



Purcellville

Citizen Update

FALL 2006

VOL. 1, NO. 1 TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA

Council Opposes Greenway Toll Hike Request Urges Citizens and Businesses to Submit Comments

The Purcellville Town Council adopted a resolution at its September meeting formally opposing the request of the owners of the Greenway to increase tolls. The request is currently before the State Corporation Commission.

The current toll at the Greenway's main toll plaza is now \$2.70 with authorization to increase it to \$3 next year. The request would ultimately raise tolls to \$4 at the main plaza and at rush hour, the toll would rise to \$4.80. That amount does not include the additional 50-cent current VDOT toll for drivers heading on to the Dulles Toll Road. The toll hikes would be phased-in.

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is the official state body that the owners of the

Greenway must get permission to raise the tolls. Residents and business owners wishing to submit comments in opposition to the toll increase can do so by visiting the SCC website at the following link: www.scc.virginia.gov/caseinfo/notice.aspx. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and look for Case No. PUE-2006-00081. You then click on the submit comments button.

**There is a September 28, 2006
deadline to submit comments.**

The Council's resolution also calls upon the SCC to hold a public hearing in Loudoun County to directly hear from the residents and business owners that would be impacted by the toll hike. ■

Town Continues to Urge Water Conservation



Fresh water suitable for drinking is considered a precious commodity all over the world. With the growth of our area, it has become clear that water is a precious and limited resource that must be conserved.

Recently, the Town entered the EMERGENCY level of the Water Emergency Ordinance. This ordinance was developed to provide guidance to the Town in how to handle times of drought and high demand. During the last weeks of August before the rains from Ernesto arrived, the Town's water demand became as high as the Town's production capacity. In the Water Emergency Ordinance, this is a trigger for entering the EMERGENCY level of the ordinance which involves mandatory water conservation. The goal of the ordinance is to reduce the demand to a level below the Town's production capacity and reduce use to preserve the finite supply remaining.

Water conservation has several major benefits and needs to be something we do every day even when we are not in a drought. The Town has partnered with the Washington Council of Governments on a campaign called "Use Water Wisely" to help spread the word on water conservation. Information on this program can be found on their website at www.wateruseitwisely.com. You are encouraged to visit the Town website at www.purcellvilleva.com where there is a conservation page with conservation ideas and links to other sites that have additional water conservation tips.

Also, the Town of Purcellville will be running a weekly ad on water conservation and will continue to post water conservation signs around town. More ideas on water conservation can be found at and www.awwa.org/waterwiser. There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you. ■

Town Plan to Protect Small Town Character

The Town Planning Commission held a public hearing on September 7, 2006 on an updated version of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. According to State law, every community is required to have a comprehensive plan "to guide and accomplish a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development" of the Town "which will, in accordance with present and probable future needs and resources, best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare" of the Town's inhabitants. State law also requires the Town to review the plan every five years and revise it as necessary to reflect changes in the community. The adopted Purcellville Comprehensive Plan is dated 1998 and does not consider the tremendous growth that Purcellville has experienced during recent years.



Comprehensive Plan architectural rendering of Purcellville

One of the major goals of the revised Plan is to better link future town development to the Town's ability to provide water and sewer

Only about 14% of Purcellville's current real estate tax base is attributable to commercial properties. . .

services. A 2005 Dewberry & Davis study estimated that by-right density in Town would require 2.89 million gallons of water per day, while the Town's current safe yield of water is only about 660,000 gallons per day. As one way to reduce future water demand, the Plan proposes to change the zoning of existing institutional and governmental land, including town property, schools, churches and Fireman's Field, from residential to a new Institutional/Governmental zoning district. This will remove approximately 630 potential homes from town, saving approximately 189,000 gallons per day of future water use. This new zone will also ensure that important community assets such as Fireman's Field, the community center, and school properties, are preserved for public use and not developed with houses.

Only about 14% of Purcellville's current real estate tax base is attributable to commercial properties, so the draft Plan also seeks to promote infill business development and redevelopment that will help to better balance the Town's tax base and reduce the proportional tax burden on residential property owners. A Community Design chapter, which draws upon

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Mayor & Town Council

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

TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE
130 East Main Street, Purcellville, VA 20132
www.purcellvilleva.com

Message from Mayor Bob Lazaro



Dear Neighbor:

On behalf of the Town Council, I am pleased to present you with the first edition of Purcellville Citizen Update.

At our Council's recently held planning session, one of the priority items we endorsed for the new fiscal year is to improve communications with our residents. Our recently completed investment in the Town's website (www.purcellvilleva.com), the annual calendar and this newsletter are just part of that effort to keep our residents better informed about what is happening in our neighborhoods and Town government.

Purcellville is a great place to live and raise a family. If your Town government can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

See you around Town.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Mayor
Town of Purcellville
blazaro@town.purcellville.va.us ■

Historic Purcellville Survey Completed

The survey of the historic core of Purcellville was completed in late August 2006. With the assistance of professional architectural historians from History Matters LLC of Washington, DC, the Town now has a complete survey of all structures within the older sections of town. This survey, which fulfills a long-standing goal of the Town, has been submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) as part of a nomination of Purcellville's historic areas for inclusion on the Virginia and National Registers of Historic Places. Designation as an historic district on the State and National Registers is honorary and does not bring with it any regulation of what property owners can do with their properties. Property owners within such a



district may be able to qualify for State and Federal tax credits for eligible expenses for rehabilitating historic structures.

DHR will be hosting a public information and comment session on the proposed district on November 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 130 E. Main Street. Watch the Town website for further details on the historic district and the public meeting. Property owners within and adjacent to the proposed district will receive individual invitations with the time and place of the meeting, but all interested citizens are invited to attend. A great resource for information on Virginia's historic resources is the DHR website at www.dhr.virginia.gov/home.htm. ■



Ribbon Cutting for Inova Medical Center

Inova Loudoun Hospital hosted a ribbon cutting for the Inova Medical Center in Purcellville on Tuesday, August 8th at the corner of Hirst and Hatcher in Purcellville. In addition to members of the ILH administration and staff, attendees included representatives from Loudoun Medical Group and Mayor Bob Lazaro.

As part of this development, the developer, Chapman Brothers LLC, will dedicate the stream valley on their property to be an extension of the Suzanne R. Kane Nature Park. ■

Pictured are Randall Kelley, CEO of Inova Loudoun Hospital and Mayor Bob Lazaro.



Northern Gateway Facility Project: A Catalyst for Downtown Renaissance

After five years of planning, land acquisition, demolition, and construction the new parking facility located between North 21st and 23rd Streets has been successfully completed. The new lot now serves the businesses and train depot in the downtown area as well as the many bicyclists who find the location at the end of the Washington & Old Dominion Trail a convenient place to park. Purcellville's very successful Farmers Market also utilizes the parking lot each Thursday from May to October. The lot was designed to provide the market with electric power and, through a partnership with Roadstar Internet, free wireless broadband internet access. The entire lot is a free internet "hot spot."

The Town successfully obtained two federal transportation enhancement grants that were used in land purchases and the installation of historically accurate yet modern lighting and an extensive landscape package. Further assistance came in the form of a public-private partnership with the late developer Bruce Brownell who donated the construction of the parking lot facility. This transformation of what was once Purcellville's "Rust Belt" into a vibrant downtown center is only the first step. Last year, the Town obtained a \$225,000.00 grant to continue sidewalk, lighting and streetscape improvements along 21st Street. This project is already underway and planned for a three-year planning and construction timetable.

The recently renovated downtown area boasts not only new businesses and the train depot, but also the bike trail, farmers market and is a free, wireless "hot-spot".

Future phases of planned downtown improvements include new or upgraded sidewalks and streetscapes along 23rd Street and 21st Street from Main to O Street and a tree-lined entrance into downtown along 21st Street from Hirst Road. All projects will be linked through the introduction of the Town's new wayfinding sign system. The recently approved street lighting components will be uniformly utilized to create a fully functional and attractive lighting system that respects the Town's past and complies with dark skies requirements. Ultimately, the goal is to make downtown Purcellville a safe, attractive, easily accessible location that retains the historic charm of our Town as we progress into this new century. ■



Public Safety Public Safety Public Safety

Town and County Working Together on Rescue Squad Renovations and New Public Safety Center



The Purcellville Volunteer Rescue Squad (PVRS), located at 211 South 20th Street, will begin a major renovation beginning in October 2006. The sketch (pictured) illustrates the new look of the facility. This is the first renovation on the facility since it was placed in operation over 25 years ago.

The changes incorporated in the design accommodate the increases in membership, calls, and technology. The goals of the renovation project are improved living and working areas for the membership, an optimization of existing space, and an aesthetically pleasing building which blends in successfully with the rest of the residential neighborhood.

Once the proposed Purcellville Public Safety Center is built at Maple and Hirst, the Purcellville Volunteer Fire Department and the Purcellville Volunteer Rescue Squad will be joining the County at this new location.

Teen Center In Need of Volunteers

The Purcellville Teen Center is seeking adult volunteers to help chaperone the Friday night activities. This immensely successful program attracts an average of 240 youth each week, and it is open 52 weeks of the year. The Teen Center is staffed entirely by volunteers; there is no admission charge for the teens, and all of the activities are free. For more information, please call Philip Message at 703-431-7784, or go to www.the-teen-center.com.

"Back to School Jam" A Big Success

The Purcellville Police partnered with the local Eagle's Club, Young People's Youth Safe Haven,

Grace Annex Methodist Church, Main Street Commons and Purcellville East Apartments to provide fun and food for many children and their families on Saturday, August 26, 2006. The "Back to School Jam" included ponies, a cake walk, and the police barrel train for the kids to ride. Mayor Lazaro, Council Members C. J. Walker and Tom Priscilla cooked burgers and hot dogs. Many children received backpacks full of school materials.

Purcellville Police Explorers Post 1908

The Police Explorers attended an overnight event at Camp Snyder in Haymarket, Virginia. Nine members with Post Advisors Officer Rob Wagner and Deputy Sara Overstreet of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office traveled to Haymarket to participate in leadership and team building exercises. Some of the kids were able to experience some high element rope courses, which they enjoyed. The Post Advisors reported that all had a great time and look forward to other outings in the coming year. More information, call 540-338-7700 or visit the Police Department link at www.purcellvilleva.com.

New Police Officer Joins Purcellville Department



On August 17, 2006, Purcellville's newest Police Officer, Susan McClenaban, was sworn in by the Honorable Gary Clemens, Clerk of the Circuit Court. From Left, Police Chief Darryl Smith, Council Member C. J. Walker, Officer Susan McClenaban, Mayor Bob Lazaro, the Honorable Gary Clemens, Council Member Tom Priscilla



TOWN PLAN Continued from page 1

a series of design charrettes held by the Town over the past several years, outlines guidelines for ensuring that future development is compatible with our existing community and is respectful of our past.

The Town's work on this Plan over the past several years has involved, in addition to the design charrettes, many public input sessions and a great deal of hard work by citizen volunteers. The Comprehensive Plan Update will go through a public hearing and review by the Town Council this Fall before it is adopted as the new Town

Comprehensive Plan.

Everyone with an interest in the future of Purcellville is encouraged to read the plan and provide comments to the Town. The Plan is available for download on the Town website at www.purcellvilleva.com. Several paper copies are also available for check-out in the Planning Department at 130 E. Main Street.

You can send comments to Planning Director Martha Mason Semmes at mmsemmes@town.purcellville.va.us or mail to her attention at 130 E. Main Street, Purcellville, VA 20132. ■

**October is National Fire
Prevention Month**

**Purcellville Volunteer Fire
Company Open House**

Saturday, October 21

between 10 am & 2 pm

See article on page 4

2006-2007 Public School Boundary Hearings

School Board to Hold Hearings in October

Loudoun County Public Schools will have a record number of boundary hearings during the 2006-2007 school year. This is in preparation for the opening of five elementary schools (new Arcola, Rosa Lee Carter, Creighton's Corner, Kenneth W. Culbert and Sycolin Creek) and a middle school (MS-5, located in southeastern Loudoun) in 2007 and the opening of HS-3, the western Loudoun High School. Plans may be reviewed under the Planning & Legislative Services button on the main LCPS Web site, www.loudoun.k12.va.us. Following is the pertinent boundary hearing calendar for the 2006-2007 school year:

2006

October 19, 6:30 p.m., Kenneth W. Culbert ES Community Input Meeting at Harmony IS

October 25, 6:30 p.m., Kenneth W. Culbert ES Community Input Meeting at Harmony IS

November 3, 4:30 p.m., Public Comment for Elementary School Boundaries Closes

November 14, 6:30 p.m., Information Item to School Board on Elementary School Attendance Boundary Recommendations during School Board meeting at LCPS Administration Building

November 29, 6:30 p.m., Kenneth W. Culbert ES Public Hearing at LCPS Administration Building

December 12, 6:30 p.m., School Board Action Item on Elementary School Attendance Boundaries at LCPS Administration Building

2007

February 5, 6:30 p.m., HS-3 Community Input Meeting at Loudoun Valley HS

February 20, 6:30 p.m., HS-3 Community Input Meeting at Harmony IS

March 2, 4:30 p.m., Public Comment for Elementary & Secondary School Boundaries Closes

March 13, 6:30 p.m., Information Item to School Board on Elementary & Secondary School Attendance Boundary Recommendations during the School Board Meeting at the LCPS Administration Building

March 29, 6:30 p.m., HS-3 Public Hearing at Harmony IS

April 9, 6:30 p.m., HS-3 Public Hearing at Loudoun Valley HS

April 24, 6:30 p.m., School Board Action Item on Elementary & Secondary School Attendance Boundaries during School Board meeting at LCPS Administration Building

Town Implements Convenient E-Payment System Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes Due By December 5, 2006

Real estate and personal property taxes will be mailed by November 5, 2006 and are due by December 5, 2006. Remember you will be billed for any vehicles garaged in the Town on January 1, 2006 for the entire year. The Town of Purcellville does not prorate.

As part of our commitment to provide the citizens of Purcellville efficient and convenient services, we are pleased to announce the upcoming availability of credit card payments. See information included with your bill to learn how to pay your real estate tax, personal property tax and utility bill online or via the telephone.

The leading e-payment provider, Official Payments Corporation, will charge a nominal fee for this automated service. Visit www.officialpayments.com or call 1-800-2PAY-TAX (1-800-272-9829) and enter Jurisdiction Code 6233. You must have your account number and bill in front of you. Call the Finance Department at 540-338-7093 for more information about this new program.

PAYMENT SERVICES PROVIDED BY:

OFFICIAL PAYMENTS CORP.



PAYMENT CARDS ACCEPTED



9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

The Town held a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on September 11, 2006 at Town Hall. The program featured the Invocation by Bishop Peter Sweeny of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Pledge of Allegiance led by Purcellville Girl Scout Troop 455, and performances by the Purcellville Baptist Church Ensemble, a poem by Council Member C. J. Walker, and remarks by Congressman Frank Wolf. Pictured from left are Council Member C. J. Walker, Council Member Janet Clarke, Congressman Frank Wolf, Mayor Bob Lazaro, Vice-Mayor Greg Wagner. ■



Volunteers Make a Fire Company

In many rural American towns, the volunteer fire company has been the place where neighbors from all walks of life would come together in a time of need. Since its founding in 1923, Purcellville's Volunteer Fire Company #2 has been no different. Responding to alarms big and small at all hours of the day or night, rain or shine, the members of the company have strived to provide the best service possible to the Town and surrounding communities.

For most of its history, Company 2 has been comprised of volunteers. Regardless of background, the company drew its strength from those who lived and worked in the area. However, an increasing number of mutual aid calls (responses to other counties) coupled with rapidly changing demographics (most people do not work close to home anymore,) and a greater need for specialized skills, have begun to stretch the company's resources. Over the last few years, career firefighters from Loudoun County's Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services have augmented the company, but it's the volunteers who have responded to the majority of alarms in our community and will continue to do so for some time to come.

Help is needed at this time to rebuild our volunteer fire company. New members are needed to serve in a variety of positions from active firefighters to administrative and support staff. If you are over the age of 16 and have an interest in serving your community, then stop by the firehouse and check us out. We will provide all training and equipment free of charge and offer an interesting benefits package. There is also a special camaraderie in being a member of a volunteer fire company, and with our new facility opening in less than two years these will be exciting times. Please come to our Open House on Saturday, October 21 between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm during National Fire Prevention Month. We look forward to seeing you. ■

Firefighter Jim "Gutz" Gutierrez, Public Information Officer, Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company #2