

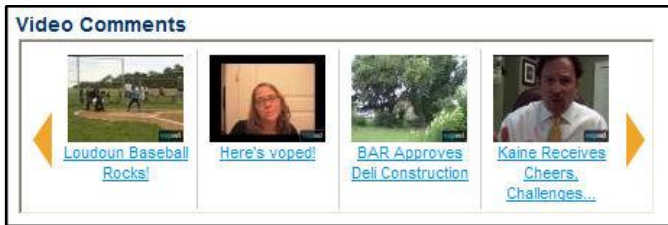
JUNE 20, 2008

Public Safety.....4  
Dateline.....6  
Government File.....8  
Inside Education.....18  
Towns & Villages.....20  
Obituaries.....22  
Out & About.....28

# LEESBURG Today

www.leesburgtoday.com

Volume 20, Number 29



## Newspaper Expands Online Citizen Journalism Opportunities

*Leesburg Today* this week introduced a new feature to expand reader interaction on its daily news Web site to include video presentations.

Teaming with Lansdowne-based voped, the new free service permits readers –residents, business owners, community event planners and politicians–to share information and their opinions. Anyone with a video or computer camera or a cell phone with video capabilities can record their comments about a news story and upload the file to the newspaper’s Web site. The service also allows readers to share their video footage of local events—including news, weather, sports or the activities of community organizations—with other readers easily on the Internet.

“The newspaper has built an active and loyal online readership by providing daily news updates for more than a decade,” said Publisher Norman K. Styer. “This new service expands the opportunities for readers to share their views on everything from the county budget to the huge pothole on the street front of their home.”

Voped founder Mark Serrano, a 12-year Loudoun resident, began work on the online video sharing application in 2007 and the company

formally launched May 1 with six employees. While debuting the service locally with *Leesburg Today*, voped’s video sharing application also will be integrated into the online operations of American Community Newspapers’ network of 86 newspapers and 14 niche publications that reach approximately 1.4 million households in Northern Virginia, Columbus, OH, Minneapolis, MN, and Dallas, TX.

“We are thrilled to be able to introduce voped to web users and content providers everywhere. Our web applications make voped the nexus of online interaction between news publishers and news consumers, as well as other Web content publishers and active Web enthusiasts,” Serrano said.

While the service is live on the leesburgtoday.com Web site, the application’s capabilities are under continuing development and the newspaper invites feedback on how to made better use of the technology.

Residents wishing to post video comments, but who do not have access to digital video cameras, are invited to visit the newspaper’s office, where a staff member can assist them.