

Blue Ridge LEADER

June 2011

& Loudoun Today

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Water Bill Increases Hit Some Businesses Hard

– By Ryan J. Cool

The Purcellville Infrastructure Committee has recommended a huge increase in water rates to commercial users. The commercial increases will allow the town to hold down the increase to the smaller users to approximately 10%. But, some commercial users will see their rates more than double in a budget that many see as failing to justify the increase in water rates.

Last year, Water Fund income and expenses showed a break even budget. Expenses have not changed for the coming year, yet some users face a 35% increase in water rates overall.

Examples of rate increases across different levels of users include:

- Users of up to 20,000 gallons (bi-monthly) will see an increase of 11% (most residential users fall into this category);

- Users of up to 100,000 (bi-monthly) will see an increase of 22%+ (this might represent a small to medium business);
- The largest users – 450,000 to over 600,000 gallons (bi-monthly) – will see rates go up between 76%+ and 137% (this category includes large and institutional users).

In financial terms, the new bi-monthly bill for a commercial user of 300,000 gallons would increase from \$4,160 to \$5,752 and the accompanied sewer charge would go up an additional \$516.

The sewer rates will all go up by 17%. (State law dictates that sewer rates are uniform for each utility, hence there is no opportunity for the Town to disproportionately distribute the sewer costs to large users.) The sewer system has added the capacity for over 1,600 new single family homes with recent upgrades.



**BRMS First School in Nation to
“Consecrate” Hallowed Ground**

From left to right: Dillon Richardson, Kelly Burk, Cate Magennis Wyatt, Robert Fairfax.

In a heartwarming ceremony on Friday, May 27, students from Blue Ridge Middle School presented Journey Through Hallowed Ground president Cate Magennis Wyatt with a check for \$100 to honor one of the 620,000 soldiers who died in the Civil War.

The students raised the \$100 themselves. Purcellville’s Blue Ridge Middle School is the first in the nation to participate in JTHG’s Plant a Tree Program, which envisions planting one tree to symbolize each of the war dead along the 180-mile area between Monticello and Gettysburg.

The tree in the background of this photo was planted last year to honor Spc. Stephan L. Mace from Purcellville, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009.

Leesburg Supervisor Kelly Burk, a teacher at the school, introduced Hallowed Ground president Magennis Wyatt and praised the efforts of both her organization and the students.

Police Unity Tour

– By Cindy McAlister

The Police Unity Tour (PUT) was organized fifteen years ago by Officer Patrick Montuore of Florham Park, NJ. He and 17 other officers raised \$1,000 each and pedaled from NJ to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial at Judiciary Square in Washington, DC. They originally pledged to raise 5 million dollars to assist in the building of the actual Museum, for which construction has just begun. They have since surpassed this goal and are nearing the 10 million dollar amount, with 1.5 million being raised this year!

Officers killed in the line of duty is a very sad statistic. There are over 19,000 names engraved on the Wall of Remembrance – officers who paid the ultimate price defending the communities they had sworn to protect and serve. The year 2010 proved to be a very deadly year, with a 43% increase from 2009. The numbers for 2011 are looking bleak with over 70 officers killed by mid-May.

The Anniversary ride extended from May 9th through May 12th and brought over 1,400 officers together to ride from various parts of the US into DC. The purpose of the ride is to raise awareness of the officers who have died and raise funds to support the building

(Continued on page 19)



Photo by Kevin Whalden. Left to right: Brian Holesapple, Cindy McAlister, and John Carter of Trails End.

For My Dad

My Hero

Heros come in many forms. For some, it could be a movie star, a war hero or some other famous person. Mine is my dad. He is 88 years old and amazing! He taught me that life can be great at any age. After he turned 80 he learned to ballroom dance, took writing classes at his local community college, and wrote 3 books. Thank you for being a great role model! – Mary Beard, Purcellville

**More Letters Sprinkled
Throughout This Edition**

Students Attend Bill Signing Ceremony

Students from Loudoun Valley & Woodgrove High School ASL classes attended a bill signing ceremony with Governor McDonnell on Monday, May 23 at The Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Staunton.

McDonnell signed HB1435, proposed by Del. Richard P. "Dickie" Bell, R-Staunton, stating that ASL will be considered a foreign language and will have the same weight as any other foreign language course taught in schools.

The impact of this bill is directed at Virginia colleges/universities and their admissions policies. The legislation was suggested to Del. Bell by the students. ASL students at Woodgrove and Loudoun Valley are taught by Ms. Dawn Hitchens.



Ask Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike, My husband and I parent pretty well together; however, he has a difficult time saying "no" to our 2 year old son when our son wants something. So if we're at a store or a restaurant, or anywhere for that matter, he will immediately relent to the escalating demands of our child and purchase items. Last night, for example, my husband purchased a rubber ball for our son while grocery shopping, even though our son has plenty of balls at home. I fear that we're teaching our boy to be spoiled and entitled. I've brought my concerns to my husband who has told me that I am overreacting to his behavior. – M.



M., It is never too young to set limits with our children. By setting limits, your child will learn to know what is expected of him and others and what is realistic alongside his wants and needs. By over indulging or over gratifying your son's needs, he will learn that there are no limits; that he can essentially have whatever he wants whenever he wants it if he complains long enough. Even at 2 year's of age, your son should already be experiencing some frustration and tolerance to frustration, which in turn will assist him in his emotional and social development, as well as his behaviors. You write that you and your husband parent well together aside from this one area, so I would sit down with him and express your concerns again. This time, I would use concrete examples where your son has already experienced disappointment and frustration in different ways and has been better off for it. Some examples might include, the bedtime routine, using a baby bottle or pacifier, attending preschool, etc. Can you imagine if your son ended up in your bed every time he cried at night during his first year? As an infant, by allowing your son to cry for short periods of time, he learned to self-regulate and sleep successfully on his own and eventually through the night. By not always purchasing what your son

desires, you are giving him the same opportunity to struggle, self regulate and master a developmental task.

Dr. Mike, Our daughter recently graduated from college and has returned home to live with us until she finds a job. We are glad she's home, and while she graduated with honors, and we are so very proud of her, we have some concerns about our current arrangement. It seems our daughter feels she can come and go as she pleases, with no curfew or real expectations. She also tends to sleep in late and does little to help out. We do see her looking for a job, but we already feel things need to change, especially if we are going to continue to pay for her gas, give her spending money and afford her free room and board. How did we get ourselves in this situation? Help! – A.

A., You should know that more and more young adults, a.k.a. Boomerang Kids, are returning home after college, so you and your husband are hardly alone. In fact, studies have found that the average age for young adults to leave home is now around 25 years of age. The average age for marriage is also increasing and is around 30 years of age. Not surprisingly, the economy appears to be the main factor for why our children are blooming later in life. The old pattern of getting your college degree, entering into a career, living independently and getting married is no longer occurring in the straight line it did for you or your husband's generation.

I think the first thing you should do is sit down with your husband and come up with a well defined game plan since you both need to be in agreement with your expectations of your daughter before talking to her. I would then have a serious discussion with your daughter, which should involve expectations – chores, curfew, spending the night out, etc. You should also discuss setting a time limit for when your daughter will live independently. You might also consider asking your daughter to pay rent or at the very least contribute to the household expenses once she begins working. By encouraging financial accountability in your daughter, you are preparing her toward independent living. Your daughter may have some general expectations of you, and I would respectfully encourage you to listen to her and to find the compromise, of course within reason. You are clearly very proud of your daughter for her accomplishments, and she needs to continue to know that and to feel good about being home. With improved communication, your daughter's return home shouldn't be an emotional or financial drain. If handled well, this should be yet another positive chapter in your lives as parents.

Continued on page 18

News From Blue Ridge District School Board Representative Priscilla Godfrey

The Loudoun County School Board lost a fierce advocate for its children when Warren Geurin, a 12 year member of the School Board representing the Sterling District recently passed away. Although his district was as far east as you can go and still be in Loudoun County, he was a strong supporter of the four small schools in western Loudoun and a strong supporter of my work as the Blue Ridge District Representative. The Loudoun Education Foundation has named a scholarship in his honor and is soliciting donations to fund that scholarship by sending checks to Loudoun Education Foundation, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20148. Warren would be so proud this week as the AP Challenge Index puts Loudoun County as the number three school district ahead of Fairfax and Montgomery County for its success at getting minority and lower income students to not only participate in Advanced Placement courses but to do well in the end of year tests. I will be writing more about this regional and national recognition in the months ahead.



– Priscilla B. Godfrey, Blue Ridge District Representative and Vice Chairman Loudoun County School Board

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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CARVER CENTER FUN

Father's Day Brunch: 11:00-2:00, Friday, June 17, Cost: \$3.00

11:00-11:45: Pancake Brunch; 11:45-12:45 Big Prize Bingo; 1:00-2:00 Dave Anderson Presents songs and storytelling in "A Tribute to Fathers."

Local Girl Scout Organizes Wii Tournament at Carver: 12:30 – 2:00, June 20, 24 & 30, and July 1 Intergenerational Wii Bowling Tournament, Free to members (\$2 drop-in fee for non-members)

Lindsay Ashley, a local girl scout, is putting her organizational skills to the test by setting up a Wii bowling competition at Carver Center. She has plotted out dates with Carver staff and learned how to score games. She has sign-up sheets and flyers in place and is getting together a menu for the after-competition party. Lindsay is recruiting teens who will partner with regular Carver attendees so that her event will be multi-generational. Teams are forming and excitement building for this event which

is the culmination of Lindsay's Girl Scout training and forms the basis of her Gold Award project.

If you have never tried "virtual" bowling on a Wii console, you are missing out on a fun team sport that almost anyone can play. Here at Carver, we hone our bowling skills during down time and several regulars have racked up some impressive scores. They will be the ones to beat in June when the tournament starts! Teams will bowl on four days (see above dates), with time set aside for a party at the end of the competition on July 1. We will be playing on three Wii Consoles, with two people to a team. We welcome teen volunteers for this event, as well as those "55 and better". If you would like to join us, stop by to sign up, or call us at 571-258-3400.

**Carver Center
200 Willie Palmer Way
Purcellville, VA 20132
571-258-3402**



Round Hill's 9th Annual Hometown Festival took place Saturday May 28, 2011, with an 8 am 5k race. Other activities for the day included a parade ... a Memorial Day observance ... a pie eating contest ... downhill derby ... pig roast ... a community feast ... and a starlight concert.

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Purcellville's Endangered Species List

– by Kelli Grim

Agriculture, farmers, and senior citizens are now on the new Purcellville endangered species list. If you are a long time resident, a farmer, and a senior citizen than you may be eligible to be put on Purcellville's endangered species list, too. Sam and Uta Brown, owners of Crooked Run Orchard, a 250 year old historic, working pick-your-own farm are now facing major hardships, and tens of thousands of dollars in expenses to defend their home, and their business just to continue to exist in the Town of Purcellville.

On November 30, 2010 the Town made an offer to purchase approximately 7+ acres of the Brown's 16 acre parcel currently owned jointly by Sam and Tim Brown for the construction of the Southern Collector Road. Neither of the Brown brothers accepted the town's offer to purchase this portion of the property for only \$432,024.

The Town Hall was filled to capacity on January 11, 2011 and more than 3 dozen Loudoun County and Town residents came forward to speak out against the resolution to be voted on to Quick-Take a portion of Crooked Run Orchard property by eminent domain including the filing of a "Certificate of Take" which would give the Town immediate possession of the property. Sam Brown did seek an injunction to delay this action until after the County and Town's lawsuit was heard in December 2011 over adjacent land annexations and utility issues because it could completely change the design and plans for the road once again. Brown's request was granted for a couple of months, but the Town's multiple lawyers and law firms prevailed and had the injunction removed recently at which time the Town immediately filed the quick take deed and is moving forward with all aspects of getting the Southern Collector Road built. The delay could have spared Sam Brown irreparable damage from which he might never recover.

At the May 11, 2011 Town Council meeting, the vote was approved to begin negotiations for a lease that would "allow" Sam Brown to continue farming operations on the now town owned portion of their farm. The Browns had no notice of the lease prior to the Town Council meeting, and were concerned about some very unique requirements and restrictions. The Browns also felt that the taking of the land seemed premature as final design plans had not been completed. It seemed especially aggressive, since the Town does not have the funds currently available in its budget.

Contrary to statements and promises by the Mayor and Town Council for the past 3+ years that the farm would not be cut in half – and there would be no disturbance to the farm operations – it is clear that Town actions have already created great difficulties for Crooked Run Orchard's farming operations.

The lease the Town expects the Browns to sign (if they want to have any access to their apple trees and parking lot) states they can lease the property for \$1 for one year, and the parties may renew the term by written agreement. Under the heading of "Permitted Activities" it states, "Brown shall be permitted to conduct agricultural planting, harvesting, and maintenance of the apple orchard on the town property. No other activities shall take place on the property without express written approval of the town."

So, they may not be able to have customers pick fruit on the town property, gleaners that the Browns allow to take thousands of pounds of food every year to area food banks will not be allowed on the town property, and no one will be allowed to park in this area or use the secondary exit roadway.

Then there is the issue of the Security Deposit paragraph that states, "Brown shall pay the security deposit in the amount of five thousand (\$5,000). The security deposit shall be placed in an escrow account and shall be returned to Brown upon the termination or expiration of the lease." *No other Town lease agreement has more restrictive or onerous terms than the one the Town expects the Browns to sign.**

Paragraph 6 Access to Property states, "During the initial term of this lease and any renewal term, the Town shall have unrestricted access to the Town property. No notice shall be required prior to the Town's access to the Town property. In paragraph 8 Termination it says, "This lease shall terminate at the end of the initial term or the end of the renewal term. In addition, the Town may terminate this lease by giving fifteen (15) days written notice to Brown. In Paragraph 9 Breach of Lease says, "In the event that Brown violates any provision of this lease, the Town may terminate the lease immediately and seek all other available remedies. In the event that the Town must take action to enforce the terms of the lease, Brown agrees that it shall pay all of the town's costs and reasonable attorney fees for enforcement. Finally, paragraph 10, "Taxes" says, "Brown acknowledges that the Town is a nontaxable entity and as such is not liable for the payment of real estate and other taxes. In the event the real estate taxes are assessed and imposed on the town property, Brown agrees to pay such real estate taxes. Brown shall

also be responsible for the payment of any other taxes in connection with Brown's use of the property including, but not limited to, roll back taxes, personal property taxes, and license taxes."

The Browns are awaiting arrival of this lease – they must accept it, or be prepared to have the property fenced off, having no use of it and losing all crops on it as well. Yet the record shows the Town did promise in public, in the press, and at many, many Town meetings that the completion of the SCR would not harm their farming operations, would not destroy very many trees (over 100 mature trees will be removed), and would not "cut their farm in half." The Town is doing all of the above. The town's lease certainly has the makings of a great manual on **"How to Make Local Farms Part of the Endangered Species List."**

* Research of Town documents show that there are currently two other lease/use agreements that the Town has, and both of them include the use of buildings worth over a million dollars. The Purcellville Community Market LLC has a lease agreement with the Town that allows the Farmers Market to operate in the Town parking lot, and gives permission for the bathrooms to be accessed by customers and vendors during the hours the market operates on Saturdays. There is also the lease/management agreement with the Purcellville Teen Center, Inc. to manage and use the Bush Tabernacle year round. Neither of these entities has a Security Deposit being held in escrow according to their agreements with the Town of Purcellville.

The Insurance paragraph will require the Brown's to maintain Commercial General Liability Insurance including bodily injury and death resulting therefrom or property damage, in an amount not less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) per occurrence.

The Purcellville Community Market LLC has a contract with the Town for \$10 to use the Town parking lot, which includes the use of the town building bathrooms. Juanita Tool (Admin. Asst. to Loudoun County Supervisor Kelly Burk) manages the Saturday Farmers Market of which she collects 6% of the gross sales receipts from each of her vendors according to the town records and market vendors. A review of the certificate of insurance on file at the Town shows the insurance coverage maintained is for one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence.

The Purcellville Teen Center, Inc. (a 501c3 organization) which is run by Phillip Message (a Mortgage Broker with Westar Mortgage Inc.) has a lease/contract with the Town to manage the operations of the Bush Tabernacle. The insurance on file shows they also are required to have \$1,000,000 of insurance per occurrence.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some Things Never Seem to Die

Some things never seem to die ... and the Outer Beltway is one of them. Last week the unelected Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved a Corridor of Statewide Significance that follows the same route proposed in previous years as the Outer Beltway or Western Transportation Corridor. This new designation is a developer-fostered scheme for a high-speed north-south roadway that Loudoun's present and past Board of Supervisors have regularly opposed. Yet without benefit of hearing local public comments, the CTB passed a plan to link the Potomac River east of Route 95 in lower Prince William County to the Potomac River in northern Loudoun County – a Northern Virginia North-South Corridor of Statewide Significance.

Besides making a mockery of local government land-use management prerogatives and the adopted and publicly-supported County Comprehensive Plan, now taxpayers must support a foolish proposition that ignores Loudoun residents' critical needs for better east-west (not north-south) transportation. Have the advocates of this state power grab read even one of the studies detailing the lack of need, the faulty projections of future congestion, or the alternative opportunities for planning to benefit sustainable growth and attending to citizen needs first? Not likely. Do they not understand that their proposal is dead on arrival because Maryland will not permit a crossing into its agricultural preserve across the river from Loudoun? It's time to focus scarce public funds on our transportation priorities instead of a plan to dis-

rupt Loudoun's established neighborhoods between Route 28 and Route 15 and dump traffic on Route 7 and Route 50.

We delude ourselves if we swallow the notion the CTB has interest in north-south rail and mass transit, as proponents claim, rather than a plan for a Western Transportation Corridor/Outer Beltway designed to stimulate new development and traffic that Loudoun County doesn't want and can't afford. Loudoun's varied business community, large and small, rural and suburban, will suffer, not prosper, from this plan. We should thank those Supervisors who voted against it.

Sincerely, Malcolm F. Baldwin
(candidate for Catocin District Supervisor), Lovettsville

Lovettsville Cell Tower Controversy

T-Mobile is currently seeking a special exception and commission permit from Loudoun County to place a 125 foot cell phone tower, encased in a silo, on a 29 acre parcel of farmland at 40615 Lovettsville Road in Lovettsville. To give the reader an idea of the size of this proposed project, the average farm silo in Loudoun County is 40 feet. The proposed height is three times the size of what is considered normal. I make this point because one part of the approval process requires that these towers be "stealth" and fit into the landscape and scenery of the proposed site. This "silo" will be seen from all directions including Tankerville Road, Lovettsville Road, Taylorstown Road and beyond.

A group of Lovettsville residents attended the planning commission meeting on May 25th, 2011 to hear the County's

Continued on page 6

OPINION – Is Janet Clarke the Right Choice?

– By Valerie Joyner

Janet Clarke is on the fast track to being nominated as the Republican candidate to run for the Blue Ridge Supervisor spot this November. She is currently unopposed on the Republican side. But, is she the best challenger to represent the party of “fiscal responsibility?”

Clarke was handpicked by Purcellville Mayor Robert Lazaro to replace him on the Town Council when Lazaro was elected Mayor in 2006. Serving on the Council from 2006 to 2008, Clarke voted with the Mayor’s majority voting block on every major issue.

■ While on Council Clarke voted for numerous lawsuits to sue the County of Loudoun to stop the building of Woodgrove High School which had been in Purcellville’s Comprehensive Plan since 1995. All lawsuits failed. And, Clarke was part of the group the Mayor put into action to give an ultimatum to the County: give Purcellville just under \$6 million (for unspecified transportation needs unrelated to the school) or the town will continue to “sue and appeal” all the way to the Virginia Supreme Court – delaying the building of the High School another year or more. In the interest of area students –

many of whom were being taught in trailers due to severe overcrowding – the County gave in.

- Right or wrong, frivolous or not the power to sue can be a very effective weapon, and the \$5.78 million wasn’t all that Ms. Clarke and the Town extracted from the County. The County spent \$1.5 million for a water treatment plant at the school site, drilled two wells, provided land for a water tower, and paid the Town’s exorbitant hookup rates for water and sewer service. The Town of Purcellville said it would cost \$950,000 to hook up the high school and elementary school to the Town’s water system, more than 5 times what the County paid to hook up the new Tuscarora High School to Leesburg’s water supply. And, yes, Janet Clarke was part of the group that exacted that deal, too.
- Moving on to the new Town Hall debacle ... Janet Clarke voted to purchase a rundown old church building and convert it into Purcellville’s new Town Hall. This was Purcellville’s taxpayer money for a real estate deal that involved a building which was assessed at \$700,000 ... purchased for \$1.95 million ... and now has costs exceeding \$7 million.

■ Purcellville’s per capita debt is over \$10,000 while Leesburg’s is approximately \$3,500 and Loudoun’s is approximately \$4,000.

Janet Clarke added to Purcellville’s numbers by voting to spend approximately \$33 million to increase the size of Purcellville’s sewage treatment plant – excess capacity that was not needed (the plant operates at just 40% capacity today). This action has contributed to double-digit water/sewer increases every year for a town of just 2,400 homes.

Besides bringing Purcellville’s debt right up against the State of Virginia’s Constitutional limit, the increased debt now requires any newly built house in Purcellville to pay almost \$50,000 for water and sewer hookup.

Janet’s Clarke’s statement that “The County should be much more considerate and thoughtful about how they spend taxpayer’s money” rings hollow in light of the fact that she was on the Town Council when the Purcellville spending spree started.

Is she the best challenger the party of “fiscal responsibility” could pick?

One More Time On the Issue of Transparency ...

– By Valerie Joyner

On May 5, 2011 at Patrick Henry College an “invitation-only” event was sponsored by Jim Bowman, Senior Vice President of John Marshall Bank. The topic for the event was “Western Loudoun Economic Summit – Commercial Activity is Booming in Purcellville.”

The guest list for the event included members of the media, elected officials, some Purcellville Business Association members and others. Mayor Bob Lazaro, Councilwoman Joan Lehr, and Councilman Tom Pricilla were among the elected officials attending.

The Blue Ridge Leader and Loudoun Today was not invited, but upon hearing of the meeting sent a reporter. In a rather uncomfortable moment, *The Leader* was informed that the summit was a private, invitation-only event and was asked to leave.

After politely registering our concern that all members of the press have access to news coming from discussions between public officials and members of the community, we choose to stay.

Mayor Lazaro spoke about the commercial health of Purcellville – a topic critical to all citizens.

Maria J.K. Everett, Executive Director and Senior Attorney for Virginia FOIA (Virginia Freedom of Information Act) stated: “This office has consistently opined that whenever three or more members of the same deliberative body gather, whether informally or formally and discuss the public business of that body it is a meeting under FOIA. As such, the meeting requires notice to the public, accessibility by the public to the meeting location and minutes of the gathering.”

No such notice of gathering was given by the Town in this case. *The Blue Ridge Leader and Loudoun Today* wishes to be on record in opposing any apparent or deliberate violations of the people’s right to know.

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Renewed Push for Uranium Mining Threatens Virginia Waters

– By Christopher G. Miller

Mining advocates are ramping up their campaign to end the ban on uranium mining in Virginia. They’re paying for legislator visits to France and lobbying hard. But the question on everyone’s mind: Given Virginia’s humid climate – with 42+ inches of rainfall per year and major flooding events in which more than 25 inches can fall within 24 hours – is it possible to ensure that cancer-causing mining waste doesn’t contaminate our drinking water supply?

Nowhere in America has uranium been mined or milled under high-rainfall conditions like those that exist in Virginia. Even at arid sites in the American West, where it is more feasible to contain toxic and radioactive water from mining and milling operations, the EPA has found that tailings from uranium ore have contaminated groundwater in nearly every case.

According to a 2007 EPA Report, “Water is perhaps the most significant means of dispersal of uranium and related [radioactive materials] in the environment from mines and mine wastes ... Uranium is very soluble in acidic and alkaline waters and can be transported easily from a mine site.” If Virginia were to allow uranium mining, it would be the first state to do so with a climate in which rainfall exceeds evaporation. This is truly a statewide issue, with potentially devastating impacts to human health and the environment.

Roanoke River Added to "America's Most Endangered Rivers" List

In a big announcement this May, the threat from a proposed uranium mine in southwest Virginia has earned the Roanoke River the dubious distinction of being named to American Rivers’ annual list of America’s Most Endangered Rivers. The Roanoke flows from the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia to North Carolina’s Outer Banks. It provides drinking water to more than one million people in Virginia Beach, Norfolk and other communities. As Peter Raabe of American Rivers says “This uranium operation would generate millions of tons of toxic, cancer-causing waste ... We’re talking about a radioactive legacy that would last for generations.”

Uranium mining was banned in Virginia in the early 1980s because of the enormous risk to our watersheds and to our health. That risk still exists today. Given our climate, flooding and stormwater discharge of radioactive material would be a probability, not a possibility. Even so, proponents of a new mine in Pittsylvania County are pushing hard to lift the ban on uranium mining during the upcoming General Assembly Session in Richmond.

If you’d like to learn more, PEC has extensive resources on uranium mining in Virginia available at www.pecva.org/uranium. You can also call their Warrenton Office at 540-347-2334. Christopher G. Miller is President of the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC). This letter was originally featured in a PEC Email Alert.

Property “Ownership” a Fantasy in the State of Virginia

– By Kelli Grim

(The following information was gleaned from an extensive study of eminent domain in Virginia written by Jeremy P. Hopkins, Esq., and published by the Virginia Institute for Public Policy.)

The right to own property protects the individual by dividing power between the people and the government, and between the people themselves. The right to own, use and dispose of property gives the individual true security and independence. It is the bedrock of our constitution and all laws and freedoms are dependent upon it. Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Economic dependence begets subservience and venality,” while economic independence begets freedom, liberty and industriousness. It is no wonder that tyrannical governments make common property a method by which to control people. If everyone owns something, no one owns it, and the government is, of course, the default owner of everything.

Despite the fact that we continue to believe we live in a democracy, the government can take any property for any reason and give you nothing for it. No property owner, short of the very rich and influential, is safe from the taking or his or her land. And, not only are takings of land extremely arbitrary and capricious, often wasteful and uncompensated for, the cases for just compensation or returned ownership languish for years in the courts while the owner loses everything.

Most of us think of the *Kelo v. New London* case in Connecticut when we think of the abuse of eminent domain. But Virginia has committed many injustices as grave or even more serious than this case.

Two reasons that eminent domain, or the seizure of private property, has become so widespread and so easy for the “condemnor” since the middle of the last century are these:

1. The courts have extended to many other entities the power to condemn land. Some of these entities are the Commonwealth Transportation Commission (VDOT), Produce Market Authorities, Virginia Baseball Stadium Authority, Housing and Gasline Authorities, etc.
2. Towns, cities and counties can incorporate language in their own charters that goes well beyond the constitutional limits of the state. The Virginia Assembly gave Virginia cities the right to take property “for any purposes of the city” and this applies to counties and towns as well. The Virginia Constitution only allows takings

for “public uses” but since the Assembly allows municipalities to take land for “public purposes” this extends the allowable justification for the take to mean anything that would have a public benefit. This includes job creation and tax revenues that are not created or used directly by and for the government.

People whose property is condemned have fewer rights to rectify injustices than any other citizens seeking relief from the courts, including debtors. In all other types of litigation, the citizens have much more extensive protections, including much higher standards of notification of the case, much greater time to respond, and the right to appeal to address injustices. The man whose land is condemned has NO rights to open the case again in court. Even if the property owner never gets any compensation, the project is abandoned and his property is not used (or is sold to someone else), his buildings destroyed and his business is ruined, and he is rendered penniless, he has NO RIGHT TO APPEAL.

VDOT is one of the worst abusers of eminent domain, not only because it may never use the property, but because it routinely offers extremely low compensation for the land.

In one case where the jury awarded the landowner \$2.4 million, VDOT has offered them \$112,000. This isn't as bad as the City of Chesapeake which refused to acknowledge that it had seized the land of Ms. Willet, even though she showed proof of the taking, but then offered the woman \$7.56 as compensation!

In *Commonwealth Transportation Commission v. Stull*, VDOT demolished the farm buildings, deprived the farmers of their ability to farm and destroyed their business. They said the buildings were old, as a justification for destroying them. However, the buildings were in good repair, functioned well, and could have been maintained. In another case, the courts ruled that a Mr. Thomas had to pay rent to use his property even when the condemnor refused to pay him any compensation for the taking of his property!

The courts, those entities empowered to protect the rights of the citizens, are actually the greatest cause of eminent domain abuse. Both on the Federal and State court level, the courts continue to deny property owners the most basic rights of compensation and appeal. The courts are often unwilling to give land owners fair compensation and will often strike rulings by their own handpicked three-panel experts or by juries.

The Town of Purcellville has done four quick takes in the past two years, all to benefit private developers. There is no

“The Town of Purcellville has done four quick takes in the past two years, all to benefit private developers. There is no proof that the business owners, whose land was taken, were happy with the takings. In the case of the seizure of the land on Crooked Run Orchard Farm, the amount of money the Town is offering the Browns is about one quarter of fair market value.”

proof that the business owners, whose land was taken, were happy with the takings. In the case of the seizure of the land on Crooked Run Orchard Farm, the amount of money the Town is offering the Browns is about one quarter of fair market value. The amount of damage it will cause is not measurable in dollars or in the well-being of the citizens because of the trees that will be destroyed and the spikes in pollution, traffic and the expense to the taxpayer in endless road improvements that will inevitably follow. Unfortunately, prospects for a just and compassionate response from the courts in Virginia are close to nil.

Until the laws are changed to support citizen sentiment that is strongly against Eminent Domain abuse, only the “people” can voice their opposition to their elected officials and make it clear they do not want this to continue in their town, city, and county. The stage is being set for a constitutional showdown over property rights in Virginia, and outrage over a Roanoke condemnation case has become a rallying cry in the campaign to limit government power to seize privately owned land.

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli is leading the charge to enshrine private property rights in the Virginia Constitution. Cuccinelli, a conservative Republican, has a long-standing interest in personal property rights and championed legislation throughout his seven years in the Virginia Senate to limit the use of eminent domain.

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli does not mince words when he spoke about a Roanoke condemnation. “I think it's legally criminal,” he said. “It's immoral. I think it's tyrannical. It's horrific.”

In his push for constitutional change, Cuccinelli points to Roanoke condemnation proceedings as “the most recent, egregious violation of property rights under color of law.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, continued from page 4

and T-Mobile's presentations. Six of the residents spoke against the approval T-Mobile's proposal.

What this proposed site boils down to is T-Mobile's desire to expand their reach, in the most inexpensive way, without taking into consideration the effects and impact this 125 foot monstrosity will have on the surrounding community.

This begs a few questions of T-Mobile and Loudoun County:

1. Does the County have a comprehensive telecommunications plan that guides the county-wide telecommunications projects or is the County relying on T-Mobile and other private sector entities to drive placement of structures to accommodate private sector needs?
2. Has the spirit of public engagement been achieved by T-Mobile's efforts to notify and inform the public

given that public engagement around this proposal has been almost non-existent.

3. Does the silo, with the height of more than 3 times a typical local silo (40 feet), achieve the objective of blending into the agricultural vistas for which Loudoun is known and loved?
4. Is the “stealth” silo an acceptable visual element along the Lovettsville Road gateway into our town and County?
5. What alternatives such as transmitters on high-tension towers have been considered?

One of the gentlemen speakers likened this proposed 125 foot silo to placing a 12 story building in downtown Leesburg and trying to justify that it fit into the landscape and spirit of the town. Planning commissioner Gigi Robinson referred to the tower as “behemoth” in her questioning of the T-Mobile project manager.

The best possible outcome happened that evening at the meeting. The Planning Commission voted to go to work session on the matter and asked T-Mobile to provide supporting documentation laying out their county wide coverage and future plans and those of the other major carriers.

Now it lies in the hands of citizens to speak out against this proposed 125 foot cell phone “silo”. Please email both the planning commissioners at loudounpc@loudoun.gov and Board of Supervisors at bos@loudoun.gov and let them know you do not support this monstrosity of “silo” and that it does not meet the requirements of being stealth and fitting into the surrounding scenery. When referencing this issue please note T-Mobile Stephens Silo SPEX-2010-0020 and CMPT 2010-0009 in your comments. It is imperative that we address this issue in the planning stages prior to its landing on the desks of the Board of Supervisors for a vote.

– Laura Leiberan, Lovettsville

With Apologies to Hemingway – By Steve Webster

Lincoln Elementary School was recently designated as a "Blue Ribbon school." The honor was a testament to the work of administrators, teachers, parents, and most importantly, students. When I heard of the award, I wondered how my kids would remember their years at Lincoln, and began to ponder the figures who had inspired me in my own academic journey.



A-B-B-A. In hindsight, perhaps I should have been more demanding. My father, undeterred by negative reviews, secretly published my poems to his brothers and sisters. Wonderful people all, they did not take me to task for having to endure the overblown and soporific prose foisted upon them. (For an example, see the previous sentence). I imagine they still retain the yellowed scraps of paper in their nightstands to insure a good night's sleep.

As I progressed in grade school, I was exposed to more of the notable greats. I concluded these writers were dark people who had a very lonely existence and took it out on the characters they created. I also noticed a strange similarity between characters in the great novels and characters like Wile E. Coyote and Elmer Fudd. (With respect to the former, I wondered: where were the product liability lawyers when contraptions peddled by the Acme Corporation blew up in Elmer's face? What can I say? We had lawyers in the family).

My rigorous interest in fictional characters broadened my horizons. One day, walking through the kitchen, I hummed a snippet from The Barber of Seville. "Where did you learn that?" my grandmother asked proudly. "Bugs

Bunny," I replied. She looked distraught.

In middle school, we were assigned a new book to read. As I began to page through it, I thought to myself, "This is interesting stuff." I was also pretty sure it was inappropriate for young gentlemen and gentlewomen. As it turned out, my instincts were correct. An unidentified student brought this fact to the attention of a parent who, in turn, brought this fact to the attention of the administration. The book was confiscated in short order. Despite a lengthy covert investigation by students, we were unable to identify the crusading do-gooder. I had to reluctantly salute his or her steely resolve. Keeping a secret in seventh grade from self-appointed, fiercely determined student inquisitors is no small feat. The unidentified crusader probably now works for the CIA or some clandestine government agency. To this day, I have not finished the book, still fearful of the corrupting influence it might have on me.

My interest in writing peaked in high school under the tutelage of an English teacher who was variously kind and curmudgeonly. "You're not hitting on all eight cylinders," he would say to me. I failed to appreciate the connection

Continued on page 19

A Page's Life

– By William Rodenberg

I wanted to do an extracurricular activity in my sophomore year, which reflected my passion for politics. One day, in discussing my woes with my father, he suggested the Congressional Page Program. I began researching the program, five months living in Washington D.C., and watching Congress in action, interning on Capitol Hill, going there every day after I finished school at the library of Congress ... how exciting!

On August 6, 2010, the office of Frank Wolf accepted my application. I began on September 6.

The page program was like going to college. Fifty-nine other students from all over the country were also in the page program. My mother drove me to the residence hall on south east near the Capitol. I stumbled out of the car with my luggage and looked at the building that would be my home for the next five months. It was a square brick building with special security. The first person to greet me was from Utah. His name was Kameron. I would later learn the names of the many other soon-to-be pages by the end of the day. Many were from California and Texas, while others came from states scattered across the Mid-West, the Deep South, and the East Coast.

At orientation everyone was introduced to Mr. Brown, our page dorm supervisor, and several proctors who were more like friends than strict counselors. Mr. Forrester was my hall's proctor. He was tall, large and had a kind way about him.

The daily routine of a page was quite simple. At 5:30 in the morning I would wake up and get dressed in my page uniform which was a blazer, a button-down white shirt with a blue tie, and black dress shoes. I would walk to the living area of my dorm and food would be waiting for me. After breakfast several other pages and I would walk to the Library of Congress a few blocks away, show our ID to security, and take the elevator to the top floor. Page School was not like any other ordinary school. It was located in the



Library of Congress for one, and the entire atmosphere was very collegiate. It was like a university in a small area. Dr. Savannah was our principal. He was very passionate about his job and urged us to get the most out of our experience. Ms. Bridges was more of a rule enforcer. But they were both favorites among the pages.

After school ended, depending on when Congress went into session, all of the pages would take the underground tunnels all the way to the capitol. If you have ever seen the State of the Union address and noticed the large room that the camera captures each time it pans out as the audience applauds, that is the room I would report to each day. I had a lot of time to absorb everything, and, apart from navigating my way through the maze-like government buildings, learning the duties of page work was not difficult. I was given many jobs. For example, desk pages would receive calls from any of the three government buildings – Rayburn, Longworth, or Canon – asking for a page to pick up a bill. Runners would take these calls. Floor pages would wait for the Rostrum to make a call for a document to be picked up, while several pages would wait for a Congressman to finish his speech, approach him, and respectfully ask for his printed statements to be printed.

After a month, I felt like I had been doing this my entire life. The work and school were only half the thrill. On weekends I would go with friends to Georgetown and Chinatown and dine at the best restaurants, spending the money I had made paging and then running home before curfew. It was an experience I will never forget. Many moments in my life have not felt like a true adventure, but this experience was indeed a journey. If life can give gifts like this experience, than I have a lot to look forward to!

William Rodenberg is a junior at Fauquier High and wants to study political science at the University of Virginia or William and Mary and begin a career in politics.

Viking Jazz Ensemble To Perform At Franklin Park Arts Center



Award Winning Loudoun Valley High School Swing Band Returns

Western Loudoun's premier high school jazz ensemble, Viking Jazz, will provide a performance at Franklin Park Arts Center on Friday, June 3rd at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$8 for adults \$5 for students and seniors. Tickets can be reserved by calling the box office at 540-338-7973.

The Loudoun Valley High School Viking Jazz Ensemble is under the direction of Band Director and Jazz Musician, Rick Reaves. Over the last 12 years the Band has received no less than superior ratings at local and regional Jazz Festivals. It is part of a School Music Program that has been named to the Top One Hundred School Music Programs in the Nation. The Band has won numerous awards including Grand Champion at Fiesta-Val New York City in 2006 and 2009.

Running Totals — by Cat Morris

Food on the Road ... Just Cool It



Vacation season is here! For the family that has time to burn in the summer, car travel tends to be less expensive than flying. If you see a “Great American Road Trip” in your future, a little effort will help you to save money and offset rising gas prices.

An area with vast potential for savings on the road is food.

You may hear that the most frugal way to eat on road trips is to bring what amounts to a makeshift kitchen with you, in the form of a cooler, camp stove, and groceries. A few people are organized enough, and have time and energy enough, to cook their meals at picnic areas whether they are camping or not. Many more may not cook on the road, but will travel with a large cooler packed with everything from orange juice and pot to salad to sandwich fixings and condiments.

Me? I’ve never had much success with the Big Cooler. When we used to have one, I usu-

ally ended up going to the grocery store the night before leaving on vacation to buy packages of all the items I intended to make from scratch. No matter how well I thought I’d planned, the last day or two prior to leaving was spent frantically cleaning house, doing laundry, packing, making arrangements for someone to cut our grass, and so forth. Resorting to buying all that prepared potato salad, humus, and other food put a dent in the budget. “Oh well,” I’d rationalize, “This stuff will still be cheaper and healthier than eating out.”

Maybe. The Big Cooler needs to stay cool, which means remembering to drain and replenish a lot of ice along the way.

Imagine this scenario, which may or may not have happened to me: During a sweltering summer day on the road you stop for gas. As the tank fills, you strain to haul the cooler out of the car, drain it, and check the ice. You judge that there’s probably enough ice to last until the next stop, a few hours down the road. At the next stop you forget about the cooler, meaning that when you eventually peer into the box, many more hours have passed. You discover that your cooler is barely cool and is

filled with perishing perishables, submerged or floating in water. A mess of packages have been compromised, contents ruined, by the liquid. You pitch most of the food and go out for dinner (though secretly, you are a tiny bit pleased at not having to eat from the same, tired cooler food).

The next day, you stop at a grocery store to purchase new food. At a later stop for gas, you tip the cooler to drain water from the handy spout, and the dog whose leash is on your wrist suddenly lunges forward, causing you to overturn the unit, spilling food and ice onto the pavement. You pitch most of the food and eat at Subway for lunch (but secretly, you are a tiny bit pleased that you will not have dishes to wash that evening).

Some folks? Truly expert with Big Coolers, out of bare necessity or pure organizational skill. Me? Not so much. Any savings we achieved was negated, as far as I was concerned, by the hassle — the hassle of maintaining the cooler, restocking, and having to do dishes by the roadside or in motel sinks.

These days, in advance of our road trip I buy a slew of sale priced healthy entrees, such as those from Lean Cuisine, Weight Watchers, or Amy’s Kitchen, and pack them in a very small cooler that lives in the back of the car and is touched but once per day. When not staying with friends or family, we usually stay in motels and ask for a room with a microwave (though nearly every motel has a microwave in house somewhere, often near the lobby area). With a microwaveable entrée, each family member gets a solid evening meal without the expense of a restaurant, mess of dishes, or fuss of a big cooler. The most we usually pay for dinner for four on the road is about \$10.00. It works for us: I can’t tell you how gratifying it is to open the cooler and find a trim stack of relatively healthy food options



with little effort required to prepare them.

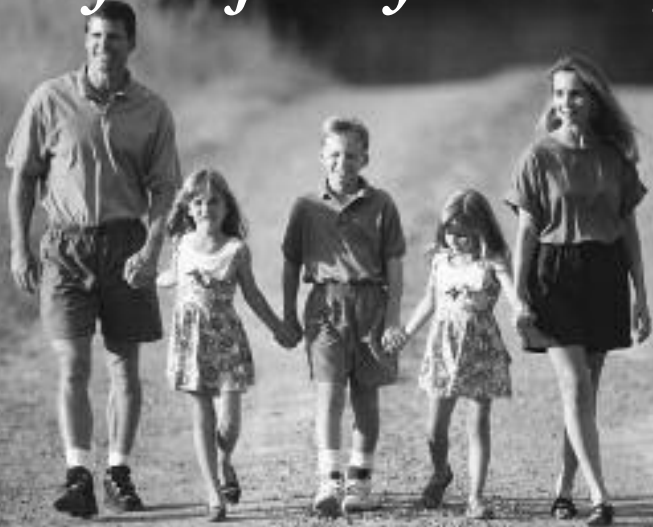
As for other food, we carry a lunchbox-sized cooler up front, stuffed to the brim with sliced fruit and cheese sticks. We also keep a tote, as we did back in our Big Cooler days, filled with non-refrigerated — but substantially filling — items, such as summer sausage, nuts, power bars, and dried fruit. We also bring crackers, cookies, and trail mix. Sometimes we only eat at designated times, but most usually we nibble all day and save the “real meals” for the motel.

Recently, my husband had a novel idea: Dry ice! Provided we can vent it properly and keep kids from touching it with bare hands, we may have a new solution for even lower hassle, thrifty, on-the-road food savings. I’ll keep you posted. How do YOU save money on food while traveling?

Three more tips for the road ... 1) Nix bottled water. Refill your own water bottles for free at gas stations, from the water tap on the soda dispenser. 2) Investigate discount restaurants along your route via www.restaurant.com. While savings can be good with this service, they are substantial after you purchase from them once, and have access to frequent 80% off codes. 3) Check out www.groupon.com for deals at zip codes along your route or at your destination. This deal-of-the-day site may prove to be a source for great savings while you’re away from home.

Cat Morris is a Virginia native currently living in Iowa with her husband and two children. She has been writing a frugal column for years.

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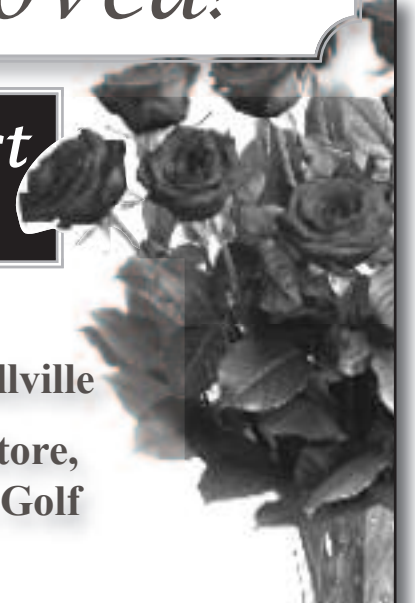
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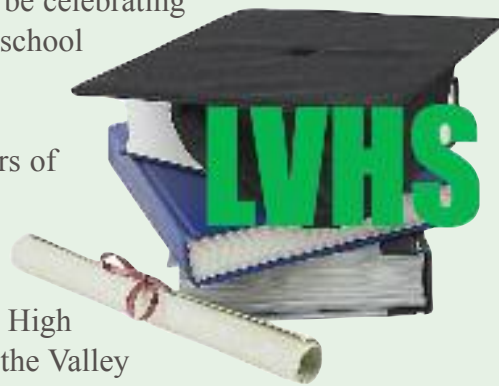
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LVHS 50th GRADUATION – Do You Have Old Class Photos? –

Loudoun Valley High School will be celebrating our 50th graduating class during the school year 2013-2014. As part of our commemoration for this milestone anniversary we are collecting 50 years of Loudoun Valley graduating class photographs, which will be framed and displayed throughout the school in order to honor all Loudoun Valley High School graduates. It is our hope that the Valley community can help us complete this endeavor.



We are in need of the following class photographs:
1964, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1978, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006

Please contact us if you are able to provide a copy of any of these graduation class photos. We guarantee careful handling and return of the original copy. It is our vision to remember our past, envision our future, and celebrate fifty years of dedication to the Valley community with this time-honored memorial to five decades of success. Any questions or concerns please contact Vicki Dorsey Holstead at 540-751-2400 or email Vicki.DorseyHolstead@lcps.org.

On the Market... with Sam Rees



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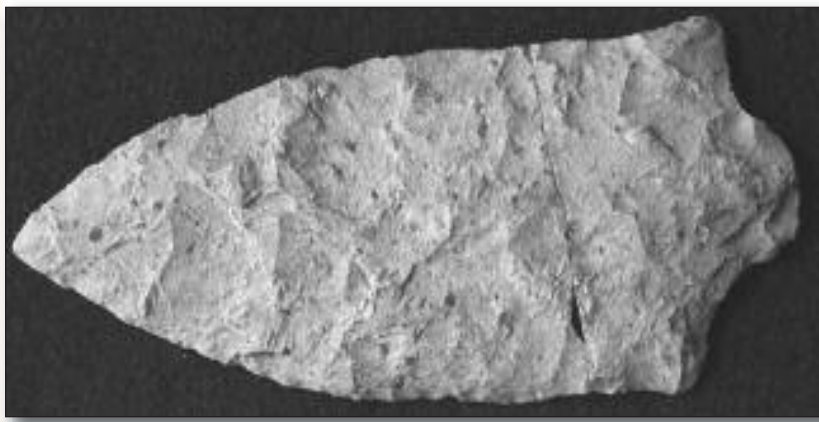
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What's That?

Making Sense of the Stuff We Find in Our Back Yards – By Mike Clem with Bob Shuey



If you live in Loudoun County – you're sitting on history. Literally. This column looks at what's turning up in Loudoun County gardens, attics and streambeds and asks local archaeologists, "What's That?"

Look what was found on the Lovettsville Park property! This was discovered while digging in the remains of an old house that likely stood sometime between the late 1700s and the late 1800s. No evidence of the house remains, except for the hearth, where this was discovered. This stone object was found in two pieces: The upper

portion was found first, and the stemmed base portion was found the following day about one foot away. It is quite possible that an inhabitant of this early 19th century farm house found the point and brought it into the house and put it on the mantle, where it remained even after the house was abandoned.

This is a Koens-Crispin stemmed point. It dates to the Late Archaic period of prehistory. The Late Archaic period is considered the period from roughly 5000-3000 years ago. This point type has been associated

with several sites that date to the later portion of that period; from around 1800-1200 BC. The blade is made from rhyolite. Rhyolite is a stone that comes from the Catoctin Mountains west of Frederick, Maryland. It was a commonly used material for spear points and knives of the period. This specimen appears to have been used primarily as a knife. The blade has clearly been shaped from use and has been resharpened on one side, causing it to look asymmetrical.

Our answer to "What's That?" comes from Michael Clem (below, left) for the Banshee Reeks Chapter of the Archeology Society of Virginia (BRASV.org). Mr. Clem is also the Loudoun County Archaeologist. Bob Shuey (below, right) is an archeologist active in local historic preservation efforts. Send a photo and brief description of your unusual backyard finds to CarolBRleader@yahoo.com or mail it to Blue Ridge Leader, 128 South 20th Street, Purcellville, VA 20132



For My Dad

saintly. He's been gone now for almost a decade, but I can still have conversations with him; or at least imagine his side of the issue and act accordingly. In a time when all around me I feel ideology trumping (forgive the pun) common sense, I yearn for that rational, bemused voice.

I don't believe in an afterlife, but those people who have shaped us in the deepest ways are with us every moment until hopefully we pass their wisdom on. I miss you, Daddy!

– Shirley Lyle Volberg Purcellville

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My Teacher

Everything I know about integrity, I learned from my father. Everything I know about humor came from him too. The combination seems striking to me now that he is gone; to be unflinchingly ethical but not to be

Countdown to the End

– By Lauren Pichon

With AP Exams complete and Standards of Learning (SOL) testing well underway, Valley students are anxiously anticipating the end of the school year, which officially ends on June 16th for freshman, sophomores, and juniors, or June 10th for graduating seniors.

Many students, though, feel that school ended after AP Exams in the second week of May. With most students taking at least one AP class, school has become largely pointless for much of the student body. This is especially true for seniors (the grade level who takes the most AP classes) who constitute approximately 45% of the student body.

"After the AP exam, most AP classes focus on a single project. Some are more related to the class than others. They usually don't use very much of what we learned throughout the year. We also watch movies in class when we are not working on the projects, which is annoying because I have to be at school, yet I would be accomplishing more if I were at home," said senior Corinna Clements.

In an effort to improve seniors' school attendance, Valley has put into place a senior exam exemption policy. The policy allows students to be exempt from


final exams as long as they have not missed each class more than two times over the course of the semester, and have a class average of 70 or better. Field trips, sporting events, college visits, and other excused absences do not count against a student's final exam exemption, however, teachers may opt to not partake in the senior exam exemption policy, though most teachers do.

"I think that the senior exam exemption policy is a clever way to get seniors to come to class when [administration] knows that we could watch a movie or work on a project more easily at home," Clements said.

Should a student have to take a final exam, they must attend school over the weekend of June 11 and 12 or schedule an appointment with their teacher to complete the exam well before graduation.

This year, graduation will be held at 9 am on June 18 at Loudoun Valley's Leonard Stadium. Admission is by ticket only.

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.




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International Jazz Artist Caprice Fox Finds Joy in Hamilton



Student Ryder Finn of Hamilton with Caprice Fox.

Caprice Fox appears front and center.

— by Carol Morris Dukes

Jazz singer Caprice Fox has found respite from the noise and excitement she's known in New York. And despite a successful music career touring the world, it's Hamilton, Virginia that she likes to call home.

A relative newcomer to Loudoun County, Caprice, an original member of the five-vocal jazz ensemble *New York Voices*, decided to move closer to her parents — in Leesburg — and she's brought her jazz success with her.

A hot ticket on the jazz scene, Caprice Fox has done pretty well for herself. As a toddler, she began practicing the C major scale on her Grandmother Erma Riffle's piano. Her grandmother was a teacher, a church organist, and the family matriarch. She became Caprice's piano mentor and guided her throughout most of her foundational years of music training. As she grew older, Caprice studied music at the University of Colorado and supported herself with her own professional music business. She had a group, and they toured throughout the western United States. Later, she moved to New York to study music at Ithaca College and while finishing her degree in Jazz Studies, she received a scholarship to travel to Germany and sing with a college group made up of four other singers who chose the simple name: *New York Voices*.

After being very well received in Europe, the *Voices* made the move to New York City and began playing popular venues in Manhattan to enthusiastic crowds. An agent and a record deal with GRP Records followed, and soon Caprice was singing and touring all over the US, Europe and Japan. Led by director Darmon Meader who arranged such notable jazz standards as "Round Midnight" by Monk and "Giant Steps" by Coltrane, the *New York Voices* played places like Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. From '89 to '94, they released four total CDs on the GRP Label: *New York Voices*, *Hearts of Fire*, *What's Inside*, and *The Collection*. Today, the *New York Voices* are a well-known Grammy-award winning ensemble. Fast forward.

Tired of touring and living a fast-paced life, Caprice left the *New York Voices* for a different way of life. Turning her interests toward children and education, she helped develop a non-profit organization geared toward early childhood intervention with programs that "honored the genius in every child." She started teaching piano and mentoring young talent — just like her Grandmother Erma Riffle.

Today, one year after moving to Loudoun County, Caprice is still settling into her new business called *Music Joy*. She currently teaches Voice and Piano to 50 students and she even makes house calls! Traveling to the homes of her students, who range in age from 3 years to older adult, Caprice Fox flies under the radar, living and working in relative obscurity, where few people know of her high profile years with a famous jazz group. Despite her achievements, Caprice is still reaching for the stars. Rather than rest on her laurels and allow her performance success to sustain her, Caprice has a new goal — one that has become the philosophy of *Music Joy*: to help others find and promote their creative spark and — follow their dreams — no matter how old.

Living quietly in Hamilton suits Caprice. She's doing what she loves with the people she loves. "Home is where the heart is and at this time my heart is here in Virginia," Caprice explains: "Every family that I work with is a true joy and learning experience. I have families from all over the world; one family is from India so we are spending time learning 'Jana Gana Mana,' India's national anthem."

This *New York Voice* — Caprice Fox — speaks with adoration for the students she feels so lucky to work with. She's been around the world, but this jazz artist is happy to be home.



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Hunt Country Gourmet's RESTAURANT REVIEW – *Not Your Average Joe's*

– By George Humphries

“Not Your Average Joe's” got its name from the owner's attempt to set it apart at the earliest possible instant. The food philosophy, according to general manager Erik Larson, is “American food with a twist.” All the basics are represented – seafood, steaks, pastas, chicken, salads, burgers and sandwiches – each with something unique.

The first thing you will notice at Not Your Average Joe's is the bread – warm, crusty, herbed, freshly-baked – bread as it should be. Served with a saucer of olive oil, cheese, and herbs for dipping, it's hard to restrain yourself from just filling up and then asking for the check.

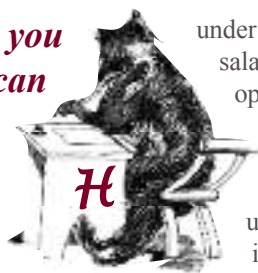
There is a lot more to enjoy at Not Your Average Joe's. Joe's is in the Lansdowne Town Center off Belmont Ridge Road between Route 7 and Riverside Parkway. It's a restaurant with reasonable prices that embraces families while still offering a sophisticated enough menu and wine selection to attract singles and both younger and older couples.

The atmosphere is friendly and relaxed, a place you can drop in on in casual clothes or you can make an occasion of it. Birthdays are celebrated here with benefits – check the website at www.nyaj.com.

A Massachusetts guy named Steve Silverstein decided that if he wanted a place in the suburbs to get good food at a reasonable price and something a little unique, he would have to create it himself. He planted the first NYAJ in the Boston area in 1994. Today there are 14 Massachusetts locations and one in Lansdowne/Leesburg.

The menu is extensive and creative. There are 13 appetizers, plus variations, and pizzas which can be ordered as appetizer or main dish. There are seven items

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



under soup and side salads, and salads can be augmented with optional shrimp, salmon, or sirloin tips.

Joe's Creations and Joe's Favorites total up to 14 different dishes, including Haddock crusted with falafel, Vietnamese

salmon, rosemary-skewered scallops, sirloin tips,

A pork tenderloin lived up to its descriptive name and was crusted with spices, glazed with a mango mojo sauce, and placed on a bed of sweet potato hash full of chopped mangoes and onions.

A dish of balsamic-glazed salmon was cooked to my wife's order and served with a rice pilaf and asparagus that was grilled without being overdone or too au point.

There are 10 entrée salads as well as nine burgers and sandwiches. The almond crusted goat cheese salad had a generous serving of warmed goat cheese served over organic greens dotted with raspberries, caramelized pecans, and raspberry vinaigrette. The tomato basil soup was seasoned and salted to an appropriate level without being overpowering.

There are at least six chicken dishes, including cranberry-teriyaki, farfalle with fresh mozzarella, piccata with fettuccine, mustard-crust, Mediterranean, and even a chicken enchilada. They also recommend the grilled black Angus sirloin meatloaf – not your average meatloaf, with chipotle peppers, mozzarella, corn and red peppers.

The Kid's menu has nine choices, including the always favorite burger, chicken tenders, or mac and cheese, but some also venturing further into more adult



General Manager Erik Larson

cuisine. Five desserts, including special inventions of the chef, round out the meal along with multiple drink choices from the ordinary to “mocktails,” smoothies, and “frozen comforts,” as well as wine at very reasonable prices.

Joe's is a chain but doesn't act like it. Attention by the staff is really good, not only do waiters frequently check to see if all is well, but the manager visits each table.

We've enjoyed several really good meals at Not Your Average Joe's. The ambience is nice, the service good, the menu extensive and innovative, and the food excellent.

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.

Garlic – Ornamental as Well as Tasty ... – By Donna Williamson

Garlic can be ornamental as well as tasty.

In the old days, I used to separate garlic cloves purchased from the supermarket and plant them in my garden. I wasn't careful about where I planted them, not necessarily giving them the good drainage they needed year-round.

They never did very well. Then I made my first trip to Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, Pa. At that time, Chris Woods was director, and I was stunned by his vision and technique. I had never seen such a beautiful and skillfully designed garden. And he used garlic as an ornamental!

Chris put plants in delightful combinations or used them in interesting new ways. He developed a colchicum lawn with a magenta Adirondack chair for a fall display of that beautiful waterlily-like bulb that was breathtaking. He planted a gravel bed with butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), winecups (*Callirhoe involucrata*), and *Gladiolus 'Atom'*.

So when he planted a garden with lavender, 'Colchester White' centaurea, and a swirly-headed garlic, I knew I was in a new world of gardening. My friend Karen and I talked with Chris at length about his work at Chanticleer and at harvest time, he generously sent us some garlic.

Ever since, I have been growing this Rocambole-type garlic (in my mind it's the 'Chanticleer' garlic) in my garden and in the gardens of my willing design clients.

Often I plant the garlic as a counterpoint among mounding perennials or in grasses like Mexican feather grass (*Nasella tenuissima*), a cool-season grower with incredibly thin leaves – soft and full of movement. It goes into the rose bed to annoy the deer, and sometimes I like it with one of the dwarf catmints, perhaps 'Select Blue' or 'Little Titch.'

The garlic emerges early in spring and develops a fantastic double swirling stem or scape for the flower bud. It looks like a swan in the garden.

As the plant develops, the swirl unwinds and the scape elongates with the pointy flower bud swelling and becoming

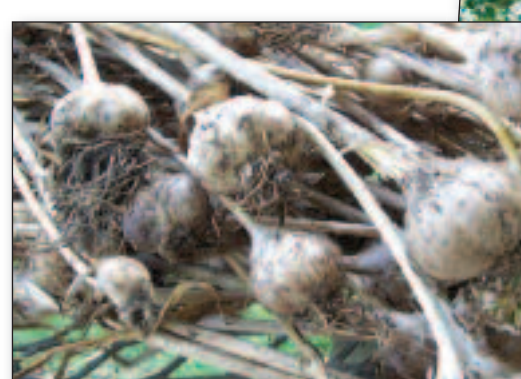
more rounded. Cutting off the swirling scape before the flower develops can have a delicious side benefit: Roughly chop the scapes and sauté in butter for a delicate garlic side dish. Removing the garlic flower bud allows the plant to put its energy into the bulb rather than into the flower.

You can also let the flower bloom and be pollinated, developing tiny seeds and bulbets. I've done this, planted the seeds in flats first or directly the ground. It takes about two years for the garlic plant to reach flowering size from seed.

Once the stem turns brown, the garlic harvest can begin. In the loose soil of my raised beds and perennial border, this is an easy task. I pull on the dry stem and the garlic pops out of the ground. In firmer ground, you might need a garden fork to loosen the soil. I dry the bulbs outside in a shady spot for a month.

Once dry, the roots and stem can be trimmed; the stem should not ooze any water – if it does, allow to dry longer. The papery covering of the cloves can be rubbed off and a fresh, clean papery layer will appear.

Save some cloves for replanting in August in a sunny location with good drainage. Most guides tell you to plant when it gets very cold – in November. Since my garlic in the ground sprouts new leaves in August, I think it's OK to



plant earlier. Even the new garlic varieties I plant seem to sprout leaves and handle our generally mild winters with leaves intact.

Hardneck garlic bulbs have a center stem and fat cloves surround the stem, not layers of cloves like the softneck varieties. They're very tasty and so beautiful. This reminder of Chris Woods' generosity and vision is multiplied and renewed every

year in my garden. He planted some garlic and made me a better gardener.

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

Now the buttercups have peaked and will soon disappear. The birds are out in droves. The asparagus is coming on strong because of all the rain. The ramps, a prized plant that comes out in mid-spring and has a succulent green leaf tasting like garlic, are doing poorly because of the extended drought last year. Many of the grasses are heading.

The lettuces are responding well to the rain. Like potatoes, commercial growing of lettuces, beets, and just about any other vegetable you can name has reduced the hundreds (some claim thousands) of varieties to dozens and then to three or four main types. Some of these lettuces have names like Maude's Philadelphia, Tomahawk, and Sanguine Amelioré (Improved Red), Grandpa's, Flashy Butter Oak and Merlot. These names are expressions of people, places and descriptions of their own food or nature experiences that give those varieties a history and a meaning that is lost completely in the romaines and loose leaf lettuces we buy today, lettuces that have no sense of place or personage. There is no story to these varieties. There is no woman coming from another land, carrying within a pocket or folded in an envelope the seeds she has saved to take with her to this new country. But we still find that iconic but colorless, ubiquitous but tasteless soccer ball-sized lettuce that is part of our established food vocabulary, (but an increasingly small part of our food recipe folder), the iceberg. (It's crunchy). Where did that variety come from?

In our own gardens we tend to plant the "reliables" like Black Seeded Simpson. Americans like "sweet" lettuces and avoid the chicories, although there is a steady and loyal following for arugula. The darker the leaves the better. Romaines tend to be more nutritious than other varieties. More and more Americans are experimenting with "salad". Those who don't have the time to grow their own are certainly looking into a bowl of increasing color and texture, with complimentary fruits and nuts, that a few decades ago would have been considered a foreign dish. Savoire Faire, the restaurant in Round Hill, makes a salad worth a good many miles to travel for. Lettuces in this region peter out by mid-June. But there is one variety, salad bowl, that manages to outdistance the rest. There are ways to extend your lettuce season without constant planting. Since lettuces don't need more than four hours of sunlight per day, leaving them shaded much of the time will extend the harvest considerably, especially when the shade comes between eleven am and three pm. Watering cools them down through evaporation. Soils rich in organic matter extend the health and harvest of any crop.

There are about twelve Asian and Italian greens growing on the farm also. As well as some oddball varieties like strawberry spinach, which is a plant that resembles spinach and produces small red edible berries. At least that's what the packet says. If it can be thrown into a salad, it's worth growing.

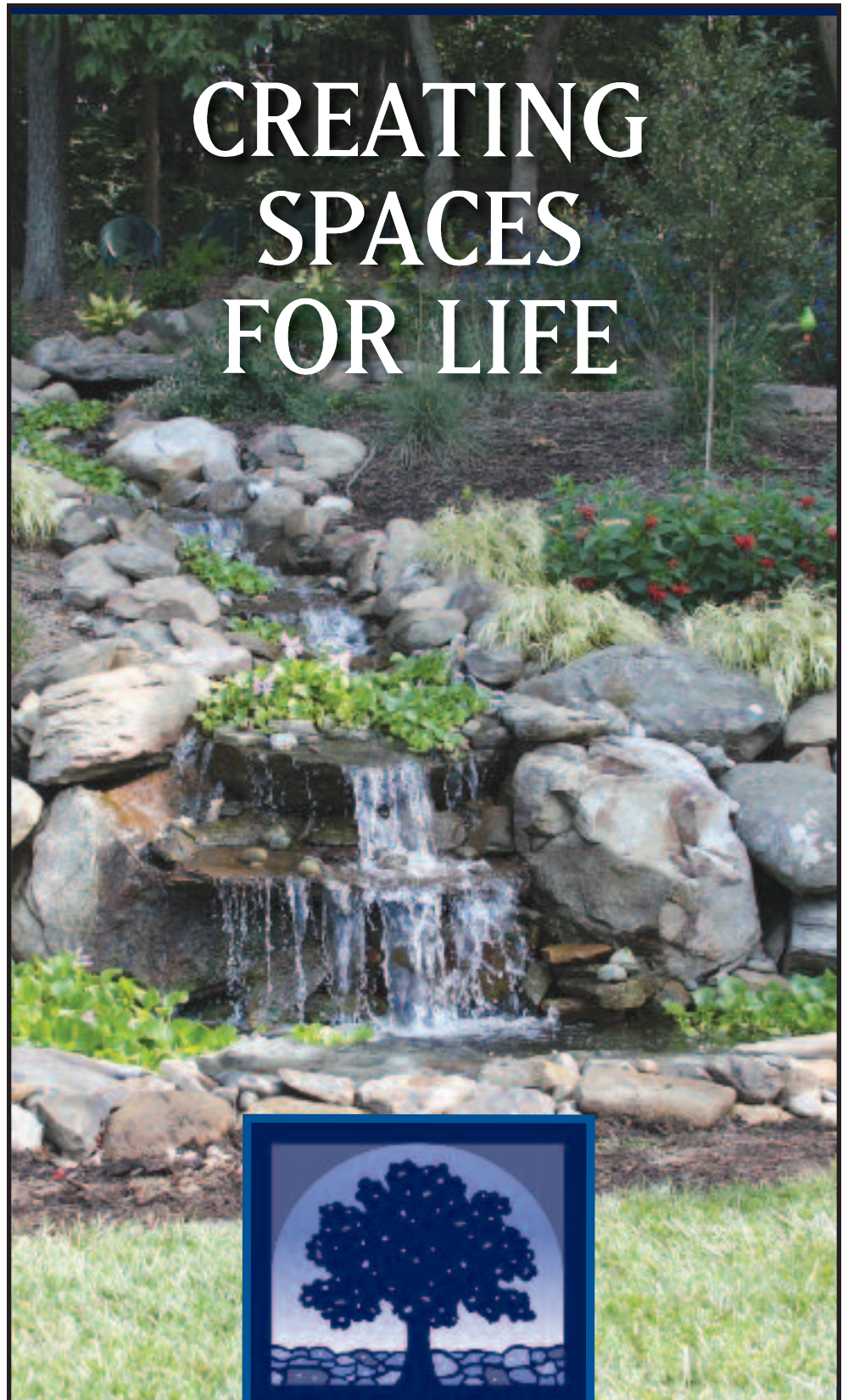
I unearthed a rabbit's nest of newborns who would love nothing more than to munch on those lettuces, irrespective of variety, when they start hopping around. I can add that to the long list of other assaults by weather and beast. The solution to the answer is very simple. Dig up the nest and kill the baby rabbits. Instead I have covered the nest and dug around it. The mother rabbit, I am told, will come when it's dark to feed them. I have checked them, since they were born about six days ago, and they seem healthy. They are growing fast. Any advice on this front will be welcome. Good luck to all of you who venture out in the garden and use natural means to keep your plants healthy.

Good luck to all of you who venture out in the garden and use natural means to keep your plants healthy. With a hope and a prayer, let us press onward!



Last article, correction: When I wrote that the bees preferred dandelions because of their pollen I meant they preferred the high quality of the nectar. The pollen collected on their legs is a happy by-product of this search for the raw materials for honey making.)

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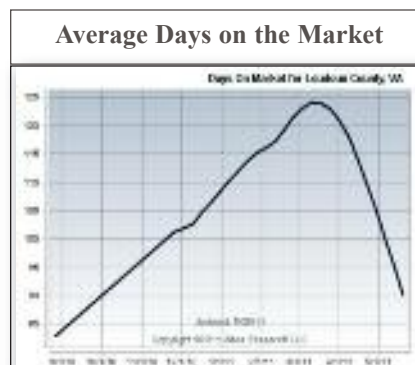
– BY HEATHER ELIAS



The spring selling season is upon us, and I'm sure you are seeing more homes for sale, no matter where you are in western Loudoun. The three overview charts for single family homes in Loudoun County show us that median price is up 7% since the first of the year, from \$530,000 to around \$572,000. Meanwhile, average days on market is down from

110 days in January to 90 now. Inventory has been on the rise since the beginning of the year, about a 14% gain. (Statistics courtesy of Altos Research LLC)

The most expensive home sold in Loudoun County for



the month of April (gated property in photograph at left) was a 175 acre retreat on Old Waterford Road in Paeonian Springs, co-listed by Jim Lemon Jr. of Middleburg Real Estate and Nancy Yahner of Keller Williams. Sold for just over \$2.6 million, the property included pastures, woodlands, pond, and grapes in place for a vineyard/winery. The purchaser was represented by Charles Blanks of Carter Braxton Preferred Properties.

The least expensive home sold in Loudoun County in April was a one bedroom, one bath condo in the Country Club Green community in Leesburg.

The top floor unit sold for \$69,000 and was listed by Carolyn Young of RE/MAX Premier. The buyer was represented by Dan Ritchey of Keller Williams Realty.

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.



Dear Doug
– Real Estate Q&A –

Douglas Frank holds a BA degree in English from Rutgers University and is a licensed realtor with over 20 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 are the pros and cons (and hidden costs, if any) of buying a home in a subdivision or area that has architectural standards and homeowners dues (versus many older neighborhoods that do not have these)? – KR

Dear KR, I get comments on that question a lot. The "pros" of having an HOA-Home Owner Association- are that it helps keep the neighborhood consistent in appearance. The HOA's have rules that vary considerably. They also vary in the way they are enforced or not enforced. Some have rules governing exterior paint colors, storm door styles, front fence rules, lawn height rules, flag rules, basketball hoops in driveway rules, no commercial vehicle parking rules, and on and on. This does help keep the neighborhood in good shape and consistent in appearance, which in turn can help the resale of the homes. On the other hand, some people can not stand being told what colors they can paint their doors, or the front of their houses. And, if their favorite team is playing, they want to fly that team's flag. Can't do that in a strict HOA. Can't have the plumbing company truck you drive parked in your driveway, either. So, HOA's do take away some personal choices, but chances are very good that your neighbor won't be painting his home pink anytime soon, devaluing your property!

Overall, most people seem to like the HOA idea, when written and enforced in moderation. The rules tend to protect the good of the whole. Of course, when buying a home, you have to ask yourself if you can live by the rules of the HOA of any particular neighborhood that you are considering. One final point; when you make an offer on a home in an HOA and it is accepted--you have certain rights. Your purchase is contingent on you getting a copy of the HOA rules and regs, and your acceptance, before you complete the purchase. You'll be delivered the HOA package (same as with a condo doc package), prior to settlement. You then have three days to kill the deal and get your deposit back if you don't like the rules. You don't even have to explain why. Good luck!

Dear Doug: I've had a rental property for a number of years and have claimed depreciation for taxes. If I sell it, do I have to pay that back? – EM

Dear EM, That depends. The answer, in most cases, is yes. The IRS will "recapture" the depreciation that you took on the rental property when you sell it, and, that will be at a different rate than the capital gains tax which is currently 15%. I say "it depends," because you could sell your rental property using a 1031 Starker Exchange, and take the proceeds, place them with a "qualified intermediary", and then buy another rental property. You would not have to pay any taxes at that time. You would be basically trading a house for a "like kind" property, and delay paying taxes, and delay paying any recapture of the depreciation that you took. To take it one step further, after a year or more renting it out, you could move in it, convert it to your primary residence, and not pay any capital gains tax for up to a \$250,000 gain--or a \$500,000 gain, if married. However--the bottom line answer is: I know enough about tax strategies to be dangerous, so consult a tax adviser. Ask me about bricks and mortar, and values and "comps". I know enough to know that I don't know enough to advise you. So, please consult a tax adviser..then call me when you need to do that 1031 Tax-deferred exchange, and find a "like kind" replacement property!

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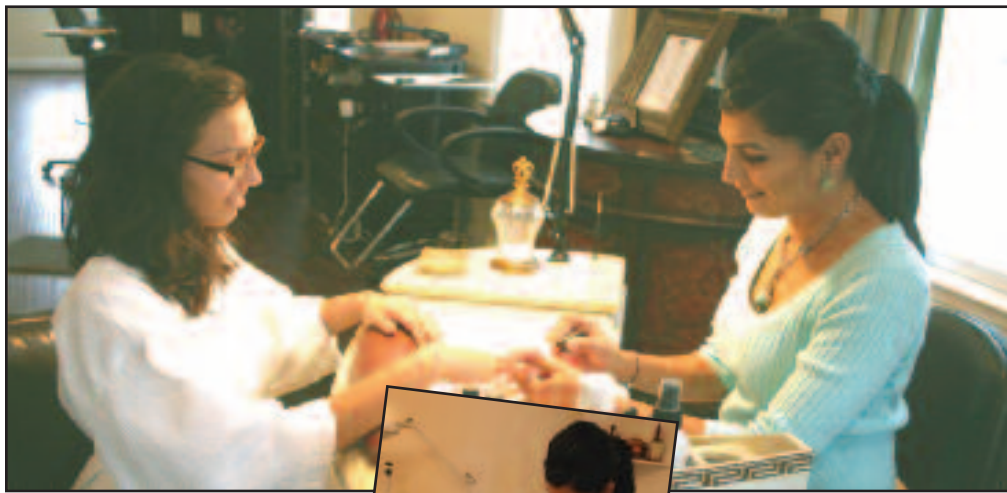
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New Spa Services in Purcellville



With a playful name and elegant atmosphere, "21st & Mane" in Old Town Purcellville is a new spa that offers a wide range of wonderful services. Nazima Charland offers facials, microdermabrasion, Moroccan body facial, eye brow and lash tinting, waxing, manicure and pedicure, and hair and make-up for destination wedding parties.

"My first love is my family, and my second love is my work. I want to take care of people, and I give 110 percent," said Nazima.



Her spa has an atmosphere of old world class, and rather than ten people lined up for services, Nazima would rather work with three people a day. She has been doing this for 21 years and focuses on old fashion pampering. "Purcellville is a great community," stated Nazima. "It is nice to have

this in our own backyard, instead of having to drive long distances. I want to show people how to take care of their skin," she continued.

Two hair stylists, Mary True and Kim Saville share salon space with Nazima.

21st & Mane: (703) 930-6420.

For My Dad

My Rock

My Dad was an aerospace engineer, carpenter, fixer of all things in the house and a great cook. He wrote poetry, and loved Coors beer and practical jokes ... He never failed to dupe my brothers and I with an April Fool's Day scam – we fell for them year after year. He brought my Mom a yellow rose every year on a particular day. We never knew what the occasion was – that was between them. He was my rock, he showed how life should be lived – with curiosity and a love of the simple things. Hope you're looking down on me, Dad, 'cause I'm looking up at you.

– Andrea Gaines, Lincoln



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Visiting the “Wooded Land” – Holland

– By Susan Thompson

With the end of the school year fast approaching, many of us are beginning to think about summer vacation. Why not consider visiting Holland this summer.

Yes, that's right, Holland! Holland is home to some of the best cities in Europe. Rich in history, boasting beautiful waterways, lush agricultural lands, friendly people and a temperate climate, Holland is a jewel beckoning to be examined.

Visitors to Holland may hear a variety of dialects, but the main language spoken is standard Dutch. English is widely spoken in Holland and taught in the schools. The Dutch are a no-nonsense, businesslike people. They will shake your hand upon meeting you, explain who they are and thereafter call you by your first name. The formality of titles and last names is absent in Dutch culture.

The Dutch diet is traditionally a 'meat and potatoes' fare with spices rarely making an appearance. The Dutch have a sweet tooth and like their chocolate, sprinkled and spread on bread and biscuits. Be sure to include in a bit of the national addiction to



'Drop', which is sweetish liquorice eaten in large quantities. And don't miss the small snack bars. For a coin or two you can put your hand through a little window and choose from a variety of popular Dutch snacks such as raw herring and stroopwafel, a small cookie made of two waffles with a dreamy caramel syrup filling.

The cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Haarlem and Dordrecht make up the five-star attraction list for any visit to Holland. A great place to begin is in the city of Amsterdam, the capital of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Visit the Dutch National Museum, with artwork dating to the time of King Napoleon, and an exhaustive list of collections encompassing oriental art, sculpture and handicrafts, Dutch history artwork and artifacts, and prints including Rembrandt's etchings.

The Municipal Museum is a must see with its modern collection of 19th and 20th century Dutch and French paintings, followed by the Van Gogh Museum which houses the largest collection of Van Gogh artwork in the world along with work by his contemporaries.



The Royal Palace on the Dam, home to the Netherlands' Queen when she is in the city, is an impressive landmark whose classic architecture houses apartments lavishly and magnificently decorated and furnished in beautiful period pieces to delight visitors. Visitors will also find the

gorgeous 70 acre park Keukenhof, once part of an estate and now a welcoming combination of shops, restaurants, exhibits and the popular largest in the world yearly open-air flower show with over 700 different varieties of tulips to delight the eye.

Also visit The Hague, the seat of Dutch government. Near numerous popular seaside resorts and host to a bevy of annual festivals and events, particularly during the summer months, The Hague also boasts mansions and castles, Gothic churches, museums, and palaces. Rotterdam, now considered the largest port city in the world, is a popular destination on the southern arm of the Rhine. Rich in historic sites, this city also offers the modern Euromast, a 607 foot tower with two restaurants and observation decks at the site of the Maas Tunnel, a mile long pedestrian tunnel under the Maas River which links city with suburbs.

For those wanting to experience a

typical Dutch town, Haarlem is the perfect stop. On the coast between Amsterdam and the North Sea, Haarlem was home to many artists in the 17th century, and a school of architecture, which yielded its many charming, gabled old homes. Today Haarlem is considered a cultural center and home to research, education, and engineering institutes. It's also an industrial center for shipbuilding and coach-building, railroad workshops, printers and the food industry.

Rounding out the list of 'must see' places is the town of Dordrecht, just a short trip southeast of Rotterdam. Its picturesque location along two branches of the Rhine makes it a favorite for vacationers and tourists. The Church of Our Lady and with its carillon of 49 bells and impressive vaulted stone works offers panoramic views from its tower.

Lace up your walking shoes, be prepared to enjoy lots of good food, and settle in to enjoy Holland, its fun-loving people, cities, country sides, rich history and agreeable climate. You're sure to return home with pictures of tulips and windmills, and a hankering for a handful of stroopwafels.

Susan Thompson, a writer and photographer and a native of Virginia, lives in Purcellville with her husband Tim and a Schipperke named Rocket.

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

Father of the Year

It is I, Sushi, the small but mighty Cairn Terrier. Do you have a Father of the Year?

June is the month we celebrate our Fathers. You know “Fathers Day” really is not just one day or one month out of the year. Fathers are a life time thing – or should be. My Father use to say to me “I will be your Father until the day I die and beyond that too! So don’t mess up because I will be watching you!” and boy did he mean it.

You know, today there is a lot expected of a man. We are suppose to be sensitive yet at the same time beat the beezeebers out of anything dangerous that might cross our family. We need to provide a home, hunt and nourish, love and be loved. Sometimes by the time I am done with the nourishing and hunting I just want to go to my den and be left well enough alone. You know – like alright – already! Get my drift? Okay, enough about me.

Fathers are special and very much needed. Men are just different from women. There just is no arguing that one. I see it every day on the farm. Let me share with you one very special Father here at Fields of Athenry.

It was just about this time in late spring, Mr. and Mrs. Zaza were honking to anyone that would listen, that their five new Sabastapole babies were about to hatch. Everyone in the barn yard was thrilled. You see, Sabastapole geese are very rare. To have a whole group of eggs successfully hatch is something to honk about! All the barn yard animals gathered round quietly, gently peering in at Mrs. Zaza looking so glamorous on her nest and of course not a feather was out of place. She made motherhood look – well – so peaceful and easy. One by one a little chirp could be heard under Mrs. Zaza’s long curly white feathers. Mr. Zaza waddled so proudly back and forth, back and forth around the barn yards “Quackery Pond.”

Quackery Pound is surrounded by beautiful large box wood bushes some 40 years old. It is also surrounded by wire meshed gates and electric wire! In

spite of the Gestapo type fencing, it really is a cozy little area. Mrs. B. built it especially for Old Gnarly Gander and the Goose Gang’s safety down by the barn yard. During the day when the visitors come to Fields of Athenry Farm, Mrs. B. turns the electric fence off so all the little children can come observe the animals without getting electric stim!

Get the picture? Well, Mrs. B. must have forgotten to turn the electric fence back on!

It was early before sunrise, on a late spring morning. Mr. Zaza was making another nervous fatherly lap around Quackery Pound. I, the brave and mighty Cairn Terrier was in a sound sleep, from a hard nights work patrolling the forbidden woods. I started getting tingles up my spine. I sat straight up from my nap on the farm house porch. Sniffing, sniffing, sniffing, there it was, that musty odor – a smell all its own, unmistakably the Sly One.

Before I could leap off the porch I heard honking and screeching – the scream for life. As I raced as fast as my strong but short little Cairn Terrier legs could carry me, I heard behind me the thundering of LuluBells long and mighty Bullmastiff paws. Neither one of us could get to the Quackery quick enough.

Mr. Zaza fought to his death defending poor Mrs. Zaza and their new born babies.

Old Gnarly Gander came from behind the barn; wings stretched high and wide, swinging his deadly weapon of a goose neck. Powerful, powerful arching and swinging Gnarly held back the Sly One, from killing the baby Sabastapole geese and Mrs. Zaza. I took a short cut behind the barn in Gnarly’s direction. LuluBell and I teamed against the Sly One just in the nick of time to save the rest of the Goose Gang and the babies. The Sly One bolted off toward the forbidden woods to his foxy den.

Old Gnarly, awkwardly yet kindly, inspected Mrs. Zaza and the babies, counting each one. Carefully

P.S.!

Don’t miss my special invitation on page 2 of this newspaper! – it’s for fathers, mothers, kids, everyone! Will you come? Will you come?



stretching his neck hovering over the “Zaza Family” he paid his condolences to Mrs. Zaza over Mr. Zaza’s death to save his precious loved ones. Then quietly and respectfully, Gnarly carefully backed away, lowering and bowing his long goose neck in clear pain for Mrs. Zaza’s anguish.

Mrs. Zaza immediately ruffled and puffed her feathers as she pulled her babies in close to her heart. Tucking her head deep into her wings, she cried and cooed to her little ones.

Old Gnarly Gander arched his long neck and bowed his head in grateful gratitude for our team efforts. From that day forth he stood his guard over the Quackery, never straying very far.

Old Gnarly looked toward LuluBell and I as if to say “Until death do I part I will honor and defend my dear friends family. I will be these goslings father to the best I can. I will teach them respect and love for one another but mostly for their mother and their father. For it is in giving that we receive. It is learning to respect, love and cherish, that we become one.”

So you see my friends, this is why I have so much respect for old crotchety Gnarly Gander and why I think he is the Father of the Year! I hope you treat your fathers well this June and bring them out to the farm for a very special treat we have planned for the fathers we love the most (see my note, above)!

Sincerely and with Love – Sushi

My master, Elaine Boland lives with her family in Purcellville, Virginia at Fields of Athenry Farm. She cherishes the joy of providing her customers with fine fresh meats and products. You can order our fine meats and products at www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com ...

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

Dr. Mike, With pool season coming, I am getting nervous about showing my body at the pool in a bathing suit. I have three children and will be expected to be at the pool often, but I am very self-conscious about my weight. Last season, my discomfort with my body was so great that I wore a wrap and mostly read in the shade. I wanted to get in the pool and splash around with my children and husband but just couldn’t bring myself around to it. I know my children and husband were disappointed that I didn’t join them in the pool. My husband says he loves me just the way I am, but it’s hard to look at some of the other mom’s at the pool who are so fit. – H.

H., Everyone is insecure about something. For you it’s your body, and while I respect your body image anxieties, I also assure you that the fit mom’s at your pool have insecurities of their own. The most important thing for you to do is accept yourself for who you are with all of your strengths and weaknesses. Again, I respect your problem; however, I don’t respect the shame and embarrassment you feel about yourself. I recommend you challenge your negative thinking with an action plan that includes eating healthily and exercising. Of course, your action plan should be realistic with short term attainable weight loss goals. I would also gradually expose yourself to the thing you fear most – wearing a bathing suit in public. Perhaps you can begin by purchasing a new bathing suit and one you feel most comfortable in. I would then wear that bathing suit in the presence of your husband only (e.g., in your bedroom). You can then try wearing the bathing suit in the presence of your children (e.g., if you have a back deck, you can casually sun bathe on your deck). Once you have the confidence of wearing your bathing suit with your family, I recommend going to the pool when it isn’t too busy. By having an action plan and by gradually exposing yourself to others in your bathing suit, you should begin to experience yourself more positively and your shame and embarrassment should dissipate. With consistent effort, I am hopeful that you will grow to have a great summer in the pool with your husband and children!

Dr. Mike, My husband and I recently discovered a six pack of beer in our 17 year old son’s closet. Needless to say, we were pretty upset. It’s the end of the school year, and we want him to get through it successfully, so we haven’t said anything to him yet. He’s a good student, athletic and is social and well liked. We truly don’t believe he has problem with drinking or drug use, but the beer came as a shock to us, so maybe we’re just naïve parents. Thanks for your help. – K.

K., I take it from your letter that you left the beer in his room? While I do not know your son or whether or not he has a drinking problem, I do know that 6 beers are more than enough to intoxicate him. I would confiscate the beer and have a talk with him immediately. As you write, you and your husband are upset with him, and I would let him know that. I would also maintain a calm manner so that you can listen to what he has to say for himself. Learn as much as you can about the beer – where he got it, if he’s consumed alcohol or drugs before, etc. The conversation with your son shouldn’t just be about punishment, since it is just as important for you to gauge whether or not your son is in a bad place or has a problem. If you and your husband do not feel that your son is being truthful with you, I recommend scheduling a consultation with a clinical psychologist or psychiatrist. Your son may or may not have a big problem, but a psychologist or psychiatrist should be able to get to the bottom of things quickly if you cannot. I would not put the conversation off until the end of the school year since I think the matter is serious enough to be handled now.

Dr. Michael Oberschneider “Dr. Mike” is the Founder and Director of Ashburn Psychological Services (APS), a private mental health clinic comprised of 12 MD and PhD level mental health clinicians. He and his team are here to serve our Loudoun children, teens and adults. To learn more about Dr. Mike and the APS team, please visit: www.ashburnpsych.com or (703) 723-2999.

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

Snickersville Turnpike

There are places in this world that you have to visit just for the experience of being there; oftentimes, our spots to 'get away from it all' may seem to possess little practical purpose in our daily lives, but they're certainly good for the soul, in perhaps quantities less measurable than other, sometimes more obvious locations. This is at least a vague sense of what I feel about traveling on one of my favorite little 'byways' in Loudoun – Snickersville Turnpike. I often have little material need to get to Aldie- or Bluemont, for that matter; I actually think the absence of what others may consider to be 'major attractions' makes this two-lane blacktop all the more alluring to me.

Now, before the residents of the communities along Snickersville get all up in arms over these comments ("Whaddaya mean- there's no major attractions?"), I'm referring to the fact that there are no shopping malls or large population centers anywhere along the road... thank God.

So – what is it about Snickersville Turnpike that's so great?

Well, the mere fact that so much of the road is lined with ancient stone fences that you can actually reach out and touch the past is one thing, and the 'Pike' itself is so narrow (two-lane is sometimes a bit of a stretch) that one almost feels as if you're traveling along a little 'worm hole' into Loudoun's past; the trip from Aldie to Bluemont (or the other way 'round) probably takes about 25-30 minutes, according to most modern chronometers. But, you'll certainly feel like you're in a different dimension than most of the commuters you see hurtling past by the time you get to Route Seven or Route 50, at either end of Snickersville's 13 or so miles. The sensation of time travel takes influence from the places along the road, as well: Mountville, Philomont, Airmont, and numerous landmarks on the way. Hibbs Bridge may be only a name on paper until you

actually descend the hill on either side and shoot across the little tributary to Goose Creek; the Silcott Springs Road intersection transforms itself from an unfamiliar-sounding crossing into the spot where the western vistas open up and you can almost hear what the Blue Ridge is saying on that particular day. Horse, cattle and goat farms, creeks, stands of woods, hilly terrain, mature trees and relatively clean air all lend a hand in the experience. Maybe on the day of your drive, you'll see a whitetail deer and its fawn enjoying a snack in an open clearing, or a bald eagle finishing off a roadside carcass- or a woodchuck sunning himself in a favored spot. I've certainly seen my share of hawks and songbirds, wild turkeys and other forms of wildlife along Snickersville.

But, if you're driving, you'd better keep your eyes on the road: in addition to the narrowness of the corridor, it's about as windy a route as you'd care to drive- considering that it simply travels from Aldie in the southeast to Bluemont in the northwest. As in life, there are lots of curves, rises and otherwise unexpected changes of direction. Some of them get to me every time I pass by.

Like the spot at the crest of one of the many hills along Snickersville- right about at the intersection with Colchester Road- where I'm often reminded of one of my favorite parts of one of my favorite movies: the motorcycle sequence from *The Great Escape*- in which Steve McQueen's character has appropriated some unfortunate Nazi's two-wheeler in



an attempt to cross the mountains into Switzerland. He doesn't make it, but you can almost feel the proximity of those highlands; that's how close the Blue Ridge feels to me when I top that Turnpike hill and head toward Airmont and other points west. The air certainly is rarified air out there.

And when you get all the way to Bluemont, your soul will inform you that you have traveled a great deal further than the mere 13-point-something miles up this two-lane blacktop in your Sunday drive from Aldie.

Snickersville Turnpike will speak to your senses perhaps not as directly connected to your reasoning powers as you may be accustomed. You may even find your experience is one more of the heart, and the subjective emotions, than the brain and its more objective measuring powers.

And you'll have a nice time.

Police Unity Tour, continued from page 1

of the Museum and the maintenance of the Wall of Remembrance. The motto of the ride is simple, "We ride for those who died."

Our local ride started on May 10th. Sixty-four riders from the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Arlington, Alexandria City, Federal agencies, Ohio, Kentucky, and New Mexico set off for the inaugural ride of Police Unity Tour Chapter IV. We began our journey on the outskirts of Richmond. Sue Garbarino and her two daughters were there to give us a send off. Sue's husband, Officer Mike Garbarino was ambushed at the Sully Station (Fairfax County) on May 8, 2006, and died from his wounds nine days later. Also with us for the entire ride, offering support, was Maryls Bernal, the wife of Fairfax County Police Captain Tom Bernal, who died in an on duty motorcycle crash in 2001. Their words and encouragement provided all of us with the inspiration for a very strong start. We concluded the first day in Charlottesville, followed by riding to Warrenton on the 11th, and into DC on the 12th.

Each officer was in possession of a bracelet with the name of a fallen officer, although some wore several. The ride took us through some beautiful Virginia countryside, but also some very hilly countryside. When our legs were burning and the fatigue was setting in all it took was glancing at our

bracelets and remembering these officers, and we had all the strength we needed to successfully climb these hills. Prior to kick off each morning and at the conclusion of each break, our group of riders and support personnel would rally together, and a rider would brief the group on who they were riding for. This re-enforced the reason we were completing this ride and why we worked so hard to raise the money.

None of this could be possible without the support of our community members. There were many individuals who supported us with donations, and also assistance on fund raising events. There were also many businesses who gave tremendous support, one of which is Trails End Cycling Company. John Carter and his staff were amazing. Not only did he and Brian support us throughout the entire ride, he had two other employees, James and Frank, who came to Richmond the day prior to the ride to ensure all the riders properly fit their bikes. A 230 mile bike ride on a bike that does not fit properly would have been nearly unbearable. Our gratitude goes to all those who supported the PUT in some way or another. Without their support none of this would be possible.

Website for Virginia Chapter:
www.policeunitytourchapter4.com

Steve Webster, continued from page 7

between large displacement engines and creative writing. Besides, I thought to myself, having just experienced a gas crisis, Seven cylinders, or even fewer, were fine with me. Given our failure to see eye to eye, I settled on an appropriate theme for this phase of my literary career: "The Old Man and the C." With apologies to Hemingway.

Steve Webster works as a lawyer in Alexandria and lives near Purcellville with his wife, five children, and two dogs. He would like to thank his English teacher for the use of his automotive metaphors. And for the metaphorical kick in the pants.

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TOWNS and Villages

HAMILTON – By Terry Moon

Hamilton Day will be celebrated on Saturday, June 4. There will be a parade, barbecue and activities at the Hamilton Community Park. For more information call the Town Office at 540-338-2811. Carri Michon is the volunteer who is coordinating Hamilton Day. Thanks Carri!

The Town of Hamilton has resolved their well problems and improved the pumping capacity. The water tests great and there are no water violations. While the Town is no longer under water restrictions citizens are encouraged to conserve. Did you know that it takes one year for the rain we are experiencing to replenish our wells?

Audrey Reale, a town employee, has resigned and is moving to Missouri. Audrey is moving to be closer to family. Thank you for your service Audrey, we will miss you.

The United Methodist Churches are collecting Cleaning Buckets to aid those experiencing floods, hurricanes and tornados in the southern United States. The buckets should be 5 gallon with resalable lid, please no buckets which have been used for paint or pool cleaner. Include the following: liquid laundry detergent – two 25 oz. or one 50 oz., dish soap – 16-18 oz. bottle, any brand, 1 can air freshener, 1 6-14 oz. aerosol spray pump with protective cover, 1 scrub brush, 18 cleaning wipes –handi wipes or reusable wipes, 7 sponges – remove from wrapper, 5 scouring pads – remove from wrapper, 50 clothespins – remove from packaging, clothesline – two 50 ft. or one 100 ft., 24 roll heavy duty trash bags – remove from box, 5 dust masks, 2 pair disposable kitchen gloves – remove from packaging, 1 pair work gloves. Place all items in the buckets starting with the liquids and close lids. The cleaning buckets may be dropped off at Hamilton United Methodist Church, Bethany United Methodist Church and Round Hill United Methodist Church. (Hamilton news to Terry Moon: moonsofhamilton@comcast.net.)

LINCOLN – By Anne Tiffany

Mark your calendar ... June 4, 2011 at 4:00 pm. The Lincoln Community League will have a fund raising social-picnic hosted by Carole and Chuck (Chip) Maloney at their beautiful home, Lark Rise, 19026 Shelburne Glebe Road. LCL will furnish hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie-burgers and other picnic foods. The Maloney's are graciously supplying some liquid refreshments. This is a family affair to get the community together, as well as raise some money to purchase and install several signs entering the village (see attached scan). The cost will be \$10.00 per person, or \$25.00 for a family of three or more. (Additional donations are always welcome.) Please RSVP by May 29th so we will know how many will attend.

The Lincoln Studios wants to thank the residents of Lincoln who both supported and attended the premiere showing of the film "Nichols: The Last Hardware Store." It was a full house at the Bush Tabernacle (Skating Rink) in Purcellville on Saturday evening May 14. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who appears in the documentary, was in attendance as well as many of the Nichols family and staff. DVDs will be available soon. For more information, please e-mail :sarah@sarahhuntington.com. Several Lincoln folks came to my farm early on the morning of April 30. This was advertised as "Breakfast at Tiffanys" and the purpose was to take an instructive, though muddy, nature/bird walk with Phil Daley and Mary Ann Goode. This was followed by a delicious pot luck breakfast. The Lincoln Community League Board has chosen a design for three welcome signs to be placed on Sands, Foundry and Lincoln Roads. This is another attempt to calm the traffic as it enters our village. Geoff Holden, the son of Susan and Patrick Holden, is currently spending two weeks in France studying WWII history in Paris and Normandy as part of a class from Clemson University. When he returns he will be attending a bachelor party in Atlantic City for his brother, Paul; Paul Holden and Micaela Moreno will be married in mid-June at Whitehall in Bluemont. Paul is now an accountant living in Destin, Florida having complet-

ed a MS degree in accounting in 2010 at James Madison University.

Allyson and Michael Alto wrote a note from the Plains saying that they miss their dear Lincoln friends, and waving to people as they drove by. Their eldest son, Peyton, is off to William and Mary in the fall ... which means only four more to go! Stirling Rasmussen wrote that he has retired from Dell Healthcare Services and is now volunteering as a docent at the national Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. The Fourth of July parade and picnic will be in one month. John Raymond on Chappelle Hill appears in the parade each year as the candy-flinging cyclist. You may remember John on the royal blue adult tricycle or perhaps on his 1950's balloon-tire Schwinn Black Phantom with its black, red and chrome paint-job and flag rack on the front. John likes to bribe the judges with candy as he cycles by, and he continues to take the "most unique" award. John recently attended the premier auction for bicycle collecting in Copake, NY. John is also a metal sculptor and has begun bicycle building in his barn studio in Lincoln. Next time you see the bearded wheelman, inquire about his collections of bicycle ephemera; or call him at 540-338-1373. He is glad to share his passion for bikes. Email Anne Tiffany with Lincoln news: jtiff70519@aol.com

LOVETTSVILLE

– By Susanne Kahler

Relief Effort for Alabama Tornado Disaster:

St. James United Church of Christ in Lovettsville is working together with a major relief organization in Alabama, Toomer's For Tuscaloosa, as well as Northeast Alabama Tornado Disaster Relief, to help alleviate some of the suffering and loss from the recent tornados that left hundreds homeless and destroyed all their personal belongings. Donations of men, womens and childrens toiletries, bug spray, bottled water/gatorade, sleeping bags, tarps, cleaning supplies, dry pet food, etc. can be brought to the church on Sunday, June 5th from 10 a.m. - 3p.m. The church is located at 10 East Broadway in the heart of Lovettsville. (Round Hill news to Susanne at: kahlerohana@comcast.net.)



ROUND HILL

– By Susanne Kahler

If you missed the first Woodgrove Has Talent! show you missed a great night! Twenty-one acts graced the stage during the night. The winner was the Blue Grass Band who picked and sang their way to be chosen the number one act.

Congratulations to the Woodgrove HS Technology Student Association students who placed second in the state at the competition held last week. One of the teams will now be headed to the National competition to be held in June.

Congratulations to the Woodgrove girls Lacrosse team for winning the Dulles District Regular Season Title. The girls went undefeated in the district and now own the first District Title of any team in Woodgrove history. Great job, team, and good luck on your journey to a state title!

Special Olympics of Loudoun County is sponsoring their very first Golf Tournament Fundraiser Event at River Creek Country Club for August 8th. It's a really exciting event, and one of the biggest the organization has ever taken on. The price is \$150.00 per golfer and includes a continental breakfast, cart, and a buffet lunch afterwards (as well as a drink ticket). There are also prices for a group to sign up or as a sponsorship for your company. Please visit the website at <http://www.loudounspecialolympics.org/> for more information. The Loudoun County Chapter of the Special Olympics relies solely on fundraising and donations and each year they have more applicants for sports, and more sports they'd like to see offered as well – with that comes added

expense. This fundraiser will be a fun way to raise money for the participants and get the community involved. (Round Hill news to Susanne at: kahlerohana@comcast.net.)

WATERFORD – By Ed Good

The Hills Are Alive. And so is the Village of Waterford. In 1994, Charlotte Gollobin, owner of the historic Rosemont Estate, had a terrific idea: Why not bring nationally known musical performers to the Village of Waterford. She gathered together a committee, met with members of the Waterford Foundation, received permission to use the Waterford Old School Auditorium, scoured her considerable contacts with the Washington music community, and, presto: The Waterford Concert Series was born and today makes up one of the many events sponsored by the Waterford Foundation.

Charlotte even overcame a slight problem: The Waterford Old School didn't have enough chairs for the audience. So her husband Len rounded up 150 chairs owned by his company and donated them to the Waterford Foundation.

The Homeless Concert Series: Now, of course, not only does Waterford lack 150 chairs, but it lacks the Old School Auditorium to put them in. So, since 2007, when the Old School Auditorium was destroyed by fire, the Waterford Concert Series has been homeless. But our friends and other community groups have



come to the rescue, enabling us to hold the concerts at the Lucketts Community Center, the Catocin Presbyterian Church, the Waterford Elementary School, and the St. James' Episcopal Church in Leesburg.

Just last month, we welcomed the highly acclaimed Bach Sinfonia, which delighted the packed-house audience with Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" along with companion texts, four sonnets possibly written by Vivaldi himself.

The Next Generation Concert: One of the Best: Each year, the Waterford Concert Series presents young performers from The Levine School of Music. Young competition winners from the Levine School will return to Waterford to show off their exuberant best. Musicians of elementary through high school age deliver one of the most popular concerts in our series. With two campuses in Washington, D.C., one in Maryland and one in Virginia, the Levine School is one of the nation's leading community music schools; it is the preeminent center for music education in the Washington metropolitan area. Excellence and opportunity are core values inspiring Levine programs, faculty, and students.* We invite everyone to come and enjoy this truly inspirational concert. Bring the whole family, especially students, to this one. Children 12 and under attend this (and all our concerts) free. The concert takes place Sunday, June 5, at 4:00 p.m. at the Waterford Elementary School.

Home Sweet Home: On July 2, Waterford breaks ground to rebuild the Old School Auditorium, and the Concert Series Committee hopes to resume concerts in the new facility sometime in 2012. The Waterford Foundation needs to raise another \$300,000 to avoid the need to borrow for the construction and welcomes all contributions. Tickets: You may order tickets for concerts at waterfordfoundation.org/concerts/ctickets.html. Or call the Waterford Foundation at 540-882-3018. Ed Good President, Waterford Citizens' Association ed.good@grammar.com.



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- ✿ French lace silk organza wedding dress with ruffle tiers, matching mantia veil, hand made crystal brooch on bodice;
- ✿ Organza wedding gown with flower skirt, cathedral train;
- ✿ Strapless beaded embroidered Sikorsky crystal taffeta wedding gown with pick up skirt and chapel train worn with matching crystal tiara and fingertip veil.

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Photos ... Valerie Cury

For My Dad

My Quaker

Dad, Lindley Hoag Leggett, Jr. was born in New York City, December 4, 1896 of a line of Quakers dating from the late 1700's. After medical school at New York Homoeopathic Medical College he married and moved to New Jersey. Since there was no Quaker Meeting nearby, he joined his wife's church. His heritage of Quaker quiet and pacifism led his life thereafter. Dad was generous with his time off from seeing patients and took us children skating, sledding, roller skating and swimming. Always, his free time was devoted to us children. In my grade school years Dad took away and safely stored my water pistol! In this way his quiet manner guided his professional and family life.

— Edgar P. Leggett, Purcellville

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