

# Purcellville

## Citizen Update

SPRING 2007

VOL. 1, NO. 3

TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA

## Town Adopts Budget with Revenue Neutral Tax Rate

The Purcellville Town Council adopted the Town's Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Fiscal Plan & Capital Improvement Program at their regularly scheduled May 8, 2007 meeting. The FY07-08 Fiscal Plan & Capital Improvement Program (CIP) totals \$29,795,571. The plan includes a neutral tax rate of 18 cents per \$100 of valuation which means, on average, no real estate tax increase.

The Town Council cut the proposed tax rate from 20 cents to 18 cents

With a revenue neutral tax rate, taxes paid may vary by taxpayer based on the fair market value assessed on property in the countywide reassessment.

Overall, the budget allocates \$11.5 million for operations and debt service, and \$18.2 million for capital projects. There are no reductions in Town services under the proposed budget.

The proposed budget includes \$6.7 million for the General Fund operations, which is the Town's primary fund and accounts for most tax-supported services.

In the Utilities Fund, the budget totals \$4.8 million. New service enhancements include adding two additional Operators for the Water Plant and Wastewater Plant in order to maintain service levels as the Town must adhere to new regulatory requirements.

After careful review by the Town Council Budget Committee, the Town Council adopted a financial and strategic plan for required service delivery ahead of schedule. By state law, the Council must adopt its budget by June 30. The budget takes effect July 1. For more information on the Town's budget, please visit the website at [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov).

## Tree City USA Awarded to Purcellville Town Celebrates Arbor Day at Fireman's Field Park



### TREE CITY USA®

For the first time, the Town has received the annual designation of Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. This year, there are 50 recipients of the Tree City USA award in the state of Virginia. Many of the 50 municipalities have received the award in past years. Mayor Lazaro accepted the Town's Tree City USA award at the statewide Arbor Day event in Charlottesville on April 24, 2007.

This year's Arbor Day celebration was held at Fireman's Field Park on Saturday, April 28, 2007. Mayor Lazaro read a proclamation that highlighted the theme for this year, "Bringing the Past into Purcellville's Future - The return of the American Chestnut." A blight resistant American chestnut has been donated by Tree Commission member Craig Greco, owner of Yard Birds, LLC.

American chestnuts once covered the landscape east of the Mississippi River. Over a hundred years ago, a devastating blight killed the chestnuts so that today only small seedlings exist. Research efforts have yielded disease resistant chestnuts by



Mayor Bob Lazaro and Council member Tom Priscilla join residents in celebrating Arbor Day at Fireman's Field on April 28.

crossing American with Chinese chestnuts. Compared to the common Chinese chestnut, the American chestnut is a tree that can grow over a 100 feet tall in time. Its stature is similar to the American elm that once covered tree lined streets of the Midwest.

The Tree and Beautification Commission has recently revised the accepted street tree and ornamental tree lists and put the resistant American chestnut back on the list. Sources of resistant American chestnuts can be found online through the American Chestnut Foundation. Contact the Tree and Beautification Commission for copies of the accepted tree list and also the Virginia Cooperative Bulletin 430-029, Tree Species Suitable for Planting around Utility Lines.

The Tree and Beautification Commission meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at



From L to R, the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bob Bloxom, Mayor Bob Lazaro, Tree and Beautification Commission Chairman Bonnie Deahl, State Forester Carl E. Garrison III.

Town Hall. The public is encouraged to attend and share their ideas with the group. A vacancy exists on the Tree and Beautification Commission. Come join a positive, energetic and fun group dedicated to fostering stewardship of the Town's community trees. For more information, please email: [treecomm@town.purcellville.va.us](mailto:treecomm@town.purcellville.va.us).

## Mayor & Town Council

Mayor Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Vice-Mayor Gregory W. Wagner  
Christopher J. Walker, III  
Thomas A. Priscilla, Jr.  
Stephen Varnecky  
James O. Wiley  
Janet S. Clarke

TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE  
130 East Main Street, Purcellville, VA 20132  
[www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov)

## Message from Mayor Bob Lazaro



Dear Neighbors:

Spring is here (finally) and with the warmer weather our focus turns to outdoor activities.

We are pleased and proud to announce that Purcellville has been named a Tree City USA. Purcellville is just one of 50 municipalities in Virginia to enjoy that designation. It has been a long term goal of the Town to achieve that status and we thank the volunteer members of the Tree and Beautification Commission who helped us achieve that designation.

We are also thankful to the more than 50 volunteers who joined us during our town-wide community clean up day. They did a fantastic job and the Town looks great.

The Carver Senior Center is now open and it is a magnificent facility. Our community owes a debt of gratitude to Purcellville residents Mattie Lassiter and Mac Brownell who through their persistence and hard work were able to convince the County to rehabilitate and reuse this building. These two ladies along with the Friends of Carver Center truly have made a difference. I urge all residents to take a tour.

Purcellville is a great place to live and raise a family. There are many volunteers who on a daily basis contribute to our Purcellville pride. We are thankful for their efforts.

As always, I look forward to seeing you around Town.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Mayor  
Town of Purcellville  
130 East Main Street  
Purcellville, VA 20132  
[blazaro@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:blazaro@purcellvilleva.gov)  
(H) 540.338.0366 ■

## Transportation Improvements Update

The Town is moving forward with a number of traffic and transportation projects and improvements that are needed.

Design of traffic signals at the intersections of Main Street and Hatcher Avenue and Main Street and 23rd Street has been completed and is in the final stages of review by VDOT. The Town will advertise for construction bids in June and work will be completed by the end of this year.

*Mayor Bob Lazaro, Council member Tom Priscilla, and Town Streets and Maintenance Director Samer Beidas meet with Congressman Frank Wolf to discuss transportation projects and funding.*



Design of improvements to 14th Street are 90 percent complete. The Town will advertise for construction bids in July and construction will be completed over the summer and fall of this year.

Design of the 20th Street sidewalk project is underway. The Town will advertise for construction bids in July and construction will be completed by late summer early fall of this year.

The Town completed a bus shelter project at Town Hall in partnership with Virginia Regional Transit. The Town will be expanding the program to add bus shelters at other locations in Town. Upcoming locations include the Dominion Apartments, Cardinal Bank and Main Street Station. ■

## Automatically Pay Your Utility Bills with ACH Payment Option

For your convenience and upon many requests, the Town of Purcellville will be offering ACH withdrawals for utility bills (water/sewer). Informational flyers and signup forms will be included with your June utility bill.

ACH stands for Automatic Clearing House which simply means with your permission the Town of Purcellville will have the ability to automatically deduct your utility bill from your checking or savings account each billing period.

ACH lets your bank do all of the work. Each billing period, the amount due is automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. This withdrawal will occur on a fixed date every other month. There is no check for you to write and no postage expense – ACH takes care of it for you! All you have to do is make sure there is enough money in your account. The Town's fee for non-sufficient funds applies to ACH, also.

ACH offers reliability. Currently, many citizens are using online bank services which have not proven to be as convenient. Online banking services still issue actual paper checks that are subject to mailing delays, causing confusion and embarrassment of late payment notices.

To take advantage of this new service, be on the look out for the signup form and informational flyer to be included with your June utility bill.

Please remember that the Town of Purcellville also offers the convenience of accepting MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover and electronic checks via Official Payments Corp. 800-2PAY-TAX (800-272-9829) or [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com).

## Visit the Purcellville Farmers Market for Fresh, Fabulous Food



Local residents will have the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of fresh products from local farmers, including fruits and vegetables, fresh breads and baked goods and meat products, just to name a few.

“Last year’s Purcellville market was not only a success, it became a way of life for many local residents,” said Purcellville Market Manager Richard Bloom. “We are again excited to work with the Town of Purcellville, the supportive community members and the many vendors to produce another successful market in Purcellville.”

The Purcellville Market is one of seven markets sponsored by the Loudoun Valley HomeGrown Markets Association. These are home-grown, producer only markets, meaning the people who sell you the food are the people who grow it. This

During the month of May, customers will find the following fruits and vegetables: salad greens, “micro-mix”, basil, asparagus, hydroponic tomatoes and cucumbers, rhubarb, spinach, onions, radishes, strawberries, turnips, kale, arugula, spring onions and shitake mushrooms.

system guarantees customers will find only produce that is both fresh and local. The producers stand behind their products 100 percent, and are happy to share information with you about how their products are raised.

*Continued on page 4*

The spring weather has finally arrived in Loudoun County! Spring brings chirping birds, the smell of fresh cut grass and the opportunity to buy the freshest, local food available. The Purcellville Farmers Market opened for the season on Thursday, May 3, 2007. Hours are from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

# Public SafetyPublic SafetyPublic Safety

## Police Department Assists with Operation Egg Hunt



In April, police officers, citizen support team members, and volunteers working with the Homework Club at the Main Street Commons Apartments decided to surprise the kids with an egg hunt after a homework session. Over 120 plastic eggs full of candy and gift tickets were hidden and found. "These fun events make learning more interesting and keep them coming," said Chief Smith.

## March Madness Continues in April in Purcellville



Chief Darryl C. Smith, Lt. Jim Rust, Sgt. John Kelly, MPO Robert Wagner, Purcellville Police Citizen Support Team Member James Taylor, Town Manager Rob Lohr, Town Council member Tom Priscilla, and police friends played a fun basketball game at the Loudoun Valley Community Center against students from Patrick Henry College. This first annual game was an enjoyable way for members of the Police Department to meet Patrick Henry students. The department's goal is to build relationships with all our young members of the community, including elementary, high school and college students. "This hurt us more than it hurt them, but it was fun and worth it," joked Chief Smith. "We want to thank our friends for playing with us: Darryl Smith, Jr. (Chief Smith's son), VA ABC Special Agent Kevin Smith, (Chief Smith's son), Mr. Terry Fairfax of the Loudoun Valley Community Center, Mr. Tim Iverson, and our referee Mr. Louis Cironi."

## After Hours Emergency Numbers

Police, Medical or Fire Emergency	911
Dominion Virginia Power	888-667-3000
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Water, Sewer, Street Maintenance	(540) 338-7700

## Non-Emergency Numbers

Police	(540) 338-7422
Fire	(540) 338-5961
Rescue	(540) 338-4706
County Fire & Rescue	(703) 777-0637
Sheriff Department	(703) 777-1021
Dominion Virginia Power	(703) 359-3275
Adelphia Cable	(571) 434-1280
Verizon	800-275-2355

## Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company To Hold Dedication Ceremony

On Saturday, June 2, 2007, the members of the Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting a dedication ceremony for its new tanker and wildland attack vehicle at Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company 2 at 200 North Avenue in Purcellville at 3 p.m.



This ceremony, commonly called a "Wet Down," involves having apparatus from neighboring companies arriving at scheduled intervals in a fanfare of lights and sirens to quickly hose down the new piece of equipment as it sits on its ramp. This tradition "welcomes" the new apparatus to active duty. The crew of the visiting piece is then invited to join the host company to participate in a formal "Push Back" which involves everyone pushing the new piece into its spot in the bays. This will be a unique event within the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue community and will hopefully be the start of another great tradition among area companies. On behalf of Chief Robert Dryden (PVFC) and Captain Jeremy Gay (LCFR), we look forward to having you join us in our day of celebration. For more information, please contact FF Mark Fontaine or PFF Lisa Braun at Station 2 at (540) 338-5961.

## "Click It or Ticket"

### Law Enforcement Saving Lives and Preventing Injuries

The Purcellville Police will participate in the "Click It or Ticket Weeks" from May 21, 2007 to June 3, 2007. This campaign plays a critical role in the effort to keep people safe on our Town streets and highways. During these weeks, the Purcellville Police and law enforcement agencies nationwide are conducting "Click It or Ticket" campaigns that incorporate zero-tolerance enforcement of safety belt laws with a special emphasis on teens. These efforts — coupled with paid advertising and the support of government agencies, local coalitions and school officials — will result in dramatic increases in safety belt use and will defend us against one of the greatest threats to us all — traffic crashes.

The Purcellville Police advises all of our citizens to drive safely, and buckle up! You are special to us!

## Public Safety Day

The Town of Purcellville Police Department is excited to announce its Second Annual Public Safety Day to be held Saturday, May 12, 2007 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Loudoun Valley Shopping Center. Throughout the day there will be free bike inspections, child safety seat inspections and installations, child fingerprinting and pictures and an appearance by the Air Care Helicopter. There will be Fire and Emergency Medical Services demonstrations as well as a canine demonstration.

Displays will be set up by Loudoun County Sheriff Office, Herndon Police Department, Dulles Airport Police Department, Manassas Park Police, Fairfax County Police, Purcellville Volunteer Rescue Squad, Purcellville Fire Company, Virginia ABC Board, INOVA Mobile Health Van, Front Royal Police, Haymarket Police and many more.

Please come out and meet your local public safety team. Loudoun Transit will provide free trolley rides. The Purcellville Police barrel train will be on hand for the children. McGruff the Crime Dog is expected to be present.

## "Saving Our Children" Town Hall Meeting

The Purcellville Police and It Takes a Town will host "Saving Our Children," on May 23, 2007 at 7 p.m. in the Purcellville Town Hall, 130 E. Main Street. There will be Loudoun County Social Service providers and law enforcement professionals to speak of their services and to answer questions. This is a great opportunity to receive information about what is happening in our area in regards to our youth and to find out about available services. Presenters will discuss youth alcohol abuse, drug abuse, gangs, youth violence, and much more. This will be the first meeting of the "Saving Our Children" series in 2007. ■

## May is National Preservation Month

### Historic District Added to National Register

In May, the Town of Purcellville will join thousands of other towns around the country as part of a nationwide celebration of National Preservation Month. The theme of this year's celebration is "Making Preservation Work!" At their April meeting, the Town Council declared May National Preservation Month.



Over the course of the past year, the Town has been working to implement the tools necessary to make preservation of its small town character and its significant historic structures an integral part of the planning process. The most significant of these accomplishments is the designation of a historic district.

In an effort to inform property owners of the advantages of being included in the historic district, the Town in cooperation with the Purcellville Preservation Association is sponsoring a tax credit seminar. Inclusion on the State and National Registers enables property owners to apply for historic rehabilitation tax credits that could save them up to 45 percent of the eligible costs of rehabilitating their property. Jennifer Murdock, a specialist on this tax incentive program from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, will address all interested property owners.

The seminar will be held at the Purcellville Train Depot on May 15, 2007 at 7 p.m. Registration is free. For more information and to register, contact the Purcellville Office of Planning & Zoning at (540) 338-2304. All owners of historic properties in the County are invited to attend.

In December 2006, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources listed the Purcellville Historic District on the Historic Landmarks Register, adding it to the official list of properties important to Virginia's history. In addition, on April 4, 2007, the Department of Interior, National Park Service notified the Town that the historic district has been officially entered into the National Register of Historic Places.

Other preservation measures include a Historic Corridor Overlay that protects structures along the Town's main entrance corridors. New commercial development and signage throughout the town must comply with design standards established by the Board of Architectural Review.

The Town is preparing an application for Certified Local Government status. Recognition as a Certified Local Government will make the Town eligible for grants and technical assistance that will help the Town implement its preservation objectives. Another significant benefit to CLG status is a close working relationship with a large network of state and national preservation organizations.

The Town continues to participate with Main Street Loudoun, an economic development organization that encourages revitalization of commercial cores within the context of preservation. Several downtown businesses have joined together to promote the unique local business climate of Purcellville. On May 18, 2007, this group will host the first of monthly Purcellville Night Out events with later shopping hours and entertainment.

#### Schedule of Events

- Saturday, May 12, 8-10 a.m. at Train Station – 5k Race & Fun Run at Train Station
- Tuesday, May 15, 7 p.m. at Train Station – Reception & Seminar: "Making Preservation Work!" – How to Use Historic Tax Credits
- Thursday, May 17, 4-7 p.m. – Farmers Market Jazzed Up
- Friday, May 18, 6-8 p.m. – Purcellville Night Out

If you have questions or would like more information, please call (540) 338-2664 or email [ppa-org@hotmail.com](mailto:ppa-org@hotmail.com). ■

## Upcoming Events

### Arts in the Alley Update

**Saturday, June 9 – Sunday, June 10**

This year, Arts in the Alley will be held on Saturday, June 9 from 11-5, and Sunday, June 10 from 11-4. Now in its fourth year, the two-day event is moving to a new location where you'll find less crowding, more shade, and more separation of the music from the arts and crafts. Last year, in the eleventh hour, many artists were turned away due to limited space. One of the popular acts that will be back is singer Sheila Marie. Also, a great group of student artists will be offering their work for sale and displaying the talent our community has within it. Some of the live demonstrations include noted local artist, Catherine Hillis, at work doing one of her incredible paintings; a skilled wood turner creating art from tree trunks; and a seasoned blacksmith working his magic with a hammer and a forge. Finally, we'll have many not-for-profit organizations represented with information booths getting the word out to the public. This is a free public event. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Show Director, Carl Fischer, at 703-727-5025 or visit [www.artsinthealley.org](http://www.artsinthealley.org).

### Taste of Western Loudoun

**May 20, 2007**

**21st Street, Purcellville**  
[www.tasteofwesternloudoun.com](http://www.tasteofwesternloudoun.com)  
**1 p.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Contact: (540) 751-1642**  
**Email: Jackie@p-dustevents.com**

The Western Loudoun Leaders and the Town of Purcellville invite you to the Taste of Western Loudoun 2nd Annual event on 21st Street in downtown Purcellville. Last year's inaugural event had more than 2,500 visitors and this year's event

is expected to draw far more. Come join the fun! Adoption of animals, local vendors, free food, children's entertainment - tee shirts, bags — all funds go to benefit the Loudoun County Animal Shelter.

### Purcellville 4th of July Parade

**July 4, 2007**

The Fireman's Parade will start at 12:30 p.m. at Emerick Elementary and will proceed through Town and end at Loudoun Valley High School. Please join us for this wonderful Town celebration. Fireworks will be at Franklin Park. For more information, please contact Dom Embrey at (703) 727-7191.

### 1st Annual Golf Tournament

**June 7, 2007**

**(Rain Date: June 18, 2007)**

**Loudoun Golf & Country Club**  
**Tee Off – 1 p.m.**

Come out and join us for a great day of golf and help support the Greater Loudoun Babe Ruth World Series. There will be numerous prizes! This year's proceeds will be donated to the Greater Loudoun Babe Ruth World Series (GLBRWS) which will be playing its games at Fireman's Field starting August 17, 2007. The golf tournament committee needs volunteers. We are a small committee that is determined to make a difference for an organization that has touched so many lives. If you can volunteer, be a sponsor, donate items, please contact Cheryl Herman at [cherman@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:cherman@purcellvilleva.gov) or (540) 751-2326. To download an entry form, please visit the Town's website at [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov). We truly need your help to make this a success. ■

#### FARMERS MARKET

*Continued from page 2*

"By buying fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs at your local Farmer's Market, you are supporting local agriculture and a continuing supply of local foods," said Bloom. "Many fruits and vegetables arrive at the markets within 24-hours of harvest from the field – you just can't beat the quality and freshness!"

The Purcellville Market operates on Thursdays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the parking lot at the corner of N 21st St. and N 23rd St. The Market runs for six months, May through the end of October. The Market keeps its shoppers informed of weekly specials and vendor products through an e-newsletter. To sign-up to get the latest information, visit the LVHMA Web site at [www.loudounfarmersmarkets.com](http://www.loudounfarmersmarkets.com). ■

#### Did you know?

There are 4,385 farmers markets currently operating in the United States.



### Loudon Valley Homegrown Markets Association

Growing Locally, Selling Locally Since 1994

Fruits, Vegetables, Breads, Meats, Wine, Milk, Cheese, Eggs, Flowers, Soaps and More!

**USE THIS \$1.00 COUPON AT THE PURCELLVILLE FARMERS MARKET VENDOR STANDS**

Please only one coupon per customer

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the parking lot at the corner of N 21st St. and 23rd St.

