

# Blue Ridge LEADER & Loudoun Today

July 2011

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## Bad Medicine for 18th Street?



Residents of 18th Street in Purcellville began leading a fight and have been joined by hundreds of town residents in their opposition to a proposed rezoning to a historic home on Main Street which they say will open their quiet, dead-end street to a world of noise, traffic, safety problems and commercial development.

The applicant, a doctor, has applied to rezone from R-3 (Duplex/Residential) to C-4 (Central Commercial). According to Purcellville Zoning regulations, medical clinics are currently allowed by special use in R-3 districts, however general office uses are not permitted. Holistic Health Partners, LLC (Dr. Stewart) applied to change the zoning to C-4 to allow expansion and double the size of an historic home (constructed in 1905) on the corner of 18th and Main Streets. The home is currently 3400 sq. ft. Plans include four additional general offices to be used as commercial office space separate from the medical practice.

The controversy has arisen because the residents of 18th Street are concerned about the traffic that will be generated by the proposed commercial expansion. There would be an entrance to the proposed parking lot on 18th

*Continued on page 6*

## Area Villages Gear Up for the 4th! — Celebrations Planned from Hillsboro to Lincoln — to Middleburg and Beyond

Loudoun's villages are well known for their enthusiastic 4th of July celebrations. Where ever you and your family spend your 4th, you're sure to be in for a great time!

**FRANKLIN PARK:** Celebrate the July 4th holiday with Franklin Park's incredible fireworks display. Enjoy a family-friendly night-out with great music, delicious food, and entertainment. 6 pm to 10pm. Optional \$5/person donation Franklin Park, 17501 Franklin Park Dr. Purcellville, VA 20132. 540 338-7603.

**HILLSBORO:** Hillsboro will host its annual Independence Day Celebration on Saturday July 2, starting at 6:00 pm. Here is a run down of the fun and games you'll enjoy at the small town celebration: Music

*Continued on page 3*

Scenes from Hillsboro's  
2011 4th of July.



## Blue Ridge Middle School 6th Grade Students Create a Quest for Purcellville's Old Town

Go on a "Quest" through Purcellville's Old Town! Discover the history of the old buildings and landmarks: What was it like in the 1900s? Where was the Town Stable? When did Purcellville become a Town? How did Purcellville get its name? What was destroyed in the Fire of 1914? Where were carriages made and repaired? What was the Bush Tabernacle building before it was the Skating Rink?

Mrs. Allen's 6th grade Keyboarding students at Blue Ridge Middle School researched and wrote the "Purcellville Old Town Quest" as part of a Place-Based Education service learning project. They believe that the more people learn about Purcellville, the more likely they'll want to take care of it. The children of Purcellville are its future stewards!

The "Purcellville Old Town Quest" is similar to treasure hunting with clues to guide the participants, and a treasure at the journey's end. The Quest begins at the Gazebo in the parking lot across



Mrs. Allen's Keyboarding students read the Quest aloud at Heritage Day, May 2011.

from the Purcellville Train Station and ends nearby. There are 16 stops on the Quest and the walk through Town will provide both knowledge and exercise. It is a fun activity for people of all ages. The Quest is published on the Purcellville Town Website. Print a copy and bring it along on the Quest!

*Using Your Map, the Quest Starts at the Purcellville Gazebo. Here's Your First Clue ...*

**"Look up to the top to start your tour  
You'll see it was built in the year 1874  
Mr. Dillon sold fertilizer and lime  
To farmers to help their crops do fine.  
A seed company it became in '46  
Now it is bicycles you bring here to fix.  
Find this business name on the sign  
And write it carefully on the line."**

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## Ask Dr. Mike



**Dr. Mike, My neighbor's child and my child play together practically all the time. Recently my neighbor's daughter had her 9th birthday party and didn't invite my child, who is a grade younger. My daughter found out later at school that many of their mutual friends in the neighborhood were invited, which was hurtful to both my daughter and me. It's been a couple of weeks now since the party, but my daughter and I are still upset by what happened. Any advice for a concerned mother bear? – D. in Loudoun County**

D., A mother bear must always watch out for her cub, however, there is a fine line between being protective and being overprotective. While I understand your initial upset and your concern for your daughter, I think you are making things worse for her by maintaining a position of being wronged. There really is no way to determine why your daughter wasn't invited to the party without asking your neighbor that question directly. Of course, if you were to ask, you would run the risk of making your neighbor (and perhaps her daughter) feel uncomfortable, or in turn, become upset with you. I think you should keep in mind that your daughter is going to get hurt in life, and she is also going to be disappointed by the actions of others. In thinking about your situation this way, you can begin to help your daughter better accept what happened and move on. You, as the parent, need to model a positive, accepting and forgiving attitude so that your daughter can do the same.

**Dr. Mike, I was recently diagnosed with breast cancer (stage 1), and I will be starting treatment shortly. I don't have any symptoms, and my doctor told me I was lucky to catch it early. My 11 year old son will be going to an away camp for two weeks and is leaving right before I start treatment. I wasn't planning on telling my son about my**

**cancer diagnosis or treatment regime until after he returned from camp. He's so happy to be heading off to camp, and I didn't want him to worry about me or be upset while he's gone. My husband feels our son should know now and that he will only be more upset later when he learns that we lied to him and sent him off. Any advice you have would be helpful. – J. in Loudoun County**

J., First of all, I'm glad you and your doctor caught your cancer early, as the prognosis for stage 1 breast cancer is very positive with treatment. As far as your son goes, I see your husband's point, but I don't agree with him that delaying the news is quite the same thing as lying. I don't see what good would come of telling your son of your cancer before he departs for camp since there's really nothing he can do whether he knows or not. In fact, telling him the bad news before he goes could potentially make things harder for all involved. In my opinion, you need to focus your energy on getting better, and you can do a lot toward that goal in two weeks of treatment. As you note, your son is a happy boy who's looking forward to having fun at camp. I'd let him have that experience, and you and your husband can support him with your news upon his return. If your son becomes upset with you as your husband is predicting, you should let him know how treatable stage 1 cancer is and that you didn't want to worry him about something that you and your husband and doctor had under control. You could even add that you certainly would've told him sooner if it were more serious. Sometimes as parents exercising tact and timing with bad news and our children is better than full disclosure all at once.

**Dr. Mike, We are only a few days into Summer vacation and all our two boys want to do is watch TV and play video games. It was much easier balancing screen time when they were in school because they were active and busy during the day. My husband and I both work, and we can't really monitor them the way we'd like. As teenagers, they feel that we should just leave them alone and that we are just "nagging" them. Any advice would be appreciated. – G. and R. in Loudoun County**

G. and R., Television and video games are not all bad, but like most things in life, the excessive amount is really the issue. It seems like the lack of a game plan for how your boys will spend their time over the Summer is really the issue. They may be watching

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## Congrats to the Class of 2011!

– By Lauren Pichon

Beach balls were flying through the air and parents' proud, joyful screams filled the stadium. The smell of fresh-cut grass was everywhere and the sun beat down on nearly 600 graduates who were clad in caps and gowns. Spectators were watching anxiously, and were eager to embrace their loved ones. It was graduation day at Loudoun Valley High School.

On June 18, approximately 560 seniors graduated from Loudoun Valley High School. The Class of 2011 was the largest class to ever graduate from Loudoun

Valley, and also the largest class to graduate from any high school in Loudoun County!

The speakers at graduation were Principal Sue Ross, Assistant Principal Vicki Dorsey Holstead, guest speaker Judge Thomas D. Horne, and valedictorian Lauren Larison. Students were permitted to bring 8 guests to watch the ceremony, which was held at Loudoun Valley's Leonard Stadium.

According to Assistant Principal Vicki Dorsey Holstead, ninety percent of the graduating class will

pursue higher education at a four year institution.

The institutions include James Madison University, University of Virginia, College of William and Mary, Virginia Tech, Georgetown University, Pennsylvania State University, Elon University, and many others. Others will be enlisting in the military or joining the workforce. It was a day to remember.

*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.*



Photo credit: Eric Pichon



## Area Villages Gear Up for the 4th!, continued from page 1

by the Polka Dots and Jake and the Burtones; Performance by the Blue Ridge Thunder Cloggers; Free ice cream donated by Dot Shetterly; BBQ chicken dinners prepared and sold by the Ruritans; Sweets, treats, and cold drinks at the HCA bake sale; Carnival games and prizes; Face painting by Ace of Face (10% of proceeds will be donated to the HCA); Balloon twisting by Fun Balloon Twisting (10% of proceeds will be donated to the HCA); Moonbounce; Drawings for prizes donated by the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, Breaux Vineyards, Grandale Farm Restaurant, and Stoneybrook Farm Market; Sneak peak of Run Rabbit Run Theatre's "All for the Union in Confederate Virginia," which will be on stage at the Old Stone School weekends from July 9 - 24; Chance to meet some of the cast of "All for the Union in Confederate Virginia"; FIREWORKS!!!

**LEESBURG:** Leesburg's 4th of July celebration begins with a hometown parade, beginning at Ida Lee Park and traveling down King Street through the historic district to Catocin Circle. The event continues with a "Celebration in the Park" at Ida Lee with food vendors and live music. The grand finale will be a wonderful fireworks display over the park. 10 am parade, 6 pm park celebration begins, 9:30 pm fireworks. Free. Ida Lee Park Recreation Center, 60 Ida Lee Drive Leesburg, VA 20176; 703 777-1368

**LINCOLN:** Come enjoy Lincoln's Fourth of July parade and

pot luck picnic. If you plan to be in the parade, please be at Lincoln Elementary School by 9:30 am. The parade begins at 10 am. This is the year for the Pink Flamingos who are always a popular entry. Make sure your animals are restrained, and motorized vehicles are greatly discouraged; otherwise, be as creative as you wish; the judges will award prizes for all sorts of categories. The pot luck picnic begins shortly after the parade; you are asked to bring a chair to sit on, and a dish to share. Live music by Acoustic Burgoon! Drinks will be provided by the Lincoln Community League.

**MIDDLEBURG:** Celebrate Independence Day all day in Middleburg! Swim in the Community Center pool during the day, then enjoy music, games, contests, and food. This year's event will feature an inflatable fast pitch and batting cage courtesy of the Loudoun Hounds. Fetch the mascot will also be there (from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm with Loudoun Hounds stickers and tattoos for the crowd. Fireworks will commence at dusk. The pool is open 11 am to 6 pm; July 4th festivities are from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Middleburg Community Center, 300 West Washington Street, Middleburg, VA 20117, 540 687-6375.

**PURCELLVILLE:** Visit the Town of Purcellville as they host their annual 4th of July Fireman's Parade. The parade will start at Emerick Elementary School, proceed up Orchard Drive, turn right onto Main Street and left onto Maple Avenue, end-

ing at Loudoun Valley High School. Festivities start at 12:30 pm. Town of Purcellville, 540 338-7421.

**ROUND HILL:** Round Hill will celebrate the Fourth of July with a community pig roast in the Town Park organized by the Round Hill Business Association and the Round Hill Junior Women's Group. The event, which will be held Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., will feature pulled pork sandwiches and hot dogs for lunch, crafts and games for the kids, and live music by acoustic guitarist Barry Charlton. Tammy's Diner will provide ice cream for sale for dessert. The Bank of Clarke County is sponsoring the festivities along with Savoir Fare Limited and the Town of Round Hill. In the event of rain, the event will be held at the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department.

**WATERFORD:** Here's the scoop (all events are alcohol-free): Sunday, July 3rd, 4:00 pm, Bond Street Barn Meadow (Main Street, near the Old Mill), Potluck Supper (bring a dish to share). Sunday, July 3rd, 8:30 pm, Water Street Meadow, Fireworks. Monday, July 4th, 10:00 am. Line up for the Waterford Fourth of July Parade at Clarke's Gap Road and Factory Street. Parade starts at 11:00 am, Monday, July 4th, Bond Street Meadow, hotdogs, watermelon, patriotic songs, and entertainment (following the parade).

### Happy 4th of July!

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## From Janet Clarke

**Response: to Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today June 2011 "OPINION" article, that was written by Valerie Joyner, about the Republican Candidate for the Blue Ridge District titled "Is Janet Clarke the Right Choice?"**

I appreciate your reaching out through the media to seek feedback and want you to know that I am always happy to sit down and speak with you. I have an open door policy. To address your article, I was not chosen to serve on Town Council. I served on the Purcellville Town Council from July 2006 to June 2008 while initially working for Loudoun County Public Schools in their central office, conducting substance abuse and violence prevention programs throughout the county in the secondary schools. I was one of four who applied for the Council vacancy, in part, to help affect a resolution to the Woodgrove High School issue. The entire Council interviewed all candidates and voted to fill the vacancy, not one member as suggested. During my tenure on Council I served on the Infrastructure, Ways and Means and Public Safety Committees and never voted to raise taxes. Prior to serving on Town Council, I also served a separate three year term on the Loudoun County Community Service Board.

- 1) I have three children who have attended Loudoun Valley High School and one of which now attends Woodgrove High School. ALL of my children and their friends here in the Blue Ridge and Catoctin Districts were affected by the decade long school overcrowding. My two youngest children had to attend 9th grade at Harmony, with my daughter graduating from a class of 530 at Valley last year. So of course I NEVER voted against Woodgrove H.S. In fact, the vote by Purcellville Town Council to file suit regarding the high school location was taken before I took seat on Council. By the way, the suit was based on the location of the high school and not being against the high school. The Supreme Court of Virginia determined that the County had erred in not following their land use process correctly as the Town Council had contended. Read my comments on [www.purcellvilleva.com/archive.aspx](http://www.purcellvilleva.com/archive.aspx) from meeting minutes September 12, 2006, October 9, 2007, November 13, 2007 and April 8, 2008.
- 2) While on Town Council I was appointed to the negotiation committee to resolve the Fields Farm matter along with Town Attorney Maureen Gilmore, and Council Member Tom Priscilla. See <http://www.purcellvilleva.com/archive.aspx> meeting minutes December 11, 2007, January 8, 2008 and March 11, 2008. During that time we worked toward a resolution to the issue with County Board Chairman Scott York, County Attorney Jack Roberts and LCPS Attorney Bill Chapman. Those efforts resulted in the settlement of the matter, as I committed to the community I would fight for, with the County agreeing to provide funding to mitigate the traffic impacts caused by

their public schools in Town.

- 3) As a Town resident I am acutely aware of the water rates. Lack of long term planning and action decades ago have resulted in the current situation. People who have been here awhile understand the water deficits we routinely had years ago, particularly during the summer months, before the Town Council took action to address this long standing challenge. In fact, western Loudoun is unique to eastern Loudoun in that we do not have direct access into the Potomac or the Loudoun Water Authority system. Instead our water infrastructure is a combination of many wells and one reservoir up on Short Hill built over 50 years ago. When on Town Council I voted for the improvements to the water sewage treatment plant based upon the EPA regulations mandated to municipalities for such facilities to be in keeping with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Act. The same such upgrades were performed at other treatment plants in the Commonwealth and recently including Loudoun County. If the Town had not agreed to annex the Fields Farm property, both Woodgrove High School and Mountain View Elementary would be on large septic systems. The upgrade was completed just in time for Woodgrove to be opened on a public system and for Mountain View to be converted to a public system, thus saving taxpayer dollars in the long term.
  - 4) With respect to the new Town Hall; see the meeting minutes from <http://www.purcellvilleva.com/archive.aspx> November 13, 2007 and January 8, 2008. I voted to enter into a Letter of Intent for a lease/purchase option of the former Purcellville Baptist Church based upon a reasonable and respectable price in line with the property assessment. It has been three years since I have been on Council since I took that initial action. After I left Council the Town moved forward with renegotiating what they have in place now.
- I stand by my votes on the Town Council based on the information at the time. I also stand by my experience with the County that we need to facilitate working together more cooperatively with the towns and communities on land acquisition and other projects in the Loudoun. Too many public facilities actions have gone without the County proactively seeking and considering community input, and adjusting to the communities' expressed needs and this has resulted in a negative effect on the taxpayers. In the Blue Ridge District alone the County's ineffective process has resulted in major controversies and legal battles such as; Fields Farm (Woodgrove issue), Wheatland (next high school and middle school planned for western Loudoun), the Round Hill Sheriff Substation, and the Aldie/Little River Fire Station to name just a few. Things need to change for the better and I pledge to help change them by actually planning and communicating with the community! Once again, thank you.

## View From the Ridge

### We Remember Janet Clarke

– By Nick Pelchar

Janet Clarke voted repeatedly with the Purcellville Town Council to sue Loudoun County to block the construction of Woodgrove High School. The school is now built exactly where the County wanted it built. What changed things? After the Lazaro Council held the students of Western Loudoun hostage for 3 years Janet Clark spearheaded the effort to extort nearly \$6 million dollars from Loudoun County to put in the town's coffers. An effort she is very proud of today. In truth, Janet Clark and the Purcellville Town Council held the children of Western Loudoun hostage. They were ransomed for nearly \$6 million dollars. There is no other way to say it. Ms. Clarke admits that her own children were victims of the Purcellville Town Council's greed which resulted in unnecessarily overcrowded schools for years. What should we infer about a woman who would sacrifice the well-being of her own children to further her political capital?

If there was ever a more twisted community battle in America than the Woodgrove High lawsuits I would like to hear it. Blue Ridge Board of Supervisors candidate Janet Clarke's reaction to criticism that she was part of an extremely litigious Purcellville Town Council by claiming credit for affecting a resolution is disingenuous. Her notes and study of Purcellville's recent history are inaccurate and revisionary. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors purchased the Fields Farm property in 2000 and immediately provided a plan to build an elementary and a high school on the property as agreed to and provided for in the PUGAMP (Purcellville Urban Growth and Management Plan). The anti-school arguments that followed and were supported by Purcellville Town Council Member Janet Clarke were based on fear and ignorance. Now that Woodgrove High School is built none of the "problems" the Lazaro/Clarke Council cited have proven true. Purcellville's Town Council would not have appointed Ms. Clarke to serve on council if she disagreed with their filing lawsuit after lawsuit against the County in order to fight Woodgrove

High School. Dear Ms. Clarke – THEIR public schools are OUR public schools.

What did the Lazaro Council do with the \$6 million they extorted from the Loudoun County taxpayers? They went to court again and have condemned land on Crooked Run Orchard, a farm which has been in the Brown family for 250 years. The Southern "Commercial" Road (Southern Collector Road) is well underway. The Lazaro/Clarke Council has been successful in trading an apple grove for a strip mall. Stop by Crooked Run and take a look at what the Town of Purcellville is doing to Sam and Uta Brown's farm. They are destroying a state landmark and a family's livelihood. All in a day's work on the dais at the Purcellville Town Council. For this abhorrent decision I blame you Ms. Clarke. After all, you were the one to spearhead the effort to extort the money which made this destruction possible.

Janet Clarke, who is eager to point out that she now has a child attending the dreaded Woodgrove High School she fought so hard against would like to be your Blue Ridge Supervisor. I wonder what she thinks about Woodgrove now? She would like you to vote for her to represent you on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. Before you press the lever remember that Janet Clarke sacrificed the children of Western Loudoun to further her own political career. Remember who is paying the bill for the \$6 million dollars she is so proud to have extorted from the County. You and I are paying the bill. Every resident of Loudoun County is paying the bill.

*Editor's Note: Janet Clarke was appointed to the Purcellville Town Council in July 2006 to fill the seat left vacant by Bob Lazaro when he was elected Mayor. Nicholas Pelchar served on the Council from July 2002 to June 2006. There was no litigation between the Town of Purcellville and Loudoun County while Mr. Pelchar served on the Council. Contrary to Mrs. Clarke's statement, litigation against the County regarding Woodgrove High School began and was voted on during her tenure on the Purcellville Town Council.*

## Blue Ridge LEADER & Loudoun Today

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## Town Hides Tax Increase in Park District? ...

– By Ryan J. Cool

... at least not yet, but that is the likely scenario for the future. The Town Council voted to advertise the creation of a Town-wide tax district to support Fireman's Field and other park related facilities within the Town, such as the train station. (This is similar to the Fire and Rescue district set up by the County several years ago and then quickly abandoned.) Currently, these Town facilities are supported by the Town's General Fund which is supported by your tax dollars. The new district, if enacted, would also be supported primarily by the property tax plus any revenues generated by the user fees and other rental opportunities.

In passing the tax rates for the upcoming fiscal year, two members of the Town Council, Councilman C. J. Walker, III and Dr. Jim Wiley voted against maintaining the taxes at the current rates because they wanted to increase the tax rate. There has been increased pressure on the General Fund budget over the last few years to increase the tax rate, because the debt service of the Town is increasing rapidly. Currently, the General Fund has budgeted \$1.2 million for debt service, which has increased from just \$300,000 in 2008. Furthermore, if the expected expenditures called for in the approved Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) are com-

pleted, another \$11 million of General Fund debt will be incurred. The interest alone, at 4%, would increase the debt service by \$440,000. With any reasonable amount of principal payment, the debt service would be approaching \$2 million. Since the entire amount of real estate tax that is collected annually is approximately \$2.4 million, the Town will have a significant problem. Raising taxes to cover this increased expense is a huge political risk. The same group that set up that tax district and set the tax rate for that tax district, i.e. the Purcellville Town Council, will not be mentioned in the press release.

Council Member Joan Lehr expressed an idea at a recent Ways and Means Committee that separating the expenses from the rest of the Town's budget would allow them to understand exactly what each facility cost and would allow them to build up a reserve to pay cash for future capital expenses.

If a special fund is set up for Parks and Recreation, as proposed, the accounting will be exactly the same as it is currently except it will be rolled up as part of the Parks and Recreation Fund instead of the General Fund. The same level of details concerning expenses will be available regardless of into which fund the expenses accumulate. If more

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### Cole Farm Update

The historic Cole farm house, left vacant after the property was sold for the new commercial development at the east end of Purcellville is now being prepared for its new location on the property. The historic companion barn was demolished in early spring amidst much controversy. The silo is also being dismantled and moved to another location on the property.

## Opinion – Retail Leakage?

– By Kelli Grim

In February 2006, at the height of the Real Estate boom, the Town of Purcellville paid for a study to be done by Arnett, Muldrow & Associates regarding "leakage". They determined the meaning of leakage was when a Purcellville resident needs to buy something, they would travel to Leesburg (in Loudoun County) and spend their money there. Muldrow said this equates to tax revenue "leaking" from Purcellville.

Other experts also define retail "leakage" to be when money spent inside a community is transferred outside the community. For example, most big box and chain/franchise stores have high leakage rates due to the transferring of sales revenue to a corporate headquarters. Statistics show that for every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, approximately \$45 stays in the local economy, creating jobs and expanding the community tax base. For every \$100 spent at a national chain or franchise store, only \$14 remains in the community. Entrepreneurship fuels America's economic innovation and prosperity, plus the success of locally owned independent businesses provide real-life inspiration to our young people.

According to Muldrow, the situation in 2006 was dire. His report said the Town could be losing millions of dollars of taxable revenue because we were not building more retail businesses. The report did not limit its research to only Town of Purcellville residents, it includes a market profile of 5, 10, and 15 mile radius. This is not surprising when the mayor touts that we are to be the commercial center for all of Western Loudoun. That does not say too much about respecting our neighboring towns and their commercial endeavors and economic development. Middleburg has done an outstanding job of promoting small independent businesses and without

**Many small businesses have been lost since 2008 (and gone forever). The suggestion that there is a retail leakage problem in Purcellville is preposterous.**

**Statistics show that for every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, approximately \$45 stays in the local economy, creating jobs and expanding the community tax base. For every \$100 spent at a national chain or franchise store, only \$14 remains in the community. Entrepreneurship fuels America's economic innovation and prosperity, plus the success of locally owned independent businesses provide real-life inspiration to our young people.**

destroying surrounding farms and agricultural businesses at the edges of their town. Also, there are no big box stores or strip malls in future plans that might take major revenue from the in town businesses.

Former Planning Department Director Martha Semmes said the Town's Comprehensive Plan calls for help and encouragement to develop space inside the town before developing the perimeter. Statistics show that a town that works with in town businesses to grow and expand – businesses which need little to no new infrastructure – can more than double its commercial tax base in a much shorter time than when pushing new projects. In fact, it is well documented that businesses inside the town will have major revenue decreases when commercial traffic is siphoned off to edge of town as fewer and fewer shoppers need to come into town.

Purcellville elected officials and staff appear to have taken Muldrow too seriously, ignoring the realities of the current marketplace – since the real estate/economy downturn. They continue to hand out edge of town re-zonings and special use permits, strip malling the edges of the town as fast as they can. Meanwhile, in town businesses are struggling with rate increases and the Town's lack of focus on existing businesses needs. Many small businesses have been lost since 2008 (and gone forever). The suggestion that there is a retail leakage problem in Purcellville is preposterous.

A simple solution to maintain Purcellville's quality of life "to be a great place to live and raise a family" is to keep its unique nature by encouraging and promoting the small business owners – professionals, computer stores, restaurants, dance studios, agricultural and historic endeavors and attractions, clothes, gift, and music stores for example. The last thing a small town wants to do is to become like every other place down the road. Especially at the expense of the irreplaceable values that are being lost in Purcellville's massive commercial development on the edge of town – values such as tree cover, clean air, farms, open space and more.

### In Memoriam: Bill Druhan

Former Mayor of Purcellville, W.T. "Bill" Druhan passed away June 24, 2011 at his home on Maple Avenue in Purcellville. He served as Mayor from 2002 to 2006. He also served on the Planning Commission from 2001 to 2002 and then from 2008 to 2010, and on the Town's Parks and Recreation Committee from 1995 to 1999 and 2005 to 2010. He had pancreatic cancer, which was diagnosed in late 2010. He leaves his wife Tammy, son Joey and daughter Maggie. The funeral will be on what would have been his birthday, July 4th at 3pm, at the Purcellville Baptist Church.



**SEND US YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AT [blueridgeleader@aol.com](mailto:blueridgeleader@aol.com), or go to [www.brleader.com](http://www.brleader.com). We can also accept video editorials.**



## Bad Medicine, continued from page 1

Street (a residential neighborhood) rather than from Main Street because of the difficulties inherent in an entrance from Main Street. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) requires an approximate \$40,000 site plan. Thomas B. Walker, VDOT Senior Transportation Engineer, stated: "If the side-street access is not viable for some reason, we would, of course, permit an entrance on Main Street as long as it can be designed to VDOT standards and the appropriate sight distance is available." The applicant is pursuing the placement of an entrance on 18th Street to circumvent the costs and logistics of placing the entrance on Main Street.

At the May 19 Purcellville Planning Commission hearing, Planning Commissioner Gilbert Paist asked the applicant, why this property? The applicant replied that they had looked at other spaces and they were unaffordable. The residents of 18th Street expressed concern and opposition at that hearing. They are unanimously opposed to a commercial facility on 18th Street because it is a completely residential dead end street with 19 homes.

Residents of 18th Street and East Main Street have expressed frustration with Town Officials because they believe their concerns are not being given appropriate consideration. At the May 19, 2011 Planning Commission hearing the residents submitted a signed petition stating: "We wish to remain residential and protect our quality of life and are extremely worried about the life safety issues generated by this request."

"The new entrance would require our children to walk past a commercial driveway on their way to the school bus. Children play in the street. We have over a dozen small children who walk down to the corner of 18th and East Main daily. We bought into a residential neighborhood and love our neighbors," said Shaileen Backman. Krista Winger remarked, "18th Street is a peaceful dead-end street, a place where our children can safely play and go to school with neighbors. We have 14 children on our street who walk to the library and the school bus." According to Keith Backman "18th Street is only 16 feet wide. We are talking about our neighborhood. Over a decade ago the residents of East Main Street agreed to voluntarily down zone their property from R-4 to R-3 and accept the historic overlay



district. We made a commitment to the long term viability of residential property on Main Street and we expect the town to abide by that."

Holistic Health was quoted as saying that there would only be 12 to 15 vehicle trips per day. The Blue Ridge Leader conducted a traffic study during normal business hours at Dr. Stewart's current business location in Leesburg.

Over a two-day period there were an average of 40 vehicle trips per day including commercial vehicles, specifically going to his office. His practice currently employs four staff members. The plans submitted include space for 4 additional offices which will be leased to other businesses. They also plan to teach cooking classes, rent a sauna, and conduct a retail business at the Purcellville location. Regular evening seminars are also part of the plan. "We hope our practice grows," Dr. Stewart stated in an interview. "It is a neglected building," said Dr. Stewart, which was echoed by Commissioner Dennis Beese who noted: "... you have a vacant, delinquent property."

However, the real estate listing describes the 1905 historic home as follows: "The 5-bedroom, 2-bath house with hardwood floors throughout is in good condition." The property in question lies in the Historic Overlay Corridor. Since the home is over 50 years old, it qualifies

as an historic structure according to Town Ordinance. Changing the zoning from R-3 to C-4 is not in compliance with the current Purcellville Comprehensive Plan. Planning Commissioner Michael Reles said "I don't see it. This doesn't make sense to me."

In contrast to the sentiments of the residents of 18th Street, Purcellville Town Council Member and Planning Commissioner Tom Priscilla said he lives next door to a commercial establishment and has no problems with it. That commercial establishment, however, was an established business when he bought his home.

The residents of 18th Street bought their homes understanding that there was no commercial zoning on their street. Commissioner Kathy Bowman stated "The location of this as a doctor's office with proffers and a traffic study will be a big improvement for the town." Her husband Jim Bowman however, is Senior Vice President of John Marshall Bank which is financing the proposed project. She not only failed to disclose this information, but she did not recuse herself from discussions.

The Town of Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan states that anytime there is a change in zoning it should be supported by the residents. At the May 19, 2011 Planning Commission hearing, Purcellville town staff recommended approval of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to designate the property as Downtown Commercial land use. Staff further recommended the installation of a commercial entrance on 18th Street.

In a February, 2011 article entitled "Down Home in Purcellville" by Bennie Scarton in *Cooperative Living Magazine*, Mayor Bob Lazaro was quoted as stating: "Purcellville has changed a lot through the decades, but has retained its small-town flavor and charm. We are all working hard to keep it that way." Area residents are looking to the Planning Commission, Town Council and the Mayor to listen to their voices and defend their quality of life and preserve their neighborhood.

## The Fight Goes on for Crooked Run Orchard ...

– By Kelli Grim

Sam and Uta Brown have confirmed they recently finalized the real estate closing on the two parcels that had been jointly owned by Sam and his brother Tim Brown. The entire property is made up of three parcels equal to approximately 100 acres, and two of them were a part of the recent partition lawsuit between Sam and Tim Brown that was set to go to auction in June 2011.

Sam and Uta Brown have just purchased the two parcels from Sam's brother Tim Brown, and now are the sole owners of the nearly 100 acre Crooked Run Orchard. The farm has been in the Brown family for over 250 years when Sam's ancestor, Mahlon Kirkbride purchased it from Lord Fairfax in 1741. It has been continuously farmed by the Brown family, is a VA designated Century Farm, and currently operates as a "Pick Your Own" that is open to the public. The Brown's are determined to continue their efforts to "Preserve and Protect" their unique historic property which does not have any asphalt or concrete on it. It has been difficult for them to spend tens of thousands of dollars in attorney fees just to defend their home and business. They realize this is a great undertaking, and will now face even greater hardships since the Town of Purcellville recently took by "Quick Take" condemnation seven acres of the sixteen-acre



parcel to build a southern by-pass road less than twenty feet from their 100+ year old home.

The Town is preparing to fence off the entire seven acres which will destroy nearly a hundred mature fruit trees, cut off their access road to the back forty five acres of the farm, cutting the farm in two, eliminating 20% of their customer parking area, and keep them from using their barn that stores their farm equipment, business supplies, and other items.

In a letter dated June 14, 2011 to Sam Brown, the Town

Manager stated, "Over the next several weeks, we will be installing entrances to the property and potential fencing along the property line for the benefit of both parties. This will also clearly delineate the property lines so that we do not have visitors to your farm accidentally wandering onto the Town property where we will be completing preconstruction activities".

It was only one month ago that the Browns were presented with a Lease that would require them to be responsible for all roll back taxes on the seven acres when it comes out of farm use, along with carrying two times the amount of insurance other companies that use Town properties are required to carry, along with the demand for a \$5,000 deposit to be held until the road is completed. The demands in the lease were so arbitrary and cost prohibitive, the Brown's will now lose all use of the property and barn.

**For more facts, details, photos, and videos you can visit their website at [www.CrookedRunOrchard.com](http://www.CrookedRunOrchard.com). They have a legal defense fund set up on their site where donations can be made to help them fight this Eminent Domain abuse.**

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# Running Totals ... in praise of frugal living

– By Cat Morris

It's been raining lately.

I assume that our visibly clogged gutters are at least partly to blame for my sloshy basement since water is draining straight against our foundation. Last year we paid \$25 for someone to clean our gutters, saving us having to find and climb – eek - an extension ladder. I have just needed to make this year's call, but I have been putting it off. Since March.

Every time my husband and I suffer a major upset on the domestic front it can usually be attributed to – or at least exacerbated by – procrastination or negligence by one of us, and "one of us" is usually me. It has taken a long time for me to see this, but it's true.

In an essay from the must-have modern Bible of thrifty living, *The Tightwad Gazette* (Villard, 1998), Amy Dacyczyn notes that we all tend to maintain unique, fixed distances from the financial edge of crisis. Whether a person receives a great influx of cash or finds their income greatly reduced, they always manage to settle the same distance from "the edge" according to their own conscious or

## Procrastination is expensive!

unconscious comfort level. She draws a comparison to the person who is always late: No matter the circumstances, that person will always arrive late by the same margin. We all know those folks, and I used to be one of them. I was 15 minutes late every time I went anywhere ("I got stuck in traffic!" "A tree was down!" "Someone came to the door just as I was leaving the house!").

A person living close to the financial edge will blame a single event, such as an unanticipated car repair, for their current crisis; or a chronically late person will cite a pile-up on the freeway as today's reason for being 10 minutes late, when the truth is that others with the same income level and circumstances as the first person, or the same driving route as the second person, may not find themselves upturned by those events.

Some people win the lottery and are destitute within a few years. Some invest wisely and remain solvent for life. So much of des-

tiny is choice.

My husband and I find ourselves in moments of house-related duress in which we have to invest a lot of time and a great, begrudging effort toward setting things right again, and if I'm honest, it's almost always because of procrastination. We put things off. I used to blame isolated external events (That terrible wind storm knocked the limb into my house!) but now I'm mature enough to claim at least some responsibility for making ourselves vulnerable ("I knew that tree needed to be trimmed, but I never did anything about it.").

I do not tend to be late anymore. I pride myself on being early or on time these days.

However, I do tend to procrastinate, and procrastination is expensive. If you wait too long to pay a parking ticket, it doubles, right? The same is true for procrastination on most



anything else.

I'm going to wet vac the basement all day because I put off taking care of the gutters. I also get to sort through a bunch of boxes that are wicking water right now, because I put off setting them up on risers.

Oh – and the laundry I just caught up on? It's piled on a clean rug, on the floor, waiting to be hauled upstairs for folding and putting away. Except I can't now, because it's sopping up flood water. I had put off hauling the laundry upstairs. See a putting-off pattern here?

I am put out.

*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.*

## Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

Meet Amy Smith, our newest columnist who will write here each month on how to plan for an independent financial future. She will give special attention to the needs of pre-retirees and widowed and divorced women.

It's hard to take up the subject of financial planning these days when so many individuals and families have been hit so hard by the recession. And yet, there's probably no better time to begin to look ahead than right now.

As J. Pierpont Morgan, a gentleman who knew a fair bit about money, said, "The first step toward getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are."

Thanks to the editors of the *Blue Ridge Leader*, I'm pleased to begin a conversation with you about looking beyond the recession and thinking about where you want to go from here. But I don't want to just hand out general tips I've picked up as a financial planner. I'd much rather hear from you by enlisting your help in identifying those issues and concerns most important to you. (See how to reach me, below.)

To start us off, I'd like to hear how you feel about money. Not surprisingly, most of us don't like talking about money. In part, this avoidance is caused by the many myths about money, among them:

- Money is crass.
- Talking about money is impolite.
- I don't have enough to have an opinion.
- I have too much and people will ask me for some.
- I don't know anything about it.
- I'll make a mistake.
- It's too complicated.

Let's start with the last one first: "Money is too complicated." Money is merely a form of currency. We exchange it for goods and services – a house, a car, a massage, an airline flight, a doctor's visit, or a pair of shoes.

It's not so complicated after all. So why do most of us avoid the subject?

The reason is that it's fraught with emotion. Like religion and politics, we never know how the person we're with will

react or what they will say. So we avoid the unknown.

Still, we should at least have a conversation with ourselves about money. I'm not recommending that you start talking to yourself, just that you start facing your hopes and fears, your love and hate, your desire for and fear of money.

Many of those feelings come from your backstory. We all have a backstory. Whether it stems from kids in the neighborhood making fun of your clothes when you were a child, or your house being smaller than those of your friends, the children who taunted us were mimicking adult behavior. And adults are defined in part by what happened when they were young.

If you had to pass up something because you couldn't afford to go along, like skiing, or shopping, or golf; if your parents were well off and sent you away to boarding school – either way, your emotions were involved. Whatever your backstory, it impacts your current relationship with money and is a potential obstacle.

Understanding your emotions and channeling them to maximize your assets is an attainable goal. And once you understand the nature of your goals, achieving them is much easier.

This probably sounds simple. Well, it is. But that's a subject for a future column. I welcome your thoughts on how you feel about money and encourage you to contact me with suggestions for future columns.

Just email me at [amysmith36@gmail.com](mailto:amysmith36@gmail.com). All names and identifying information will be kept strictly confidential unless written permission is given for their use.

*Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, is an independent firm. Amy is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA) and offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. [www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com](http://www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com).*

*The opinions and recommendations here are those of the columnist's.*



## Commonwealth Posts 17.9 % Revenue Growth in May

14th Month out of Last 15 with Increase in Revenue Collections over Prior Year

Governor Bob McDonnell announced that May revenue collections increased by 17.9 percent over the prior year. This is the fourteenth month out of the last 15 in which state revenue collections exceeded the previous year's amount. It is the sixth out of the last seven in which year-over-year revenue growth was greater than 9 percent.

The revenue increase was primarily driven by a 49 percent increase in nonwithholding receipts (individual final payments based on 2010 tax liabilities). On the other hand, growth in two large sources, payroll withholding and sales tax, slowed. On a year-to-date basis, total revenue collections have risen 5.8 percent, slightly ahead of the revised annual forecast of 3.5 percent growth. Adjusted for the accelerated sales tax program, state revenues have grown 7.3 percent, ahead of the forecast of 5.5 percent.

Speaking about the latest revenue report, Governor McDonnell noted, "The growth in state revenue is a positive sign that Virginia's economy continues to improve. However, while 17.9 percent revenue growth is great news, it does not mean we have fully turned the corner from the deep and long-lasting recession that has impacted every Virginian."



*Continued on page 10*



## News From Blue Ridge District School Board Representative Priscilla Godfrey

As I promised in the last issue, I am continuing to report on the Sterling District seat on the School Board which was left empty with the passing of Warren Geurin. The School Board held a public hearing with three candidates for this post and Tuesday, June 14, the School Board selected Brenda Sheridan, a 13-year Sterling resident and mother of two Sterling Middle School students. Brenda has been a PTA officer locally and is currently serving as vice president of the Virginia Parent Teacher Association; she was also a substitute teacher for Loudoun County for the past seven years. The very next day Brenda attended the YAP graduation, her first graduation ceremony as a School Board member.



find a cure for cancer, create a popular new product; become our physicians, veterinarians, dentists, car mechanics, or treat the ills and diseases of third world countries, and maybe even serve in the state or federal legislature. How much is a Loudoun County diploma worth? I would say it is priceless when you are going to a free 4-year service academy or getting a large scholarship to an ivy league school or getting into a vocational training program that will result in a top salary in your field. I invite you to take a hard look at the Class of 2011 as these press releases hit the paper. These exceptional men and women really put taxes into a different light.

— 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.*

Loudoun County graduated 4,000 young men and women over the weekend. As I shook thousands of hands, I thought about how well these students represent the end product of years of school budgets. The reason we invest in them year after year is so that our future and their future is assured. From Loudoun they will go on to

## On the Market... with Sam Rees



Travel Back in time - "Sunnyside Farm" - Leesburg. Rarely available historic home (Circa 1799) on 25.1 acres. Graciously restored w/ 5 bedrooms and 3 (new) full baths on upper level. Elegant Rooms, multiple fireplaces & porches, updated kitchen w/Stone Hearth & modern living spaces. Several Strong Antique Buildings offer endless possibilities for animals or other ventures. \$1,275,000.



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Round Hill \$625,000



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Care lane - white house - Waterford. Top of the line finishes grace this lovely home on 6 plus acres in historic Waterford. 4 beds/ 3.5 baths. Three finished levels with views from every window. Main floor has wonderful office and additional playroom. Glorious over sized deck for entertaining. NO HOA. Close to elementary school and the Waterford Pool. \$649,900. MODEL HOME CONDITION.



To see virtual tour of all of Sam's listings please scan this code with your smart phone or visit: [Sam.Rees.PCRagent.com](http://Sam.Rees.PCRagent.com)

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Sam is a western Loudoun resident with 16 years of full time real estate experience and over 100 million in real estate sales. Her custom marketing plans for your home leverage the power of the Internet with professional Photography and Design and the latest in Virtual Tour Technology.





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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 at this picture of the lock we found at the original Loudoun County jail site ... and a copy of the 1758 survey of property showing the jail (gaol) and the sheriff's house. The site is about two miles north



of Leesburg along Rt. 15 on property that once belonged to Aneas Campbell, the first Sheriff of Loudoun. The jail was built by the end of summer 1757 at Campbell's house

near present day Selma. It seems to have been in use until about 1759-1760, when a new jail was built in Leesburg. Surviving court documents describe a roughly 12 foot square log structure with two sturdy doors and a brick hearth. Campbell complained several times that the structure was insufficient. A group of local citizens was asked to inspect the structure and submit a report on proposed improvements. One of these suggested improvements was that a lock be added to the door. This lock was found at the archaeological remains of Campbell's house some



200 feet southeast of the jail site. Is this the lock that was recommended for the door? It is indeed of the right age to have been used on the jail and is a typical padlock of the period.

Mike Clem is a member of the Banshee Reeks Chapter of the Archeology Society of Virginia (BRASV.org) and the Loudoun County Archaeologist. Bob Shuey is an archeologist active in local historic preservation efforts.

Send a photo and brief description of your unusual backyard finds to [carolbrleader@yahoo.com](mailto:carolbrleader@yahoo.com) or mail it to Blue Ridge Leader, 128 South 20th Street, Purcellville, VA 20132



Mike Clem



Bob Shuey

## And .. What's That?

**"What's That?" WE DON'T KNOW!** For this month's column we also present our readers with a real mystery ... we're stumped! The strange metal object shown here was taken to an "Artifacts Roadshow" sponsored by the Loudoun Museum a few years ago. None of the archeologist there could identify it ... but, can you?



### Clues & Details:

- Archaeologists and members of the Lincoln Preservation Foundation found it on the yard by the ruins of a log house in the Lincoln, Virginia area.
- The house was probably built in the 1800s and was last occupied by an African-American family who apparently did some farming or gardening.
- The object is about eleven inches from side to side and folds where the two

parts are connected.

- There is a copper covered pin near the middle. Small pendants dangle by rings from each end and from the sides.

People have guessed that it is some type of equestrian paraphernalia or perhaps some ornate piece of lamp hardware.

**Can you tell us what it is?**

Email [carolbrleader@yahoo.com](mailto:carolbrleader@yahoo.com).

P.S. Some readers have sent other mysterious objects, or pictures of objects, that the Banshee Reeks Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia is working to determine the material, age, function, and background information. Thank you for your submissions – we are tracking them!

### Commonwealth Revenue Growth, from page 8

Like some national economic indicators, our payroll withholding and sales tax collections slowed last month. This means there is still much work to be done before we find ourselves with the full and robust economic recovery our Commonwealth and nation needs."

The governor continued, "Even though our revenue collections continue to increase month after month, too many Virginians are still out of a job. That is unacceptable. We must work to ensure that every Virginian can find a good-paying job to support their families and afford the goods and services they need to live a healthy, happy life. While more

Virginians are back to work, families and businesses still face high gas prices and increasing commodity prices, forcing them to tighten their belts. Just as families are doing, our administration will continue to reign in government spending, better utilize hard-earned taxpayer money, and exercise fiscal responsibility in managing the state. At the same time, we remain committed to putting in place aggressive policies that encourage economic growth, help bring private sector jobs to every region of this state, and get our economy turned around for good."

The May revenue numbers are available at [www.finance.virginia.gov](http://www.finance.virginia.gov).

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

### Courthouse Square

There are few places as instantly recognizable in Loudoun County as the historic Courthouse Square in downtown Leesburg. The square, red-brick building itself, with its white columns and ornate cupola, the impressive war memorials on its south side, the black iron fencing of the 'square,' the familiar, friendly shade trees, and the other, surrounding structures – both old and new – all of these elements combine to create a unique and unforgettable experience; but for me, much of the specific identity, character and presence of the site comes from the lone Confederate Soldier Statue – prominently placed on its pedestal between the old court building and North King Street.

This silent edifice stands as a mute sentinel for all who enter the grounds or pass by on the street or sidewalk. Like the great Sphinx, he neither welcomes nor threatens, bars nor protects; his purpose seems to be that of historic confessor for anyone entering his range of vision.

At least that's how I generally feel about him.

Granted, that's a lot of power to place in a man-made combination of art, memory and the field of time – all rolled up into a memorial for the Old South.

So – how can this mere, human-scale hunk o' metal even compete with its surroundings – such as the historic structure of the Loudoun County Courthouse building?

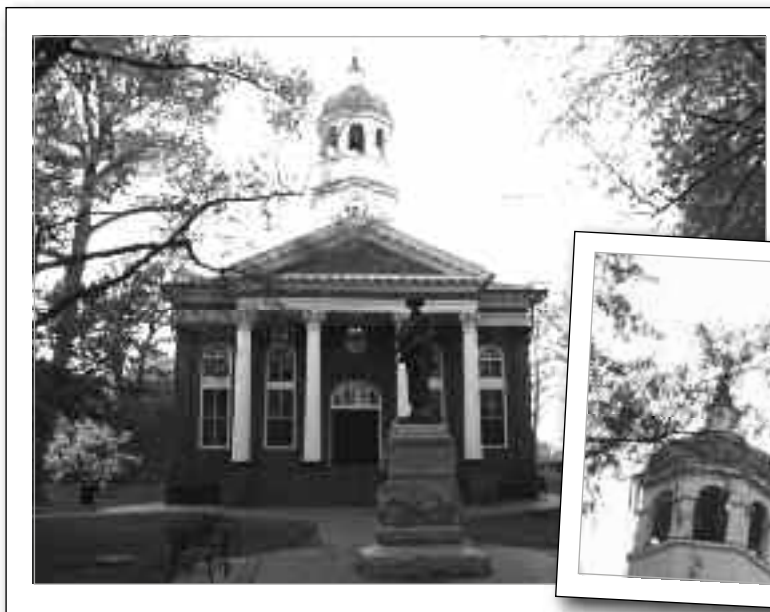
Good question.

Maybe his power is more akin to a kind of mystery and subtlety. I mean, the statue certainly isn't the first thing you'd notice about the location – no; he kinda sneaks up on you, and I get the sense that that's what makes his acquaintanceship all the more memorable.

I will acknowledge that he has lots of competition in his placement for guardianship: the historic court building which serves as a back-drop for his post, the other, very impressive and very humbling War Memorials - honoring the fallen sol-

diers of American-involved conflicts, as well as the nearby restaurants, law offices and other shops which help create the cumulative ambiance of the Historic District in Downtown Leesburg.

This atmosphere takes further input from the nearby homes, adjacent streets, living greenery and even day-to-day traffic of both motor vehicles and those on foot- including the birds and squirrels. The familiar site of the Courthouse Square gathers a collective spirit from the many, very human events of annual passage within its presence: the yearly March to honor the slain civil rights leader, Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior, the contrasting hush of approaching midnight at the close of each First Night Leesburg on December 31st, the other emotional homages paid on Memorial Day at the end of May – and the more lighthearted moments created by April's Flower and Garden Show, the weekly hustle and bustle of the First Friday Gallery Walks throughout most months of the year, the celebrations during December's Holiday Season (including the recently controversial display situation), the spooky explorations of Halloween-time Ghost Tours, the patriotic gatherings staged for Independence Day, and all the other planned and impromptu "to-do's" occurring on frequent basis.



Again, our Civil War Soldier neither approves nor disdains, he may ignore – or take in every detail and nuance- of these and other activities, as well as those of their participants.

He does add, however, an undeniable human element to the location – even when he stands alone during its deserted moments of night and inclement weather.

At least that's how I like to feel.

Then again- maybe he's of no more significance than just that of an old hunk o' metal up on a high, stone pedestal – perched in front of a rather large, old, square, red-brick court building in a rapidly-growing Town near the East Coast of the United States.

Maybe ... But, I bet he could tell some pretty good stories – given the power and opportunity.

## County & District News From Blue Ridge Supervisor Jim Burton (I)

### AAA Bond Rating Renewed:

In June, the County received word that all three bond rating agencies would be renewing the County's AAA bond rating, a designation achieved by fewer than 30 counties across the country. This is the sixth consecutive year the County has achieved such designation by all three rating agencies, a continued affirmation of the County's prudent, conservative fiscal policies, including the debt cap I co-sponsored in 2004. Having served on the Board's Finance / Government Services & Operations Committee for almost fifteen years, eight as the committee Chair, I am personally proud of this achievement.

Over the years this designation has saved the County millions of dollars in interest payments on our schools, public safety centers, and other capital facilities, by ensuring that we receive the lowest possible rates. During the recent credit crunch, the designation ensured that the bond markets remained open to the County, allowing us to continue construction on these much-needed facilities. This week, the County issued bonds to finance a number of new projects. There were 15 bids for the County's bonds with all the proposed interest rates grouped tightly around the winning bid of 3.09%. This is a stunning vote of confidence in the County by the financial markets and a testament to how strong the mar-



ket views Loudoun's financial strength and situation.

**Clean Water:** In my last newsletter, I explained my decision to table any further discussion of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance and re-focus the County's efforts to protect our rivers, streams, and aquifers. This re-focusing involved a number of small, Loudoun-specific changes to the County's existing policies and ordinances. At our June 21st Business Meeting with almost no discussion, the Board initiated the first of those changes.

First, we directed County staff to schedule a public hearing on certain amendments to the County's Codified Ordinances regarding soil and erosion control. This public hearing will occur on September 12, 2011. The amendments involve the following: 1) Standardizing the threshold for grading plans and permits at 5,000 square feet; 2) Requiring that an erosion and sediment control plan accompany every application for a grading permit.

Both of these changes would ensure that proper erosion and sediment controls are applied whenever land is disturbed. This would reduce the amount of dirt and solids flowing into our rivers and streams as a result of construction activity. It would also enhance the protection of adjacent property-owners. No homeowner appreciates a mudslide from the construction site next door inundating their lawn after every rain-storm. These amendments would ensure that proper controls are installed from the beginning of a project.

Second, we increased the frequency of required erosion and sediment inspections. According to the Staff Report, "more frequent E&S inspections result in better E&S controls on-site and reduces the potential for sediment loss." While the increase in inspections will require additional staff, Staff expects that the fee increases adopted in January will likely offset this cost.

Further details can be found in the Agenda Item posted on-line.

In my last newsletter, I also provided an update on the court-ordered implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Bay localities and the preparation of the State's Water Improvement Plan, Phase II (WIP-II). This effort involves the setting of local targets by the State and the development of local plans for meeting those targets. The County received its targets in May. Last week, the County received a letter from the State's Department of Conservation and Recreation outlining the process the State will follow for local plan development. A copy of this letter is posted on-line.

In short, the State indicates that it hopes to work closely with the 96 Bay watershed localities – their governments, Planning District Commissions, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts – to identify pollution reduction strategies. The goal is to identify strategies that "can be maintained over time...[and] that are both cost effective and locally appropriate." The letter then lays out the information needs and

Continued on page 27



*Is anything more important than your family's security?*



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### Valley Springs II Annexation Update

The Valley Springs II land parcel, located on A Street across from the Blue Ridge Middle School has been the subject of annexation discussions by the Purcellville Town Council. The land, currently outside Purcellville Town limits is currently subject to County residential zoning which allows 1 house per three acres. This would accommodate approximately 20 homes. If brought into the Town via a Town Council vote, the land's future housing density would allow for appropriately 67 homes, an increase of 300%. When land is annexed the Town is required to provide water and sewer services. This automatically allows for greater

density or more homes.

The developer came to the Purcellville Town Council several years ago requesting an annexation but was denied. In the June 6 Ways and Means Committee Meeting, members fo the Town Council spoke in favor of the annexation and increase in density. Councilman Wiley stated: "It is the only logical place in town for [new] homes." Councilman Greg Wagner noted: "If they [meaning properties] are in close proximity we should annex." Councilwoman Joan Lehr stated: "I would look on it [the annexation] positively."

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**Across**

- 1. 60s rock group, with Corner
- 5. Slight
- 9. Partit<sup>o</sup>n
- 14. Lion's beard?
- 15. Type of insurance for owners
- 16. Pointed arch
- 17. Nose out
- 18. Tapi endings
- 19. Rich tapestry
- 20. Place for pessimists
- 23. Virgo mo.
- 24. Cries at a circus
- 25. Keen
- 28. Swimmer's gear
- 30. Banned pesticide, for short
- 32. "Star-Spangled Banner" preposition
- 33. Tongue
- 35. Conundrum
- 37. Invest in a risky fashion
- 40. Witch
- 41. Bean
- 42. Greyhound, e.g.
- 43. Magazine revenue source
- 44. Come back again
- 48. Go up and down

51. Supporting

- 52. Grassy area
- 53. Investing term that came from poker
- 57. Salad oil holder
- 59. Old audio system
- 60. Horse course
- 61. Where to get a fast buck?
- 62. Fall locale
- 63. Anatomical network
- 64. Experiments
- 65. Used to be
- 66. Four's inferior

**Down**

- 1. Cells in the sea?
- 2. Improvised
- 3. Captivate
- 4. At no point in time, contraction
- 5. Native American people
- 6. Scottish water areas
- 7. Mosque V.I.P.
- 8. City in Arizona
- 9. Drenches
- 10. Wading bird
- 11. Great musicians
- 12. "Desperate Housewives" actress, first name

13. Court matter

- 21. A chemical salt
- 22. Deserter
- 26. Romeo or Juliet
- 27. Blunder
- 29. Distinctive flair
- 30. Beach sights
- 31. Angry outburst
- 34. Investor's alternative
- 35. Inquisitive people
- 36. Look at flirtatiously
- 37. Constant
- 38. Flower starts
- 39. Belladonna poison
- 40. ABC's rival
- 43. Amazement
- 45. Plant
- 46. Fertility goddess
- 47. American sharpshooter
- 49. Driving hazard
- 50. Common carriers
- 51. Flute player
- 54. Consider, with on
- 55. Cover up
- 56. Legal wrong
- 57. PC component, for short
- 58. Delicacy

Crossword by Myles Mellor

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## Pray for Our Sheriff's Deputies

— By Mark Gunderman

The importance of prayer is much greater than most of us realize. If we can find a way to include prayer in our daily activities, we will gradually notice our entire lifestyle transitioning into a force which spreads God's light. I am sure that there are many within Loudoun County that are praying for the Sheriff's Office. The intent of this letter is to encourage many more to join this body of believers.

Without the Sheriff's Deputies and support personnel working in our communities, we could not appreciate the safe and secure lifestyles that we now enjoy. The thin blue line establishes a barrier between light and darkness, good and evil, setting boundaries that hold back crime and ensure our comfort and community safety.

We are convinced that the Lord wants to share His strategies and plans with His people and that we must position ourselves to hear His voice and be ready to pray or act as He leads.

The Bible very clearly calls us to pray for those in authority: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

The Bible has much to say about Civil Governance (gov-

erning authorities including law enforcement). Law Enforcement is unique among service providers in that Sheriff's Deputies are a governing authority.

Our Sheriff's Deputies provide a service; however, the Sheriff's Office also has a mandate under legislation to enforce the laws that govern our county. In Romans 13: 1-6, support of this position is conveyed: "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established ..."

Civil governance may be considered a ministry and therefore should be upheld according to the principles cited by Paul in I Timothy, Chapter 2. In Romans it is declared the rules (authorities) are not a weapon against good works, but to evil. Deputies have a specific mandate under God to confront and punish evil. Without that line of defense, lawlessness and violence would abound.

God takes particular interest in law enforcement to ensure they are ruling and discharging their duties justly: "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a water-course wherever he pleases" (Proverbs 21:1). God reserves the right to intervene where necessary. This is where our prayers take action. God uses the Body of Christ to uphold the governing authorities for that very purpose. We must pray relentlessly for those who protect our families, homes and



community. In this way we ensure a strong bond is established between citizen and the county employees whose foremost responsibility is to maintain our much cherished community security.

We pray O God our Father that you put a hedge around the Sheriff's Office of this great county. Bless the bereaved family of any fallen deputy, remembering that the earth has no sorrow that the heavens cannot heal. God please bless this county in a powerful way and keep us in Your arms and in Your grace. We promise to give Our Lord the praise and glory in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

*Mark Gunderman serves a Board Chair for the Good Shepherd Alliance headquartered in Ashburn.*

## Fifty-Seventh Closing Exercises for Loudoun Country Day School Class of 2011

Twenty-one students at Loudoun Country Day School received their certificates of graduation on Saturday, June 10, in front of parents, relatives, teachers, and friends for the second graduating class at the Red Cedar campus. In his opening remarks, Headmaster Dr. Randy Hollister welcomed all in attendance, including Mr. Fred Schaufeld, chairman of the board of trustees, thanking him for his many years of service to the school, along with his wife Karen. He mentioned that an oak tree would be planted on the property in Mr. Schaufeld's honor as a symbol of strength and endurance.



Dr. Hollister celebrated each graduate with a personal tribute about his or her interests, accomplishments, and aspirations for the future. After an address by Class of 2011 student council president Cortney Cunningham and several musical selections, Dr. Hollister read the names of the graduates while Board Chairman Mr. Schaufeld handed out certificates of graduation to the students, asking them beforehand to remember Loudoun Country Day School, to stay close to their classmates, and to return to visit the place that had been their school home for many years.

This year's recipient of the Virginia Treviranus Memorial Award, given to the rising eighth grader who best exemplifies the qualities of hard work, leadership, citizenship, sportsmanship, dedication to one's studies, and working to one's potential, is

Nick Fouty. Eighth graders Nell Smith and Bradley Blackwood each received the Philip duPont Memorial Award for visibly demonstrating concern for other people. This year's recipient of the Headmaster's Prize is Leland Burkey. This award is given to the student who best exemplifies the philosophy of the school, which includes a supportive attitude, daily evidence of supporting the rules and standards of the school, the qualities of a good citizen, and a genuine love of learning. Last year's prize winner, Drew Styles, presented this award, as is tradition. These awards are determined by the middle school faculty.

Graduates of the Class of 2011 will be attending both local public high schools, as well as the following private schools: Foxcroft School, The Madeira School, Flint Hill, Middleburg Academy, Highland School, Georgetown Preparatory School, and Gonzaga High School.

After the ceremony, graduates and their families enjoyed a reception chaired by 7th grade parent Gail Mazzatenta.

Congratulations, Class of 2011!

## Tax Increases, continued from page 5

details are needed to track the costs of the park related expenses, they can be created regardless of where the account the costs go. For example, the debt service is maintained at a rather high level and could easily be broken down into each component of the debt. Hence, the statement by Ms. Lehr that she wanted to understand the expenses better, shows a lack of understanding of the current budget/accounting system in use by the Town.

The additional bureaucratic paperwork is hardly worth whatever benefit the Town would actually receive. In the case of the utility funds (water and sewer), state law dictates that these funds must be segregated. However there is no mandate for the park expenses so the logical conclusion is that there must be another reason. It adds bookkeeping complexity to the Town's accounting process, hence one must conclude that ultimately it will cost more to maintain it. The only real purpose is that it will be used to shield political liability of the coming tax increases that this fiscally irresponsible Town Council has incurred. It would also shield the total cost of the new Town Hall by transferring all of the parking costs from the General Fund to the Parks Fund. So how long will it be before "TOWN HIDES TAX INCREASE IN PARK DISTRICT" will be the actual headline?

## \$\$ Town of Purcellville Spending Update \$\$

— By Kelli Grim

Below is a list of miscellaneous checks written by the Town of Purcellville between January 1, 2011 and June 15, 2011. Residents are able to obtain a check register by making a Freedom of Information Act request (this information is not available on the Town website in this simple format). The total amount of checks written during this time was \$7,804,500. The entire check register for this time period is available online at [www.BRLeader.com](http://www.BRLeader.com). We will continue to bring you updates of where your tax dollars are spent, as a matter of fiscal accountability and transparency in government.

Rural Development	\$1,100,255	RK Chevrolet	\$23,621
U.S. Bank Operations	\$1,016,176	Reilly Street Sweeping	\$20,585
VA Dominion Power	\$185,417	Robinson, Farmer, Cox	\$18,100
Hirschler – Fleischer (Attorney)	\$125,189	USA Bluebook	\$12,396
Maureen Gilmore (Town Attorney)	\$106,929	BBT Bankcard Corp.	\$12,288
Bank of America	\$86,213	John Marsh (former Mayor)	\$11,830
East Coast Utility	\$75,000	Purcellville Copy (Councilwoman, Joan Lehr)	\$9,265
Joseph Sullivan, Attorney	\$41,922	The Care of Trees (Chairwoman-Tree-Beautification Committee)	\$8,576
Commercial Fueling 24/7	\$33,518	Studio B	\$7,409
Tyson's Ford	\$29,372	Carter Bank & Trust	\$7,506
Colonial Ford Truck Sales	\$25,874		



## A Day at Nationals Park!

Come out to the ballpark to cheer on the Washington Nationals while spending a memorable day with your family. From the Build-a-Bear Workshop and the Exxon Strike Zone to the GEICO Racing Presidents and the jungle gym, Nationals Park offers something for kids of all ages.

**Getting to Nationals Park:** Nationals Park is close to the Capitol, so there are many transportation options you can use to come to the ballpark.

**Metro:** From Loudoun County, take any of the Orange line Metro trains toward New Carrollton and get off at Metro Center and transfer to the Red line. Take the red line toward Glenmont one stop to Gallery Place-Chinatown. At Gallery Place, transfer to the Green line and take a train headed toward Branch Avenue. Ride four stops on the Green line to the Navy Yard station. At Navy Yard, follow the signs to the ballpark exit and turn left upon exiting the station - you won't be able to miss it!

**Driving:** To plan your best route and reserve a parking space, visit the interactive map at nationals.com.

### Once you're at the ballpark:

**Pregame:** Center Field gates open 2 ½ hours before the start of the game, so make sure to get to the ballpark early to watch the Nationals take Batting Practice and try to catch a souvenir. Check out Signature Sundays at 12:15 p.m. before every Sunday game, as Nationals players sign autographs for approximately 20 minutes on top of the dugouts! Get in line early, as the autographs are granted on a first-come, first-served basis and are subject to player schedules and timing, weather permitting. Note: fans are not guaranteed player signatures and photographs. On the way to your seats, stop by the Family Fun Area to enjoy the Exxon Strike Zone, Build-A-Bear Workshop, jungle gym and inflatable tee-ball, all of which are located here and provide hours of entertainment for the entire family!



**Play ball:** Get to your seat before the start of the Pregame Ceremonies, which feature the National Anthem, Lineup Delivery, the Ceremonial First Pitch and 'Play Ball!' announcement. This is also your chance to greet the Nationals as they take the field. Witness a Nationals tradition during the 3rd Inning Military Salute, when the team and fans join together to salute military members for their service. Every game, the Nationals offer premium seats in the Lexus Presidents Club for

select military groups in an effort to provide a very special experience for veterans, active service members and their families. This is just one of the many initiatives the Nationals offer to service members so that they feel like a part of the Nationals family.

Stay in your seat for the main event: when the Rushmore Four – Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt and George Washington – head to the field in the middle of the 4th inning for the GEICO Presidents Race! Who knows, you may be among the lucky fans to catch Teddy win his first race.

Nationals Park offers a unique twist on baseball fare, with an extensive menu that rivals some of DC's favorite restaurants. From traditional hot dogs and burgers to the iconic Ben's Chili Bowl and brand new Shake Shack, prepare in advance for a plethora of options by going to the Concessions Guide on nationals.com.

If you're on a budget, Nationals Park does allow outside food and beverages, though some restrictions apply (all food items must be contained in single serving bags within a soft-sided container or cooler that does not exceed 16"x16"x 8". Metal, plastic or glass containers are prohibited, except for factory-sealed clear plastic water bottles no larger than one liter, baby food, empty Nalgene bottle and juice boxes). Whatever you decide, the entire family can enjoy their meals at the Family Picnic Area behind sections 141-143.

Be sure to make it back to your seats in time for the 7th Inning Stretch! Sing along with Screech, the Nationals mascot, as he celebrates this time-honored tradition by leading 'Take Me Out to the Ballgame.'

**Postgame:** On Sundays, the youngest Nationals fans can imitate their favorite player by participating in Kids Run the Bases following the last out of the game. All kids ages 4-12 will be able to run to first base and around the field to home plate. (One adult per child may accompany their child to the field. Adults will continue along the warning track and meet their child near home plate.)

Want a short cut to the front of the line for Kids Run the Bases? Sign your child up for



Photos courtesy of the Washington Nationals.

the Junior Nationals Kids Club in advance to gain access to an exclusive line for MVP members. The Jr. Nationals Kids Club is full of great benefits for kids ages 12 and younger, including opportunities to receive giveaways as well as meet the Racing Presidents and Screech.

### Helpful Tips:

**Baby-Changing Stations and Family**

**Restrooms:** Changing stations can be found in all public restrooms inside Nationals Park, while family restrooms are available on concourses behind Sections 104, 114, 117, 235, 307 and 319; **Bags and Backpacks:** No bags larger than 16"x16"x 8" are allowed into the ballpark. All bags are subject to inspection; **Child ID Bands:** Guests can request identification wristbands for their children which indicate their seat location in the event they become separated. Visit the Exxon Strike Zone near the Center Field Gate or any Guest Services location; **Strollers/Baby Carriers:** Strollers are permitted in all concourse areas at Nationals Park. If a stroller will not fit under a Nationals Park seat once folded, it won't be permitted at the seat and must be checked in at either Guest Services, in Center Field Plaza or behind Sections 131 or 321.



### Before You Go ... ..

**Purchase the Harris Teeter Family Fun Pack:** For all Saturday and Sunday home games, fans can purchase a \$14 Upper Right Field Terrace ticket or a \$25 Outfield Reserved ticket (\$28 for prime games) that both include a hot dog, Coca-Cola/Dasani beverage and chips as part of the package. Tickets can be purchased online at nationals.com/family or at the Nationals Park Box Office.

The Nationals are proud to offer members of the military and their families discounted game tickets at MWR and ITT offices on most bases through-



out the region. Tickets purchased in advance at these offices will be considerably reduced from the normal gate price, and several of the sections include food/beverage/merchandise credit for use at concession stands and team merchandise stores at Nationals Park.



# FROM THE FARM



Uta and her husband Sam operate Crooked Run Orchard.

## A Wandering Look At Summer Choices ...

By Uta Brown

The asparagus is over and the lettuces are beginning to bolt, but there are still lots of sweet heads for picking. So far, I have not seen the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in my salad garden.

When I take people out to pick lettuce, or herbs, I have them pick June berries. These sweet and juicy berries are like small blueberries, and I planted them for bird food. The birds haven't discovered how good they are yet, so we stop and taste a few. Everyone seems to like them. These June berries are on small bushes, but they belong to a family of plants that come in many sizes, from a small bush of three feet to a tree of sixty. Amelanchier. In Maryland we had a ten-foot tree that flowered every spring followed by these wonderful blue berries that the cardinals loved to eat. The rhubarb is taking hold. I grew both Glaskin's Perpetual and Victoria, the former doing much the better. If you want to grow rhubarb, the reds will not survive as well as the greens. The green varieties can take the heat. Keep the nitrogen levels high to encourage leaf growth. Since the leaves are supposedly poisonous, some people fear that animals might eat them and die. I've never seen an animal bother a rhubarb plant. They are, in fact, rather attractive and can be put among the other plants in the garden.

Both sweet and sour cherries produced this year. Most years we do not get a good crop of sweets, although this has changed for the better since Sam began using bumblebees as pollinators. (Sours are wind-pollinated.) The trees should last thirty years. I was told that in commercial production the cherries are harvested by shakers. So massive and disruptive are these shakers that the trees only last about seven years, since the roots are too badly disturbed to recover from year to year.

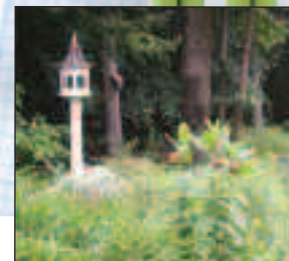
In France we ate whatever came out of the garden for our noonday and evening meals. That might be asparagus for two weeks, and peas for two weeks and beans for two weeks. And artichokes!! Those fat globes Meme would boil just right and then make a luscious mustardy sauce for. People made tarts from their own pear and apple trees. In Brittany, everyone had an apple tree. What didn't get thrown in a pie was made into raw cider. Rather than a class of sherry that might have been served if you were in England, the typical offering on an afternoon visit was cider, served in a large cup, usually faience, (which itself was locally made). This cider was often fermented by the host from his own apple trees. The quality varied widely.

A Chinese woman told me that her Chinese friends love American fruit because it is so flavorful. She told me that food in China is tasteless. "Too much chemical," was her observation. I asked a Vietnamese customer shortly after that if food in Vietnam was still grown naturally, as it was when I lived in Southeast Asia over forty years ago. He said for the most part that it was, but more and more chemicals were being used. The food in Laos was, if anything, exceptionally tasty. We have lost much of the flavor of foods in our American diet also, and with the flavor the nutrition has also plummeted.

It is unimaginable that we used to eat only what we could produce or barter from our neighbors. Barter is alive and well, however, and will probably grow in the future. Because chickens eat stinkbugs, the sale of chickens will no doubt skyrocket. Small farms will proliferate, and family gardens will expand. This will create a knowledge of the food we eat as well as the person who produces it, and the exchange of food will become an entirely different story, a much more personal and intimate story. The quality of the food will increase and because it will be much fresher, it will also retain more vitamins. Most of us won't reach food independence, but we might soon be eating something local with every dinner menu.



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## Blue Ridge Wildlife Center Tips on Rescuing Wildlife

– More Than 800 Orphaned Baby Wild Animals Will Be Rescued by the Center this Season –

*This season, the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center (BRWC) expects to rescue and raise more than 800 orphaned baby wild animals found throughout the Northern Virginia region. Most become orphaned when their nests or dens are accidentally destroyed, or their parents are killed. Because this is the time of year when so many orphaned wildlife babies are found, Dr. Belinda Burwell, executive director of the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, thought it important to provide some tips on what to look for and how to help.*

In some situations, it can be difficult to determine if a wild baby needs to be rescued. For that reason, the first rule of thumb is to contact our wildlife center for advice.

Sometimes nests and dens can be rebuilt, and the parents will return to continue raising their young. If the parents have been killed, or the babies injured, please seek professional care for these animals, rather than trying to care for them yourself. Wild animals need very specialized care and nutrition. Be aware that the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will fine anyone who possesses wildlife without a special permit. This law is designed to protect the public from injury and disease, and to protect these animals from being handled by inexperienced people.

**Knowing when NOT to rescue young wildlife is just as important as knowing when to rescue them. Here are a few examples of when not to rescue these animals:**

**Fledgling baby birds** do not need to be rescued: Over the summer, it is common to find young birds on the ground, with short feathers, that can't fly or can only fly short distances. Most juvenile songbirds (fledglings) will leave their nests a week or two before they can fly. Their parents continue to care for them while they are on the ground, so they do not need to be rescued. The parents will not return to feed their babies if they sense there are predators (including people) in the area. If you see a young bird with short tail feathers that cannot fly, keep people and pets far away from the area, so the parents feel safe to return and resume feeding and teaching their young.

**Baby cottontail rabbits** normally leave their nest at a very young age, so finding a very small cottontail that cannot run very fast does not mean it needs to be rescued. If the bunny's ears are standing up and its body is large enough to fill the palm of your hand, it is old enough to be on its own. Just keep pets out of the area for a week while these little bunnies grow strong and fast enough to avoid predators such as cats and dogs.

**Young fawns** are commonly found lying quietly on the ground, without a mother in sight. This is normal. A doe will leave her fawn hidden for most of the day while she goes off to browse for food. Young fawns will not move until their mother comes back for them, and will



*It looks like I'm all alone ... but do I need to be "rescued?"*

frequently let people walk right up to them. These fawns do not need to be rescued. The mother doe will not return to her fawn if she senses there are predators (including people) in the area, so if you are not sure the baby is an orphan, leave the area for 6-8 hours, then check to see if the fawn is still there. If it is, it may need to be rescued. If you find a fawn that is injured, or whose mother has been killed, please call our wildlife center for help. Be aware there are new regulations regarding the rescue and movement of deer in Frederick and Shenandoah Counties because of the threat of spreading Chronic Wasting Disease.

**Did you know ...** Baby birds without feathers can be successfully put back in their nests and the parents will continue to feed them? If you can't find the nest, or it was destroyed, there are ways to create a new nest for the babies. Call our center for advice with this problem. If the parents are known to be dead, then the baby birds will need to be rescued.

**Did you know ...** If you or your pets have accidentally uncovered a nest of cottontails, you can cover the nest again and usually the mother will return to raise the babies, or to move them. If this happens, you must keep your pets inside and only let them out on a leash, or they will look for the nest again. Baby cottontails will mature and leave the nest in 3 weeks.

**Did you know ...** If a bird or bunny has been in a pet's mouth, it does need to be rescued even if it doesn't appear to be injured? Exposure to the bacteria in the saliva in the pet's mouth will make these animals sick, and they will succumb to infection in 2-3 days if not treated with antibiotics.

**Need assistance with baby wildlife? Call the Center at 540-837-9000.**

The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is the Piedmont's only wildlife rescue and full-service hospital serving a region from Northern Virginia to the Northern Shenandoah Valley and the Piedmont. Situated on 980 spectacular acres along the Shenandoah River, the Center provides a protective area for wildlife to recover and rehab. In addition to facilities for all types of birds, mammals and reptiles, the center has recently added a large flying cage for raptors which has been useful in the rehabilitation of a wide variety of birds of prey. The cage has a circular flyway, so the birds can fly continuously and fully exercise their wings. Dr. Belinda Burwell oversees the center and its patients. She has more than 25 years of experience as a pet and wildlife vet, and received her training at the National Zoo, the Tufts Wildlife Center, the Franklin Park Zoo, and the New England Aquarium. She has advanced training in emergency stabilization and critical care. "Our goal is to care for and rehabilitate injured wildlife so they can return to their original habitat," Burwell explained. Within the past month, many hawks, owls and other animals have been released to their original habitats.

*The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is a non-profit, 501(c)3 charitable organization for wildlife conservation and rehabilitation located in Clarke County, Virginia. The Center assists the native wildlife of Northern Virginia and Northeastern West Virginia and does not charge for services. Because the organization does not receive any local, state or federal funding, it is completely dependent on private donations. For more information, please visit [www.blueridgewildlife.org](http://www.blueridgewildlife.org).*

## Loudoun County Animal Shelter Looking for Foster Families

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is looking for individuals and families to serve as foster care providers for special cats and kittens. Spring is commonly called "kitten season" to animal shelters – the time of year when cats give birth and shelters are overwhelmed with homeless litters.

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is no exception, and is beginning to see an increase in very young and orphaned kittens coming to its doors. Foster homes are most often needed for kittens too young to be adopted or mother cats with their babies. These animals require a level of care and socialization that is difficult to achieve in a shelter environment that is not staffed 24 hours-a-day. Foster care provides one of the few opportunities these animals have to survive. Adult cats are also in need of the kind of the special, one-on-one care a foster home provides, especially during this time when the Animal Shelter is experiencing a rise in its cat and

kitten population. Many older or more sensitive cats are able to thrive in foster homes with families that love them, which helps ease their transition into permanent adoptive homes. Depending on their individual situation, animals may be in their foster homes for several days to several weeks. Foster families are provided with training and support from Animal Shelter staff to ensure that they are prepared to care for the animals in their home and any special needs they may have.

**For more information, contact the Animal Shelter at 703-777-0406 or online at [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals). Make a difference for the smallest shelter orphans – become a foster parent! The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Shelter information & directions can be found at [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals).**





# Innovative Hunger Prevention Program Focuses on Cooking Skills

– Washington, DC’s “Cooking Matters” Partners With Capital Area Food Bank –

Share Our Strength’s Cooking Matters™ is an innovative hunger prevention program that empowers families at risk of hunger with skills, knowledge and confidence to make healthy, delicious and affordable meals. The national Cooking Matters program (formerly Operation Frontline) began in 1993 and has programs in 27 cities across the U.S. The Capital Area Food Bank started offering the program also in 1993 and in FY 2011 are offering 43 six-week courses.

Record numbers of Americans are at risk of hunger, including more than 17 million children – nearly one in four. But, healthy and affordable meals are within reach for those who know how to cook and shop on a budget.

Eighty five percent of Cooking Matters participants graduate, taking with them improved nutrition practices, eating habits, and food budgeting skills.

Cooking Matters now serves more than 1,000 families per month; nearly 10,000 families graduated from the program last year. It also serves a diverse audience of low-income families at or below 185 percent of the U.S. poverty level.

## Cooking Matters, DC

There are more than 633,000 residents at risk of or experiencing hunger in the Washington Metro Area – 200,000 of them being children.

In 2010, 89 Capital Area Food Bank volunteers lead 42 Cooking Matters courses with 508 participants. The graduation rate was a very successful 83 percent.

The program has grown tremendously in recent years. In fact, the CAFB delivered more than double the number of courses and served nearly four times the number of participants in 2010 compared to 2005. By the end of the 6-week course, graduates reported that:

- 61% are eating more vegetables;
- 63% are eating more fruits;
- 44% are eating more low-fat or fat-free milk products;
- 71% are eating more whole grains;
- 55% are eating more lean meat, chicken, or fish;
- 56% are drinking more water;
- 84% made a Cooking Matters recipe at home;

- 83% improved their cooking skills; and
- 100% would recommend this course to others.

Capital Area Food Bank works with social service organizations that provide the venue and on-site coordination for Cooking Matters courses in DC. These host agencies include schools, housing programs, Head Start centers, clinics, churches, and community centers.

## Shopping Matters

Cooking Matters participants face shopping challenges, so in the fifth week of each course, they are taken to a grocery store to learn which items are the healthiest and most cost-effective to purchase. Some of the tips/lessons they are taught during Shopping Matters include:

- Compare unit prices;
- Buy produce that is seasonal and less expensive;
- Plan to use foods and ingredients in more than one meal;
- Buy packaged chicken breasts with the skin on, which you can trim off yourself, and save half the price per pound;
- Buy larger packages (family size) of meat and poultry, often at a lower price per pound; freeze meat in meal-sized portions;
- Buy produce used often (potatoes, onions, apples) in the largest size quantity you can use; and
- Watch out for end-of-aisle displays because they are not always the best deal.



## Participant/Partner Comments:

- “I am more conscious of the food that I buy and when I cook, I try to incorporate more food groups into my recipes. It saves money to know how to look and find out really what is good and bad for nutrition,” (Cooking Matters for Adults graduate)
- “I think this class really helped me eat better and be stronger about not eating junk food,” (Cooking Matters for Kids graduate)
- “Having worked with Cooking Matters for nearly a year now, it is rewarding to see the positive changes that participants make during the course of the program,” (Nutrition Programs Specialist at the Capital Area Food Bank [CAFB]). “After the graduation class, our participants are better equipped with the knowledge and skills they need for a lifetime of healthy and affordable eating.”

## Answers to crossword puzzle on page 12



## AGRICULTURE BILL PASSED BY THE HOUSE MAKES STINK BUGS A TOP PRIORITY FOR USDA

Provisions included in a bill passed by the House yesterday would make fighting the brown marmorated stink bug infestation a greater priority for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), according to Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA).

Wolf said the annual bill that funds the Department of Agriculture includes new directives for the four research agencies of the USDA to identify and develop effective stink bug control methods.

Another key provision instructs the USDA to work collaboratively with state partners to identify and implement controls for the stink bug invasion.

“I appreciate the assistance of Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee chairman Jack Kingston in identifying ways that the USDA can work more aggressively to find a solution to this critical problem and make the stink bug invasion one of the top priorities for all research agencies at the department,” Wolf said.

The bill passed by the House was referred to the Senate, which also must pass its version of the spending bill.

Stopping the destructive brown marmorated stink bug – whose influx some have likened to a plague of locusts – has been a top priority for Wolf. He held a forum in Purcellville in Loudoun County in April at which scientists and experts shared ideas for control methods with local farmers and growers. The meeting drew 200 people.

“I’ve seen first-hand the damage that stink bugs are causing to local fruit and vegetable growers and we have to do something to mitigate the economic damage caused by these pests,” said Wolf. “I am hopeful that this legislation will make this problem the top priority for USDA research agencies.”

**More information on stink bugs including best practices for mitigating their damage is available on Wolf’s Web site at [wolf.house.gov/stinkbugs](http://wolf.house.gov/stinkbugs).**



Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA)



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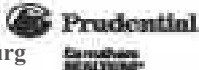
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– BY HEATHER ELIAS



I've been up to my elbows in the spring market since my last column, and I have to say that I'm pleased by how busy and strong our local real estate market is here in Loudoun County.

According to statistics from Metropolitan



Putters Green Court

May 2011 Real Estate Market Statistics for Loudoun County, VA

Statistic	Value	YoY	MoM
Total Sold Dollar Volume	\$170,279,101	- 22.62%	+ 0.4%
Closed Sales	404	- 23.77%	0%
Median Sold Price	\$388,995	+ 6.57%	+ 5.13%
Avg Sold Price	\$421,483	+ 1.51%	+ 0.4%
Avg Days on Market	61 days	+ 48.78%	- 16.44%
Avg Sold to Orig List Ratio	96.6%	- 1.43%	+ 0.53%

Systems (MRIS), our local multiple listing service, new signed contracts to purchase in LoCo for May were at the highest levels we've seen since May 2005. Meanwhile, median sold price across the county has risen 6.5% compared to May 2010, and the average sold price is coming in at 96.6% of the original list price. So if you are a buyer and you think that you are going to put the squeeze on a seller,

think again: our inventory numbers are still low, and sellers for the most part are getting very close to their asking price. Townhome and condo inventory was actually down 30% in May, compared to the prior year!

As of June 22nd, we had 1335 total resale listings active on the market in Loudoun. Of those listings, only 179, or 13%, were foreclosure or short sale, "distressed", sales. We seem to have worked through most of that inventory here. If you are in the market to purchase here, you are more likely to be dealing with a typical sale now than you have been in the last few years.

expensive home that changed hands in Loudoun was on Putters Green Court in Leesburg. Sold for \$1.395 million, the nearly 11,000 square foot home sits on 1.5 acres overlooking the Raspberry Falls golf course. The gourmet kitchen boasts double islands, Viking appliances, custom granite counters, and a fireplace, while the lower level is home to a commercial sized wet bar, tiered theater room and full exercise room. This luxury property was listed by Mark Stock of RE/MAX Premier in Ashburn, and sold by Jim Kerr of Keller Williams.

*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.*

For May, the most

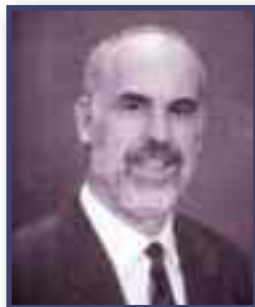


Dear Doug  
– Real Estate Q&A –

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: Are you seeing a trend toward people renting rather than buying? – Leslie, Purcellville**

Dear Leslie, I am seeing a strong demand for rentals. Why? Well, you have to ask: Where are the people going who are facing foreclosure and short-selling their houses? They can't buy, since they've either nicked their credit or completely destroyed it. No lender will touch them, so they have to rent. In addition, we see recent college grads looking for housing, and relocating buyers attracted to this area by a fairly strong employment base. Also, it's more difficult these days to get mortgages. Banks are being more stringent about qualifying people. Those who would prefer to buy are being forced into the rental market. With this increased rental demand, landlords like myself are seeing a dramatic increase in rental prices, which I really can't complain about! So, who is buying, you may ask? Relocating buyers with relocation packages provided by their companies. Also, long-time renters with steady job who are seeing severe price drops over the past 3 years. Some of them can now buy for less than they can rent in some places. For example, a recent client of mine – a relocating government employee – chose an \$1800 townhouse to rent. When I showed her that she could buy the townhouse and save a few hundred dollars per month, she was quite surprised! (Incidentally, she rented anyway because she wasn't sure she wanted to live there for the next 5 years.)



**Dear Doug: We have been trying for 2 1/2 years to sell our property. We bought this fixer-upper at the height of the real estate market for \$200,000 and sank another \$200,000 in renovations to it. Soon after, our income dropped in half and we got behind in payments. The bank has allowed us to make interest-only payments for the last year, which we can barely manage. We have been through 3 realtors in 2 years, and each one has dropped the price on our property. Now, it is priced \$100,000 below what we owe on it, but the bank has never "approved" a short sale. Do we need to have a formal agreement with the bank before we move forward? We are broke. If our home does not sell soon, we will have to walk away from it.**

Dear Under Water: My condolences to you on your real estate nightmare. I doubt that it will make you feel any better, but I assure you that there are many people in similar positions. If you have been in the market for 2.5 years, I assume you were overpriced. Hopefully, your new low price will bring in some offers. Do you need a formal agreement from the bank to list a short sale? No, you do not. I have sold short sales that were listed low to get the offers rolling, with a "short sale addendum" included in the contract. The addendum says that all the terms are "subject

*Continued on page 23*

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## “Cats” – A Movie Review

– By Susan Thompson

As summer heats up, heading inside to curl up with a good movie becomes a welcome alternative to those hot days poolside. You head for the video store or click on Netflix, searching for something ‘good’ that you haven’t already

seen, but more often than not come up empty handed. Sound familiar? Well, there’s an old title out there that might be ‘new’ for many of you. Ask your local video store to dust off a copy of Universal Studio’s movie version of Andrew Lloyd Weber’s ‘Cats’.

Based on the novel ‘Old possum’s book of practical cats’ by T.S. Eliot, ‘Cats’ broke theatre records in London and New York as the longest running show in history at the time. It’s easy to see why it was and is still so popular. The movie does a beautiful job of wrapping the story line around Andrew Lloyd Webber’s lavish musical score with dance numbers that never disappoint and lighting and technical effects that still have the power to ‘wow’.

‘Cats’ is a sexy, sensual musical, with



an air of whimsy and a tug or two at the heart strings, but tastefully done as was the norm when it came out in the 70s. The cats slink and curl and purr and gyrate through every song and dance number. They hiss and show their claws and preen their fur. They’re sassy and proud and secretive and slinky.

While decidedly cats, they also fill some very human roles in life. There’s the train conductor, the classically trained theatre cat, the rock star, the patriarch, the super hero cat, the gangster cat, the good and bad cats, and the former but now faded glamour queen cat. While they display decidedly human emotions, they also deal with cat issues. There’s a hierarchy in their cat world. They fight, grow old, and the old teach the young what it means to be a cat. The entire musical takes place in a junkyard, at night. The cats come out to play and suddenly realize that they have an audience. Reluctant at first, they gradually warm to their audience and invite us into their world of cats.

We’re introduced to Griddlebone, the sexy white cat who treats us to a cat ballet number. Jennyanydots slinks into view and tap dances with the mice. Rum Tum Tugger struts onto the scene like a combination of Mick Jagger and Liberache and gives us one of the best song and dance numbers in

the movie, although if you’re like me you’ll end up having several favorites before it’s all over. We’re still rocking to Rum Tum Tugger’s number when Grizabella stumbles in. The aging glamour queen has seen better days and is scorned by the other cats. Her hit song ‘Memory’ doesn’t disappoint. She’s sad but endearing with a reminder that we’re all aging.

Bustopher Jones struts in next with his spats and takes us on a delightful romp through cat culinary land. Suddenly the mood changes and grows dark as we’re introduced to the cat burglars who treats us a cocky little ‘we’re above the law’ song and dance number. It’s ‘oh so cat’. Old Deuteronomy, the patriarch of the cat clan is ushered in to expansive music. Beloved and respected, he remains the authority figure throughout the musical, although at one point evil tries to supplant him. Wisely the grand patriarch gradually yields the stage to cats enacting a dog fight, with Rombus Cat to the rescue. The gyrating electric red glasses and wild hair are great comic touches to this character. The kids will love him.

The list of characters continues with Old Gus, the theatre cat reminiscing about the good old days, Skimbleshanks the train cat with a purpose in life, Macivty the bad cat, and Mistoffees the magician. One would think you might get a little weary with scene after scene introducing yet another character, but quite the contrary

happens. The scenes transition seamlessly thanks to a combination of lighting, sound, music and technical effects. Skillfully blended, they set a new tone and direction with each scene. Superb dancing and singing compliment the technical effects and lead us from one focus to the next. The actors work hard. The song and dance numbers are demanding but come across easily. Excellent costuming adds to the overall effect, giving each character a unique appearance.

Lighting and technical effects play a big role in this musical, setting the mood and helping transition from scene to scene. The blues and grays remind us it’s night. Thunderstorms flash at us. Reds tell us evil is present. Spotlights shine on the cats as they sing heartfelt solos. Bright white lights usher Grizabella into the next life. Thunder booms, magic spells are cast with smoke. Evil is loud and demanding.

The musical ends as it began, with the cats telling us the audience, that they’re cats and proud of it. If you’re like me, and missed ‘Cats’ during its run in the 1970’s and 80’s, don’t wait any longer. It’s a musical to be enjoyed for the outstanding theatre that it is.

*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 –

### Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!

I was traveling down my well worn path around Beaver Dam Creek just around dusk. The thick summer air was cooling down when my nose started sniffing, sniffing, sniffing. At first I thought I was onto the musty odor of the Sly One. Steadily, I trotted toward some old familiar fox holes. Upon inspection of each foxy den I realized these were not linked to the musty smell of the Red Fox.

Diligently I continued, meandering over a fallen tree here, around a creek bend there, up and over a rock ledge, and down the hill into another creek bend. I heard my master calling me in for dinner but my sniffer tuned out my sharp Cairn Terrier ears. Before I knew it, a haze was all around me and all I heard was the echo of the night. Old Mr. Moon shown on high and shadows played on the strong concrete legs that held the old historic Hibbs Bridge above me.

I felt a shiver go down my wiry silver haired spine.

Music started in my ears, seemingly lifting right out of the water’s depth drifting and dancing under the light of the moon. I heard horses’ hooves pounding across Hibbs Bridge above me. I was shaking in my Brave and Mighty Cairn Terrier skin. I was cold, very, very cold. I was wishing I had turned back and had run straight home when Mrs. B. called me for dinner. Oh why, oh why, did my sniffer have to take me here of all nights?

The trumpets sounded, horses whinnied all around me – there it was drifting sounds of victorious cries lifting my eyes straight to the moon – my eyes as big as saucers in disbelief as I listened to the cry of triumphant song and marching horses hoofs in perfect rhythm to the beat of the Battle Hymn of the Republic! Thunderous, thunderous, I could not escape ...

*“Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord: He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword: His truth is marching on. (Chorus)*

*Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!*

*Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.*

*I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling*



*camp; They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps; I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps: His day is marching on. (Chorus)*

*I have read a fiery gospel writ in burnished rows of steel; As ye deal with my contemners, so with you my grace shall deal; Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with his heel; Since God is marching on.” (Chorus)*

*He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat; He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment-seat; Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet!; Our God is marching on. (Chorus)*

*In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea; With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me; As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free; While God is marching on. (Chorus)*

*He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave; He is Wisdom to the mighty, He is Succour to the brave; So the world shall be His footstool, and the soul of Time His slave; Our God is marching on.” (Chorus) Credit: (Julia W. Howe)*

Brilliant, beautiful, I forgot the chills running up my spine and sat in wonder as American history spiritedly unveiled itself as a dance above the moon before my very eyes.

Circling around the moon as a vision I saw Loudoun County’s own Samuel Means, John Janney, John A Carter. In an outer circle of the first I saw the “burner of bridges” Stonewall Jackson, General McClellan, General Charles P. Stone.

In the middle of the circular vision flames leaped

My master, Elaine Boland lives with her family in Purcellville, Virginia at Fields of Athenry Farm.

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and screams could be heard begging for relief. It was in this circle, that I witnessed barns burning, sheep, cattle, pigs being herded together along with every man under the age of 50 and slaves. I could see a General Sheridan nodding to Grant in agreement to seize all in order to retaliate against Mosby. The cold shivers returned to my wiry Cairn Terrier body.

Just as history was pulling me into the vision of the night I was awakened by the blasting of fireworks and a soft hand gently nudging me into her lap. Laino had found me hiding, shivering under the covers on her bed. I must have drifted into a deep sleep as everyone in the Fields of Atherny Farm family celebrated the birth of our great nation.

I wish you the best this 4th of July and hope you are not visited by the ghost of yester – years past! But do research our beloved American History. It is what has made our nation great!

Love, Sushi

Wow! I now have my very own email address! [Sushi@fields of Athernyfarm.com!](mailto:Sushi@fieldsofAthenryfarm.com) I would love to hear from you ... please email me (it gets lonely out here!).  
– Love Again, Sushi

## Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

TV and gaming as much as they are out of boredom. I think the first thing you should do is sit down with your boys to discuss realistic educational, social and physical goals. Expecting them to read, spend time with friends outside of the home or play a sport shouldn’t be too much to ask of them over the Summer break. Hey, maybe they could even do some chores or get some Summer jobs! To break the habit of too much screen time you should also lead by example and think about how you may have contributed to their bad habit in the first place. How many TV sets do you have in the house? Is TV on during meals? Is TV or gaming part of the background noise of your family life? Do you demonstrate by your own viewing that television should be watched in moderation? Perhaps you might want to make some changes here. In the end, if all else fails, there are now programs available for parents who wish to manage their child or teen’s screen activity. A good site to visit to learn more is: [GetParentalControls.org](http://GetParentalControls.org).

*Dr. Mike, My neighbor recently added front fencing to connect to my fence and the fence of his neighbor on the opposite side of his home. My neighbor now has a fully fenced in yard by capitalizing on the fences of his two side neighbors, as well as the neighbor who’s home backs-up to his. Needless to say, my husband and I spent a lot of money for our fence, and we are very upset by what has happened. We haven’t spoken to anyone about this, but we feel strongly that what has happened is unfair.*

*My husband thinks we should rally our neighbors for a confrontation. What do you think? – K. in Loudoun County*

K., There’s an old saying that one’s perception is one’s reality. So, while you may feel taken advantage of by your neighbor, your neighbor likely feels that he was wise in his actions. Sure, you could confront your neighbor directly. I suppose you could ask your neighbor to pay you something for benefiting from the use of your fence, but it just seems that you missed your window and should have asked him about it at the time of installing your fence. Keep in mind that anything you do here will likely have a lasting impact on everyone involved since you’re neighbors and may be for many years to come. The best advice I could give you would be to let it go and to move on. In the end, I think your relationship with your neighbor is more important than being right, and I just don’t see how your neighbor did anything wrong.

*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](http://www.ashburnpsych.com) or (703) 723-2999.*





## Oh, go take a hike! – By Molly Pinson Simoneau

Now that summer is in full swing, I can't imagine why anyone would want to stay inside watching the Real Housewives of wherever or playing the latest first-person shooter game. Instead, it's time to hit the trails, and Loudoun County has plenty of hiking trails nearby. Here are two of my favorite spots that are perfect for getting some exercise, some peace and quiet, and to observe the local wildlife:

**The Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES)**, is an excellent place for beginners to take an easy hike. With a diverse landscape which features young forests, meadows, ponds and streams, BRCES is a great area for wildlife spotting, so pack your binoculars. History buffs will love poking around the old homesteads scattered throughout the property. The center boasts 14 trails which add up to 9 miles, of which you can wander as much or as little as you like. There are plenty of picnic spots at BRCES as well. Take route 9 west past Hillsboro and turn right on Harpers Ferry

Rd. Keep an eye out for the small sign for BRCES on the left at 11661 Harpers Ferry Road. The Center is open from dawn 'til dusk and there is parking available by the information kiosk.

If you're up for more of a challenge, a hike out and back to **Raven's Rocks** should fit the bill. Head west on route 7 past Round Hill and Bluemont. Just beyond the top of the mountain, turn right on Pine Road where you'll see the trailhead on your immediate right. This is the famous Appalachian Trail which passes through Loudoun County on its way from the mountains of North Georgia to Mt. Katahdin in Maine. You'll need sturdy, supportive shoes for the rocky terrain on this 5.5 mile hike. Several steep climbs add difficulty to this trek, but it's worth it to see the view from Raven's Rocks. As you head north, following the trail's famous white blazes, you'll wander through thick, shady, old-growth forest filled with granite boulders and mountain laurel. Be sure to listen in the hollows for the sound of a hidden stream flowing under the rocks right below your feet! This is a fun hike for families with children who can walk several miles on their own. Have them keep their eyes out for frogs and small reptiles that like to hang out near the

streams. Hit the trail before 9 AM to beat the heat and the crowds.

Here are a few tips before you head out: Bring a small backpack with some snacks that have both carbohydrates and protein: a slice of whole wheat bread topped with peanut butter and folded in half is a personal favorite. Pack more water than you think you'll need, especially in the hot summer months. For a hike around 5 miles, one liter of water per person is about right.

A light first-aid kit with bandages,

antibiotic ointment, sunscreen, and an anti-histamine to treat insect stings or poison ivy (leaf of three – let it be!) is also a must. For safety, you should always hike with a companion, or tell someone at home where you're going and what time you expect to be back.

Wear light, synthetic fabrics in the hot weather, along with a wide-brimmed hat or baseball cap for sun protection.

I hope to see you out on the trail this summer!

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## Dear Doug *continued from page 19*

to third party approval," which is the approval of the note holder. As a Realtor, before I show a short sale, I always call the listing agent and inquire whether that price has been "approved" or not. Unfortunately, this approval usually comes after an offer has been presented. I am reminded of the seller who had a contract on his condo who was underwater, and got turned down on the "third party approval" part of the deal. The bank told him that since he was able to make payments, and was current on his mortgage, they would not approve the short sale. He was struggling to make his payments, as you are, and trying his best to stay afloat. After his conversation with the bank, he promptly missed the next two scheduled payments. The third party approval came not long after. I have found that there is no easy, quick answer when it comes to short sales. The rules seem to be changing daily, although the process seems to be a bit more streamlined lately. In my last short sale, I had an offer in October, and waited three months before the bank countered \$25,000 higher. In the end, the bank accepted a price that was \$22,000 higher than the initial offer, and the bank forgave about \$80,000 of the seller's debt. In the past, there have been many long periods of silence "waiting for third party approval." Short sales are not for the faint of heart. Before moving forward, please talk to an attorney and a financial planner so that you are well aware of the repercussions and ramifications on your credit scores and future ability to buy a house. Good luck!

**Dear Doug: I have tried unsuccessfully to buy foreclosed property over the last few years. For some reason, my offer is never accepted, even though I have always offered to pay the full sales price. Can you offer me any tips for buying foreclosures?**

Dear Unsuccessful Bidder: Buying foreclosures, and short sales for that matter, can be a stressful endeavor. Asking prices, or "list prices" as they are called, mean nothing. If you have offered only full price, and not escalated your offer up (especially when the properties are obviously worth more), then I understand why you've been unsuccessful. I would suggest working with a Buyer Agent who has experience in buying foreclosures. You have to know the market value of the property in its "as is" shape, and in its "fixed up" state. And it's imperative to know the values in the neighborhood! Once you establish the value, then you bid accordingly. It has nothing to do with what the asking price is. When I work with a buyer who is ready to bid on a foreclosure with multiple offers, I always instruct them to submit their "highest and best." I suggest they bid a price at which they would be happy getting the house, but not a dollar higher. When a foreclosure or any well-priced house hits the market, you have to be ready to move fast, and get your offer in quickly. Good luck with your next offer. There really are some great deals out there – it just takes a lot of looking, planning, strategy, and some luck to nail one down!

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# TOWNS and - Villages

## HAMILTON – By Terry Moon

East and West Colonial Highway is experiencing milling and paving at night from 8 pm to 5 am through July 8, 2011. Hopefully, the sounds of diesel engines and beeping of truck as they reverse won't cause too much lost of sleep. We can always be grateful that the paving will provide a quieter street surface when completed. Maybe VDOT will surprise us and finish early. The Pavilion at the Hamilton Community Park maybe reserved through the town office. It is strictly first come, first serve. The date will be posted on the sign at the entrance to the park. Please plan ahead to ensure it is available when you wish to use it. It's wonderful to see folks out walking their dogs around town. Please remember it is your responsibility to pick up your dog's fecal material. This is unpleasant to step in and a public health hazard.

The Hamilton Town Council will meet on Monday, July 11 at the Town Office. There is always an opportunity for the public to address the Mayor and Town Council. Citizens are encouraged to attend. If you're interested in learning how hard a small town mayor works, talk to Greg Wilmoth. He can be seen all over town at various times of the day or night. Greg is a very hands on mayor and assists town employees at the water treatment plant. (Send your Hamilton news to Terry Moon: moonsofhamilton@comcast.net.)

## LINCOLN – By Anne Tiffany

Greetings from Durango, Colorado from whence I am writing this column while I visit my brother. First, let me remind you about Lincoln's Fourth of July parade and pot luck picnic. If you plan to be in the parade, you should be at Lincoln School by 9:30 a.m.. The parade begins at 10 a.m. and ends up in front of the Goose Creek Meeting House. This is the year for the Pink Flamingos who are always a popular entry. Make sure your animals are restrained, and motorized vehicles are greatly discouraged; otherwise, be as creative as you wish; the judges will award prizes for all sorts of categories.

The pot luck picnic begins shortly after the parade; you are asked to bring a chair to sit on, and a dish to share. There is the always favorite homemade dessert contest with categories for adults and teens as well as for children up to 12 years of age. The judges delight in sampling the different entries, and handing out awards. Drinks will be provided by the Lincoln Community League.

The Lincoln Community League wishes to thank Chip and Carole Maloney who hosted a wonderful evening at their home on June 4th. About 60 persons attended, and a delicious dinner of grilled hamburgers and a variety of salads and desserts was offered by the Lincoln Community League. The proceeds from the evening went towards purchasing road signs for the village to help with traffic calming.

During the evening, Chip and Carole honored Phil and Ellie Daley with a log bird house complete with a plaque inscribed, "To Ellie and Phil for all they do for Lincoln and Loudoun County." The Daleys were proud to receive this, and we are ALL proud of Phil and Ellie and appreciate the hard work they do. Shortly after this weekend, they took a much deserved four day rest and enjoyed fly fishing at Elk Springs Resort in the West Virginia mountains before returning to conduct a week of nature camp at Banshee Reeks.

This year's Lincoln Community League Award went out to Shannon McNerney, the daughter of Colleen Lovelace and Neil McNerney. The recipient of this award is chosen from the fifth grade class of Lincoln School and is honored for her academic achievement, leadership, and for showing consistent kindness to others.

I am proud to announce the recent marriages of both of my

children. Jeb Tiffany was married in Lynchburg, VA on May 28 to Lauren Ford. They will be honeymooning in July at Cinque Terre in Italy and in then south of France where Lauren will be a bridesmaid in a friends wedding. Heather was married on our farm, overlooking the pond, on June 11 to Josh Slaughter. They enjoyed a honeymoon on Kat Island in the Bahamas, and then a weeks vacation at the Outer Banks with Josh's family. Both weddings were blessed with perfect weather; and all four newly weds are living in Roanoke, VA.

Jeff and Nancy LeSourd are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter, Cate, from Loudoun Valley High School. Cate will be attending Elon University in North Carolina. Like her brother, Luke, who is a rising junior at Elon, Cate was selected as a Communication Fellow and was awarded the four year Presidential Scholarship. Cate will concentrate her communication studies in Media Arts and Entertainment. For this summer, Luke was awarded an internship for the Washington Redskins Broadcast Network.

Email Anne Tiffany with Lincoln news: jtiff70519@aol.com

## ROUND HILL

– By Susanne Kahler

Round Hill resident Patty Showalter-McGovern, who has family in Randolph County, Alabama, recently spearheaded a drive to collect donations to benefit survivors of the recent tornados.

Through her Facebook site that she created, VA for AL, she and her family managed to fill a 24 foot truck and as I write this column, are headed south to deliver the goods. Several local businesses should be thanked for their efforts to assist Patty – Grutos Ice Cream, It's Bazaar on 21st Street, Darrell's Barber Shop, the Cajun Experience in Leesburg and many more. Her house was filled to the brim with your donations and will be gladly welcomed upon her arrival in Alabama. We wish her safe travels.

Dave Levinson is spearheading a fundraising effort to benefit the creation of a Purcellville Skate Park. The Town of Purcellville, in conjunction with VDOT, has granted them a 3 acre parcel of land. Their focus now is on fundraising and design. The organization recently raised \$250 at Rock the Field but could use YOUR help to make this dream become reality. Please visit their website at <http://SkateNow.org> to see their vision to create a safe haven for skateboarders of all ages to hone their skills.

And speaking of skills, spring athletic teams at Woodgrove High School sure showed off their tremendous talents. The girls varsity softball team were the VHSL Group AA State Runner-up Region II Champions and the Dulles District Regular Season Champions. The girls LaCrosse team were group AAA-AA State Quarterfinalists and Dulles District Regular Season and Tournament Champions. Their Dulles District record was 9-0. The Varsity boys LaCrosse team were Region II Semi-Finalists and finished in 4th place in the Dulles District regular season and 3rd in the Dulles District Tournament. The team was spearheaded by Chad Niergarth, coming back from tremendous injuries sustained in an automobile crash only months earlier. The Woodgrove's Varsity girl's soccer team were the VHSL Group AA State Semi-finalists and Region II runner-ups and the girl's Track team took 2nd place in the District Championships and had a 2nd place finish out of 14 teams at the Jim Taylor relays in West Virginia.

This year's recipient of the Outstanding Female Athlete Award, playing on both the Volleyball and Lacrosse teams, was Ellen Fuller. She led the Washington Metro area public schools in scoring as a

lacrosse player, with an unheard of 109 goals and 54 assists.

The Outstanding Male Athlete Award went to Brad Gilson, who was a first team All Dulles District selection as well as named Dulles District Player of the Year in basketball. Yale is just one of many schools interested in recruiting him.

The Wolverine Female Scholar-Athlete Award recipient, Michele Crowley, participated in three sports while maintaining an incredible 4.39 GPA. The Wolverine Male Scholar-Athlete Award went to Brendan Wells, who participated in 2 sports while maintaining a GPA in the classroom of 3.91.

The best thing about these outstanding players? They were just juniors when they received these awards. We look forward to an outstanding senior year - congratulations Class of 2012! Send your Round Hill news to Susanne at: kahlerohana@comcast.net.)

## WATERFORD – By Ed Good

“Pomp and Parade”

John Adams wrote to Abigail and described his plans for celebrating the Fourth of July: “It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more. You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not.”

That's what we try to do in Waterford. Since 1975, Waterford has provided pomp and parade, not just for its residents but for all who want to join in the fun. Initially under the auspices of the Waterford Foundation, the Fourth of July Celebration now constitutes one of the big events of the Waterford Citizens' Association.

### Two-Day Celebration

In days of old, the Waterford Fourth of July Fireworks Extravaganza ... well ... it wasn't so extravagant. One rocket went off. Five minutes later ... boom ... wow, another.

Now, however, Waterford's Fireworks display is a sight to behold. We used to have the fireworks on the night of the Fourth, but we found we could get twice the display for the same money by having the fireworks on the Third of July. So now our Fourth of July Celebration stretches over two days.

The celebration features a Potluck Supper and Fireworks on the Third of July and a Parade and Hotdog Cookout on the Fourth. The parade features old-timey cars and hundreds of children decked out in their patriotic costumes and riding every known mode of transportation, from skateboards to Radio Flyer wagons.

### Join Us

Here's the scoop (all events are alcohol-free):  
 Sunday, July 3rd, 4:00 p.m., Bond Street Barn Meadow (Main Street, near the Old Mill), Potluck Supper (bring a dish to share).  
 Sunday, July 3rd, 8:30 p.m., Water Street Meadow, Fireworks.  
 Monday, July 4th, 10:00 a.m. Line up for the Waterford Fourth of July Parade at Clarke's Gap Road and Factory Street. Parade starts at 11:00 a.m. Monday, July 4th, Bond Street Meadow, hotdogs, watermelon, patriotic songs, and entertainment (following the parade).

### Happy Fourth of July

Time for Pomp and Parades in Waterford. We invite you to join us. Ed Good, President, Waterford Citizens' Association  
[ed.good@grammar.com](mailto:ed.good@grammar.com)





## Hunt Country Gourmet's RESTAURANT REVIEW – Mosby's Grille

– By George Humphries

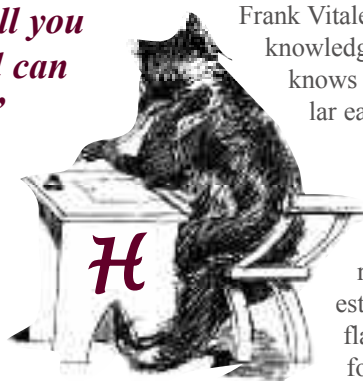
Restaurants are like Douglas MacArthur's old soldiers – they never die, they just change owners, chefs, menus, but on the other hand, they never fade away. They just begin new lives with new owners, new managers, new chefs, or new menus.

So it is with the well-located and appointed restaurant in Purcellville now called Mosby's Grille. It's an appropriate name because John Singleton Mosby himself had more than one chapter to his life. After the war in which he starred as a Confederate partisan, he went to work in President U.S. Grant's administration, despite the fact that technically, the Mosby Rangers never formally surrendered when Robert E. Lee capitulated. Mosby just disbanded his command and its members dissolved individually into the population.

But so much for a historical detour and the prominent partisan for whom the restaurant is named. Purcellville's Mosby's Grille represents the new chapter of Mosby's Tavern, for 20 years a popular fixture in Middleburg that closed a few years ago when the property was sold.

It's a pleasure to report that the new Mosby's also offers a very satisfying dining experience. Its owner,

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



Frank Vitale, is an experienced and knowledgeable restaurateur who knows how to operate a popular eatery.

The new Mosby's, which occupies the site formerly held by The Grille restaurant, is a family establishment with a flair – producing good food together with daily features that offer some-

thing special for just about any age or taste.

A big attraction for families is that kids eat free from 4-8 every day – one free kids' meal for every adult entrée. It's a great way for families to enjoy a dinner out together without blowing the budget or having to pay for a babysitter.

Happy hour or casual diners can get a beer for \$2 and appetizers at half price any day from 3-6 p.m.

Mondays are BOGO burger night – by one, get one free. Appetizers are free all day Tuesday. Date-night Wednesday features half-price bottles of wine, and Thursday's Ladies Night offers half-price martinis in seven different variations.

The special that caught our eye was the Saturday night \$15 prime rib. This was no thinly sliced budget affair, but a full size, thick, juicy cut that filled the plate and was accompanied by a vegetable and choice of baked, mashed, or fried potatoes.

Our party of five had three takers who asked for varying degrees of doneness, and all three pronounced it tender, tasty, and done to his or her liking.

The dinner pork chop was almost overwhelming in size and also a real bargain at \$15. Almost steak size and cut thick, the big rib chop still was tender and excellent.

***A big attraction for families is that kids eat free from 4-8 every day – one free kids' meal for every adult entrée. It's a great way for families to enjoy a dinner out together without blowing the budget or having to pay for a babysitter.***

Another of our guests had the filet mignon. An excellent cook herself with a restaurant background, she pronounced it the best she had in this area. That brought us back to Mosby's the next Friday night, when steaks are \$5 off. We also found the filets to be excellent and so large that we brought a big portion home.

Other dishes that have stood out for us include the nachos, the fried dill pickle appetizer, the curried chicken salad or sandwich, and the grilled ham and brie panini with apricot chutney.

Seafood lovers have lots to choose from with steamed mussels, crab or shrimp cocktail, shrimp basket, the Sea Dog 12-inch beer-battered cod sub, a salmon burger, and fish and chips, crab cake, or stuffed salmon entrees.

The complete menu is extensive with 17 burgers and sandwiches, 15 appetizers, six salads including two entrée salads, 16 dinner entrees, five choices of sides, and seven desserts. The children's menu of four items had all the basics. On weekdays, Mosby's offers lunch specials at only \$5.50.

There is live music in the bar Saturday nights starting at 8 p.m. Some recent groups have included the Bastards of Twang, Barry Charlton, and Bill Kitt and Friends.

Mosby's opens every day at 11 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. On Sunday, brunch is served from 11 to 3 p.m. and dinner is served all day till 8 p.m.

*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.*



## Flowers as Art ... From a Scanner! – By Donna Williamson

Well it's May and has been raining for days and so I ordered more seeds! Baker Seed had all of these strange and beautiful tomatoes and eggplant so I started a whole second series of plants! This made me think about summer and one of the best garden tools I used...my flatbed scanner.

Flatbed scanners are not costly as equipment goes. I bought this one to work on a family history for a friend and it has beautifully scanned many photos and slides over the past few years. This Epson V500 Photo scanner was chosen because many of my friend's photos were in frames and the top lid adjusts for bulky items and it was affordable.

Back to garden tools – because the top lid can be adjusted up, I can scan flowers, fruit, and other 3-D items. I started with my favorite daffodils, Professor Einstein, and the beautiful emerging leaves of 'Goldflame' spirea. I put the top lid down and sadly, the background was white and looked like a scanned picture. Later I would gain some scanner finesse.

I walk around the garden on any given day, picking up blossoms and beautiful leaves, plants blooming at the same time, and scan them into a picture I can save.

Early summer brought the flowers of Hesperis (Dame's Rocket), a rose (Ghislaine de Feligonde – I bought it for the name), 'Goldflame' honeysuckle, the Buck rose 'Winter Sunset', and leaves from the variegated Viburnum lantana. By this time I had learned to just leave the lid up on the scanner and get a black-ish background – much more attractive.

Well into this form of entertainment by last July, I composed a picture for my friends as a 4th of July greeting. It contained a sparse crop of blueberries, the variegated leaves of the aralia, Eleutherococcus, gooseneck loosestrife, St. John's wort, hosta flowers, and Verbena bonariensis along with a delicious gladioli.

Not quite sure who will be in full bloom this July but I wanted to share my Fourth of July greeting with you and encourage all gardeners to scan for fun!

Some of the recipients of my emailed scans enjoyed them so much I had note cards made up for Christmas gift with some of their favorites. It was fun, gave me a visual record of the summer blooming sequence, and alerted me that one particular stretch of the summer needs more pizzazz. Good tool!

Try this for yourself. You may need to Photoshop some of the critters that walk across the picture unexpectedly and pollen will drift onto the flatbed. It's more fun than you might think.

Happy Birthday, America!

*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.*



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



# Community & Business announcements

## JULY

**Friday, July 1, 2011, 7:30 pm, Bill Emerson & Sweet Dixie, bluegrass banjo legend, Bluemont Concert Series ...**

Winchester, Old Frederick County Courthouse on the downtown mall in historic Winchester. Furnace Mountain, Appalachian roots music, Bluemont Concert Series.



**Saturday, July 2, 2011, 5 pm to 9 pm Family Movie Night ...**

The Faith and Family Foundation will host their annual Family Movie Night on July 2nd, 2011, from 5pm-9pm. Come on out and enjoy pizza and goodies sponsored by Wegmans of Leesburg, moon bounce, face painting, a family movie on a full size outdoor screen, and fireworks to conclude. This event is totally free for the whole family, but does require an RSVP! Please RSVP to: [muriel@faithandfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:muriel@faithandfamilyfoundation.org). Event location: Wheatland Manor Farm, 15164 Berlin Turnpike, Waterford, VA 20197.



**Monday, July 4, 2011, 6:00 pm, Celebrate July 4th at Franklin Park ...**

Bring the family for a July 4th celebration with music, food, fun and fireworks! Gates open at 6 pm with music provided by the International Youth Orchestra, Jake and the Burtones and the Immortals. Enjoy the Loudoun Symphonic Winds as they perform and accompany the fireworks display beginning at around 9:20 pm. \$5 Per Carload.

**Thursday & Friday, July 7 & 8, 2011, 7:00 pm Franklin Park, The Growing Stage**

**Oatlands, a National Trust Historic Site, will hold its thirteenth annual "Four Seasons of Oatlands" Art Show & Sale July 4 through July 31, 2011 ...**

The juried show transforms the historic Carriage House into a premier art gallery each year. The art show is free and open to the public Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5pm. Donations are welcome to support the arts at Oatlands.



**Camp: Alice in Wonderland, Jr. ...**

Join Alice's madcap adventures in Wonderland as she chases the White Rabbit, races the Dodo Bird, gets tied up with the Tweedles, raps with a bubble blowing Caterpillar, and beats the Queen of Hearts at her own game! This fast-paced adaptation of Alice in Wonderland features updated dialogue and new arrangements of such Disney songs as I'm Late, The Un-birthday Song and Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah. This is a Free Event. Reserve by calling 540-338-7973.

**Friday, July 8, 2011, 7:30 pm, Four Star**

**Loudoun Youth, Inc. and the School of Rock are offering a limited number of spots for the School of Rock Pop Idol Vocals Camps ...**

At more than 50% off the usual rate of \$450, places for the camps will be sold on a first come/first serve basis for \$200. In this camp the kids work together as a rock choir (no instruments) and sing a la the Sing Off or Glee. The camp is one week long and runs 9AM to 3PM each day. This camp is open to kids ages 10+ and they just need to love to sing as no experience is required. The Ashburn school dates are: Session 1, July 11 - 15, Session 2, August 1 - 5. If you are interested in attending this camp, please email [loudounyouth@aol.com](mailto:loudounyouth@aol.com) Your interest in the camp will be noted and we will send you the application to complete. Again, there are only a limited number of spots available at this deeply discounted rate and we will be booking the camp on a first come, first serve basis, so email us today!

**Combo, rockabilly and honky-tonk**

**Bluemont Concert Series ...** Winchester, Old Frederick County Courthouse on the downtown mall in historic Winchester.

**Saturday, July 9, 2011, Matthew McGinn & Julia Sheer, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Acoustic on the Green 25 West Market Street, Leesburg ...**

**Thursday, Friday & Saturday, July 14-16, 2011, 8:00 pm and Sunday, July 17, 2011, 2:30 pm, Franklin Park, Pie Arts: Chicago ...** Chicago has everything that makes a musical great: a universal tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz; one show-stopping-song after another; and astonishing dancing sequences. Chicago is a musical set in Prohibition-era Chicago. Talented area high school and college aged actors bring this popular musical to life. Tickets: \$10 in Advance, \$12 at Door. Reserve by calling 540-338-7973.

**Friday, July 15, 2011, 7:30 pm, The Hot Seats ...** Old-timey string band Bluemont Concert Series – Winchester, Old Frederick County Courthouse on the downtown mall in historic Winchester.

**Saturday, July 16, 2011, Prescott Engle, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Acoustic on the Green 25 West Market Street, Leesburg ...**

**Thursday, July 21, 2011, 7:00 pm, Friday, July 22, 2011, 1:00 pm Franklin Park Spotlight Studio Musical Theatre Camp: "Guys & Dolls" ...**

The Spotlight Studio for Musical Theatre is a private instruction studio for voice and acting. Spotlight Studio Productions is the theatrical performing arm of the Studio led by Dolly Stevens. Productions for middle and high school aged youth are currently offered in the summer, and cast by audition in mid-April. The show this summer will be either Guys and Dolls. Tickets: \$5 All Ages. Reserve by calling 540-338-7973.

★ THE LVHS VETERANS CLUB PRESENTS ★

**SURVIVE. RECOVER. LIVE.**

THE ROBB JONES STORY - A DOCUMENTARY FILM SHOWING



**FRIDAY JULY 22, 2011 - 7:30 PM**  
LOUDOUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
340 N. MAPLE AVENUE, PURCELLVILLE, VA

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT  
[WWW.WOUNDEDWARRIORPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.WOUNDEDWARRIORPROJECT.ORG)

On July 23rd 2010, Sergeant Rob Jones lost his legs when struck by an IED in Afghanistan. One year later, this is his story.

Immediately following the film there will be a Q&A session with 2000 LVHS graduate Sgt. Rob Jones and filmmaker Dean Kasper.

**ADMISSION:**  
**\$5 PER PERSON**

For more information, contact Leslie Dancy, LVHS Veterans Club, Acoustic at 540-753-2427 or Leslie.Dancy@lvhs.org  
or Tom Kasper, Member at [kasperd@aol.com](mailto:kasperd@aol.com)



**Friday, July 22, 2011, 7:30 pm, The Martinsburg Jazz Orchestra ...**

Big-band jazz and swing, Bluemont Concert Series – Winchester, Old Frederick County Courthouse on the downtown mall in historic Winchester.

**July 23, 2011, Robbie Limon, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Acoustic on the Green, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg.**

**Saturday, July 23, 2011, 8:00 pm Franklin Park Cross Cut Saw: Southern Country Rock ...**

This locally based Southern Country Rock Band wowed audiences in January, and will return to the Arts Center in July. Many of the band members have toured nationally, and now are choosing to perform in venues closer to home. Performance on Saturday, July 23 at 8 pm. Tickets: \$7.50 available online at [www.net](http://www.net).

**Friday, July 29, 2011, 7:30 pm, Daryl Davis, boogie-woogie, rock and roll ...**

Bluemont Concert Series-Winchester, Old Frederick County Courthouse on the downtown mall in historic Winchester.

**Saturday, July 30, 2011, Don Chapman, with Dave White, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Acoustic on the Green 25 West Market Street, Leesburg.**

## AUGUST

**Saturday, August 6, 2011, Jon Carroll, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Acoustic on the Green 25 West Market Street, Leesburg.**

Wow! We have soooo much more on our online Calendar of Events @ [www.brleader.com](http://www.brleader.com).



## News From Blue Ridge Supervisor Jim Burton (I), continued from page 11

the letter strongly encourages that localities provide their input prior to October 1, 2011, they indicate their intention to provide additional opportunities through February 2012. It remains to be seen whether the County's current pollution control policies when coupled with the smaller changes the Board endorsed last month will allow us to meet our TMDL targets or whether we will need to re-examine more aggressive proposals.

If you would like more information about the TMDL process, Chesapeake Eco-Check has produced a concise, easy-to-understand four-page explanation, available on-line. Chesapeake Eco-Check is a partnership between the University of Maryland and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

**Update – Outer Beltway:** Last month, I reported that the Commonwealth Transportation Board -- despite direct public outcry, without offering any local opportunity for public comment, and in defiance of the Loudoun County Board's firm resolution of opposition -- passed an amended resolution to designate a Northern Virginia North-South Corridor of Statewide Significance (COSS). Supporters of the COSS made three arguments, none of which I found compelling and at least one of which was simply untrue: Since then, my aide has unearthed two interesting documents, both of which I have posted on-line. The first is a press release by the Prince William Chamber of Commerce after the CTB vote, stating that north-south roads, like the Tri-County and Bi-County Parkways "would alleviate congestion on Routes 28 and 29 and Interstate 66." The second is an excerpt from the final report presented by the Prince William County Economic Development Task Force in August 2010.

As you read the excerpt from the Task Force Report, you may want to remember that Gary Garczynski, a member of the Task Force, also sits on the CTB and was a co-sponsor of the COSS proposal. The Task Force recommends the construction of the Route 234 Bypass North, which the document renames the "Road to Dulles" -- although the roadway in question does not actually connect to Dulles Airport. Rather, as the Outer Beltway has always done, it runs behind the airport property. Without running traffic across the runways -- hardly feasible -- the only airport entrance will continue to be Route 28 and the only way to get to Route 28 will be one of the existing, already congested east-west roads in Loudoun County.

According to this document, construction of the Road to

Dulles will offer Prince William County the following benefits:

- Increase opportunities in western Prince William County for properties currently zoned and/or planned for commercial development;
- Increase the County's attractiveness to firms that rely on quick, convenient airport access, especially those with international markets;
- Attract the labor pool from County residents, intercepting commuters from neighboring jurisdictions, and attract reverse commuters; and
- Relieve congestion on Route 15, Route 66, and Route 28, improving the commute for employees along these corridors.

While the benefits to Prince William County are clear, I am afraid I do not see how the enhancement of Prince William County's economic development prospects and the improvement of Prince William County's traffic congestion by shifting the traffic north into Loudoun County benefit our economic development efforts, our businesses, our residents, or our commuters. Given such potential negative impacts, I am amazed at the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce's active support for this effort. It hardly seems in keeping with their members' best interests.

As for the homeowners and rural businesses within this area, the report makes it very clear that the entire COSS effort was intended to overturn their desire (as affirmed by a Board majority in the Revised Countywide Transportation Plan) that Northstar Boulevard between Braddock Road and the Prince William County line remain a two-lane road. The report actually reads, "Recent actions by the Loudoun County Board to downgrade the road to two lanes north of Prince William County raised concerns about the region's commitment to this roadway." The report then recommends that Road to Dulles stakeholders convene "to create consensus on the location and character of the roadway, to secure the right-of-way, and to fund the construction of the road." This is exactly what seems to be occurring with the COSS as the tool to ensure that pesky Loudoun officials and citizens create no further obstacles to the Outer Beltway's completion.

**Brambleton Public Safety Center:** I am very pleased to announce that at our June 21st Business Meeting

the Board awarded a construction contract for the new Brambleton Public Safety Center. I am also pleased to report that the winning contract offered the County a \$2 million savings over the original estimate.

The center will be located at 23675 Belmont Ridge Road and will both include a Fire Station and permanent office space for the Fire Marshal's office. It will be a two-story building of masonry construction, totaling approximately 25,800 square feet. It will be energy-efficient with a goal of LEED Silver certification. I expect a ground-breaking will be scheduled in the near future for this important addition to the Brambleton community.

**Road Issues:** I am working with County staff and VDOT on a road projects within the Blue Ridge District. Here is a status report on those efforts.

- Creighton Road / Belmont Ridge Road Intersection: After hearing from a constituent about problems with this intersection, reinforced by my wife who termed it "scary," I drove over to see for myself. After one look, I called County staff to begin the process with VDOT for the installation of a traffic signal. I also suggested that the installation of four-way stop signs might provide some relief for the short-term. I expect to hear from VDOT later this week on what actions they can take to alleviate the concerns of school bus drivers and parents leaving Creighton's Corner Elementary School.
- Route 7/287 Interchange: I have watched with growing concern as the traffic back-ups on the west-bound exit from Route 7 have extended out of the exit lane and onto the roadway of the Route 7 by-pass. The situation is clearly a catastrophe waiting to happen. After much prodding, local VDOT officials recently informed County staff, that they had received permission to conduct an operational analysis. This is the first step to actually implementing a solution and it is long past time.
- Route 9/Route 287 Traffic Signal: After receiving complaints from several constituents who live along Route 287, Supervisor Sally Kurtz and I requested that VDOT change the timing of the signal. This has since occurred and should enhance the mobility of motorists on Route 287 without significantly slowing the trip down Route 9.

## CARVER CENTER FUN & EDUCATION

### **AARP Driver Safety Class**

12:30 – 4:30 Monday & Tuesday, July 11 & 12 (Ages 50 & better). Cash or Check Only (Checks payable to AARP). Pay at door: \$12.00 for AARP Members (\$14.00 Non-Members). Cars have changed. So have the traffic rules, driving conditions, and the roads you travel every day. Some drivers age 50-plus have never looked back since they got their first driver's licenses, but even the most experienced benefit from brushing up on their driving skills. After completing this course, you will have a greater appreciation of driving challenges and of how you can avoid potential collisions and injuries to yourself and others. (Courtesy of AARP.org)

### **Flower Arranging Workshop**

12:30 - 2:00 Wednesday, July 20. \$2.00 Drop-in (free to members) (Ages 18 & up) RecTrac #430605-01. Master

Gardener volunteers will present a hands-on workshop on the process of creating beautiful floral displays. This will be our second Master Gardener presentation this year. The first was on starting seeds indoors. That presentation was truly superb -- full of innovative ideas -- and very well attended. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to receive expert instruction in a topic that is of interest to so many. Space is limited, so please sign up early.

### **Ballroom Dance Social**

7:00 – 10:00 PM Friday, July 22. \$10.00 if pre-registered (\$15 if not) (Ages 16 & up). After two months of construction that closed our Grand Hall, we are pleased to once again have it available for dancing! Our dance socials begin with one hour of instruction with NADTA Certified Instructor Jason Conrad, and conclude with two hours of dancing in a night club atmosphere. Couples and singles are welcome.

Call 571-258-3400 by 8:00P the day before to register and to receive a \$5.00 discount on your entrance fee.

### **Debutante Dance**

1:00 - 3:00 Friday, July 29 \$3.00. RecTrac #430606-01 (Ages 55 & better). The National League of Junior Cotillions Loudoun Chapter is partnering with Carver Center to bring you this special intergenerational Tea Dance. Sunday best attire is requested. This Cotillion chapter meets at Carver Center and will be holding classes beginning September 15. For more information, please call chapter director Jean Ann Michie at 540-668-6844.

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

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