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# Purcellville

## Citizen Update

WINTER 2007 VOL. 1, NO. 2 TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA

### Council Favors all High School Students in Town Limits to Remain at Loudoun Valley

AT THEIR REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 9, 2007, the Purcellville Town Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 07-01-03 which calls for preserving the Town of Purcellville high school students attendance boundary to stay at Loudoun Valley High School and for establishing an interim solution to school overcrowding. This is the third resolution in three consecutive years passed by Town Council that requests having the high school students in the Town of Purcellville corporate limits remain at Loudoun Valley High School when boundaries are determined for a new high school in western Loudoun County. In addition, Resolution No. 07-01-03 appeals to the Loudoun County Public School Board to establish and implement an interim solution effective starting the school year of 2007/2008 to deal with the overcrowding issues that the community has had to deal with for over four years and will continue to deal with until a new high school in western Loudoun is open for enrollment.

Your participation can help keep high school students in the Town of Purcellville limits at Loudoun Valley. Updated information can be found on [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov).

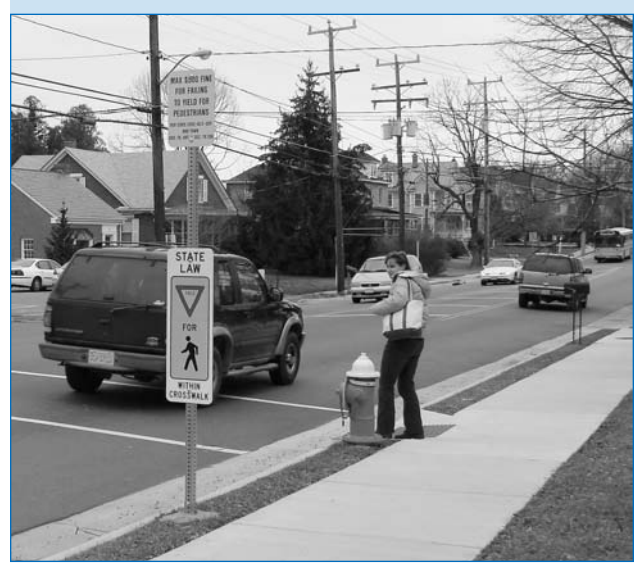
The following is the pertinent boundary hearing calendar:

- 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

Please see Page 4 for School Board member contact information. ■

### It's the Law!

Please  
**YIELD**  
for Pedestrians  
within Crosswalks



### Town Council Adopts Plan to Guide Future and Protect Small Town Character

After three years of work by citizens, Town advisory boards, and the Planning Commission, the Town Council adopted the *Purcellville, Virginia 2025 Comprehensive Plan* on December 19, 2006. This Plan, which updates the Town's 1998 Comprehensive Plan, continues Purcellville's long-standing goal to guide growth and change in a manner that protects our historic, small town character. In recognition of the tremendous residential growth that has occurred in Purcellville during recent years, the new Plan focuses on better aligning growth with the Town's ability to provide adequate utility services, while encouraging business growth to better balance the Town tax base and to maintain



View from the intersection of 21st and 23rd Streets showing infill development ideas, including a farmer's market arcade.

Purcellville's role as the economic center of western Loudoun.

Adopted on December 19, Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan ensures the Town's long-standing goal to guide growth and change in a manner that protects our historic, small town character.

The Plan recognizes the need to cut future demands for utility services through a better alignment of planned growth with Town utility supplies, as well as continuing the search for additional water for development already approved or in the pipeline within the Town. The Plan also recommends continued efforts to provide more sidewalks and trails in and around the Town to make Purcellville more pedestrian-friendly, as well as preserving and enhancing open space, recreational facilities and historic sites within the Town.

The Planning Commission has been tasked with recommending amendments to the Town's zoning and development regulations to help implement the new Comprehensive Plan.

The Town Council has requested that the Commission complete the first phase of that work by March 31, 2007. The Commission's meetings are all open to the public, so there will be opportunities for citizen and business input through this process, including required public hearings by both the Commission and the Town Council prior to adoption.

The Plan is available for download on the Town website at [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov). Several paper copies are also available for check-out in the Planning Department at 130 E. Main Street. Questions regarding the Comprehensive Plan may be directed to Planning Director Martha Mason Semmes at [mmsemmes@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:mmsemmes@purcellvilleva.gov) or 540-338-2304. ■

### 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:

On behalf of all of the members of the Council, Town staff and Commissions, our best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy New Year!

Much is happening in Town. Of critical importance, I am pleased to report that the Town Council unanimously adopted our Comprehensive Plan. A sincere thank you to all of the citizens, Town staff and the members of the Town's Planning Commission for all of the input and hard work put into the Plan over the past three years. The Plan puts in place a framework that when implemented will help protect the small town character and quality of life of our community.

Enjoy this edition of Purcellville Citizen Update. I look forward to seeing you around Town.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Regards,

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Mayor  
Town of Purcellville  
blazaro@purcellvilleva.gov ■

## Purcellville Historic District Listed on Virginia Landmarks Register

The Town received notice from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) that the Virginia Board of Historic Resources on December 11, 2006 placed the Purcellville Historic District on the Virginia Landmarks Register. The State Review Board also recommended this district for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service is expected to place the district on the National Register within the next 30 days. A map of the new historic district can be found on the Town website under the Planning Department at [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov).

The Virginia Landmarks Register includes historic landmarks, buildings, structures, districts, objects and sites which are recognized as having historical, architectural or archaeological significance at a local, state or national level. 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.



Creation of this district was made possible by an architectural survey of the historic core of Purcellville completed in late August and a nomination application prepared by 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. A great resource for information on Virginia's historic resources, including the state tax credit program, is the VDHR website at [www.dbr.virginia.gov/home.htm](http://www.dbr.virginia.gov/home.htm). Questions regarding the historic district should be directed to Director of Planning & Zoning Martha Mason Semmes at [mmsemmes@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:mmsemmes@purcellvilleva.gov) or 540-338-2304. ■

### Important Payment Dates to Remember:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| March 1, 2007  | Business License Renewal and Tax Payment Due |
| March 1, 2007  | February Water Bill Due                      |
| April 16, 2007 | 2007 Town Decals Due                         |
| May 1, 2007    | April Water Bill Due                         |
| June 5, 2007   | Real Estate Taxes Due (first half)           |

Payment options are detailed on the bills.  
Call the Finance Department at 540-338-7093 for more information.

## Town's First Tree Ordinance is Passed

The Town's first tree conservation ordinance was passed at the November 14, 2006 Town Council meeting by unanimous vote. The recently appointed Tree & Beautification Commission has logged numerous hours to fine tune aspects of their first ordinance for street trees.

The Commission's role is to foster stewardship of the Town's community trees. The new ordinance sets the stage for proper planting, maintenance and ongoing care of the Town's trees. There are sections of the ordinance that pertain to property owners that have trees growing near public rights-of-way. An obligation to prune trees over roadways and sidewalks is considered the responsibility of landowners and guidelines are outlined in these sections.

Acts that are harmful to trees include topping of trees, placing signage or nails on trees, pouring harmful substances around the root areas and using climbing spikes when pruning trees. While the ordinance defines these practices as pertaining to trees growing on public property, residents are encouraged to learn about the proper care of their own trees. Industry recommended tree care practices can be found online at [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com).

A Heritage tree program has been created by ordinance to designate trees in the community that are considered specimen trees, historical trees or extraordinary for the species. Each designated tree can be nominated through the Tree Commission and must have the owner's

permission to be designated as such. Designed to protect matriarch trees in the Purcellville community, the program instills a sense of pride and respect from the community for the preservation of trees that have weathered the pressures of urbanization and time. This new program will be developed and presented in the coming year.

The current recommended street tree list will be updated early in 2007. Trees suitable for planting near or under power lines are addressed in the new ordinance. The Virginia Cooperative Extension bulletin 430-029 provides a list of trees suitable for planting in these situations.

Trees are considered assets to the community for the economic benefits of water and air quality, energy conservation for shade and as wind break, and for the well-being to residents living in tree-lined communities. A survey was taken last year to see what aspects of trees were important to this community. Tree preservation, tree planting and education were the top three areas listed as most important to residents of Purcellville.

The Tree Commission meets every fourth Thursday of each month in the Town Hall at 7 p.m. and welcomes citizen input and involvement. Community support and involvement of urban tree programs are vital to the future success of our efforts. Get involved and plant trees! For more information, please feel free to email the Tree Commission at [treecomm@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:treecomm@purcellvilleva.gov). ■

## Catch a Ride at Town Hall – More Bus Shelters to Come

To assist riders and promote public transit, the Town partnered with Virginia Regional Transit to install a bus shelter in front of Town Hall at 130 East Main Street. All shelters will be equipped with benches.

This partnership is also working to identify additional bus shelter locations. Information on bus schedules can be found at [www.vatransit.org/bus\\_schedules.cfm](http://www.vatransit.org/bus_schedules.cfm). ■



# Public SafetyPublic SafetyPublic Safety

## Town Snow Reminders



When snow is predicted for our area, please keep in mind the following:

- Park your vehicles in your driveways or other off-street locations and remove any obstructions from the roads including trash cans and recycling bins.
- Basketball goals are not allowed in the street at any time.
- Please avoid driving during and immediately after a snow storm to give Town crews time to clear the roads and make them safe. If you must drive, please keep a safe distance between you and the snow plow as the plow may be spreading chemicals and sand. Avoid passing a snow plow and remember the road will not be clear in front of the snow plow.
- The snow plows push the snow to the side of the road and unfortunately cannot avoid pushing some of it into driveways and onto the sidewalks. The Town cannot remove the snow from your driveway following the plows. Please do not shovel snow from your driveway back into the street. Clear the sidewalk in front of your house. Per Town ordinance, sidewalks in Town are the responsibility of the property owner.
- If ice is present and cannot be removed, it should be covered with sand, kitty litter or some other substance that will allow for safe passage. Clear a path to your mail box. You must clear a big enough space for mail vehicles to be able to pull in and deliver the mail from the vehicle. Again, if possible, wait until after the snow plows have passed to avoid having to shovel more than once.
- The Town does its best to make the roads safe for emergency vehicles, mail deliveries and general travel. If there is a crisis such as an emergency vehicle cannot reach your house, the Town will coordinate with rescue services to make sure they can access your street.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Streets and Maintenance Department at 540-751-2314.

## Homework Study Group A Big Success

The Purcellville Police Department began a homework assistance program at the Main Street Commons Apartments the first week in November 2006. The program operates on Tuesday and Thursday nights between the hours of 5-6 p.m. The program is open to any child. Currently, the program serves from 11 to 12 children. Police officers, students from Patrick Henry College and other community members assist the children with subjects such as Spelling, Math and Spanish. For more information, contact the Purcellville Police at 540-338-7422.

## Homework Study Group Rides in Christmas Parade

Kids from the Purcellville Police Department Homework Study Group rode the barrel train in the Purcellville Christmas Parade. The kids met Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoyed waving at friends and relatives as they traveled Main Street.

## Purcellville Police Participate in the Santa Cop Program

Purcellville Officers Sergeant Joseph Schroeck and Master Police Officer Rob Wagner shopped with young people from our community as part of the "Shop with a Cop Day." The program sponsored by the FOP Dulles Lodge #69 offered 30 Loudoun children an opportunity to purchase items for the holidays. Each child was given \$200 to shop. This program has been one of the most successful community programs of the holiday season.

## New Officer Sworn

The Purcellville Police welcomed new Officer Dawn Chichy on December 20, 2006 at a swearing-in ceremony at the Purcellville Train Station. Officer Chichy graduated from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy on Thursday, December 21, 2006. She is a Bluemont, Virginia resident who also volunteers with the Purcellville Volunteer Rescue Unit.



*From L to R, the Honorable Gary Clemens, Clerk of Circuit Court, Officer Dawn Chichy, Police Chief Darryl Smith*

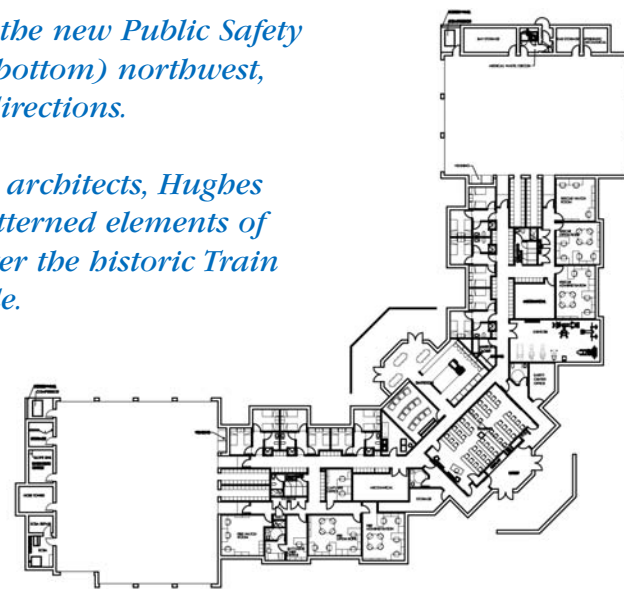
## New Purcellville Public Safety Center Scheduled to Open in 2008

Volunteers of the Purcellville Fire & Rescue Companies continue to work with the Town of Purcellville and Loudoun County toward completion of the design for the new Purcellville Public Safety Center at the corner of Hirst Rd. and Maple Ave. The final plans are almost complete and contractor bidding is expected to begin in March 2007. Ground breaking is tentatively scheduled for June/July 2007. After 12 - 14 months of construction, the Public Safety Center is scheduled to be open December 2008.



*Above, elevations of the new Public Safety Center from (top to bottom) northwest, southeast and east directions.*

*Below and right, the architects, Hughes Group Architects, patterned elements of the new building after the historic Train Station in Purcellville.*



## Fire Company Looking for Old Photos

The Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company is looking for old photos of their fire trucks, fire house or any other Purcellville Vol. Fire Dept. related photos. Please email to PVFDPhotos@comcast.net or mail to P.O. Box 386, Purcellville, VA 20132. If you do not want to give up the photo but would allow the PVFD to make a real photo quality copy, please contact Asst. Chief Michael O'Brien at (w) 703-540-6050. ■

## Contact Members of the School Board

If you're unable to attend these important meetings, please contact the School Board and let them know where you stand.

All School Board or Superintendent  
21000 Education Court, Ashburn, Virginia 20148  
Schools@loudoun.k12.va.us  
571-252-1000

Dulles District  
Robert F. DuPree, Jr., Chairman  
rfdupree@aol.com  
703-729-3430

At-Large Member  
Thomas E. Reed, Vice-Chairman  
tomreedatlarge@aol.com  
703-777-1088

Blue Ridge District  
Priscilla B. Godfrey  
qbeeme@aol.com  
540-687-5689

Broad Run District  
Bob Ohneiser MBA; JD  
ohneiserlaw@verizon.net  
703-729-6446

Catoctin District  
Mark J. Nuzzaco  
mark@nuzzacolcps.org  
703-771-2056

Leesburg District  
Sarah B. Smith  
sarahbsmith@comcast.net  
703-777-4974

Potomac District  
John A. Andrews  
andcominv@aol.com  
540-338-9040

Sterling District  
J. Warren Geurin  
jwgeurin@aol.com  
703-437-9428

Sugarland Run District  
Joseph M. Guzman, Ph.D.  
mail@josephguzman.com  
703-421-6528

## Centennial Committee Update



At their meeting on December 19, 2006, the Centennial Committee approved the design for the 2007 Town vehicle decal which recognizes the Town's centennial.

The Committee selected this design from four choices submitted by the Town's branding and marketing consultants, Arnett Muldrow & Associates. In March 2007, these vehicle decals will be available for sale; the 2006 decals expire April 15, 2007.

Also, the Centennial Committee is planning several events for the 2008 celebration including a Tournament of Bands showcasing area high school bands, a parade with periodic floats, a performance by the Loudoun Valley High School Drama Club, an Emancipation Celebration and the construction of a time capsule.

The Centennial Committee is in need of volunteers to help organize and plan these events. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and learning more about the Town's history, please contact Cheryl Herman at [cherman@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:cherman@purcellvilleva.gov) or 540-751-2326. Committee meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Train Station. We hope to see you there! ■

## Recent Ribbon Cuttings and Groundbreakings

The Town is pleased to welcome three new businesses in Purcellville: **Geostructures, Purcellville Wine & Gourmet, and Vignettes.**

**Groundbreaking ceremony for GeoStructures.** GeoStructures provides engineered earth structures and foundation support systems for Highway and Commercial Development projects. The company employs geotechnical engineers and construction professionals, licensed in 15 states, with a total of over 90 years of experience in solving soil reinforcement and foundation support problems. The 17,000 square foot building (illustrated) is located on Browning Ct. and was designed by local architect Kevin Ruedesueli.



### Ribbon cutting at Purcellville Wine & Gourmet in December 2006

Purcellville Wine & Gourmet is located in the Loudoun Valley Shopping Center at 741 East Main Street. Store hours are 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sundays. PWG offers a wide variety of wines, beers, cigars, coffees, assorted gourmet foods, candies and specialty cheeses and will offer wine tastings every Friday night and throughout the day on Saturdays.

*Vice-Mayor Greg Wagner and PWG Owner Duane Harris.*



### Ribbon cutting at Vignettes in December 2006

Vignettes is located at 801 East Main Street. Store hours are Thursday and Friday from 10:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Vignettes is an upscale furnishings and accessories store.

*Council member Tom Priscilla, Sheriff Steve*

*Simpson, Owner Cheryl Kayban, and Mayor Bob Lazaro.*



## Transportation Improvements Update

At their retreat in August 2006, the Purcellville Town Council identified their Top 10 priorities for 2007. In order to assure the proper planning for repairs, replacement and acquisition of capital items and facilities necessary in providing high quality services to residents, many of Council's priorities focus on transportation such as roads, intersections, traffic signals and sidewalks. For instance, the 2007 Top 10 list includes the installation of traffic signals at Main and Hatcher Streets and at 23rd and Main Streets and intersection improvements at Main and Maple.

Also, the Town is currently in the process of updating its five-year Capital Improvement Program which includes transportation projects. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) differs from the annual operating expenses primarily in that its projects are of a high dollar threshold, large in size, relatively irregular in frequency, and involves the development of assets that last for many years. In addition to the previously mentioned 2007 priority projects, transportation projects in the CIP include various sidewalk improvements to promote pedestrian access, the completion of a Town-wide traffic study and streetscape improvements in the downtown area.

More information on the previously adopted CIP for FY2007-11 can be found at the Town's website by going to [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov) and clicking on Government, Town Documents, Capital Improvement Program FY2007-11. ■

Many of the Purcellville Town Council's priorities focus on transportation such as roads, intersections, traffic signals and sidewalks.

