

**Joe Urban**

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**From:** "Charlie Anne Costello" <chanoew@peoplepc.com>  
**Date:** Monday, May 07, 2018 4:02 PM  
**To:** "Robert Mason Jr" <editor@raprecord.com>  
**Subject:** Taxes and such - Part II

Dear Sir,

The author of Taxes and such (RR May 3) made some interesting points. However, he also made some errors along the way. Property taxes on his property may have increased by 77% over the 15 years he has owned it, but the property tax rate (PRT) is not the whole cause of the increase. The PRT for 2002 was 60 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The rate is set each year and changed as needed by the Board of Supervisors after public hearings are held. The PRT for 2017 was 59 cents per \$100 of assessed value after a 5 cent increase to the rate. The assessed value of property is the result of periodic review roughly every five years or as required by the Code of Virginia. (Lancaster County property is currently being reassessed by a firm hired by the county. Results should be available later this year and will apply to 2019 tax year.) The assessed value of his property when purchased in 2002 compared to the 2017 assessed value reflected in the county records shows a 74.5% increase over the 15 years of ownership. The assessed value may increase or decrease based upon a number of factors. Info is available at the county admin offices.

I know of no person or group that has ever held that buildings, old or new, would cause a "dramatic increase in their SOL scores as a result of the new buildings alone". Buildings are a tool contributing to the overall accomplishment of a process or project. The better the tool is to assist in the effort the greater the outcome. The current schools are like inefficient vehicles, there comes a time when trading up is appropriate. Higher maintenance costs, inability to include new technology not even developed yet would indicate forward thinking to provide for future developments as they occur. New schools would assist the effort.

Based on personal experience over many years, we are fortunate to have the educators currently in our schools. Many previous personnel were excellent, but this group really has excelled. We need to do all in our power to keep and build on their success. We are going to have to pay forward to ensure the advancement of our future generations.

Sincerely,

Charlie Costello  
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