

# Blue Ridge

# LEADER

February 2011

## & Loudoun Today

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## Cole Farm Comes Down With a Crash

*Residents Shocked at Town's Reversal on Environmental & Historic Preservation Commitments*



– By *Kelli Grim*

Washington, DC-based Roadside Development company broke ground on the massive “Purcellville Gateway” in mid-January, removing virtually all tree cover and regrading the historic Cole Farm’s original landscape to make way for a 110,000 square foot commercial development.

Originally zoned for single family townhouses, a portion of the 16-acre property was rezoned to high-density commercial by the Purcellville Town Council in 2008. To move forward, the project also required that the Purcellville Town Council approve at least three Special Use permits – one that allowed the developer to bypass the 5,000 sq. ft. limit on restaurant size, one that limited drive-thru windows, and one (the town’s so-called “big box” ordinance) that limited the size of certain new buildings to 10,000 sq. ft., allowing the developer to build a new 48,000+ sq. ft. grocery store.

While the project has been underway for some time, local residents and businesses might have been under the impression that Purcellville’s approach to managing the style and intensity of development would have produced something more in keeping with the town’s unique agricultural, “small town” character. As, Purcellville resident Ryan Cool said

in looking at the Cole development: “Tree City? Is this how the Town Council Works to protect and enhance our agricultural history?”

### Trees as Symbols of Thoughtful Growth Policies

It can be a common mistake for residents to assume that when they move to a rural small town, elected officials have policies and procedures in place to protect and preserve the lifestyle they expected when purchasing their home. Although it is a tough task to bring rural small town and commercial development together in a way that serves all, more and more towns are finding a common ground between the two. For example, in some localities that emphasize the importance of trees and seek to maintain their small town and rural

*“Tree City? Is this how the Town Council Works to protect and enhance our agricultural history?”*

*Continued on page 6*

## Grace Church Renovation – Bringing 125+ Years of Black History Back to Life

– By *Carol Morris Dukes*

One hundred twenty seven years ago in the small village of Lincoln, Virginia, Quakers and freed slaves joined together in building one of the first legal black churches in Loudoun County. The Grace Methodist Episcopal Church was first conceived in the “Old Lincoln Schoolhouse”, officially called the Lincoln School-C (built in 1866 ) where newly freed slaves were educated in what was probably the first public school for Negroes in Virginia.

The church’s congregation first organized in 1872 under the leadership of Reverend Henry Carroll, and in 1884, Quakers and Freemen built the existing church just up the hill from the school. Stone Masons used native field stone

and reportedly topped the structure with a bell forged at the Purcellville Foundry (although evidence suggests the current bell was manufactured in Ohio). The building was dedicated on July 30, 1885, under the pastorate of Reverend John Bean, a circuit rider, whose churches included those in Middleburg, Leesburg, Lincoln and others. Services were originally held on the second and fourth Sundays, and the basement was used as a vocational school where Quakers taught sewing, cooking, shoe repair and other skills to the black community.

The building never had plumbing, so water was carried from the nearby spring located south of the building.

*Continued on page 7*



Grace congregation photographed in front of the church in 1910.

*Local Black History Month Events, see page 7, Loudoun Valley High School Looking for Old Graduating Class Photos, see page 13*

On the web at [www.BRLeader.com](http://www.BRLeader.com)



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Romance Tours at Oatlands is part of Oatlands evening event series, "Oatlands After Five," that gives patrons access to Oatlands on select evenings. Romance Tours of Oatlands Mansion will be offered February 12, 13 and 14. During the Romance Tours guests will have a chance to enjoy an evening tour through the mansion with a knowledgeable guide. Tour guides will share fascinating details of historic Oatlands romances. Love, scandal, and history combine in these tours! The Romance tours of Oatlands are perfect for sweethearts, history buffs, or the curious. Where: Oatlands Historic House and Gardens, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane., Leesburg, VA 20175-6572. When: Romance Tours of Oatlands Mansion will be held Feb. 12 and 13 at 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. and on the 14th at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Romance Tours are \$12. Reservations are required; call 703-777-3174 ext. 103 for reservations and additional information.

## Fun Valentine's Day Stats ...

85% of all Valentine cards are bought by women ... 73% of flowers are bought by men, and only 27% are by women ... Chocolate and candy sales reach profits of \$1,011 billion during Valentines ... Approximately one in four Americans do not celebrate the holiday at all ... 15% of American women (and even men) send flowers to themselves on Valentine's Day ... There is no shortage of places where you can buy flowers for your valentine: there were 26,400 florists nationwide, employing 123,600 persons, in 1995 ... The average consumer will spend \$97.27 on Valentine's Day ... 61.8 percent of consumers plan on celebrating the holiday ... 2005 Valentine's Day spending was forecasted to reach \$13.19 billion.

Source: www.allthebestideas.com



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## – Crooked Run Condemnation Update – Partition Lawsuit Resolution Pending

By Kelli Grim

Crooked Run Orchard is comprised of three parcels, 45 acres owned 50-50 by Sam and Tim Brown, 41 acres owned solely by Sam Brown\*, and 16 acres owned by Sam and Tim Brown, tenants in common. At the January 11, 2011 Purcellville Town Council Meeting, the Town Council voted unanimously to condemn by quick take 7+ acres of the 16 acre parcel for the SCR.

The 16 acre parcel is now the subject of a partition lawsuit, with Sam Brown attempting to buy his brother out. The following is a summary of the Southern Collector Road (SCR) issues at stake.

**SCR Eastern Alignment Plan:** This plan was proposed by the property owner (O'Toole) and the developer contracting to purchase the property in exchange for out of Phase I annexation and commercial development rezoning. This is one of four properties that were annexed by the Purcellville Town Council, in dispute because Purcellville did not follow the out of phase annexation process in the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan. The current lawsuit states "The desire for orderly development and development at a pace that would not overwhelm the existing Town of Purcellville was expressed throughout the PUGAMP process. Also it is "To assure that future development would be adequately served by utilities." For example one of the out of phase properties annexed was approximately 65 acres owned by Patrick Henry College. Their master plan includes a chapel to seat 2,000 people and family and student housing for an approximate additional 1,200 students, and roughly 200 more faculty and staff.

**Western Alignment Plan:** Is the current alignment for the SCR. This new alignment is 75 feet from the Brown house. It will destroy nearly 100 mature fruit bearing trees, an historic barn, another historic building built in the 1920s that was the living quarters for the project manager when

Main Street was being paved (the Great Road). Mr. Brown Sr bought the building to preserve it. Not only will the condemnation take nearly half of the 16 acre parcel, it will also sever the back 45 acre parcel ( where you see the word "Orchard") from the rest of the farm. At no time has the Town of Purcellville made any effort to work with Sam to provide a safe access plan to the back 45 acre portion of the farm which would be on the other side of the proposed SCR.

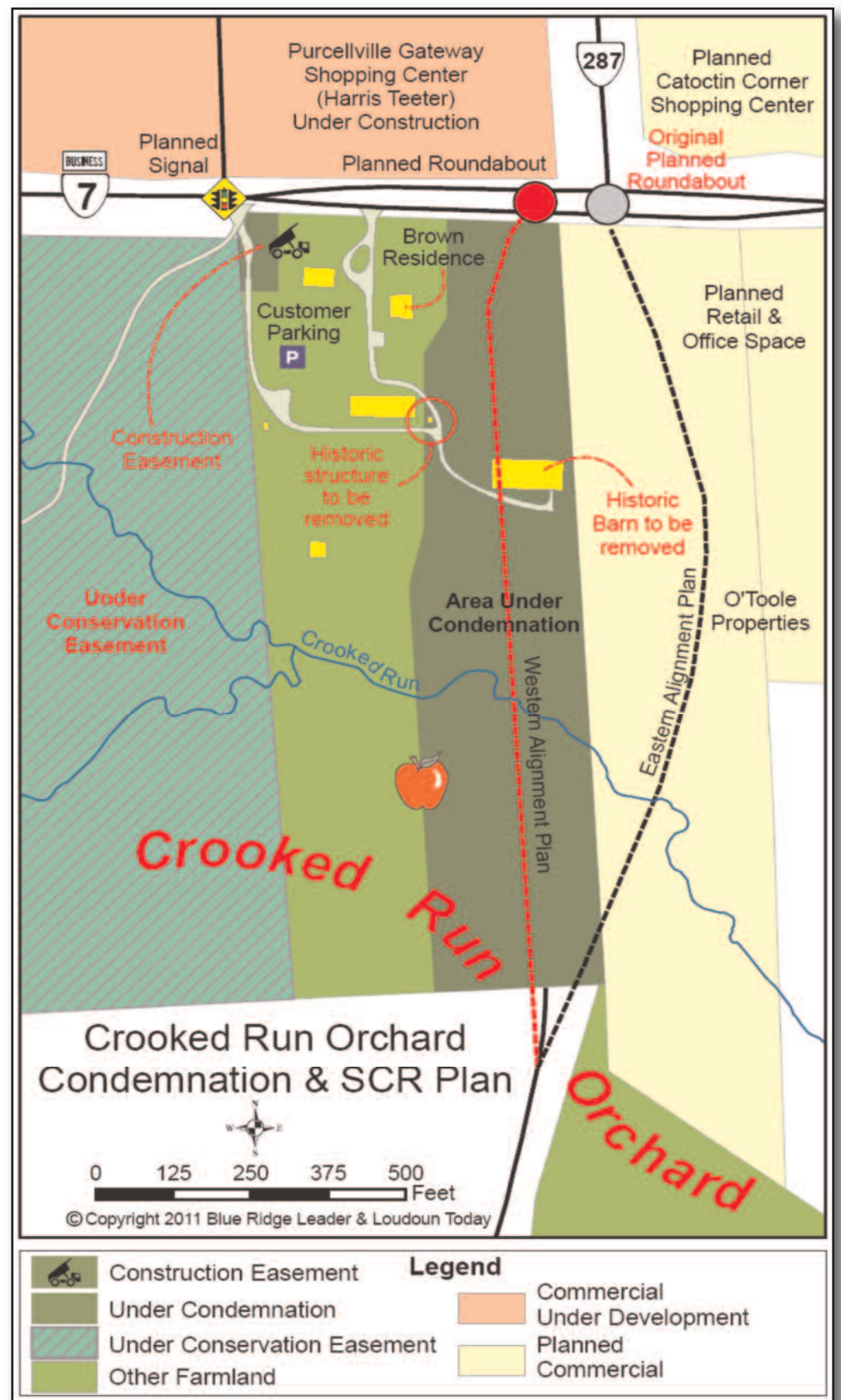
The SCR will also be built on the creek that feeds into Goose Creek called Crooked Run.

The Town of Purcellville will place a construction easement at the customer pick your own entrance which will make it impossible to have customers on their farm. Furthermore the construction easement will go onto the land that has been put into conservation easement.

The approved Catoclin Corner shopping center has been given six special exception permit by the Town Council against the recommendation by the Planning Commission. The permits are approved for four drive thrus and two commercial buildings.

VDOT's letter to the town regarding Catoclin Corner's traffic impact analysis on August 10, 2010 stated the Route 287 roundabout capacity in 2012 with development will be over capacity. Purcellville Gateway development is approved for over 100,000 sq. ft. of commercial buildings. The town's big box ordinance allows for a structure to be a maximum of 10,000 sq. ft. A special exception was given to the developer for the 48,000 plus sq. ft. grocery store to be built.

\*This parcel had been zoned R8 for 290 town houses since 1965. Sam Brown put this parcel in conservation easement, saving the land from development and eliminating roughly 5,000 daily car trips from Main Street.





## Q &amp; A

**A Question of Ethics & Standards of Conduct**

– By Nick Pelchar

In 2006 the Purcellville Town Council agreed to abide by an “Ethics Policy/Standards of Conduct Policy.” The document has no legal remedy when a Council Member violates the agreement, even in seemingly clear circumstances.

Paragraph 12 of the Code of Ethics states: “Recognize that interaction with the media is a vital link in maintaining good communication with the public. Town Council comments to the media should be in a courteous, statesman like manner and should maintain the propriety of the Council when speaking to public issues, or to opinion of colleagues and individuals. The Blue Ridge Leader asked Purcellville Town Council members if they recognize the Blue Ridge Leader as “media.” Only Vice Mayor James Wiley answered, saying: “Sure – but extremely biased, not unlike some other media.”

Paragraph 9 of the Standard of Conduct: “Be open-minded and patient. Allow citizens, employees or colleagues sufficient opportunity to present their views.” The Blue Ridge Leader asked Council Members another question: “How has the Purcellville Town Council allowed citizens sufficient opportunity to present their views if comment time at Town Council meetings has been reduced from 5 minutes in 2006 to 2 minutes in 2011?” Councilman Wiley responded: “In my five years on the Council, except for Council meetings [where] 3 minutes with a generous extension [is allowed], no citizen has ever been restricted from expressing their views by an imposed time limit at any other Town Committee function which I have attended. (The Blue Ridge Leader notes that, at Town Council meetings, in practice citizens have just 2 minutes to speak their peace, with no extension. In fact, the Town is now using “a little black box” which shows a red light when the 2 minutes are over.)

The final question to the Purcellville Town Council Members dealt with conflict of interest. Paragraph 9 also states: “Avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest. A Member should recuse himself or herself from participating in deliberations or voting on issues which might be interpreted as questionable or borderline conflicts of interest and which might be perceived as rendering direct personal gain for himself or herself or for family members, engaging in business with the Town of Purcellville government either directly or indirectly which is inconsistent with the State and Local Government Conflict of Interest Act and the Public Procurement Act.” The Blue Ridge Leader asked: “Do you think any Member of the Purcellville Town Council should profit from Town Government procurement in any manner? If so, why?” Vice Mayor Wiley responded: “Bad question. Place the word ‘illegally’ behind ‘profit’ and the answer is of course, no.”

Council Member Joan Lehr did not respond. Her business has received \$14,000 over the last year from the Town of Purcellville.

The Blue Ridge Leader welcomes a response to these questions if other Council Members need more time to answer.

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*Nick Pelchar served on the Purcellville Town Council from 2002 to 2006.*

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**WHAT'S YOUR OPINION? SEND US YOUR  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AT  
BlueRidgeLeader@aol.com**

**Blue Ridge  
LEADER & Loudoun Today** *Since 1984*

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## OPINION

**Sometimes You Just Have to See it With Your Own Eyes**

– By Valerie Joyner

Those of you traveling past the Cole Farm Property on Rt. 287 intersection last week saw a remarkable sight, the wholesale destruction of dozens of mature trees. Some of these trees were probably 50 to 100 years old. So, where was the Town of Purcellville while this was going on? Nowhere to be seen. It is interesting to note that the Town of Purcellville has a tree ordinance which starts out with the following preamble:

Sec. 86-21: Purpose

The purpose of this article is to encourage the planting and proper care of trees throughout the town, to promote the preservation of existing trees and the replenishment of tree stock to the maximum extent possible.

These actions are intended to promote and contribute to the health, safety and general welfare of the town and its inhabitants by decreasing flooding, soil erosion, air pollution and noise, by removing unsafe and hazardous conditions and by improving aesthetics and quality of life (Ord. No. 06-04-01, § 86-2.1, 11-14-2006).

It's ironic that for the past four years, the Town has received a “Tree City-USA” award from the Arbor Day Foundation. Purcellville is also a “Preserve America Community.” I wonder if they will be applying for the award this year. Unlike many of our local residents, the powers to be in Purcellville didn't seem to consider these trees worthy of preservation. As I said in the title of this article, you sometimes have to see something with your own eyes (before you believe it). The destruction of the trees on the Cole property is a concrete example of how the politicians in Purcellville say one thing and do the complete opposite.

The Southern Collector Road (SCR) is another example of the Town saying they want to preserve natural and historic resources while standing by while they are destroyed. The speed (and zeal?) with which the Town elected officials have gone after another old farm in Purcellville (a 250 year old working farm!) is amazing. One of the Town's three attorneys at last week's injunction hearing stated that there was “nothing historic” about Crooked Run Orchard (the same Crooked Run Orchard that has an official “Century Farm” designation). The Town has a decided favorite between the two brothers – Sam and Tim Brown – that own the property. As Mayor Lazaro recently stated: “The Town is looking forward to working with Tim Brown.” Undoubtedly, like in the Cole Farm Property case, dozens of mature trees and fruit bearing trees (and buildings) will be destroyed if the road goes in. The reasons the Town gives for building the road include “the road has been on the Town's plans for 30 years”. But, so have many other collector roads – such as the Northern Collector and the Western Collector. No one is advocating the building of these roads. The Town also says that the SCR will alleviate traffic on Main Street. But, studies show that it will create massive gridlock on Rt. 287 and Main Street because of substantial planned commercial development. It's also obvious that completing the SCR will allow North-South traffic to by-pass all of the struggling businesses that line Main Street, hastening their demise. The truth is, traffic on Main Street really only improved after Woodgrove High School was completed. This was the same high school the Town sued to stop for four years and then finally accepted only after the County was forced to pay \$5.78 million (lest Purcellville continue the lawsuits which would have further delayed the much-needed school). With the recent annexations, new zoning, and special use permits given to various parcels on Business 7 and Rt. 287, it seems the real reason for completing the SCR is to allow developers to build gas stations, office buildings, drive thrus, and strip malls in the immediate area.

Another example of Town “double speak”, the Town claims to be fiscally responsible while at the same time racking up a massive per capita debt of approximately \$15,000. This dollar figure compares to the \$4,000 per resident for Loudoun County. (Keep in mind that the County has that lower per capita level of debt even while it had to build 37 new schools due to massive growth of previous majority boards.) The Town also claims surpluses in the budget but doesn't advertise that most of that money is borrowed and has to be paid back. It's easy to have a surplus if you don't spend all the money you borrow. The Davenport Report shows that the Town has taken on too much debt and spent too much money on water and sewer, showing water bills increasing by a average of 25% per year and more than tripling in the next four years.

Another case of Purcellville's fiscal irresponsibility is the colossal waste of taxpayer's money by the Town when they purchased the old church building for a new town hall. The cost of this conversion will cost more than \$6 million, while a new building would have cost only \$4 million.

So, the lesson to be learned here – no matter what the issue – is: don't listen to what the Town Council says, see what they do. Believe it when you see it with your



## VIEW FROM THE RIDGE

### *Purcellville's Faux Farm Future – by Andrea Gaines*

If you drove by the Cole Farm in the last few weeks, and gasped in utter disbelief at the stripped earth, leveled ground and fallen trees, you're not alone. No one could look at that old farmhouse – perched oddly now on its above ground stone foundation – or the magnificent old white barn – isolated there in the middle of a huge swath of bare earth as if target practice for some giant wrecking ball – and not wonder “What the heck was Purcellville thinking?”

The plan for the Cole Farm property – that the land serve as the site of a grand “Purcellville Gateway” and lynch pin of a new commercial center for the Town – has been in the works for a long time, working its way through a maze of planning documents, public meetings and special use permits to get to this point.

But don't think that the uncomfortable feeling in your gut as you look at the Cole Farm property today is somehow something that you have no right to feel. That progress is progress and you have no control over it anyway.

What is happening right now at the Cole Farm – and looking to the future, every action that the citizens of Purcellville will take from this moment on – is a matter of choice. Not some kind of inevitable outcome citizens have no control over.

Traditionally rural places like Purcellville – small, agriculturally-based towns with a wealth of land and character and heritage struggling to figure out how a community that succeeded in the past can succeed in the future – DO have a choice.

But the choice is not between cashing out and preserving your community's soul. If that is your measure, you end up not being able to direct your community's future. You end up with things like the Purcellville Gateway – cookie cutter shopping centers featuring the same suburban-style roads, congested turn lanes, drive-thrus, and well trimmed bushes that you see everywhere.

In this case, because Town officials and the developer want to appear sensitive to the area's “agricultural roots”, you end up with a faux farm atmosphere, complete with a silo

skyline, and, as described by the developer in a January 19, 2011 press release, a lovely place, with “waterfalls and fountains ... surrounded by lush landscaping, lighting and outdoor seating areas ...”

This does nothing, really, to preserve the area's agricultural roots, much less the uniqueness of Purcellville or the Cole Farm property. Nor does it preserve an economic future anchored in the families and businesses that built Purcellville and want to participate in its future, and the newer families and businesses who came here because the small town feel of Western Loudoun meant something to them.

In a 2006 campaign piece, Purcellville's current mayor (then running for Town Council), and other now-serving members of the Town Council, suggested that the old guard of Purcellville had a vision for the Town that saw residents crammed into a sardine can. That Purcellville was “at a critical crossroads,” and that “now was the time for decisive, strong leadership to control growth, keep taxes low and protect our small hometown and our quality of life.” “We do not believe”, the campaign piece went on to say, “that Purcellville should look like Ashburn or any other suburban community – we want to protect our small hometown.”

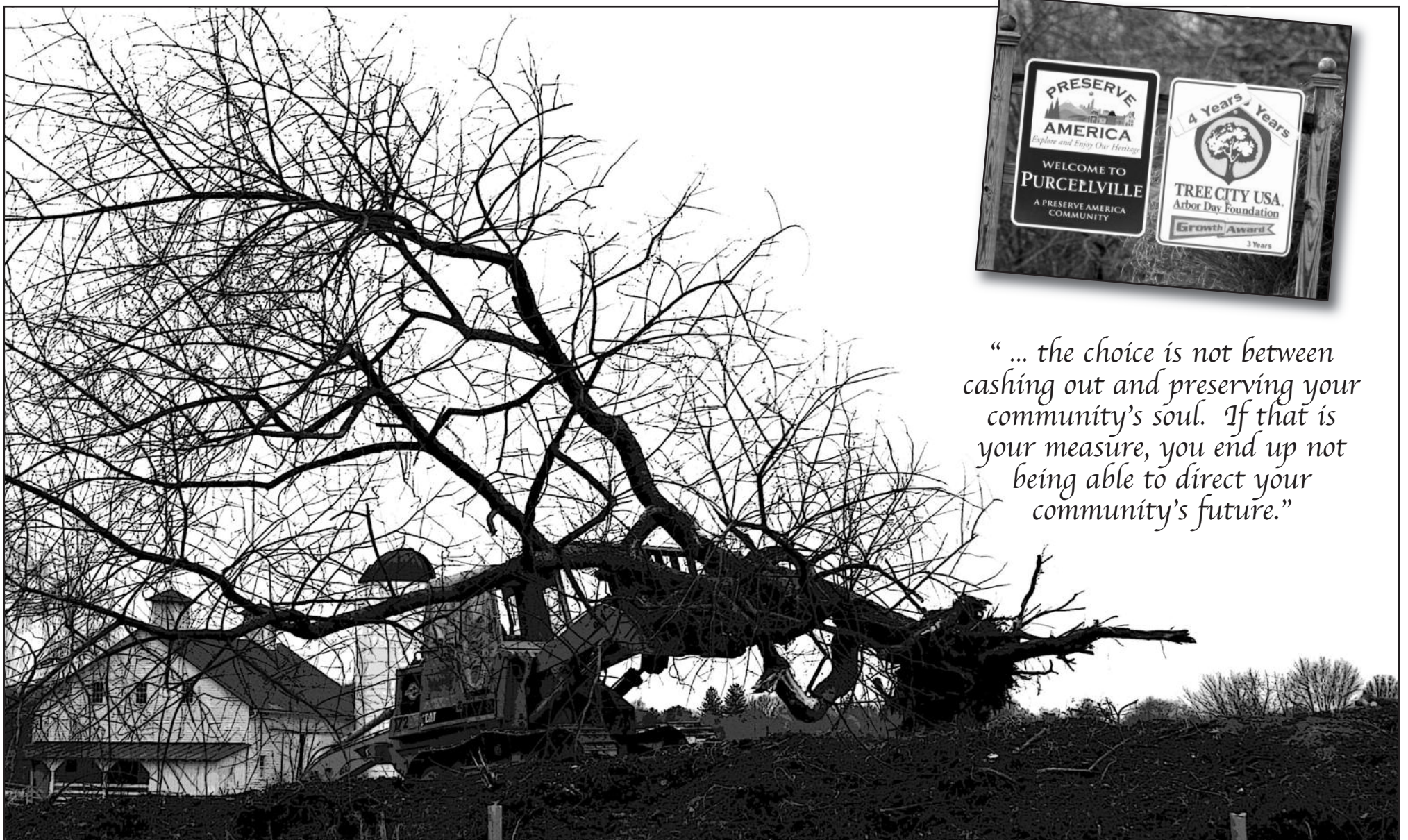
Purcellville residents need to challenge their Town leadership.

How will a totally new commercial district at the east end of Town affect established businesses?

What will be left of our agricultural roots after the “farm” has been taken out of the Cole Farm property, and the nearby Crooked Run Orchard, Purcellville's only remaining working farm, is bisected by a road and virtually abandoned as a legitimate commercial enterprise by the Town?

Is a Town that prides itself in being a “Preserve America” community – and a “Tree City USA” community as the signs in front of the now-leveled Cole Farm property profess – suggesting that Purcellville can lose places like Cole Farm and Crooked Run Orchard, and not lose its soul in the process?

What WAS Purcellville thinking?



*“ ... the choice is not between cashing out and preserving your community's soul. If that is your measure, you end up not being able to direct your community's future.”*





— *By Uta Brown*

My husband Sam and I recently returned from Savannah after having attended an annual grower's conference. These winter conferences, of which we usually attend three during the January/February period, deal with the latest research on varieties, diseases, market trends, government policies that affect farmers concerning immigration, HA-2 visas, USDA policies, food safety, GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) revisions, and increasingly, organic production. During these meetings we socialize with the familiar faces of other fruit and vegetable growers, professors of genetics, biotechnology, entomology, pathology, etc., and representatives of the supporting industries which manufacture everything from packaging to fertilizers to machinery.

One of the most interesting talks occurred at a luncheon, when Dr. Mary Ann Lila (pronounced lie-la) from the Plants for Human Health Institute in North Carolina, talked about the berry production in Alaska. These are not the neat rows of indulged and manipulated berries grown with incredible profusion in California by Driscoll, or Sunbelle, whose berries are grown in various places, including Argentina. These are native species that the

## FROM THE FARM

### Berries

indigenous Alaskan population has depended upon for centuries. Low growing mats of berries cover coastal areas where other plants can't grow. They are a favorite of bears, and have been harvested by the native peoples as an important nutritional addition to where polyphenols and anthocyanins are rare in a basically seafood diet. These berries are highly anti-microbial and prevent dental carries. They also have anti-diabetic characteristics. The chemicals in these berries have proven to be as effective in preventing lipids from getting into fat cells as drugs for diabetes. Tests for antioxidants are off the charts.

The native Alaskans who depend on these berries are worried. Climate change may be threatening the harsh conditions in which these berries thrive. For a long time scientists have realized that stress increases the amount of certain chemicals in food which prove very beneficial to human health. The more you pamper these plants the less they produce these chemicals. Hydroponic plants and greenhouse tomatoes not only have a less complex "cyanin" profile, they taste less interesting, all because the chemicals needed to fight the many stresses in natural environments are not necessary, or are produced in such low quantities, they provide no human benefit against disease, and promote a bland taste. (Closer to home, coastal blueberries in Maryland also show enhanced chemical profiles.)

Dr. Lila and her organization are conducting laboratory tests to study the natural berry chemicals from Point Hope in the Arctic area. Rather than "bio-prospecting" which biotechnology companies have practiced as a way of sequestering native plants and making them unavailable to the natives, Dr. Lila's organization is determined to preserve the right of the natives to retain access to their own native plants. Since these are coastal berries, once the climate changes they have nowhere to migrate, so the question now is, how can we save the genetic material and perhaps find suitably stressed areas in which they can continue to thrive?

*Uta and her husband Sam operate Crooked Run Orchard.*



### *Cole Farm Development, continued from page 1*

charm, a developer must abide by codes requiring that more than one-third of the mature trees on a development's site be left standing. Every tree more than 6 inches in diameter that is removed must be replaced. And, if developers insist on removing more than 35 percent of the trees, they are required to plant three trees for each one removed (saplings and shrubs do not constitute a replaced tree). Also, these codes require that "landmark" trees – defined as trees measuring more than 30 inches diameter – are only allowed to be removed with a special exception permit. Rural planning officials around the country are trying to avoid the default approach of leveling a construction site in preparation for building, moving to one of saving and building around trees. They understand that it is better environmentally and economically to protect healthy, established trees than to plant small ornamental trees. (It takes decades for a tree to grow to a size where it can provide shade. It takes a half-century or more for a small, newly planted tree to grow a 3 foot trunk.)

A number of studies show that trees can increase home values and retail sales while saving energy. If a community truly believes that trees are valuable both economically and environmentally, the government officials responsible for planning – including bodies such as the Purcellville Town Council – should control the manner in which development occurs, and have the full zoning authority to do so.

### **The Fiscal Impact of Zoning Mistakes**

Many Purcellville residents and businesses have complained loudly at what was happening at Cole Farm, knowing that alternatives to this kind of development not only benefit

residents, but make economic sense. Fiscal impact analysis of residential and non-residential land use is critical in developing long term strategies that determine – for the sake of a community's economic health – when to approve high-density rezoning and give special use permits. Balancing tax revenues with the cost of government services needed, fiscal impact analysis estimates a locality's overall cost in serving the development into the future.

Studies confirm that retail centers produce an annual drain of \$314 per 1,000 sq. ft. and that the most costly are fast-food restaurants, which have net annual cost to the community of \$5,168 per 1,000 sq. ft. In one study, a city added over a million square feet of commercial, retail, and fast-food development in their effort to generate tax revenue. Yet revenues actually declined by 19% – a decline that had to be offset by large increases in taxes. In contrast, the study found that specialty retail (such as small-scale Main Street businesses) have a positive impact on local budgets, generating more tax revenue than it cost to provide public services. Specialty retail produces a net annual return of \$326 per 1,000 square feet.

The two main factors behind the higher cost for big box stores, shopping centers, and fast-food outlets are higher road maintenance costs, and increased demand for public services, infrastructure, and public safety. Many Purcellville residents have also expressed concern that the Town Council's actions in moving forward with this style and intensity of commercial development threaten the town's current businesses. As Purcellville resident Reggie Simms noted: "We have many small downtown businesses and several other shopping centers. What will the town's promotion of the Purcellville Gateway do to them?"

*"We have many small downtown business and several other shopping centers. What will the Town's promotion of the Purcellville Gateway do to them?"*





## Town Hall Spending Update – By Kelli Grim



*The future Town Hall will be located in the old Purcellville Baptist church building in a residential neighborhood.*

*The current Town Hall is located on Main Street in the commercial district.*



AS A SERVICE TO OUR READERS, THE BLUE RIDGE LEADER PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL UPDATE ON THE TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE'S ONGOING TOWN HALL RELOCATION PROJECT.

### – The Former Purcellville Baptist Church Building –

*Price listed and Paid: \$1,950,000 (6 on-street parking spaces)*

*Lot size: .69 acres on Nursery Avenue; Year Built 1926; Sq Ft: 8,202*

*Expenditures: \$296,653 Blue Ridge Reality*

*To Date \$51,267 Beese Quest Design*

*\$88,274 Bond and Financing*

*\$79,051 Legal Services*

*\$537,791 Engineering/Architectural/Environmental*

*\$154,900 Waterproofing*

*\$1,200,000 Phases 1, 2 & 3 Paving of Fireman's Field*

*\$1,500,000 Remainder of Master Plan for Fireman's Field (not included in total)*

*\$2,178,604 Renovation*

*Expenditures: \$28,670 Metal Roof Replacement*

*To Date, con't \$4,975 Motorized Blinds*

*\$175,000 purchase of home in historic district for demolition/parking*

**TOTAL: \$6,745,185**

*(No bids have been obtained for furnishings, recording and video equipment, new phone system and cost of moving.)*

### – The Current Town Hall Building –

*Current Mortgage on Town Hall: \$485,708*

*Town Hall Listing Price: \$2,300,000 (55 parking spaces); Zoned 3-story commercial*

*Lot Size: .92 acres on Main Street; Year Built: 1960; Sq. Ft.: 8,040*

*Sale Price: \$1,450,000*

*(Information obtained from MRIS, Loudoun County Tax Records)*

### Grace Church, continued from page 1

Two outhouses, one each for men and women were located on each side of the rear of the churches and were reportedly "two-seaters." The location of the women's outhouse was recently discovered by archaeologists but the location of the men's room is still a mystery.

After around 1915, most of the congregation resided in Purcellville and nearby Cookesville and walked to Lincoln for services. The church was active and lively, and celebrated an annual homecoming in August attended by large crowds where potluck meals were shared. The church also celebrated "childrens day" and enjoyed occasional joint-services with nearby Mount Olive Baptist Church. Money was scarce, so fundraising was a constant effort. The more popular fundraisers included "Tom Thumb Marriages" in which tickets were sold to witness staged weddings acted out by young children; and "Fan Drills", theatrical line-dances featuring young girls dressed up in colorful costumes including overskirts that "fanned" out.

The church served as an anchor and stabilizing force in Lincoln until 1942. In the early forties, then-Reverend Otis Jasper was encouraged by his church District Superintendent to have the Lincoln Church move to Purcellville where most of the congregation resided.

In September 1949, Grace Annex Methodist Episcopal Church broke ground for the new building on A Street in Purcellville and the old stone church in Lincoln was eventually abandoned. Although the congregation maintains an active cemetery in Lincoln, the old stone church has been in disrepair and out of use since the early 1950s. The old church is owned by nine Trustees, most of whom are descendants of the original founders.



**G**race Church is under the watchful eye of the Lincoln Preservation Foundation in partnership with the Grace Trustees. A preservation and restoration effort has been established, and to date, the building has been stabilized and protected from further decay. A temporary new roof is in place, and the building is in the preliminary stages of restoration. The Grace Church is on Brooks Lane in the village of Lincoln. Visitors are permitted to walk the grounds and cemetery. A short documentary film trailer: "Saving Grace Church" can be viewed on YouTube. For more information, visit [www.lincolnpreservation.org](http://www.lincolnpreservation.org). Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, Lincoln, VA.

### LOCAL BLACK HISTORY EVENTS for February

■ **General Moses: Underground Railroad presented by Ilene Evans**  
**Saturday, Feb. 5 to Saturday, Feb. 12:** Ilene Evans is a consummate storyteller who incorporates dancing, singing and drama into her tales of real people, their struggles and their triumphs. Celebrate and remember one of America's great unsung heroes, Harriet Tubman. For all ages. (Loudoun County Public Library; All Locations; Call your local branch for details.)

Saturday, February 5, 11:00 AM - Lovettsville Library

Saturday, February 5, 2:00 PM - Sterling Library

Sunday, February 6, 3:00 PM - Ashburn Library

Monday, February 7, 4:00 PM - Cascades Library

Tuesday, February 8, 10:30 AM - Middleburg Library

Saturday, February 12, 11:00 AM - Purcellville Library

Saturday, February 12, 2:00 PM - Rust Library

**Celebrating Black History Month, An Edna Lewis Winter Dinner**

Tickets required; Thursday, February 24, 2011 6:30 pm; Presented by The Journey Through Hallowed Ground; (540) 882-4929; [www.hallowedground.org](http://www.hallowedground.org); For more information, email [esther@jthg.org](mailto:esther@jthg.org).

**Thomas Balch Library:** 208 W. Market St., Leesburg, VA 20176 (703) 737-7195

– **Exhibit: Black History Month**, Herbert Duvall 2/1/2011 - 2/28/2011; Margaret Mercer Room

– **Becton: Autobiography of a Soldier and Public Servant**

Lt. Gen. Julius W. Becton Jr., U.S. Army (Ret.)

Date: 2/27/2011 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Lower Level Meeting Room

Julius W. Becton, Jr., joined the Army Air Corps Enlisted Reserves in 1943, entered active duty as a private in a segregated army in 1944. He was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry in 1945 from officer candidate school, and after serving almost 40 years in the United States Army retired at the rank of Lieutenant General.



## Running Totals – by Cat Morris

As a child, I remember noticing the utility meter attached to our house. It was an old style meter, with a revolving disk mounted inside a transparent glass case. One day I ran into the kitchen from our back yard, where I'd been studying the meter, and asked my mother how, exactly, the thing worked.

Mom replied that the spinning disk revolved quickly when our house was using more energy, and slowly when it used less. With this interesting bit of information, I turned off a lamp and went back outside to see if the wheel was now moving more slowly.

I thought that it was.

I went back into the house and spent some time locating and turning off or unplugging every electrical item I could find – lights, clocks, television, radio, etc. – and revisited the meter to find that, indeed, the wheel had nearly stopped. It was still moving, though, if ever so slowly. Why?

Mom said it was probably the fridge. Sure enough, when the refrigerator compressor kicked off, the meter halted. Victory! "Thank you," said my patient mother, "Now may we turn on the lights?"

Awhile back, I remembered that childhood exercise and was reminded of a former tv commercial in which prices flash onscreen to reflect the cost of things people might buy on an outing with a family member or friend (Remember? It always ended with "PRICELESS," to represent the value of the relationship of the two people). I began to imagine myself going through the motions of my day with a dollar figure flashing above my head as I spent money.

I knew that I was spending pennies even as I lay in bed. A little lamp was on – ka-ching, ka-ching – and I knew our computer was on standby downstairs – ka-ching, ka-ching – and my fridge compressor might be on, too.

In the bathroom, toothbrush in hand, I decided to play a little game to see how low I could keep the cost of my day. Every squeeze of toothpaste added pennies to the dollar figure I imagined flashing above my head, so I squeezed a tinier dollop than usual. As I waited for warm water to wash my face, the unused cold water bothered me, so I washed with cool water.

I made my children's lunches and as the day's tally flashed in my mind, I chose more carefully than usual. My daughter often leaves about 1/4 of the orange I put into her lunch, so I reserved one quarter. As I drove to the store, the running total increased before my eyes – pennies expended on gas – pennies for electricity consumed by the house while I wasn't even home.

But what made me stop in my tracks was a sudden impulse to calculate the daily cost of owning our house. I parked and jotted what I knew – monthly loan payment, taxes, insurance – to find the cost per day. I divided by 24 hours in the day and 60 minutes in an hour to arrive at a



cost of one penny per minute to own our house.

With other fixed monthly costs, such as health insurance, included, our cost of living increased to just over \$23 per day, or \$.016 per minute. Wow. That seemed expensive to me. My next step was to find our ACTUAL cost of living per minute, taking into account every essential and nonessential expense: food, entertainment, car costs, phone service, etc. Let's just say that our daily cost of living was

more than the daily cost of a nice hotel room. That didn't seem right – and it made our vacations seem that much more expensive because, after all, who wants to pay for a hotel room they aren't even using while on vacation?

Many financial advisers

suggest that the best way to begin a process of scaling back is to track all expenditures for three months, and then work to cut back on those areas that are unnecessary, or that return the least value to you. That's how we began a frugal odyssey that got us out of debt over 12 years ago.

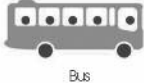
Today? We've gotten slack. Our monthly expenses have crept up, and the economy is not inspiring confidence. Calculating a total cost per day of living our lives was a new, eye-opening experience that jump started our second journey toward more mindful spending.

How about you? How much does it cost per day to maintain the life you lead? I'd love to hear from you, and I look forward to sharing some of my family's current journey in the months ahead.

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### Plant a Row Loudoun Donates Over 8 Tons of Food in the 2010 Season!

Loudoun Plant a Row is proud to announce the results of their second growing season. The final tally for 2010 was 16,110 pounds donated by PAR volunteers to Loudoun Interfaith Relief (LIR) food pantry in Leesburg, Virginia. Loudoun Plant a Row was formed in January of 2009 and consists of individual gardeners, agri-businesses, farm markets and other community partners who donate their surplus fresh produce to help feed Loudoun's hungry. The Loudoun Valley Homegrown Markets Association (LVHMA) was an especially generous donor in 2010. Loudoun Plant a Row's Committee Chair, Julia Brizendine, commented on the 2010 donation total, "It was a difficult growing season with drought and infestations. We could never have reached such numbers without the continued generosity of the LVHMA. Thanks to 100 Women Strong's gift to LIR of a new refrigerated van, our donations were larger and fresher." New members for 2011 include Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, Great Country Farm and The Equine Rescue League. The Equine Rescue League will be offering free composted manure for PAR donors. Loudoun Plant a Row is currently recruiting donors for the 2011 growing season. Find full details at [www.feedloudoun.org](http://www.feedloudoun.org) or join us on Facebook, Feed Loudoun – Plant a Row!

Contact: Julia Brizendine Email: [jbrizendine@feedloudoun.org](mailto:jbrizendine@feedloudoun.org) [www.feedloudoun.org](http://www.feedloudoun.org)



## Setting the Record Straight – Sam Brown’s Partition Lawsuit

There are many dimensions to Purcellville’s proposal that the east end of town – where Business Route 7 & Main Street meet Route 287 – be transformed into a major commercial district. One corner alone (the old Cole Farm property) calls for 105,000+ square feet of new retail and commercial development. Across the street, four drive throughs and more commercial development are planned. And proponents of the Southern Collector Road want to take both agricultural and residential land to make way for this 4-lane highway.

One important but often misunderstood issue related to the proposed development is the “partition” lawsuit between Crooked Run Orchard owner Sam Brown and his brother, Tim Brown.

According to Virginia law, when two people or more share ownership of a parcel of land, the relative proportions of that ownership are not important. These “tenants-in-common” are equally privileged to use and enjoy the land, to live on it, work it, profit by it. (Sam and Tim are tenants in common on 16 acres of land that is now in the direct path of the new commercial district.)

Sam started to plant his first orchard of apples and cherries on the 16 acres in 1983. For the next twelve years Sam expanded his operation, growing blackberries, asparagus, strawberries, green beans, etc, all on the 16 acres. He did part-time work of all sorts to make ends meet and then sold his produce at the local farmers markets. It wasn’t until the mid-90s that Howell Brown, Sr. (Sam & Tim’s father) revealed how he had divided the land between his sons. Tim left the farm shortly thereafter. Sam continued to farm, but he knew that eventually the settlement of the land ownership would have to be faced. He was working and living on land that his brother also “owned.”

In Virginia, the relationship of a person to a particular piece of land which he or she has worked, lived on, walked, and raised a family on is a possession that cannot be treated like any other. This is an important consideration when disputes such as the one between Sam and Tim Brown move through the courts.

When Howell Brown, Sr. left Tim ownership of the 16-acre parcel where the house and barns are located, he also gave Sam a fractional interest in the same 16 acres, knowing that with this fractional interest Tim could not “sell the land out from under him.” With the obstacle of the fractional interest held by Sam, Tim was obligated to file a partition suit in order to get either the land in its entirety (so that he could lease it, sell it, develop it, etc.), or to sell it to Sam, who would have to plead his case for why the ownership should be passed to him.

Here the value of a particular parcel of land becomes important in the eyes of the law. The loss of the 16 acres would have meant a loss great enough to set Sam back



Above: The late Howell Brown, Sr., selling Crooked Run Orchard produce at the farmer’s market; Below: Sam Brown at a recent farmer’s market.



several years and possibly destroy too much of his business for it to rebound. Sam is not a young man who can just start over. He’s spent almost thirty years building up his business.

While Sam told the commissioner that he wanted the land, and would be willing to pay for it, Tim told the commissioner that he wanted the money. Tim hasn’t lived on the farm for fifteen years. He never paid any sort of taxes or rent when he did live on it. On the other hand, Sam has lived on the farm continuously since 1983, paid all the taxes, saved the back forty-five acres from being sold by putting it in land use (and then working it), paid insurance

**“This is really a story about expectations and values. One brother made the land his livelihood; the other brother made the land his investment. The issue as far as the courts are concerned is the nature of the value placed upon the land. To Tim the land is disposable. To Sam it is not.”**

on the house since he’s lived in it, and is now paying town taxes although he considers the annexation by the town to be illegal.

Tim feels that the road might enhance the value of the land and perhaps speed up the zoning for commercial development. To Sam, the road will destroy a barn he uses extensively, and approximately 100 fruit-bearing trees. It will destroy some of the parking area his customers use. It would also cut the farm in two with no way to cross the road, forcing Sam to use public roads, including the SCR, to get to his back fields. That is dangerous both for Sam, on a tractor with no protection, and drivers. It would take tens of thousands of dollars to put adequate fencing along the road to prevent vandalism, which Sam has already experienced and reported to the police. The town has shown no willingness to protect the orchard or to make safe passage to the back fields possible.

This is really a story about expectations and values. One brother made the land his livelihood; the other brother made the land his investment.

The issue as far as the courts are concerned is the nature of the value placed upon the land. To Tim the land is disposable. To Sam it is not. If the land becomes precious and necessary to one person, and that person is willing to pay what the courts have determined is a fair market value for the land, then he or she has the right to pay for it, own it, and continue to cherish it and reap a livelihood from it.

The town’s attempt at a quick-take – securing the part of the 16 acres they need for the road and commercial development BEFORE the partition lawsuit is settled – reflects their frustration over Sam’s legal interest in the land. Sam and his farm are “in the way.”

They want to be able to say they are working with and have the approval of the “owner” – but it is Tim Brown they are working with (and working with quickly in case the partition lawsuit goes Sam’s way) ... to the exclusion of Sam.

To Sam, it is obvious that the town is determined to ruin his business. The taking of the property is done against his wishes, and all town actions point to an intent – and even malicious one – to remove Sam as an obstacle ... all for the sake of massive commercial development (which has already destroyed the Cole Farm across the road).



## Give Up That Lifeless Lawn – By Donna Williamson

Traveling between clients gives me a lot of time in the car so I read books. No, no – audiobooks. One of my favorite authors for a laugh a mile is Carl Hiassen. He writes loopy mysteries that are wonderfully amusing. His describes the motivation of his characters like a sketch artist, with brevity and irony, often making them even more hilarious.

He once described a greedy and incompetent landscaper (can't remember which book) as having an important core belief in life: "Always park in the shade."

I have one, too: Get rid of lawns. Lawns make sense to me only when sheep (goats, llamas, etc.) are eating the grass and pooping to fertilize in return.

Otherwise I think there are better ideas. Lawns are wasted space where trees, shrubs, tomatoes, peonies, or viburnums could be.

While English gardening books extol the beautiful rolling green expanse, what I see are lawn grasses that typically turn brown in our Virginia summers and look good in March and November (the happy time for cool season grasses).

I read somewhere that lawn is the most time-, resource-, and water-consuming ground covering possible. It needs watering, frequent mowing, feeding, dethatching, pre-treating, overseeding, etc.

In our typical summers, you cannot water enough to keep the lawn looking lush or even green. And why should we use the precious resource of water that way?

On a small lot, a grove of multistemmed crape myrtles, river birches, redbuds, serviceberries, or katsura would be lovely with ferns and hostas underneath and a nice bench to sit on and enjoy the bird song.

On a large lot, a meadow of coneflowers, asters, prairie grasses, and Joe-Pye weed would be beautiful and alive with birds, bees, and a balance of beneficial and not-so-nice insects.



A few trees would add structure and dimension. Perhaps an evergreen Cryptomeria, and some native fringe trees? Maybe a grove of blue spruce and some big golden perennials like rudbeckia, silphium, and helianthus? Possibly a treehouse where you could sit and watch the birds and acrobatic squirrels?

Or perhaps a new woodland, with both evergreen and deciduous trees, an understory rich with dogwood, redbud, viburnum, magnolia, and spicebush.

Ferns and carex, Solomon's seal and ginger, moss and hellebore could populate the shaded ground.

Shrubs could develop berries and cover for the birds, and be alive with butterflies, beetles, bees, caterpillars, and life.

Grasses such as panicum and prairie dropseed and great perennials would populate the sunny edges with colorful smoke trees and spirea here and there.

Another idea would be some raised beds containing lettuce and chard and tomatoes with figs and Concord grapes growing alongside and fat raspberries in summer and fall. How about roses among a flowering shrub border of beautyberry, elderberry, hydrangea, and butterfly bush?

Sometimes people tell me that they need the lawn for their children to play on. Really?

*Donna Williamson is a master gardener, garden designer, and garden coach. She has taught gardening and design classes at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Oatlands in Leesburg, and Shenandoah University.*



# LOUDOUN

## S O C C E R

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U6	Professional coaches lead first three (3) Saturdays of the season focusing on skill development	NEW
U7	Professional coaches conduct three (3) weeks of skills development during the season	NEW
U8	Professional coaches conduct six (6) weeks of 1 hour skills development training	Current
U9-U19	<b>Recreational Goal-Keeping Training:</b> Six (6) weeks of training with professional goalkeeping coaches	Current

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# CARVER CENTER



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## Hunt Country Gourmet's Restaurant Review

### Travinia Italian Kitchen

– By George Humphries



Travinia Italian Kitchen is a recently-opened destination restaurant located in the “Village at Leesburg,” the expansive new collection of brick buildings on the south side of Route 7. Accessed by exiting to the west at the Crosstrail Boulevard/River Creek Parkway interchange, the restaurant is tucked away on one of the winding streets behind Wegman’s supermarket. As the *Guide Michelin* would likely put it, Travinia is “worth a trip.”

The word Travinia, an apparent neologism not in my Italian dictionary, seems to be a combination of trattoria (meaning restaurant) and vini, the word for wine. If that is what it means, it’s a good name because the restaurant does both very well.

The decor is upscale, comfortable, and carries out the Italian theme with 40s and 50s photographs, notable among them a larger than life portrait of a very young Frank Sinatra, whose golden pipes and distinctive phrasing set him apart from the rest of the era’s popular “crooners.” Background music – big band swing and lots of Sinatra – thankfully is never too loud for conversations at the table.

The restaurant is large but divided into comfortable sections of tables and baguettes, with a glass-enclosed kitchen at the rear. Also set off by a glass wall is a bar that runs the entire length of the room. Outside there is a fenced area for outdoor seating – needless to say not in operation these wintry days. A separate, glass-walled “wine tasting room” is lined with the restaurant’s large wine selection, and is available for special parties. But all of the physical attributes of the restaurant, as distinctive and attractive as they are, are paled by the food and the service, which in several visits were consistently exemplary.

The menu is extensive (some 50 items) with dishes from all over Italy. There also are specials announced by the servers with the delivery of menus and Travinia’s herb-crusted bread served with olive oil for dipping.

The lunch menu categories are Soups & Salads (8); Sandwiches (7); Homemade Pizzas (10); Pastas & Raviolis (8); House Favorites (10); Sides (7); and Beverages, which include sodas, tea, and coffee including cappuccino and espresso. The dinner menu offers even more choices in those categories, along with Small Plates subtitled “Great for Sharing” (12), and expanded entrees including Steaks & Chops (3); and Seafood (9).

Several guests tried the crab bisque, reporting that it is a wonderful, creamy concoction with lots of backfin crabmeat, subtly seasoned, and with just a touch of cayenne pepper. A salad featuring spring greens, apples, grapes, pecans, and blue cheese was a big hit with one of my guests. The house salad and the Caesar salads were equally successful on a previous visit.

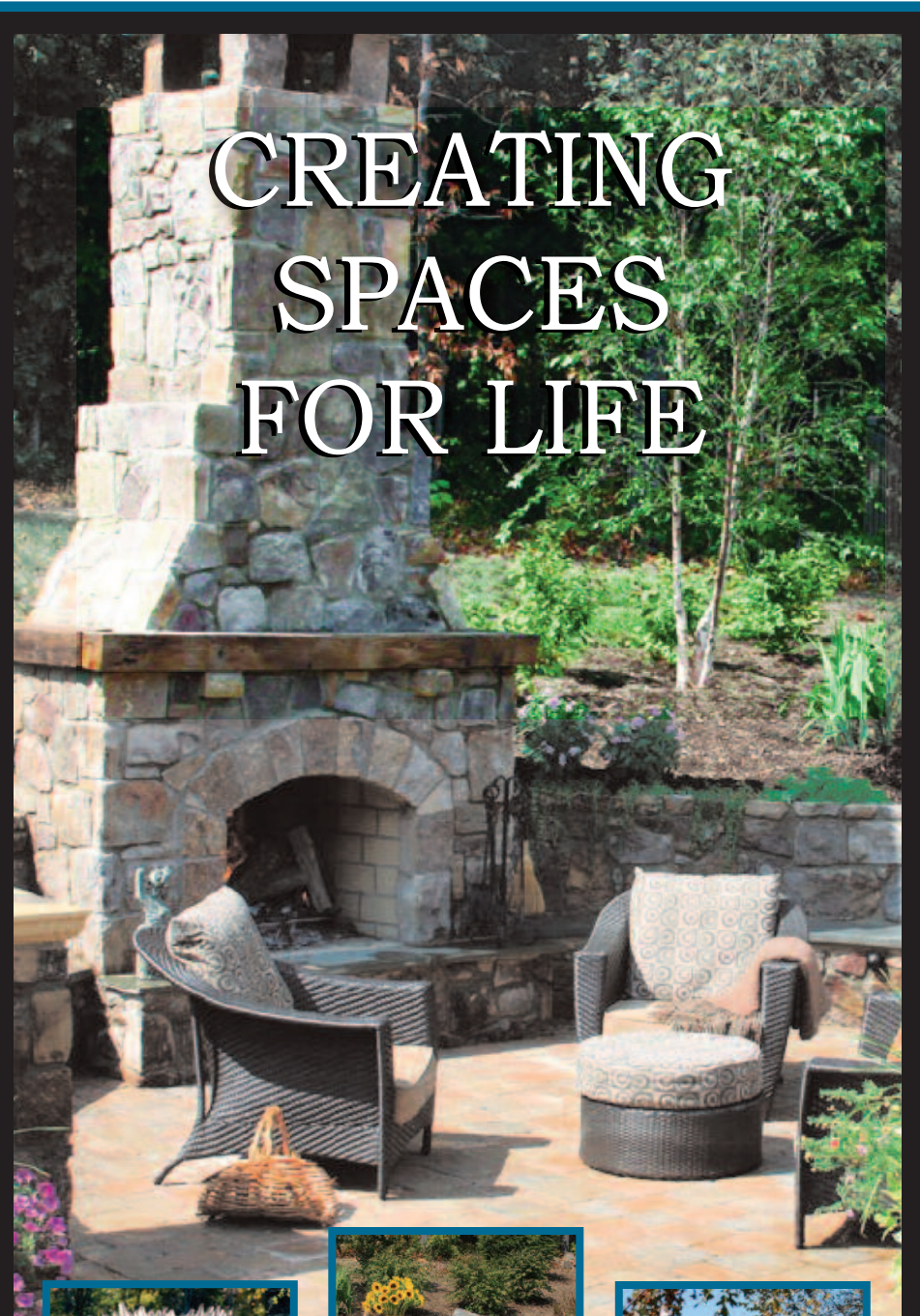
At a recent lunch, the chef’s special pizza was an unexpected combination with pears, prosciutto, and blue and other cheeses and proved to be a real treat. The crust was thin, directing the focus to the topping ingredients, which were fresh and tasty. I had the burger, which was big, juicy but not fat, cooked to my order and topped with provolone and red onions. Also offered although not sampled were wraps, a Philly cheesesteak, and other sandwiches.

The veal ravioli was very tasty, with a cream sauce and a garnish of spinach leaves. The Sinatra Chicken, accompanied by herbed pasta, also was excellent, as was a Chicken Marsala. The Travinia Crab Cake proved to be mostly backfin meat held together with a very light batter. It was accompanied by a well-seasoned portion of orzo laced with a few strips of sweet red peppers.

Among the desserts featured cheesecake, crème brulee, cannoli, and tiramisu.

The portions throughout were generous and what could not be eaten there was well worth taking home. One way or the other, there were clean plates all around. The prices of these listed Italian delicacies are surprising affordable. Entrees for lunch are mostly only \$9 with crab and shrimp dishes going slightly and understandably higher. Dinner prices are only a little higher with steaks and chops and some seafood going over \$20, but all still surprisingly reasonable. The Leesburg Travinia is the seventh and northernmost in a chain founded in South Carolina in 2002. The concept apparently was inspired by the owners’ trip to California’s Napa Valley, where they decided to combine their love of good food and passion for wine. Travinia is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner.

*George Humphries is a retired Navy aviator who began cooking at the age of 10 and has managed several large restaurants. He has lived in Loudoun Country since 1984.*



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## – Sushi ... “Tails” from the Barn Yard –

Grrrrrr owlllllll Grrrrrr owlllllll

Hellooooo,

Here I am trying to stay warm in the hay loft, keeping an eye on things from up here in the barn. Brrr. It is just bone chilling cold this mix of snow and sleet. A winter storm is coming. All seems to be quiet outside as the animals hunkered down. Not quite like last week, basking in the sunshine with the loft doors open and feeling good about life.

School is called off. Bernie and Laino tuck their heads downward as they go about their chores filling hay racks and troughs, making sure the sheep, chickens, ducks and geese are well stocked with fresh feed and water. Stretch, the llama, seems to be the only one enjoying the blustering sleet. Lifting his long brown nose into the wintery mix he takes in all the smells from the woods below. With the baby lambs being born it is Stretch's job to keep watch and protect all the little ones wrapped in wool.

While your fires are burning, and bright orange and red embers warm your home, much is really going on down here at the barn. Mrs. B says it never fails – a good storm always brings about the best in motherhood. Baby lambs are being born right and left! Why just this morning, beautiful twin baby ewe lambs (girls) were born to Mrs. Blue Bell. Oh you should have heard the baaaing between Mrs. Popper and the rest of the sheep herd – Mrs. Blue Bell has gorgeous little girls every year. I

don't think she has ever had a baby ram (little boy lambs). Then all the baaaing starts up again and the ladies all need to come in and take a good look and sniff. That's when the comments start about who will be lambing next. Oh you should hear them!

Suddenly, the new Mama's gather their little ones and race for the covered isle way of the barn – Stretch's head is held high, clearing his throat he utters a soft clear cooing sound. Swinging, while lunging his head downward towards the flock of Ewes, in a swift graceful manner he collects them into a protected group – pushing them with his long neck and body towards the barn.

In awe, I am mesmerized by Stretch's work. My born and bred instincts suddenly make my body rigid. Alert and aware my ears perk up. The faint patter of padded paws, lurk somewhere nearby. Intensely, acutely keen, Stretch gives me the knowing look – creeping, creeping closer to the loft opening above I wait, I wait, I wait – Stretch gives me the nod – I leap from the loft. I pounce upon the sly one ready to steal a winter's dinner from our barnyard!

Grrrrrr owlllllll Grrrrrr owlllllll – I ferociously attack, baring my brilliant white tooth grin – the sly one is off and I am following slipping and sliding, nipping and yapping him all the way down to Beaver Damn Creek where the little rat finds his way down into his foxy den.

My master, Elaine Boland lives with her husband and five daughters in Purcellville, Virginia at Fields of Athentry Farm. She cherishes farm life and the joy of providing her customers with fine fresh meats and products. You can order our fine meats and products at [www.fieldsofathentryfarm.com](http://www.fieldsofathentryfarm.com) ...  
Love – Sushi



If you dare move yourself away from the warmth of your home tonight – stick your head out the door and listen under the snow moon – you will hear the cry of the fox. It is this time of year they find their mates and howl to the world that new little kits will soon be born.

Now I know I promised you some inside scoop on the new addition to our Barn Yard help – Stingy Nettle Nelly – keep an eye out for the next Blue Ridge Leader in your mail box –

It's a whopper of a story starting a new beginning for this little pup and let me tell you – you won't want to miss out on the NimCOWpoo and gulliBULL part of this story either!!! Stay warm, Love, yours truly – Sushi!

### Canine Survivors Need Our Help!

Animal Care & Control is assisting the Humane Society of the United States in their efforts to find new homes for dogs rescued recently from two Missouri breeding facilities. These dogs were surrendered by two commercial breeders who were unable to care properly for the animals. The dogs were transported to The HSUS' Gaithersburg office and then placed with several area shelters and rescue groups.

These dogs are true survivors, and have spent the past week recovering from their long journey and

acclimating to the shelter. Many of the dogs will become available for adoption beginning on Saturday, January 29. The dogs range in age from 2 to 8 years, and are all small breeds.

These dogs, along with all animals available for adoption, can be seen online at the Shelter's website: [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals).

Animals can be visited at the Animal Shelter, located off Route 9 in Waterford, during the following times: Saturday & Sunday, 12:00-4:00pm, Monday & Tuesday, 12:00-6:00pm, and Wednesday 12:00-8:00pm.

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197.

Shelter information & directions can be found at [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals). For more information on the Humane Society of the United States and their rescue efforts, visit [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org). (Photo credit: Loudoun County Animal Care & Control.)



Upper Loudoun Little League Baseball

Registration has been extended one week to end at noon on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Walk-in registration will be held that same day from 9:00 am to noon at the Purcellville Train Station.





– *By Steve Webster*

I drive a lot. Most of us do. As I drive, I get a fleeting glimpse into the lives of those who drive alongside me. One morning, I see an



oval, black and white "26.2" sticker on the rear window of an SUV, indicating the owner has run a marathon. "We're not so different," I think to myself. If you move the decimal point two places to the left, we could be soul mates.

Before you start writing a letter (or the more modern and frequently less-thoughtful equivalent, an e-mail), I am not disparaging my fellow commuters who happen to love marathons. I too love marathons. Just not enough to run them. But I plan to start. When I'm seventy years old.

At that point, I figure, I will have a real advantage against those seniors who show up with their fading "26.2" stickers on their SUV's. Because I will be fresh. My knees and back will not have been worn out by decades of pounding the pavement. And I will dominate the senior circuit. Medals and trophies will adorn a specially designated shrine in my house – a shrine to me, my foresight, and my relative swiftness (relative to those who started too soon).

"Slow and steady wins the race," I will say to myself, as I glide past those who, in an earlier era, were far too slim for their own good. I will not gloat over my superior foresight. But I will, nonetheless, win the race convincingly. As I wait at the finish line (where I will already have the trophy [and finish line tape] packed away in my complimentary AARP canvas bag), I will cheer my competitors on, knowing full well that my gamble in waiting to begin serious training, while brilliant (if I may say so without recrimination), was also risky. For the vicissitudes of life could easily have frustrated my long-term plan.

I realize suddenly that I have been driving for fifteen minutes completely immersed in an imaginary race with senior citizens. Apparently, "26.2" has left me in the dust and I am now being politely pressed by a car to my rear. I move out of the left lane. "HHI" passes me

**"ONE MORNING, I SEE AN OVAL, BLACK AND WHITE '26.2' STICKER ON THE REAR WINDOW OF AN SUV, INDICATING THE OWNER HAS RUN A MARATHON. 'WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT,' I THINK TO MYSELF. IF YOU MOVE THE DECIMAL POINT TWO PLACES TO THE LEFT, WE COULD BE SOUL MATES."**

smartly and without judgment. I am thankful for that. HHI must be a wonderful place with forgiving people.

Close on the heels of HHI is NNK. I understand this to refer to the Northern Neck of Virginia, a wonderful combination of history and agriculture and waterborne pursuits. NNK is very fortunate, I think. I imagine gentlemen with hunting dogs, and others with tired but still valiant sloops or old working boats. Houses with smoking chimneys near rivers or the bay, where the ingress and egress of the tides are the functional equivalent of the clock in the town square.

Again, I check back in to my commute. The speed limit slows to thirty-five as I approach the toll plaza. No one observes the speed limit. If you do, and you are in the EZ Pass lane, you are liable to get a dose of annoyance or, even worse, anger (although not from HHI or NNK, as both are gentlemen). I have moved over too far and am now stuck behind OBX in the combination cash/credit card/EZ pass lane. "OBX is a planner," I think. "Why are they in this lane?"

We all know and love OBX. OBX is cool. Even though they may be middle-aged (sorry, OBX), they still revel in the joy of real surf and sand, and hang gliders at Kitty Hawk (ok, maybe they never did the hang gliders). Coincidentally, I see on my return commute a sign on the outskirts of Purcellville that says the Wright Brothers' mother was raised here. I guess OBX and PVL are not so far apart.

I used to think the display of these oval stickers was a flash of egotism. I see it differently now. At the very least, they inspire musings in the course of an otherwise dull commute. At the very best, they provide a sense of community for the like-minded. Oval stickers, I salute you. And your owners, too.

*Steve Webster is a native Virginian. He works as a lawyer in Alexandria and lives in the Purcellville area with his wife, five children, and two dogs. The dogs sincerely believe they are in charge.*

## Seniors Begin Search for Scholarships – *By Lauren Pichon*

With college applications complete, Valley seniors are beginning to focus their energy on a more pressing matter: paying for college. Within in-state tuition on the rise, and out-of-state tuition nearly double the price of in-state tuition, paying for college has become the concern of many seniors, even if they do live in Loudoun County. "I plan on paying for college mostly through financial aid and loans," said senior Sara Grandfield.

For the 2010-2011 academic year, the University of Virginia (UVA) estimated tuition and fees for undergraduate first year students to be \$10,836, not including room and board, books, and personal expenses. They estimate room and board to be \$8,590, and with all fees factored in, UVA estimates that the average first-year student will be paying \$22,543 in tuition and fees, not including travel expenses.

Other state schools such as the College of William and Mary estimate tuition and fees for in-state students in the 2010-2011 academic year to be \$23,538, while James Madison University estimates the 2010-2011 tuition and fees to be \$15,620. This is a relatively cheap price compared to out-of-state tuition at many universities. The University of Maryland estimated tuition and fees for out-of-state undergraduate students to be \$38,530. Similarly, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill estimates their undergraduate tuition and fees to be approximately \$38,922.

Private colleges will run approximately the same amount as out-of-state tuition at a public university. Elon University, located in Elon, North Carolina, estimated their undergraduate tuition and fees for the 2010-2011 academic year to be \$35,475. Villanova University, located in Villanova, Pennsylvania, estimated their tuition and fees to be \$39,350, not including room and board, making their total tuition and fees more expensive than out-of-state tuition at many public universities or at other private colleges. "I have understood that I would have to [have student loans] for a long time, so the idea has sort of become a part life for me," Grandfield said.

With the prospect of having multiple loans to pay off looming on the horizon, many seniors and their families have begun the process of searching and applying for scholarships

sponsored by local and national organizations. "I am only applying to one scholarship, it's through my church and my mom found it," Grandfield said.

Though applying for scholarships is a lot of work, seniors hope that scholarships will help decrease their financial burden after college graduation. "Applying for scholarships is a long process, but I'm hoping it will all pay off," said senior Corinna Clements.

Though applying for financial aid is a difficult process, seniors should know that they are not alone. There are many resources available to help them apply for financial aid, including the Career Center at Valley, and websites listing scholarships, such as fastweb.com. "Whenever my friends tells me college is already paid off, I feel really happy for them because that will make everything so much easier," Grandfield said.



### **LOUDOUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL LOOKING FOR OLD GRADUATING CLASS PHOTOS**

Loudoun Valley High School is celebrating their 50th graduating class during the school year 2013-2014. As part of the commemoration for this milestone anniversary they are collecting fifty years of Loudoun Valley graduating class photographs, which will be framed and displayed throughout the school in order to honor all Loudoun Valley High School graduates.

The following years of class photographs are needed: 1964-1968, 1978, 1993-1999, 2000-2007, and 2009. Contact Loudoun Valley High School if you can provide a copy of any of these graduation class photos. Please contact Vicki Dorsey Holstead with any questions at 540 751-2400.



# ▶ REAL ESTATE TICKER ▶ REAL ESTATE TICKER ▶ REAL ES

## – BY HEATHER ELIAS

Hello, and welcome to the new real estate section for the Blue Ridge Leader! I'm honored to participate as a writer and contributor. I've been writing a blog about life and real estate in Loudoun for a few years now, at [LoCoMusings.com](http://LoCoMusings.com), so it's natural for me to share some of my stories in a more traditional format. I'm writing from the perch of a full time real estate professional with Century 21 Redwood Realty in Ashburn. I also have a journalism degree, which is why I enjoy marrying my love of real estate with my love of writing. I am a resident of western Loudoun (with my husband and four children). I hope you will find my column to be informative and entertaining!

We've turned the corner into another year in Loudoun, so how did 2010 turn out, compared to 2009?

- Total Homes Sold 2010: 4936, which is down 8.8% from 2009
- Median Sale Price 2010: \$362,500, up 8.2% from 2009
- Average Days on Market 2010: 50, down 24.5% from 2009
- Percent of List Price to Sold 2010: 96.9%, up 0.9% from 2009

I see quite a bit of positive there...median sale price up over 8 percent is great, it definitely shows market recovery. And a 24% drop in days on market is good; most of the country would LOVE to see an average of 50 days on market. I'm not as concerned with the volume of homes sold; that is holding pretty steady.

What does this mean for 2011? It's probably not

going to take you as long to sell your home, and if we continue to see an 8% upward trend in median sold price, I have a lot of clients that are going to want to sell this year. I'm very optimistic that we are seeing stability in our market, a return to normal, and a reason to have confidence in your investment.

– Cheers, Heather

## MOST EXPENSIVE HOMES SOLD IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

Since it's the start of a new year, I've noticed a lot of the "Most Expensive Homes Sold" stories on the national level ... so I thought I'd do the same for us LoCo folks.

All information and photos are courtesy of the Metropolitan Regional Information Systems, our multiple listings service (MLS). Congratulations to all of the new homeowners of these exquisite properties, and Happy New Year. Enjoy!

Heather Elias is an active real estate professional with Century 21 Redwood Realty in Ashburn, and is licensed in Virginia. You can find her at [LoCoMusings.com](http://LoCoMusings.com).

### 33024 Sunken Lane, Upperville

On 86 acres in the Piedmont Hunt area, this manor home on 86 acres sold for \$4,250,000 in October ... location, location, location! The home was listed by Ann MacMahon of Sheridan-MacMahon, and boasts a first floor master suite, curved staircase, tenant house, stable and ring, ponds, stone walls, and fencing. The new homeowners were represented by Paul MacMahon, also of Sheridan-MacMahon.



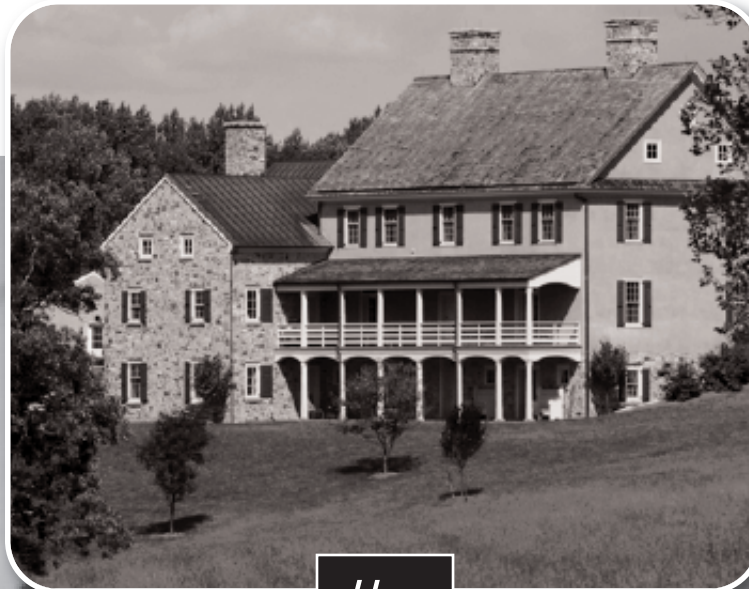
#2

### 37247 Mountville Road, Middleburg

Also making the list is another historic property, this one constructed around 1800 in Middleburg, and restored with an architecturally appropriate addition. On a 17.57 acre property with pond, stable, fencing, and studio, the home sold in October for \$2,400,000 to buyers represented by Rick Lowe of Armfield, Miller, and Ripley. The home was listed by Mary South Hutchison, also of Armfield, Miller, and Ripley.



#4



#1

### 37681 Full Cry Farm Lane, Middleburg

Full Cry Farm, on 234 gorgeous acres just south of Middleburg, tops our list for 2010, selling for an even \$5,000,000 in April.

You know it's a special home, when the description says it was "completed" in 2004 instead of built! Listed by John Coles of Thomas & Talbot Real Estate, the home has over 8,000 finished square feet, a stocked pond, 8 fireplaces, exposed beams, gourmet kitchen, 18 stall barn (with 2 bedroom apartment above), riding ring, and six paddocks. According to the website for the property, the home was designed to be "a new home with the genuine feel of an era gone by." The buyers for this breathtaking property were represented by Rein du Pont, also of Thomas & Talbot Real Estate.

#3

### 39280 Snickersville Turnpike, Middleburg

Here's the second Snickersville Turnpike home to make our list, although this one is in Middleburg instead. Sold for \$3,200,000 in July, "Wood Hill" has 49 acres, including a pool, cabana, tennis courts, stables, 7 fireplaces, and two tenant houses. Listed by Donna Baker of Armfield, Miller, and Ripley, the home was only on the market for 27 days before it was sold by Helen MacMahon of Sheridan-MacMahon, Ltd.



### 17163 Silver Charm Place, Leesburg



#5

Coming in at the 6th slot is a 12,000 square foot mansion in the Beacon Hill community, listed by Marlene Baugh of Long and Foster. Only on the market for a mere 40 days, this estate home on a 4.19 acre lot overlooks a pond and boasts a four car garage, theatre rooms,

libraries, sports bar, chef's kitchen, music room, art studio, pool, hot tub, and a climate controlled wine cellar. Whew!

The features-packed home was sold for \$2,175,000 in May, and the buyers were represented by Lilian Jorgenson of Long and Foster.



— Real Estate Q&A —

Dear Doug

Douglas Frank holds a BA degree in English from Rutgers University and is a licensed realtor with over twenty years experience. Doug works with Prudential Carruthers Realtors in Fairfax, Virginia. He also has his Home Improvement License and owns a number of investment properties including houses, townhomes, and condos. Doug and his wife and two sons live in Fairfax, Virginia. (Opinions expressed here are ... only opinion!)



**Dear Doug:** My wife says this is a perfect time to invest in real estate, because interest rates are so low. She wants us to buy a condo inside the beltway, about 45 miles from our home. Her plan is to rent it out for 3 years or so, then sell it when real estate prices rise. I am willing to give this a try, but I know nothing about condos. Is there any advice you can give me?

**Dear Maybe Condo Buyer:** It is a perfect time to invest in real estate, but condos out of town require special consideration. I bought 3 condos in 2002, all part of one estate. They gave me a great price if I bought all three – so I did – but I did not keep them. They were each one- bedroom units, approximately 750 sq ft, each with a condo fee of \$425 per month. That was too high for me! My equity position was great. My monthly cash flow was not. Between the mortgage payment, taxes, and condo fee, I barely made any money. If you are looking for tax deductions, then a scenario like that might work – but if you want cash flow, then I would hesitate before buying a condo – especially that far away. Are you going to pay a management company to manage your property for you? Put that under "expenses" too, which will further erode your cash flow. If you must buy a condo that far away, I suggest you make sure to purchase WAY below market; make sure the owner-to-investor ratio is very high (say 70-30 or higher); and make sure the replacement reserves are adequate. Also-look out for law suits or any other conditions that could become a headache later. Traditionally, the cash flow and the growth in equity have historically been much better for single family homes and townhomes. I suggest you seek out a Realtor who is familiar with the market you're interested in, then do your homework!

**Dear Doug:** After buying my 50 year old house one month ago, I discovered that the new roof on my house was actually installed over the old one. It has not been a problem so far, but it seems to me that just covering up the old roof is not the proper way to do things. Is this a sign of shoddy workmanship? Do I have any recourse?

**Dear Roof Worrier:** "Recourse?" That's a funny way to put it. Roofers I know say: "How many 'courses' do you have on the house right now?" They mean: "How many layers of shingles are currently on the house?" If the answer is only one, then the cheapest way to redo the roof is to roof over the old one. Most jurisdictions allow for a new layer of shingles to be applied over a single course of old roofing. Some places allow 3 total layers! If installed correctly, they will last for years. Sometimes, if there are two (or more) layers, they will do a "rip off," get a dumpster, and charge more for labor. Did the seller provide receipts, and a warranty for the new roof at settlement? Have you gone into the attic during a rain, and looked around for any signs of water? Do any of your ceilings show signs of water seepage, or stains? In my opinion, if your new roof is not leaking, and you had it professionally inspected when you bought your house I wouldn't worry.

**Dear Doug:** I have interviewed several realtors and each of them gave me a different price for selling my home. The offers have ranged from 6% to 3% of sales price. Are commission fees negotiable?

**Dear Realtor Shopper:** One thing I like about real estate, is that EVERYTHING is negotiable. When I shop for anything, I try to negotiate, which can be unnerving for my wife ... seriously. YES listing fees are negotiable! When you're ready to put your house on the market, I suggest you interview three different Realtors. Check their references through other sellers they have worked with. In your interview, ask what the fees are, and what you get in return for those fees. Ask what the marketing plan is, and ask for a time-line. Be sure whomever you list with will keep in contact with you and communicate what actions they are taking to sell your home. Always get a market analysis for your neighborhood and surrounding area, so you are informed about the values in the local market. Ask for a Seller's Net Sheet so you are aware of all associated costs. Finally, be careful not to sign too long an agreement, because you could be tied to an agent longer than you want to be ... especially if your home does not sell. A 60-90 day contract is normal. If you plan on selling first, then buying, ask about a discount if you use the same agent for both. And one note of caution: Be careful not to choose a realtor solely because he or she is the cheapest. You really do get what you pay for.

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## Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth – by Tim Jon

### Beaverdam Reservoir

It probably isn't the first place that comes to mind for a visit on Christmas morning. But this past December 25th found me – well before sunrise – on the eastern shore of Beaverdam Reservoir. It appeared to be about half frozen, and the open water was literally swimming with a huge raft of Canadian geese.

Yeah, I know their proper name is 'Canada Geese,' but 'Canadian' sounds better to me. Anyway, there's always something alluring about hearing these birds when you're alone in a wild place.

A flock honking over the Dulles Town Center Mall just doesn't do the same thing.

But if you're in an isolated, quiet, maybe even sort of a mystical place, these buggers can really draw you in. A bunch of them actually took off and went about their day's business as I stood on the shoreline – at least a couple of hundred yards from their swimming hole in the ice. They were too far for good pictures, but it was nice to know they were there. Other than maybe a squirrel back in the woods they were the only living things I saw between the time I left Evergreen Mills Road and got back on the highway.

I had discovered this access to the Reservoir a couple of years ago – by accident – while delivering mail. Traveling down an icy Reservoir Road in the dark- looking in vain for clear addresses on mailboxes- is not something I recommend for the faint of heart. I drove over a mile past the last box, before I came to a very informal cul-de-sac/parking area, about 60 yards from the water. I made a mental note to return some day and back-tracked my route to get on with my assignment.

So, it had been nearly two years since I'd been to the spot, and it was pretty much as I'd remembered it. A bit forlorn, almost foreboding. Electrical pylons and other obvious signs of Man's attempts to alter his environment. The kind of place you'd maybe expect to find some of the Hell's Angels chillin' out after a Rolling Stones Concert. But, somehow, worthy of a visit on Christmas morning, just before dawn.

In fact, given the timing of my visit, there was something very magical about the whole experience; two miles of very rural, unpaved road- leading to – for Loudoun County – quite a large body of water, almost certainly deserted.

The first light of day will do that for some places. Or, maybe it's just some people. The sky turning from dark blue to gray (it was rather cloudy) - with the intermittent hints of

pink – contrasted by the blackness of the trees towering over my car as I crept along- the kind of morning that makes you wish you had ol' Claude Monet or one of them other French painters along to capture the moment.

Anyway, even a local safari at dawn is enough to get my blood going. Or, maybe I just make really good coffee.

And let me tell you: Reservoir Road is not the kind of place you want to find yourself in a snowstorm. I'm not sure how some of those residents – way back in there – get in and out during really bad weather. You know what happens on hilly, slippery, windy, narrow roads in winter in Loudoun County. Well, if you don't- stay off of them. No – this place is adventurous enough at the best of times. You wouldn't find me out there when it's icy and covered in snow. Well, unless the Postal Service told me to go. But, don't try that at home.

So, the time and Day of my trip to Beaverdam Reservoir had me thinking the usual Christmas-y, spiritual, peaceful, brotherly love kind of thoughts, what I had done on previous Christmas mornings with family and friends. There's always that magical excitement associated with those memories- whether it's with Mom and Dad in church or dinner at Grandma and Grandpa's house, or out pheasant hunting with my brothers, or ice fishing with my buddies. Christmas morning is pretty much sacred, as far as my recollection goes. Doesn't matter if you're with loved ones, strangers, or all alone with a flock of Canada Geese at Beaverdam Reservoir. Maybe they knew it was Christmas, too, and had to go to church- that special ornithological branch they have. So, I guess this was exactly the kind of place that would come to mind when thinking of a pre-dawn visit on the 25th of December.

In fact, as I was driving back to civilization (and Evergreen Mills Road), my mind 'accidentally' replayed the tape on a pivotal moment in one of my favorite movies. In *Rebel Without a Cause*, James Dean and Sal Mineo are talking about when 'the end of the world' will happen; Dean's character says it'll come at dawn.

I always wondered about that.

After my Christmas morning trip to Beaverdam, I believe the world will begin at dawn. So, I guess that makes this a New Year's Story.



## Solar Panels Best Way to Reduce Energy Bills – By Valerie Joyner

Most homeowners across the U.S. are doing all they can do to reduce their electricity bills. But which energy efficient improvements to your home will save you the most on your monthly utility bill?

In a recent study by Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) they examine the trade-off between energy efficiency retrofits like lighting, weatherization and insulation and solar energy generation systems for homeowners throughout the U.S.

Saving energy in the U.S starts at home. The residential sector consumes 22% of the energy in the United States, cars about 17%. Actions that individuals take to reduce home energy costs will give them more disposable income – while simultaneously creating good local jobs, improving the environment and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

Homeowners have two ways to structurally reduce their energy costs; retrofit energy efficiency measures and solar energy generation. The individual economic situation and energy usage pattern directly impacts the choice of which measure to use. Purcellville homeowner Louise Lynn opted for solar energy since her home was already energy efficient and no combination of measures were necessary.

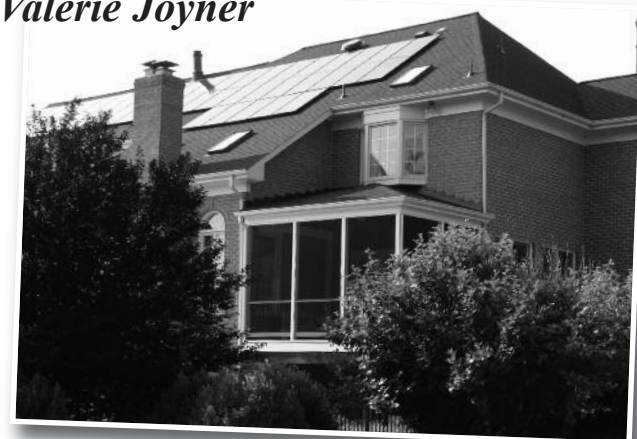
Numerous surveys validate that homeowners' first goal is to save money when making efficiency and solar improvements. "When combining the 30% federal tax credit, monthly avoided electricity costs and the income from solar renewable energy credits, payback for installing solar can be as short as 7-9 years," says Solar Energy World VP Geoff Mirkin. "For many homeowners, solar just makes economic sense. Solar energy systems can reduce annual home energy expenses by an average of 32%, whereas basic lighting, weatherization and insulation retrofits combined can reduce energy expenses by only 5%. "It's amazing to me that the sun can shine and you get free energy, and it's non polluting," said Louise Lynn of Purcellville.

According to the Dept. of Energy, as much as one half of home energy use goes to heating and cooling – so, smart decisions about the home's heating, ventilating and air conditioning system can have a big effect on utility bills and reducing home energy consumption. However, part of the problem is that thermostats can be over-ridden and consumption

monitors can be ignored – whereas rooftop solar, efficient lighting or insulation will deliver savings regardless of homeowner actions (or in-actions). What homeowners are finding attractive about solar is the federal tax credit of 30%, avoided electricity costs, and Solar Renewable Energy Credit earnings. The combination of these makes solar affordable with a pay-back of 7-9 years.

For some homeowners the thought of solar may seem daunting, but it's actually very simple. Solar panels are installed in most cases on the southerly rooftop, where the roof is free from shading. During the day the solar panels harness the sun's energy supply and convert it into electricity, which runs into an inverter that converts the DC power to AC power. A net meter is installed on the home allows power to run to and from the electric grid. The meter pulls from the grid during non-sun hours and sends power to the grid during hours of full sun. This is considered a grid-tied system – the most popular and cost effective available. At the end of the billing cycle the homeowner pays the difference between what is produced/consumed.

"Since solar supplies electricity to your home, it is not recommend as a Do-It-Yourself project. Electrical work can be dangerous for someone without experience, so using a reputable installer allows the homeowner to have the greatest return on their investment," said Mirkin. There have been many advances in the manufacturing of solar panels which includes both aesthetic and efficiency readings.



Panels installed by Solar Energy World: [www.SolarEWorld.com](http://www.SolarEWorld.com)



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**Little GREENe Dress**

**IT IS RAINING LOVE AT LITTLE GREENe DRESS ...**  
 ... and we are ready for Valentine's Day...are you?  
 You are invited to our **GRAND OPENING**  
**Saturday, February 12, 2011, 10:00AM – 6:00PM**  
 All day events include well priced fabulous fashion, fun, great food, and drawings every hour. The "GREENe" Ribbon Cutting is at 12:00PM with very special "surprise" guests!  
 We carry a wide range of Upscale New, Handmade, and Resale fashion items for women, infants, children, teens, and mom's to be. You will find clothes, shoes, jewelry, handbags, accessories, Vintage-Retro items along with lots of toys and gifts.

**NOW ACCEPTING PARTY AND PROM DRESSES!**





Kelli Grim, President / CEO  
 "Chief Everything Officer"

609 E. Main St., #H (next door to Bloom)  
 Purcellville, VA 20132  
 (540) 338-8383 or (703) 881-8411  
 LittleGreeneDress@gmail.com  
 www.LittleGreenDress.com

**Do the MATH...**

**Open House Feb 6 2-4pm**

- + Art 2 times per week
- + Music 2 x per week
- + Technology 2 x per week
- + French 2 x per week
- + PE 3 x per week
- + Library 1 x per week
- + Field Trips more than 5 x year

**LCDS Students**



**LOUDOUN COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL**  
 Outstanding pre-k - 8th grade program  
 in a nurturing environment


www.LCDS.org  
 703.777.3841  
 20600 Red Cedar Dr., Leesburg, VA 20175

**Summer Camp Online Registration Coming Soon!**

**LOUDOUN COUNTY ADULT DAY CENTERS**  
 For Seniors with Physical Limitations or Memory Loss

**Our licensed adult day centers provide:**

- A safe, social environment with therapeutic activities
- Respite for caregivers needing support & free time
- Reasonable sliding scale fees




Offering engaging activities, individualized personal care, nutritious lunch and snacks, exercise, medication administration, health monitoring and limited transportation. Open weekdays from 7:30AM - 5:30PM

<p><b>Purcellville</b>                  Carver Center (off S. 20th St.)                  200 Willie Palmer Way                  571-258-3402</p>	<p><b>Leesburg</b>                  (near Leesburg Airport)                  16501 Meadowview Ct.                  703-771-5334</p>
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Video online at: [www.loudoun.gov/adulthoodcenters](http://www.loudoun.gov/adulthoodcenters)

Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services.



**Rust Sanctuary's Children's Nature Book Club**  
 Fridays, 10 am - 11:15 am

Join our book club with your child. Each week come listen to a nature themed book appropriate to the season, and then enjoy activities, games and nature walks related to that theme.

Members: Free; Nonmembers: \$3  
 To register: [julieg@audubonnaturalist.org](mailto:julieg@audubonnaturalist.org)  
 or call 703-669-0000 x 1

The Rust Nature Sanctuary is located only minutes from downtown Leesburg off Catocin Circle at 802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg, VA 20175.



# TOWNS and Villages

## HAMILTON

– By Terry Moon

How do you like the new signs on the East and West end of Hamilton? Did you know that years ago some Town Council Members wrote a grant that provided for the signs? Then other citizens worked on obtaining right of way and the design of the signs? The Town logo was developed over a series of meetings with citizens to emphasize the original name of Harmony. The logo shows people of all ages, walking and biking through town. The signs are a beautiful example of citizens working as elected officials and volunteers to beautify the entrances to the town. If this makes you more interested in the history of the Town of Hamilton, stop by the town office. There are several publications that detail the history. For example, did you know that Hamilton had a boardwalk and was a tourist destination for people escaping the heat of Washington, DC. There is a pamphlet for a walking tour of Hamilton which highlights some of the outstanding older homes and buildings in town.

The Town Council meets the second Monday of every month and always allows for public input. If there's something on your mind related to the town, stop by and share your thoughts. Special meetings are posted on the sign at the front of the park and also at the Town Office. With the winter weather here, the town gently reminds you that sidewalks must be cleared after a snowstorm. Hope, this February will not provide the depth of snow we saw last year.

As Valentine Day approaches remember to shop locally. Mosby's has electronics, clothing and almost anything else you could imagine. The Hamilton Natural Mercantile has hand made jewelry, soaps and wonderful food, vitamins, teas and coffee. The Beautiful South is a destination to enjoy. Lowry's won't be open for Valentine's Day but we look forward to March and the first sign of spring in Hamilton, their reopening.

Hamilton is a wonderful small town to live in and raise a family. This column is your place to share the news of living in Hamilton, special events in your family or celebrations you would like to share. Please email me at [moonsofhamilton@comcast.net](mailto:moonsofhamilton@comcast.net).

## LINCOLN

– By Ann Tiffany

On Sunday, January 23 at 3 p.m., 76 persons came to the Goose Creek Meeting House to hear Rich Gillespie, a former history teacher at Loudoun Valley High School and the Mosby Heritage Area Association's Director of Education, give a talk and slide show on "That Spring the War Came: 1861 in the Mosby Heritage Area".

According to the flier advertising his talk, the Mosby Heritage Area includes "one of the best-preserved 19th century landscapes in America." We learned a lot from this talk, but one interesting fact was that only 11 persons in the whole of Loudoun County voted for Abraham Lincoln to be president, and most of those votes came from what is now Lincoln. If you are interested in hearing more talks throughout this year, contact the web site [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).

The Lincoln Community League wants you to mark your calendars for Monday evening, February 28, for a community wide annual meeting. Watch the board as you enter town, and the post office bulletin boards for further updates on this meeting.

Also, this is a reminder to those who still need to pay their dues. The dues are \$20 per family, and you can make a check out to LCL and give your envelope to Anne at the post office. A big thank you goes out to the many persons who have given generous donations so far. The money goes towards helping the LCL sponsor events throughout the year; and to help pay for the lights along the sidewalks.

The Lincoln Community League has a board meeting the first Saturday of each month. You can let me know if you have any comments or concerns to bring up, and I will pass them on to Phil Daley or one of the board members.

In the past six months, Ellie Daley has made welcome baskets for five new families in the Lincoln area. Please let Ellie know if you have a new family move in close to your home.

In case you haven't heard, the Janney Store has been sold to Alan Cochran, a stone mason and the son of Billy and Bobbie Cochran. Alan plans to convert the store into an office for his business and the post office will continue to run out of the front of the store.

It was cold, but the Lincoln Community League reports that this December we had the largest turnout ever for the annual Christmas caroling. There were many children, of all ages, and after singing to all the neighbors between the Lincoln School and the Meeting House parking lot, they gathered around the bonfire for hot chocolate, cider and to roast marshmallows.

Phil Daley, our local ornithologist, reports that the annual bird count at the end of December was "slow" due to the wind and the clouds. However, about seven people braved the time (from 4:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and the elements. They were hoping to "hear" owls in the predawn hours, but they would have been better off staying in bed. They did see some later in the afternoon. About 49 species, and 2,037 individual birds, were spotted in the Lincoln sector (Purcellville to Mt. Gilead). The most unusual sighting for that time of year was the pine warbler.

I want to thank the Blue Ridge Leader for starting up a neighbors section for Western Loudoun. I have truly missed not writing this column, and there have been many times when I have thought, "Oh, that would make a wonderful story." Please e-mail me at [jtiff70519@aol.com](mailto:jtiff70519@aol.com) or leave a message on my phone at 540-338-6240 if you have any news. Please note that I will not write about someone unless I have their specific permission. I understand that this column will be monthly, so I will need your news by the 22nd of the month.

## ROUND HILL

– By Susanne Kahler

Woodgrove High School's Fine Arts department is presenting the 2011 Mardi Gras Auction and Showcase Saturday, February 12th from 7-9:30 p.m. The auction will be hosted by Tillet and Damewood Auctioneers. Appetizers and desserts by Savoir Fare Restaurant will be served by drama students in character. Entertainment will be provided by the Woodgrove Jazz Band, Joint Chorus, Drama students. Student's artwork will be on display and their will also be a gift basket raffle. Tickets are on sale at Savoir Fare Restaurant, Haute Dog & Fries, Hamilton Prudential Realty and through Woodgrove's fine arts teachers. Donations for the live auction are also welcome. Tickets are \$8 each for adults, students are free with accompanying adults. Please contact Vicki Fedor at [vicki@north-gate.com](mailto:vicki@north-gate.com).

– Girl Scout Troop helps Local Food Bank: Mandy Dukinfield, Morgan Balaban and Gabriella Huelsman of Girl Scout troop #1568 in Round Hill are accomplishing their GS Silver Award. These cadettes are working with the food bank branch of the Tree of Life in Purcellville. The girls are putting in a minimum of 30 hours of community service helping stock shelves, organize canned goods and fulfill orders for families in need at the food bank. In addition, the girls are arranging food drives and collecting items for the establishment. Of course at this time of year they would like to supply the food bank with as many boxes of Girl Scout cookies as possible. The girls have made the Tree of Life Food Bank their "Gift of Caring" charity for all donated boxes. If you would like to donate GS cookies to the food bank please send a check to: GS Troop #1568, 19345 Fairhaven Ct., Round Hill, VA 20141. Cookies are \$4.00/bx. In addition, if you are a local business owner in the Round Hill or Purcellville area and would be willing to allow the girls to collect non-perishable food items at your location, please call 540-554-2083 to discuss details.

– The Gateway Gallery, an artist's cooperative, hosts a "Meet the Artists" reception Friday, February 18th from 6-9 pm. The gallery is staffed by member artists who are very knowledgeable about the art on display. Come meet the artists and talk to them about their creative processes. Or, ask for the stories that inspired each piece. Our featured artists will be present to demonstrate and discuss their fine works and we'd love to see you there. The Gallery is located next to Hill High Orchard on Harry Byrd Highway (Rt. 7).

## WATERFORD

– By Edith Crockett

Looking for something new to do outdoors to escape cabin fever? Follow the Interpretive Trail of the Phillips farm, which was saved from development and is now owned by the Waterford Foundation thanks to generous public and private support. The 144-acre farm is now protected in perpetuity as open space for agricultural use.

Many species of birds have been sighted, including bluebirds, herons, Cedar waxwings woodpeckers, hawks, ospreys and a barred owl, kingfishers, and Carolina wrens. The trail takes you past a hand dug millrace dating to the mid 18th century; Ball's Run, as well as a dam. A free self-guided brochure may be picked up at the trailhead just behind the Old Mill on lower Main Street in Waterford. Better yet, you can also download an excellent brochure, which has a detailed map and descriptive text for each of the 15 markers along the trail. Go to: [www.waterfordfoundation.org/education/Phillips-farm](http://www.waterfordfoundation.org/education/Phillips-farm). The round trip easy walk is approximately 1.5 miles, and runs along the South Fork of Catoctin Creek. It's a great family adventure.

### Contribute to "Town & Villages"

To contribute news to a town or village you see here, email the writer for that place. To get your Loudoun town/village in this section, email Carol Dukes at [CarolBRLeader@yahoo.com](mailto:CarolBRLeader@yahoo.com).



# The dog saw the lamb ...

## And it was *Love* at first sight.



*T*his Valentine's Day two local businesses will combine their talents to create one of the most memorable, romantic and locally-luscious nights ever for you and your Valentine. **Haute Dogs' Pamela Swanson and Lionel Holmes** - with restaurant careers that include the Four Season's Hotel and Morton's Steakhouse - will provide the white tablecloth ambiance, service and "prepared to perfection" fare. **Fields of Athenry's Elaine Boland** will bring not just her passion for good food and good health, but her farm's fresh, locally raised, hormone and antibiotic-free meats.

**Price:** \$45 per person

### *Seatings:*

Friday, February 11th, 6:00 & 7:30  
 Saturday, February 12th, 5:30 & 7:30  
 Sunday, February 13th, 5:30 & 7:30  
**Valentine's Day**  
 Monday, February 14th, 6:00 & 7:30

**Seating is Limited & Reservations are Required**  
**Call (540) 338-2439**

## *Valentine's Menu*

### - Appetizer -

Lobster Bisque  
*or*

Fields of Athenry Lamb & Kielbasa tapas served with ground mustard, sauerkraut, pineapple/mango relish & mint jelly

### - Salad -

Haute House Salad: spinach salad with blue cheese crumbles, bacon and a warm bacon dressing

*or*

Cesar Salad

### - Entree -

Pan Seared Organic Salmon

*or*

Fields of Athenry Delmonico Steak

### - Dessert -

Key Lime Pie

*or*

Flourless Chocolate Cake w/ raspberry couli

### - Fields of Athenry Farm -

38082 Snickersville Turnpike, Purcellville, VA 20132  
 Farm Shop Open: Thurs. - Sat. 11 am - 6:30 pm; (703) 300-5765  
 Home Deliveries & Farm Drops (and we ship nationwide)  
[www.FieldsofAthenryFarm.com](http://www.FieldsofAthenryFarm.com)

### - Haute® Dogs & Fries -

(540) 338-2439; 609 East Main Street, Purcellville, VA 20132  
 Mon. -11am-8pm, Tues.-Sat.: 11am-9pm Sun.: 11am-5pm  
[www.HauteDogsandFries.com](http://www.HauteDogsandFries.com)