

“Let’s create Disney World for kids who might not ever get to go to Disney World.” That’s how Andy Combs, pastor of What’s New Worship in Winchester, describes the inspiration behind the Just Love Community Fair scheduled for noon to 6 p.m. June 27 at the Frederick County Fairgrounds near Clear Brook.

Full Story **B4**

## Taylor seeking 3rd term as city sheriff

By **BRIAN BREHM**  
The Winchester Star

**WINCHESTER** — Les Taylor announced Monday he is seeking a third four-year term as Winchester’s sheriff.



Les Taylor

He did so in very low-key fashion, stating his decision and reasons for running in a brief email to The Winchester Star. “Eight years ago, the good people of Winchester city elected me to be their sheriff,” Taylor, a Republican, wrote in the email. “They must have thought I did a pretty good job so they re-elected me again four short years ago. It has been my privilege to serve the citizens as their sheriff.”

Taylor, 51, was an investigator with the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office when he topped Democrat Leonard Bauserman in his first race for city sheriff in 2013. Four years later, he held off a challenge from Democrat Greg Lambert to earn a second term.

“I have always prided myself as a sheriff for all the people and never let myself forget who I work for, the citizens,” Taylor wrote. “We have accomplished so much and have moved the city Sheriff’s Office forward, and we continue to look for and implement new cost-effective initiatives ...”

The Winchester Sheriff’s Office provides security at the Joint Judicial Center at 5 N. Kent St. and oversees the civil side of law enforcement in the city, including serving levies, managing extraditions and prisoner transports,

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### CLARKE COUNTY

## Revised zoning, subdivision ordinances nearly done

By **MICKEY POWELL**  
The Winchester Star

**BERRYVILLE** — Four years of work to revise Clarke County’s zoning and subdivision ordinances is nearly finished.

The current zoning ordinance has become fragmented, county Planning Director Brandon Stidham said, having been amended more than 100 times in just the past 25 years.

The ordinance isn’t user-friendly, he added, because developers and the general public alike frequently must go to multiple sections to find information they need for one specific purpose.

“It’s been difficult over the years just to interpret it internally,” he said.

Staff members have spent numerous hours on the revisions. Alongside its regular work, such as hearing rezoning cases, the Clarke County Planning Commission has met about 25 times since 2017 to help with the project, according to Stidham.

Under the proposed revisions, efforts have been made to better organize the policies, as well as bring them up to date with modern land-use practices and recent state code changes.

No new zoning districts are being created. No changes are being made to permitted lot sizes or

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JEFF TAYLOR/THE WINCHESTER STAR

Aaron and Christine Riddle operate Piggins & Banks Pig and Animal Sanctuary in Frederick County. They have 50 pigs on their property that will live out their natural lives there, including this 10-week-old piglet.

## Couple’s pig sanctuary is hog heaven for unwanted, neglected swine

By **ANNA MEROD**  
The Winchester Star

**CROSS JUNCTION** — Nestled off Reynolds Road is a shaded field that’s home to about 50 pigs, two horses, some ferrets, chickens and other types of animals.

All of these creatures were at risk of being killed or were mistreated before finding refuge at PIGGINS & BANKS Pig and Animal Sanctuary.

The nonprofit was founded by Christie and Aaron Riddle about a year ago on their 17-acre property in northern Frederick County. The Riddles wanted to start a pig sanctuary, and once Aaron Riddle adopted Mr. Piggy Banks, one of the nonprofit’s namesakes, they knew they had to make the idea a reality.

Mr. Piggy Banks was on a Maryland farm when Aaron Riddle went to pick him up. He said he found the piglet in a small cat crate. A large chunk was missing from his right ear and his tail was gone.

“I think they did that to mark him as a meat pig,” Aaron Riddle said. “He would have been slaughtered. He kind of inspired us to start the whole [animal sanctuary].”

The Riddles know how special and smart pigs are, because they’ve had them as pets before.

Christine Riddle noted that 95% of pet pigs are rehomed within the first year. This usually happens because people get pigs when they’re young and small. They don’t realize they will get bigger, particularly when breed-



JEFF TAYLOR/THE WINCHESTER STAR

Aaron Riddle gives a head scratch Monday to one of the 50 pigs that live on his Piggins & Banks Pig and Animal Sanctuary in Frederick County. The abandoned, abused and neglected pigs will be allowed to live out their lives at the sanctuary.

ers label them as “teacup micro pigs” or “mini pigs.” The catch is, “teacup micro pigs” don’t exist, and a “mini pig” is any pig that is not a farm hog and weighs less than 400 pounds.

So when people have a pet pig that gets too big for their house or apartment, they often have to give them up, Aaron Riddle said.

The Riddles’ animal sanctuary is now at full-capacity. Some of the pigs are owner surrenders while others are from animal rescue organizations.

Some of the pigs have more difficult pasts, including Bertha, who is at least 10 years old. She was found abandoned in a ditch on the side of the road by a rescue

organization in Virginia. She was used for breeding, and Aaron Riddle suspects she was abandoned right after having her last litter.

Bertha also seems to have a previous injury from a heat lamp, where the wound left untreated, said Christie Riddle. At the sanctuary, Bertha was paired with a piglet named Fern, because it’s likely Bertha’s own babies were ripped away from her.

The nonprofit accepts donations, and people can sponsor a pig, where they make a monthly payment and receive a framed photo of the sponsored pig. Donations help cover costs directly related to the pigs’ care

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## Middletown announces slate of activities for July 4

By **JOSH JANNEY**  
The Winchester Star

**MIDDLETOWN** — After being downsized last year, Middletown’s annual Fourth of July celebration is returning in full force.

Mayor Charles Harbaugh IV said the town’s parade committee has cooked up several activities, most of which will take place at the Middletown Community Park, to celebrate America’s independence. He said this year is a special one, as it marks Middletown’s 225th anniversary.

“It’s going to be great,” he said. “We are back. We are able to do this thing like we couldn’t do fully last year. It’s going to be a good time.”

The celebration will include a kickball game, softball and cornhole tournaments, crafters, food vendors and live music. The Robbie Limon Band will play 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the town park with karaoke scheduled from 1-4 p.m.

The main event — the parade — will kick off 5 p.m. at Lord Fairfax Community College. Parade entries will march from the college down Main Street. The United States Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps will be among the groups



JEFF TAYLOR/THE WINCHESTER STAR

William “Bill” Hoemmen of Frederick County prepares to pilot a 1953 John Deere A tractor that belonged to his dad, Frederick Hoemmen, in a previous Independence Day Parade in Middletown.

participating. Parade entries will be accepted until right before the parade begins. The town has not announced a grand marshal.

After the parade, the town will recognize Tina Clem as Middletown Citizen of the Year. Clem is director of the July 4 and Christmas parades and a long-time volunteer for the Middletown Vol-

unteer Fire & Rescue Company. According to Harbaugh, she received a dozen nominations from the public, with many submissions expressing thanks for her work in the nursing field.

Other Fourth of July events include a 6:15-9:15 p.m. performance by the Souled Out band at the town park, 6-8 p.m. hot air balloon rides

## More than 1,000 seniors to graduate from FCPS this week

Star staff report

Frederick County’s three high schools will present diplomas to more than 1,000 seniors during in-person commencement exercises this week.

Millbrook’s graduation ceremony is 6 p.m. Wednesday at Millbrook Pioneer Stadium. Sherando’s is 7 p.m. Thursday at Arrowhead Stadium. James Wood’s is 7 p.m. Friday at Kelican Stadium.

Each ceremony is open to the public and will be streamed live on the FCPS YouTube Channel (Millbrook, <https://youtu.be/FK-p1KysC4uE>; Sherando, <https://youtu.be/RbSVT3Rrdco>; James Wood, <https://youtu.be/WH6wCT-5LRxs>).

Millbrook anticipates presenting diplomas to 320 seniors. Sherando will present diplomas to 360 seniors. Approximately 340 students will receive diplomas at James Wood.

In accordance with Gov. Ralph Northam’s Executive Order 79, those who are at least 5 years old are to comply with the latest COVID-19 guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the use of face coverings. Current guidance states fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a face covering or physical distance in any setting except where required by federal, state or local laws, rules and regulations. Face coverings remain a requirement for anyone who is inside a Frederick County Public School, regardless of their vaccination status.

Those attending commencement exercises are encouraged to arrive early because traffic congestion is common due to the large number of people attending the events.

Graduating seniors and their families are encouraged to celebrate their favorite graduation moments by sharing their photos with Frederick County Public Schools by visiting <http://bit.ly/FCPSgradpics>. Many of the photos submitted will be shared on the school division’s Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/frederickcountypublicschools](http://www.facebook.com/frederickcountypublicschools)), its website ([www.frederick.k12.va.us](http://www.frederick.k12.va.us)) and in various school publications.

from Valley Ballooning for \$20 per person and nighttime fireworks.

Nearly 30 entries have been submitted for a house decorating contest along the parade route, which Harbaugh said will be judged July 3.

Last year, Middletown was one of the few localities to hold a Fourth of July parade amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It was downsized, however, to adhere to state-mandated restrictions, and festivities that typically attract thousands of people to the town park were canceled.

Now, most restrictions are lifted and Gov. Ralph Northam has announced plans to end Virginia’s state of emergency on June 30.

Harbaugh hopes those who attended the parade for the first time last year will return.

“We got a lot of people last year and I think they’ll come back,” Harbaugh said. “They’ll come back to the parade and remember how much fun they had in Middletown on July 4. They are really going to enjoy it. It’s going to be the best of small-town America.”

For more information or to participate in the parade, call Middletown’s town office at 540-869-2226.



# Clarke

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residential density restrictions. And, the county's sliding-scale zoning system isn't undergoing major changes, Stidham said.

Sliding-scale zoning maintains larger parcels, and ultimately helps preserve the county's rural character, by allowing fewer dwelling units rights per acre than smaller tracts are permitted.

The ordinances initially were adopted in 1956 and 1960. The zoning rules hadn't been extensively reviewed in over 35 years, and the subdivision rules hadn't been thoroughly scrutinized in over 45 years.

Among the improvements, the revised zoning ordinance:

- Better describes the purposes of particular sections and how to use them.
- Is better organized, with like provisions in one section. That reduces "flipping back and forth" between sections, Stidham said, to get the answer to one question.
- Uses more charts and tables to present information instead of text.
- Has uniform layouts of similar subsections to make information easier to find.
- Contains cross-references.
- Has a new numbering system to avoid long citations and better organize any future amendments. Some numbered items are replaced by bullets.

Zoning districts — including overlay and Berryville annexation area districts — are organized into three subsections. Each section contains information on allowable lot densities and dimensional, building and special regulations for each district.

A new Section 5 breaks down land use categories including agricultural, residential, business and recreation/education/assembly, as well as public and miscellaneous.

The revised ordinance treats county land uses and annexation area land uses as separately defined uses. It organizes them into parallel subsections. Those changes are intended to show the uses bear no relationship to each other.

Among other changes: Definitions for annexation area uses from Berryville's zoning ordinance have been added to the county's ordinance. In the absence of a town definition, one for a corresponding county land use has been included. Where available, regulations for annexation area uses have been added from the town's ordinance.

— Contact Mickey Powell at mpowell@winchesterstar.com

County use regulations will not be applied to annexation areas, Stidham said. Hopefully, he said, that will eliminate nonconforming uses.

The revised subdivision ordinance is consistent with the revised zoning ordinance's format. The biggest change, Stidham said, is that the subdivision ordinance will consolidate the preliminary plat and record plat review processes into a single subdivision plat review process. The preliminary plat process will enable construction plans to be reviewed and approved prior to finalizing and recording locations of easements and lots, he said.

Other changes include ones involving design standards for private access easements. For example, the revised subdivision ordinance allows for a waiver of design standards — with neighboring property owners' written consent — when adding lots to an existing major access easement. A construction plan and bonding will be required for new private roads and modifications to existing private access easements.

A guidance manual will be available to help users understand the ordinances.

Those who spoke during the commission's recent public hearing on the proposed revamps generally liked them. For instance, Evan McCarthy, the Piedmont Environmental Council's field representative for Clarke County, said he thinks the more user-friendly format will lead to better understanding of the rules, as well as better compliance.

Public comments also will be heard during the commission's next regular meeting 9 a.m. July 2 at the Berryville-Clarke County Government Center on Chalmers Court.

After receiving the commission's endorsement, the revisions will be forwarded to the Clarke County Board of Supervisors for consideration. It's up to the supervisors to officially adopt the revisions.

Berryville District Supervisor Matthew Bass, the board's representative on the commission, said county planners have done "a tremendous job" with the project.

"I'm confident this will help" residents, business owners and newcomers alike pursue future development projects in the county," Bass said of the revisions.

# Tech giants nudge S&P, Nasdaq to record highs

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE**  
and **ALEX VEIGA**  
AP Business Writers

Technology companies helped lift stocks higher on Wall Street, nudging the S&P 500 to its third straight all-time high, even as other parts of the market faltered.

A burst of buying in the final 10 minutes of trading sent the benchmark index 0.2% higher. The S&P 500 had been down 0.3% earlier amid another bout of choppy trading as Wall Street awaits the latest take from the Federal Reserve on inflation.

Investors are trying to gauge the strength of the economic recovery and whether emerging signs of inflation will be transitory, as the central bank believes. The Fed delivers its interest rate policy update Wednesday afternoon.

"Most of this is just po-

sitioning in front of the Fed later this week," said Willie Delwiche, investment strategist at All Star Charts. Investors are "trying to get a sense of not just what the Fed is going to say in terms of announcements, but what they expect in terms of the path of monetary policy and the economy going forward."

The S&P 500 added 7.71 points to 4,255.15. The index has notched a weekly gain three weeks in a row. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 85.85 points, or 0.2%, to 34,393.75. The Nasdaq rose 104.72 points, or 0.7%, to 14,174.14.

Small-company stocks fell. The Russell 2000 index lost 9.66 points, or 0.4%, to 2,326.15.

Among the tech sector winners Monday were Apple, which rose 2.5%, and Adobe, which gained 2.9%. Several

large communications companies also made gains. Facebook rose 1.7% and Netflix gained 2.3%. Those gains offset a broad decline in financial, industrial and materials stocks, among others. JPMorgan dropped 1.7%.

Wall Street is trying to gauge the strength of the economic recovery, the impact rising inflation is having on its trajectory, and the Fed's next move.

Investors have been worried that the Fed could ease up on bond purchases and other stimulus measures as the economy recovers. No policy changes are expected immediately, but comments on a shift in policy could jostle an already skittish market.

Fed officials have maintained that any rise in inflation will be temporary as the economy recovers.

"There's still this debate

on inflation and, notwithstanding what the Fed does and whether yields move down, there's still some upward pricing pressure," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager with Globalt Investments.

A boost in demand for goods has helped fuel a rise in the cost of everything from food to cars and household goods. Shipping costs are also rising and adding to the increase in prices. The uncertainty over inflation has been fueling much of the back-and-forth in the market between stocks that are considered safer value holdings versus those with more potential for sharp growth.

"As you go into the summer and you have uncertainty about inflation, the fed and the stimulus, you'll kind of see people neutralizing bets," Martin said.



JEFF TAYLOR/THE WINCHESTER STAR

Mr. Banks walks out of his pen, passing pig figurines on a welcome sign at the Piggins & Banks Pig and Animal Sanctuary.

## Pig

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The Riddles also host walking tours of the sanctuary at 2 p.m. Sundays. Tours are capped at eight attendees. The cost is \$25 per adult and \$10 per child. Guests cannot touch the pigs, but they can meet and feed them.

The Riddles are working to neuter and spay all of their pigs. Male pigs can get aggressive otherwise, and female pigs can develop cancer if they aren't fixed, they said.

"It's a lot of work, but it's the fulfilling part," Aaron Riddle said about the sanctuary. "[Bertha] would have been dead, but he or she gets to have a nice life and



JEFF TAYLOR/THE WINCHESTER STAR

Hamilton the pig is all smiles as food is handed out at the Piggins & Banks Pig and Animal Sanctuary in Frederick County Monday.

that's kind of the reason that we do it."

To learn more about the PIGGINS & BANKS Pig

and Animal Sanctuary, visit <https://pigginsandbanks.org>.

— Contact Anna Merod at amerod@winchesterstar.com

## Taylor

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evicting tenants for lease violations, and carrying out temporary detention orders for mental health patients.

"In my 20 years of serving in law enforcement, I have worn many different hats, but serving the wonderful citizens of this great city has been my highest honor," Taylor wrote. "The men and women of this office represent the best of public safety and have the highest professionalism I've

ever seen."

Taylor, a veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard and Reserve, grew up in a military family. He and his wife, NW Works President and CEO Debera Taylor, have lived in Winchester for 25 years.

So far, Taylor is the only candidate for city sheriff. His name will appear on the Nov. 2 ballot, when Winchester voters will also choose a governor, lieutenant governor, House of

Delegates member, commonwealth's attorney, commissioner of the revenue and treasurer. Also on Nov. 2, a special election will be held to select someone to fill the remaining year of a four-year Ward 1 term on City Council.

For more information about participating in this November's election, visit [winchesterva.gov/vote](http://winchesterva.gov/vote).

— Contact Brian Brehm at bbrehm@winchesterstar.com

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### FREDERICK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD MEETING ROOM

107 NORTH KENT STREET, WINCHESTER  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021  
7:00 P.M. - REGULAR MEETING

Frederick County will hold a Planning Commission regular meeting on June 16, 2021. In light of the COVID-19 issue, citizens preferring not to attend a public meeting are encouraged to submit public hearing comments in writing. The Planning Commission and Staff will take measures at the meeting to attempt to limit the number of people present in the room so as to conform to the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Electronic commenting on the County website at [www.fcva.us/PCMeetings](http://www.fcva.us/PCMeetings) (Click on eComment for the June 16, 2021, meeting).

Email to County staff at [kvacchio@fcva.us](mailto:kvacchio@fcva.us) or [sconner@fcva.us](mailto:sconner@fcva.us)

Mail to Planning Department-June 16, Public Hearing Comments, 107 N. Kent St., Winchester, VA 22601. Include your name, address and magisterial district.

In person by calling (540) 665-5651 to arrange to drop off your comments.

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