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CRACKED BREAKING & RECENTLY BROKEN NEWS

FREE FREE

Warrenton: The Flyer

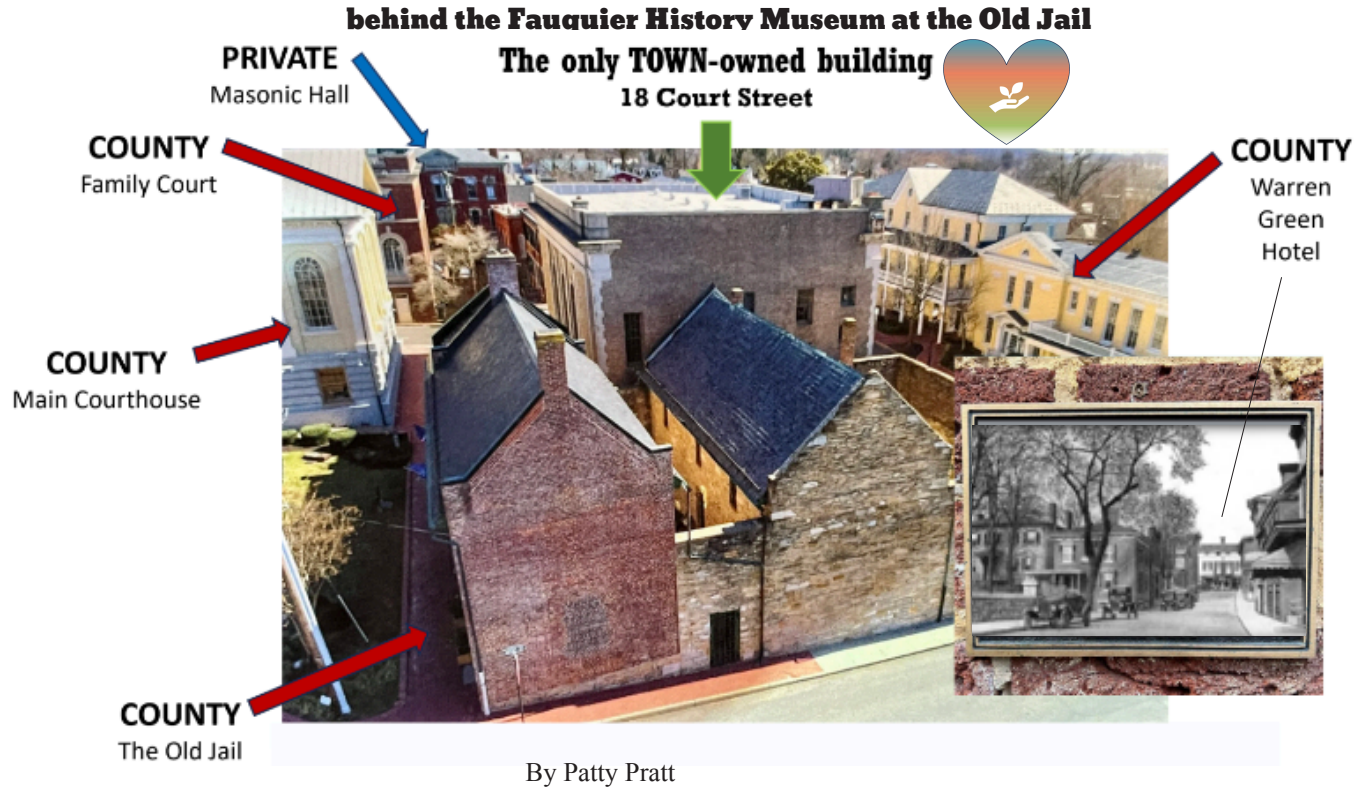
Spring Focus Page 6-7

LOCAL NEWS
Fact-Based
Fun Edgy Civil

VOLUME XXVI - June-July FREE THIS IS OUR TOWN PAPER

Democratic Process Saves FREE SPEECH

Artists want to Enliven the HEART of Warrenton: Mayor Rejects Them!



By Patty Pratt

The democratic process narrowly saves the 1st Amendment rights of Warrenton citizens on April 14th at the morning Town Council Session. Paul Mooney, Larry Kovalik, Dave McGuire and Eric Gagnon knew inherently that they represent the citizens and after quite the sleight of hand by Mayor Carter Nevill, these four voted yes. It's surprising how many people stood up for members-only club rejected the idea of a thriving Arts and History civic project to bring foot traffic into Old Town Warrenton. You can be FOR enlivened Arts programs in Warrenton no matter where the venue is. You don't have to give up your stand for Warrenton Arts because an in-a-hurry developer wants a quick sale.

Here's how it all happened. Artists had been gathering for months designing an Arts concept (Live Music by Gloria's Music Alliance, Theater and Visual Arts) for the Historic Town-owned property at 18 Court Street. This was an underutilized municipal building looking for a new purpose, Mr. Ash of Madison Dale, a Chevy Chase Maryland firm, presented to the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors a very self-serving proposal that he purchase the Warren Green Building with little to no money down, interest only payments for 4 years at approximately 3.9% and a balloon payment the end of 5 years. Discussions with his firm and two others transpired for months concluding with the BoS initially accepting an offer with generous arrangements never offered to a local business firm. Then again, unlike the Town, the County owns the property and has the financial reserves to tailor a favorable purchase structure. Fast forward many months and behold Mr. Ash wants to receive same type of financed deal on the Town-owned former Town Hall at 18 Court Street and publicly pressured the

(continued on page 5)

Fast Track Sale Questionable!

By Ike Miller

,Front page last month's Fauquier Times headline article, "...SOLD! OLD TOWN HALL SLATED FOR NEW SOCIAL CLUB"

Yes, the Town Council has voted to SELL the building for more than half of its appraised value, FINANCE the building interest only (3.93%) and take a balloon payment in year five. To be used as a private social club and restaurant.

The citizens should be disgusted by the terms, presentation and fast track of this sale for several reasons:

1. Details of the sale terms weren't divulged to the citizens until the morning session on April 14th, the VERY DAY of the vote to sell. No process was explored to seek a more competitive offer, no counter-offer was made

(continued on page 3)

The By-Right Dilemma: Will Warrenton's Quick Fix for Foot Traffic Hollow Out Old Town?

by Patty Pratt

A pivotal debate over the historic heart of Warrenton has exposed a dangerous small-town paradox: can a community legislate its way to rapid prosperity without dismantling the very charm driving its economy?

The tension centers on ZOTA-26-1, a proposed zoning text amendment allowing boutique hotels of up to 40 rooms to be built "by-right" in the Central Business District. Stripping away the Special Use Permit process offers the allure of instant gratification. Proponents argue that cutting red tape will swiftly attract high-end lodging, bringing an immediate rush of affluent foot traffic to Main Street's shops.

Yet, critics warn this creates a trap of municipal cognitive dissonance. The immediate objective—generating quick customer traffic—directly collides with the

(continued on back page)

18 Court Street SOLD?

by Percy Dunagin

During this month's Town Council regular meeting (April 14th) the council considered and passed an ordinance to sell the 18 Court Street building to the developer (Mr Ash of Madison Dale) who had already agreed to buy the Fauquier County-owned Warren Green Hotel at 10 Hotel Street. This council meeting was designated as a "public hearing" on this matter, in order to comply with Virginia State Code (§ 15.2-1800B) for the sale of town-owned property. In the end, the town council voted 5-2 to approve this ordinance, thus giving Mr Ash the go-ahead to purchase the property. But there may be a sticking point to the deal, as was raised during the debate of the matter that evening.

In the working meeting earlier that day,

(continued on page 3)

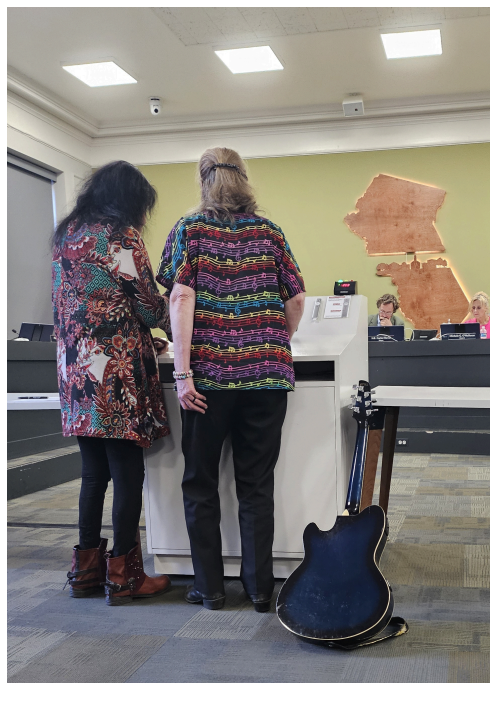
Editors' Picks

The calendar page shown below has a crisp drawing of **3rd & Main Gourmet to Go.** Inside this small kitchen is a giant cuisine. You'll find gourmet quiche, sandwiches, desserts, & take-home meals. Try the **She Crab Soup**. 15 S. Third St. Mon. - Sat. 11a-3p **thirdandmainva@gmail.com 540.347.2935**



"They took all the trees and put 'em in a tree museum. And they charged the people a dollar and a half just to see 'em. Don't it always seem to go, you don't know what you've got til it's it's gone..." Mary Shapiro and friend sing acapella after Mayor Carter Nevill indicates the guitar is a prop and not allowed. They knocked it out of the park. See story on page 6.»»»

«« The drawing of 3rd & Main Street pictured on the left is a series of drawings by a local resident, Christopher Lambert. He draws mainly for fun, though you can find his work for sale in local shops. You may have encountered him locally drawing pictures of people's pets. He doesn't charge for them, he uses drawing as a way to connect to people. Currently his drawings are hanging in **Frame Craft at 64 Main Street where you can purchase a calendar** with those drawings or the original drawings.



About WPAC



The Warrenton Public Advisory Committee (WPAC) contains the group of local people who value truth and facts when making decisions to preserve the Historic Old Town Charm of Warrenton Virginia and matters of concern with Town Council. We strive to bring subject matter expert inputs to a wide variety of small town issues and concerns and to inform our community of fact-based information, presented in a transparent forum. **If you align with these values then you are part of the WPAC community.** All are welcome in the discussion. Check out our blog **www.wpac.blog** for more information or to become a contributor.

Warrenton: The Flyer **(W:TF)** is a compilation of crowd sourceds inputs from people in Warrenton communities including residents, shop keepers, business owners & friends ~25 mile radius. The editing, ads sales, production publishing and promotion of **W:TF** flyer is done by a small local business called We The Flyers.

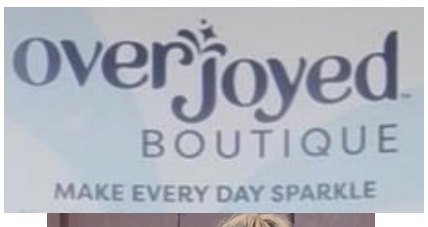
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189 west Lee Hwy Warrenton,Va

Convictions
Conjectures
Complaints
Grumblings
Grievances
Opinions
Gossip
Reports



WHERE'S WALDO? ›››
Look for Waldo in a different place in new publications. Waldo is one of the most spotted longtime residents. He loves to walk the streets of our Historic Old Town of Warrenton. He wants to preserve the charm. Waldo submits articles on **WPAC.blog** about recent sightings from his regular walks & strong opinions on Town matters.

Letters To The Editors

In this section **Warrenton: The Flyer** publishes Letters to the Editors (WPAC) and Community Event Reports for topics relevant to our town. Please submit to our publisher: **WeTheFlyers@protonmail.com** WPAC will curate articles based on interest, relevance, and space availability.

Shopping Local Benefits All of Us

Dear Editor,

We are Art Studio 81, an artist collective proud to call Warrenton home. Some of our artists have lived here for decades, while others are brand new to the area. Our mission is simple: to connect local creators with our community, provide an affordable venue for homeowners to buy original art, and offer an open-to-the-public studio where residents can watch art in progress.

When we chose Old Town Warrenton for our location, we wanted to help solve a modern epidemic—loneliness and isolation—by providing a vibrant space that draws people out of their homes.

However, a small business cannot survive without foot traffic. Historically, most fail within three years under the weight of rent, utilities, and payroll. Since opening, I have worked the Saturday shift. Every hour on the hour, I count the pedestrians on the street. I have yet to count more than a dozen at one time. By 4:00 PM, Old Town looks like a ghost town, especially compared to the bustling downtowns of our neighbors in Culpeper, Winchester, and Fredericksburg.

So, what is the solution?

Regardless of your political leanings, we can all agree on wanting our communities to thrive. Charity starts at home, so let's focus on making Warrenton great. Fauquier County has 77,000 residents. If every resident visited Old Town just once a month and purchased a single item from a local shop, we could completely revitalize our town together. Let's support local art, local business, and each other. Sincerely, Florence Jones - Art Studio 81

E-Bikes and E-Scooters By Percy Dunagin

The town of Haymarket has a draft ordinance on e-bikes and e-scooters. The issue was first brought up in March 2026 by the police department and a town councilmember. According to their town's chief of police, these vehicles are "becoming affordable and readily available," and "are also becoming more hazardous because they use the sidewalk not the streets." In April, the Haymarket town council discussed a proposed ordinance to address this problem, which will apparently be the topic of a public hearing in June 2026. What does their ordinance say? Well, the title says a lot: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 46 OF THE HAYMARKET CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE REGULATIONS FOR USE AND RENTAL OF MOTORIZED SKATEBOARDS OR SCOOTERS, BICYCLES, OR ELECTRIC POWER-ASSISTED BICYCLES FOR HIRE.**

The key words are at the end – "for hire." While the ordinance begins by acknowledging that Haymarket wishes to be "proactive in welcoming new models of transportation" and likes "policies to limit their potentially negative impacts", the entire ordinance limits its application to these electric vehicles that are FOR HIRE. It's true that many large cities and some smaller ones are full of for-hire e-bikes, but if a town can regulate the use of them "to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town and the general public," then why wouldn't the town want to also apply these new regulations to private users of e-bikes?

You may wonder, does Warrenton have a problem with e-bikes and e-scooters like Haymarket apparently does? I say YES, but to my knowledge this issue has not come up for discussion at the town council, but I think we can learn something from what Haymarket is doing. There are indeed some basic provisions in the Warrenton Town Code on bikes and scooters, in Article V, Sec. 10-122. - Skating, skateboarding and riding of bicycles prohibited on certain sidewalks and crosswalks. The use of roller skates or skateboards and or the riding of bicycles on any designated sidewalks or crosswalks, located in a commercial or industrial zoning district, including those of any church, school, recreational facility or any business property open to the public where such activity is prohibited by the owner, is hereby prohibited. The town manager shall designate the sidewalks and or crosswalks where skating, skateboarding and or bicycle riding shall be prohibited. Signs indicating such prohibition shall be conspicuously posted in the general area where skating, skateboarding and or bicycle riding is prohibited.

However, these provisions above do not address the current issue, since most of the riders are using the streets, and hence should be following the street rules – but they are not. Nor are many trained to safely operate at the speeds they are traveling. Nor are they wearing safety equipment and using lights at night.

Living very near to Waterloo Street, I have personally witnessed numerous occasions of very unsafe (reckless, I'd say) use of both e-bikes and e-scooters, all by teenagers and pre-teens, both day and night-time. One teen came speeding (around 30 mph) down Waterloo (westbound) in his e-scooter from the Main Street area toward the 4-way stop sign at Chestnut Street. He had no helmet on, earbuds in and a cell phone in one hand which he was looking at. Instead of stopping at the 4-way intersection, he blew right through. A car approaching from Oak Street stopped and watched as the kid whizzed by. This car turned left and followed (cautiously) the scooter rider up the little hill toward the next stop sign at the middle school. I watched to see what would happen. The scooter rider, looking back and seeing the car behind him in the car lane (there is no sidewalk on that side of Waterloo), quickly swerved to his left across the oncoming traffic and hopped onto the sidewalk, riding that until the next intersection, when he went out of my sight. The car, meanwhile, slowed down in order to assess the situation and avoid hitting this reckless kid. Thank God that this driver was paying attention – not all are.

I could cite other examples, but you get the point. It's only a matter of time before a tragic accident occurs. Will the town do something before then? I hope so. I see a few options for us: 1) implement an awareness program to all motorists, parents and kids for this activity; 2) increase police presence on key roads for enforcement; and 3) pass a town ordinance like Haymarket plans to do that addresses ALL e-bike and e-scooter usage. I think it's high time we do all 3, for the safety of our citizens, especially the young ones.

Headlines & Front Page News Continued

SOLD? (continued)

the council heard from the Town staff a summary of the developer on his proposed purchase of and use of the property; and then from local artist Patty Pratt who presented (after some stone-walling from certain members of the town council and the mayor) an alternative plan on behalf of numerous Warrenton citizens for the disposition of this building. Ms Pratt's proposal advocated for leasing the building to an organization that would run the property as an arts and activities center, with the focus of benefiting many citizens of Warrenton. Mr Ash plans to operate the building as a private club in conjunction with his hotel business that will occupy the historic Warren Green Hotel after he renovates it.

During the evening public hearing, approximately 15 people spoke during the period allotted, including the developer. Most were in favor of the sale, but some also brought up the consideration of delaying the decision. It was this consideration that was echoed in two motions raised by two separate members of the Town Council after the citizens had finished speaking. First, Mr McGuire (at large) entered a motion to amend the resolution to add a 30-day "cooling-off" period. This amendment was quickly defeated by a 5-2 vote, signaling that most on the council had made up their minds on the sale. Next, Mr Gagnon (Ward 5) entered a motion to amend the resolution to delay the vote until the town attorney could seek a legal opinion from the state Attorney General on the Virginia Code's requirement for a town voting to sell such a property. This was a stickier issue, which resulted in several parliamentary procedures by the council that ultimately ended the debate. The council then voted 5-2 to defeat that amendment also. Next, more debate on the original ordinance by council members followed, with the ultimate vote on the ordinance around 8:30 pm. In the council's 5-2 vote for the ordinance, only Mr Gagnon and Mr McGuire voted "Nay".

Sounds simple, however, the issue that Mr Gagnon raised may still rear its ugly head. Here's why. While Virginia Code Section 15.2-1800 stipulates only that the town must hold a public hearing before selling real property, another part of Virginia law suggests that there is an additional requirement. Here is the language (my emphasis added): Article VII, Section 9 of the Virginia Constitution states: "Section 9. Sale of property and granting of franchises by cities and towns. No rights of a city or town in and to its waterfront, wharf property, public landings, wharves, docks, streets, avenues, parks, bridges, or other public places, or its gas, water, or electric works shall be sold except by an ordinance or resolution passed by a recorded affirmative vote of three fourths of all members elected to the governing body." This section is cited by the Virginia Code Section 15.2-1800B. Furthermore, Section 15.2-2100A (Restrictions on selling certain municipal public property) also repeats the Constitution's language on this almost verbatim. The key phrases in both of these texts are "other public places" and "a recorded affirmative vote of three fourths of all members elected to the governing body" (in our case 6 out of 7). This is exactly what Mr Gagnon was asking about, and the response from the Town Attorney (Philip Strother) that evening was the following: he had already researched this and determined that Virginia law did not require a three fourths vote from us because apparently our property is NOT what this law is talking about. Mr Strother did not elaborate much, other than to insist that 18 Court Street is not a "public place", which resulted in Mr McGuire seriously questioning the accuracy of that position. Because of the parliamentary procedures that quickly shut down any further debate after that, the matter was quickly over.

What does then constitute a "public place" in the context of Virginia law? It seems that the town is supposed to be satisfied that Mr Strother is correct, and no additional legal opinion is needed on this. However, there is good reason to believe that Virginia law does offer some more definition on the use of this term, one that just may cause us a problem. One definition appears in the Virginia Code under the stipulations of Powers of Local Government, 15.2-2820: "any enclosed, indoor area used by the general public, including but not limited to any building owned or leased by the Commonwealth or any agency thereof or any locality, public conveyance or public vehicle, educational facility, hospital, nursing facility or nursing home, other health care facility, library, retail store of 15,000 square feet or more, auditorium, arena, theater, museum, concert hall, or other area used for a performance or an exhibit of the arts or sciences, or any meeting room." In another, the Virginia Code Definitions Section (4.1-100, which is under the topic of Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Control), the term is defined as "any place, building, or conveyance to which the public has, or is permitted to have, access, including restaurants, soda fountains, hotel dining areas, lobbies and corridors of hotels, and any park, place of public resort or amusement, highway, street, lane, or sidewalk adjoining any highway, street, or lane." It seems difficult for the average layperson to say how our building does NOT fall into these definitions, but what would the legal experts say?

It is not entirely clear whether Mr Gagnon or Mr Strother is correct, but shouldn't the question be explored further, in order to have a sound legal standing? If not, don't we open up this deal to legal challenges? That is exactly what Mr Gagnon cautioned (while not insisting he was correct on the law), thus asking for a simple delay to investigate. Time will tell if this sticking point will either a) invite somebody to file a lawsuit, or b) cause the developer to back out, or both. If we did need 6 out of 7 votes, we certainly didn't get them, and that one vote may make a huge difference as the sale now proceeds. The majority may rule, but that doesn't make them always right.

Fast Track Sale Questionable Decision (continued)

use of one or more of those County-owned buildings before the Court Street vote to sell. In today's paper, BoS supervisor Ike Broaddus suggested that when the judicial center is completed, (Mr. Ash) "...might come and buy the pretty building next door to go bigger!" If the County-owned Circuit Court building is eventually sold to Mr. Ash, only the General District courthouse and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations courthouse buildings remain as walk-able alternatives for Town and County community events in the historic district.

4. While the County also owns the soon-to-be-surplussed Warrenton Middle School on Waterloo Street, the Town citizens have no commitment from the County that the Town can use all or even part of that complex. It is common practice, as confirmed by the Town Council's Vice-Mayor, for the Mayor himself to request formal meetings with the County Board of Supervisors. A sit-down of this kind has not happened in years and many town citizens have green-lighted the Town Council to sell the only remaining Town land asset in the entire historic District. While the potential future revenue from the Warren Green Hotel and the club-restaurant could yield much-needed revenue for the Town, the Town has made no effort to secure a future viable community event space.

WARRENTON BUGDET 201

By Anthony Sippert

Town of Warrenton Budget 101, pt 2

During the 14 April 2026 Town Council Meeting, a Warrenton Proposed Budget in Brief for Fiscal Year 2027 (1 JUL 2026 to 30 JUN 2027) was provided to those in attendance. It was a slick document with a glossy cover. It looked very professional. On the Welcome page of the document, it stated, "The goal of this abbreviated budget document is give (sic) an overview of the budget while continuing our dedication to budget transparency."

However, that transparency is fully realized only by those who choose to dig further into the additional resources listed on the "Where to Find More Information" page. There you will find links to the full Fiscal Year 2027 proposed budget, the proposed 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Plan, and the Plan Warrenton 2040, which is the Town's long-term, comprehensive plan. The first two are found at www.warrentonva.gov-177-Budget, and the latter is found at www.warrentonva.gov-170-Plan-Warrenton-2040-Comprehensive-Plan. These are the documents you must study and understand if you want to be an informed citizen and be fully aware of the long-term budget plans and the implications they will have on future taxes or debt that the town will be obligated to incur. Debt that may lead to tax increases in the future.

Some basic things one must understand are that there are multiple categories of the budget. The Town's budget is organized into groups of related accounts that are tied to specific sources of revenue. This is a requirement of the Commonwealth of Virginia that the various sources of revenue be matched with a fund for program costs associated with that source of revenue. The example given in the brief is that money received from resident water bills should not be allocated to pay for Police services. The Town Budget will lay out all the various revenue sources and the funds they are tied to. In the coming issues of this newsletter, we will continue to dive into the Town Budget, the various funds, and their associated revenue sources.

Quick Access to Town Budget <<<



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TOWN Truths and-or COUNCIL Consequences

Dedicated to providing accurate information to Town Residents and Town Businesses to further the action on new or current town topics, propositions, & votes.

Who Represents YOUR Ward?

Find your Town Council Member: Use the Ward Map ›



Paul Mooney AT-LARGE Term expires 12/31/2026
Councilman Paul Mooney is a husband and father of four, a local small business owner, and a Marine Corps reservist. Paul says he's passionate about his community and wants to ensure it stays a place where families, individuals, and democracy can thrive.



David McGuire AT-LARGE Term expires 12/31/2026
David McGuire has a Master's Degree in History. As a fiscal conservative he believes in the transparency of government. The primary responsibility of being a Town Council Member is "to have integrity in all your actions both public and private."



Eric Gagnon WARD 5 Term Expires 12/31/2028
Councilman Eric Gagnon is a retired publisher, training professional, consultant, and inventor, with experience as an entrepreneur, business owner, and technology patent litigation & licensing specialist. Eric often says he believes in truth, transparency and standing behind your word.



Michele O'Halloran, WARD 4 Term Expires 12/31/2028
Councilmember O'Halloran originally from the Republic of Panama, immigrated to the United States in her early 20s. She has resided in Arizona and Florida, employed in both private and public sectors as a Human Resource Manager before moving to Warrenton 20 years ago.



Larry Kovalik WARD 3 Term Expires 12/31/2028
Councilman Kovalik is a Senior Field Service Engineer for medical laser systems.. As a 25-year resident Larry fully supports our town's Vision and Values statement regarding the preservation of Warrenton's small-town character. Respect, Protect, & Preserve are his priorities.



William Semple II WARD 2 Term Expires 12/31/2028
Bill, Vice Mayor and Councilman is a retired entrepreneur, businessman and Navy veteran best known for inventing and successfully licensing mapping programs for common electronics. Bill says he has an avid commitment to preserving the Warrenton he loves.



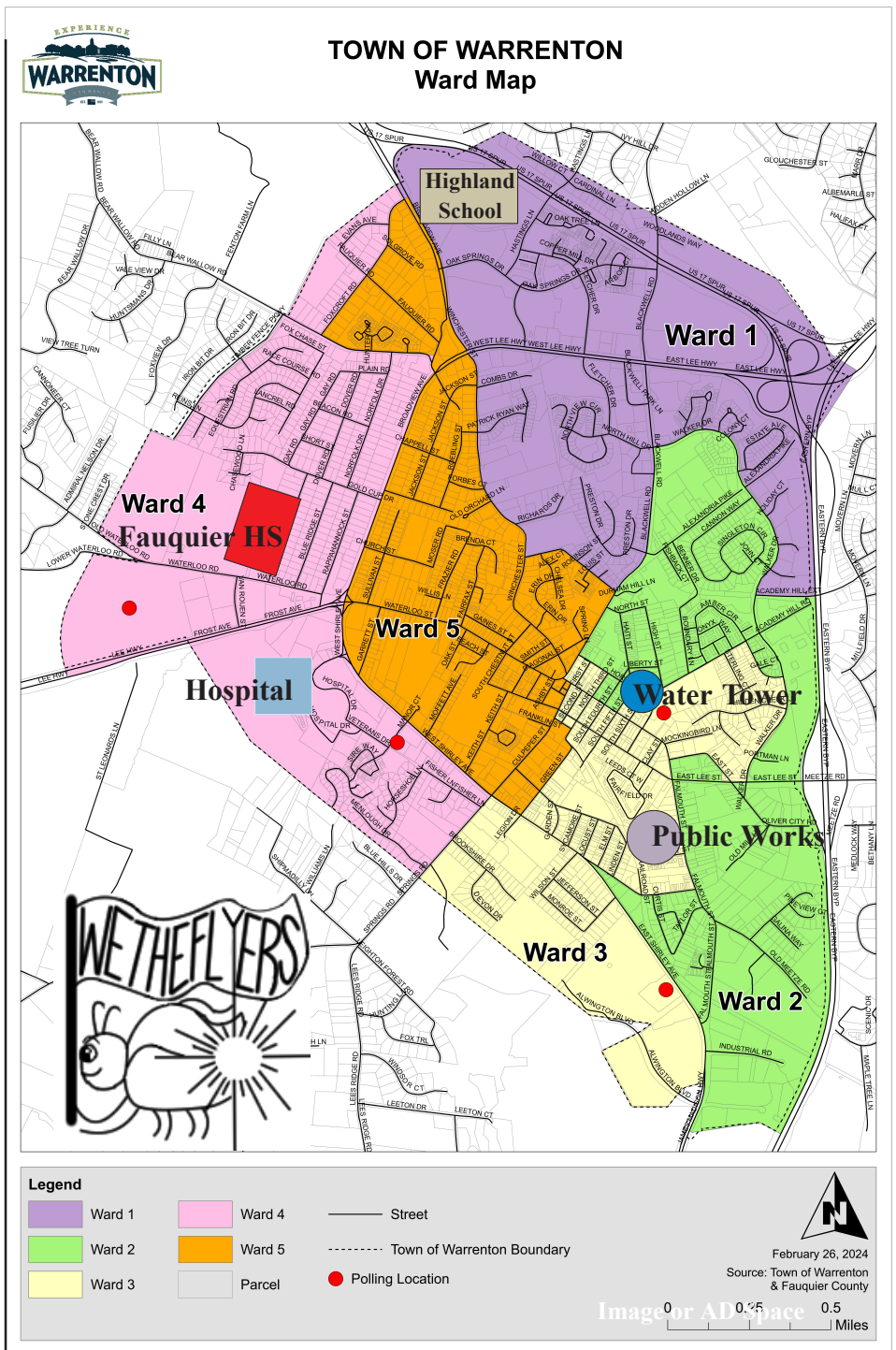
Roy Francis WARD 1 Term Expires 12/31/2028
Roy retired from the Federal Government where he served as the Departmental Printing Officer for the Department of the Interior. A fiscal conservative, he says he believes in supporting representative government, listening to the people, openness, and transparency.



Carter Nevill Town Mayor Term Expires 12/31/2026
After graduating he remained in Charlottesville working in restaurants until he became a Southeast Regional Sales Manager for the leading importer of South African wines. In 2004 he opened Carter and Spence, Ltd. He is active in Old Town, greater Warrenton & Fauquier organizations.

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pmooney@warrentonva.gov	540-272-5329
dmcguire@warrentonva.gov	540-422-3590
rfrancis@warrentonva.gov	540-340-4947
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lkovalik@warrentonva.gov	540-422-3605
mohalloran@warrentonva.gov	540-340-4946
egagnon@warrentonva.gov	540-645-6156

Your TWO CENTS is Welcome!



Town Council Meetings

Regular Meetings of the Town of Warrenton Town Council are held in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 21 Main Street on the **second Tuesday** of each month **Working Session** at 9 AM and **Regular Meeting with Public Speaking Session** 6:30 PM.

Suggestion: Prepare about 400 words and make TWELVE copies for the town council and staff or submit online to comments to townclerk@warrentonva.gov

Town Council Live Stream <<

Planning Commission Regular Meetings are held on the **third Tuesday** of the month at 7 PM in the Town Council Chambers at 21 Main Street.

The **Architectural Review Board** will meet on the **fourth Thursday** of every month at 21 Main Street.

Planning Commission Work Sessions are held on the **fourth Tuesday** of the month, as needed, at 7 PM in the Town Council Chambers at 21 Main Street.

www.warrentonva.gov



2-CENTS TAX HiKE before BUDGET is set !

By Patty Pratt

No town council or county government hikes a tax rate BEFORE setting the budget, EXCEPT May 12th in THE TOWN OF WARRENTON. ARGH! Thank you to the two council members voting against the hike Gagnon and McGuire. This hike is only for the first year. The plans for the following 3 years in the proposed budget show exceptionally large unnecessary budgets items. Apparently, the only way to afford our budget desires is through raising taxes so the huge increases to offset the "nice to haves" are yet to come, or we can purchase more debt.

Either way the town residents lose. Many residents are on fixed incomes that do NOT fall into the area of need to apply for exception, but they still are stretched to manage economic stressors. I am a proponent of looking through the budget to find ways to responsibly cut. It is the fiduciary requirement of Town Council to live within its own means. There are many ways to address shortfalls **PRIOR to raising taxes.**

Town Truths & Old-Town News

(continued from page 1) Council in open morning session several weeks ago to fall in line with the County or perhaps the deal would collapse. (Keep in mind that the Town must BORROW money to finance this year's required capital to provide long overdue upgrading and maintenance to our water and sewer systems).

Before we had a chance to present our proposal to the town, Ms. O'Halloran stated that the Council knew the deal was coming for a year. Really? Were citizens asked a year ago about responding to an offer to sell the former Town Hall? Was Court Street part of the intended purchase from the County a year ago? The citizens had NO IDEA 18 Court St Municipal Building was even in play.

Many Town residents and local artists quickly prepared an alternate proposal that would make Warrenton a destination town realizing that the town could use more foot traffic on Main St. regardless of whether it happened in the 18 Court Street property. We had hoped that our foot traffic numbers along with some strategic marketing would far outweigh the proposed use as a private membership club and sometimes available extremely expensive restaurant. Built into the Arts Concept was a way to preserve and maintain the building with a variety of fundraising activities. The plan also generated several hundred thousand dollars a year in usage fees. Surely, this would be something the town would seriously consider since the proposing artists came with decades of collaborative for profit and nonprofit successes. Best of all, the town citizens would keep its only historic property remaining in the historic district in the Town of Warrenton.

I'd heard that the mayor plays tricks, sort of dirty pool and I had witnessed these antics at the last few Town council meetings where he makes a promise in a closed session and changes it up in front of the open public session. This causes sparks to fly. Or sometimes he adds things at the last minute to the agenda or selectively erases them entirely to try to exert power or push his own agenda. At this morning session I lived this first-hand and experienced his antics. For hours, he did not even acknowledge the Artists on the morning of the 14th.

I recalled Mayor Nevill's chummy hospitalitya month prior where Mr. Ash was greeted with a grandiose welcome as if a King were in our midst. Instead, the Mayor put the budget item first on the agenda so that the Artists would have to wait an hour or two before presenting their presentation and charts. Tricky move. Then he called for the Town Manager to give an update of Mr. Ash's development proposal and intentionally moved to the next item -skipping right over the presentation which Councilman Gagnon placed on the consent agenda for the Artists more than three weeks prior! Mr. Gagnon stopped the Mayor. Mr. Mooney asked for a 10-minute recess to talk to us. Then they called a vote after the recess to even consider hearing the Arts project presentation on the alternate proposal. For the record, the voting to present was Council member Gagnon Aye, McGuire Aye, O'Halloran NO, Semple NO, Kovalik Yes, Francis ABSTAIN, Mooney, Yes!

And so, by the slimmest of margins we were afforded the opportunity to present our case for NOT selling the building and retaining it as a Community Arts Center, citing detailed attendance and revenue projections, potential uses, space allocation and fees paid to the Town. **(You can stream a recording of the presentation from warrentonva.gov on the Meetings, Agendas, Minutes section)**.

I, like many I have spoken with, feel that many people on the Town Council and several members of the Town staff are behaving like a controlling tyrannical government that doesn't listen to its citizens. Council member Semple, after initially voting to DENY us time to present, asked many questions. Council Member Semple publicly apologized 3 times later that morning and in the evening for initially voting NOT to allow us to present our alternative. You can consider a deal without shutting down the voice of the local citizens or throwing local Artists under the bus. All but one "Abstaining" vote may have prevented a qualified and experienced team from presenting an alternative.

Once again, the decision to sell the building was made in closed session without regard to the will of the Citizens. The fiduciary responsibility is to market the building and accept sealed bids. And in the end, the Town Council voted 5/2 to sell. They and prior councils and mayors let 18 Court St decay and deferred maintenance and improvement for 47 years, while operating the former Town Hall in that very space.

Now in the 2027 proposed budget appears a generous line item greater than proposed sale price of 18 Court St. . Should ~3500 households shoulder $850,000 over 3 yrs on a new outdoor skating park at the WARF? This is simply the tip of a very dangerous iceberg of irresponsible spending and questionable fiduciary stewardship.

Mr. Ash of Madison Dale, a Chevy Chase Maryland firm, presented to the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors a very self-serving proposal that he purchase the Warren Green Building with little down, interest only payments for 4 years at ~3.9% and a balloon payment the end of 5 years. Discussions with his firm and two others transpired for months. The BoS initially accepting an offer with generous arrangements never offered to a local business firm. The BoS is pressuring the Town to allow 18 Court St to be sold without first legally securing a venue for the Artists. The County owns the hotel and has the financial reserves to tailor a favorable purchase structure; however, the County wants Mr. Ash to receive the same type of financed deal ($40K down, $17K interest for 5 years and ~$500K balloon) on the Town-owned former Town Hall at 18 Court Street warning the deal would potentially collapse without it. Our Mayor scolded the citizens for not acquiescing -a Medici move. Our Town must BORROW $93M to finance this year's required capital to provide long overdue upgrading and maintenance to our water and sewer systems. Where is common sense?

Exckusive private membership over public space?

TOWN Happenings -Of Note



Renowned as the "Voice of Newgrass," JOHN COWAN, plays at the Listening Room at Drum & Strum to a PACKED house in Warrenton on April 11th followed by The Nighthawks May 16th -Amazing Shows in Warrenton-

Thanks to Gloria's Music Alliance!



comments?
www.WPAC.blog
WPACdiscussion



SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES AND ADS to WeTheFlyers@protonmail.com

The WARF: Time for Us to Make Some Tough Decisions

by Warrenton: The Flyer Staff

Since it opened in 2006, the Warrenton Aquatic and Recreational Facility (WARF) has lost between $1 million to $1.4 million each year of its operations, amassing a total loss for the Town of over $40 million. Now, major systems at the 20 year-old facility are breaking down. For example, the play feature at the toddler pool now requires replacement, at an estimated cost of $374,000, and similar big-ticket infrastructure replacements for this facility are now coming due. The cumulative impact of these yearly losses has placed great pressure on our Town budget. Combined with higher water and sewer infrastructure repair costs, higher personnel and overhead costs, and inflation, the financial costs of the WARF impose an unsustainable burden on our Town.

Despite several membership fee increases, the WARF continues to be a significant money-losing operation for the Town, and will continue to be, at least until its annual $600K debt service payments end in 2032. After that, its financial outlook is still unclear. Another key fact about the WARF is who uses it: Only around 18% of its total annual users are Town residents; the rest are from Fauquier County and surrounding areas.

Neither the County, nor any private sector partner, appear to be interested in taking over the WARF so, for the foreseeable future, we must all make some tough choices about this facility, since it is clear the Town can't continue to keep operating this facility at this loss rate.

One Town Council member has proposed an earmarked property tax increase to cover a greater share of this facility's annual financial losses. This "WARF tax" would be a separate line item on each Town homeowner's property tax bill, with proceeds from this tax dedicated to offset its yearly operating costs. On the other hand, there are many residents who say they have never used the WARF, they don't care what happens with it one way or another, and they refuse to pay higher taxes to support it. Is it fair to these people to impose a tax on them for a recreational facility they'll never use? While it is true that municipal facilities, such as pools and parks, are viewed as public amenities, and as such, are not expected to operate as profitable operations, a small town like Warrenton cannot sustain continued losses of $1-1.4 million each year.

It's up to the citizens of our Town to make some tough choices about this facility. Would you pay higher property taxes to keep the WARF going? If not, there may not be other realistic alternatives that would permit the Town to keep the WARF operating without finding some way to cover its large annual deficits.

What do you think? Contact us, and contact your Town Council representatives to let them know.

QUICK ACCESS TO BUDGET <<<



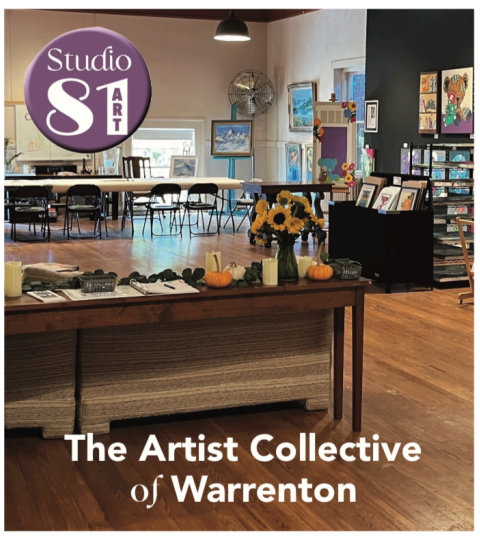
Your Town: Local News





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*Our mission is to make a connection between local artists and our community. To help our local artists with a venue to display and sell their art. To create a destination for homeowners to acquire original local art at an affordable price. To foster the appreciation of the arts through an open-to-the-public shared art studio - "**watch art in progress**".*

Check our website for hours: www.artstudio81.com

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Got Music?

Blessings of Hope & Love
Music of Warrenton & NOVA

by Patty Pratt

Connected spontaneously at Art Studio 81 on a random day in Spring, artists gathering at the Art Collective located at 81 Main Street, Warrenton, VA had an unexpected visitor with a guitar (rather than a paint brush) in tow. Given the mission to connect local artists with all people in our community, we embraced Mary Shapiro and her compassionate musical talent as an artist in-kind. Mary provides a wide variety of musical offerings of which one is playing music to Hospice patients. She works with kids and special needs individuals along with anyone needing encouragement in finding their musical score. She often hosts Open Mic Nights.

There's no need to feel intimidated or stopped when it comes to expressing yourself, Mary finds a way to make you feel comfortable in sharing yourself even in times of fear or strife. Let the music play! (Or you can just say a poem or talk about your art experiences.) We are all valued and Mary is just the friend and practitioner to point that out and make it happen.

Music is a considered a Divine and honored expression of faith by all religions and faith organizations. Mary has a Certified Music Practitioners license (CMP) and sings often to Warrenton Seniors and Hospice patients. From inspiring young persons and adults to guiding families on their journey with the death of a loved ones, Mary invites you in like sage on a musical journey providing all who hear her with an invaluable experience of enhancement to our lives. I am blessed to have had the spontaneous interaction to meet her and are grateful for the openness of Art Studio 81 provide a space and platform for people to connect.

Mary's musicality, grace and beautiful spirit make Warrenton, Fauquier County and surrounding NOVA areas a premier place to find yourself grounded in blessings, hope and love for whatever your life's path has brought forth. Please call her when you or a loved one needs musical healing.

The Compassionate Friends
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Through a network of over 500 chapters with locations in all 50 states, as well as Washington DC and Puerto Rico, The Compassionate Friends has been providing support to bereaved families after the death of a child for five decades. 2 Chapters are located in Front Royal & Manassas. Email WeTheFlyers@protonmail.com if you would like to join or create a group in Warrenton. Visit www.compassionatefriends.org

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Office Phone Number: 571-399-5390
Email: info@arcofncv.org

The Arc@Home

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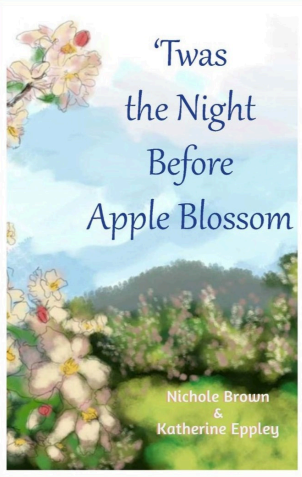


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BOOK REVIEW

By James Brown

Since 1924, the Apple Blossom Festival has successfully promoted the Winchester-Shenandoah Valley apple industry. The ABF has grown from a single day event to a full nine-day celebration of the region's apple-related businesses, history and culture. There is so much to learn about this spectacular event, which attracts thousands of tourists each year.

Author Nichole Brown personally experienced the Festival while living and teaching in Winchester. She felt strongly that such a unique and amazing celebration should be the topic of her next book. Loosely based on Twas the Night Before Christmas, the poetic style narrative of Twas the Night Before Apple Blossom takes the reader through the history of the Festival, while weaving in the story of a family experiencing events such as the Firefighters' Parade, Midway Fair and Grand Feature Parade.

Co-author Katherine Eppley focused on the history and impact of this century-old Festival. She was fascinated to see how the Festival had to pause during World War II, and how it was re-started immediately after the war ended. At that time, the Festival Chairman owned the town's movie theatre and managed to get Bing Crosby to be the Grand Marshall which produced high numbers of parade viewers. The tremendous success of that idea resulted in celebrities of all types serving as Grand Marshall for the Grand Feature Parade. Other celebrities serve as the Firefighters' Parade Marshall, which is known as the largest such parade in the entire country!

Nichole and Katherine collaborated closely with their talented illustrator, Kellie Davies. Kellie created a series of watercolor-style illustrations, capturing the essence and spirit of the region and Festival. These images depict iconic moments which thousands of tourists come to see each year.

Readers who are familiar with the Festival will feel right at home as they peruse the images and text. Those who have not yet had the pleasure of experiencing this wonderful event will get a taste of the region's history and culture, as well as of the Apple Blossom Festival. The authors were not commissioned to produce this book: They simply love everything about the Shenandoah Valley and Winchester, Virginia region and desired to share the significance and impact of apple orchards and the Festival within the region.

Books are available at stores in Warrenton and Winchester, as well as online through Amazon and Tinsel Thyme Press.

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Have you met our town's Renaissance woman - Ann Marie Walsh?

By Veronique Dunagin

Grew up in Brooklyn, NY where her mother moved the family to Grandparent's home – 3 boys and 2 girls – while her father was in the Navy during World War II. Ann Marie loved living in Brooklyn where she worked in the fine department store, B. Altman & Company. Later she moved to Washington DC and settled in Georgetown. She enjoyed walking through Georgetown and appreciated all the history. She landed a job on Capitol Hill working for Senator Howard Robison of NY. She worked for Senator Robison for 10 years.

During her time in Washington DC, her brother moved to Warrenton, VA because of his passion for Civil War history and Col. John S. Mosby. Ann Marie was convinced to also move here and has never regretted it.

She worked for a CBS radio station, WQRA AM FM radio where she would sometimes do the morning news broadcasting. She was always coming up with great ideas and one was broadcasting the newly started Gold Cup event. She would attend wearing the fancy hat and meeting many celebrities. She giggled, telling me how she met Jack Kent Cook, the owner of the Redskins, and asked him if Washington will bring back a baseball team. She later moved on to picking up "odds and ends" jobs. She is quite versatile and the list is long and a book should be written one day but I picked these three because they are rich in Warrenton history. She would come up with an idea and the town loved her ideas and would say, "Yes, go do it" and so she did! Partnership for Warrenton – a foundation to protect and preserve Old Town Warrenton (somewhat like the job of Town Manager). She started the famous annual July 4th Children and Pets Parade on Main Street – a day filled with music, tradition and community spirit.

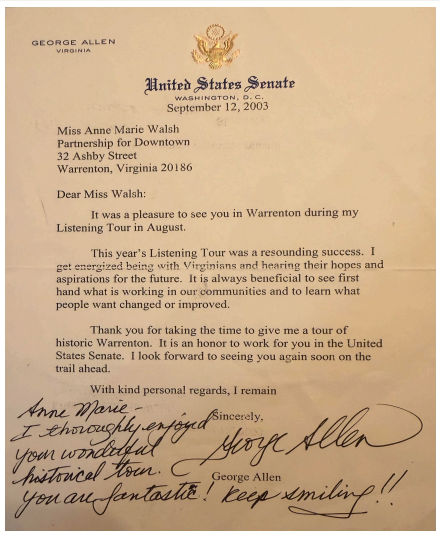
Gumdrop Square – she had a friend who worked for the Ice Capades and he graciously designed all the props for Gumdrop Square which is held every Christmas in the John Barton Payne building. Lots of family fun and a photo op with Santa is the big attraction.

Fauquier Democrat newspaper – Owner and Editor, Lou Emerson, hired Ann Marie as their sales and advertising person. She worked two years at the paper.

You may see her walking around Warrenton. She was in a car accident in October which broke her ankle. But that didn't stop her. Taking her rehab outdoors, she walks about 2 ½ hours a day where she takes great pleasure seeing this beautiful historical town -- up close -- and meeting so many friendly folks who offer her rides when they can see the walking is taking its toll. Sometimes she hops in and sometimes she flashes her beautiful smile and declines – the walking is good. Her favorite stop is at Harvest Bread where she is recognized by all.

(Continued on Next Top Column)





GEORGE ALLEN
VIRGINIA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C.
September 12, 2003

Miss Anne Marie Walsh
Partnership for Downtown
32 Ashby Street
Warrenton, Virginia 20186

Dear Miss Walsh:

It was a pleasure to see you in Warrenton during my Listening Tour in August.

This year's Listening Tour was a resounding success. I get energized being with Virginians and hearing their hopes and aspirations for the future. It is always beneficial to see first hand what is working in our communities and to learn what people want changed or improved.

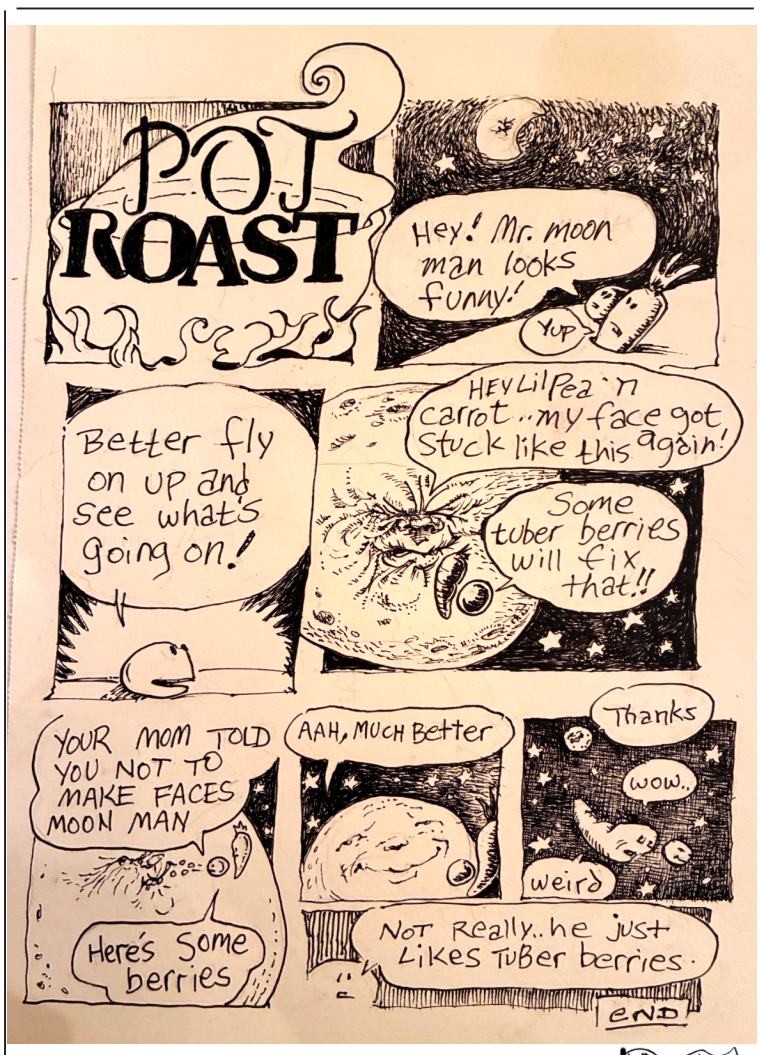
Thank you for taking the time to give me a tour of historic Warrenton. It is an honor to work for you in the United States Senate. I look forward to seeing you again soon on the trail ahead.

With kind personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,
George Allen

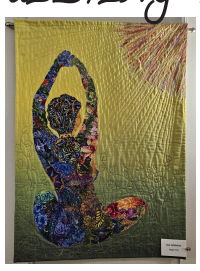
Anne Marie -
I thoroughly enjoyed your wonderful historical town.
George Allen
You are fantastic! Keep smiling!!

She truly loves Warrenton which is her home – a town rich with history and some changes. She encourages all to get to know this quaint town – go to events that it offers, attend town meetings, vote in elections and participate and be vocal of the changes you don't want to see happen to this small town.



By Glen Latham,
Our Local Warrenton Cartoonist

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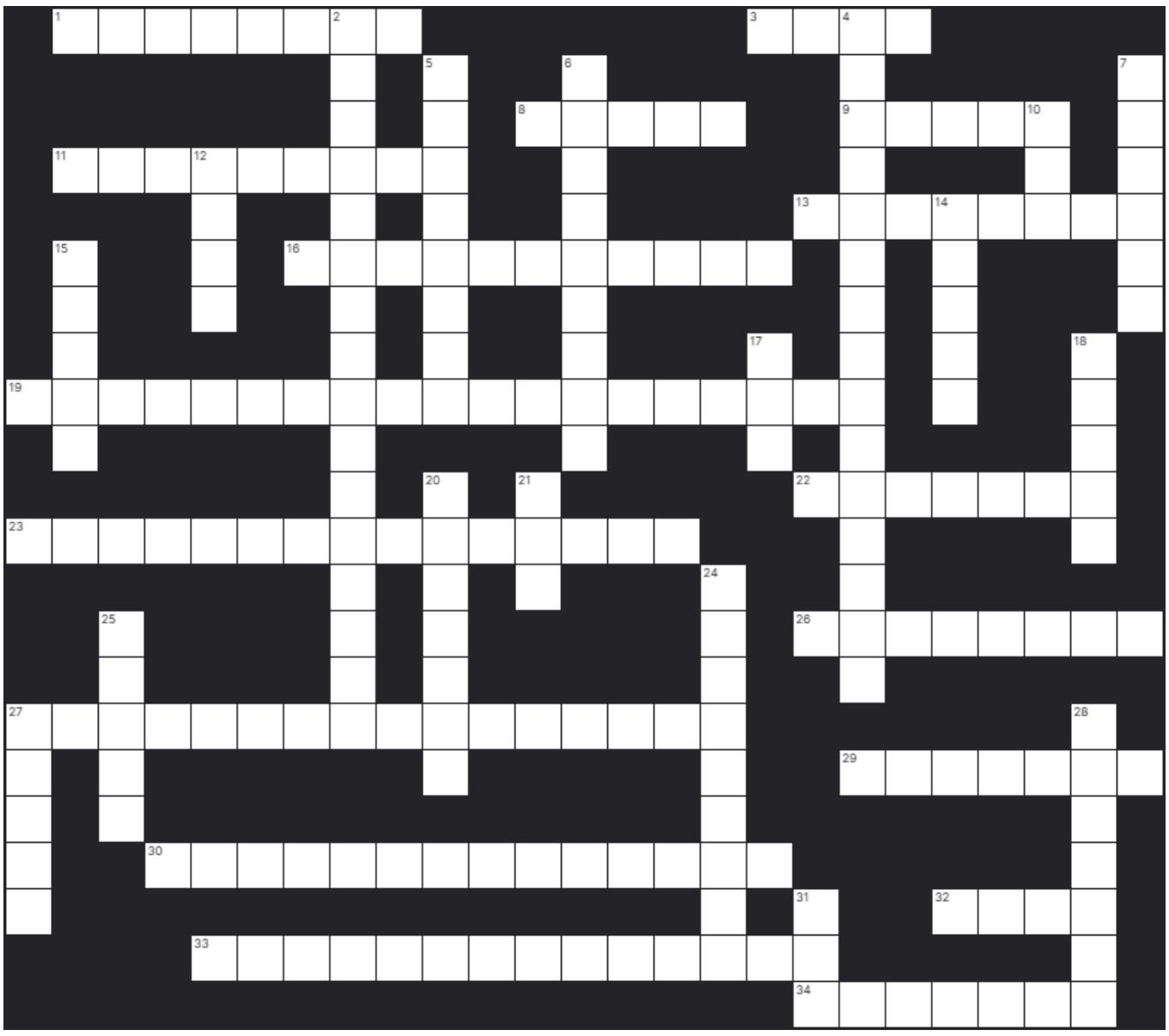
Introducing Springtime Strawberries, the newest children's book written by Katherine Eppley and Nichole Brown! **TinselThymePress@gmail.com**

Springtime Strawberries present Katherine Eppley and Nichole Brown's newest characters, the lively siblings, Stanley and Stella Strawberry! These farm friends take readers on a "show & tell" springtime tour of a farm. The vibrant illustrations "show" certain aspects of farm life, while the characters' well-crafted conversations "tell" what they know about farms and strawberries. Illustrator Kellie Davies helped bring the author's vision for this book and their characters to life. The book's farm friends, Stanley & Stella, delightfully deliver informative text through their creative and clever speech-bubbled dialogue. "Creating the dialogue for our Stanley & Stella characters was a new challenge for me. We could not just write the facts; they had to be delivered correctly. They were talking, not us. We had to keep in mind the certain words and speech patterns that would fit or not fit their respective personalities and sibling dynamics," explained Nichole. "I discovered that reading their words out loud helped me to hear their character. I enjoyed getting to know them." In creating the cartoon-inspired strawberry characters of Stanley & Stella, the authors appropriately connected and drew their readers into the book's agricultural focus on strawberry plants.

In the back of the book, the authors have provided a Bonus Section of additional resources. Teachers and parents alike will find this section useful for enrichment learning. This section provides a glossary of Key Terms for help with vocabulary used throughout the book. Other resources include answers to Frequently Asked Questions and a Life Cyle of Strawberries diagram with detailed explanations for each stage. The authors carefully incorporated key science understandings and Virginia SOL content throughout the text and bonus section. Katherine and Nichole's idea of writing a book about strawberries came through conversations with a local farm that carry the authors' books. Last fall, one particular conversation with Messick's Farm Market turned into a discussion about seasonal book topics other than Christmas. The authors learned more about the popularity and importance of strawberries and strawberry festivals in our region. The authors shared, "Immediately we began envisioning visitors flocking to a farm market for entertainment focused on strawberries. The joy, pride and excitement around strawberry season expressed in that conversation sealed the idea for us; we knew this was our next book."

Katherine and Nichole quickly started planning and researching content. "Researching facts always proves to be both gratifying and educational for me," commented Katherine. "I enjoyed learning new information about growing strawberries. Finding fun and effective ways to engage young minds while sharing that information appeals to the teacher in me." After brainstorming multiple approaches to the book, the co-authors chose a format with adorable cartoon-style characters who ask questions and relay information in a way that all children would enjoy yet younger children could understand. Thus, the book's format became a delightful mix of non-fiction facts explained by fictional characters. What a fun way for children to learn facts about farms and this popular spring crop! Tinsel Thyme Press purposefully planned the May release of Springtime Strawberries to coincide with the local strawberry harvest and festivals. Messick's Farm Market goes all out for their strawberry season by hosting festival weekends throughout May. On Saturday, May 23rd, Messick's will host a Book Signing event for Springtime Strawberries. Come out and support the release of Katherine and Nichole's newest book while enjoying the Strawberry Festival!

Find Springtime Strawberries locally at Warrenton Market, G. Whillikers, Messick's Farm Market and directly from its publisher, Tinsel Thyme Press.



FAUQUIER & TOWN of WARRENTON HISTORY FACTS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across:

1 Court building still standing
3 Major early 20th century event
8 Gray Ghost who raided Warrenton
9 Tribe that camped near The Plains in the late 1690s
11 Town that changed sides more than 65 times during Civil war
13 Statue erected in Town of Warrenton in 1959
16 Town of WARRENTON incorporated
19 Early foundational clock and bell
22 Nation that displaced the Manahoac around 1670
23 Over 1800 brought to Warrenton
26 Famous family visitors who vacationed in Fauquier
27 National Scenic Trail passing through
29 Lieutenant Governor for whom the county is named
30 President who rode to Warrenton in one day
32 Abundant crop throughout the ages in Fauquier County
33 Founded in 1759
34 Famous Elegant Woman of Fauquier County

Down:

2 Explorer who mapped the region in 1608
4 Donated land for the county seat
5 Indigenous tribe inhabiting the area before Europeans
6 One of the county's signature industries
7 Cavalry battle at a _____ford
12 key Transportation link in 1850s
14 Number of courthouses the county seat has had
15 Abundant crop throughout the ages in Fauquier County
17 Steeplechase golden event begun in 1922
18 Captain John Quincy Marr led Fauquier Cty soldiers 1861 in _____battle
20 Fauquier History Museum site
21 Confederacy __nations that ceded the region to Virginia in 1722
24 Union general's farewell from Warren Green
25 1863 cavalry _____ville battle
27 where was 1863 clash in the region
28 Duchess of ___ Stayed at the Warren Green Hotel
31 Lesser grown crop for whiskey

LOOK FOR SOLUTION ON WPAC.BLOG

PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE

By Patty Pratt

1) Check the **FACTS**
2) Do the **MATH**
3) Does it **MAKE SENSE?**
4) **RECHECK** the FACTS!
5) **DOUBLE CHECK**

If one million DATA CENTERS (~10x5x5 meters) were launched into Low Earth Orbit LEO; how much distance would be between them?

FACTS: (convert to meters)
LEO Height above Earth's
face = 800,000 m
Total radius = 7,171,000 m
Surface area of a sphere =
A=4πr2A=4πr=
509,903,000,000,000 m²

$$\frac{A_{\text{total}}}{N} = \frac{5.09903 \times 10^{11}}{10^{6}}\ \text{m}^2$$

$$\text{int} \approx 5.09903 \times 10^{5}\ \text{m}^2$$

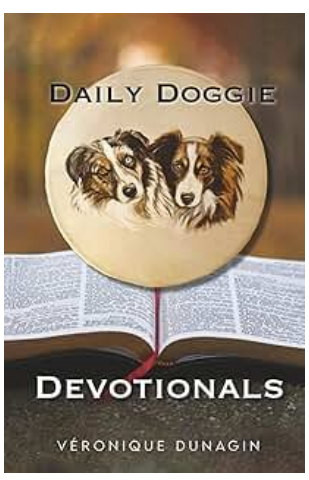


Astronaut Douglas Wheelock
photo credit NASA ISS

Conclusion: 500,000 m?

Double check it!

SpaceX has submitted a proposal to the FCC to place 1M data centers in space. No need for water cooling & planty of solar energy. This would make Data Centers nearly obsolete on the earth.



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Doggy Devotionals by Veronique D.

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The By-Right Dilemma: Will Warrenton's Quick Fix for Foot Traffic Hollow Out Old Town?

(continued from Front Page)

long-term, structural consequences of surrendering public oversight.

Without legislative leverage to mandate design standards or custom parking solutions, the town risks triggering rapid, unchecked real estate speculation. As property values surge, skyrocketing commercial rents will inevitably price out the independent mom-and-pop boutiques, galleries, and local eateries that made Old Town a destination to begin with. Warrenton risks gaining the hotels, only to hollow out its soul.