County Government Center; Information Desk, 1st Floor, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Monday through Friday or call (703) 777-0200. Documents may also be viewed and downloaded electronically 72 hours in advance of the public hearing at: www.loudoun.gov/bosdocuments (for Public Hearing documents, follow the link for Board of Supervisors Business Meetings, Public Hearings and Special Meetings”).

PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF COUNTY EASEMENTS TO
LOUDOUN COUNTY SANITATION AUTHORITY d.b.a. LOUDOUN WATER

Pursuant to Virginia Code §5.2- 1800 et seq., the Board of Supervisors shall consider assigning waterline easements and sanitary sewer easements granted to the County in the deeds and plats recorded in Deed Book 770 at Page 750, and Deed Book 772 at Page 720 (the Easements) to the Loudoun County Sanitation Authority d.b.a. Loudoun Water. The Easements are located in Section 5 and Section 5-A of the Forest Ridge Subdivision located along Caragana Court (Route 1560), Buckeye Court (Route 1561), Almey Court (Route 1563), Yew Court (Route 1562) and portions of Silverleaf Drive / S Dickenson Avenue (Route 1442) in the Sterling Election District.

Copies of the plat(s) showing the location(s) of the above-listed easement(s) and associated documents are available for review and may be examined at the Loudoun County Government Center; Information Desk, 1st Floor, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Monday through Friday or call (703) 777-0200. Documents also may be viewed and downloaded electronically 72 hours in advance of the public hearing at: www.loudoun.gov/bosdocuments (for Public Hearing documents, follow the link for “Board of Supervisors Business Meetings, Public Hearings and Special Meetings”).

PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PUBLIC USE AND NECESSITY OF
ACQUIRING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE
ACQUISITION BY EMINENT DOMAIN

Evergreen Mills Road Realignments: Reservoir Road & Watson Road

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-1901 et seq., the Board of Supervisors shall consider the adoption of a resolution approving the public use and necessity for the acquisition of real property for the Evergreen Mills Road Realignments: Reservoir Road & Watson Road in Leesburg, Virginia, by eminent domain (condemnation and “quick take”). The subject real property consists of portions of nine (9) parcels located along the planned roadway corridor. The property interests to be acquired include public street fee simple right-of-way, various permanent easements, and temporary construction easements for the construction of the project located on the following properties:

Parcel ID#	PROPERTY OWNER	Election District
240-45-2125-000	FREDERICK M JR & SHARRON CRABTREE	Little River
280-49-9826-000	FREDERICK M JR & SHARRON CRABTREE	Little River
280-30-4698-000	RICHARD L SHENTON	Little River
280-30-5960-000	MADHAPPAN & KOKHILA SAKTHIVEL	Little River
240-35-4620-000	LAUREN MICHELE & DOUGLAS TODD NORKIN	Little River
240-45-3210-000	HEIN & TIEN DO DAO	Little River
240-45-7714-000	HEIN & TIEN DO DAO	Ashburn
240-46-3544-000	MULPURI PROPERTIES LLC	Ashburn
240-26-8362-000	SVTP O’CONNOR LLC	Ashburn

A complete copy of the full text of the above-referenced proposed resolution, as well as plat and vicinity maps further identifying the subject property to be acquired, is on file and available for public inspection at the Loudoun County Government Center; Information Desk, 1st Floor, 1 Harrison Street,

S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or call (703) 777-0200. Documents may also be viewed and downloaded electronically 72 hours in advance of the public hearing at: www.loudoun.gov/bosdocuments (for Public Hearing documents, follow the link for Board of Supervisors Business Meetings, Public Hearings and Special Meetings”). Project details may also be viewed at the County’s Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure website link: www.loudoun.gov/5789 Transportation-Projects-Programs.

AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 1020 OF
THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF LOUDOUN COUNTY
NAMING OF STREETS

Pursuant to Virginia Code §5.2- 1427 and 15.2-2019, the Board of Supervisors gives notice of its intent to consider for passage amendments to Section 1020.05, General Naming Standards, and Section 1020.07, Street Naming and Renaming Process, of the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County. In order to establish a new naming standard that prohibits the use of names of Confederate leaders, the Confederate cause, or of individuals or movements that promote or implement racial segregation as street names, as well as processes by which existing and reserved street names found to be in violation of this new standard will be renamed and/or deleted from the Master Street Directory.

A copy of the full text of above-referenced proposed amendments is on file and available for public inspection at the Loudoun County Government Center; Information Desk, 1st Floor, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or call (703) 777-0200. Documents may also be viewed and downloaded electronically 72 hours in advance of the public hearing at: www.loudoun.gov/bosdocuments (for Public Hearing documents, follow the link for Board of Supervisors Business Meetings, Public Hearings and Special Meetings”).

ALEGI-2025 0001, REVIEW AND RENEWAL, MODIFICATION OR
TERMINATION OF THE CHRYSALIS VINEYARDS/LOCKSLEY ESTATE
AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTAL DISTRICT

The current period of the Chrysalis Vineyards/Locksley Estate Agricultural and Forestal District will expire on November 16, 2025. The District has a 4-year period and a subdivision minimum lot size of 40 acres. Pursuant to Chapter 1226 of the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County, the Board of Supervisors has directed staff, the Agricultural District Advisory Committee (ADAC), and the Planning Commission to conduct a review in order to determine whether to continue, modify, or terminate the District. Parcels currently enrolled in the District are located within an area generally on the south side of Little River Turnpike (Route 50), on the east side of Champe Ford Road (Route 629), on the west side of Aldie Dam Road (Route 632), and on the north side of Rochester Lane, in the Little River Election District.

During this review, land less than 5 acres, or 20 acres or greater, in size that is currently enrolled in the District will be automatically renewed. However, any parcel containing at least 5 acres, but less than 20 acres will be ineligible for renewal and inclusion within the District unless the owner submits an application on forms provided by the Department of Planning and Zoning and one or more of the following criteria is met:

1. Management Plan that specifically states that the property owner(s) are accumulating the required 5-year production records in order to qualify for agricultural, to include horticulture, land use tax deferral.
2. Animal Husbandry including Equine uses (commercial or non-commercial) with a Management Plan that relates the pasture carrying capacity to limit the number of animals allowed.
3. Forests and woodlands with a management plan that specifies the actions required to maintain and enhance the stands.
4. Wetlands, flood plains, streams and/or rivers that have Management Plans that set forth the terms for their maintenance and enhancement.

During this review, land within the District may be withdrawn, in whole or in part, at the owner’s discretion by filing a written notice with the Board of Supervisors at any time before the Board acts to continue, modify, or terminate the District.

Landowners of the following parcels, currently enrolled in the Chrysalis Vineyards/Locksley Estate Agricultural and Forestal District, were notified by certified mail of the District’s review.

Parcel Listings:

PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED	PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED
397-26-7021-000	/89//11/////1/	202.36	434-29-2430-000	/97/////////5B	133.07
398-25-4379-000	/98////////4B-1/	44.39	435-49-6507-000	/97////////5A2/	31.94

The ADAC held a public meeting on June 12, 2025, to review and make recommendations concerning whether to continue, modify, or terminate the Chrysalis Vineyards/Locksley Estate Agricultural and Forestal District.
Continued on next page

Legal Notices

Forestal District, and to review renewal applications and requests for withdrawal of land from the District. The report and recommendations of the ADAC will be considered by the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, at its public hearing on July 29, 2025. The reports and recommendations of the ADAC and the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at its public hearing.

In accordance with Section 15.2-4307 of the Code of Virginia, the applications are available for inspection at the Loudoun County Government Center, Information Desk, 1st Floor, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling 703-7770246 (option 5) to request hard copies or electronic copies or electronically at: <https://loudouncountyvaeg.tylerhost.net/prod/selfservice#/home> (choose “public records, then search by “plan” for “ALEGI”). Documents also may be viewed and downloaded electronically 72 hours in advance of the public hearing at: www.loudoun.gov/pc (for Public Hearing documents, follow the link for Public Hearings Packet).

ALEGI-2025-0002, REVIEW AND RENEWAL, MODIFICATION OR
TERMINATION OF THE NEW HUGHESVILLE AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTAL DISTRICT

The current period of the New Hughesville Agricultural and Forestal District will expire on December 6, 2025. The District has a 4-year period and a subdivision minimum lot size of 25 acres. Pursuant to Chapter 1226 of the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County, the Board of Supervisors has directed staff, the Agricultural District Advisory Committee (ADAC), and the Planning Commission to conduct a review in order to determine whether to continue, modify, or terminate the District. Parcels currently enrolled in the District are located within an area generally south of Hughesville Road (Route 725), east of Telegraph Springs Road (Route 611), and west of Shelbourne Glebe Road (Route 729), in the Catoctin Election District.

During this review, land less than 5 acres, or 20 acres or greater, in size that is currently enrolled in the District will be automatically renewed. However, any parcel containing at least 5 acres, but less than 20 acres will be ineligible for renewal and inclusion within the District unless the owner submits an application on forms provided by the Department of Planning and Zoning and one or more of the following criteria is met:

1. Management Plan that specifically states that the property owner(s) are accumulating the required 5-year production records in order to qualify for agricultural, to include horticulture, land use tax deferral.
2. Animal Husbandry including Equine uses (commercial or non-commercial) with a Management Plan that relates the pasture carrying capacity to limit the number of animals allowed.
3. Forests and woodlands with a management plan that specifies the actions required to maintain and enhance the stands.
4. Wetlands, flood plains, streams and/or rivers that have Management Plans that set forth the terms for their maintenance and enhancement.

During this review, land within the District may be withdrawn, in whole or in part, at the owner’s discretion by filing a written notice with the Board of Supervisors at any time before the Board acts to continue, modify, or terminate the District.

Landowners of the following parcels, currently enrolled in the New Hughesville Agricultural and Forestal District, were notified by certified mail of the District’s review.

Parel Listings:

PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED	PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED
456-10-1614-000	/45////////52/	10	459-39-4908-000	/57//2////B/	15
456-19-2924-000	/45//9////B/	21.2	423-46-5298-000	/45//38////A/	200.51
457-30-0111-000	/45//50////B1/	25	491-20-7761-000	/45////////29/	5.33
457-46-4769-000	/45//17////2/	50.07	492-40-1152-000	/45//17////3/	3.84
459-29-5147-000	/57//12////////1B	12.91	492-40-6871-000	/45//17////1/	50.07

The ADAC held a public meeting on June 12, 2025, to review and make recommendations concerning whether to continue, modify, or terminate the New Hughesville Agricultural and Forestal District, and to review renewal applications and requests for withdrawal of land from the District. The report and recommendations of the ADAC will be considered by the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, at its public hearing on July 29, 2025. The reports and recommendations of the ADAC and the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at its public hearing.

In accordance with Section 15.2-4307 of the Code of Virginia, the applications are available for inspection at the Loudoun County Government Center, Information Desk, 1st Floor, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling 703-7770246 (option 5) to request hard copies or electronic copies or electronically at: <https://loudouncountyvaeg.tylerhost.net/prod/selfservice#/home> (choose “public records, then search by “plan” for “ALEGI”). Documents also may be viewed and downloaded electronically 72 hours in advance of the public hearing at: www.loudoun.gov/pc (for Public Hearing documents, follow the link for Public Hearings Packet).

ALEGI-2025-0003, REVIEW AND RENEWAL, MODIFICATION OR
TERMINATION OF THE NEW MOUNT GILEAD AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTAL DISTRICT

The current period of the New Mount Gilead Agricultural and Forestal District will expire on December 6, 2025. The District has a 4-year period and a subdivision minimum lot size of 20 acres. Pursuant to Chapter 1226 of the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County, the Board of Supervisors has directed staff, the Agricultural District Advisory Committee (ADAC), and the Planning Commission to conduct a review in order to determine whether to continue, modify, or terminate the District. Parcels currently enrolled in the District are located within an area generally south of Leesburg Pike (Route 7), along and west of Mount Gilead Road (Route 797), and east of Silcott Springs Road (Route 690) in the Catoctin Election District.

During this review, land less than 5 acres, or 20 acres or greater, in size that is currently enrolled in the District will be automatically renewed. However, any parcel containing at least 5 acres, but less than 20 acres will be ineligible for renewal and inclusion within the District unless the owner submits an application on forms provided by the Department of Planning and Zoning and one or more of the following criteria is met:

1. Management Plan that specifically states that the property owner(s) are accumulating the required 5-year production records in order to qualify for agricultural, to include horticulture, land use tax deferral.
2. Animal Husbandry including Equine uses (commercial or non-commercial) with a Management Plan that relates the pasture carrying capacity to limit the number of animals allowed.
3. Forests and woodlands with a management plan that specifies the actions required to maintain and enhance the stands.
4. Wetlands, flood plains, streams and/or rivers that have Management Plans that set forth the terms for their maintenance and enhancement.

During this review, land within the District may be withdrawn, in whole or in part, at the owner’s discretion by filing a written notice with the Board of Supervisors at any time before the Board acts to continue, modify, or terminate the District.

Landowners of the following parcels, currently enrolled in the New Mount Gilead Agricultural and Forestal District, were notified by certified mail of the District’s review.

Parcel Listings:

PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED	PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED
388-35-3823-000	/58////////15/	7.32	493-27-7802-000	/56///3////6//	6.52
389-25-5169-000	/58////////25A	38.12	493-27-7835-000	/56//3////7/	10.12
389-35-4528-000	/58////////25/	15.45	493-28-5062-000	/56//3////8/	12.91
389-35-4963-000	/58////////25C	31.54	493-28-7001-000	/56//3////5/	10
389-45-5836-000	/58////////26/	41.38	493-36-8965-000	/56//3////12/	10.02
424-10-6194-000	/58//8////1/	10	493-37-7501-000	/56//3////10/	10
424-15-7224-000	/57////////46B	28.79	494-10-0868-000	/56//15////6/	10.53
424-29-4402-000	/57//21////8/	62.37	494-20-1489-000	/56//15////22/	12.94
425-17-8473-000	/57////////51D	49.05	494-25-3940-000	/56//7////11A	4.4
425-26-8364-000	/57////////50/	13.56	494-25-6325-000	/56//7////11B	5.45
425-30-1174-000	/58////////19A	6.23	494-29-4115-000	/56//15////7/	20.07
425-37-0341-000	/57////////46/	40.51	494-30-2670-000	/56//15////23/	10.85
425-39-3728-000	/57////////45/	12.89	494-40-2858-000	/56//15////24/	14.4
425-39-8911-000	/57/A/1////A/	2.01	494-45-4041-000	/56//6////9/	15.02
425-40-1044-000	/58////////18/	10.25	494-45-9679-000	/56//6////7/	10.01
425-40-5442-000	/58////////17/	5.89	494-46-0223-000	/56//6////8/	10
425-45-6705-000	/57////////46A	31.76	494-46-6227-000	/56//6////3/	10.32
425-49-6500-000	/58////////19/	5.75	494-47-2331-000	/56//6////6/	6.39
456-26-4401-000	/45//7////A/	16.36	494-47-8435-000	/56//4////1/	8.04
458-10-7561-000	/57//20////18/	17.02	494-48-0383-000	/56//3////2/	8.52
458-25-6717-000	/57////////5/	52.15	495-17-9718-000	/56//19////9/	10.04
458-45-4271-000	/45//13////4/	20.05	495-18-7629-000	/56//19////13/	14.83
459-10-1578-000	/57//6////4/	10.01	495-47-4679-000	/56//15////14/	14.23
459-10-7374-000	/57//6////5/	10.51	495-48-4478-000	/56//15////10/	10.19
459-19-4070-000	/57//2////D/	10	527-18-9190-000	/44////////23A	112.63
459-20-2520-000	/57////////47D	3	528-48-4773-000	/44////////24A	16.51
459-25-4218-000	/57//23////1/	35.25	528-49-9083-000	/44////////24B	10

Continued on next page

Legal Notices

Parcel Listings: (cont)

PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED	PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED
459-35-2627-000	/57//23////3/	27.92	529-20-8759-000	/56//7////12/	9.63
459-45-4463-000	/57//23////5/	23.01	529-30-1433-000	/56//7////14/	10
492-36-1990-000	/44//9////13/	12.61	529-40-6516-000	/56//20////16/	16.55
492-38-5314-000	/44////////32/	14.88	*459-25-8283-000	/57//23////2/	18.55
492-47-0300-000	/44//9////1/	14.82	*493-18-7455-000	/56//3////4/	10.29
493-17-8268-000	/56//3////3/	5.97			

*Indicates a parcel containing at least 5 acres but less than 20 acres whose owner did not properly apply for renewal.

The ADAC held a public meeting on June 12, 2025, to review and make recommendations concerning whether to continue, modify or terminate the New Mount Gilead Agricultural and Forestal District, and to review renewal applications and requests for withdrawal of land from the District. The report and recommendations of the ADAC will be considered by the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, at its public hearing on July 29, 2025. The reports and recommendations of the ADAC and the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at its public hearing.

In accordance with Section 15.2-4307 of the Code of Virginia, the applications are available for inspection at the Loudoun County Government Center, Information Desk, 1st Floor, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling 703-7770246 (option 5) to request hard copies or electronic copies or electronically at: <https://loudouncountyvaeg.tylerhost.net/prod/selfservice#/home> (choose “public records, then search by “plan” for “ALEGI”). Documents also may be viewed and downloaded electronically 72 hours in advance of the public hearing at: www.loudoun.gov/pc (for Public Hearing documents, follow the link for Public Hearings Packet).

ALEGI-2025-0004, REVIEW AND RENEWAL, MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF THE NEW ROCKLAND AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTAL DISTRICT

The current period of the New Rockland Agricultural and Forestal District will expire on November 15, 2025. The District has a 4-year period and a subdivision minimum lot size of 20 acres. Pursuant to Chapter 1226 of the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County, the Board of Supervisors has directed staff, the Agricultural District Advisory Committee (ADAC), and the Planning Commission to conduct a review in order to determine whether to continue, modify, or terminate the District. Parcels currently enrolled in the District are located within an area generally north of White’s Ferry Road (Route 655), south of Limestone School Road (Route 661), west of the Potomac River and east of and along James Monroe Highway (Route 15), in the Catoctin Election District.

During this review, land less than 5 acres, or 20 acres or greater, in size that is currently enrolled in the District will be automatically renewed. However, any parcel containing at least 5 acres, but less than 20 acres will be ineligible for renewal and inclusion within the District unless the owner submits an application on forms provided by the Department of Planning and Zoning and one or more of the following criteria is met:

1.

Management Plan that specifically states that the property owner(s) are accumulating the required 5-year production records in order to qualify for agricultural, to include horticulture, land use tax deferral.
2.

Animal Husbandry including Equine uses (commercial or non-commercial) with a Management Plan that relates the pasture carrying capacity to limit the number of animals allowed.
3.

Forests and woodlands with a management plan that specifies the actions required to maintain and enhance the stands.
4.

Wetlands, flood plains, streams and/or rivers that have Management Plans that set forth the terms for their maintenance and enhancement.

During this review, land within the District may be withdrawn, in whole or in part, at the owner’s discretion by filing a written notice with the Board of Supervisors at any time before the Board acts to continue, modify, or terminate the District.

Landowners of the following parcels, currently enrolled in the New Rockland Agricultural and Forestal District, were notified by certified mail of the District’s review.

Parcel Listings:

PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED	PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED
142-26-2282-000	/30////////19A	26.65	144-35-0845-000	/40//1////15/	10.44
142-36-5964-000	/30////////20B	24.29	183-28-8314-000	/40////////1A	94.73
143-36-5724-000	/40////////1C	420.155			

The ADAC held a public meeting on June 12, 2025, to review and make recommendations concerning whether to continue, modify, or terminate the New Rockland Agricultural and Forestal District, and to review renewal applications and requests for withdrawal of land from the District. The report and recommendations of the ADAC will be considered by the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, at its public hearing on July 29, 2025. The reports and recommendations of the ADAC and the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at its public hearing.

In accordance with Section 15.2-4307 of the Code of Virginia, the applications are available for inspection at the Loudoun County Government Center, Information Desk, 1st Floor, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling 703-7770246 (option 5) to request hard copies or electronic copies or electronically at: <https://loudouncountyvaeg.tylerhost.net/prod/selfservice#/home> (choose “public records, then search by “plan” for “ALEGI”). Documents also may be viewed and downloaded electronically 72 hours in advance of the public hearing at: www.loudoun.gov/pc (for Public Hearing documents, follow the link for Public Hearings Packet).

ALEGI-2025-0005, REVIEW AND RENEWAL, MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF THE NEW UPPERVILLE AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTAL DISTRICT

The current period of the New Upperville Agricultural and Forestal District will expire on December 6, 2025. The District has a 4-year period and a subdivision minimum lot size of 40 acres. Pursuant to Chapter 1226 of the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County, the Board of Supervisors has directed staff, the Agricultural District Advisory Committee (ADAC), and the Planning Commission to conduct a review in order to determine whether to continue, modify, or terminate the District. Parcels currently enrolled in the District are located within an area generally north of Little River Turnpike Highway (Route 50), east of Blue Ridge Mountain Road, west of Foggy Bottom Road/Bloomfield Road (Route 626) and Willisville Road (Route 623), and south of Snickersville Turnpike (Route 734), in the Little River Election District.

During this review, land less than 5 acres, or 20 acres or greater, in size that is currently enrolled in the District will be automatically renewed. However, any parcel containing at least 5 acres, but less than 20 acres will be ineligible for renewal and inclusion within the District unless the owner submits an application on forms provided by the Department of Planning and Zoning and one or more of the following criteria is met:

1.

Management Plan that specifically states that the property owner(s) are accumulating the required 5-year production records in order to qualify for agricultural, to include horticulture, land use tax deferral.
2.

Animal Husbandry including Equine uses (commercial or non-commercial) with a Management Plan that relates the pasture carrying capacity to limit the number of animals allowed.
3.

Forests and woodlands with a management plan that specifies the actions required to maintain and enhance the stands.
4.

Wetlands, flood plains, streams and/or rivers that have Management Plans that set forth the terms for their maintenance and enhancement.

During this review, land within the District may be withdrawn, in whole or in part, at the owner’s discretion by filing a written notice with the Board of Supervisors at any time before the Board acts to continue, modify, or terminate the District.

Landowners of the following parcels, currently enrolled in the New Upperville Agricultural and Forestal District, were notified by certified mail of the District’s review.

Parcel Listings:

PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED	PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED
652157192000	/53//2////O/	5	667467108000	/53////////19E	13.16
653158587000	/53////////30B	23.02	668256718000	/70////////4B	30.65
653160744000	/53////////30A	20.02	668295859000	/70////////34/	404.37
655264754000	/70//2////2/	163.71	668480218000	/70////////1/	107.4
655373536000	/70//2////3/	62.11	668495647000	/70////////33/	17.62
656156815000	/70////////16B	48.2	669279977000	/70////////7/	267.59
656356213000	/70////////31/	122.27	6693540810000	/70////////4A	94.42
656464263000	/70//2////1/	126.21	669472724000	/70////////6/	30.42
657106815000	/71////////51B	10	669485330000	/70////////5/	80.37
657195925000	/70//4////14B	53.1	670400827000	/70////////8A	60.97
657281702000	/70//4////14A	172.24	671306526000	/70//6////1/	314.45
657456747000	/70//8//16B1/	27	672482261000	/84////////2/	34.3
659396262000	/84////////5A	118.08	678273932000	/52//5////4B	50.54
659476922000	/84////////4/	5.09	678397078000	/52//6////2/	38.93
659479710000	/84////////4A	1.98	678403093000	/52//6////1/	36.85
664155277000	/53////////13/	9.52	678479924000	/52////////9/	642.21

Continued on next page

Legal Notices

Parcel Listings: (cont)

PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED	PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED
664157219000	/53////////13A	10	679395575000	/69//1////3/	166.18
665361347000	/53/////////4/	107.99	679476030000	/52/////////15/	100.04
665392980000	/53//3////14/	11.68	680168423000	/69/////////21/	22.49
665492430000	/53//3////15/	15.78	680378224000	/69/////////16/	1085.22
666174910000	/53/////////21A	5.93	689306495000	/69/////////23/	15.3
666275448000	/53/////////16/	2.5	693288918000	/68//2////A2/	8.7
666277556000	/53/////////20/	0.75	694196070000	/68/////////3/	153.54
666278329000	/53/////////22A	0.5	694391532000	/68/////////7A	122.5
666368936000	/53/////////19F	11.39	694394824000	/68/////////7/	103
666389152000	/53/////////19/	459.12	695275923000	/68/////////2/	190.5
666406351000	/53//2////3/	6.78	617151456000	/54//2////4/	12.01
667187635000	/53/////////24/	30	618355115000	/71/////////15E	53.24
667277463000	/53/////////23/	110	618451976000	/54//2////3/	11.86
667370971000	/53/////////19B	5.13	*665290318000	/53//3////10/	10.02
667386679000	/53/////////21/	147.2	*677489542000	/52/////////5/	17.7

*Indicates a parcel containing at least 5 acres but less than 20 acres whose owner did not properly apply for renewal.

The ADAC held a public meeting on June 12, 2025, to review and make recommendations concerning whether to continue, modify, or terminate the New Upperville Agricultural and Forestal District, and to review renewal applications and requests for withdrawal of land from the District. The report and recommendations of the ADAC will be considered by the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, at its public hearing on July 29, 2025. The reports and recommendations of the ADAC and the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at its public hearing.

In accordance with Section 15.2-4307 of the Code of Virginia, the applications are available for inspection at the Loudoun County Government Center, Information Desk, 1st Floor, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling 703-7770246 (option 5) to request hard copies or electronic copies or electronically at: <https://loudouncountyvaeg.tylerhost.net/prod/selfservice#/home> (choose “public records, then search by “plan” for “ALEGI”). Documents also may be viewed and downloaded electronically 72 hours in advance of the public hearing at: www.loudoun.gov/pc (for Public Hearing documents, follow the link for Public Hearings Packet).

ALEGI-2025-0006, REVIEW AND RENEWAL, MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF THE NEW ALDIE AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTAL DISTRICT

The current period of the New Aldie Agricultural and Forestal District will expire on January 2, 2026. The District has a 4-year period and a subdivision minimum lot size of 50 acres. Pursuant to Chapter 1226 of the Codified Ordinances of Loudoun County, the Board of Supervisors has directed staff, the Agricultural District Advisory Committee (ADAC), and the Planning Commission to conduct a review in order to determine whether to continue, modify, or terminate the District. Parcels currently enrolled in the District are located within an area generally south of Lime Kiln Road (Route 733), on the east side of the Goose Creek, east of Sam Fred Road (Route 748), Little River Election District.

During this review, land less than 5 acres, or 20 acres or greater, in size that is currently enrolled in the District will be automatically renewed. However, any parcel containing at least 5 acres, but less than 20 acres will be ineligible for renewal and inclusion within the District unless the owner submits an application on forms provided by the Department of Planning and Zoning and one or more of the following criteria is met:

1.

Management Plan that specifically states that the property owner(s) are accumulating the required 5-year production records in order to qualify for agricultural, to include horticulture, land use tax deferral.
2.

Animal Husbandry including Equine uses (commercial or non-commercial) with a Management Plan that relates the pasture carrying capacity to limit the number of animals allowed.
3.

Forests and woodlands with a management plan that specifies the actions required to maintain and enhance the stands.
4.

Wetlands, flood plains, streams and/or rivers that have Management Plans that set forth the terms for their maintenance and enhancement.

During this review, land within the District may be withdrawn, in whole or in part, at the owner’s discretion by filing a written notice with the Board of Supervisors at any time before the Board acts to continue, modify, or terminate the District.

Landowners of the following parcels, currently enrolled in the New Rockland Agricultural and Forestal District, were notified by certified mail of the District’s review.

Parcel Listings:

PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED	PIN	TAX MAP NUMBER	ACRES ENROLLED
359-36-3143-000	/89////////10B	61.01	396-38-5665-000	/89/////////7/	27.54
360-16-6099-000	/89/////////15/	21.63	429-27-6024-000	/74/////////19A	324.18
360-26-5863-000	/89/////////14/	1.07	430-39-7624-000	/75/////////22/	512.54
394-26-7556-000	/75//9////WL/	55.8	432-37-6182-000	/88//19/////3/	18.39
394-26-9821-000	/75/////////23/	156.34	432-38-7423-000	/88//10/////1/	21.32
394-28-8964-000	/75/////////23A	75	432-47-9430-000	/88//1////B/	18.45
396-26-4807-000	/89/////////1/	46.45	432-48-9904-000	/88//9/////3/	21.44
396-28-1634-000	/89/////////6A	8.17	465-28-9850-000	/74/////////18/	29.12
396-28-7236-000	/89/////////8C	1.61	465-30-5755-000	/74/////////19/	140.04
396-29-0952-000	/89/////////8B	14.49	465-39-6098-000	/74/A/1////A/	24.89
396-29-5883-000	/89//4////F/	32.98	465-39-7945-000	/74/A/1////B/	4.93

The ADAC held a public meeting on June 12, 2025, to review and make recommendations concerning whether to continue, modify, or terminate the New Aldie Agricultural and Forestal District, and to review renewal applications and requests for withdrawal of land from the District. The report and recommendations of the ADAC will be considered by the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, at its public hearing on July 29, 2025. The reports and recommendations of the ADAC and the Planning Commission, along with any proposed modifications, will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at its public hearing.

In accordance with Section 15.2-4307 of the Code of Virginia, the applications are available for inspection at the Loudoun County Government Center, Information Desk, 1st Floor, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling 703-7770246 (option 5) to request hard copies or electronic copies or electronically at: <https://loudouncountyvaeg.tylerhost.net/prod/selfservice#/home> (choose “public records, then search by “plan” for “ALEGI”). Documents also may be viewed and downloaded electronically 72 hours in advance of the public hearing at: www.loudoun.gov/pc (for Public Hearing documents, follow the link for Public Hearings Packet).

**LEGI-2024-0006, CEDAR LAKE RESTAURANT WITH DRIVE-THROUGH FACILITIES:
SPEX-2024-0016
(Special Exception)**

ABTB Mid-Atlantic, LLC. has submitted an application for a special exception for an approximately 0.451-acre property and a portion of a 4.51-acre property located northeast of the intersection of Leesburg Pike (Route 7) and Cedar Drive (Route 821) along Cedar Lake Plaza in the Algonkian Election District (the Subject Property). The Subject Property is more particularly described as:

PIN	PROPERTY ADDRESS	TAX MAP NUMBER
013-17-8413-000	46901 Cedar Lake Plaza Sterling, Virginia	/81/A/8////1/
013-18-1315-000	46900 Cedar Lake Plaza Sterling, Virginia	/81/A/8////2/

For SPEX-2024-0016, the applicant seeks a special exception to permit a restaurant with drive-through facilities in the CC-CC (Commercial Center – Community Center) Zoning District under the Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance.

**LEGI-2024-0048, LOUDOUN TECH CENTER BAPS:
ZMAP-2024-0016
(Zoning Map Amendment)**

BAPS Sterling, LLC has submitted an application for a zoning conversion for approximately 5.94 acres of land located east of Ridgetop Circle (Route 1790), west of Cascades Parkway (Route 1794), and north of Woodshire Drive (Route 1792) in the Sterling Election District (the Subject Property). The Subject Property is more particularly described as PIN #: 020-45-7846-000, and Tax Map # /81///6////5A.

For ZMAP-2024-0016, the applicant seeks to rezone approximately 5.94 acres from the PD-IP (Planned Development – Industrial Park) Zoning District under the [1972 Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance](#) to the IP (Industrial Park) Zoning District under the [Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance](#) to allow all uses permitted in the IP Zoning District, excluding those restricted by the Proffer Statement. The applicant intends to establish a Religious Assembly use in the existing three-story building on the subject property.

**LEGI-2024-0014, DOG HOME AWAY FROM HOME KENNEL:
SPEX-2024-0028
(Special Exception)**

Megan Alfaro, of Purcellville, Virginia, has submitted an application for a special exception for approximately 4.85 acres of land located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Otley Road (Route 701) and Silcott Springs Road (Route 690) in the Catoctin Election District (the Subject Property). The Subject Property is more particularly identified as 19211 Silcott Springs Road, Purcellville, Virginia 20132, PIN # 559-18-6808-000 and Tax Map # /43//3////1/.

Continued on next page

Legal Notices

For SPEX-2024-0028, the applicant seeks special exception approval to permit a kennel use with a maximum of 15 dogs in the AR-1 (Agricultural Rural – 1) Zoning District under the [Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance](#).

CPAM-2024-0006, GLOUCESTER PARKWAY
(Comprehensive Plan Amendment)

Pursuant to Code of Virginia §§15.2-2204, 15.2-2225, and 15.2-2229, and a Motion adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 4, 2025, the Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of its intent to consider a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM) to amend the *Loudoun County 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan* (2019 CTP) (adopted June 20, 2019, as amended) in order to clarify, revise, and/or delete existing, policies, guidelines, and maps regarding the elimination of the section of the extension of Gloucester Parkway between Cochran Mill Road (Route 653) and Belmont Ridge Road (Route 659).

The CPAM proposes revisions to Appendix 1, Planning Guidelines for Major Roadways Countywide, certain Countywide Transportation Maps of the 2019 CTP, and such other Chapters, policies, provisions, and maps of the of the 2019 CTP as may be necessary to implement and maintain consistency with the foregoing amendments or as otherwise necessary to correct typographical errors, section and subsection numbering, and formatting within, update cross-references to, and further clarify the policies of, the above-mentioned section(s) of the 2019 CTP. The proposed amendments under consideration include, without limitation, the following:

Amendments to Appendix 1– Planning Guidelines for Major Roadways Countywide:

- Revise the “South / East End (TO)” column of Line 145 to replace BELMONT RIDGE RD with COCHRAN MILL RD.

Amendments to Countywide Transportation Plan Maps:

- Revise the Loudoun 2019 Countywide Transportation Roadway Plan Map, Loudoun 2019 Countywide Transportation Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Map, and Loudoun 2019 Countywide Transportation Roadway Plan Functional Classification Map, to eliminate the section of the extension of Gloucester Parkway between Cochran Mill Road (Route 653) and Belmont Ridge Road (Route 659).

CPAM-2022-0001, ST. LOUIS VILLAGE PLAN
(Comprehensive Plan Amendment)

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§15.2-2225 and 15.2-2229, and Resolutions of Intent to Amend adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 20, 2021, September 8, 2021, and November 8, 2022, the Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of its intent to consider a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM) to amend the [Loudoun County 2019 General Plan](#) (2019 GP) and [Loudoun County 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan](#) (2019 CTP) in order establish the St. Louis Village Plan as a new component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan. The St. Louis Village Plan would establish policies and actions regarding land use, historic preservation, infrastructure, and community enhancements for the area of Loudoun County known as the Village of St. Louis and define the geographic boundaries of the St. Louis Village Plan on the Small Area Plan Map. The CPAM includes, without limitation, the following:

Proposed Loudoun County 2019 General Plan Amendments:

Amendments to Chapter 1- Introduction:

- Amend Chapter 1 - *Relationship to Other Planning Documents* - to incorporate reference to the St. Louis Plan.

Amendments to Chapter 2 – Introduction:

- Amend Chapter 2 - *Rural Historic Village* - to include a reference that adopted Village Small Area Plans are components of the 2019 GP.

Amendments to the Loudoun County 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan-Maps:

- Revise the 2019 CTP maps to amend the existing village boundaries to reflect the updated Small Area Plan Boundary for St. Louis.

The CPAM proposes revisions to Chapters 1 and 2 of the 2019 GP, certain 2019 CTP maps, and such other Chapters, Sections, Subsections, Maps, and provisions of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan as necessary to implement and maintain consistency with the foregoing amendments to update cross-references to, and further clarify the requirements of, the above-mentioned section(s) of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan.

The Village of Saint Louis is located within the Little River Election District and the Rural Policy Area. The boundaries of the St. Louis Village Plan are more particularly shown on the map included as part of this published notice.



Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances, and amendments for each land use application listed above may be examined at the Loudoun County Government Center; Information Desk, 1st Floor, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or call 703-7770246 (option 5) to request hard copies or electronic copies. Additional project files related to land use applications for public hearings may be reviewed electronically at [loudoun.gov/landmarc](#). In addition, documents may be viewed and downloaded electronically 72 hours in advance of the public hearing at: [loudoun.gov/bosdocuments](#).

Board of Supervisors public hearings are held in the Board Room of the Government Center. Meetings are televised on Comcast Government Channel 23 and Verizon FiOS Channel 40. Meetings also are livestreamed at [loudoun.gov/meetings](#).

Members of the public desiring to do so may appear and present their views regarding those matters listed for public hearing. Members of the public who wish to provide public input, whether electronically or in person, are encouraged to sign-up in advance; however, speakers may sign-up during the public hearing. If you wish to sign-up in advance, call the Office of the County Administrator at (703) 777-0200. For this public hearing, advanced sign-ups will be taken after 8:30 a.m. on August 29, 2025, and no later than 12:00 p.m. on September 10, 2025. Members of the public may also submit written comments by email sent to [bos@loudoun.gov](#). Any written comments received prior to the public hearing will be distributed to Board members. Members of the public may also submit comments on land use items electronically at [loudoun.gov/landapplications](#).

Hearing assistance is available for meetings in the Board of Supervisors’ Meeting Room. If you require any type of reasonable accommodation as a result of a physical, sensory, or mental disability to participate in this meeting, please contact the Office of the County Administrator at 703-777-0200/TTY-711. At least one business day of advance notice is requested; some accommodations may require more than one day of notice. FM Assistive Listening System is available at the meetings.

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LOUDOUN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Most positions will be filled at or near the minimum of the range. Dependent on qualifications.
All Town vacancies may be viewed on Comcast Cable Channel 67 and Verizon FiOS Channel 35.

Regular Full-Time Positions

Position	Department	Salary Range	Closing Date
Airport Maintenance and Operations Specialist	Leesburg Executive Airport	\$53,530-\$112,248 DOQ	Open until filled
Engineering Technician, Engineer I, or Senior Engineer	Community Development	\$58,823-\$160,975 DOQ	Open until filled
Fleet Parts Specialist I	Public Works & Capital Projects	\$51,510-\$108,012 DOQ	Open until filled
Maintenance Worker I	Public Works & Capital Projects	\$51,510-\$108,012 DOQ	Open until filled
Police Officer (Entry Level)	Police	\$66,000 - \$119,589 DOQ	Open until filled
Police Officer (Virginia Lateral)	Police	\$75,246 - \$138,437 DOQ	Open until filled
Senior Engineer - Capital Projects	Public Works & Capital Projects	\$75,342-\$160,975 DOQ	Open until filled
Senior Management and Budget Analyst	Police	\$78,102-\$166,872 DOQ	September 22, 2025
Transportation Engineer I	Public Works & Capital Projects	\$69,377-\$148,229 DOQ	Open until filled
Utility Inspector II	Utilities	\$60,977-\$130,282 DOQ	Open until filled
Utility System Technician Trainee, Technician or Senior Technician	Utilities	\$52,520-\$120,090 DOQ	Open until filled

Flexible Part-Time Position

Position	Department	Hourly Rate	Closing Date
Assistant Sports and Recreation Program Supervisor	Parks & Recreation	\$23.03-\$39.43 per hour	Open until filled



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Loudoun Now is mailed weekly to homes in Leesburg, western Loudoun and Ashburn, and distributed for pickup throughout the county. Online, **Loudoun Now** provides daily community news coverage to an audience of more than 100,000 unique monthly visitors.

Opinion

Joy on Main Street

As families packed into Purcellville's 21st Street corridor for an end-of-summer block party celebration Saturday night, it was difficult to comprehend the Town Council's opposition to the Main Street program, which was responsible for planning the event.

Laughter, smiling faces, happy business owners—those are not the images Purcellville has been displaying lately.

Included among the bitter battles playing out in Town Hall this year was the decision to withdraw support for a group of community volunteers who were pursuing certification in the statewide program.

For some reason, the four-member council majority worked with remarkable intention to weave the Main Street initiative into its larger narrative that pro-development forces are pushing to demolish Purcellville's small-town charm.

A program that helps communities organize events and can provide access to grants to help spruce up downtown properties is hardly the threat to the town's planning and zoning policies some members claimed.

And while the volunteers, in their request for town support, sought no public funding, there's now evidence they could potentially save the government money. What if the Main Street group, rather than the town staff, took the lead on running the next arts and music festivals? Maybe even treat those events as fundraisers to support community improvement projects?

That approach works—with success—in many other communities. But, then again, Purcellville isn't like other communities.

LETTERS to the Editor

Undermining Schools

Editor:

The ongoing focus on Loudoun County Public School Policy 8040 regarding transgender students is a purposeful attempt by Republicans to keep attention on that issue and not on their real goal of undermining public schools.

The Trump administration Dept of Education opened an investigation into it, although LCPS is clearly following legal precedent as determined by the courts. By demanding that school boards defy that order, they are furthering the erosion of adherence to judicial decisions, and using it as an excuse to withdraw federal funds.

To put the issue in perspective, there were 28 exceptions for sports participation granted to transgender students in the entire state, averaging seven per year across Virginia's hundreds of high schools. This is not a crisis, nor is it about student safety. It is a "culture war" issue, and one that has very little relevance to the majority of voters who are much more concerned about housing costs, healthcare access, and public safety.

Let's stop taking the bait and move on to debates about those pressing issues.

—Madeline Murphy, Aldie

One-Sided

Editor:

In your recent article regarding the safety violations at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, your characterization of the work ethic and safety mindset of the county employees that work at the preserve was a gross one-sided simplification of the issue.

I have volunteered every week at Banshee Reeks over the past three years, and I can state without question that the safety of the preserve staff, as well as that of the volunteers, is and has been the first priority of the preserve's management. I have also spent my entire career in the construction industry and recognize that every organization, public or private, can always improve on their safety practices. OSHA plays an important role in that process, but what galls me is that the genesis of your story is a one-sided anonymous complaint.

Now that you have ensured the safety and well-being of all current Parks and Rec employees with your Woodward and Bernstein FOIA reporting, maybe you should put the same amount of time, effort and print space listing the litany of

positive educational and family-oriented programs that the staff of Banshee Reeks develops all year long for the benefit of the residents of Loudoun County.

—Michael Kennedy, Aldie

Absolutely Real

Editor:

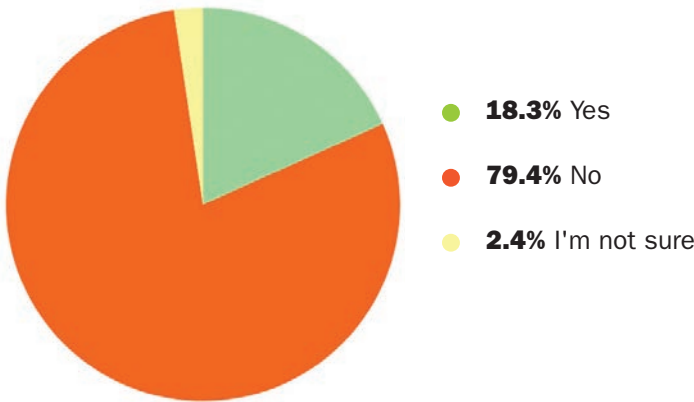
I've noticed the issue of Transgender Students has become a major political issue in Loudoun and Virginia. It is not a subject on my agenda, which focuses on preservation of our historic assets, but I happen to have a personal story which I would like to share.

More than 30 years ago when I was managing our multifamily properties in Washington DC, I received a phone call on Christmas Day from a young man seeking an apartment that by chance we had vacant. He had just been thrown out of his family's house that day because he confided to his parents that he was transgender, then a male, but internally knowing he was female.

At the time I had my office in the same apartment house, so this young person dropped by frequently during the transition from being a male to a

READERS' poll

If the feds withhold school funding, should the Board of Supervisors replace it with a supplemental appropriation of local tax revenues?



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

How was your back-to-school experience this year?

Share your views at loudounnow.com/polls

LETTERS to the Editor continued from page 40

female. In his case, changing Michael into Michelle. I was a sympathetic listener, and here is what I learned.

- The transgender experience is absolutely real, not an option, for the person.
- It should not be the subject of snide remarks, and gross jokes. The obligation is on the schools and institutions to educate on this subject just as they do for other issues that thrive on ignorance and deliberate political misinformation. He shared some of the stories of verbal abuse he received on a regular basis.
- The whole big deal about sports is a miniscule fraction of the issue. I would suggest the qualifying criteria should be, has the transgender person fully completed the medical process in which case they are now female or male and should be considered a normal part of that gender. Until the individuals have lost male muscle mass special rules are appropriate. Michelle never mentioned

sports as an interest,

- The actual medical transition of genders as I observed is a long, difficult and stressful experience for the individual so there is a real need for a support system. I provided support to Michelle; without it others can suffer serious stress alone.

Michelle left the apartment about a year and a half later, fully a woman, happy and confident in her new life. I never heard from her again. But her experience has left a lasting impression that we need to recognize and support transgender people as they are compelled to travel this most difficult path, not of their own choosing.

—Alfred Van Huyck, Round Hill

Protect Our Water

Editor:

Loudoun County government has proposed to seize the water supply in

LETTERS to the Editor

Paeonian Springs and Waterford. Every person living in Loudoun County should feel alarmed at this outrageous proposal.

Humans can live without power companies and electrical lines. We can live without computing infrastructure and data management.

We cannot survive without water.

Healthy adults will last less than a week without adequate water intake. Small children will die within 48 hours of water deprivation. The elderly and infirm succumb even quicker.

Water is the most valuable and vulnerable substance on the face of the Earth. Why would our supposedly representative government think we would give up our water rights without standing our ground?

Let's look this enemy squarely in the face.

One large data center can consume 5 million gallons of water in just one day. That water consumption is about what a city of 20,000 people needs to survive one day. Loudoun is currently host to a parasitic 200 data centers, consuming 1 billion gallons of water in one day. And Loudoun County has more than 100 additional data centers marching through their approval process. At the end of all that red ink and government double talk, the data centers will be sucking up one billion five hundred million gallons of water each year. That is 500 million gallons more than the daily consumption of New York City megalopolis.

Let's say that you, the reader, already live in a town or city, and have to trust your government to keep your water available and drinkable. Why should you care about Loudoun County seizing someone else's water supply? Because your public water comes from the Potomac River and Goose Creek. And that water depends on us in the less populated areas, the more forested, higher elevation areas, defending it from industrial abuse and overdrafting.

We need to present a united front to protect the future of our water.

—Soni Anderson, Leesburg

Change This

Editor:

People across the country are talking about the crazy policies being pushed by some of Virginia's local school boards, but this just scratches the surface when it comes to the damage that Democrats and their allies have inflicted on Virginia in recent years.

For example, consider the "Virginia Clean Economy Act," signed into law in 2020. The VCEA relied on the fantasy that critically needed electricity will soon be available at scale from unreliable sources like wind and solar. This ill-conceived law has forced reliable power generation offline prematurely while preventing construction of modern, efficient natural gas facilities that would have significantly reduced carbon emissions. One of the glaring consequences of this costly foolishness is that numerous new, ugly transmission lines are now being planned, leaving scars across beautiful Loudoun County to import critically needed power from West Virginia - power that is generated from coal. How do you like this plan so far?

There are countless examples of incoherent policies that Democrats have pushed in Richmond. Governor Youngkin was forced to veto over 150 ill-advised pieces of legislation just this year. These extremists are promoting laws that do damage not only to our economy, but also to our environment – to say nothing of the risks to Virginia's children from the outrageous behavior of Northern Virginia's school boards. Thanks to them, our schools have repeatedly made headlines nationwide – and not in a good way.

We have an opportunity to change this insanity. Early voting begins on Sept. 19, and there are many strong, highly qualified Republicans on the ballot this year. Please vote for them.

—Jim Buttolph, Leesburg

Add your voice to the conversation. Send your coments to editor@loudounnow.com

Martinez

continued from page 3

strong advocate for the town.”

Martinez said his first two years as delegate were learning curve as figured out how the General Assembly worked and the navigated the legislative process. But it was good work, he added.

“I really enjoyed it. One of the things that I really liked was that I had all these great ideas about legislation, but unfortunately, so did everybody else. So, some of my legislation, I had to sit back and just co-sponsor. I couldn’t be the author of the bill, but it was my idea, I thought. So, I did everything I could to advocate a lot of great bills.”

One vote of which he is particularly proud this year was in support of a constitutional amendment that would codify women’s access to abortion, contraception and fertility care.

That’s one of three constitutional amendments currently being pursued. The second would restore voting rights to some individuals convicted of felonies after their sentences have been served and the third would repeal a 2006 ban on same-sex marriage and enshrine marriage equality into the state constitution. Those issues will be up for vote by the General Assembly again next session and, if approved, will advanced to Virginia residents via the ballot in 2026.

Martinez said he is glad to support all three amendments.

“I think that the sad part is this, we have to codify it. Why do we have to codify those kind of things? Why are there such division in somebody just wanting to love somebody and marry them? We talk about being Christian and being compassionate and tolerant, and yet, in some cases, we don’t practice it. And so, I may have my own personal views on how things should be run, but I’m not there to represent me. I’m there to represent the community and what they believe in and what they want. And so that’s what I am doing.”

A bill that Martinez sponsored last year that received bi-partisan support outlawed the de-clawing of cats in Virginia and he counts the legislation as one of his early successes in the House.

“The funny part was every time I’d get up to talk about my bill, the other side would start meowing. And my feeling was that if those meows translate into votes, meow all you want,” he said.

“I did get some no’s, but overall, I think most people were very supportive of it, and I would say it was a victory, but it also showed that there are and there can be issues that we all can work together on. Politics, to me, has been misaligned about, ‘oh, don’t worry about that. Oh, that’s just politics.’ Stabbing people in the back and being uncivil? ‘That’s politics.’ No. In my mind, my definition is, politics is when two different bodies can work together, and even

if both are unhappy, they come to a common solution that doesn’t benefit them, but it benefits communities they represent. To me, that is what politics are, and we need to take that definition back and stop saying bad behavior is excusable because it’s politics,” Martinez said.

At the forefront of District 29 residents’ minds are concerns about unemployment, Martinez said.

This year, he won support for legislation that increased unemployment benefits, but there is still more to do, he said.

“I want to go back there and see what more I can do. But not only that, in this day and age, not only do the unemployment benefits not cover anybody’s expenses, we need to have protections [for] the unemployed,” he said. “For example, a federal worker, who’s making a pretty good salary, is unemployed, it’s going to take him a while to find a job with comparable incomes. At that time, if he doesn’t have the money in the bank, he’s got to worry about mortgages, car payments, food on the table, transportation—just taking care of life. Unemployment doesn’t cover that, and so we need to have some protections in which these people who are unemployed can take a breath and find a job.”

Another concern is affordability.

“I think the biggest topic is affordable and attainable housing. Affordable is one word, but attainable – I want to make it easier for developers and localities to work together to designate areas where they can put out affordable, attainable housing for the workforce. We all talk about it, but I want to continue to work in making that happen, protecting renters and leases, rights, all that stuff. So, that’s all part of the housing issue and educating and outreach,” he said.

A team of interns has been working under Martinez’s guidance over the summer to find ways to do that.

“We talked to the housing authority. We had a meeting with them, and we gave them a paper one of the students wrote. And they go, ‘who did you have write this paper? Because it was so professional, and they covered a lot of points.’ We told them it was our high school sophomore intern. So, what we provided them was a template on how to look at the issue, look at the pros, look at the cons, look at questions that people are going to ask, why you should or why you shouldn’t, and provide a solution,” he said.

if he’s re-elected in November, that research will be used by Martinez to craft future bills.

“Here’s what I want people to know about me: I have lived in Leesburg for 32 years. I still have the same phone number I had when I got here. It’s never changed, and you can call at any time. ... I remember my past, I remember where I came from, and I’m still, at this age, willing to continue to fight and improve the communities,” Martinez said.

Learn more at martinezfordelegate.com. ■

Thomas

continued from page 3

make the change, and that’s what needs to happen. Slowly, things are changing. I’m glad to see some of the new changes in the school where my kids attend with some of the detection capabilities, little bit more extra monitoring, security, things like that. So, I think that’s actually a benefit. But I also think there’s still gaps. And I believe those gaps exist with the mentality of those that are in charge. I believe that there’s more to be done in terms of equality in the classrooms, trying to ensure more safety for the students, as well as the expansion of areas of disability for students that are incapacitated in one way or another.”

Thomas has crafted the framework for a piece of legislation he’s calling the School Safety and Security Act.

“We want to be able to protect students, but we also want to protect our educators, and I think that goes way overlooked, because people are scared to speak up,” he said. “They don’t want to buck a system that has already proven to be a little bit out of compliance, and I’ll put it nicely like that. Teachers are scared. They need protections, and so under this I was thinking about giving them some kind of whistleblower protection. The idea that they can come forward without fear of retribution, the idea that they can discipline, where necessary, the children of the classrooms and then hold the children accountable.”

The legislation would also increase security on school properties.

“That [could be] physical security mechanisms, and I’m not going to the point of saying, ‘hey, let’s put a metal detector in the door of every school.’ But with technology these days, there is location devices. You could help track the students on site. You could understand through AI where there’s issues happening in the school. You could deploy security people to those locations and focus on the areas where you see an impetus of criminal activity happening. And it’s not only just to identify those that are causing the trouble, but protect those that need the protection,” Thomas said.

Increasing the number of school resource officers could also help, he said. Thomas said sheriff’s deputies at the high school his children attend are supportive and helpful.

“There needs to be equality of distribution, and that’s the next topic, ensuring that these kids have the same rights and abilities that other schools have. I believe that the distribution of some of these things is not fair, and I believe that we can’t just focus on the larger schools with the largest populations and maybe the more affluent schools. We need to drive safety and security down to all the schools and make it a uniform standard across the education curriculum,” he said.

Another top concern for residents is the high cost of living in the county, Thomas said.

“Since I’ve been here for so long, the constant uptick of cost, whether it’s groceries, whether it’s housing, whether it’s utilities, they’ve all skyrocketed. And I personally have seen my property increase like 30%. So, when you have new homeowners, or even existing

homeowners, they see these costs with the interest rates, and they can’t afford it, not to mention the people that have properties already. They can’t afford the property taxes, all the things that are associated with buying a house,” he said.

Changes need to be made to foster a better economic environment for current and future residents, Thomas said.

“We’ve got an industry that has moved into this neighborhood where they are going to continue to push up on energy costs, the housing market continues to go out of control, so I think we need some barriers around,” he said. “The way we do that is giving people more opportunities, maybe more tax credits relative to what they’re trying to do with their existing structures, give them some guidance on how they can refine the structure for themselves to actually take more advantage of some of the benefits that the government offers, and ultimately try and decrease some of our monetary load on the things that we have to pay for.”

Thomas said he would like to see a reduction in energy costs to help ease the burdens on ratepayers.

“Some of the power plants have not been outputting the way they’re supposed to, right? And they’ve been passing the cost on to us either way. I do not think that is fair. I do think there is a realization that needs to come to these energy companies, that they need to be more realistic to the people of Loudoun and our surrounding areas,” Thomas said.

Family safety and supporting veterans are two issues that are personally important, he said.

“I’ve been a big advocate for trying to mentor and guide kids, and there’s a continued problem in my mind, in the way kids perceive how they should act. And I’m not saying it’s a direct fault of parents, but it is a direct fault of this community. We need to ensure that our kids have an environment that fosters education from a perspective of treating them with respect, but them also treating us with respect, giving them guidance on how to grow up in life not take things for granted and understand everything is just not given to you,” he said.

His history as a veteran gives him firsthand experience to the struggles facing members of the military as they are reacclimating to civilian life.

“One of my main areas of focus is veterans. I feel like we do less for those citizens of our economy than most, and they’ve given the ultimate sacrifice, whether it’s loss of limb, whether it’s a mental incapacity, it could even be to the length of death, right? So, we have to deal with and support the families that are left,” Thomas said.

Providing better and faster medical support and treatment for retired military members is important, he said.

“To the voters, I would say I appreciate the opportunity to come forward and represent the 29th district. I am a common sense, logic-based candidate that believes in the community, that believes in God and that believes in our law enforcement to create a better future for our community, as well as drive unity across the 29th,” Thomas said.

Learn more at scottkthomas.com. ■

A Loudoun Moment

Photo by Douglas Graham



Douglas Graham/Loudoun Now

Johnny Dean gives a playful “thumbs up” to an old retired hound as he sleeps on the floor at the Piedmont Fox Hound Kennel. In the background are Cillian Cox and Jordan Hicks.

Claude Moore

continued from page 1

program was sketched out on a napkin during a lunch meeting at Lansdowne Resort with Lambert, Loudoun County Public Schools Superintendent Edgar Hatrick, and Inova Health System CEO Knox Singleton. It would target students not on track for a traditional college experience and train them to serve in the medical field. The approach would address a critical staffing shortage while also providing students with valuable life skills that would elevate outcomes for the students and their families.

It launched in Loudoun County Public Schools with a \$25,000 grant from the foundation and programs developed by Shirley Bazdar, then the director of Career and Technical Education who now serves as director of programs for Claude Moore Opportunities. She looked to expand from the nursing-focused health science classes offered at that time to also include technicians trained to work in medical labs, pharmacies and imaging centers. “Those were some high-wage, high-demand jobs in 2005 when we got the first grant,” she said.

Dr. William A. Hazel Jr., CEO of Claude Moore Opportunities, said that initial conver-

sation was foundational to the work still being done today.

“They really wanted to figure out how to help young people get a start in life, and they realized that not everybody’s going to go to college. The thought is, if we can get them into that first job with an organization that would take it from there in terms of cultivating them for education or further training. That was a win,” Hazel said.

Initially, a tremendous amount of work was achieved in Loudoun County and when Hazel joined the foundation, the program was operating in 17 school districts. Lambert’s goal of having statewide impact would be a big leap, he recalled.

“I read a lot of futuristic books and they were showing how many people are going to be needed for high tech roles and how the ages of United States citizens are growing higher. People are living longer, and they’re going to demand some level of help,” Lambert recalled. The need for workers in the medical field would only grow.

Hazel said worker shortages in the medical fields have been a constant challenge, made even more evident during the pandemic.

“We’ve had nursing shortages off and on for my entire time in practice. I came in 1988 back from the Mayo Clinic, and by the late 1990s we were having shortages of nurses. They would

go through cycles where we would have problems with that. In public health, there have been shortages. In behavioral health, there were shortages. This was nothing new.”

He said it will take more than recruitment and training to address the challenges.

“The shortages that are out there are complicated. Healthcare is one of the most regulated professions. There is so very that little can happen in healthcare or healthcare workforce that doesn’t involve government, either directly through regulation,” he said.

The scholars program around the state is tailored to each community.

“Each locality has their own needs. We do not give scholarships to individuals. We give grant funding to public school systems and or their higher ed community, or employer-led groups to grow the high school programs,” Bazdar said. The goal is still to offer the opportunities throughout Virginia and beyond.

“We are going to continue to expand. There are 131 public school systems in the commonwealth, so we still have a ways to go,” Bazdar said. “We’d like to touch all of them. That’s not just my voice; that’s been the voice of J and the trustees. Down the line, they’d like to be in every Virginia Public School system and to share it out nationally as well. But you can appreciate all these things take time.”

While the program started with a mission

to create a lasting legacy for Moore, it is recognized as a legacy for Lambert as well.

“None of this happened without J being the leader to start the initial conversation because he had a vision for sustaining Dr. Moore’s legacy far into the future and the impact of Dr. Moore’s work and his funding,” Bazdar said.

The creation of J Hamilton Lambert Endowed Fund is intended to support the expansion of the scholars program.

Philippa Moore, the chief advancement officer at Claude Moore Opportunities, said tax-exempt donations to the fund are coming in from many of the people Lambert worked with and supported over his decades of community service. “It’s really nice, because sometimes you get large checks and sometimes you get small checks, but you always get some good stories with that. People are really excited to help this project,” she said.

After two decades, Hazel said the foundations of the scholars program remain unchanged from the initial conversation.

“The essence of it is still ‘the napkin,’” he said. “You want to help people find a career so they can support themselves and their families. And the truth is, and I think you know, J wanted us to be able to expand beyond healthcare over time and be able to help more people find a path.”

Learn more at cm-opportunities.org. ■



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