

Blue Ridge LEADER & Loudoun Today

April 2011

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Historic Barn Mistakenly Demolished

Developer "Caught Off Guard" Town of Purcellville "Had No Knowledge"

– By Valerie Joyner

Confusion reigned in Purcellville earlier this week as contractors for Roadside Development, LLC – the Washington, DC-based company responsible for the Purcellville Gateway redevelopment project – mistakenly demolished a significant amount of the historic barn that was to be preserved.

Demolition started at approximately 8 am on Monday morning. A representative from the Blue Ridge Leader newspaper was alerted by a neighbor and arrived at the scene at approximately 10 am. Both the barn and the old Cole farmhouse were to become part of the future Gateway project. The house was to be moved, and the barn was to be carefully dismantled, "relocated and restored" – both to a different part of the site.

In response to our phone call, a representative for the contractor hired by Roadside Development said "I am not so sure they should be tearing the barn down." In a second phone call to the contractor, company representative Ken Simonson stated that the company was "dismantling the barn, taking it apart to put in another location."

In the BRL's subsequent call to the Town of Purcellville, Town Manager

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Virginia **GOLD** Cup Celebrates 86 Years

One of the nation's largest steeplechase races celebrates its 86th anniversary this year. On Saturday, May 7, 2011 an estimated 50,000 people will gather at Great Meadow in The Plains, Virginia to socialize and watch some of the finest horses in the world compete over the lush green course.

Held every year on the first Saturday in May – the same day as the Kentucky Derby – the Gold Cup enjoys a spectacular setting in the heart of Virginia horse country. With the Blue Ridge Mountains serving as the backdrop, race day features five hurdle and timber horse races, Jack Russell Terrier races, tent, tailgate and hat contests, and over 30 vendor booths for shopping.

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Voter Redistricting Update

– By Blue Ridge Supervisor Jim Burton (I)

Dear Neighbor,

After much debate and not a little vitriol, the Board concluded its redistricting discussions with a narrow majority selecting a revised version of the Miller 5 Plan. The revisions include returning the Hillsboro precinct to my district, the transfer of both Hamilton precincts to Supervisor Kurtz' district and the trading of two precincts between the districts represented by Supervisors Delgaudio and McGimsey. Although I was the lone vote against the plan when Supervisor Miller first submitted it in February, I was a reluctant 5th vote in favor of the plan's selection on Tuesday [March 15th]. What changed my mind?

In the weeks between that original vote and Tuesday's meeting, several Central Loudoun HOA Boards expressed their disappointment in Mr. Miller's plan. In particular, they iterated a desire that their communities not be split between election districts. Joining together, they created their own plans – a total of four. All of the plans are posted on-line in the County's map gallery. In an effort to

meet his constituents requests, Mr. Miller submitted several variations of his original plan, all of which were found wanting. Ultimately, Mr. Miller threw his support behind the HOA plans, as did Chairman York, Supervisors Delgaudio and Waters, and the Loudoun County Republican Committee.

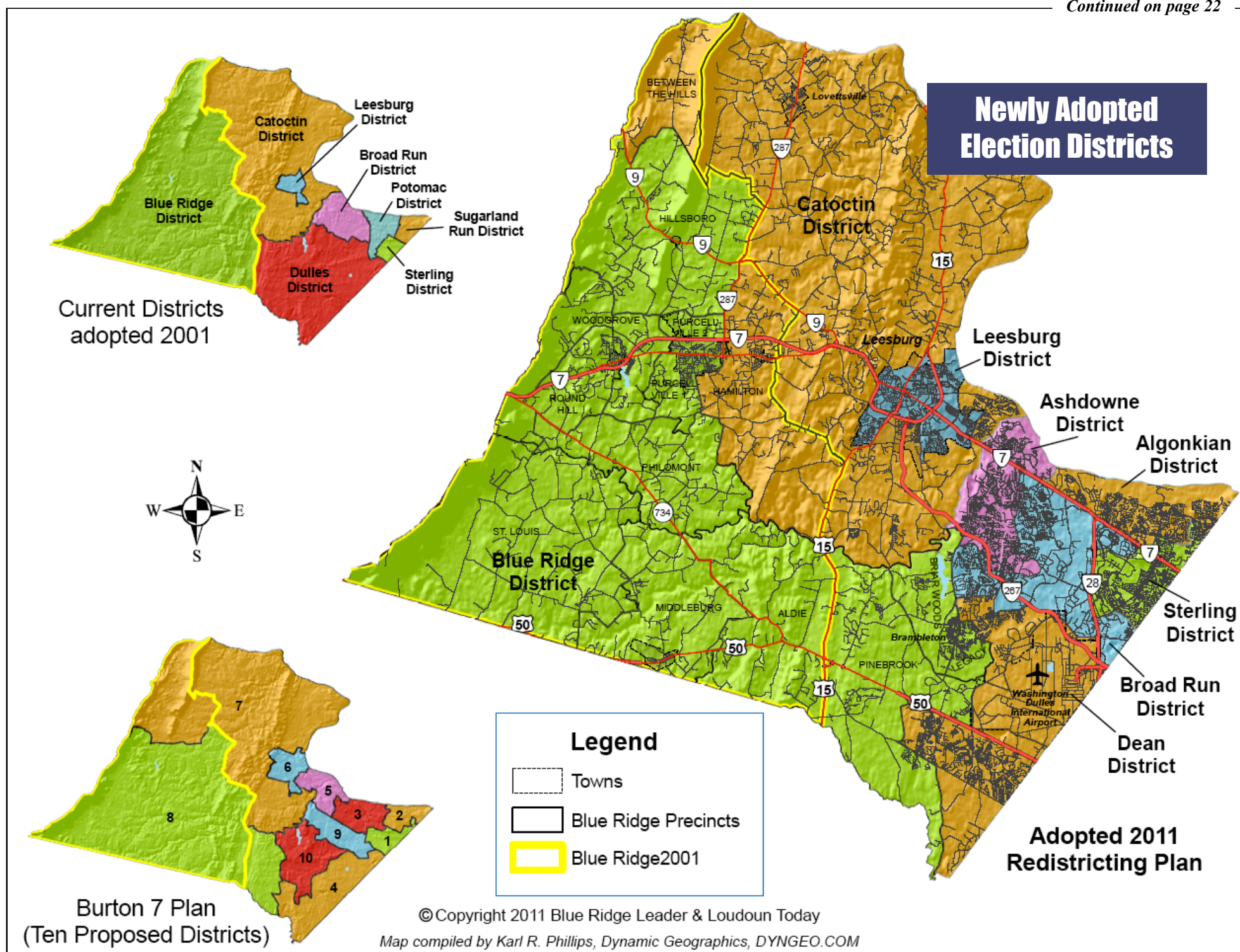
During that period, I was contacted by representatives of the HOAs and several citizen activists working on the plans. I applauded their effort and expressed my goals and concerns for the process in the hope that their plans might address them. However, independently, I also submitted proposals that changed the total number of districts from eight to either six or ten. Of the two, I preferred the ten-district proposal, also posted on-line. I believed it offered the greatest flexibility for keeping "communities of interest" together or at least ensure that no portion of a community found itself without sufficient numbers to command their representative's attention. I received positive comments from both constituents and colleagues. Several colleagues privately expressed that they would support it as a

second option if no other plan could claim a majority or be tweaked to do so.

Prior to Tuesday's meeting, I was informed that champions of the HOA plan would attempt to vote down the other plans until it was the last one standing thereby ensuring there would be pressure to adopt the last remaining plan. This was the same strategy that had been used effectively in February with Mr. Miller's first plan. I, on the other hand, was willing to support leaving both an HOA plan and the Miller plan (the two plans which each had the strong backing of four votes) on the table to see if either could be tweaked to overcome their weaknesses – so long as my colleagues paid me the same respect and left my ten-district plan on the table as a back-up. This, my colleagues refused to do, leaving me with the unpleasant choice of choosing between two plans neither of which I liked.

The various HOA plans offered me, personally, a district entirely within the Rural Policy Area, almost all of the precincts I have represented since the last redistricting plus

Continued on page 22



Garden Week at Mt. Gilead

The Leesburg Garden Club and the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club are teaming up to bring visitors a rare glimpse of the historic Mount Gilead area during Virginia Garden Week.

Visitors will wind down the narrow back-roads by small and cozy transport to discover the homes and gardens of a time gone by.

Once a thriving town atop a mountain, Mount Gilead had a post office, a general store, a school house, two shoe factories, two cabinet makers and a cooper's shop.

This tour and three dozen others are part of the Garden Club of Virginia's 78th anniversary

celebration of Historic Garden Week, April 16-23, 2011. Known as "America's Largest Open House", it is the oldest tour of its kind in the US. Tickets are available in advance or the day of the tour.

A comprehensive Guidebook for all of the tours during Historic Garden Week is available.

The Mount Gilead tour is accessible only by shuttle bus. All visitors are to park in a field opposite Willowcroft Winery, 38906 Mount Gilead Road, (at the intersection of Loudoun Orchard Road and Mount Gilead Road). Follow signs to tour and parking area.



Date/Hours: Monday, April 18, 2011-10am-5pm

Admission Fee: Day of tour tickets available at Willowcroft Winery, Oatlands Plantation (see address below) and Loudoun Convention and Visitors Center or at individual homes: \$15 for single home admission; \$30 for admission to all properties; ages 6-12 are half price; 5 and younger are free.

In-Advance tickets: \$25 for admission to all properties and can be purchased by sending a check (made payable to the Leesburg Garden Club) with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mrs. Dan McGinnis, PO Box 1290, Leesburg, VA 20177. Tickets may also be purchased in advance with a credit card by accessing the Historic Garden Week secure website www.vagardenweek.org.

Or through the following purveyors:

Loudoun Convention and Visitors Center: 112-G South Street, SE, Leesburg, VA 20175, 800-752-6118 / 703-771-2170, www.visitloudoun.org.

Leesburg Vintner: 29 South King Street, Leesburg, VA 20175, 703-777-3322.

The Pink Box: 12 North Madison Street, Middleburg, VA 20117, 540-687-8888.

Oatlands Gift Shop (through day of tour): 20850 Oatlands Plantation Road, Leesburg, VA 20175, 703-777-3174.

For more information and a brochure: 703-771-3081 or 703-777-6907.

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Construction Begins for New Town Hall Removal of Old Oaks Surprise Many – More Trees to Come Down

– By Valerie Joyner

Early last week construction for the parking lot for the new Purcellville Town Hall began. The building the new Town Hall will occupy (the old Purcellville Baptist Church) has only a limited number of parking spaces (six on-street spaces in the front of the building). To provide the sixty-seven spaces needed, the Town will take over the now gravel parking area at Fireman's Field, requiring the removal of over twenty five mature white oak trees.

Former Town Councilman and Vice Mayor Paul Arbogast, owner of Arbogast Lawn & Tree in Purcellville, was a bystander at the site and watched as the trees that he had taken care of for so many years came down. "These were white oak trees," Mr. Arbogast noted, "some of them 300 years old." "I realized they [the Town of Purcellville] need more parking here at Fireman's Field, but if there was a will to save some of these trees, it could have been done. These white oak trees needed to die with dignity ... not be ripped apart."

Reportedly, the health of the trees had been evaluated by the Care of Trees Company. One of the salespersons for Care of Trees serves on Purcellville's Tree & Beautification Committee. The Blue Ridge Leader has made a Freedom of Information Act request to explore how the Town made the determination that the trees could not be saved.



Meet Blue Ridge Supervisor, Jim Burton (I)

Brambleton and a small part of Loudoun Valley Estates and areas in between, will soon be included in the Blue Ridge District. Jim Burton will now represent these areas. Those of you who are new to the district may be wondering who is Jim Burton? What does he stand for? What has he done for the county?

Supervisor Burton is a true independent who has worked with Democrats and Republicans, going his own way while bringing members of both parties with him. He is a fiscal conservative and a social moderate. His focus over the years has been on maintaining the County's financial health while providing residents with the services needed, such as schools, safety centers and libraries.

Supervisor Burton moved to Loudoun after living in Springfield and Burke Lake, thus, although he now lives in the western village of Aldie, he is no stranger to suburban needs.

A retired Air Force Colonel, like many military men, Supervisor Burton is not "warm and fuzzy" – instead, there is a seriousness of purpose about the man, a tendency to cut straight to the heart of a problem, analyse it, look for the best solution for the most people, and when it is found, do every-

thing in his power to make it work. Because he is retired, he can devote 100% of his time to the work of the Board of Supervisors and his constituents, which he does. Among other accomplishments, Supervisor Burton:

- ◆ Got a mini sewer pant and indoor plumbing for a rural village, which because of soil conditions, still used outhouses and hauled water by hand.
- ◆ Found a mighty, lengthy effort to get a high school built in Purcellville where the school was so crowded that freshman were still attending classes in a nearby middle school.
- ◆ Simultaneously worked to find more funds for more schools in other areas of Loudoun including schools which will be built in the Brambleton area in the next several years.

◆ Was the moving force behind several standards and policies which increased transparency in local government, including the Ethics Code which governs the behavior of the Board members. Those who have known him for many years know Supervisor Burton as an honest, intelligent hardworking man who garners a tremendous amount of respect.

Barn Demolished, continued from page 1

Rob Lohr stated that "they are supposed to be preserving the barn." He further said he had "no knowledge" of any demolition going on and would call us back. Richard Lake of Roadside Development was contacted and stated that the barn at the Cole property "has to be dismantled and relocated – it's part of our contract." When told that the barn was being demolished, Mr. Lake said he was "caught off guard" and would look into the matter. Demolition continued until approximately 12:30. The town did not return additional calls from the Blue Ridge Leader on Monday, and no one from the Town appeared to be present at the work site. In a call early Tuesday morning, when asked if the town had required the developer for a dismantling and restoration plan, Town staff indicated they were "unaware of one but were asking for one, now."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Horrified at Tree Cutting at Fireman's Field

Dear Editor:

I recently drove past Fireman's Field, in Purcellville, and observed to my horror that almost a dozen beautiful mature oak trees had been cut down to pave a huge parking lot, presumably for the new town hall which will be relocated into the old Purcellville Baptist Church across the quiet residential street. Couldn't land have been purchased elsewhere with available open space? This seems a continuation of rampant defoliation of rustic land; witness the

shocking tree removal at Cole Farm. This rush to develop new commercial spaces with no regard to a rural aesthetic is heartbreaking.

I moved to Loudoun County thirty years ago for the lovely agricultural framework within which Purcellville was built, and it is fast disappearing. Must we become a Manassas-style strip mall? The Cole Farm plan is an artificial "country" contrivance, and I suppose we have no one to blame but ourselves. We elected a governing body without concern for cultural heritage. Their focus seems entirely upon the almighty dollar, and business is calling all the shots. – Shirley Lyle Volberg, Purcellville

The Commerce Clause

Dear Editor:

With the recent news that the Federal Government tried to force people to buy health care insurance or face a penalty it is time to examine the Commerce Clause.

The Constitution is broken into a Preamble (We the people ...) and seven articles in which the details of the Constitution are contained. There are also the first ten amendments, commonly referred to as the Bill of Rights and seventeen additional amendments. The Articles themselves do not have a title but a brief

description of each is given below:

– Article I defines the legislative power of the government. It defines the Senate and the House of Representatives and the power granted to the legislature. – Article II defines the executive branch of government and defines the terms, method of election, and the power of the President and Vice-President. – Article III defines the judicial branch of government and defines the Supreme Court and the power granted to it. – Article IV defines the relationship among states. – Article V provides for a process for amendments. – Article VI

Water (and taxpayer dollars) Everywhere

– By BRL Staff

Statistics from the Town of Purcellville show the operational numbers behind the Basham Simms Wastewater Facility and indicate clearly why Town residents' water bills continue to rise.

The Basham Simms Wastewater Facility started operation in April 2002. Eight years later the plant was expanded by 50% – by “mandate” according the Mayor Robert Lazaro, even though Freedom of Information Act requests show no such documentation AND, at the time the facility was operating at less than 50% capacity.

The original plant cost about \$8 million and the expansion cost \$30.5 million.

The debt service for the sewer plant rose from \$744,000 in FY 2010 to almost \$2.75 million in the current fiscal year. The town is not receiving much revenue from the connection fees. Last year, \$1.3 million was budgeted but the town revised the forecast at mid-year to zero. This year the town projects \$626 million in sewer connection fees. This is about \$2.1 million short of the needed amount to pay the debt service.

It's this debt service that is causing user fees to go up significantly. (This despite the fact that the Town is also withdrawing over \$2 million from reserves to pay the debt service.) It is anticipated that Town residents will continue to see large increases in user fees – 25%+ per year for the next four years. Increased fees are needed to pay the debt for the expansion, leaving Town residents to pay for a too-large facility with has over 70% excess capacity.

“The Basham Simms Wastewater Facility started operation in April 2002. Eight years later the plant was expanded by 50% – by “mandate” according the Mayor Robert Lazaro, even though Freedom of Information Act requests show no such documentation AND, at the time the facility was operating at less than 50% capacity.”

For Comparison: The Numbers Behind Purcellville's Water Treatment Facility

	May 2010 Before Plant Expansion	January 2011	February 2011
Effluent Flow	471,000 gal/day	402,200 gal/day	425,700 gal/day
Capacity	1,000,000 gal/day	1,500,000 gal/day	1,500,000 gal/day
% Capacity Used	47%	27%	28%
% Original Capacity Used	47%	40%	43%

**WHAT'S YOUR OPINION? SEND US YOUR
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AT
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Blue Ridge
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OPINION

The Cabal That Spends Your Taxes

– By Valerie Joyner

You have to wonder how a small town like Purcellville – with a little over 7,000 residents – got itself into debt to the tune of \$66 million ... or more than \$9,000 per person. Contrast that to the \$4,000 per person debt of Loudoun County, and you've got to conclude that something is going on.

What's in play in Purcellville is a good old fashioned “cabal” or group of individuals and organizations that has legally figured out how to tax you and then spend the money for their benefit ... not necessarily the public's. The group is made up of mostly local people, including politicians, who work together to approve projects that require governmental expenditures. Purcellville is not unique, it's the way most local governments work in the United States. This group actually performs a function that is good for society – planning and development. But, when “planning and development” proceeds down a path that ends up enriching a small group at the expense of the whole – the community – things can turn very bad.

The main driver in the process is the developer or builder. First, he or she either owns or buys land in the area. In Purcellville, the process started in the late 1980's and early 1990's when developers bought struggling farms to build houses and strip malls. Here, the emphasis today is on commercial – and in some cases institutional development such as private schools – because the housing market is in serious decline.

In most cases, rezoning – including special exceptions or special use permits – is needed. That's where the developer or builder hands the process over to the lawyers and land use planners or consultants, as other key members of the cabal come into the picture. They have the skills and knowledge (and connections) needed to layout and plan new developments and get approval from the politicians. The consultants play an important role in analyzing the technical aspects of land use. They are needed to determine water and sewer needs and to help the town “finance” these things – sometimes through token proffers but mostly through the taxpayer's checkbook.

The politicians, the fourth member of the group, are essential to approve the proposed developments. And at various times in the process, other power brokers and institutions in the community also play a important role in getting the developer's projects approved.

The key thing to understand is that the developer must keep building in order to survive. If he can't build house, he'll build shopping centers, gas stations and office buildings. He pays the lawyers and planners to design and get approval for the projects he needs to build to survive and prosper. He gives the politicians cover to vote for the projects in the name of “progress” or the “need” for the facility, sweetening the deal with a little public space here and a few feet of sidewalk there.

Everybody in the group, the developers, lawyers, planners, consultants and the politicians are part of this mutually beneficial arrangement. Everybody either benefits financially or politically. It's not uncommon for this group to have a very cozy social relationship. In some cases the town government even has direct conflicts of interest wherein members of the town government are suppliers or consultants of town business. Only a small group of citizens express any opposition to the decisions of the town's politicians who usually vote as an unopposed group on most matters.

Unfortunately, the cabal that spends the town's money will continue to function as long as the residents are complacent. In Purcellville's case, it means the Town will continue to increase water and sewer bills by 25% to 30% per year; allow the destruction of dozens of trees to build a shopping center; spend over \$7 million to renovate a run-down church for a town hall when a brand new building would have cost \$4.5 million, and run a road through an historic working farm.

And then the cabal turns its sights on the next opportunity to tax you and spend the money for their benefit ...

... The Purcellville Town Council voted on February 8th to expand the Police Department by adding 1,369 additional square feet to the office which they currently rent (until June 30th 2016). The space will add an additional \$18. per square foot and the property owner will have the work done by an independent contractor at an extra rent cost of \$6.50 per square foot to be added to the base rent. The additional space will add \$33,540.50 per year to the existing rent which is approximately \$44,000, Council Member CJ Walker recused himself from voting on this item because he plans to bid on the project.

Town Budget Blooming With Taxpayer Burden – a Tutorial

– By Ryan J. Cool

Spring is here, the flowers are blooming and everyone is anxious to get outside after a long winter. However, spring is also budget time for many local governments, including Purcellville. So even if your inclination is to get outside and forget the budget, concerned citizens really should look at it.*

To begin, don't be scared off by the size of the document. Although it is 292 pages, much of it is fluff. The budget is the most important thing the Town Council does. Essentially, it provides direction to the town staff on activities for the entire year. It is important that the general public is aware of the issues involved in the budget. By observing the budget, tax and utility fund rate increases can be forecasted.

Any page references given below refer to the number printed on the bottom of each page. To get an overview of the document focus on the following summary information:

- **Start at page 51 where the revenue trends are discussed.**
- **Page 62 has a good summary of the debt.**
- **Page 68 has a good summary of the projected revenue.**

Pay particular attention to the amount of money transferred in from cash reserves. This is money used from a rainy day fund to balance the low revenue – and the use of this is significant. Leesburg has done this in the past, and when mentioned as an option to Mayor Lazaro in 2009 at a public hearing he stated how Leesburg transferring funds like this is bad fiscal policy. Why the change now?

- **The detail sheets start on page 75 with the General Fund being first, followed by the new Parks and Recreation Fund, the Water Fund and finally the Wastewater fund. These sheets can be used to drill down on any item of interest but generally concentrate on the summary information.**
- **The debt service can generally be found at the end of each respective section.**
- **General Fund – page 108**

- **Special Parks and Recreation Fund – no debt has been allocated to this fund.**
- **Water Fund – page 122**
- **Wastewater Fund – page 128**
- **The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) starts on page 129 with an index of the various projects on the next page, followed by summary information on the next few pages. Use the index for page of the detail sheets of the projects you desire to look at closer.**

A few interesting items are listed here:

- **The CIP is shown as requiring a total of \$44 million between the current year and the five projected years.** All but approximately \$6 million will be financed. This will raise the total Purcellville debt to \$103 million less principal payments are made during this time frame.
- **General Fund debt service is \$1.25 million,** up 29% from last year. (p. 108)
- **The cost of the Southern Collector Road (SCR) is estimated at \$6.7 million and the town will have spent \$1.7 million this fiscal year (according to the current estimates). Over \$1 million of this is in the design of the SCR.** This seems to be a very excessive amount of design for a quarter mile of roadway. Much of the rest is in the land & legal expenses column and since they have not bought the land it must be mostly legal expenses. (p. 178 – 179)
- **In round numbers these new Town Hall project will be a \$10 million project.** (p. 192 – 195) The town hall renovation is now at \$4 million and the purchase total at \$2.4. This does not include the parking lot improvements at Fireman's Field or the house they purchased for more parking. So by the numbers it is \$6.4 million and the \$4 million is really only a budgetary estimate. Now if you add in the money for the parking lot and house at Fireman's Field, the total cost is \$8.1 million and they still will have a significant move-in cost. Previously the town had estimated that the move in cost

would be \$1.2 million. There is also likely to be what is termed as constructive change orders to the renovation. Existence of mold or hazardous materials could add more cost. In round numbers this will be a \$10 million project. (p. 192-195)

- **The Parks and Recreation Department has been broken into a new fund for the first time this year.** For the first time, there is an employee in this department, although because of the low salary it is a part-time person, a summer hire, or a position that will only be filled late in the fiscal year. (p. 111)
- **The cost of the Police Department is \$1.6 million** but that does not include many of the associated cost such as the capital cost of the police vehicles and the rental of the police department building. (p. 89)

Decisions made concerning debt will encumber the town for decades ahead. Ensure your input is heard.

While not included in this budget, it is also important to note that the Mayor and Town Council held an emergency meeting on March 4, 2011 for the purpose of "exploring opportunities for financial participation by Loudoun County on the implementation of the Fireman's Fields Master Plan." What does this really mean? The fact is that the Town, despite having budgeted for this, has over-extended itself and any further borrowing to pay for this would push the Town dangerously close to its self-imposed 15% debt service limit. Further, if the funds were taken from the Town's "rainy day fund," it would hurt the Town's ability to borrow. It is a plea for a bailout from the County for the Town's overspending.

*Note: There is a discrepancy in the page numbering between the Adobe formatted document online and the page numbering in the document. There are several pages that Adobe formatted as blanks and the discrepancy is approximately 10 pages.

The proposed budget for Purcellville is available online at: www.purcellvilleva.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, continued from page 4

provides for the superiority of federal versus state laws. – Article VII provides the process for ratification of the Constitution.

The Commerce clause of the Constitution is contained in Section 8 of Article I. The Commerce clause is the second of the enumerated powers of the legislature as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defense and general Welfare of the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States. To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes. To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and ... (Continued for 17 enumerated powers.)

At this point, it is necessary to refer to the 10th Amendment which states, The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

So, Congress has only the limited powers granted to it by the specific wording of the Constitution. It does not have power to do anything it wants. The United States was formed by a union of Sovereign States that accepted limits on their own authority in specific areas and this authority was passed to the Federal Government. What do these words mean, "regulate commerce among several states"? Do they mean what the founders meant or do they mean what ever someone today defines them to mean. Written words express an idea or message of the person writing them. In a case of law today they will bring people to court to express their interpretation of the meaning of things that they participated in. For example, the PUGAMP agreement has been in court several times in the recent years. The litigants

frequently call people who participated in writing the agreement to testify on what they thought the language meant when they wrote it. In a similar manner, today we read what our founding fathers thought the Constitution meant by reading a series of papers written by the same men who wrote the Constitution as they explain what they think the Constitution means. This collection of writings has been preserved and published in what is known as The Federalist Papers. What do The Federalist Papers say about the power of the Federal Government to regulate commerce between that states?

Madison addresses the commerce clause in Federalist Number 44. This discussion is about the regulation of trade among the states and how the states would not be allowed to impose duties on goods shipped through one state to another state for eventual sale. The intent appears to be preventing one state from taxing goods going to another state. For example, it was feared that goods imported in one state with a good harbor could be loaded with an import duty that would in effect have citizens of a state without the harbor being taxed to support the state with the harbor.

Early court decisions by judges who had access to the original intent severely restricted the Federal authority in these areas. Early court decisions stated, for example that production was local and subject to state control and that the interstate commerce did not begin until the goods started their final journey to the final destination. Hence all regulation of employers and production was left entirely to the states. More liberal judges, beginning especially during the later half of the 20th century began allowing anything that affected the eventual interstate

commerce to be regulated by the Federal authority. Some of the logic associated with this decision was that business organized such that production was across state lines hence the authority to regulate had to necessarily go across state lines, i.e. to the Federal Government.

The problem with extending the logic to increase Federal Government authority is that they are usurping the authority retained by the states when they ceded certain powers to the Federal Government via approving the Constitution. There would be no issue if the Federal Government went through the Constitutional Amendment process to get more authority from the sovereign states in the manner originally agreed to. This was not done. Instead the Federal Government has used re-interpretation to broaden their power. Using the same logic, one could certainly make a case that business has now organized across international boundaries so the United Nations must assume regulation of all commerce. Not many people are willing to make that jump but it is essentially what the Federal Government did with the states with respect to commerce.

The health care bill is another big jump by the Federal Government. In it, under the guise of regulating commerce, the Federal Government is ready to regulate no commerce and force commerce which they will then regulate. This is a huge jump in authority and if it is sustained by the courts, then there is nothing that the Federal Government cannot regulate and the states will have lost all of the authority guaranteed to it by the 10th Amendment. – Ben Belrose, Purcellville

Eminent Domain Abuse? – by Kelli Grim

The taking of private property for public use, however necessary for the public good, is repugnant to most Americans. Your property is something you have earned, for the most part, and has a sacred place both in your family life and your citizen life. But eminent domain abuse, the taking of someone's property for the use by another private owner or company is common. Remember Kelo vs. New London. Houses were condemned and destroyed by a local government to make way, not for a public project, but for a private developer's project. Then the developer went bankrupt, and to this day nothing has been done with the property. That should never happen. It is an outrage. Yet it is an outrage committed daily.

Although there are many references in the Virginia Code that control when, how and if a municipality can/should take private property for public use – references that address “necessity and expediency” ... “community of interests” ... “no more land than is necessary to build a road”, etc. – none of these things have the force of law, and, in fact are not considered at all by the courts. No judge is going to second guess a municipality when it has chosen to build a road, even if that road goes through a working farm, a land in conservation easement, or a pristine landscape ... as is the case with Crooked run Orchard and the Southern Collector Road (SCR). If you're rich enough you can fight it (if you're really rich enough no one would dare try it) but all of these so-called judgments are only that, and cannot be used as an argument against taking property. This is true even if the majority of the residents do not want to be “taken.” This also goes a long way in explaining why the Town of Purcellville has been so bold and so abusive toward Sam Brown's Crooked Run Orchard operation.

In recent court proceedings, the Richmond attorney representing the Town of Purcellville argued that Sam

Brown had no standing to challenge the Town's effort to condemn part of Crooked Run for the SCR ... or even to challenge the amount of land that is being taken (twice what is necessary for the actual road). The attorney noted that annexations occur between localities, not persons. While you could argue that the town is acting in malice, and Sam Brown could demonstrate malice by the town towards him and his farming operation, it would make no difference to the judge. Only fraud and/or arbitrary and capricious behavior by the town stop the condemnation, AND since there was no personal injury to either Sam or the farm (really?) that his “Statue of Limitations” had expired (even though the Town knows perfectly well that the annexation involves condemnation of almost half the property

Eminent domain abuse has taken a front seat in the political arena this past year in Virginia, and some legislators are determined to tighten protections to prevent the widespread abuse by towns to annex land that is clearly not in the best interests of the citizens but instead favor private developers. And it can be argued that the necessity for the road was manufactured by the town precisely because of all the approved development at this already crowded intersection.

Rather than determining growth patterns that sensibly match the ability of the present roads to bear traffic and of the economy to expand, the town is forcing itself into a dependency for its financial obligations on outsiders, like the county, VDOT and private investors, rather than live

Judge Rules for Open Auction of Crooked Run Orchard

Judge Chamblin made a sudden ruling on the Brown vs. Brown case of the partition suit for the ownership of the Crooked Run Farm. In this case the Judge had three options. The first option was partition-in-kind. Since the two parcels were being considered together, and Tim owned most all of the sixteen acres, this was not realistic.

The second option was by allotment. This gave the judge the most discretion. Although the Commissioner ruled heavily in Sam's favor because of his long ties to the land, his business and residence, and Tim's absence and lack of involvement with the land, the decision to use the allotment may have made the judge uncomfortable because of the wide variance in the valuation of the land, especially considering the landfill, the county case over the back parcel, and the condemnation of almost half of the 16 acres by the town for the road. It would be easy to see how this could make Chamblin hesitate to choose one valuation over the other.

So he chose to have an open auction. That way no prejudice would be involved and the land would sell for whatever a party was willing to pay, knowing all the limitations, liens and litigations involving the property.

Had the allotment been chosen, Tim Brown might have appealed the case if the amount would have been lower than he expected. It is likely Sam Brown will appeal the decision for an open sale.

within its means. Overbuilding will cause failures and failures will lower land values and revenues. The sprawl and the taxes keep escalating. And the taxpayers keep paying for these costly decisions by the town.

Bringing eminent domain abuse under control will help to restrict irresponsible growth and give the citizens more power to fight private, monied interests.

Sole Proprietor: Cobbler Kim, Purcellville's New Shoe Savior

– By Carol Morris Dukes

It's been five years since the beloved Arthur's Shoe Repair on King Street in Leesburg closed after umpty-odd years of slowly declining business. Free standing shoe repair shops, by and large, are becoming a thing of the past – a vestige of early Americana. Someone forgot to explain that to Mr. Kim.

This unassuming cobbler has found his way to Purcellville and settled in to the former Brew Mountain Coffee Shop, (Ironic, considering the aforementioned Arthur's Shoe Repair has done the reverse and morphed into Shoes Cup and Cork coffee shop!) wooden shoe molds, and fine, earthy – scented leather in tow.

The name “cobbler” evokes images of turn-of-the-century craftsmen hunched over metal shoe lasts, hammering away on leather soles whilst burning the midnight oil. So – how can a tradesman who ekes out a living with vintage-looking machinery and wooden shoe molds survive in an era of techno-gadgetry and throw away consumables – especially in an affluent county like Loudoun?

Well, the fact is, we're not throwing away our consumables so

“Life as a cobbler in Purcellville, Virginia, USA, is a far cry from a comfortable government position in South Korea, but Kim and his family are eager to be here, and they see cobbling as a promising, re-emerging trade. They believe folks will stop giving their old shoes the boot.”

much, anymore. At least, not like we did before the economic bottom fell out; and, in economic down times, people think twice before donating their tired old Red Wings: They hang on to them a wee bit longer. That's where Cobbler Kim comes in: he says he can make your Red Wings soar again – without taking flight with your wallet. Restoring good quality shoes, boots, coats, handbags and horseback riding gear is a cost-effective way to breathe new life into your favorite things. The cost is a fraction of the replacement value – and your items can truly look like new again.

According to Kim, your favorite Blunnies, Uggs, Ferragamos, Hispars, Ariats and Timberlakes can live forever. Not to mention

Continued on page 18



Auctions, Typewriters, and Money Well Spent – Cat Morris

My sister owns an antiques business, and she sometimes attends Monday auctions at Hash Auctions in Berryville to score items for her shop.

I view an auction as a cultural experience of sorts, and I wanted my two daughters to experience one. Only at an auction can one hear the unique, unrelenting, mesmerizing chant of auctioneers or witness the nearly invisible, sometimes intense, competition for goods that is accomplished through the slight nod of a head, or the raising of an index finger or bidding number. Auctions make great people watching, too.

My girls were reluctant to attend an auction with me in March, but I wanted them to spend at least an hour giving the experience a try. I crossed my fingers that they would find it interesting, but fully expected them to start begging to leave fairly quickly. Within fifteen minutes of arriving my 12 year old rushed up to me excitedly, “Mom, can I get a typewriter? I found a typewriter!”

“What? A typewriter? Uh ... sure, we can bid on it, I guess.” We returned home that day with not one, but two

“Weeks later, my children are still typing on their machines, and I am finding typewritten stories all over the house! Their typewriters are becoming objects of envy among friends, most of whom own plenty of expensive gadgetry and gaming systems. Who knew?”

1970s manual typewriters, purchased with our winning bid of \$6.00.

To say that my girls enjoyed their time at the auction where they scored their typewriters would be an understatement. They lasted four whole hours waiting for the machines to come on the block, looking at other merchandise, playing with the typewriters after we’d won them, watching other bidders compete for goods, and eating homemade snacks from the snack bar.

Back at the house, my girls needed typewriter ribbons. I checked with two locally owned office supply and machine repair stores in Winchester and Leesburg before finding that Staples carries several kinds of typewriter ribbons for both manual and electric machines.

As my girls messed around with their newly inked machines, I was glad to be of assistance to them:

“Mom! My typewriter doesn’t have a key for the number one!” I knew from typing college papers on my mother’s old manual typewriter (yes, I’m that old) that a lower case “L” is used for the number one. Works perfectly.

“Mom, my typewriter doesn’t have an exclamation point!” The internet helped me remember the solution, which is to type a period, then backspace and type an apostrophe.

Weeks later, my children are still typing on their machines, and I am finding typewritten stories all over the house! Their typewriters are becoming objects of envy



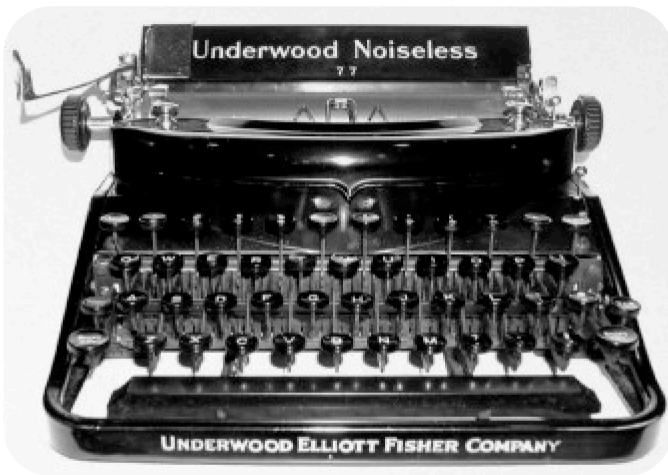
among friends, most of whom own plenty of expensive gadgetry and gaming systems. Who knew?

Yesterday morning, my daughters were fighting over the use of our family’s one computer. My twelve-year-old said something sassy, so I banned her from the internet for the rest of the day. That evening, she pulled out her typewriter and began typing a paper for school. When I clarified that she could use the computer for schoolwork, she replied that she preferred the typewriter. I looked at the paper slowly spooling off the platen and saw that her technique has become very good. Her keystrokes are even, and the ink is dark and clear.

I was puzzled, though. “Didn’t you have to write a draft first?”

“I did.” Sure enough, a hand written first draft was on the table next to the typewriter. Wow.

I had thought of the auction as mild cultural education and entertainment for our family, with the added bonus that we might perhaps score a deal on a small piece of furniture or household item. We got that and more. We learned, yet again, that the best experiences and entertainment do not have to cost a lot of money. That lesson, I believe, is most valuable and will last them a lifetime.



Ask Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike, My boyfriend of 5 years doesn’t want children, but I am beginning to experience the maternal yearning. When we first started dating, neither of us wanted kids, but it’s been wonderful watching so many of my friends have children over the past few years. At 33, I’m not getting any younger, and I feel I’d be a great mom. I love my boyfriend dearly, but maybe it’s time to move on since this is such a serious area of disagreement for the two of us. I don’t know what to do. Any advice would be helpful. – S. in Purcellville



S. – I am assuming from your letter that you have recently spoken to your boyfriend seriously about your changing position on having children. If you haven’t discussed this with him recently, I would, since it seems like you really do love him and perhaps he’s warmed up to the idea of having children over the years. If, however, he still feels the same about children, I think you should move on. It seems to me that you may have outgrown your loving relationship with your boyfriend given your differing views on something so important. You deserve to be with someone who shares your values, beliefs and life goals. While my advice may seem harsh, please know that I do appreciate your struggle. In life we sometimes need to face our emotional conflicts head-on and deal with the legitimate pain that follows in order to find our happiness.

Dr. Mike, My son has been treated for years for ADHD for which he currently receives stimulant medication and therapy. We recently had him evaluated through Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), and they did not find him eligible for special education services. They told us that he is doing fine academically. This was shocking to my husband and me, his therapist, his private tutor, his pediatrician and even his teacher given

his pretty significant ADHD! Do I have any options at this point? We can’t afford private school, but I am at my wits end with LCPS. – C in Leesburg

Ms. C, The process of applying for special education services in any public school system can be a frustrating one for parents. School systems have very clear guidelines on what they believe qualifies a student for a disability. If your son is doing well academically, I am not surprised then that the involved personnel at your son’s school didn’t find him eligible. Of course, this does not mean that there isn’t a problem and that your son doesn’t need supports and accommodations as a student. Your son is likely very bright and capable, but, per your reporting, he is still struggling – and that’s with the support of therapy, tutoring and medication!

As a parent you do indeed have options. First, if the school’s evaluation was done recently and you don’t agree with the findings, you can state your objection in writing and request to have an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) conducted at the full cost of the school system with a private psychologist. A private evaluation will either confirm or disconfirm the school psychologist’s findings and the committee must consider the new findings. You should know that the school system will have a list of private evaluators for you to choose from, and they may even urge you to select an evaluator from their list. However, I recommend you select your private evaluator based on your research and comfort level. The school system must approve your choice of private evaluator/psychologist as long as that professional follows the school’s guidelines for an IEE. Second, I would also advise that you coordinate your efforts with the involved professionals in your child’s life. Your pediatrician, therapist and tutor can all write letters to LCPS, and I would document your concerns (e.g., the hours spent on homework, the associated meltdowns and the number of times your child demonstrates impulsivity and behavioral difficulties in the classroom in a week). Third, I would consider hiring an educational advocate that is experienced in working with the public school system, specifically, LCPS. An educational advocate will know your legal rights under the Individual’s with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will guide you through the process with your son’s school. Fourth, should all else fail, and should you continue to disagree with the school’s position on your son and their refusal to initiate

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A Movie Medley Review

The Green Hornet ▶ Putty Hill ▶ The Eagle

— by Charles Lyons

Coincidentally, all three films selected for this month's Movie Medley unfold in the wake of some sort of tragedy.

Michel Gondry's perfectly adequate **The Green Hornet**, follows the son of a wealthy newspaper tycoon, Britt Reid (Seth Rogen), and his ambitious quest to live up to his recently deceased father's name. He strikes up a friendship with his mechanic (and prodigious gadgeteer), Kato (Taiwanese pop star Jay Chou).

After a night galavanting across their hometown, Los Angeles suddenly turns violent and the not-so-dynamic duo insert themselves as superheroes – mostly due to Kato's cunning knack for martial arts – and they cook up a way to rid the city of all its evils. The plan? Pose as criminals so as to warm up to the local baddies, and then reveal their true nature as masked vigilantes, thereby dismantling the entire L.A. criminal scene.

It's a shaggily entertaining film; it goes down easily and is helped along by director Gondry's slickly pleasing aesthetic chops. A few minutes into **The Green Hornet**, however, it's clear that this is an entirely surface-level affair, though the film is briefly enlivened by bursts of style and color, and one scene where images are cleverly speed-warped.

Matt Porterfield's Baltimore-set **Putty Hill**, is a faux documentary (a "mockumentary") starring nonprofessional actors. It is an effective blend of fiction and nonfiction that centers around the death of Cory, a young man in his early twenties. Subjects include Cory's brother, James, his cousin Jenny, his best friend and fellow ex-convict, Dustin, and his grandmother, Virginia.

The film culminates in a scene at a karaoke bar where all of the subjects meet, greet and mourn Cory together. Though the deceased is fictional, the other subjects are almost entirely real, and the experiences they share with Porterfield (as acting documentarian and director) are unscripted. Porterfield remains honest to his subjects and he never exploits them, and his film has a studiousness to it that can often be intoxicating. The movie is endlessly patient and attuned to even the tiniest of human interactions. Porterfield's images are textured and ingrained with the continuous cycles of life around them, but often times scenes run too long, verging into tedium, providing a largely dissatisfying experience in some cases.

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Spring in the Halls of Loudoun County Day School

— By Randall Hollister, Ph.D.

Suddenly we are emerging from the gray and cold of winter – the sun is brighter, green is starting to show in the fields around the school, and if I listen carefully, I can hear birds singing outside of my office. This transition of early spring always brings to my mind William Wordsworth's charming but pensive "Daffodils" poem written in 1804. In the middle of the 4th stanza, he says, "Ten thousand saw I at a glance, Tossing their heads in sprightly dance."

I have always found Wordsworth's poem enchanting, as it celebrates our ability to "relive" experiences through our memory and imagination. Very soon the flowers will be pushing up through the ground, delivering again on spring's promise of new life, colors, and, yes, the dance of those magnificent golden daffodils.

At school, we are also in transition - right before spring break, when the pace picks up. It seems like yesterday that we had our traditional family Bingo game in February, and now our Auction is around the corner. Before we know it, we will be preparing for the end of year activities and June 10's closing exercises. It's hard to believe we are nearly through our second year at our new campus. Despite the passing of time – almost 60 years in Loudoun County - it is gratifying that our mission and philosophy continue to serve as our guiding light and anchor.

Looking ahead to our next season, I am amazed at all of the choices available for children to enjoy in our summer programs, offering everything from the "Harry Potter Mystery Tour" the first week of August for grades 1-6, to our partnership with Fairfax Collegiate's all-day program, to our annual basketball skills' camps in August.

As headmaster, I appreciate the vitality and potential of our new campus, and the ways in which it has inspired and supported the expansion of our programs. We have always embraced our involvement in the community, and now, through our many programs, we can bring the community to us. With the promise of spring and new possibilities, Loudoun Country Day School welcomes the chance to offer programs beyond our classrooms, knowing that learning and playing, whether at sports or participating in Robotics, are both adventures that enrich life, giving us a chance, in the summer, to relax, and at the same time, to expand our horizons. And, like Wordsworth's daffodils, these experiences stay with us for a lifetime, as "they flash upon that inward eye" of our memories.

Randall Hollister is the Headmaster at Loudoun Country Day School.



On the Market... with Sam Rees



6 ACRES Waterford

Just outside the village of Waterford this exquisitely finished home is filled with sunlight and top of the line finishes. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, formal dining room, library and bonus play room/office on main floor. Finished lower level with bath. Upscale kitchen and family room lead to entertainment scaled deck for country entertaining. Views of rolling countryside from every window. No HOA. \$649,990



Middleburg - Mountville Road- 11.5 acres

3 Stall center aisle barn with heated Tack Room and Water. Lovely Pond with Gazebo and Dock.

Gorgeous home w/ Heart Pine Floors, 3 Woodburning Fireplaces, Gourmet Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms and 3 full Baths and Efficiency Apartment w/ full bath and kitchenette over 2 car detached garage. Great Ride Out.

\$825,000 and LO7498073



Round Hill

First house on Scotland Heights just off hard surface road. Gorgeous Cherry flooring, patio & deck, 3 Main Floor Bedrooms, 3 baths. Bright Kitchen w/ granite counter. Lower Level Guest Suite w/full bath and walk out. **Absolutely Pristine Condition!** \$425,000 and LO7367064



Stonebrook Farm

Classic Virginia Farm House made from local fieldstone. One of a kind setting with/ 7000 sq ft, two large stocked ponds, mountain views on 35 acres. Has the feel of an old country estate with modern conveniences. Very classic interior with beautiful accents and large rooms for comfortable living. \$1,650,000 and LO7367064.

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MIDDLEBURG



ROUND HILL



STONEBROOK FARM



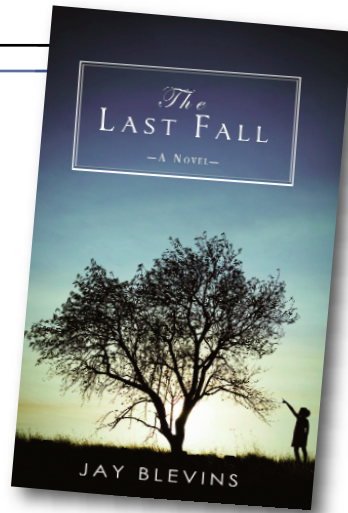
Book Review

As Who is Eric Stratton? What is his mission? Why is he running out of time? Why does Roland Hughes want revenge? How will it all end?

You may have seen these questions printed on one of the thousands of plain white business cards floating around the area recently. Or maybe you've seen this caption on the back of a car that passed you: "Need inspiration? www.thelastfallbook.com."

Why have these questions, and this web site, appeared on bald heads, pregnant bellies, and bumper stickers since 8 October 2010? The answer is simple. This was the release date for *The Last Fall*, which is the debut novel by local author Jay Blevins.

The Last Fall is an inspirational novel that follows the journey of a self-centered attorney named Eric Stratton. Eric is all about living the good life—no matter what it costs anyone else. He works for a premier law firm in the Washington, DC, area, drives a Mercedes, and can attract any woman he wants. Then, one day in court, he passes out...and wakes up in the hospital. Diagnosed with the worst pancreatic cancer, Eric is running out of time. Instead of using his remaining days to go skydiving, mountain climbing, or drag racing, Eric sets out on a journey to right past wrongs and mend broken relationships. If



he can survive his own past demons, waning health, and a criminal out for revenge, he just might find the redemption and hope he's looking for.

When asked where the idea for the novel came from, Blevins says, "The idea was inspired by several things. Part of it came from a conversation at work about why bad things happen. Part of it came from my father's battle with cancer. And part of it (the prologue) came from a breathtaking sunset I watched from the deck behind my house."


Blevins put these ideas together and after a few days of research and outlining, he wrote the initial manuscript in only thirty-six days. He spent five months editing and submitting to publishers. In December 2008 it was picked up by OakTara publishers.

Blevins is currently busy with his 2011 tour, which includes events like book signings, speaking engagements, and author appearances. He's heard from hundreds of readers who were touched by the book, and says the feedback keeps him motivated. "It's amazing to hear that the book made some people laugh, and some people cry. Some were motivated to reconcile with family members, or reconnect with old friends. That kind of feedback makes it all worthwhile."

But why is his website appearing on cards, vehicles, and body parts around the area? "I held a contest for people to come up with creative ways to market the book. I never imagined people would advertise on their heads or bellies. But some of the contestants did a fantastic job! I know I'd buy a book if I saw it written on someone's head." Blevins added that some of the ads can still be seen on his Facebook fan page.

Blevins and his family are long time Loudoun residents. In addition to writing, he has been involved in the war on terrorism, and served as a deputy with the Loudoun County Sheriff's office. He has been published in several magazines, and contributed to one other book.

For more information on the novel, or upcoming events, visit www.thelastfallbook.com, or Amazon.com.



Cobbler Kim's


Shoe Repair Shop


Heels ▣ Soles

Stitching ▣ Lifts

Stretching ▣

Shining ▣ Dyeing





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Loudoun Valley Shopping Center
540.338.3171 Mon. – Fri. 8 am to 7 pm, Sat. 9 am – 5 pm

Famous for Her **YELLOW** Thumb

– By Andrea Gaines

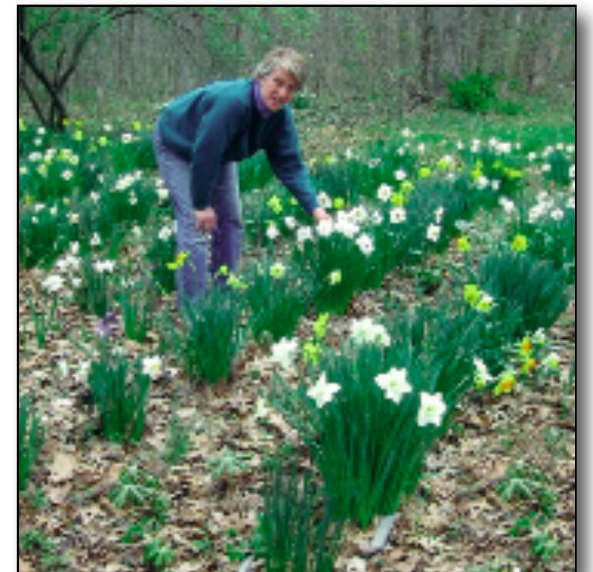
Loudoun's old country roads are beginning to see signs of spring. The redbud is not quite out, but thanks to lots of kind souls, the daffodils are – with bright flashes of yellow, gold and green set against last year's fallen leaves.

In one garden just south of the village of Lincoln, a gardener extraordinaire has taken the love of these yellow and gold gems to new heights. Kassie Kingsley, well known for her gardening skills and creativity, started her own personal daffodil experiment in 1980. Three-plus decades later it is now home to somewhere between 150 and 175 varieties, many of which you will find nowhere else on earth. Why? Because many of them have been hybridized, or created, by Kassie herself.

Kassie has been a member of the Leesburg Garden Club for 37 years, and a member of the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club since 1987. When asked about the "basics" of how to create your own daffodil varieties, Kassie answered very simply: "You dab pollen from one daffodil to another and then wait 5-7 years."

Friends, family and neighbors alike come to see Kassie's daffodils every spring. The deep green leaves and flowers begin to emerge and bloom in later February to early March, and then continue blooming from March to May, when "late bloomers" such as the "Poet" daffodil grace the garden. The goal of all serious daffodil gardeners is to cultivate enough varieties so that you have constant blooming throughout the late winter and spring.

Kassie's love of daffodils came from her late grandmother. She describes the flower as "tough" beauties that survive cold spring weather and grow without fuss. "Just plant them and they grow and divide," says Kassie. If only it were that easy to duplicate this authentically humble gardener's gold thumb expertise!



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March 28, 2011

Citizens of the Town of Purcellville

This open letter goes out to the citizens of Purcellville. We are sincerely sorry for what took place at the Cole Farm today. It has been and remains our commitment to reestablish these buildings at the corner of Berlin Turnpike and Main Street. To bring these buildings back to life as a centerpiece to the Eastern Gateway of the town.

We had given clear instructions to our contractor to provide us advance notice of the date of commencement for the work on the barn and to carefully dismantle the barn and salvage the material to be used in its reconstruction. We were both surprised and upset to learn that work began this morning on the barn and that a good portion of the barn was taken down without the anticipated safeguards. We have issued a voluntary stop work order to our contractor and scheduled an on-site meeting to review the current conditions. We have asked our contractor to salvage, catalogue and stockpile components of the barn already down, as originally planned. We will not begin work again on this structure until we have a clear plan to dismantle the remaining structure for its re-use. We will present this plan, together with our plan for the relocation of the house and silo, to the Town's Staff so they are aware of our means and methods.

Again we want to extend our apology for the events that took place today. We will make every effort to correct the issue and to utilize the components of the barn in its reconstruction, providing the town with the benefit it anticipated. Roadside remains committed to delivering a quality project to its tenants and this community.

Sincerely,

ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT, LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard S. Lake".

Richard S. Lake

Hunt Country Gourmet's RESTAURANT REVIEW – Goodstone Inn

– By George Humphries

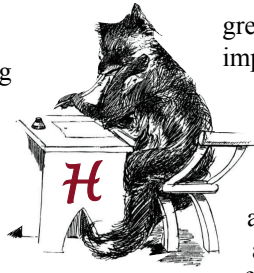
The Goodstone Inn restaurant sits atop a forested hillock overlooking treetops in the valley of the meandering Goose Creek, northwest of Middleburg, VA. The restaurant is in an ostensible carriage house and stable ... so pristine as to evidence no previous equine occupants.

But as a restaurant, it serves admirably. The menu features choices offered both ala carte or as part of a reasonably-priced (\$55-\$75) prix fixe, with a first course, a salad, an entrée, and dessert. On a recent visit, there were five items on the "First Course," a Potage du Jour which on that day was a delicious cream of asparagus; a Duo of Salmon; a Wild Mushroom Crepe with truffle sauce; an Alsatian Onion Tart with caramelized onions and gruyere cheese in puff pastry; and Duck Foie Gras in Grand Marnier Jus.

Four salads were offered, Salade Maison with champagne vinaigrette; a Goat Cheese salad with roasted beets and English walnuts; a Classic Caesar; and a Roquefort salad, each with distinctive features. Eight delicious-sounding entrees included Thai-Curried Vegetables, Duck a l'Orange; Scallops and Prawns Provencale; Crispy Skin Scottish Salmon; Pan-Roasted Chilean Sea Bass with a Maryland blue crab stuffing; Rack of Lamb; Prime Filet Mignon with truffle sauce; and Organic Rose Veal Tenderloin with a wild mushroom Madeira cream. Each of these dishes was presented with artistically carved accoutrements – winter vegetables, yellow carrots, asparagus, and mushrooms.

My wife (not given to unwarranted superlatives) chose the veal and pronounced the whole plate the "best and most attractively presented meal I ever had in any restaurant." I chose lamb, which was tender, flavorful, and cooked rare just the way I ordered it.

Chef William Waldron says that his raison d'être is to present artistic cuisine with the



greatest depth of flavor together with impeccable service. He succeeds!

There were seven mouth-watering desserts including: three flavors of soufflé; a Belgian tart au chocolat with raspberry coulis; a Panache of homemade ice creams and sorbets; Artisan Cheeses with fresh-baked ginger snaps; Tahitian Vanilla Crème Brulee; a warm Honey-Glazed Apple Tart with ice cream and caramel sauce; and a Brioche Bread Pudding with whiskey sauce and brandied cherries.

Chef Walden also offers a three-course prix fixe (\$39) during the week. A recent menu included a first course selection of Potage du Jour; a Warm Savory Chive Crepe with duxelles of mushrooms; or the Goodstone Inn's House Salad. The entrée selections were Chilean Sea Bass; Filet Mignon; or Veal Blanquette with wild mushrooms in a puff pastry. Third course dessert options were equally magnificent.

Goodstone has a Sunday Champagne Brunch with Duo of Salmon, Goodstone Salad, Lemongrass Shrimp "Martini", Farm Fresh Goodstone's Eggs Benedict, Chef's Steak and Eggs, Chilean Seabass, and Diver Scallops and an Assortment of ice cream, Apple Tart, Artisanal Cheese. The \$49 tab includes a complimentary glass of champagne.

We have sampled a number of items on the menu and have been greatly pleased with the ingredients, the preparation, and the presentation. It is a worthy rival of the Inn at Little Washington, but more accessible in location and price.

Goodstone's Executive Chef William Walden is an old acquaintance of ours and native of Paeonian Springs. He caught his passion for good food from his French grandparents, and as a youth worked at a small restaurant in nearby Lovettsville, which inspired him to decide on a lifelong career of cooking. He went on to hone his craft under the tutelage of the famed Chef Francois Haeringer, founder of L'Auberge Chez Francois.

William Walden then returned to found his own restaurant in the same space created by Martha Bernhart in Lovettsville. He named it Fleur de Lis.

The Goodstone farm supports his desire to bring fresh produce, meat, and eggs directly to the table, and the beautiful surroundings are a fitting showcase for his talents.

The service also was excellent, from the serving of a glass of wine in front of the pleasant stone fireplace, the suggestions of the knowledgeable sommelier, to the prompt and professional wait staff. In the parlance of the Guide Michelin, the Goodstone Inn is definitely "worth a trip."

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.



Daffodils – By Donna Williamson

Each fall, I buy a new daffodil or two or three to try. Two years ago, I bought three bulbs of the most beautiful daffodil yet. It's called Daphne and is exquisite.

Obdam was tried one year – it is such a heavy double-triple flower that it cannot stand up in my yard. Last year, it was blasted in early hot weather. Blasting of bulbs looks like the flower was never able to escape the tan papery sheath around it. A friend told me that double flowering forms of daffodil are prone to blasting. Or maybe it's just that we get these hot days at the wrong time for them.

Last year had a wide array of blasted daffodils. Two heat waves, with one April day reaching 91°, destroyed the blossoms for the year on many varieties, especially doubles. But you don't get to control everything, even when you are an experienced gardener, and this is how nature goes.

Lemon Glow is a beauty, pale yellow and typical daffodil shape. On this scan, the pale translucent areas appear gray – they are white in real life. Firetail is the beautiful poeticus on the scan. And Professor Einstein with that fantastic orange center, was a favorite two years ago.

Also on the scan is the flower of hesperis – Dame's Rocket, fothergilla's fragrant white bottle brush blossom and the inevitable bleeding heart. Also included is a lovely shrub magnolia flower – inside and out. I think it's name is Jane

Last year after all the snow and early heat we had an unusual spring! Quince was blooming with dogwood and redbud. Quince is usually so early and completely finished by the time dogwoods emerge. Will be interesting to see what happens this year.

Getting all the late summer bloomers cut back keeps me busy in early spring. Butterfly bushes, blue-mist shrub (caryopteris), lavender, sage, santolina, bush clover (lespedeza) and beautyberry (callicarpa) benefit from heavy pruning when daffodils begin to bloom.

Those quiet days of early spring are coming. Time to take stock, putter around, pick up stray leaves, see what kind of damage the voles have done, and prepare for the coming growing season. Yippeeeee!



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.

FROM THE FARM



Uta and her husband Sam operate Crooked Run Orchard.

By Uta Brown

Asparagus

For the past decade or so there has been a great deal of hoopla about the new hybrid varieties of asparagus whose yields are considerably more than the old varieties. These hybrids are advertised as all male (although that turns out to be not QUITE true when you grow them), thicker, and therefore weightier, and so will give the grower a greater yield and higher profits.

But like most of the fast and easy accommodations human beings attempt to make with nature, there is usually a sustainability issue. We can grow more on land if we irrigate, fertilize, fumigate, etc. But over time the process of getting more out of the land takes its toll on the currency of growth. The land itself languishes and can no longer take the stresses. Microorganisms, the workhorses of any rich soil, die off from the assaults of chemicals. The organic matter is used up and not replaced. The structure of the soil changes or even collapses. We wind up with dead soils. Soils that once hosted a billion microorganisms per cubic inch now contain only hundreds, or fewer. The taste and the nutritional value of the food declines.

Hybrid asparagus like Jersey Giant do produce well at first. But after three or four years the yields decline and eventually approximate the yields of older varieties.

In a few weeks the spears of the asparagus plants will start poking out of the soil, always a delightful discovery for people who love this sulfur-rich, healthy vegetable. Exactly when this happens each year depends on how quickly the ground warms in early spring. On the farm we have had the first asparagus break ground as early as April 7th and as late as May 10th. Nights need to be fifty degrees or warmer.

Sam has grown many of the Jersey-bred hybrids from one-year crowns. I have started to grow Mary Washington, that wonderfully tasty and almost indestructible heirloom, and other varieties, from seed. It is very easy and the germination rates are very high. Mary Washington will maintain a lower but steady yield for thirty years. Perhaps much more, under the right conditions. Plants my father-in-law planted at least thirty years ago on the east side of his garden still return every year. We now have six or seven varieties of asparagus on the farm, including a "sweet" ginger hybrid, Purple Passion, Marte, Mary Washington, and another two or three on order.

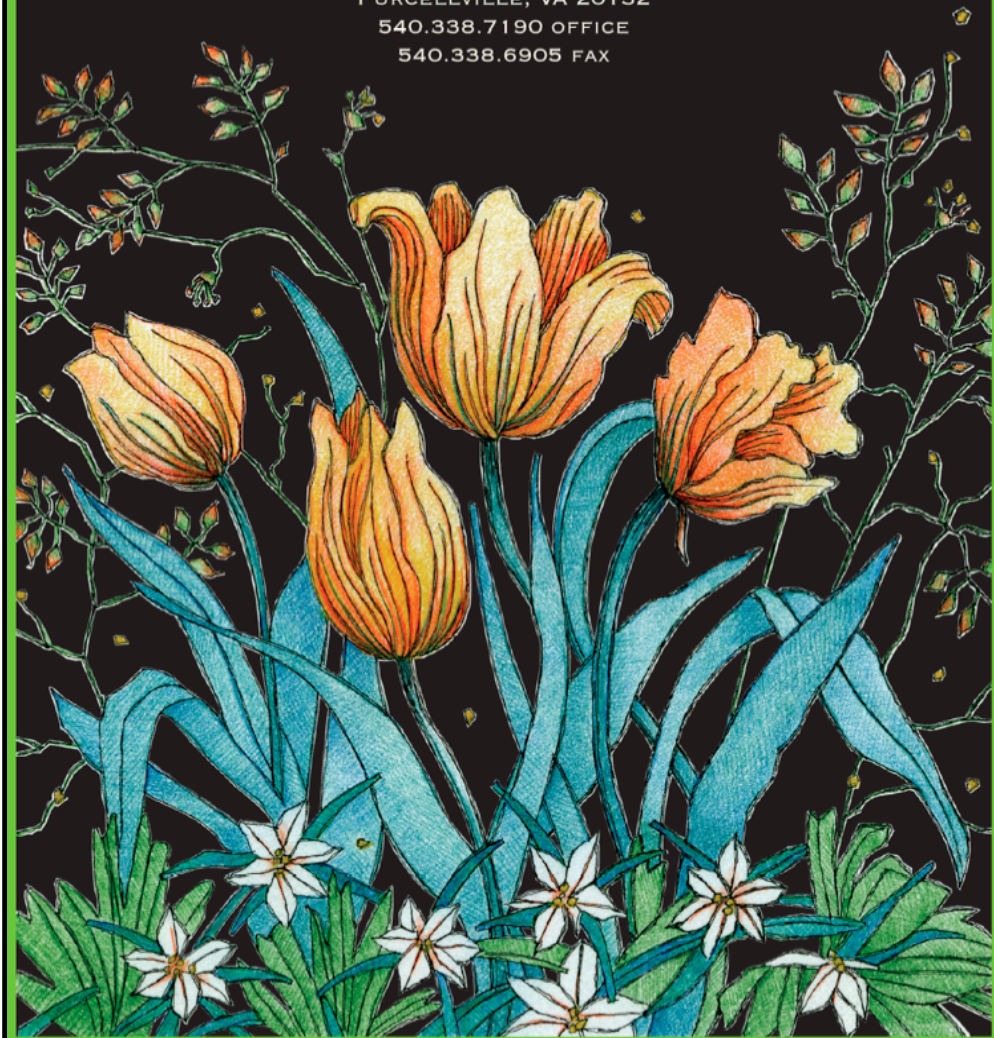
The seeds from the female plants, enclosed in bright red berries, can be collected and planted. Of course you will get both male and female plants. This does not affect taste or nutritional value. And you can always plant more asparagus.



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A Look at
Spring
Fashion
Twigs

Photos taken at Goodstone Inn & Estate, Middleburg, Virginia.



Left: Jag Daria cropped leggings worn with Whitewash white eyelet-style L.S. blouse, Rico sleeveless beige sweater vest, and Capelli straw bag.

Above: Tint Your World batik dress worn with Zazou lavender scarf, leather flower ring, leather flower wristlet, and Peggy Fisher handbag.

Above Right: Whitewash sleeveless striped beige tank, worn with Cut Loose beige cotton L.S. shrug; Isle brown leggings.

Right: Jag plain Jane pant worn with Salaam cream T-shirt, Salaam striped, hooded cotton cardigan and wristlet.

From Twigs, Purcellville, Virginia, 540.338.4438, www.TwigsVA.com.



Bloomingdale's Tyson's Corner



Left: Plenty by Tracy Reese striking peasant floral top, with cropped Thompson medium rise skinny pants by Citizens of Humanity, Michael Kors large leather tote, Michael Kors embossed leather plate thong sandal.

Above left: Black/grey long dress by Aqua with "Liam" top by BCBGMAXAZRIA, cream San Diego Hat Company straw hat, stacked heel sandal by Luxury Rebel.

Above: Lilly Pulitzer v-neck 70s-inspired dress worn with Gucci sunglasses, gold bang cuff by Aqua, Vivian rattan clutch by Troy Burch.

Right: DKNY Cerulean flower print dress with slip.

Bloomingdale's Tyson's Corner, 703.556.4600
www.Bloomingdales.com.

Photos taken at Goodstone Inn & Estate, Middleburg, Virginia.

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

Bles Park in Ashburn



You know those sort of unseasonably 'warmish' late winter mornings when you feel the need to be close to some moving water? It usually comes after you've had about all of the solid form you can stand: sleet, snow, ice, you get the idea. Well, I get the urge every year in that 'yucky' season to either get out in the rain, or some melting snow, or better yet- some truly active stream or some such flowing H2O.

This is what recently found me on a soppy, overcast dawn at Bles Park...

Where?

Yeah, I know, it's not Algonkian in the east, or Ida Lee in Leesburg, or Franklin Park in Purcellville- I'll admit, this one's a little obscure and out of the way.

Bles is nestled up along one of the backwaters of the Potomac- behind (if you're on Route Seven, that is) George Washington University's Ashburn Campus.

I'd originally found it several years ago when I wanted to make it a point to actually visit and explore some of our lesser known natural places (with public access).

Well, the park hadn't changed much in the intervening time- except some of the meadows had been transformed into soccer fields, which were totally abandoned at the early hour of my visit.

Bles is small enough so you can pretty much get a scope of the layout from your car in the parking lot, and then go tramping about.

The undeveloped portion spans just under a hundred acres; and, like the roads leading to Rome, most any trail you pick will eventually spill you out at (for me) the focal point of the space: the confluence of the Potomac River's southern arm with Broad Run coming in from the south. Like I said, particularly at a certain time of year, it all seems to come down to moving water. The muskrats and scattered shore birds had the same idea, being the brunt of the wildlife encountered on my trip. So, even on a cold, damp morning that'll make you wish you'd brought more hot coffee, you can be at the meeting of the waters in less than 10 minutes, even if you take your time.

Seeing the River and the Run pool their recourses does at least my heart good, for some obscure reason.

Or, maybe not so obscure.

Living in a time and place where much of our human endeavors seem to make little sense, the meeting of these two water corridors teach some simple lessons: they pool their talents without trying to grab all the glory (even though the Potomac usurps its little partner from here on out), and they continue on the path of least resistance.

"Swim downstream," always seemed – to me – like the best advice in times of challenge or turmoil. In other words, don't make problems even worse by resisting fate and/or missing opportunity.

The waters don't waste time deciding, they just act.

If us humans could figure out when to 'let go of the steering wheel' and simply be – or do – we'd be much more content, for my money.

And, speaking of going with the flow, Bles Park is actually a little tricky to get to; I took northbound Loudoun County Parkway from Route Seven East, then George Washington University Boulevard to the east, and northward at Riverside Parkway. Bles is maybe a third of a mile up the road on the right; you'll see an attractive little visitor center and small parking lot.

Those familiar with the out-of-doors will recognize the lay of the waters by the lines of trees along the banks, with lots of open meadow and marshland in the foreground. The arm of the Potomac cutting across the northern edge of Bles is surprisingly narrow here, as the land on the other side is actually an island- Selden Isle- to be exact.

So, on that late winter morning I selected Bles Park as the place to be to come to terms with the issues at hand; on other occasions I'll choose Algonkian in the east, or Ida Lee in Leesburg, or Franklin Park in Purcellville. I expect that they'll fill different needs as well as Bles answered my urge for living waters.

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A Movie Medley Review, continued from page 9

The next selection comes to us courtesy of your local multiplex: Kevin Macdonald's sword-and-sandal period piece *The Eagle*, which tracks the militaristic and national ambitions of Marcus Aquila (Channing Tatum), a young Roman assigned to a legion on the outskirts of the Roman Empire in modern Britain. Twenty years earlier, Marcus's father, Captain of the Legion of the Ninth, lost the titular golden eagle statuette in uncharted territory.

Once Marcus earns the respect of his men in battle, he's honorably discharged due to a leg injury. After recuperating with his uncle (an awkward Donald Sutherland), he hears rumors that the lost eagle, an obvious symbol of Rome's pride and honor, is in the hands of the fierce Seal People, a tribe who occupy unforgiving territory beyond Rome's claimed lands. Marcus's uncle purchases a slave named Esca (Jamie Bell), who is a native from this territory. Marcus and the slave set off to earn back Rome's dignity.

The Eagle completely snuck up on me, in all of its odd but thrilling allure. It provides an ethereal vision of warfare, one that highlights complexity in battle situations, yet finds beauty in surrounding nature. The movie understands that symbolism and wordless gestures are universal to all cultures. There were clever angle shots of feet and lower body movement in battle and travel, and director Macdonald made evocative use of water and liquids. An entire battle sequence takes place in a small river, with the warriors up to their knees in water. *The Eagle* is stylized, thoughtful entertainment.

AND SO ...

All three of the selections this month were worthy, but they did have their deficiencies. *The Eagle*, though mostly stunning, could be too schematic, too stuck in its genre formula. *The Eagle* is in wide release – strongly recommended.

Putty Hill was almost the opposite: it often seemed content to meander around, discarding form and (sometimes) meaning. The film is also content to be uninterested in what its cast of characters are feeling; it sometimes holds the audience at arm's length. *Putty Hill* is in very limited release but will be widely available in DVD in a few months. You can add it to the "saved" section of your Netflix queue now. I give it somewhere between a hearty recommendation and a lukewarm one. Such a local film might just be worth it to you, however.

Perhaps *The Green Hornet* didn't resonate with me as well because, despite director Michel Gondry's fascination with homemade contraptions, all of the contraptions feel slick and factory-made. There's nary a scene with anyone putting them together. *The Green Hornet* is in wide release and most likely at your local multiplex. I give it a middling recommendation.

Movie Medley Review discusses three or four films, including those that are in both wide and limited release, and those that may have been forgotten. Charles Lyons attends Loudoun Valley High School. He is successful on the debate team, will soon be writing for the school paper, actively plays acoustic and electric guitar, and has written about and studied film academically for a number of different websites and local publications since he was 12 years old.

– Sushi ... "Tails" from the Barn Yard –

Patience ... Patience ... Patience

Oh Nelly, little Stinging Nettle Nelly – now you have done it and my brave and mighty Cairn Terrier heart goes out to you. Doggy dungeon is now your home.

As some of you know from reading the last "Tails" from the Barn Yard, our little Nelly had a way too close encounter with Sammy the Bull. Mrs. B. must have seen the whole ordeal from the farm house window and now our dear Nelly will be spending most of her time locked in doggy dungeon! This brings back puppyhood memories.

Teach, teach, teach is my motto and boy do I have a lot to teach this whipper snapper of a Boarder Collie who happens to be a little too smart for her own good. So it is with good intentions that I will lie beside her on the other side of doggy dungeon, keep her company and share my learning experiences with her and you.

It was not that many years ago when Father Jimmy had come to visit from the true Fields of Athenry, Ireland. It was a big day for the blessing of the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. B had everything in tip top shape for the special occasion.

Readying myself for the great ceremony, I decided to settle on top of one of those cushy golden bales of hay. Gnarly Gander and the Goose Gang found their spots on the warm driveway. The turkey's meandered closer, show lambs gathered by my bale of hay munching away, the farm ponies whinnied

"Tonight when you're all alone out here and the moon lifts high into the night sky you might contemplate on how to behave better."

softly stretching their necks over the fence for a nibble. I rested in the sun; things could not have been more wonderful. Soon I was dreaming away while all the folks gathered around. Just as Father Jimmy began preaching words of God and Peace, the two barn cats, Hokie and Mountie, decide that my tail hanging over the hay bale was fair game. I felt a sharp bite, then a tug, then claws swatting at me. I leapt into the air in anger, growling and snapping like a good little terrier should. I just missed biting Hokie, who leapt across a show lamb's back. Sure enough, if I didn't see that cat wink, blink, and nod to his buddy, Mountie! As if on cue, in mid air, Mountie arched his back, hair on end, with his tail straight up.

Curling tight those catty toes, he dropped straight down, digging his claws deep into the show lamb's back! The show lamb freaked, knocking poor father Jimmy over in the middle of his blessing. Guests ran, Laino and Bernie screamed, and I was in big trouble! Uggg, there it was, a human paw scuffing me up by the back of my neck! My puppy paws dangled in innocent guilt. Boy, had I been set up! If only those cats had minded their own business and had left me alone. The solemn occasion had been ruined!

My master, Elaine Boland lives with her husband and five daughters in Purcellville, Virginia at Fields of Athenry 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.fieldsofathenryfarm.com ...
Love - Sushi



It was a sad, sad day. I was given a bucket of water and a meager bowl of feed. I was placed behind the prison walls of the doggy dungeon under the sappy pine tree. I truly was in the dog house just as you are now Nelly, I feel your pain.

Tonight when you're all alone out here and the moon lifts high into the night sky you might contemplate on how to behave better.

Realize when your patience is weak, this is not the time to get distracted and behave poorly. It's the time to try really hard to be more worthy and obedient. If only I had resisted the temptation to fight back with those honoree barn cats. I know it was not all my fault, but I had to take responsibility for what I had done. I know you will take responsibility too Nelly. You really are a smart little whipper snapper and you really mean to be good.

I love you Nell. For now get a good night's sleep and I will be along next time to share more "Tails" from the Barn Yard.

Love - Sushi

Cobbler, continued from page 7

your favorite designer handbags and backpacking gear.

I visited Cobbler Kim's Shoe Repair and handed over my old Blundstone leather shoes, in a last ditch effort to save them. The leather toes had given out; the finger loops one uses to hoist them over one's heel had ripped away, and no amount of effort on my part could clean up the finish. He said I could have them back whenever I liked. I offered to come back in two days.



Then I waited ...

Dae Bok Kim arrived with his wife and two kids 11 years ago from South Korea, where he spent 20 years working for the South Korean government before retiring. He had always wanted to come to America, and with relatives living in Winchester, he was finally granted an opportunity.

Five years ago he went to work for a busy, well-respected cobbler in Winchester and apprenticed, slowly learning the age-old craft of shoe and leather repair.

Now he can fix everything from Cavallo Riding Boots and Coach handbags to canvas backpacks and Firemen's boots. Today Mr. Kim is ready to branch out on his own, and he thinks he's found the perfect place to be.

Life as a cobbler in Purcellville, Virginia, USA, is a far cry from a comfortable government position in South Korea, but Kim and his family are eager to be here, and they see cobbling as a promising, re-emerging trade. They believe folks will stop giving their old shoes the boot.

Two days after dropping off my shoes, I returned to Cobbler Kim's and was astounded to receive a pair of brand-spanking new Blunnies with just the right polish and patina – and with new leather finger loops made to last. They were beautiful! And ... I got a bargain – at \$19. Needless to say, I ran home and grabbed my 15-year-old Birkenstocks and a pair of dress boots from my "donate" pile. I hope that by restoring my trusty shoes and outerwear, I can reduce my costs, spend less time shopping for replacements, and make a smaller dent in the county landfill. I also admit to having a hankering for vintage Americana. And if I can do my part to hang onto a bit of living history, so be it.

Cobbler Kim's Shoe Repair Shop is located in the Loudoun Valley Shopping Center in Purcellville, on the breezeway behind Purcellville Marketplace. Open Monday – Saturday. Here a few of the brand names he is licensed to repair: Rockport, Johnston and Murphy, Cole Haan, Florsheim, Timberland, Dexter, Red Wing, Allen Edmonds, Birkenstock, and many more!

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**Purcellville Native
Pvt. 1st Class
Christopher Mace ...**

... is currently serving with the United States Army in Afghanistan. Mace is an Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System Specialist. He is responsible for processing data for those out in the field and utilizing the data to identify and destroy enemy targets. Pvt. 1st Class Mace said: "I take data given from forward observers and convert it into firing data for our artillery." Mace also stated: "I have two brothers who both live in the northern Virginia area. One of my brothers and both of my grandfathers have served in the military. On October 3, 2009 my brother was killed in action in Afghanistan. It was a rough time, but I still deployed with my unit in July, 2010." When asked what food he missed the most, he said: "steak!"



When asked what kind of "support" he would like from the community, his response was quick: "baked goods." Send your best to: SPC Mace, TF Glory, FOB Sharana, APO, AE 09311.

Home Town Heroes Scholarships!

Applications Available!

Upper Loudoun Little League Home Town Heroes 2011 scholarship applications are now being accepted. Eligible applicants must be a 2011 graduating senior from a western Loudoun high school, private school or home school who played for ULLL at some point as a youth. The application is online at ULLL.org or in the guidance offices of Loudoun Valley High School and Woodgrove High School. Fill out the application and mail it to Upper Loudoun Little League, PO Box 1122, Purcellville, VA. 20134, attention Scholarship Committee. The application deadline is April 15, 2011.

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from p. 8

special education services for him, you can challenge the school system further by requesting a Due Process Hearing. To learn more about your rights for special education services, I invite you to visit:

<http://idea.ed.gov/> and <http://www.help4adhd.org/en/education/rights>. As a psychologist in private practice, I speak with parents who share your frustration on a weekly basis, and I can assure you that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. You and your husband are certainly not alone, and reaching out to other parents for support might also be beneficial. Children and Adult's with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHAAD), a national organization, has several parent resources, and you will find them on-line at: <http://www.chadd.org/>.

Dr. Mike, What are your thoughts on Amy Chua, the author of the controversial best-seller "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother?" I know that I am probably in a minority of parents in Loudoun County, but I think Tiger Mother makes a lot of sense. I feel that as a nation we are raising entitled and spoiled children and that firm discipline is seen as a bad thing. How are our children going to learn personal accountability and self-discipline if we are

always dancing around their feelings and needs and rewarding them? – M in Hamilton

M, The controversy surrounding Ms. Chua's book has to do primarily with her extreme and seemingly draconian methods to parenting (e.g., threatening to burn her daughter's stuffed animal for improved output and results). Ms. Chua wrote a provocative parenting book that advocates extreme levels of discipline, and in doing so she has, not surprisingly, received a lot of criticism. Moving on, I agree with you that children need to be held accountable for their words and actions and that discipline is a necessary ingredient to good parenting. There is a large body of research that shows that successful parenting involves positive reinforcement to encourage and reward wanted and good behaviors while being firm and consistent with consequences for unwanted behaviors diminishes problems. Now, I cannot say that I agree with your point that we are raising spoiled children on the whole as a nation. Spoiling isn't an American phenomenon, nor is it a 21st century or Northern Virginia problem. I would encourage you to keep an open mind when meeting your next spoiled child and spoiling parent since there may very well be issues at play that go beyond your observations.

Youth Join in Community Service Through "DNow" Event

– By Lauren Pichon

Though many students are involved in community service, it is rare that 145 teens gather together to give back to their community. That is just what happened on March 4-6 as the youth of Purcellville Baptist Church (PBC) and Blue Ridge Bible Church joined together for the annual Disciple Now (DNow) event.

"DNow is a quasi-retreat where youth groups around Purcellville come together to experience revival and worship and fellowship with fellow believers," said senior Joel Fletcher, who participated in the event.

On Saturday, the youth broke up into small groups and were driven to various locations around the area to volunteer their time to help those in need. Groups visited soup kitchens, the Good Shepherd Alliance, the Blue Ridge Hospice Thrift Store and various other locations.

"My group went to a youth home, and it was really neat to hang out with someone outside my usual circle and just pour into them," Fletcher said.

Cory Welch, Youth Pastor at PBC, helped coordinate the event and said "From making birdhouses

to playing games with teens in detention centers or organizing items to be sold at thrift stores that support community organizations, our students came to serve, not be served."

Though many community members were surprised by the youth's willingness to work, they were very pleased with the outcome.

"We've heard many of [the community members] respond about how surprised they were that the teens worked so hard and helped so much. It is so encouraging to see the immediate impact you can make when you realize that life is about serving and loving others rather than it being all about you," Welch said.

With this year's DNow being such a success, Welch is already beginning to make plans for next year's DNow event.

"There's nothing like serving and worshipping together. We'll do this community wide DNow every year," said Welch.

Lauren Pichon is a senior at Loudoun Valley High School. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper, The Viking, and the History Club Secretary. She hopes to pursue a career in print journalism.

Local Farm Produce Comes to Loudoun County Public Schools

– By Valerie Joyner

In January 2011 the Blue Ridge Leader reported on a pilot program wherein the Loudoun County School System and Loudoun Central Kitchen would guarantee a certain percentage of local farm produce and products to be used for schools and the Central Kitchen.

The first order was placed by Loudoun

County Public Schools the week of March 21, 2011, and the first farm product – APPLES! – will be delivered "farm to school" on March 30, 2011.

The original pilot program was initiated by Blue Ridge Supervisor Jim Burton (I) and supported by the entire Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

Good job!

TOWNS and Villages

HAMILTON – By Terry Moon

Ellmore's Garden Center on Reid Street in Hamilton opens in April. Stop by for beautiful, healthy plants and garden items. They carry hanging baskets, beautiful geraniums, combo pots – planted pots ready to set out by your front door as well as annuals and perennials to plant yourself. They also have vegetable and herb plants. They carry potting soil and trellis for climbing plants. They are always happy to share gardening tips so stop by. Their selection changes as the weather gets warmer and when they are sold out they close. Don't miss out.

John and Carolyn Unger enjoyed a skiing vacation with their son, Nathaniel and his family. They were in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and experienced a snowstorm producing three feet of snow in one day. Dave and Sandy Simpson visited relatives and friends through North Carolina. Jim and Terry Moon celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary by taking a river cruise through the Netherlands and Belgium.

Lowry's Flower Shop will return to Taylor's Corner, opening on April 15th from 10-7 daily. They will offer annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetable plants and hanging baskets. They will have Easter Flowers and offer an selection of indoor plants.

Lowry's Crab Shack is open and busy as ever. Stop by Wednesday-Sunday from 11 am to 9 p.m. They've added Family Style Dinners serving 4 or 8. There's plenty of shrimp and crab selections as well as burgers and fried chicken for landlubbers. Logo items available for sale include; t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, and baseball style caps. Take one on vacation and show off your Hamilton pride.

The Hamilton Natural Mercantile offers locally raised meat and organic fruits and vegetables in addition to all your health food needs. Stop in and say to your neighbors who work there. Email me your news at moonsofhamilton@comcast.net. Happy Easter!

LINCOLN – By Anne Tiffany

About 60 folks gathered in the Goose Creek Meeting House on Sunday afternoon, March 20 to hear Appalachian story telling and music by Mike Hayslett and his son, "Banjo Boy" Corbin. The event was put together by the Lincoln Community League. Mike told us stories that were significant of the times, starting from the Revolutionary War period to the 1930's; and while his son, 17 year old Corbin, entertained us with music, also representing those span of years, Mike would accompany him on bones, jaw harp and jug. Mike's stories drew many laughs from the audience; but all of us were held in awe as Corbin shared with us the progress of the banjo and the tunes, and songs, that were indicative of the different periods of history. He also played the mandolin and a guitar. I later asked Corbin how long he's been playing, and he said that he took lessons for about a month when he was ten years old, but then his teacher moved, and so Corbin is basically self taught. Corbin has already cut two CDs, has won numerous awards for his competitive banjo skills, and has been on NPR radio.

The month is now April, which means it's time for Keep Loudoun Beautiful, taxes are due, and Lincoln's annual Easter Egg Hunt. Jilori White will be in charge of KLB this year, and the kick-off for this big clean up event is scheduled for Saturday, April 9. The Lincoln post office will once again be open from 4 to 10 pm on Monday, April 18 for anyone who needs the extra hours to mail out their income taxes; drinks and cookies will be offered. Lincoln's Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday morning, April 23, at the Lincoln School. Bring a basket of eggs to share in the hiding, so children, ages toddlers through elementary, can go hunt and

find. Please check the chalk board as you enter town and the bulletin boards in the post office for further details on these events.

Lincoln says farewell to Dan Moran, the 21 year old son of Tom and Ann, who just moved to Honolulu to work at the Hilton as the concierge. And we welcome Timothy and Kristin O'Rourke who are moving from Chicago into the "Pink House."

Cornerstone Chapel and Young Life have just launched a club for all individuals with disabilities between the ages of 14 - 25. The club meets once a month on Saturday evenings from 5 - 7:30 p.m. Dinner and dessert are provided as well as games, songs, funny skits and dance parties. Contact Susie Smith at thesmithsjs@yahoo.com for more information.

ROUND HILL – By Susanne Kahler

The Harmony Middle School Hornets hosted the 3rd annual Empty Plate Fundraiser in conjunction with Family Arts Night March 24th. This year the students created plates as a variation of the bowl theme. Over 250 hand-crafted plates were created by local potters and 8th grade art students and then glazed by 6th, 7th and 8th grade art students. Plates were available for purchase with a meal for \$15 with all proceeds going to the Western Loudoun Food Pantry in Lovettsville. The plates were meant to serve as a reminder of all the empty plates around the world where hunger is a daily experience.

The Harmony Middle School library will be hosting its annual Used Book Sale from April 7th - 14th. Fiddler on the Roof, Jr. is this spring's theatrical production and will be performed April 8th at 7 p.m. and April 9th at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7 each. A Harmony account has also been set up at the "Re-Love It" Consignment Store in Purcellville. You can clean those unwanted items out of your closet and donate the proceeds from their sale to the Harmony Middle School Outreach Account; a win-win situation.

The Round Hill Community Garden is accepting registrations from residents for community garden plots for \$25/season plus a refundable deposit. Plots will be assigned in the order that applications are received. Please visit their website at www.roundhillgarden.org or pick up a registration form at the Town Office.

Bluemont Community Center's Preschool registration is underway. Call the Center to check availability of classes at 540-338-4485 or feel free to stop by. The preschool programs begin at the age of 2-5. The center also offers after school programs.

The talented art students of Woodgrove High School put on their first juried art show Friday, March 18th at the Round Hill Arts Center. The pieces displayed were chosen by Woodgrove art instructors Shawn Grove and Geoff Demark. It was a beautiful spring-like evening to sample some hor d'oeuvres, admire artwork and have a glass or two of wine on the premises of the Center, the Gateway Gallery and Bogati Bodega winery.

The Philomont Community Center will be hosting their 4th annual Ag-Day from noon until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 4th (a teacher work-day). Ag-Day is an informational day for children where local farmers, gardeners, vendors, and businesses come out and bring their animals for children to pet as well as provide information to promote their businesses.

WATERFORD – By Edith Crockett

Shots Fired in Waterford by Ed Good
On the night of August 26, Eliza Walker, residing at Talbott Farm just outside Waterford, had trouble falling asleep. Her husband was out of town, so at 4:30 in the morning, she got out of bed and began to write him a letter. Suddenly, Ring, the family dog, began baying at the top of his lungs. Eliza heard the clip-clop of horses. And then shots rang out. As she would later

write to her husband, she stepped to the front door and there heard ... much din, clamor, and noise, and rapid firing."

It was 1862. The Civil War battle at the Waterford Baptist Church had begun. The firefight between the Confederate Elijah White's Cavalry and the Unionist Samuel Means's Loudoun Rangers pitted brother against brother and neighbor against neighbor. When it was all over, several Confederates and Rangers lay dead.

One hundred forty years then passed. The Historical Light of Day: Waterford resident Taylor Chamberlin, researching the Civil War in Loudoun County, sought out a distant cousin who was a descendant of Eliza Walker, picked up the phone, and gave him a call. "May I speak with Mr. Walker?" he asked the woman who answered. "He died last night," she responded.

Ten more years passed. During that time, Chamberlin teamed up with John Souders to write a history of the Civil War in north Loudoun. They had reluctantly concluded that further pursuit of the promising Walker lead was impossible. Then in the fall of 2009 as their book was about to go to press, Chamberlin received a call from a Walker cousin who was on his way to retrieve a box of "old letters," which an auctioneer had withdrawn from his uncle's estate in Baltimore. Back home, the Walker descendant went through them page by page, and discovered, among many other treasures, the Civil War letter Eliza Walker wrote on the night of the Baptist Church skirmish. Copies were made, and the publisher agreed to a delay to allow this new trove of material to be integrated into the manuscript.

And now, Eliza's letter and thousands of other diaries, letters, and documents are seeing the historical light of day for the first time in the new book, *Between Reb and Yank – A Civil War History of Northern Loudoun County, Virginia* (McFarland & Company, 2011) (401 pages).

To write the book, Souders and Chamberlin spent scores of hours in the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, the Virginia Historical Society, and many other sites. Chamberlin and Souders received considerable help from other historians, particularly Horace Mewborn, a retired FBI agent living in New Bern, N.C. Souders met Mewborn through the late Loudoun historian, John E. Divine. "Horace helped us considerably with National Archives research," Souders said. "And his knowledge of irregular warfare in Loudoun is unmatched."

When Chamberlin and Souders would discover a name in their research, they had the advantage of consulting a database built by John and his wife Bronwen. The database contains over 15,000 names of early Waterford residents and their kin. The authors were interested not just in the military engagements that popped up throughout northern Loudoun but in the effects of the Civil War on the people who lived here. They wanted to know what happened to the people, what did they go through, who were they, who stayed, who fled, who changed sides, who tried to profit, who got ruined, who engaged in smuggling, and what did they think of those in northern Loudoun who supported the Union. Union support permeated northern Loudoun. A vote was held in Waterford – 220 voted against secession, 31 in favor. Similar results occurred in Lovettsville and Neersville. How to Purchase Rebs & Yanks: Chamberlin and Souders are donating the authors' royalties to the Waterford Foundation to help in its efforts to educate the public about life in Waterford. You may purchase a copy of the book by visiting the Foundation's website, WaterfordFoundation.org.

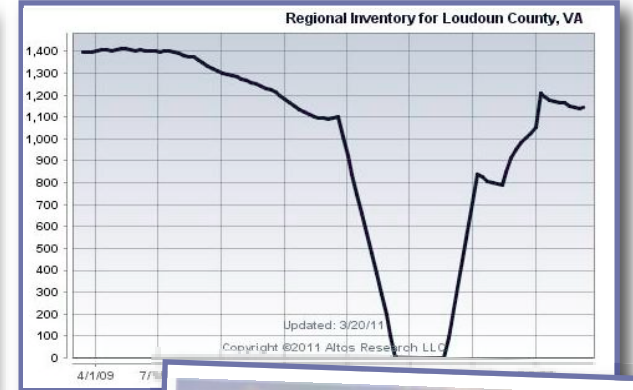
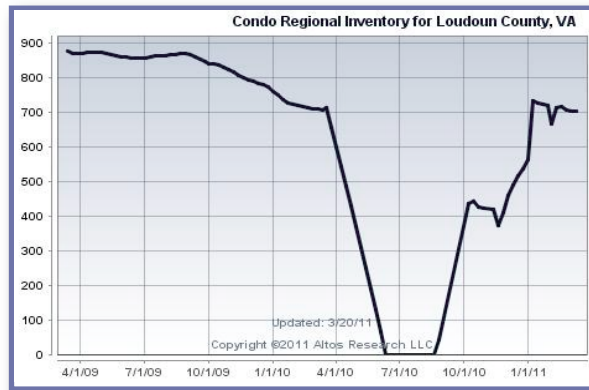
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– BY HEATHER ELIAS

I keep checking inventory levels hoping to see more homes available on the market in Loudoun County. It's nearly April, the grass is turning green, the bunny rabbits have already snuck in and eaten my crocuses (croci?) ... so where are the homes to sell?!? The charts here show inventory levels first for single family homes, and then for condos/townhomes combined. While we are at similar levels to where we were at this point last year, levels aren't increasing, yet. (And please pardon the obvious blip in data from June through August last year. We did, in fact, have inventory then) ;)

At this point I would think we would see an upswing in available homes, coming into the busiest season of the year for real estate. But so far, we aren't seeing it. For the last 30 days in Loudoun County, we had 759 new listings come on market, while 509 homes went under contract. That means we have only 250 additional homes to pick from over where we were a month ago. (The month prior, those numbers were 504 new listings and 379 contracts, so the market is getting busier).

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.



MOST EXPENSIVE HOMES SOLD IN LOUDOUN COUNTY IN FEBRUARY WAS ...

... Grace Hill Farm in Bluemont. Listed by Mary Ann and Brian McGowan of Thomas and Talbot Real Estate in Middleburg, the 104 acre manor home sold for \$4.5 million to a buyer represented by James McGowan IV, also of Thomas and Talbot. According to

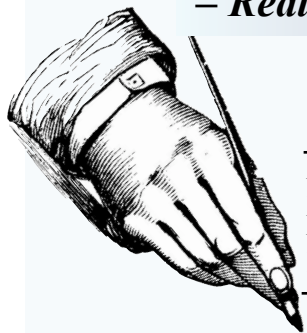
the listing, the home boasts over 10,000 finished square feet, a guest home by the pool, breathtaking mountain views and a stocked pond.

The least expensive home sold in Loudoun in February, by contrast, was a bank owned two bedroom, one bath condo in Fox Chapel in Leesburg. It sold for \$90,000 and was listed and sold by Cindy



Shrieves of Garrison, McNey and Associates of Manassas. – Cheers, Heather

– 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: What is the "hottest" month for sales? What improvements enhance a property, and which are a waste of time and money? -Kathleen, Hamilton

Dear Kathleen: Springtime is the hottest time to sell your house – when flowers are blooming, trees have greened up, and colorful potted plants greet potential home buyers. Contrast that to a bleak, icy day when snow has been pushed aside a narrow path to the front door. See the difference? A home can have a welcoming aura, if presented in the best light. When you plan to meet someone for the first time, do you get dressed up and pay attention to detail, or just go as you are? You get the idea.

And, for the second part of your question: Paint, Carpet, and Cleaning are the top three improvements that enhance property. If you do nothing else; clean, paint, replace old carpet, then clean again.

Following close behind, is De-cluttering. Get rid of Stuff to give your home a clutter-free appearance which will make your home seem lighter, brighter, and more pleasant.

Another cheap fix is Landscaping. Add colorful flowers to the front walkway or porch. Put a hanging basket of flowers to greet new home buyers. Add new mulch and edge the driveway, but don't spend thousands on that exotic bush that no one will notice.

When it comes to major improvements, I'll start with what I wouldn't (if goal is to sell your home right away):

(continued on page 23)

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Advertisement for Century 21 Redwood Realty featuring a grid of property listings with photos, prices, and descriptions. Includes a central banner with the slogan 'We do more for our agents, so they can do more for you!' and contact information for Carol Morris Dukas.

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Voter Redistricting Update (continued from page 2)

Waterford and Lovettsville. Clearly, there would be neither learning curve nor problem for me with name recognition in such a district. However, the plans' handling of Leesburg and the Route 15 North Corridor troubled me. The proposals effectively split this rural corridor from its own community of interest and split the Town residents, another community of interest, into two or three different election districts.

The proposed Miller plan, however, split Western Loudoun along an east-west axis creating two districts that stretch from the Blue Ridge Mountains through the Transition Policy Area and into the Suburban Policy Area. I represented these eastern areas during my first two terms of office, convincing a majority of the Board to build and open Freedom and Briar Woods High Schools concurrently and to finance, construct and staff the South Riding Public Safety Center. However, much has changed since

then and many new people have arrived. Further, a decision to vote against the HOA plans would put me in direct opposition to the leaders of neighborhoods in which I would be running in November.

So, what changed my mind?

1. A recognition that no eight-district plan would allow every community of interest in the County (even when narrowly defined) to remain together in a single election district. In every proposal put forward, some community's ox was gored.
2. A decision that, this being the case, such goring should be minimized – so that no group found itself without a strong voice to ensure their needs were heard and addressed.
3. The negative, accusatory, and even threatening tone of the Board members championing the HOA plan.

Of the two plans on the table, I felt the Miller Plan was a fairer plan that offered a better spread of representation without placing the interests of one group over another. Does it create two Western districts? Acreage-wise, yes, but not necessarily politically. Will it result in a Western Supervisor representing Eastern residents? It depends on the candidates – it is just as likely that an Eastern Supervisor could end up representing Western residents. This has already occurred on the School Board, when a suburban resident ran for and won the Catoctin District seat in 2003 and then lost to a Lovettsville resident in 2007.

In conclusion, I wish that a majority of the Board had been willing to give greater consideration to my ten-district plan. I truly believe that it could have alleviated many of complaints addressed to the two plans left on the table. Certainly, it would have made my vote easier and my wife happier. – Best regards, Jim Burton

The Case of the Missing Glove – by Steve Webster

Friday was a good day. I went to court and didn't embarrass myself. As a lawyer, I consider this to be a good day. As I reveled in my good fortune, a competing thought entered my mind: "Perhaps you should raise the bar a little bit higher." I tried to ignore the naysayer.

On the drive home, dark clouds rolled in and the wind began to blow. Hard. It reminded me of being in a boat out on the water when you start thinking to yourself, "Maybe I should have listened to my wife."

I was abruptly roused from this daydream by a call from my wife. "There's a tree down across the lane and the power is out," she said. "At least it's not another bear," I

thought. My weekend plans of lounging about and reading miscellaneous things were apparently being foiled by Mother Nature. Luckily, I had a back way to my house across a field and I had four wheel drive. As I proceeded across the field, the car began to bounce. It occurred to me that the ground must have been planted at one time and the motion of the car was echoing



the seasonal work of a farmer who had long since moved on. As a young man, I thought the Pontiac Trans Am ruled. Doing doughnuts in the snow in a Trans Am was cool. (Note to my kids: I personally never did that. If it did happen, that was one of your uncles and I was just along for the ride, urging them to stop.) Age and experience have taught me better. There is no substitute for four wheel drive.

Fortunately, my wife had impressed upon the power company the urgency of the downed power lines and they were on their way. Within a couple of hours, our power was restored and our lane access, as well.

Or so we thought.

I drove down the lane for an inspection and saw a tree still down, blocking our access, and some wires trapped beneath it, still connected to the utility poles. Despite my self-image as a thrill-seeker, I returned home to await the morning daylight, trusting it to provide a clearer picture of our predicament.

The morning (Saturday) came early. It was quiet. In a house with seven people and two dogs (and, on this weekend, two guests), quiet time is rare. Once the coffee was brewed, my miscellaneous readings commenced. Shortly thereafter, serial awakenings began and my readings were

unceremoniously terminated. Eight or nine fried eggs later, plans were being made to address the tree and powerline problem.

After a number of telephone consultations among the neighborhood women-folk, the neighborhood menfolk were dispatched. As my occupation lends itself to soft hands, I looked for my Stanley cowhide gloves. I could only find the left one. Odd, I thought. Perhaps our dog Annie had graduated from just stealing socks and had started stealing accessories as well. I imagined her crate filled with socks, gloves, hairbands, and purses, too.

As I arrived on the scene, our good neighbor Bruce had his trusty chain saw in hand and our good neighbor Ray showed up to assure us that the downed line was just a telephone line. If network television decides to produce a series called "Survivor – Purcellville," I would like to be on the same team as Bruce and Ray.

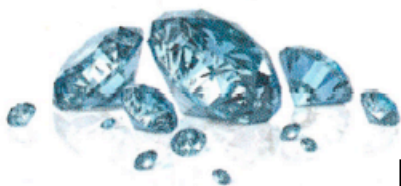
Bruce dispatched the offending tree in short order. Ray thought Bruce's saw would pinch, but the phone line was a testament to modern engineering and snapped upward as soon as Bruce cut through the tree. I learned an important lesson that day: never look down on a line loaded with tension as someone else forcefully relieves it.

As we finished, the power trucks drove up. Even though it was outside their scope of work, they raised the telephone line for us so we could drive down the lane. Normalcy had been restored.

Watching all this work made me tired. So I took a nap. After that, I drove over to the Lincoln post office to check the mail. As I walked out the door, I stopped to read the various postings on the bulletin board. Tacked to the bottom of the bulletin board was a right-handed Stanley cowhide glove. It was mine. My miscellaneous reading had finally paid off.

Steve Webster works as a lawyer in Alexandria and lives near Purcellville with his wife, five children, and two dogs. He would like to thank the anonymous good neighbor who found his righthanded Stanley cowhide glove and would like to apologize to his dog Annie for the false accusation.

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Dear Doug, continued from page 21

- I would not redo the entire kitchen. It's too subjective, and too expensive just to sell a house. You may want to replace appliances if they are too old, but it's more cost effective to just clean well, then price the house accordingly.

- I wouldn't add a garage if you lack one.
- No digging a swimming pool.

In short: I wouldn't add any major projects just to sell a house. My rule of thumb is to spruce up what you have, spending the least amount for the biggest impact.

Occasionally, homeowners facing stiff competition may need to amend this advice a bit, to stay competitive. If you are considering adding granite countertops, for example, look at your neighbors. Do they all have it? Would you really stand out? If your answer is yes, you may want to take the plunge. Likewise, if you have a basement with the plumbing roughed-in for a bath, and the walls and sink are in, I would add the toilet. I would not add a complete bath!

So, good luck with the improvements, Kathleen, and send me any questions you run into as you get your house ready to go!

Dear Doug: Why is it so hard to get "free" information on foreclosed properties? - Glen, Fairfax

Dear Glen: You can call a Realtor like myself to provide free info on any foreclosure that you want to know about. Why? So I can educate you on that particular foreclosure, then sell you on why they can be a great deal to buy. Is that "free?" Yes! As a Realtor, if I know you're working with another Realtor, I would keep it very brief. But, if you're trying to learn about foreclosures, and I think I can begin a successful business relationship with you, I'll give you all the "free" info that you desire--and I'll invite you to bring any friends who want to learn, too. We would review the whole foreclosure process, depending on what you wanted to learn. If you're just gathering info on foreclosures for a school paper, I would still give it out for free--but with the hopes of educating you and closing future deals with you and your friends. Why? Because people all need a place to live. I find that even if the free advice seeker is not ready to buy something now, he/she will take notice of a Realtor who takes the time to answer questions. So, get in touch with a Realtor, and I'll bet you'll get all the "free" info that you're looking for. Go ahead, make that call!



CARVER CENTER, PURCELLVILLE

Reike Presentation:

12:30-1:30 Wednesday, April 13 (Ages 18 & up) Reiki Master practitioners Liz Clark and Elizabeth Siegert will introduce you to the gentle hands-on healing practice of Reike. Reike began in early 20th century Japan and was introduced in the US in the 1930s. It is a technique that is said to be used to address a wide range of physical and mental health concerns, including chronic pain, cancer, HIV/AIDS, Diabetes and Mental Health problems. Non-Members pay a \$2 Facility Drop-in Fee. Free to members.

Arthritis Information Session:

10:15-11:00 Friday, April 22 (Ages 18 & up) Free Our local Area Agency on Aging has organized this presentation by the Arthritis Foundation. Arthritis affects over two million Americans. Please join us to learn more about symptoms of, and treatments for the various types of arthritis.

VA Lyme Support Group:

7:00-8:45 PM Thursday, April 14 nd every 2nd Thursday thereafter (All ages) Free. Carver is the new location for this monthly support group led by Char Healy.

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Christina VanDerHurst, DC & P.J. VanDerHurst, DC FASA cordially invite you to an Open House in celebration of their new location on

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205 E Hirst Rd. Suite 102 Purcellville, VA 20132, Ribbon Cutting at 6pm!
Hors d'oeuvres will be served.





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

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

Middleburg Elementary Open House
April 12th 3:00 - 5:00 pm



NOW ENROLLING!
Private School Perks
At Public School Prices

Middleburg Elementary School is a Loudoun County Public School that:

- Offers Open Enrollment to all LCPS students under the Special Permission for Under-Enrolled Schools Policy
- Offers an academic curriculum that is well rounded with an emphasis on art, music, physical education and foreign language
- Features intimate classes—the highest teacher to student ratio in the LCPS system
- Provides experienced teaching staff
- Consistently wins state recognition academic awards
- Is designated a "Pathways to Reading and Writing" school
- Offers an After-Kindergarten and an After-School Program through the Middleburg Community Center
- Offers many of the same quality education benefits of a private school, absolutely FREE!

For more information, please visit the Middleburg Elementary Web page at <http://cmsweb2.lcps.org/middleburg/site/default.asp>

This ad was placed by The Blue Ridge Leader to show their support for Middleburg Elementary.