

Blue Ridge LEADER & Loudoun Today

May 2011

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“Nichols: the Last Hardware Store” Debuts May 14

Locally-Filmed and Produced Documentary Part of Purcellville Virginia Heritage Day Celebrations

– By Andrea Gaines

Since 2008, the Lincoln Studios film crew (Sarah Huntington, Peter Buck and Drew Babb) have been filming “Nichols: The Last Hardware Store” in Purcellville, Virginia and the surrounding Northern Virginia/Washington DC area.

“We have devoted thousands of hours to the project, relying exclusively on ‘sweatequity,’” notes Drew Babb. With the photography and filming complete, the team is beyond excited to be headed into the editing room and hopes the public will fall in love with the final product.

The Nichols film is a story of a small store in a small community. It’s an American story, and it’s a truly authentic subject. As Sarah Huntington describes it, “I’ve been photographing the Nichols staff for over the last 20 years ... But what makes Nichols unique is not just the way it looks, but the way it moves. There’s a kind of ballet here, with a team of sales people gliding their customers in and out of basements and attics and warehouses to find just the right thing they came in for. We’re here to capture this movement, this action, for all time.”

Nichols doesn’t look much different today from the store founded in 1914. Nichols Hardware opened as the E.E. Nichols & Company just before World War I and has operated as a full serv-

ice hardware store where you can find virtually everything for almost 100 years.

Long time Purcellville resident Bob Lyon can’t stop talking about “the drawers” – the hundreds of perfectly ordered and labeled hardware store wooden compartments that line the wall ... floor to ceiling on the main level.

You can find any solution to any “hardware” problem at Nichols – including fixing a broken crutch with a perfectly sized piece of plumbing pipe, as one fascinated (and relieved) customer recalled.

After the death of Ed Nichols and his son Ted Nichols, the store is now run by Ed’s brother Ken Nichols.



photography by Sarah Huntington



“Nichols: The Last Hardware Store”

- Drew Babb, writer;
- Peter Buck, director/videographer;
- Jon Carroll, original score;
- Sarah Huntington, producer.

Babb, Buck, Carroll and Huntington are asking the community for financial assistance to help complete the film. See a film trailer and information about Gold Key, Power Tool and Nuts & Bolts Sponsorships on the Last Hardware Store website.

– www.TheLastHardwareStore.org –



Leesburg’s Flower & Garden Festival

Leesburg once again charmed visitors with it’s Flower and Garden Festival for Virginia Historic Garden Week ... filling her streets with extravagant landscape and floral displays. The annual event is both an opportunity to wander Leesburg’s streets with the family, and make gardening plans. Over 100 vendors participate, displaying landscape designs, gardening supplies, outdoor living items, plants and flowers.

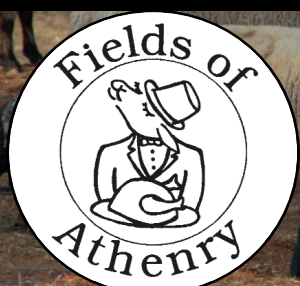
This year’s event featured a newly expanded Wine Garden on the Town Green – a tasting area with some of Loudoun County’s best wineries and breweries, and opportunities to enjoy a commemorative glass and bottle of your favorite wine after the festival has ended. Food, music, children’s entertainment and crafts abounded, signaling Leesburg’s official start to the spring season.

Board of Supervisors Move to Stop Outer Beltway

At the Board of Supervisors meeting April 19, 2011, Blue Ridge Supervisor Jim Burton initiated a resolution to the Commonwealth Transportation Board opposing the designation of a Northern Virginia North-South Corridor of Statewide Significance (COSS). Supervisor Burton’s resolution came in response to an action of the members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board in initiating a motion to designate a Northern Virginia North-South COSS running from “Route 95 to new bridge crossings across the Potomac River between Route 28 and Route 15.” Initiating a COSS is a preliminary step towards the creation of an Outer Beltway and

(Continued on page 9)

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- ◆ Tour the Farm ◆ Shop Our Farm Shop ◆
- ◆ Gifts for Mom ◆ Purchase a BBQ lunch ◆
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Good Shepherd Alliance Hosts Old Tyme Country Fair in Leesburg

By Mark Gunderman

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God" (1 John 3:1).

Did you know that in 2010, there were 381 sheltered homeless people in Loudoun County? Of those, 169 are children. The Good Shepherd Alliance, a Christian non-profit, strives to help those in our community who are affected by homelessness. Since our inception in 1983, we have housed over 4,200 people in our emergency and transitional facilities. Last year an additional 1,600 families benefited from our outreach and counseling services.

The Good Shepherd Alliance (GSA) exists to support women, children and families with emergency, transitional and outreach services to aid them in gaining self sufficiency and self-worth. By the grace of God and through the generosity, care and concern from our community members, this past year we touched the lives of over 130 shelter residents, along with the assistance of 1,500 volunteers.

The GSA is once again hosting a fundraising activity and asking the community to support the Old Tyme Country Fair at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds. This event will feature live entertainment and a variety of attractions. Artists performing at the event include Mark Lippard, juggler extraordinaire; Wes Holly, illusionist; the Blue Ridge Thunder Cloggers; Felicia Kessel Crawley and the Voices of Worship Choir; Kaitlyn Maher of America's Got Talent; and Bill Emerson and The Sweet Dixie Band.

Featured attractions at the Old Tyme Country Fair include live and silent auctions, an antique car show, various crafters, food vendors and exhibitors. In addition, there are activities for children including pony, camel, and donkey rides, petting zoo, hayride, cow milking and much more. This is a day to bring the entire family out for an afternoon of relaxation.

This outdoor event is open to all and will take place on Saturday, June 4 from 11:00 AM until 6:00 PM. The

About the GSA:

When Good Shepherd Alliance (GSA) first began receiving homeless people in a Sterling pastor's home over 27 years ago, meeting their basic emergency needs was about all we could do for them. However, with so much support from our community, the GSA has now grown to such an extent that we are able to provide guests with much more than just shelter, food and clothing.

Every person or family served by GSA has access to the following services: crisis intervention referrals, spiritual guidance, financial responsibility classes, life-skills and parenting education, work-training referrals and case management and counsel-

ing. The broad array of services and support GSA offers all aim to achieve one common goal: sustained self-sufficiency. The GSA strategy for guaranteeing this is dual: (1) transition guests back into the mainstream workforce/classroom, while simultaneously (2) making the most of the time they spend in the shelter by training, counseling and otherwise preparing them for independence in order to drastically reduce their chance of relapse into a previous undesirable type of behavior. GSA maintains offices in Ashburn, a shelter for homeless pregnant women in Purcellville, two shelters for women and children and for single women in Lucketts and four thrifts stores located in Ashburn, Sterling and Leesburg.

To benefit the Homeless in Loudoun County

OLD TYME COUNTRY FAIR

Hosted by: Good Shepherd Alliance, Inc.

4 June 2011, Saturday
Loudoun County Fairgrounds
 17558 Dry Mill Road, Leesburg, VA 20175
11am - 6pm (Rain or Shine)

Featured Attractions:
 Live and Silent Auctions
 Antique Car Show
 Crafters, Vendors and Exhibitors
 Pony, Camel, Cart and Hayrides
 Face Painting and Children's Games

Live Entertainment:
 Mark Lippard - Juggler Extraordinaire
 Wes Holly - Illusionist
 Blue Ridge Thunder Cloggers
 Felicia Kessel Crawley and the
 "Voices of Worship" Choir
 Kaitlyn Maher - America's Got Talent
 Bill Emerson and The Sweet Dixie Band

And Much More!!!

Tickets are available now!
 Advanced tickets: \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00
 At the gate tickets: \$7.00 per person

For More Information:
 Go to our website or e-mail
 Joy Trickett
 joygoodshepherd@verizon.net
 http://www.loudounhomeless.org/fair

Good Shepherd Alliance
 20694 Ashburn Road, Ashburn, VA 20147

Loudoun County Fairgrounds are located at 17558 Dry Mill Road in Leesburg. Advance tickets begin at \$5 each or 5 for \$20. At the gate, tickets are \$7 per person. All profits received from this event benefit the homeless in Loudoun County.

For more information on the purchasing of tickets or sponsorship and involvement opportunities, email or call GSA (joygoodshepherd@verizon.net; 703-724-1555) or go to the Country Fair website: <http://loudounhomeless.org>.

Mark Gunderman serves as the Board Chair for Good Shepherd Alliance.

feed loudoun plant a row



www.feedloudoun.org

Help Feed Loudoun's Hungry

Feed Loudoun Plant a Row for the Hungry

reminds you the final frost date is 5/15.

Please remember to plant an extra row of fresh fruits and vegetables to donate to Loudoun Interfaith Relief Food Pantry.

Please ask for a **Plant a Row receipt when donating to Loudoun Interfaith Relief.**

Ground Breaking for Subdivision Honoring Virginia Tech Student



– By Valerie Joyner

Cool rainy weather did not discourage or dampen the spirits of those participating in the ground breaking for Phase II of the Erin Peterson Subdivision Saturday April 16, 2011 at 10 am in the Village of St. Louis, Virginia.

The subdivision is being developed in honor of Erin Peterson, a Virginia Tech freshman who tragically lost her life in the April 2007 shooting at the school.

Loudoun Habitat for Humanity and many others broke ground on the four home subdivision. Financial supporters included the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Housing Fund, the Federal Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant system and other sources.

Construction will begin in May 2011. The first home will go to the Burks family.



Top: Erin's mother Mrs. Celeste Peterson and grandfather Mr. Vernon Peterson; Above: Supervisor Jim Burton, Blue Ridge District.

For more information on Habitat's efforts in Loudoun County, go to www.LoudounHabitat.org

For My Mom ...

Letters to the Editor

"On Mother's Day"

Shakespeare has one of his characters say, in reference to a memorable woman, "Age cannot wither her nor custom stale her infinite variety." My mother is not what she was in body, at least, at twenty, but, at ninety-eight, the rest of the famous reference to Cleopatra certainly applies to her, perhaps, more so than it did to the unhappy Egyptian queen. Despite macular degeneration, she remains active, aware of the world's foibles, despairing at times of its vicious politics, but still very happy to be part of it, ever willing to adapt and change everything but her principles. She has her own computer, maintains her own e-mail account, watches CNN, and is active in a variety of organizations, and, importantly, still lives by herself. Yet, there is another part of her independent life that is as important as her character, and, possibly, her

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EDITORIAL

Are We Saving Trees or Saving Face?

– By Valerie Joyner

In the April 2011 *Purcellville Citizen's Update* (a publication of the Town of Purcellville) there was a photo of a rotted, hollow core tree trunk that had been removed from Fireman's Field in March 2011.

A caption for the photo in the *Update* reads "An example of the rotted out, hollow core and limbs of the trees that were removed."

Staff and reporters from the *Blue Ridge Leader and Loudoun Today* were in fact on site the day the trees were taken down. Of the 15 trees that were removed, there was only one tree that was hollow (or rotted), and one other that was slightly hollow. (Staff had watched as all of the dozen or more trees were first taken down, and then hauled away. The photos at right and above were taken that day.)

Over the course of two days, the Town of Purcellville removed a total of fifteen 250 to 300 year old white oak trees, and anticipated having to remove 12 more. This would bring the total number trees required to be removed for the new Town Hall parking lot to 27.

In an apparent attempt to back peddle, at the April 12, 2011 Purcellville Town Council meeting, the Council voted to save three of the trees, reducing the total tree loss to 24. The Town is in the uncomfortable position of having to make space for a required 67 parking spaces for the new Town Hall, and the trees are simply, in the way (the Town loses between 3 to 5 parking spaces for each tree saved).

These trees may be among the most studied in America. A 2009 memo from the



Care of Trees Company found five of the trees (presumably the ones about to be impacted by parking lot construction) to be "in good condition." In a 2010 reassessment, the same trees were found to have declined and were now in "fair" condition and "are recommended for removal due to the level of impact anticipated from the proposed Fireman's Fields project."

So, in the end, the loss of trees is about parking (pure and simple).

EDITORIAL

**TINKERING ... REARRANGING ... REWORDING ...**

– by Kelli Grim

The Town spends a great deal of time tinkering, rearranging and rewording all the ordinances, every regulation, zoning law, building height and setback, façade, window pane, sidewalk width and site plan – all of the nitpicking details that are supposed to make the town run smoothly, create an atmosphere of consistency and purpose, and lend some sort of harmony and vision to the Town.

It's a great deal of time wasted. Despite all the reams of paper, the numerous drafts, the meetings and discussions, the town routinely and capriciously overturns or completely ignores its own regulations.

When it comes to the Cole Farm Project, there are half a dozen ways in which the Town has shown a flagrant disregard for its own ordinances and Town plans. The first concerns the zoning laws forbidding Big Box Stores.

With breathtaking disregard for their own very sensible restrictions on the Big Box Blight, which drains revenues out of municipalities, they decided to accept a project that was the undoing and destruction of the most beautiful historic site in Purcellville. A site that put no stresses on traffic, helped to keep the air clean and was part of the rustic and rural "gateway" to a town that was the true

historic and agricultural "metropolis" in what until recently was the largely untouched western expanse of Loudoun County. Whether or not the ordinance against big box stores was just posturing, as it seems so much of the time with this town, the rules, once again, did not apply.

Another ordinance that was completely ignored for three years, until several citizens complained about it, was the Historic Overlay District Ordinance. For three years the house on Cole Farm was left with broken windows, letting the weather in to rot the wood floors. That is specifically and strictly forbidden under the HOD Ordinance, and anyone paying the least amount of attention to it would have noticed that the house was being "demolished by neglect." The windows are now all boarded up. That house was in perfect view for three years. Why the neglect on the town's part, if it truly wanted the house to be saved? The fact that the restoration of the house and the barn were clearly spelled out in the proffers, and the proffers were what the Special Use Permit was based on, and those proffers are enforceable by law, the Town could have easily revoked the SUP or levied a much harsher response on the developer when the barn was half-demolished. Neither happened. Richard Lake should have known what farm structures were to be saved, and Mayor Lazaro, in a recent Infrastructure meeting, clearly stated that he had just spoken to Lake the Friday

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Will Purcellville's Debt Exceed the Virginia Constitutional Limit?

Purcellville's Financial Myths & Facts

– By Ryan J. Cool

The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia limits the amount of debt any local city or town can take on. The limitation is based on the amount of taxable real estate in the locality. Article VII, Section 10 of the Virginia constitution states:

“No city or town shall issue any bonds or other interest-bearing obligations which, including existing indebtedness, shall at any time exceed ten per centum of the assessed valuation of the real estate in the city or town subject to taxation, as shown by the last preceding assessment for taxes.”

Some items of debt are exempted from this limit, but that doesn't help the situation in Purcellville.

According to the town's proposed budget, Purcellville had \$61,685,660 subject to Virginia's Constitutional limit at the end of the last fiscal year (June 30, 2010). According to the 2010 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the town's bond debt was \$62,501,151 as of June 30, 2010. And, according to both of these documents, essentially all of the long term debt is subject to Virginia's debt limit. What the result will be – should the Town exceed the debt limit – is unknown. But, it won't be good.

The town's proposed budget does appear to be in error since the reported debt limit, as established by the County Assessor's Office was only \$93.8 million and not the reported \$103 million. Either way, it appears that the Purcellville debt will be very close to the legal limit.

Myth #1: The Town Runs a “Surplus”

No. The Town doesn't run “surpluses.” What happens is that budgets are created (with excess and “nice to have items”), followed by a directive to Town Departments to exercise fiscal restraint during the Fiscal Year. While items such as the unnecessary purchase of vehicles and other items are cut, the money that isn't spent is then labeled a “surplus.”

Myth #2: The Town's “Budget Awards” Mean Something.

No. Town “Budget Awards” – from the Government Finance Officers Association, for example – are given for PRESENTATION, not any content that might relate to fiscal health. To put it another way, if the Federal deficit was nicely organized and presented like the Town's budget, it would be eligible for the award too.

Myth #3: All of the Town's debt is necessary and well-managed.

No. Tens of millions of dollars of debt have not been mandated to occur and

were not necessary: such as the expansion of the Basham Simms Wastewater Treatment plant; and the purchase of an old building to be transformed into a new Town Hall. Furthermore, the debt has been increasing exponentially in Purcellville ... absent any increasing revenue streams such as property taxes.

Myth #4: The Town Maintains an Equalized Tax Rate – if Your Property's Assessment Goes Down ... Your Taxes Go Down.

No. Since FY2007, property tax revenues have been quite stable; around \$2.45 million per year. While assessments decreased by 5% in 2008, 13.5% in 2009, and 1.1% in 2010, the Town's tax rate remained the same. Since FY2007, the total assessed value of taxable real property (which is used to determine the Town's debt limit per the Virginia Constitution) decreased \$232 million dollars.

Fact #1: Town Policy is that “Debt Service Expenditures” (payment on debt) as a percentage of expenditures should not exceed 15%.

Fact #2:
The Town's FY12 budget shows that percentage at 14%, which is dangerously close to violating Town Policy. In 2007, this number was just 4%.

Fact #3:
Town Policy is that “Bonded debt of the Town shall not exceed 2% of the Total Assessed Value of Taxable Property”

Fact #4:
The Town's FY12 budget shows this percentage at 1.76%, another dramatic increase from just 0.23% in 2007.

Fact #5:
As the debt has increased to the point of almost violating the Town's own policy guidelines, it is also important to note that spending continued as the debt limit (the ability to spend) was decreasing. Since FY2007, the total assessed value of taxable real property (which is used to determine the Town's debt limit per the Virginia Constitution) decreased \$232 million dollars.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

SEND US YOUR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AT

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Blue Ridge LEADER & Loudoun Today

Since 1984

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OPINION

TRANSPARENCY MATTERS

– by Kelli Grim

In January 2007 reports of FBI investigations into the activities of various Loudoun County officials shook public confidence in their local government. This exacerbated already existing public concerns regarding the significant levels of campaign contributions from individuals, companies, and organizations with matters before the Board, the appointment of individuals with fiduciary interests to Board advisory committees and commissions, and an overall lack of transparency in the land use decision-making process. Between 2006 and 2007, both jointly and individually, Supervisors Jim Burton, Sally Kurtz, Lori Waters, and Chairman Scott York, attempted to address these issues. Their efforts were met with mixed success.

A few of the many items in Phases I, II, and III were more stringent disclosure of all interested parties in land use applications, continued efforts to limit last-minute changes to business before the Board, and requirements that all appointees to citizen committees/commissions/boards complete annual disclosure forms (2.2-3118 and 2.2-3115 of the Code of Virginia), and revise the procedures for public hearings.

One major initiative was the “Disclosure of Real Parties in Interest” of the Land Use Process. Initiated by Supervisor Jim Burton on November 8, 2006, the intent was to amend the County Zoning Ordinances to establish a program of full disclosure of all land use

applications. (Similar to one in use by Fairfax County that makes public the name of all individuals participating in a particular rezoning, special exception, or special permit/variance applications.) The documents address issues of “campaign fund raising and donations, and the enforcement of conflict of interest laws.” It also requires any applicant for a land use zoning map amendment, special exception, rezoning or variance to make full disclosure of all the parties with an interest in the project. The Board voted 6-1-2 (Delgaudio NO; Kurtz and Staton absent) in favor of the motion. Supervisor Tulloch offered a friendly amendment that the “Speaker Sign-Up Sheets” be revised to provide additional disclosures by speakers. Supervisor Burton included Tulloch's amendment as part of the motion the Board passed.

Leesburg's land use procedures have a similar disclosure – a simple, yet very specific way that County and Town's action vote can be transparent in all areas of governing. A quick survey of Western Loudoun Towns found that none of the Towns use such a form.

The Town of Purcellville is in the process of updating and revising their Zoning Ordinances and the records reflect that the Council has been presented with County and Leesburg forms on more than one occasion by a resident, yet nothing in the record shows any response from any of the Town's elected officials or staff, and there is nothing in the record to show this is being considered in the current Zoning

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Editorial, from page 4

before the “accidental” demolition of the barn happened. Folks, it doesn’t add up.

The third, and one of the most egregious, violations of the town’s own ordinances is the violation of the Special Use Permit. There are thirteen specific conditions that must be given consideration in order to issue a SUP. The Town does not even pretend to pay attention to them. Traffic must be considered. Creativity of design. Location. Whether the project will impact water and air quality (which, for example, the Taco Bell/KFC certainly did and which Cole Farm will as well), whether or not topography, vegetation, habitats, or historic structures would be affected, etc. Most of the Cole Farm property design was a complete violation of the intent of the Special Use Permit. SUPs have proven to be nothing more than a gimmick to deny projects the town simply doesn’t want, rather than to keep any consistency overall. A letter of appeal against the site plan dated February 5, 2010 was filed by the Law Firm of G.Macy Nelson. In the four complaints spelled out in the letter, number four reads. “Throughout the process of the approval of this site plan, the Town has either ignored or undermined numerous provisions of its own planning documents, including the Purcellville Zoning Ordinance, Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan, Purcellville Comprehensive Plan, and the Purcellville Transportation Plan.”

To take just one of these mentioned in the letter, in a memorandum (3/13/2009) concerning the Catocin Corner property, Lauren Krems writes “Land Use Goal #3 (p. 111) the Town’s Comprehensive Plan ... promoting ... infill development ... of underutilized commercial ... properties” would be the preferred development pattern rather than to undermine the Plan by “placing too much “new” development on the fringes of town.” The Cole Farm Property is exactly that. This project will cause massive traffic problems that the Southern Collector Road will have no way of alleviating. If the Harris Teeter management was counting on another five thousand single family homes to provide the critical mass, they may have badly overestimated the real estate situation in Loudoun, despite our immunity from the worst deflation of the housing market.

Towns which truly care about their citizens think in advance. They stick to their plans and make their plans stick. Chaos in planning can only make life in town more uncertain for both the customers who live here and the businesses they depend upon. But, no doubt, in the near future, the Town will win a quality of life award for being “such a great place to live and raise a family.”

Opinion, from page 5

Ordinance discussions.

If this form was in place it could provide transparency of all the parties of interest in the Cole Farm/Gateway project. Loudoun County tax records show it is owned by Jordan River Acquisitions, LLC and that Roadside Development represents under the name of Purcellville Acquisitions, LLC. The record shows it was obtained in July 2005 for \$4.6 million when the Total Parcel assessment was \$1,303,800 and zoned residential with light commercial and prior to the intense commercial rezoning.

In a recent conversation with Town staff, the question was asked who all the parties of interest (investors) are in the Gateway Development project. It was stated that they had only ever dealt with Roadside Development via Richard Lake. This leaves many questions that could easily be public record with transparent policies in place that make certain no conflict of interests can exist when all is fully disclosed, and officials must vote on projects. This issue seems especially important with the many recent approvals of massive mixed use commercial and the promise of much more to come, and the renaming of the “Planning” Department to “Community Development” Department. Residents want to be assured ongoing transparency in their local government, and if it is good enough for the County and the Town of Leesburg to enact, then why not Purcellville?

The same questions remain regarding the Catocin Corners project, which the record reflects to be owned by Catocin Corner, LLC. Loudoun County records show it was purchased in November 2006 by Bruce Campbell and Roger S. Brook, but no sale price

is recorded. There is also no Total Parcel Assessment shown in the record for 2006 when it was still zoned residential. The property was then sold to Catocin Corner, LLC in March 2007 with a Total Parcel assessment of \$275,000 (and no sales price in the records). In 2010, the property was valued at \$200,000 in the Loudoun County records. Following the controversial re-zoning – which the Planning Commission did not recommend – the Total Parcel Assessment is now \$2.5 million. Yet, the Town of Purcellville has absolutely no records that show who all the “parties of interest” are in this property.

The Purcellville Town Code in Sec. 2-374 states there is a restriction on members of the Town Council, planning commission, BZA and administrative staff appointed by Town Council from contracting or bidding on town projects or services. In addition to compliance with the VA State Code, the Town adopted a more restrictive ordinance which prohibits members of the Town Council, Planning Commission, BZA and administrative staff appointed by the Town Council from contracting or bidding on Town projects or services. (Ord. No. 03-2-1, 3-11-2003) In theory, it is fantastic to have a code that is even more restrictive than the State Code, but as the Commonwealth of Virginia Attorney, Jim Plowman said in a conversation on this matter, it is a “self policing” issue.

But, when there are no “Disclosure” requirements in place to determine if there is any conflict of interest, how can one ever know?

Purcellville Town Hall Spending Update – By Kelli Grim

Previously Reported Spending for New Town Hall

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

Lot size: .69 acres on Nursery Avenue; Year Built 1926.

Expenditures: \$296,653 Blue Ridge Reality
To Date \$51,267 Beese Quest Design
 \$88,274 Bond and Financing
 \$79,051 Legal Services
 \$537,791 Engineering/Architectural/Environmental
 \$154,900 Waterproofing
 \$1,200,000 Phases 1, 2 & 3 Paving of Fireman's Field
 \$1,500,000 Remainder of Master Plan for Fireman's Field
 (not included in total)
 \$2,178,604 Renovation
 \$28,670 Metal Roof Replacement
 \$4,975 Motorized Blinds
 \$175,000 purchase of home in historic district for demolition/parking
PREVIOUS TOTAL: \$6,745,185

Additional Spending for New Town Hall: \$239,694

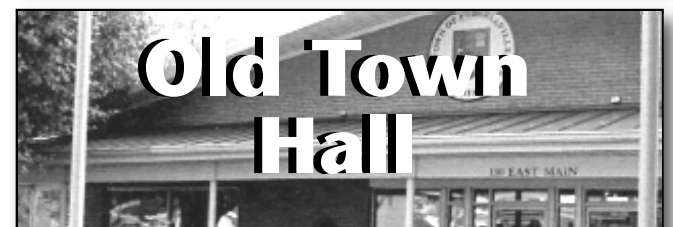
In addition to the \$2,178,604 the Town is paying for renovations, records reflect the most recent expenditures at this time total \$239,694. Numerous new bids must still be obtained including a new phone system, furnishings and equipment, moving expenses, landscaping and other undetermined expenditures.

NEW TOTAL: \$6,984,879

The plan to sell the old town hall and purchase and renovate the former Purcellville Baptist Church Building was approved by members of the 2006 Purcellville Town Council, including then Council Member Janet Clarke.

(Former Purcellville Baptist Church Building)

AS A SERVICE TO OUR READERS, THE BLUE RIDGE LEADER PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING MAY 2011 FINANCIAL UPDATE ON THE TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE'S ONGOING TOWN HALL RELOCATION PROJECT.



– The Current Town Hall Building –

*Current Mortgage on Town Hall: \$485,708
 Town Hall Listing Price: \$2,300,000 (55 parking spaces) Zoned 3-story commercial; Lot Size: .92 acres on Main Street; Year Built: 1960;
 Sale Price: \$1,450,000*

The Stinkbugs are Coming the Stinkbugs are Coming! – by Valerie Joyner

When a United States congressman hosts a conference about an insect, you know there's something serious going on. Last Monday, April 18, 2010, Congressman Frank Wolf held a forum at Woodgrove High School in Purcellville, VA on the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) problem. I am sure you all know the bug we are talking about; they have infested most of our homes over the past year. At Woodgrove, presentations were given by two experts in the field, one from the Department of Agriculture the other from an associate professor of entomology at Virginia Tech, which described the threat of the BMSB in detail. Our conclusion after hearing this talk and a previous one at the 4 H Club in Leesburg is that the BMSB invasion is a major agricultural problem that can affect the economy of the United States. Yes, you heard that right; the BMSB can affect the economy if immediate steps are not taken to control the problem.

We don't think we are exaggerating. The BMSB is a native of China, Japan and Korea where it is held in check by natural predators. Unfortunately, there are no native enemies of the BMSB in the U.S. Since being spotted in the U.S. in 2001, the bug has been identified in 30 states (and counting) with large populations present in PA, NJ, DE, MD, WV and VA according to a report published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "In 2010, the BMSB emerged as a pest of unprecedented importance in orchard crops, small fruit, grape, vegetables, row

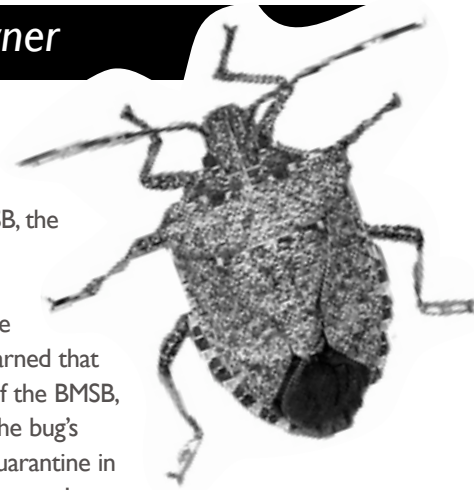
crops and ornamentals in the mid-Atlantic. The likely hood of continued if not increasing problems with the BMSB on a national scale are based on the following: (1) BMSB has a very broad host range, including numerous specialty crops, field crops, and wild hosts that can support tremendous populations; (2) BMSB has unusual movement and dispersal behaviors, making detection and management more challenging; (3) there is no established detection method, treatment threshold or control strategy for BMSB in any cropping system; (4) BMSB is an excellent hitchhiker and has been detected in 30 states and the District of Columbia; (5) multiple generations per year could occur in more southerly locals within the U.S.; and, (6) long-term solutions for BMSB are years away from potentially being implemented."

What we have here is an out of control insect that feeds on everything. Here is a short list of reported crops and fruit trees that the bug attacks; apples, peaches, pears, cherries, grapes, figs, citrus, soya beans, corn, rice, barley, tomatoes, peppers, pole and bush beans, cucumbers, raspberries and blueberries. The bug also directly attacks many trees and shrubs such as maple, dogwood, crabapples, hawthorns, elms and sycamores. Important commercial crops like cotton are also targets of the BMSB. In addition, when the bug attacks grapes, just a few of them being trapped when the grapes are being crushed can affect the taste of the wine and ruin the

product. There are also reports that when cows eat feed corn that contain BMSB, the taste of the milk is affected.

At the Woodgrove conference we also learned that the natural predator of the BMSB, a wasp that destroys the bug's eggs, is being held in quarantine in a USDA facility in Delaware. It might take "years" for the wasps to be released and used as a measure against the bug. Some insecticides work well to control the bug but much work still has to be done with the present products and some newly developed ones to determine the correct dosage and usage timing to effectively control the bug. Many of the commonly used insecticides just stun and paralyze the bug for a few days. The seemingly dead bugs then revive themselves and fly away.

The BMSB problem needs to be elevated to a major priority by the U.S. Department of Agriculture soon. We should take a small portion of the billions of dollars we are spending on farm subsidies and use the money to fund research to solve the BMSB problem.



Why Do They Do It? – by Meredith Bean McMath

What would it take to get you on the stage? A million bucks? For most of us that would be a yes. And maybe not even then ... But for many others, all it takes is an invitation. Why? What makes a performer tick? Here in Loudoun we have around a dozen theatre companies, several ballet, dance, theatre and music studios, chorale groups, music groups and bands, an opera company, a ballet company, and a symphony orchestra; clearly this is a great place to ask the question. So, I put it out there on Facebook, and the answers came in a rush. Three themes quickly floated to the top: performers perform for the sake of personal challenge, the chance to explore new worlds, and a strong desire to share something amazing with an audience.

The Challenge of it All

From musicians and dancers to singers and actors, the old adage about Carnegie Hall rings true: you get there by, "Practice, practice, practice" (although nowadays you can get to Carnegie Hall by laying out a big fat rental fee, rental fee, rental fee). Performers invest hundreds and thousands of hours studying their craft and rehearsing. The average theatre performance requires 20 to 25 two to three hour rehearsals and involves memorization of both lines and "blocking" (your movement during a scene). Area playwright, director and actor Bob Rosenberg has performed with a number of theatre companies over the years and believes the process keeps him "young(er) ... If I can remember all those lines and blocking, that's a good sign! Besides," he adds, "I've met a lot of great people and it's a wonderful learning experience." Actor Jennifer Richey put it this way: "Reaching adulthood does not mean that we've finished learning and growing, and what better place to do that on than a stage?"

Exploring Brave New Worlds

"I love acting, because I can explore all sorts of different people and time periods," said Loudoun Valley High School student, actor and stage manager Rebecca Redmon. That joy of exploration is as true for the high school student as for the professional: actor Millie Juraschek Shipe, who grew up in Loudoun and counts "Disney Princess" among her many credits, says it's an opportunity to celebrate and explore humanity. After all, the fun is being able to be a princess one day and a wicked witch the next! Actor and musician Aislin Kavaldjian of the well-known music group, The Polka Dots, explains, "I'm not an angry person, but I have a tendency to go for bitter or wrathful characters." And in the end, actor Robin McClain Kalriess, says, "It makes you appreciate who you really are."



The Generosity of Performance

Anyone who's been on stage knows they create a relationship with every audience. That's what makes the ephemeral nature of live performance so dynamic. That feeling of being one with a story is a truly amazing experience for the performer. Sean Pflueger, an actor and opera singer who has performed with the National Opera, says that for him, "Listening to great music makes me want to be a part of it and singing is the talent I've cultivated so I can commune with great artists, my fellow actors and the composers whose works continue on without them ... I love telling a story. I love telling that story through a song that communicates a message. Whether the message is to laugh and enjoy yourself or empathize with a character you didn't know an hour ago, a good show can be a great thing."

It takes years to be good enough to perform with the National Opera, yet our area organizations provide a plethora of opportunities for young people to enter at the beginner level and move up. Improvisation troupes, voice, music, acting, singing and dance training, and theatre groups that enjoy gathering families on stage — there really is something for everyone here in Loudoun. And many companies such as The Loudoun Ballet, Loudoun Lyric Opera and others hire professionals alongside community members, so the experience becomes even richer for participants, not to mention audiences.

So when does a proclivity turn into a profession? Mike Goldstein doesn't know when it first struck him: "I always wanted to sing/act/perform." He was involved in school productions, then community theatre and film work, and now he's at the University of Virginia looking toward a professional career in theatre. All he knows is that: "at a certain point, I didn't want to do anything else." Jack Seeley, a professional actor who works with community theatres in the area at times gave a similar answer: Jack performs, he says, "Because I have to." But even if you don't pursue performing arts professionally, everyone in the arts will tell you being a performer is good for you — for confidence, for friendships, for the sake of exploration, and for the challenge itself. Loudoun Lyric Opera co-Founder and President Pamela Butler summed it up well, "As a young person, the arts gave me a creative outlet for all my pent-up emotions and frustrations and kept me out of trouble! Now I'm just plain addicted."

So what's stopping you, now?

Meredith Bean McMath holds a Master of Science in Arts Administration and is the Editor of LoudounPerformingArts.com – a one-stop-shop for patrons, performers and producers in Loudoun County. She is also the Managing Director of Run Rabbit Run Productions (RRRtheatre.org), which is currently producing the Run Rabbit Run Dinner Theatre production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" at Grandale Farm Restaurant April 29-May 15. Contact her at RRRtheatre@gmail.com or find her on Facebook at Run Rabbit Run Theatre.

Running Totals

– by Cat Morris

When both my children were very small, my mother used to tell me that I ought to: 1) dress myself to the last detail before anyone else was up in the morning; and 2) know what I was making for dinner before I climbed out of bed each day.

I secretly rolled my eyes at her advice. “Give me something a little more useful,” I thought, “Who cares how I’m dressed in this day and age?” I also considered it just short of insulting to place emphasis on my planning dinner menus. “I have more important things to think about. I have a life.”

After a couple of years spent stumbling around in a bedheaded, sleep-deprived haze wearing yesterday’s sweats, and with a vague question mark in my mind at 4 p.m. in place of a dinner plan, I came round. Mom was right: No matter how tired I am, if I make the effort to get up before anyone else, dressed completely, and plan my meals in advance, the rest of the day falls magically into place. Really. Meal planning has a double benefit, though. Not only does it keep me organized, but it’s absolutely key to saving money.

In years past, when I’ve dramatically reined in spending, I’ve stopped eating out, scoured the supermarkets for the greatest deals, purchased bulk items, and made food from scratch. I soon have unit prices memorized and will become so zealous that I refuse to buy an ingredient for one penny more than the best price recorded in my notebook. I get that way – a bit compulsive. It’s all or nothing.

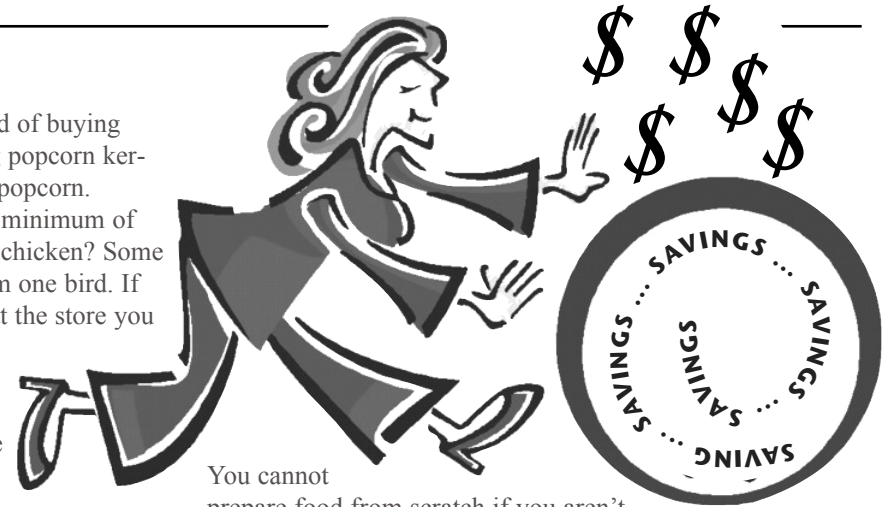
If I’m really honest, though, the truth is that my savings have not been so much about buying “best priced” chicken breasts, or bulk quantities of flour, but about preparing meals from scratch versus buying prepackaged components, or going out to eat.

As you undoubtedly already know, our most consistent savings (and/or the best nutrition) will come from routinely buying and preparing the least processed foods available: Purchasing a whole chicken versus buying boneless, skinless chicken breasts; making soup from scratch instead of

buying canned soups; baking cookies instead of buying dough or prepackaged goodies; even buying popcorn kernels to pop on the stove, versus microwave popcorn.

Did you know that you can easily get a minimum of three meals for four people from one whole chicken? Some people routinely get four or more meals from one bird. If you buy boneless, skinless chicken breasts at the store you cannot do this. Buy the whole chicken.

A one-pound bag of beans costs about as much as one 15 ounce can of beans, but yields about four times the quantity. Buy the dry beans.



You cannot prepare food from scratch if you aren’t a good planner – which is to say that you can’t very reliably save money on a nutritious diet if you don’t have a menu in place and the ingredients chosen and purchased ahead of time ... which is really another way of saying, “You should know what you’re having for dinner before you get out of bed in the morning.” Sigh. See how that works? Saving money on a nutritious diet requires time management more than finding the best price on any single item.

So, let’s revisit that whole chicken concept, shall we? I don’t have space to provide recipes here, but I learned to get at least three meals from one chicken from the More-with-Less Cookbook by Doris Janzen Longacre: Day one is roast chicken: Roast the chicken with veggies in the oven. Day two is homemade chicken potpie, incorporating left-over veggies. Day three is chicken noodle (or rice) stew, and I usually end up with enough for two day’s worth of servings for our family. If you want to learn ways to stretch a chicken much farther, search the internet using the term “rubber chicken recipes” (Get it? You want recipes for s-t-r-e-t-c-h-i-n-g chicken. I’m serious.) Good luck!

The internet abounds with free and low cost menu planners to help you get organized and start saving money: see the bare bones sample menus at www.hillbillyhousewife.com to e-mealz.com, which provides menus and shopping lists tailored to selected grocery chains. Others include relish.com and mealmixer.com – and the list goes on.

Chicken Scratch



Pre-shredded cheese can cost significantly more than cheese purchased in blocks, and usually contains a non-caking agent. Grate the cheese yourself to save money and lose the added cellulose. Buy the block cheese.

I think you get the drift.

Ask Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike,

My husband and I are taking our three children to Disney World this Summer. We’ve waited as long as we have because our youngest son has autism, and we know the experience may be over stimulating for him. He’s a great kid but reacts to long waits and loud noises. We certainly do not want to deprive our son (or other children) of the Disney experience, but acknowledge that we have to be careful with how we approach this. Do you think our 7 year old son can handle Disney, and do you have any tips for us? – S. in Leesburg



S. – I’ve dealt with this several times as a psychologist with Disney and other theme parks, so I do have a few tips for you. While I don’t know your child’s level of functioning, I do believe he could have a wonderful time at Disney if you prepare yourselves in advance. The first thing you’re going to want to do is get a note from your son’s pediatrician or from one of his treatment provider’s (e.g., his psychiatrist or psychologist). The note should explain that your child has autism and the related difficulties in functioning from that condition. For example, you write that your son may become over stimulated by noises and long waits. Your doctor’s note should explicitly state then that

long lines or waits alongside noise may be problematic for your son. When you arrive at Disney, you’ll bring your letter to the Guest Relations window and request a Guest Assistance Card. The Guest Assistance Card will be good for all four parks. You should also request the Guidebook for Guests with Disabilities, which will be further informative for you on how to have a great time at Disney with your child. You will also find the Guidebook on-line at <http://www.DisneyWorld.com> if you want to review it in advance. A few more thoughts. You may also want to investigate where you are staying before you book your rooms. A loud hotel or hotel room isn’t advised. Also, if your son has any dietary restrictions, make sure you know about what restaurants serve in advance, and call ahead for priority seating if needed. Also, taking breaks and/or naps to recharge is recommended – enjoy Disney over the course of a several small visits as opposed to long, full days. You may also want to have some earplugs on hand, as some of the attractions will have loud sound effects or music. Lastly, as parents remember that it’s all about having fun, and don’t try to do too much. If your older children get frustrated with your pace, maybe you can separate so that they can fit more in. Disney is a magical place for all children, and I hope you and your family have a fantastic and memorable experience.

Dr. Mike,

I only allow my children to have sugar on occasion, as I know it causes them to become hyperactive and difficult to manage. My neighbor tells me that sugar does not cause hyperactivity, and that’s always just been a myth or wife’s tale. She’s wrong, right? Is there any research to support my position? – T. in Purcellville

T. – Hmm...how do I say that your friend is right, kindly? There isn’t a single scientific study to date that supports a direct relationship between sugar and hyperactivity in our children. The idea that sugar or additives cause behavioral changes in children dates

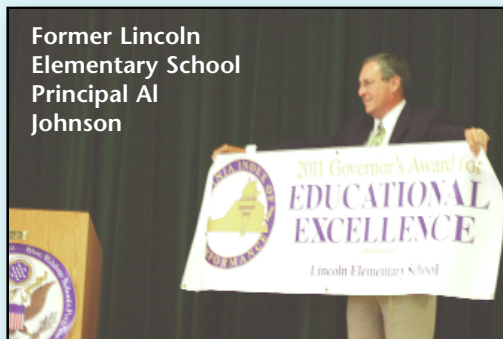
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Lincoln Elementary Recognized as "Blue Ribbon" School

Lincoln Elementary School has earned the honor of being a "Blue Ribbon" school, and is one of only seven schools in Virginia to win this award. Lincoln Elementary is one of 254 Blue Ribbon schools nationwide selected by the Federal Department of Education.

Lincoln Elementary School is one of Loudoun County's priceless small schools. The school's rich history dates back to the 1880s.

In addition to the Blue Ribbon award, the school also won the 2011 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence —this



Former Lincoln Elementary School Principal Al Johnson

year as well as the past two years. More information can be found on the Loudoun County School website.

"The work we did in the community as Girl Scouts taught me to reach beyond myself to serve others."

— Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)



Purcellville Daisy Troop 1552 spent the April 4th student holiday in DC touring Capitol Hill, observing debate in the House of Representatives, and visiting with Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO). The Girl Scout website lists Representative Emerson as one of Congress' "Leading Women," where she is quoted: "The work we did in the community as Girl Scouts taught me to reach beyond myself to serve others." Taking the time out of her busy schedule to meet with the troop was an invaluable experience for the girls. Troop 1552 is led by Claudia Jacobson and Mindy Hess; the trip was coordinated by Ryan Cool, parent of a troop member.

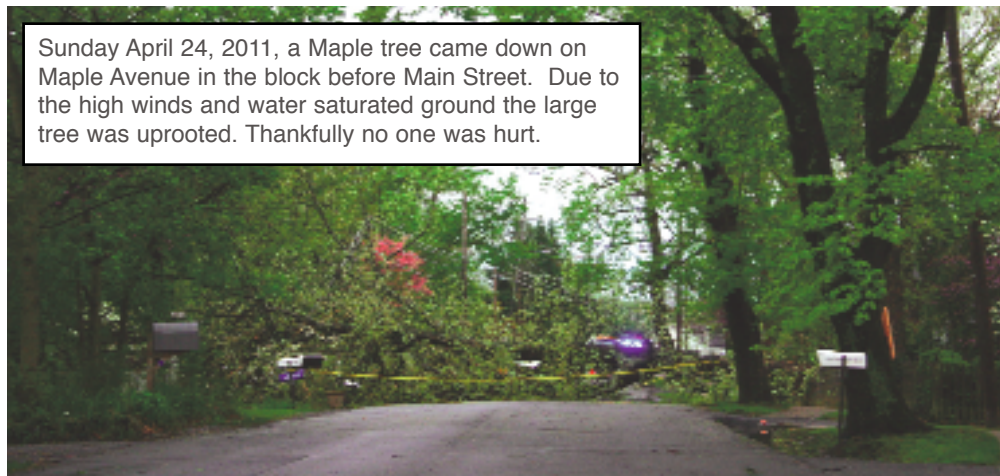
Western Transportation Outer Beltway, continued from page 1

Corridor. Approving this would diminish local control and citizen input over land use decisions, and the location and size of roads.

Loudoun County removed the Western Transportation Corridor-Outer Beltway from the County Wide Transportation Plan in 2001, 2004, and again in 2010. The heavily traveled routes in Loudoun County are the

East-West corridors. Studies have shown that any additional North-South Corridors in the areas proposed would increase traffic on Route 7 and Route 50.

Supervisors Burk, Burton, Kurtz, McGimsey Miller and York voted for the resolution with Delgaudio voting no (effectively supporting an Outer Beltway). Supervisors Buckley and Waters were absent for the vote.



Sunday April 24, 2011, a Maple tree came down on Maple Avenue in the block before Main Street. Due to the high winds and water saturated ground the large tree was uprooted. Thankfully no one was hurt.

On the Market ... with Sam Rees



6 Acres Waterford

Rare opportunity. Custom home just outside the village. High end finishes. 4 bedrooms/3.5 baths. Spacious lower level with exit and full bath. Suitable for horses and no HOA. \$649,990 LO7565341



Middleburg – Mountville Road – 11.5 acres

Wonderful country home with 3-stall barn and efficiency apartment. \$825,000 LO7498073



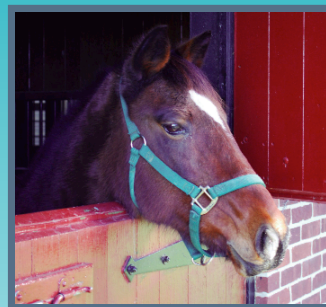
Hamilton–Harmony Church Rd. 10 acres

Opportunity! 10 rolling acres off hard surface road. country living but close to Greenway/Leesburg. 3 BR 2 Bath. Unfinished walk-out basement, deck, no HOA! \$429,990



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. \$414,900 LO7367064



Shenstone – Coming Soon

Bring your horses, your bathing suit, your golf clubs and your fishing rod to this amazing Toll Brothers built executive home on one of the most beautiful parcels in Loudoun. 6 Bedrooms/6.5 baths, top of the line finishes. Deluxe office suite on lower level and additional recreation rooms. This is the ideal home for individuals with disabilities with extra wide doors and wheel chair accessibility. Short distance to WO&D trail and minutes to Dulles Greenway. Wonderful gardens and lake views.



Stonebrook Farm

Classic Virginia Farm House made from local fieldstone. One of a kind setting w/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 LO7504995

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Sam is a western Loudoun resident with 15 years of full time real estate experience and over 100 million in real estate sales. Her custom marketing plans for your home leverage the power of the Internet with professional photography and Design and the latest in Virtual Tour Technology.



Cutting Edge Nutritionist To Team Up With Award Winning Chef ... Coming to Purcellville

On Saturday, June 18, 2011 two individuals famous for their ability to combine deeply nutritious food with deeply delicious flavors are coming to Purcellville's Fields of Athenry Farm for a health presentation followed by a specially prepared meal.

Journalist, nutrition researcher, homemaker and community activist, Sally Fallon is the author of *Nourishing Traditions: The Cookbook that Challenges Politically Correct Nutrition and the Diet Dictocrats*. Sally, the President of the Weston A. Price Foundation, tours the world with the thought-provoking message that "animal fats and cholesterol are not villains but vital factors in the diet, necessary for normal growth, proper function of the brain and nervous system, protection from disease and optimum energy



levels." Ms. Fallon will deliver a nutritional talk with special tips for dad in honor of Father's Day.

Chef Pedro Matamoros of 8407 Kitchen Bar in Silver Spring, Maryland will follow Sally's talk with a delicious meal focused on the use of local, naturally raised, antibiotic and hormone-free meats.



The event is \$35 per person and \$20 per child under 12. Family pricing is also available. Seating is limited and the event is expected to sell out. RSVP at 703.300.5765 or go to www.FieldsofAthenryFarm.com.
Fields of Athenry Farm
38087 Snickersville Turnpike, Purcellville, VA 20132

Purcellville's Gas Tax Money Goes to Lovettsville – by Valerie Joyner

For a second year in a row, the Town of Lovettsville will be receiving gas tax money from Loudoun County ... gas tax money that was supposed to go to Purcellville.

Loudoun County receives a certain percentage of gas tax incomes. County policy has been that 2% of the gas tax budget goes to Purcellville and 10% to Leesburg, with the remainder staying with the County.

For the past two years, Supervisor Sally Kurtz convinced the majority of the Board of Supervisors to give Purcellville's gas money to Lovettsville, since Purcellville had already received \$5.78 million from the settlement with the County to drop its Woodgrove High School lawsuit.

The Town of Purcellville fought for four years in court to stop the building of Woodgrove High School. The high school had been in Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan and the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (since 1995) and was needed to relieve overcrowding at Loudoun Valley High School.

After the Town of Purcellville lost all major lawsuits regarding Woodgrove High School, former Purcellville Councilwoman Janet Clarke and Councilman Greg Wagner were picked to represent the Town in negotiations with the County. They gave the County two choices in their negotiations: 1) the town would continue additional lawsuits regardless of merit (delaying the school even longer); or 2) Purcellville would drop the lawsuits if Loudoun County taxpayers paid the Town of Purcellville \$5.78 million (for unspecified transportation needs).

The County chose to settle with the Town because any further delay of the much needed high school would have created an unbearable situation for the students, who were already attending an overcrowded high school.

The \$200,000+ in Lovettsville monies will help fund the Lovettsville Park, which was purchased in 2004. The park is 90 acres and will have a number of ballfields. "It is going to be a wonderful addition for the residents of the entire northwest area and beyond", said Supervisor Sally Kurtz, Catocin District.

Microchip Your Pet For Free – April 30th!

Loudoun County Animal Services is hosting a free pet microchip clinic on Saturday, April 30, 2011, from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Northern Virginia Community College's Sterling campus, located at 1000 Harry Flood Byrd Hwy (Route 7).

The clinic is part of the College's Vet Tech Club's annual Dog Wash fundraiser. A number of other activities, including pet grooming and a rabies vaccine clinic, will be included as part of the event.

The microchip clinic is free and open to any Loudoun County resident. Advance registration is not required. Dogs must be leashed and cats must be in carriers. Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination for all pets 4 months of age or older.

Microchipping is a safe, permanent way of identifying your pet should they ever be found by Animal Control or a

veterinary office. Lost animals are reunited with their owners every day thanks to microchips.

The microchip itself is about the size of a grain of rice. It is implanted under the skin in the area around the shoulders through a needle. The procedure is no more invasive than a vaccination shot, and requires no anesthesia or recovery time.

Once it is implanted, the number on the chip can be read by a scanner (similar to a bar code scanner). The number can then be traced back to the owner so that they can be reunited with their pet.

Help ensure that your pet can safely find the way home – have him microchipped!

For more information on the free pet microchip clinic, please call the Animal Shelter at 703-777-0406 or email animals@loudoun.gov. Details can also be found at www.loudoun.gov/animals. The Loudoun County Department of Animal Services is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Department information can be found at www.loudoun.gov/animals.



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Women spend hours trying to straighten their curly locks or curl their stick-straight hair. Many “hair experts” are suggesting that women should stop fighting their hair and start loving their natural locks ... with a little help from the modern hair products, cuts and appliances that can help them embrace their natural hair tendencies! ... taking advantage of the fullness of CURLY hair ... adding shine to WAVY hair ... exploring the many options of styling STRAIGHT hair, and more.

Tips for CURLY HAIR:

CURLY hair has a tight “S” or coil formation. Curly hair can be hard to straighten, dry, with lack of shine, but it has great volume.

How to love curly hair:

1. Cleanse your curls with a moisturizing product to produce bouncy, shiny and beautiful curls.
2. Use a moisture-rich cream to tame thick curls, fight frizz and control volume.
3. Style with a new clipless curling iron to create long-lasting curls and voluminous waves that are frizz-free and shiny.
4. HINT: Have the blow dryer blues? Try showering at night before bed. While hair is still wet, apply a curl product. Section off hair; twirl each section around fingers and use a bobby pin to secure to scalp. By the time the sun rises, you are sure to have luxurious frizz-free curls!

Tips for WAVY HAIR:

WAVY hair has a loose clear “S” formation. Wavy hair can be easy to straighten or curl, but may be drier on the ends and can have some volume.

How to love your wavy hair:

1. Wash your waves with a gentle, purifying shampoo to achieve shiny and soft hair.
2. Apply a lightweight mousse to plump hair full

love your hair type!



of body and volume.

3. Get the perfect waves while adding shine and reducing frizz – all at the same time.
4. HINT: Define those waves! Finish off your look with a spray gel. Twirl hair around your fingers to shape curls in front of face for a more polished look.

Tips for STRAIGHT HAIR:

STRAIGHT hair has no curl or wave. Straight hair can be oily, resistant to curling, and limp with little volume but can have lots of shine.

How to love your straight hair:

1. Shampoo with an anti-frizz product to create stronger, sleek and shiny hair that looks and feels healthy.
2. Apply a finishing wax to add body and dimension, while creating a choppy, satin matte finish.

3. Style with a flat iron infused with oil to condition and increase shine while straightening.
4. HINT: Dry shampoo is just what the doctor ordered for straight hair! Not only will this spare you the wash time, it will add volume while leaving hair smelling and feeling fresh.

Hair tips courtesy of ULTA Salon, www.Ulta.com

Hunt Country Gourmet's RESTAURANT REVIEW – Blue Ridge Grill, Brambleton

– By George Humphries

The Blue Ridge Grill at Brambleton is half of the Blue Ridge Grill family, the other located in Leesburg in the southwest corner of Route 15 and Edwards Ferry Road and tucked in behind the McDonalds, Sheetz, and The Tire Center. The Brambleton restaurant, opened two years ago, also is planted deep in a busy retail center – but it's worth the effort of finding it.

The Brambleton Plaza, in case you are not a near neighbor of the massive development, is located off Northstar Boulevard where it intersects with Ryan Road. The restaurant sign is located high on the building to the right of the Regal Fox Cinema. While there is limited on-street parking, there is a large parking garage that is easily accessed behind the shops and cinema.

The restaurant faces the fountain in front of the theater and has outdoor seating that will be very inviting in good weather. Inside the spacious restaurant are comfortable booths and tables as well as a bar the length of the high-ceilinged dining room. It is a pleasant and well-arranged space, and features brilliant large photographs of steeplechase racing, kayaking, and other scenes of Loudoun County country life.

And the food is the best part of this attractive and inviting place.

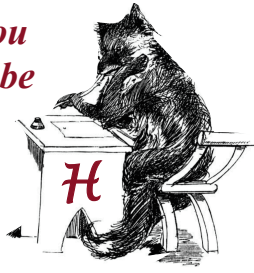
The lunch menu consists of a surprisingly long list of tempting offerings in groups labeled Appetizers (8 different offerings \$4.50 to \$9.50); Entrée Salads (6 at \$8.50 to \$14.50, three of which were available in smaller portions with an entrée); Seafood and Pasta (5 from \$12 to \$17); Chicken (3, \$10 and \$11); Sandwiches (8 \$7.25 to \$13.75); Burgers (3 all at \$8.25); and Steaks and Ribs (5, \$15 to \$18). In addition, there are eight sides (\$3 and \$4) and three dessert choices (\$6 and \$7). The dinner menu is slightly expanded with entrée prices just a little higher.

We started a recent lunch with the soup of the day – a deliciously-flavored Chicken Mushroom Soup that turned out to be almost a stew - hearty and satisfying enough to be a main course. In addition to the soup of the day, the Grill offers a "Homemade" Lobster Bisque, both at only \$4.50.

The sliced Prime Rib sandwich (\$13.75) was plentiful and tender and served on a French baguette with au jus for dipping. It also had a layer of Monterey jack cheese, and was served with some of the best French fries we've had anywhere – thinly cut and subtly seasoned with BRG's special blend.

My wife chose to combine an appetizer and a small salad for a meal, which turned out to be a good choice. The Asian Chili Shrimp consisted of some 8-10 fried shrimp ring-

"Our goal is to tell you where good food can be found ..."



ing a mound of Asian peanut slaw topped with tempura-style fried green beans and chopped peanuts.

The Mixed Greens Salad was adorned with chopped tomatoes and mangoes and tossed in a classic vinaigrette. Excellent. The Grill offers a small version of this at \$4.50, as well as small versions of its Caesar Salad and its Blue Ridge House Salad (romaine, tomato, corn, cucumber, and croutons tossed in a ranch dressing).

At another lunch, we chose the Barbecue Ribs (\$17.75), which turned out to be an entire rack that almost hung over the already large serving plate. They were juicy and the sauce was tasty without being too sweet. They were served with fries and a side of Blazin' Saddle Beans, a BRG recipe. We highly recommend the dish.

The Prime Rib dinner was all it should be, tender and flavorfully rubbed with some BRG special blend of seasoning. Prime Ribs go for \$15 at lunch, and are available at larger sizes at dinner for \$19 and \$24. The Grill also offers several steaks and chicken dishes.

The wait staff is well trained and refreshingly, they pitch in to help one another. When a glass of ice tea starts to reach bottom, another magically appears handed by a different waiter even when our waitress was not immediately available.

Blue Ridge Grill Manager Kevin Weitz tells us that the restaurant blends all its seasonings and sauces onsite with its own recipes. He also is particularly proud of a dessert that he created – Dulce de Leche Chocolate Cake – a thick dark chocolate cake baked with a dulce de leche center and served with vanilla bean ice cream and whipped cream, then drizzled with chocolate and caramel sauces (like it needed it!) Other desserts are a Catocin Mountain Apple Walnut Cobbler and Banana Pudding.

The Grill serves wine, beer, and a full range of alcoholic drinks.

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.



A Guide to the New Echinaceas – "Coneflowers" – By Donna Williamson

During a conference this summer on native plants, one speaker gave us the rundown on the endless variety of new echinaceas. I have had trouble with Mango Meadowbrite and figured it was just a fragile plant. But in answer to a question from the audience, she threw in the one piece of information I had been missing all along. Echinaceas need to be planted early in the season – not at the end of October when the season is winding down. They need to establish well ahead of winter weather. Now you know too.

Echinaceas ... the best varieties to look for:

- ❁ *Fragrant Angel* – white, 3-3.5'
- ❁ *Kim's Knee High* – bright pink, variable height, supposed to be dwarf
- ❁ *Mango Meadowbrite* – plant in gravel for good drainage
- ❁ *Pica Bella* – pink, strong, short
- ❁ *Twilight* – orange pink - good performer
- ❁ *Avalanche* – white with lots of yellow in cone
- ❁ *Coconut Lime* – greenish, fuzzy top
- ❁ *Tomato Soup* – red, not fragrant, mid-size
- ❁ *Milkshake* – white fuzzy top
- ❁ *Hot Papaya* – 36", great color, more upright

Echinaceas ... not so good varieties:

- ❁ *Magnus* – now not coming true
- ❁ *Tennesseensis* – needs total dryness, endangered
- ❁ *Pallida* – grows in rock crevices
- ❁ *White Swan Pixie* – has Tennesseensis parentage, draws leaf hoppers

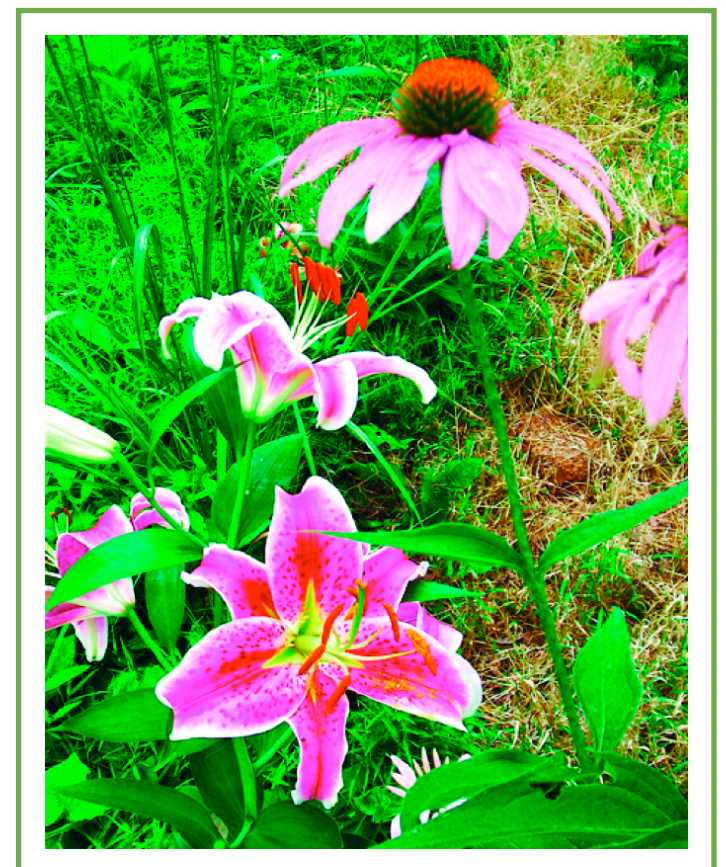
- ❁ *Sunrise* – winters well in pots, may become new parent material for new generation
- ❁ *Marmalade* – has good goldenrod color to start then fades to very pale on second day
- ❁ *Firebird* – not selected in first round by breeders
- ❁ *Flame Thrower* – not selected in first round
- ❁ *Hot Lava* – not selected in first round

Echinaceas ... too new to know:

- ❁ *Secret Series* – Passion, Romance
- ❁ *Strawberry Shortcake* – bicolor
- ❁ *Pineapple Sundae* – won't propagate in tissue culture
- ❁ *Jade* – white/green, may be nice
- ❁ *Green Envy* – pink halo around center, striped, novel
- ❁ *Raspberry Truffle* – good stem and intense color, 3.5' tall in Netherlands, 2' tall here

If you love these wonderful plants as I do, you now have an informal guide to plant selection and better success.

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. Author, The Virginia Gardener's Companion: An Insider's Guide to Low-Maintenance Gardening in Virginia, dwfinegardening.com, 540-877-2002.



FROM THE FARM



Uta and her husband Sam operate Crooked Run Orchard.

By Uta Brown

The term “weed” makes me feel sad about the exquisite natural creations to which we give such a bad name! When we call something a “weed” we diminish the plant’s value ... usually because we find it inconvenient and bothersome to our highly manicured, bright green lawn. But, hidden down in those “pesky” leaves, stems, roots and more is a ragged complexity that is both sustainable and rich in useful plant material. And ... you don’t have to spend large amounts of oil-based, polluting energy (lawnmowers!) to enjoy their benefits.

Some of the most nutritious and environmentally important plants get the worst rap! Here are two that contribute to our environmental and human health as well.

The dandelion ... The most despised “weed” of the lawn circuit is, of course, the dandelion. But, not only is this green extremely nutritious, the pollen from the flowers is of such high quality it is preferred by bees over the flowers on fruit trees. For that reason it is banned in “modern” orchards. But in organic, sustainable ways of life, it’s a different story. The roots of the dandelion draw up nutrients, like calcium, from the subsoils. This plant was welcomed in colonial times as people emerged from their cabins to forage for fresh greens that would alleviate the “winter sickness.” Over the dark winter months – as fresh fruits and vegetables became scarce – the body’s vitamin stores naturally depleted, unreplenished by the flour, wild meat or milk that had sustained them. A dandelion poking through spring snow was a welcome sight. That’s why I am cheered by the site of a profusion of this flower this year!

Wild Mustard ... The second plant is what locals call wild mustard. It is, in fact, closer to kale. This opportunistic “weed” loves disturbed soil and has come up in thick patches in my newly established asparagus beds. The long tap roots are useful in breaking up hard soils. This is a plant that should be picked before it starts to bolt and the leaves get smaller, although I’ve eaten the leaves in all stages and many of the yellow buds. The small young leaves can be tossed in with salad but of course like any collard or kale, this plant is delicious cooked with a ham bone and served with corn bread. But this plant has other attributes that make it very useful for growers of berries. Organic and conventional growers both plant a kale, like Dwarf Essex, not only for a nutritious forage crop, but in preparation for raspberries, strawberries or black berries. Plowed under, the crushed leaves exude a chemical that suppresses the nematodes that have plagued berry growers for decades. It is now routinely used before the canes are planted because of the powerful control of a difficult-to-manage “pest” without the use of chemicals.

Other so-called weeds like **purslane, lambs quarters and wild chicories** are often more nutritious than our cultivated crops. Purslane has the highest concentration of omega threes of any plant we are likely to eat. Lambs quarters can easily compete with spinach in terms of a healthy diet, and the chicories, which are bitter, are strong tonics that cleanse the blood and liver. Americans are particularly fussy about their salads and prefer them sweet. Sweet lettuces, of which I grown dozens of varieties, won’t give you the benefits of the more bitter herbs. As Hippocrates said millennia ago, "Let your food be your medicine and your medicine be your food."

One last word about another much maligned plant, the **Pennsylvania Smartweed**. Most people will recognize this plant when the composite flowers of little round pink balls come out. Japanese beetles love this plant. A row next to your tomatoes would naturally protect your favorite fruit. In my own patches of "unweeded" tomatoes, the smartweed was stripped of its leaves while the tomatoes remained untouched.

– Long Live “Weeds!”

Dandelion

Wild Mustard

Purslane

Lambs Quarters

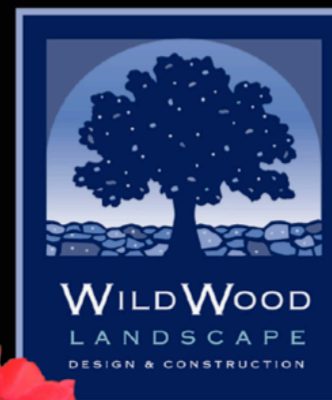
Wild Chicory

Pennsylvania Smartweed



Thank You!

Wildwood would like to thank everyone who came out to visit their display at this year’s Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival. In addition to winning *Second Place* in the design competition, your support earned them the *People’s Choice Award* for the third year in a row! Wildwood also took home several top awards at the recent Washington Home and Garden Show including *Best In Show*. This success is the direct result of the dedication, tremendous talent and the hard work of Wildwood’s staff and your support.

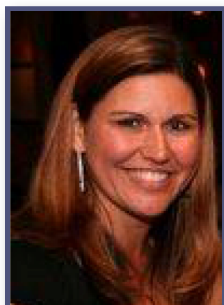


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– BY HEATHER ELIAS

There has been so much talk in the national media about the dismal real estate market across the country. Let me be clear about this ... you can't forecast the real estate market on a national level any more than you can create a national weather forecast. All real estate is local, based on supply, demand, and local economic conditions. Here's how things are looking in Loudoun right now ...



(and the huge drop in home prices) from 2006 to 2008, I'd consider stability or a gain of a couple percent a win. If you are thinking about making a move this year, reach out to a real estate agent and get market data specific to your situation, so that you can make informed decisions.

The most inexpensive home sold in Loudoun County for the month of March was a one bedroom, one bath top floor condo in the Country Club Green community in Leesburg, purchased for \$70,000. It was listed (and sold) by Heidi Vargas of Keller Williams Realty in Ashburn.

The most expensive real estate sold in Loudoun in March was a 10,000 square foot Mitchell and Best home

That's three years worth of data for median price. The top line is single family homes, and the bottom line is the combined condo/townhome market. Pretty steady, huh? Median condo/townhome pricing has risen from around \$255,000 in April 2009 to roughly \$285,000 two years later; by my math that's an 11% increase in two years. Single family homes have gone from \$545,000 in April 2009 to about \$555,000 now, which is only a two percent gain ... but again, this is taking a snapshot across the county, so certain neighborhoods and home types could be outperforming (or underperforming) others. Given the volatility of the market



over 13 acres at 19326 Airwell Court in Purcellville. Listed (and sold) by Mary Ann McGowan of Thomas & Talbot Real Estate in Middleburg, the property fetched \$1.7 million. The new owners will enjoy the wine cellar, fully equipped theatre, six bedrooms, six full (and three half) baths, four garage bays, upper and lower decks, and stone terraces.

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.

– 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 ROI on finishing a basement? – Barry B., Fairfax

Dear Barry: ROI (Return on Investment) questions are complicated and difficult to measure. For example, when you go into a restaurant, and spend \$15 on a meal, what is your ROI? Or after spending \$10 on a movie? In real estate terms, you'll find books telling you that finishing a basement is a good thing to do. It pays back 80-90% of what you invested when you go to sell, and helps a home sell faster and for more money than one without a finished basement. It also adds to your enjoyment of your house, which is tough to measure in terms of ROI – thus my movie and meal examples. But, would I ever recommend finishing the basement solely for resale purposes? No. Why spend the money on it, and only get 80-90% of it back, just so you can sell it faster? However, if you want the extra space, and know that the quality of you and/or your family's life will improve, that may make it well worth the money spent to complete the job. I hope that helps!

Dear Doug: In these financial times, is it still good advice to buy "the most house you can afford" with the idea that through time you will have an easier time with payments (as income supposedly increases) and home value increases as well? – CS

Dear CS: No. To me, that is bad advice. I would never tell anyone to buy the "most house they could afford". There are too many unknowns. Who knows what the market will do, or how stable your job is, or if your area is going to get hit with a recess-

Continued on page 23



“The Hawks” Gospel Performance for Very Special Arts, May 7

Duane was in the 2nd year of a 2-year course, Lisa was in her 1st year. Duane came back to his home town of Palmerton, PA to start a piano tuning and repair business and the couple married in September of 1983.

Music has always been an important part of life for both Lisa and Duane. As they got to know each other in college, they discovered that both liked to play and sing country and gospel music. That love of music continued after marriage. The Hawks started taking small entertaining jobs to supplement their income. The number of jobs they took grew quickly.

Lisa plays the piano and Duane plays the guitar. Both of them sing.

VSA Arts of Loudoun County's mission is to provide creative opportunities to people with disabilities in an inclusive community, through the performing and visual Arts.

Admission is a suggested \$20 donation and can be reserved by calling 540.338.7973.

Country Gospel Performers, “The Hawks” will present a concert to benefit VSA arts of Loudoun County on Saturday, May 7 at 8 pm at the Franklin Park Arts Center in Purcellville, VA. Admission is a suggested donation of \$20, and tickets can be reserved by calling 540-338-7973.

Lisa and Duane Hawk met in September of 1981 at a college that teaches blind students the art of piano tuning and repair.

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Spring Pruning Promotes Healthy Plant Growth

Spring is a great time to begin most lawn and landscaping projects around your home. During this time it is important for homeowners to clean up any debris left over from winter storms as well as check the health of the plants on their property. Pruning during spring months can help promote growth and aid in keeping plants in good health.

The Professional Landcare Network (PLANET), the nation's lawn, landscape, and interior plantscape association, offers these pruning tips to improve plant health: Prepare Garden Tools. Before beginning any garden project, it is important to make sure you have all of the necessary equipment to complete the task. It is also important to make sure all of the tools that will be used in your project, be in good working condition. Make sure that pruning shears and saws are sharp and free of rust. The use of inadequate pruning shears could lead to plant damage.

– **Make Clean Pruning Cuts.** When pruning, it is important to remember to make clean cuts on the plant's branches and to avoid removing large amounts of healthy stem tissue. Improper cutting could lead to bark tearing and stem damage that could leave the plant susceptible to disease.

– **Remove Dead/Diseased Branches.** Removing branches that are diseased or infected by pests will improve the health of the plant and help promote growth. If these branches are not removed, it is possible for the infection to spread to other parts of the plant.

– **Prune Branches for Safety.** Some low hanging or damaged branches can cause injuries and/or property damage. Prevent potentially hazardous situations by removing branches that obstruct walkways or rest on personal property.

– Hire a Professional for Large Projects.

Hiring a professional when branches are hard to reach or when larger trees are in need of pruning is the best way to ensure personal safety when a lawn project becomes overwhelming. Green industry professionals are skilled in handling all sizes of lawn and landscaping services. Professionals are knowledgeable about all varieties of plants and have access to tools that are better equipped to handle large maintenance projects.

In addition to these tips, PLANET member Shayne Newman, Landscape Industry Certified Manager & Technician, president of YardApes, Inc., New Milford, Connecticut, recommends doing a bit of homework before beginning a pruning project for the first time. "Pruning plants at the wrong time of year could potentially sacrifice blooms," Newman explains. "Every plant, shrub, or bush has different pruning requirements. If you are unsure about when and how to prune, consult a professional."

For more information, or to find a green industry professional, log on to LandcareNetwork.org/findaprofessional. PLANET is the association of members who create and maintain the QUALITY OF LIFE in communities across America. With nearly 3,500 member companies and affiliates, these firms and their employees represent more than 100,000 green industry professionals. Some of these professionals have taken the extra step of becoming certified through PLANET and bear the distinction of being known as Landscape Industry Certified.



Loudoun Valley High School Prom

– By Lauren Pichon

With spring break gone, and AP Exams looming in the near future, Valley's upperclassmen are now looking forward to the next big event: the junior-senior prom.

This year, prom is being held on May 21st from 8-12pm at the National Conference Center, located in Lansdowne. Ticket prices range from approximately \$50-\$70 per person depending on when the ticket was purchased and whether the student is a junior or senior.

This year, the theme of prom, which is being planned by the Junior Class Panel, is "Never a Wish Better Than This," based on the hit song "100 Years," by Five For Fighting. The song was ranked at #77 on Billboard end-of-the-year music chart in December 2004, in the midst of the first year of middle school for this year's graduating class of 2011.

Though many students are looking forward to prom, some are still deciding whether or not to miss prom for 98.7's WMZQ Fest, featuring the hit country stars Montgomery Gentry, Jason Aldean, and Eric Church.

"I'd love to go to WMZQ Fest, but I'll have other opportunities to go to that," said senior Lauren Garcia.

Despite the conflicting date of prom and WMZQ Fest, the students who have chosen to go to prom are looking forward to this highlight of their junior or senior year.

"Senior prom only comes once," Garcia said.

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.

News From Blue Ridge District School Board Representative Priscilla Godfrey

I am pleased to report that Loudoun schools will be well represented at the World Odyssey of the Mind Competition this year in late May at the University of Maryland in College Park. Odyssey of the Mind is an international academic contest involving 21st century skills such as problem solving, engineering, playwriting and teamwork. Odyssey is an extra-curricular activity led by parents and volunteers, and is very popular in Loudoun with more than 55 schools competing in the regional competition last March at Park View High School. There are 7 Loudoun teams this year going to the World OM competition from the following schools: 3 teams from Harper Park Middle School in Leesburg; one team from Heritage High School, one team from Hutchison Farm Elementary, one team from Seldens Landing Elementary, one team from Seneca Ridge Middle School, and one team from John Tolbert Elementary School. May is a big month for musical theatre in our schools. Watch for Woodgrove High School's production of Into the Woods and Loudoun Valley High School's production of The Fantasticks.



Priscilla B. Godfrey, Member of Loudoun County School Board 2004 to the present; resident of Philomont, VA for 32 years; mother of 3 children; member of Rotary Club of Purcellville, Loudoun Volunteer Financial Council and Philomont Ladies Auxiliary.



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1. Bike Security: When looking at security solutions to protect your bike, it's important to weigh your needs. Heavy duty U-bars, like Master Lock's 8170D, offer top-notch security and are ideal if you don't already have a bike lock. If you are in need of a security solution that can lock up multiple items, a long, thick cable lock like Master Lock's 8428DPS adjustable locking cable may be a better solution. Keep in mind, the thicker the cable or bar, the more security that lock will provide. If you have trouble remembering combinations, consider a keyed cable lock. If you hate carrying around more keys than necessary, an integrated, set-your-own password combination cable lock like Master Lock's 8220D is ideal. Use the free Master Lock Vault (www.masterlockvault.com) to store log-in and password information for your lock combinations, key codes, and other confidential data for easy access via the web or smart phone app.

2. Gear Up: Wear the proper safety gear every time you go out for a ride. Regardless of where you're riding or how short the ride will be, a bike helmet is always a must.

Fitting your bike and clothing with reflectors or lights will ensure you can be easily spotted day or night.

3. Map it Out: Take time to familiarize yourself with the best bike routes in your city before heading out to avoid ending up on a dangerous trail or street. Consult an online mapping service, such as Google Maps, or your local transit authority or city website for an overview of streets with dedicated bike lanes, bike trails or other bike-friendly routes.

4. Remember the Rules of the Road: And follow them! Even though you're on a bike, you still have to abide by the same traffic laws as drivers. This includes stopping at stop signs, driving on the right side of the road, yielding to pedestrians and signaling a turn. The three primary arm signals you should know are:

- * Left turn: extend left arm straight out in the direction of the turn, parallel to the road.
- * Right turn: extend your left upper-arm out to the left, parallel to the road and angle your forearm vertically upward.
- * Stopping: extend your left upper arm to the left, parallel to the road and angle your forearm vertically downward.

5. Ride Defensively:

Remember that your bicycle is a small, inconspicuous vehicle, so make sure you are noticed while riding. Whenever possible, ride in a bike lane while on the road and stay in a single file. Avoid traveling along the side of cars when passing through intersections – cars may turn in front of you without warning. Use caution when passing parked cars as occupants may not see you when opening doors or pulling out of parking spaces. Keep your hands over the brakes at all times so you can brake quickly if a hazard presents itself.

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Ask Dr. Mike, continued from p. 8

back to claims about food additives made by Benjamin Feingold, MD (the Feingold diet) in the 1970's that mostly haven't been supported. That's why our mom's were so adamant that sugar was a problem, but, as the old saying goes, "You can't believe everything you read." Researchers argue that parents tend to assume causation when really changes in behavior with sugar in children have more to do with proximity. For example, when your child eats a big piece of chocolate cake with ice cream at a birthday party and gets too revved up, he's revved up because of the situation – lots of kids, noise, playing and having fun.

Dr. Mike,

My husband and I do not believe in teen dating, yet our daughter is giving us a real run for our money. She is 15 and is attacking us hard with some great arguments – that all of her friends are dating, that we are too restrictive, that she gets A's and B's, that we don't trust her (that one hurt), etc. While all of her points are valid, we just don't see what good will come from dating at her age. To the contrary, my husband and I were once 15, and we are well aware of the problems dating at that age can cause – ranging from a broken heart to premature sex and pregnancy. She's our only child, and we want to get this right. Got any advice? – B. in Leesburg

B. – I agree that your daughter's arguments for dating are valid, and I would also agree that yours are too. In most relationship disagreements, however, being right isn't necessarily the solution, but rather reaching a place of acceptance and compromise is. At 15, it is normal for your daughter to be curious about and interested in boys, so I wouldn't discourage that. My recommendation would be for you and your husband to initiate open dialogue with her on the topic with a focus on your concerns and not your restrictions or rules. In your discussions, I would emphasize the importance of developing sound friendships with boys first even if there's also attraction. You seem like very involved parents, so I am sure you've already modeled a healthy intimate relationship for your child, and I would discuss those things with her; how you and your husband respect one another and have shared values. Perhaps you could agree to group dating initially to see how your daughter handles that. High School is also going to provide dating opportunities for her (e.g., homecoming and prom), and I would allow those moments to unfold. Look, your daughter will likely be headed off to college in a few years, and you will not be there to supervise or protect her as a young adult. This is your daughter's time to slowly become more and more independent, and you need to let go enough for her to do that. Eventually your daughter will have her heartbroken, and she will also probably make her fair share of mistakes in relationships, and she will also learn from them just like you did. It seems to me that what might be most difficult for you and your husband at this point is accepting the reality that your baby girl is growing up and is no longer a child with only childhood interests. This is understandably an anxiety producing time for you as parents, so be good to yourselves as you come to terms with adjustments that come with the territory of raising a teenager.

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

Hairbows

Nelly, do you even believe these photos of us?

I felt like a silly nim “cow” poop with these Easter bows in our hair. Okay Nelly, maybe you didn’t because you’re a girl but me a Mighty Cairn Terrier male – PLEASE! Pleasing Mrs. B for Easter pictures was a little more than I could handle – but remembering doggy dungeon I kept a smile on my face through it all. Maybe I didn’t like it but I could tell Laino and Bernie loved having us all dogged up for the family photo’s.

It was clear those two ornery barn cat’s Hokie and Mountie were quite jealous, as they did not rank high enough to be included in the family photos. Sammy the Bull and his favorite lady cow, Miss Ashley, could have cared less as they mooed softly together and munched their way across the green pastures towards the creek bed. Upon their arrival they were greeted by old Gnarly Gander and the Goose Gang.

Mrs. Zaza was busy cleaning, ruffling and fluffing her long Sabastapol curly goose feathers. The only thing she was missing by the creek bed was a full length mirror in which she could see herself. Her three baby goslings floated nearby admiring how gorgeous their Mama was.

As soon as the family photos were over, Bernie, Laino, Nelly and I bee lined for the creek. Laino seeing how beautiful Mrs. Zaza looked decided to take the bow out of my hair and put it on Mrs. Zaza’s long goosey neck. Whew what a relief, I

“As soon as the family photos were over, Bernie, Laino, Nelly and I bee lined for the creek. Laino seeing how beautiful Mrs. Zaza looked decided to take the bow out of my hair and put it on Mrs. Zaza’s long goosey neck. Whew what a relief, I finally had that silly girly bow off of me.”



finally had that silly girly bow off of me. Just at that moment Stingy Nettle Nelly took her long needle nose and gave Bernie a good push right into the creek. Bernie screamed as she and Nelly hit the cold water. Laino and I jumped in after them. The splashing and spring time fun began! Mrs. Zaza and her babies were quite disrupted and upset. Gnarly Gander became

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



furious when he saw his beautiful Mrs. Zaza flustered. Scolding and honking Gnarly lifted his long white goosey wings and flew across the water chasing us all. Laino screeched in fear as she remembered the last time Old Gnarly gave her a good goose beating. We all swam for dear life. Up the mud bank we climbed and sprinted as fast as we could. Gnarly turned and rejoined Mrs. Zaza and her babies. Sammy the Bull and Miss Ashley absorbed in one another, munched on green grass and acted as if nothing had gone on around them.

The girls, Nelly and I lay down at the top of the hill near the barn and snuggled one another as we caught our breath after our narrow escape. The ornery barn cats winked at each other and snickered at us from the safety of the barn loft doors. They were high and dry and not in trouble this time.

There’s nothing like spring weather and a cold creek swim. Until next time study hard – school is almost out!

Yours truly – Sushi

... Spring Cleaning for Safety

As warmer weather approaches, so begins the annual task of spring cleaning inside and outside the home. Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management reminds residents of important safety considerations as spring draws near.

Around the House:

- ✦ Check and clean smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ✦ Make sure all exits and escape routes are clear from debris and are easily accessible.
- ✦ Reduce clutter in and around your home. Clear at least a three foot space around your furnace, hot water heater, fireplace, space heaters and dryer.
- ✦ Have furnaces, chimneys and air conditioning units inspected by a licensed professional.
- ✦ Check electrical outlets, extension cords and power strips to ensure they are not overloaded.
- ✦ Be sure all cleaning products, household chemicals, paints and poisons are properly marked and safely stored out of children’s reach.

In the Yard:

- ✦ Trim bushes, plants and trees surrounding your home and keep vegetation at least ten feet from the structure.
- ✦ Keep gutters and roofs clear of debris. If using a ladder, be sure the rungs are dry and the ladder is securely positioned on a flat surface.
- ✦ When operating a lawn mower, rake before you mow to prevent stones or loose debris from flying into the air. Never start a mower indoors and when refueling, make sure the engine is turned off and cool.
- ✦ Gasoline and cleaning fluids should be well marked and stored in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of the reach of children. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- ✦ Spread mulch at least a foot away from the house with a non-combustible barrier in between, such as rock or gravel.



In addition to these safety tips, remember all Loudoun County residents must adhere to the current open burning guidelines. Please note that beginning May 1st there will be no open burning permitted anywhere within the county until October 1st, 2011.

For information, please visit the Loudoun County Fire Marshal’s website at www.loudoun.gov/firemarshal or call 703-737-8600.

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

The Old School in Waterford

Waterford. Hushed streets, uneven ground, living history. A place essentially synonymous with springtime beauty in Loudoun County.

I've lots of images to choose from when my thoughts pass over time spent in Waterford, particularly at the Old School on High Street.

I possess a lot of fond memories of this old structure, but the most dramatic experience undoubtedly came the morning of the fire. I arrived at – what seemed like – surely must have been the supreme height reached by the flames, with masses of brilliant red, like a series of waving curtains, interspersed with black smoke. Countless firefighters (actually about 75 members of local units) and their corresponding apparatus surrounded the entire property, centered around the newer portion of the facility, which would eventually fall to destruction. It's hard to believe, even after four years have gone by, that the older, and perhaps more precious section, survived the morning and still stands as a testament to local first responders – and maybe even a little weight from the hand of fate.

Walking around the site one misty afternoon early this spring, I could still hear the hub-bub of sirens and confusing shouts, the spray of fire hoses and the occasional fall of debris from the disappearing structure of what had been a favorite gathering place for many in this locality.

One of the more touching images stored away in my brain from that morning – in contrast to the raw appetite of the flames – allows me to see several firefighters, encumbered by their heavy gear, be-smudged with smoke and water, delicately carrying personal artifacts from storage areas in the endangered older section of the High Street School. I was told that local artists had been using the space as studios, and some members of the morning's emergency crews, perhaps on break from fighting the flames, lent strong, dedicated hands to removing paintings, easels and other tools of the creative trades. Men who had perhaps never toured an art gallery in their lives would nevertheless risk dangerous conditions to preserve the possessions of local artists they had most assuredly never met. The scene is much calmer now, four years after a glitch in a basement furnace ignited nearby flammables and took away the site's more modern annex.

The former addition included an auditorium and stage, which played host to local plays, concerts and other cultural events. The Waterford Foundation used the space with a reverence and grace, having the understanding to respect the aesthetic given to special places in time and space.

My memory bank reserves an exclusive niche for one of my favorite memories of the historic theatre; it goes back over 10 years, to a production of a local Civil War play, in which I was honored to work with one Craig Snyder. Now, Craig- at that time, anyway- roughly possessed the build of a modest Hoss Cartwright of Bonanza fame, and when he moved through the narrow corridors, one generally stepped aside to avoid collision. Now, in small community productions, the actors are usually tasked with helping to move stage pieces in between scenes, and Craig and I were assigned with shifting a desk at which I sat in the play. You'd think, that since it was 'my' desk, it would've been cemented in my memory to move the confounded thing after each scene. Well, Craig & I had quite a personal as well as professional re-pore, and our conversations would sometimes span the several scenes in which we appeared.

During one of the performances, we finished a scene, and, having gained a safe distance from the stage, making our way outside to cross behind the stage (using the old staircases which you may remember, at the rear of the old structure) to the facilities known in theatre parlance as the 'green room,' we were just re-entering the old building on the other side of the stage when it suddenly occurred to one of us that we had neglected to re-align the desk.

Our eyes met, both of us undoubtedly with an 'Oh, S#\$%^!' expression on our faces. It must have taken a good 30 seconds to cover that ground in most circumstances, but Craig and I, in full Union Blues complete with home-made civil war shoes which offered less traction than a pair of roller skates, made it down those stairs, across the lawn, up the other stairs, through the hall, onto the stage, moved the desk and got our hides offstage before the lights came back up. How we did it neither of us could fathom, but, needless to say, the incident provided even more fodder for delightful conversation throughout the run of the play. "How the H#\$%^\$ did we do that?"



In contrast to our admittedly sophomoric hi-jinx, I recall the last visit I paid to the High Street School Auditorium before the morning of the fire; it was an event for the Waterford Foundation celebrating a victory in land preservation. I believe it was December of 2005- the Friday afternoon before Christmas- and the organization was holding an event to mark the signing of a deal concerning almost four million dollars, which secured the future for about 40 acres of open space on the western outskirts of the historic village. The money came from private sources- evidence of the belief in aesthetic value, I remind you- and this made the difference between preserving the land in its relatively natural state, or more residential construction in the neighborhood.

Congressman Frank Wolf attended that day, and the Foundation showed their appreciation for his long-time support with the gift of an original oil painting from the Foundation, depicting a local landscape. The statesman shared his recollection- that December afternoon- of his first visit to Waterford in the late 1960's.

Many things were no doubt quite different at that time, and yet, many things were no doubt quite the same; the Village of Waterford gained status as a National Historic Landmark in 1970. The community had formed in 1733; the Waterford Foundation dates back about 70 years, as one of the oldest preservation organizations in the country.

You see, fire and other destructive forces can destroy buildings, other valuable property- even lives, as we have seen all too often- but there are some things which remain on the memory's blackboard long after the disappearance of the auditorium and stage section of the Old School. Time, also, can remove us from much of what we love, but we still possess the internal – and, perhaps, eternal, memory bank from which to periodically withdraw our previous investments.

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TOWNS and Villages

HAMILTON – By Terry Moon

Did you notice how beautiful the tulips looked this year? It must have been all the wonderful April showers. I had tulips blooming that didn't show their face last year.

May brings beautiful flowers in time to celebrate our mothers. In May, my mother-in-law and I make our annual trip to Ellmore's Garden Center. She loves their hanging baskets and combination pots. My father-in-law enjoys purchasing his favorite herbs. Ellmore's has a beautiful selection of annual and perennial flowers, vegetables, herbs and potting soil. They start the plants in their greenhouses and sell them when they're ready to plant outside. They're happy to provide gardening suggestions and fertilizer tips. Celebrate Mom by taking her out to eat at Lowry's Crab Shack on the west end of town or the Beautiful South on the east end of town. Both restaurants offer outside dining when the weather cooperates. If Mom could use a new TV or other electronic item stop by Mosby's and shop. They have a selection of serving pieces, clothing and other items to choose from. The Natural Mercantile offers healthy food choices, including local meats, organic fruits and vegetables. They have handmade jewelry and other gift items as well as vitamins, teas and snack items. Maybe Mom's car could use an oil change or check up, Progressive Automotive can help you arrange that.

Memorial Day is the weekend that starts our summer holiday season. Let's not forget the reason for Memorial Day. To all of our veterans, your acts of bravery and sacrifice are not forgotten. We thank you for your service to our country. News submissions to Terry Moon, Moonsofhamilton@comcast.net

LINCOLN – By Anne Tiffany

About 60 folks gathered in the Goose Creek Meeting House recently 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; 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, tunes, and songs that were indicative of the different periods of history. (He also played the mandolin and 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. Corbin is basically self taught; he has already cut two CD's, has won numerous awards for his competitive banjo skills, and has been on NPR radio.

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.

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 for more information: thesmithsjs@yahoo.com. Lincoln news can be submitted to Anne Tiffany at JTiff70519@aol.com

ROUND HILL – By Susanne Kahler

Banking has returned to Round Hill with the Grand Opening of the Round Hill Branch of the Bank of Clarke County April 18th at 21 Main Street in Round Hill. Staff members include Jon Elliott, Branch Manager, William Orth, Assistant Branch Manager and Greg Jay, Lender. The former bank building has been slightly modified to include a new canopy over the drive-thru window and ATM. The parking lot has been repaved with new flow patterns to ease Town traffic concerns.



So far this season, the Woodgrove High School girls Varsity softball team is undefeated. With Joe Spicer coming on board as coach from years of successful seasons at Loudoun Valley and Christy Haney, catcher and Allie Reid, pitcher - both of whom played under Spicer last year, the team is so far 12-0 (8-0 in Dulles district season play) for the year. Go Wolverines!

On Saturday, May 21, Woodgrove High School will be hosting the "Heart and Sole" 5K Walk/Run to benefit The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Volunteers are needed to help with late registrations, packet and t-shirt distribution and sign-ins to make this event a success. Volunteers are also needed to help organize the event the week prior, and at the water and food stations along the course during the 5K. If you are able to help, please contact: Chris Vann: woodgroveptsovolunteer@gmail.com.

Planning is well underway for the Ninth Annual Round Hill Hometown Festival on Saturday, May 28, 2011. The day will include a 5k, parade, memorial ceremony, pie-eating contest, downhill derby, community feast and a full slate of entertainment in the Town Park. This fun-filled family event relies on the support of local businesses and families. If you would like to help sponsor the event, contact Anita Salguero at a-salguero@comcast.net. Sponsorships begin at \$50. Volunteers are also needed to make the day a success. If you can spend an hour or two helping out at the event, contact Tobi Moriarty: moriartyrh@yahoo.com. For more information on the Festival/event registration/advance purchase of Festival t-shirts, see www.hometownfestival.org.

News and events coming up that you would like to see featured? Please contact me at kahlerohana@comcast.net.

WATERFORD – By Ed Good

Fire! Fire!

The screams cascaded through the Village of Waterford on January 25, 2007. Four years ago, we lost a big piece of ourselves: The auditorium of the Waterford Old School burned to the ground. Firefighters from nearly a dozen fire companies from across Loudoun County, Brunswick and Frederick, Maryland, and Mount Weather in Virginia made a strategic decision: let the auditorium burn; it was beyond salvation; instead, play defense and save the classroom building.

The strategy worked. The Old School was saved; the auditorium was reduced to ashes.

A Little History

Way back in 1871, the General Assembly of Virginia passed a bill to provide for public education. Six years later, in 1877, Edwin A. Atlee sold one and one-half acres of land on High Street to the

school trustees of the Jefferson District for \$350. A schoolhouse was built on the site, and early records show enrollments ranging from 66 to 82. Early faculty members included Alma Karstetter, Ella Steer, Jeanette Lewis, Virginia Taylor (principal), Minnie E. Russell, and Mary Shawen.

In February 1909, the first building was destroyed by fire. (A harbinger of things to come?) The new building, the one standing today, was completed in 1910. The cost? Six thousand dollars. Then, in 1928, an auditorium was built next to the school building. In 1948, a kitchen was built, joining the classroom building with the auditorium.

The Waterford Foundation

The Waterford Foundation purchased the property in the 1960s to save it from development. After the fire, the Foundation set in place the ambitious goal of rebuilding the Old School. With insurance money and private donations, it successfully renovated the classroom building at a cost of \$518,500. But a far more daunting task stood on its immediate horizon: rebuilding the school auditorium. The price tag: almost \$2 million.

For years, the Old School auditorium served as a community center in Waterford. It witnessed scores of concerts, hosted parties ranging from '50s dances to New Years Eve celebrations, housed many of the Waterford Fair's most popular crafters, and served as the meeting place for the Waterford Citizens' Association.

The New Old School

Now, the Waterford Foundation has announced that it will break ground on the new auditorium on July 2 of this year. The Foundation engaged the prominent firm of Quinn Evans Architects – quite well known for its award-winning work on historic structures – to design the new auditorium. As stated on the Foundation's website: "The firm's proposed design has been shaped substantially by local citizens' input, and after public meetings and many iterations, the auditorium design was approved in October 2008 by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and Loudoun County's Historic District Review Committee."

On Tuesday, April 19th, Bonnie Getty, President of the Waterford Foundation, announced plans to begin construction this summer: "Taking this step will involve risks and challenges. But we have already met many challenges with the design, the approval process, and fundraising in a tough economy. With the cash in the Old School account, pledges, grants, and funds from the sale of one of our historic buildings, we will have funding of approximately \$1.485 million when we break ground on July 1. To cover the additional \$375,000 in costs, we will use additional fundraising and a small loan. The more money we raise, the less we will need to borrow."

"If we could raise another \$375,000," Ms. Getty said, "we could complete the auditorium and avoid taking out any debt."

The Call Goes Out

Benefactors, benefactors, where are you? Those who want to help rebuild the Old School auditorium, please contact Ms. Kathleen Hughes at the Waterford Foundation: 540-882-3018. Or visit the Foundation's website at www.WaterfordFoundation.org. Reach Ed Good President, Waterford Citizens' Association at: ed.good@grammar.com

Community & Business

announcements

MAY

NoVa West Lacrosse ... is now accepting registrations to try out for their 2011 Summer Select Teams. Tryouts will be held **May 1st**, 8th, 15th and 22nd with teams being announced on **May 22nd**. NoVa West Lacrosse plays in the most competitive recruiting tournaments during the Summer. Register today for a tryout <http://www.novawestlax.com>.

The Loudoun Bed & Breakfast Guild Annual Open House Tour on Sunday, May 1, 2011

from 1-5 pm is a FREE event suitable for the whole family. Take a self-guided tour along some of the most scenic roads in Western Loudoun and visit the FOURTEEN charming and historic B&Bs and one event facility participating in the tour. Local wineries, restaurants, and caterers will be providing tastings at the various B&Bs and event venues.

The participating B&Bs include:

Lovettsville Cluster: Georges Mill Farm B&B, Lovettsville; Linden Hall Farm B&B, Lovettsville; Weatherlea Farm and Vineyard, Lovettsville; The Pink House, Waterford; Stone Manor Vineyard and Orchard B&B, Lovettsville.

Purcellville/Leesburg Cluster: Montrose Farm B&B, Purcellville; Silverbrook Farm B&B, Purcellville; Mitchell's Landing B&B, Purcellville; Zion Springs Bed & Breakfast, Hamilton; Rose Hill Manor, Leesburg.

Middleburg Cluster: Meadowkirk Manor House, Middleburg; Briar Patch B&B, Middleburg; Red Fox Inn, Middleburg Goodstone Inn & Estate, Middleburg.

Participating local wineries include Hiddencroft Vineyard, North Gate Vineyard, Fabboli Cellars, Crushed Cellars, 8 Chains North Winery, Lost Creek Winery, Doukenie Winery, Swedenburg Winery, Veramar Vineyard, and Bluemont Vineyard.

Participating local restaurants include Magnolias at the Mill, Market Table Bistro, The Wine Kitchen, Palio Ristorante, Grandale Restaurant, Market Salamander, and The Restaurant at Patowmack Farm. Other local favorites partnering with the B&Bs are Galletta's Pasta and Italian Specialties, Cookology Recreational Cooking School and Great Country Farms.

Visitors will have a chance to enter special drawings to win overnight stays, restaurant certificates, packages from Great Country Farms and Bluemont Vineyard, etc. at many of the B&Bs.

First Annual Teddy Bear Picnic ...

Bring your teddy bear and join the fun during Loudoun County Public Library's First Annual Teddy Bear Picnic! Children's Book Week has been recognized nationally since 1919 to celebrate the love of children's books and the life-changing effect books have on our lives. Teddy Bear Picnic Schedule:

May 2, 10:30 a.m. – Middleburg Library, 101 Reed St.

May 2, 11:00 a.m. – Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St.

May 2, 4:00 p.m. – Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Plaza

May 3, 1:00 p.m. – Purcellville Library, 220 East Main St.

May 3, 4:00 p.m. – Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road, Leesburg

May 4, 4:00 p.m. – Lovettsville Library, 12 North Light St.

May 5, 7:00 p.m. – Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road

May is Mental Health Awareness Month ...

Every year during the month of May, Loudoun County Public Library participates in Mental Health Awareness Month by offering a variety of programs to provide information, inspiration and to encourage open dialogue.

The following programs will be presented at Rust Library:

– 2:00 p.m., **May 7:** Living with Down Syndrome presented by Erin Thompson of the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia.

– 2:00 p.m., **May 15:** Changing the Conversation About Mental Health presented by Jordan Burnham of Active Minds.

– 2:00 p.m., **May 21:** One Of Us: A Family's Life with Autism

presented by author, Mark Osteen. In a deeply moving personal narrative, Osteen chronicles the experience of raising his autistic son, Cameron. – 7:00 p.m., **May 26:** In Our Own Voices presented by Friends of Loudoun Mental Health. Loudoun residents will explain the challenges and dark days of mental illness and describe their paths toward recovery.

Living With Wildlife in Loudoun County ...

In response to an ever increasing number of calls to the Department of Animal Services regarding nuisance wildlife, Animal Control, in cooperation with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Loudoun County Health Department, will be conducting three education sessions titled Living with Wildlife in Loudoun County. These presentations are free and open to the public. Each program will cover normal and abnormal wildlife behaviors, ways to prevent wildlife problems, solutions to wildlife issues, and roles of the agencies that deal with wildlife. Dates and times are: May 9, 2011, Rust Library 7-9pm, **May 11, 2011** Purcellville Town Hall 7-9pm for more information call 703 777-0406.

Franklin Park: Community Swing Band Returns For Two More Concerts ...

Western Loudoun's newest community based musical ensemble, The Franklin Park Big Band, will provide two performances at Franklin Park Arts Center on Friday, May 13th at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, May 15th at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$10 per family and will be available at the door. Tickets can be reserved by calling the box office at 540-338-7973. The Franklin Park Big Band was founded with support provided by the Franklin Park Arts Center. The group plays Big Band music for dances, weddings, charities, and other occasions. Our members are community instrumentalists from all walks of life who have a passion for their instrument and audience-pleasing music. The Franklin Park Big Band was formed in 2009 by Gil Paist and Isaiah McPeak to fill an apparent community need for a musical outlet. The band experienced immense support from Franklin Park and Patrick Henry College and was able to deliver its first concert with a full 17-piece band (plus vocalists!) just 5 months later. The performers have in many cases picked up their instruments after decades of not playing,

Writer's Conference ... 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., **May 14, 2011** Everyone has a story to tell, whether it is in your head or hastily written on your favorite restaurant's paper napkins. Learn how you can reach your publishing goals at Loudoun County Public Library's Writers' Conference held at the Cascades Branch, 43316 Whitfield Place in Potomac Falls. If you're interested in learning more about the business of publishing, want to improve your writing skills, or are currently in the middle of your first novel, this conference is for you. Stop by for the segment that interests you or stay for the entire day!

Registration is now open for the 9th Annual Round Hill Hometown Festival 5K

... on **Saturday, May 28**, starting at 8:00 a.m. The course begins at Round Hill Elementary School on Evening Star Drive and winds through the town of Round Hill before finishing back at the school. Registration information is available online at www.hometownfestival.org. Applications can also be printed and returned with a check made payable to the "Round Hill Hometown Festival" to Round Hill Hometown Festival 5K, P.O. Box 36, Round Hill, Virginia 20142. For more information call the Round Hill Town Office at 540-338-7878 or visit the festival website at www.hometownfestival.org.

while others are continuing a high school and collegiate talent, and still others previously played professionally. Our current director, Jay Gibble, holds a masters of jazz and a bachelors degree in classical music — bringing us experience, professionalism, and finesse. Visit <http://fpbigband.com> for more details.





Dominion Valley
Country Club

The Dominion Valley Country Club Ladies Golf Association
is proud to sponsor our
Fifth Annual Tournament
to benefit Ovarian Cancer

The Robbyn Rothman Memorial
Swing for Life Tournament

We cordially invite women golfers of any skill level to join us on:
Thursday, May 26th, 2011
7:30 AM Registration and Breakfast 8:30 AM Shotgun Start



For My Mom ...

continued from page 3

genetic code. If it were not for the support she enjoys in the small town in northern California where she lives – the handyman, the wonderful woman who edits her columns for the weekly newspaper and calls her repeatedly and other friends who check in on her many times during the day – Mother would probably not be able to live alone. She would end up in an assisted living facility. The message in itself is important to the rest of us, the importance of Community. And it is one those still fortunate to be in good health should remember and be grateful to those who serve in so many ways, the police, the rescue squad, our doctors, civil servants, our pastors, and, more important, still, those whom we call friends.

– John W. Payne, Purcellville

“Tuna Fish in the Trunk”

When I was in my college years I'd make the trek between home and school every couple of months. My idea of a great road trip back to school was an open window blaring radio kind of thing punctuated by quick stops for

coffee and French fries. As I left home to go back to school one holiday, my mom said: “Let me pack you a tuna sandwich.” I said, “No, no, mom, that's ok... I can't wait to stop and get something really bad for me on 95 North!” For some reason, on this particular trip, she was really persistent – “Let me make you a sandwich!!! Tuna!!!!” I persisted, too, refusing tuna (which I loved) for the sake of, I-don't-know, drive 'til you get drowsy and then stop for something to eat.

Hours later – sitting in 95 North traffic and hours from anywhere I ever wanted to be – the smell of a fresh tuna sandwich reached my nose, and I realized that, against my wishes, my Mother had stowed a fresh tuna sandwich on rye bread with lettuce and tomato and a piece of pound cake in the trunk of my car. Boy, I miss you, and love you Mom.

– Andrea Gaines, Lincoln

“Unconditional Love”

My mother prayed every night for her five children, holding a small silver plaqued bible, the cover graced with five

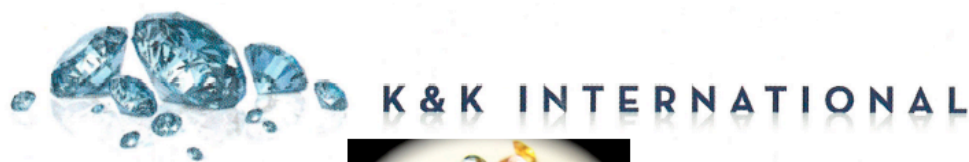
Send us your remembrances of your Father for our June, Father's Day issue ... BlueRidgeLeader@aol.com

angels. She said they represented each one of us; although we were far from angels, her unconditional love and faith blessed us, and everyone who knew her. Two weeks before her death, at age 94 1/2, she recited the 23rd Psalm to me, calmly and devoutly, with a quiet joy lighting her beautiful face; “The Lord is my Shepard, I shall not want...”. She was our protector and advocate. She was extraordinarily talented, whether playing classical piano pieces without sheet music, singing in her beautiful soprano voice well into her 90's, arranging floral bouquets to grace her home, or crocheting a baby blanket for a new grandchild. She was Valedictorian of her class at Alexandria High School, and had both a college and a business degree. She was a Real Estate Broker and a sharp businesswoman. She worked with my father in his law office six days a week, yet we all had dinner together every night, we all went to church every Sunday. My mother was a gracious hostess, and prepared legendary feasts for all 40 family members well into her 90's. Anyone so fortunate to sample

her culinary expertise would swear she was the best cook in Virginia. Not one of us can quite match her recipes, because she poured so much love into everything she made. She became one of the oldest Washington Nationals baseball fans, so that she could discuss each day's game with my brothers. She said life was 50% good and 50% sad, but a 500 batting average was a wonderful attitude. She celebrated everyone's birthdays with a home made cake, every holiday was a joy of family and feasting. She lived in the same house for over 60 years, an elegant nest warm with love and laughter. My mother died on February 20, 2010, on what would have been her 69th wedding anniversary. My parents were married for 49 years, until my father's death in 1990. He was the love of her life, and we knew she had gone to join him in Heaven. Each of us realized we'd lost our best friend. On Mother's Day, especially, I thank God for the gift of her unconditional love.”

– Landon Delaney Eno, Purcellville

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NNO IS A UNIQUE EVENT THAT PROMOTES NEIGHBORHOOD SPIRIT AND POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS IN THE FIGHT FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY. COME MEET LOCAL POLICE MEN AND WOMEN, ENJOY TASTY REFRESHMENTS, AND BOOGIE THE NIGHT AWAY WITH CARVER'S DJ SPINNING FUNKY TUNES. FREE EVENT!

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 12TH FROM 10:00AM-1:00PM

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Citizens Revive Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee

The Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee announced today that it has been reestablished by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Seven committee members were appointed in January after seeking reestablishment and active participation in the State's Scenic River Program. Supervisor Sally Kurtz, State Senator Mark Herring, local citizens and organizations supported the revival effort.

Anne Larson, appointee and strong advocate of Catoctin Creek's beauty and natural resources, commented: "The formation of the Committee has been a long time coming. I am so proud to be a part of this important event." Other committee members are Otto Gutenson (Chairman), Patti Psaris (Vice Chairman), David Ward (Secretary), Norma Wilson, Eleanor Adams and Nancy Beaver; the last two served on the original Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Board from the 1970s through the 1990s. All live on or near Catoctin Creek.

At the first meeting of the restored committee, Lynn Crump, Environmental Programs Planner for DCR, and Dick Gibbons, Chairman of the Virginia Scenic River Advisory Board, gave a history and overview of the Scenic Rivers Program. Today 24 river segments totaling more than 529 river miles have been designated State Scenic Rivers. Designation gives riparian landowners, local citizens and local governments a greater voice in the planning and implementation of federal and state

projects that might affect the creek. All state agencies are required to consider the visual, natural and recreational values of a scenic river in their permitting process. Riparian landowners are offered advice and incentives to preserve those values. Local governments are kept in touch.

Sixteen miles of Catoctin Creek are designated "Scenic River," from the bridge near the mill at Waterford north to the Potomac. Goose Creek and Catoctin Creek are the only Scenic Rivers in Loudoun County, each now with its own local advisory committee. Advisory committees work with local government and the Virginia Scenic River Advisory Board to keep all parties informed of plans and relevant matters affecting designated waterways.

When the original Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Board was dissolved in 2003, due in part to state government reorganization, Catoctin Creek lost its voice. Reestablishment in 2011 is cause for celebration.

Full details about Virginia's Scenic River Program are available at www.dcr.virginia.gov

*Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee
Contact: Otto Gutenson, Chairman
13121 Orrison Road, Lovettsville, VA 20180
Tel. 540-882-3205*

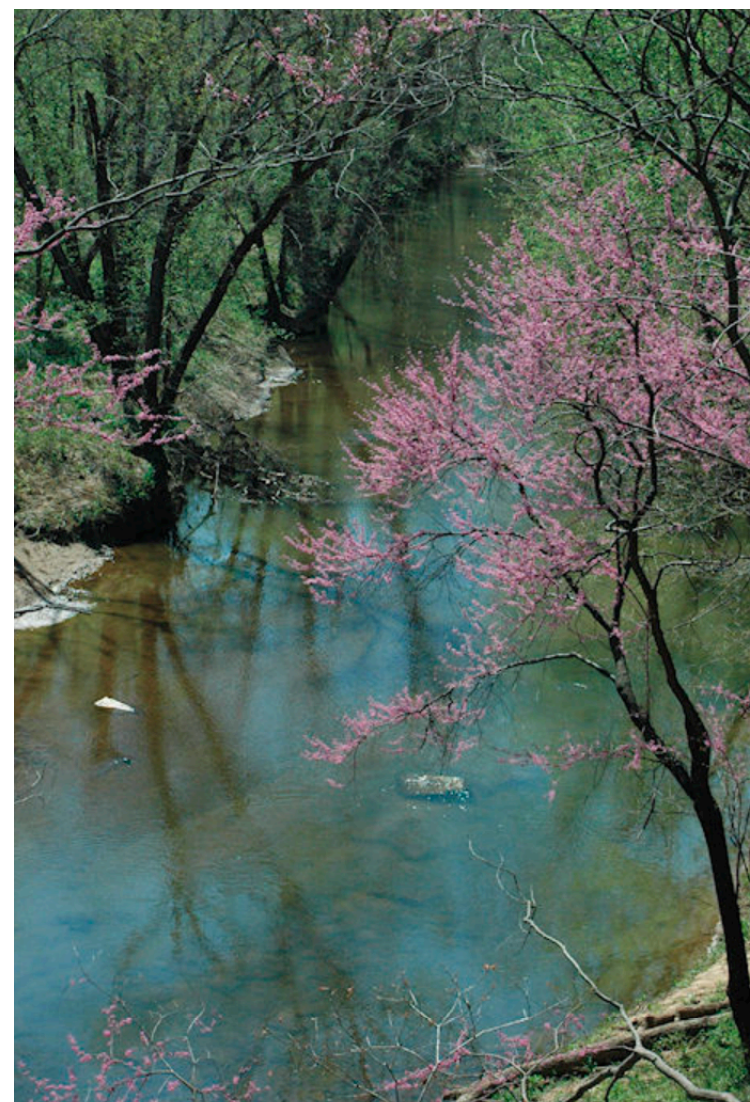


Photo: Carol Clay Ward

Dear Doug, *continued from page 15*

sion? I always advocate buying what you like and need and can afford, but not pushing your price up, just because you CAN afford it. Sorry, I don't like that way of thinking. It gets too many people in trouble down the road. Restraint is the word of the day. CS, Put the reigns on, and only buy what you like, what you need, and a home that fits your vision of what you would like in the future – not the most you can afford.

Dear Doug: If I purchase an "as is" foreclosure property and then get an inspector that says the place needs a ton of work, can I back out? – EP

Dear EP: I get that question a LOT. Foreclosures scare people – it is the Great Unknown. The answer is "maybe." That is why you need to read the fine print, and only move forward if you're able to back out if the property needs too much work. Usually, the bank/lender/owner will allow you to back out. Once they sign your offer, or "ratify" it, they usually give you 10 days (some 7, others 15), to inspect the property, on your dime. Many times, that also means you have to pay to "de-winterize", or get the systems up and running, since they often have turned off all utilities. (They also require you to return it to a winterized condition if you don't buy it, so there are expenses to this process!) But, how can you buy unless you really know what you are buying?

So, say you find too many things wrong ... You would send a list to the bank/lender/seller, and they have the option to fix all, some, or none of the problems. When a sale is "as is" they don't have to fix anything – but, then, you don't have to buy it, either. I had an experience where my buyers inspected a town home last year, and found the furnace and the CAC not working. The agent reminded us that it was "as is," but she passed our request on to the bank. They chose not to fix anything, but they did credit my buyer \$5,000 off the selling price. On the other hand, I have seen deals fall through because the bank would do nothing – except return the earnest money and let the buyer find another property. Bottom line, EP, is "buyer beware" when you are buying any property, foreclosure or not ... and have a home inspection contingency in the contract to make sure you know exactly what you are buying. Good luck!

Animal Services – "New Logo Contest"

Loudoun County Animal Care & Control is now Loudoun County Animal Services – and they need a new logo to go with their new name! **The Department is pleased to announce a contest to find the perfect logo.**

Animal Services' Director Tom Koenig explains, "Our department has evolved so much over the years and we felt that our new name and mission statement, now more than ever, encompass all the services and programs we provide to the Loudoun community. We hope to find a new logo that will further demonstrate our commitment to excellence and to the community we serve. We know there are many talented artists/designers in our area and are confident one will create the perfect graphic for us."

The current logo was implemented in 2003, and is ready for a face lift. **The Department is looking for a modern, professional design that will reflect the Department's new name, as well as its new mission and vision statements.** The new logo will be used on everything from a large sign at the Animal Shelter to staff uniforms to the Department website.

Beginning Monday, April 25, the Department will be accepting submissions from designers for its new logo.

The contest is open to amateurs and professionals alike. The logo should help to articulate the mission and vision of the Department of Animal Services, which is: **As Loudoun County's leading animal resource, the Department of Animal Services is dedicated to ensure the humane treatment of animals and to serve the community with compassion, integrity and professionalism. Staff are committed to fostering the human-animal connection through an innovative and creative approach to animal sheltering, law enforcement, humane education and community outreach.**

Through teamwork, dedication and commitment to excellence, the Department of Animal Services will serve the community with distinction and honor, protecting the public's health and safety and ensuring the welfare of animals.

The designer of the winning entry will receive a plaque and recognition on signage inside the Loudoun County Animal Shelter. The winning designer will be announced in local media releases, and on the Department's website and newsletter. **For details and instructions on how to enter the logo contest, please visit www.loudoun.gov/animals.**



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Video online at: www.loudoun.gov/aduldaycenters

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



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Fridays, 10 am -11:15 am

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