

Blue Ridge LEADER

August 2011

& Loudoun Today

RESIDENTIAL
CUSTOMER
ECRWSS

STANDARD PRESORT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 82
WOODSTOCK, VA

Hirst Farm Residents May Face Up to \$1,000 Per Home In Assessments

– Town of Purcellville Failed to Secure Performance Bond –

– By Kelli Grim

The Hirst Farm subdivision has a wet pond that is a dedicated storm water management area. It was supposed to be drained and converted to a “dry pond” when the last home was constructed in 2010. Imagine the surprise to residents when they learn that the Town of Purcellville had failed to obtain a performance bond from the developer of Hirst Farm to ensure that the pond would be converted as expected.



erosion control regulations feel they have no legal basis to call the bond, because the work covered by the bond was done correctly.

There are a number of different kinds of bonds municipalities require when a residential or commercial development is being built. These bonds are critical insurance for communities to insure projects are built as shown in

Continued on page 3

Was It A Mountain Lion?

– By Andrea Gaines

In the early morning hours of Sunday, July 17, Donna Mihalco’s dog started going absolutely crazy – barking incessantly and practically throwing itself against a glass door that led out to her back yard.

Because it was just 5:30 a.m., the sun was not yet fully up. But even in the dim light, outside she could see the outline of a very large animal, sitting on a small rise. As her eyes adjusted she quickly determined that it was not another dog ... or a bear ... not a coyote ... nor bobcat. It was quite tall and a long tail was clearly visible, and its large, reflective eyes shone bright against the dark outline of its head. Donna didn’t want to believe it. But, from her point of view, she was looking at a mountain lion!

Donna and her husband Brian (out of town at the time), live in a new subdivision called Lake Point. Part of the Town of Round Hill,



Lake Point sits above Skeeter Lake near the intersection of Business 7 and Route 7, towards the northern end of Purcellville.

According to Donna, “... my dog Flynn alerted me to something in our backyard. Looking out the bedroom window out to the hill behind the house, I saw a mountain lion/cougar sitting there on the hill, approximately 120 feet from the house! He sat there for at least 20 minutes and by the time I found

Continued on page 13

Here Come the 4H Cantelopers!

The Loudoun County Fair starts off every year on Sunday with the 4H Cantelopers Horse Club kicking up some dust for the Opening Ceremonies with their lively drill team and presentation of the colors.

The Cantelopers work hard all year long raising monies through sponsorships of horse jumps which feature sponsors’ advertisements. The jumps are painted and banners are raised high for all to see. This makes for fun during the Gamblers Choice competition, where each jump or obstacle equals a number of points based on the sponsor’s donation.



18th Street Breathing Easier

– By Valerie Joyner

Residents of 18th Street in Purcellville have reason to breathe a sigh of relief upon learning that Dr. David Stewart of Leesburg has withdrawn his plans to convert an historic home at the corner of Main and 18th Streets into a medical/office building. At the July 7, 2011 Purcellville Planning Commission meeting, attorney Eric Zimmerman who represents Dr. Stewart requested that the rezoning application be tabled. The rezoning application/comprehensive plan amendment

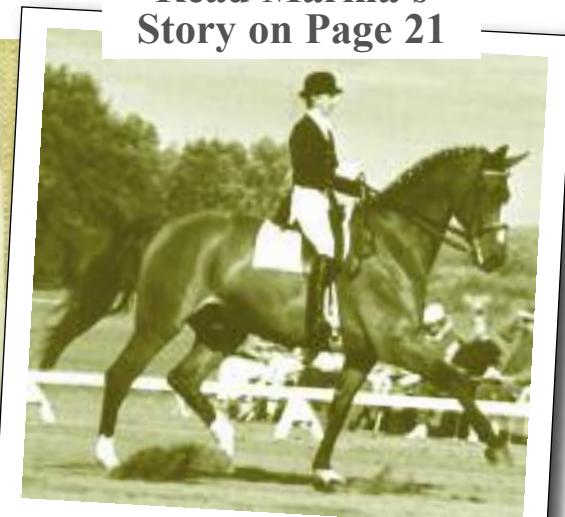
was formally withdrawn at the July 21 Planning Commission meeting. The home at 18th and Main is once again on the market, and the owner is no longer seeking a rezoning from R-3 (Duplex/Residential) to C-4 (Central Commercial) classification. Dr. Stewart had planned to double the size of the historic residential structure and convert it into a commercial medical building. Residents of 18th Street were concerned about traffic, public safety, and the potential for the erosion of their neighborhood quality of life.

Continued on page 13

Marina Genn: World Class Athlete, Trainer & Visionary The Woman Behind The American Academy of Equestrian Sciences



Read Marina’s
Story on Page 21



On the web with daily updates at www.brleader.com

Ask Dr. Mike

How Safe Are Loudoun County Daycare Centers and Preschools?

On July 5th, the Leesburg Police arrested and charged Brad Minor, a 23-year-old child care employee at Chesterbrook Academy, with sexually assaulting a 4-year-old student at the school. Shortly after the arrest, police confirmed that another young student at the school is now claiming to have been abused by Mr. Minor.

The abuse charge has sent a shock wave of upset and panic through our community. As a clinical psychologist and the director of a private mental health practice in Ashburn, many of our clients have voiced their anger, disgust and fear to me over the abuse charge. In fact, I have spent much of the past two weeks calming and reassuring several parents. One parent I work with is reassessing her daycare and preschool placement inasmuch as she is now "too afraid" to leave her child in the care of a potential abuser.

And Chesterbrook Academy is not the only local daycare center or preschool to encounter troubles in 2011. In April, another preschool teacher was arrested for child cruelty, child neglect, and failure to report an incident to Child Protective Services. The incident involved an infant who required medical care from sustained injuries. Three employees were later fired from the school. Certainly, child abuse in school is not exclusively a Loudoun County phenomenon with some of the DC area's most prestigious preschools having encountered serious incidents in recent years.

So, how safe are our young children? While the recent incidents in Loudoun are upsetting, it is important to note that child abuse numbers in daycare centers and preschools nationwide are actually low. This, however, does not mean that we cannot be doing more to ensure our children's safety and wellbeing. According to John Whitbeck, a highly regarded attorney in Leesburg and a candidate for the 10th district house of delegates, "When it comes to child care, providers need to have the most thorough back-



ground checks to make sure children are protected. We also need to make sure persons guilty of crimes against children are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

In my opinion, there are several things our local daycare centers and preschools could be doing to invest strategically in prevention to eliminate the potential for abuse. First, I agree with Mr. Whitbeck that better screening is needed since background checks do not identify abusers who have successfully averted the law. Barring any employment law restrictions, psychological testing should be done on anyone applying for a job that involves working with children. We now have extremely powerful measures that can very accurately determine whether an applicant is psychologically unstable, is a substance abuser or an alcoholic, or is at risk for sexual/predator behavior or violence. The benefits of administering these measures to applicants far outweigh the reasonable associated costs. Second, I also think that schools could be implementing policies and training programs to educate their staff on abuse to minimize risk. And third, schools could be more inclusive in their approach by encouraging greater parent-to parent and parent-teacher involvement. I feel strongly that parents should take an active role in their child's education. If your child's school allows for drop-in lunches, mother and father activities, or volunteer opportunities – participate! As the parent, you know best about your child's needs and wellbeing. Trust your instincts when visiting your child at school. If something does not seem right to you, it probably is not. Moreover, always listen to your child if he is telling you that there is something or someone that is making him uncomfortable or upset. For younger children who are not yet able to express their thoughts well verbally, watch for concerning signs or changes in behavior, as these could be indicators of abuse.

I encourage parents to consider the following when researching the right daycare or preschool for their children:

- ✦ Does the daycare or preschool have an excellent reputation in the community with pediatricians, friends and neighbors?
- ✦ Is the daycare or preschool fully accredited and licensed and are there any past complaints on record?
- ✦ How well does the daycare or preschool screen its applicants? How do they recruit and select staff? Does the agency conduct background checks? Do they speak with references? Do they speak with previous employers?

Continued on page 22

feed loudoun plant a row



www.feedloudoun.org

Feed Loudoun Plant a Row for the Hungry

Gardeners, farmers, farm markets – please remember to donate your surplus fresh fruits and vegetables to Loudoun Interfaith Relief Food Pantry.

URGENT need for fresh produce!

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

Visit website for details.



Historic Cole Farmhouse Moved to New Location

Loudoun Lyric Opera Receives Grant

– By Molly Pinson Simoneau

The Loudoun Lyric Opera Company recently received a \$5000 Tier 1 Project Grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts. This grant is awarded to new and emerging arts organizations. In a political climate where arts funding is at great risk, a grant like this one can mean life or death to a fledgling company like LLO, which was founded in 2007. “Without start-up funding from VCA, Loudoun Lyric Opera would never have made it to our fifth season this year,” says Pamela Butler, President of the opera company.

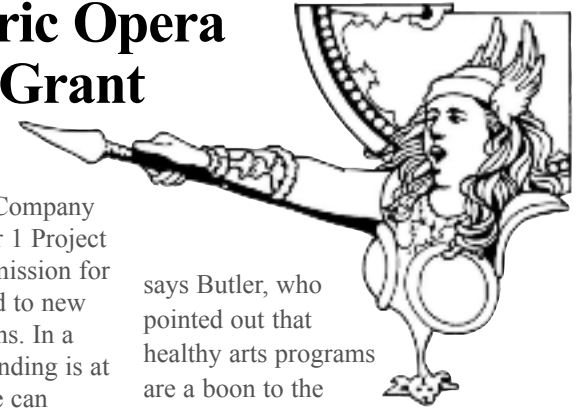
According to Butler, the company plans on using the grant for “artistic enhancements,” such as instrumental accompaniment (LLO’s most recent production, Gounod’s Faust, was accompanied only by piano), lighting or scenery.

“We are grateful to state and local officials who have the vision to support arts funding,”

says Butler, who pointed out that healthy arts programs are a boon to the local economy; “When theaters and art galleries are filled, so are nearby restaurants, shops and hotels.”

LLO will kick off its 2011-2012 season in December with two Holiday favorites – Amahl and the Night Visitors, directed by Byron Jones, and the Gift of the Magi directed by James Campanella. Cuong Van will be the music director for both productions, which will take place at the Franklin Park Center for the Arts.

More information about Loudoun Lyric Opera’s upcoming season can be found at www.loudounlyricopera.com.



Hirst Farm Assessments, continued from page 1

final plans. But the most important bond of all is a Performance Bond, which covers the end product and insures it is completed correctly.

Purcellville Town staff updated the Infrastructure Committee in May, indicating that they had been working with the Hirst Farm Homeowners Association (HOA) and the County to find solutions to the existing storm water management pond. The developer is now in default, and the Town hired an outside law firm to begin the process of calling bonds to get unfinished public and private improvements completed – such as asphalt paths, sidewalks, grading issues, and final topping of road pavement. Town staff said they analyzed state regulations and County ordinances and provided County staff with their “interpretation” of these regulations that might allow the Town to use the bond being held by the County.


Hirst Farm board members spoke on behalf of the HOA at the meeting and shared concerns regarding liabilities on the current condition of the pond. It is a safety hazard, which is only magnified during the summer with children out of school. The HOA is also very concerned that the expense of converting the pond might have to be absorbed by the residents of Hirst Farm. One harsh reality is that, legally, the Town can step in at any time if the HOA is not maintaining the storm water facility, and bill the HOA for repairs. Since the pond was never built to standard, an HOA board member said it is likely the HOA would litigate the issue before anything was done to the pond.

Town staff was instructed by Mayor Lazaro to arrange for a meeting with Loudoun County Chairman Scott York, members of the HOA and Town representatives to discuss the issue. A June letter sent by the Hirst Farm HOA president to all residents indicated that a Town employee had been directed to obtain this specific bond a couple of years earlier, but failed to do so. (a FOIA request

for this correspondence also said that no bond records existed). The letter went on to inform residents that there was a possibility that an assessment of \$500 to \$1000 per home might be enacted to pay for the storm water pond, or the Town might create a Hirst Farm Tax District to spread the cost over an undesignated time period for the Town’s oversight. The letter also indicated that the HOA had requested a meeting with Blue Ridge Supervisor Jim Burton and Chairman Scott York to discuss the legal basis for “taking” the County E&S bond. When a FOIA request was submitted to the County for copies of this correspondence to the Blue Ridge Supervisor, the answer came back that no documents existed. Supervisor Burton was asked if he had been contacted by the Hirst Farm HOA. He stated, “I never received any correspondence from the Hirst Farm HOA requesting a meeting, nor did they alert me to the nature of the problem. Had I actually been contacted, I would have been more than willing to meet with the HOA officials and discuss the issue.”

The County is still holding the Erosion and Sediment Bond of \$348,000, and has been asked by the Town staff not to release the funds without notification. In a July meeting between Loudoun County and the Town of Purcellville, the County advised the Town that a full review of the issue determined it did not have a legal basis to call the E&S Bond and use the money for a purpose other than that for which it was intended. County representatives told Town representatives that if the Town of Purcellville thinks they can legally call the bond that is designated for one thing, and use the funds for another purpose, the County is willing to transfer the bond to the Town. The Town would then have to make the decision on whether or not to call the bond. This would likely result in a lawsuit with the bond company. The Town said they would take the offer under advisement and get back to the County.

Healthy Environment Close Supervision Summer Fun



camp koda

A PLACE FOR FRIENDSHIP

- Located at a world class training facility for horses and riders
- Full day sessions for children ages 4–7 and 8–12
- “Counselors in training” program for teenagers 13–16
- Flexible hours 8:30–5:30 designed for fun filled camp days that also accommodate working parents’ schedules, making summer fun for the whole family

Weekly Themed Camps!

Sports • Nature • Theatre
History • Circus • World Culture

**Call now for a program
that is convenient for your family**

703•779•8082

American Academy of Equestrian Sciences
19844 James Monroe Hwy. • Leesburg, VA 20175

www.campkoda.com • info@campkoda.com

Opinion – Beyond Our Town

A Special Child

– By Dan Shaughnessy

Demographers tell us that sometime in September or October, probably in Central India, a very special child will be born. The exact time and place will never be precisely known, and this Special Child's first tiny cry will not be heard beyond a hut or a village, but the event will be momentous – she will be the Seventh Billion Person in the World.

When this event happens, we here in the United States will be busy with our families, our jobs, our thoughts and opinions, our religious beliefs, and all of the factors that contribute to our daily lives and livelihoods. There may be some media news items about seven billion people now on our planet, but it will be of passing interest for most of us. That is tragic, because the birth of the Special Child should be a stark reminder of why our daily concerns are so closely linked to a rapidly expanding world.

Here in the United States we are already aware of some of the effects of massive world population growth, such as the need for substantial increases in food production or how quickly a new disease can spread. We have even experienced some passing involvement with these concerns, such as higher food prices and worries about flu epidemics.

But for the countries and regions most affected by huge population increases, a "scarcity mentality" may begin to prevail, with the potential for internal strife and a coveting of what others have. For those less affected, like the United States, a "siege mentality" could be the result, with increased immigration barriers, a restrictive international trading climate, and continued internal polarization of political, economic and social beliefs.

These conditions are not as remote as we might think. Indeed, the Special Child's birth

reminds us that with seven billion human beings, we are never far from the rest of the world. We know that global financial and market conditions affect our personal savings and daily costs. We also know all too well, the tragic costs of war; when competing interests and beliefs, fueled by population growth, result in military and terrorist attacks, counter attacks and a spiraling escalation of hatred and distrust.

We urgently need to renew a lost focus on the challenges and consequences of continued world population growth. But at this time, here in the United States, we seem incapable of seeing the future beyond short term political and philosophical differences. Indeed, we appear to have devolved to a social and political mindset that seemingly prizes partisan political power; that appears to idolize intransigence in ideology; that conveniently consents to corporate control, and revels in a rigidity in religion that can contradict the concept of a loving God. This is not the way to face the challenges of the Special Child and her daughters and granddaughters, not with our leadership and our own national security at stake.

As a nation, we need to develop policies and actions to contend with a rapidly expanding world. There are many potential answers at hand; we know the positive factors that contribute to lower birth rates and consequent world stability, such as improved health and nutrition, and these can be addressed without intruding on personal values and beliefs.

But national direction on this and other major issues comes from our towns and communities, and on this subject and many others, we must find a way to get along and find common ground.

We face a future of too many people and we must face it together. If not, the birth of the Special Child will portend a world of scarcity, insecurity, and strife – and we and our children will not be immune.

View From the Ridge – by Conan the Warrior Pig



Conan the Pig's life changed completely last month as the Town of Purcellville entered his home, Crooked Run Orchard, and began clearing land and trees in preparation for the Southern Collector Road. This is Conan's story ...

Hi. My name is Conan. Conan the Warrior Pig. Silly name for a pig, don't you think? I'm nineteen, or twenty years old, (I forget) and I've lived all but the first three months of my life on Crooked Run Orchard Farm. Not a bad life. Lots of fruit. Lots of straw.

Until last Monday when the farmer for no good reason put a halter on me and opened my pen and started hauling me out of the barn. It was awful. I pulled as hard as I could but I couldn't keep him from hauling me out of the barn. I screamed, I dug in my feet, I tried to stop him. We did stop, many times. In fact, we stopped under a tree for a while and I rested. I was very out of breath. This was enormously stressful for me. My breathing was coming on me hard and I was getting rubbed down to the skin with the halter. But for some reason the farmer started pulling me again. When we started it was day. When I finally got to my new pen it was night.

I remember it rained during that final push to get me to my new place. I was put in another pen, with a small shelter full of straw. I was exhausted. I slept all the next day. Hey, I'm an OLD pig.

Once before I got out of the barn. But I was much younger then. I started to wander but the farmer and his wife found me and brought me back. I remember we had to cross the woods and a creek, and I had two seizures, but I was all right. But that was different. It was getting kind of cold at night and maybe that was why they wanted me back in the barn.

This time I was pulled because of a fence. They put up a fence and all the land on the east side of the fence was someone else's. So we needed to get off of that land.

I'm still very tired and I sleep a lot and I don't eat much. That was a very traumatic journey for me, at my age. So if you'll excuse me I need to get some more rest.

Fireman's Field Park Tax District

– By Kelli Grim

Chief Justice John Marshall once stated that "The Power to Tax is the Power to Destroy." At the Purcellville Town Council meeting on July 12th, Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro felt that creating a new opportunity to increase taxes will ensure long term funding for Fireman's Field when he voted to establish a Park Tax District. Council Members Lehr and Melton previously commented in a committee meeting that it seemed like it would be a better way to track what the actual expenses for Fireman's Field are, and anything else the town would like to do for the Field. They agreed that this seemed to also be a way to be more open and transparent.

A tax district established by a vote of the Town Council can be undone by a simple majority of any future town council. The Park Tax District does nothing for the citizens of Purcellville except increase their taxes. The tax rate for the Park District will be set by the same people (the Purcellville Town Council), likely on the same evening as the Town of Purcellville Real Property tax rate.

This new tax is very similar to the Fire and Rescue Tax District established by Loudoun County for a year or two. It did nothing more than reserve the taxes collected from that Tax District for the Fire and Rescue, and has the potential of creating more accounting work for staff. And, it decreased the flexibility of the Board of Supervisors in managing the County's money. They could have a surplus in the Fire and Rescue account that could not be

transferred to the General Fund to apply to a deficit there. It will be the same thing in Purcellville; the Park Fund can have a surplus while the General Fund might be in a deficit situation. Yet the funds will not be able to be transferred to cover the shortage. The advantage for the government to establish such a tax is that it can disguise an overall increase in Town taxes.

The Town's debt service is continuing to grow because of tens of millions of dollars in deficit spending and borrowing by the Town of Purcellville. For example, in just three years the General Fund debt service has risen from approximately \$300,000 per year to over \$1.2 million per year. The Town desperately needs revenue to fund its wild spending spree.

No one has said when the Council will set the tax rate, it could be set before the May elections in 2012, or they could vote to delay setting the tax rates until after the May Town elections. The most likely time is the spring of 2013, an off year for Town elections. Stand by for a huge tax increase at that time. Remember, the current tax rate is 23 cents per \$100. What will the total tax be in equalized rates after the rate is established in 2013? This is certainly a tactic from the playbook of Nassau County, New York (the Mayor's home county) where they just voted to set up a new Tax District to pay for a new arena for the Islanders NHL team. Unfortunately, Nassau County continues to run in major red ink.

Letters to the Editor

Huge Step Backwards for Essential Conservation

Dear Editor:

By a 6-3 vote, with Supervisors Andrea McGimsey (D-Sugarland Run), Kelly Burk (D-Leesburg) and Jim Burton (I-Blue Ridge) dissenting, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors recently approved the rezoning of the property known as Stonewall Secure Business Park.

Many members of the public sent in emails and spoke out against this approval at the public hearing. Why? Because, now, several million square feet of data center space will replace a vibrant, bio-diverse landscape. A landscape that by law (Loudoun County's Comprehensive Plan) is meant to serve as a transition area between eastern Loudoun and our more rural and environmentally fragile, west.

Proponents of the project point to the fact that the County might realize direct tax revenues of \$50 million per year at full build out of Stonewall Creek.

Opponents of the project point to the fact that, presently, the land is in balance quite green – housing 150-foot tall electric transmission lines and underground natural gas line, but also, a very productive forest and a colony of wood turtles (on the list of threatened wildlife in the state of Virginia). Contrast that to a business park that will include 2.9 million square feet of data

Continued on page 6

“Mr. Lazaro, Tear Down This Wall!” – Message From the Editor

When President Ronald Reagan uttered his famous words at the Berlin Wall in 1987 asking Chairman Gorbachev of the Soviet Union to “Tear down this wall,” he was responding to the despicable cold war symbol of oppression.

Well, we have our own “Berlin Wall” right here in Purcellville. As these photos show, the Mayor and the Purcellville Town Council have decided to erect a “Berlin” wall around the land they annexed by “quick take” for the Southern Collector Road.

Just look at these pictures of the hundreds of feet of the fence the Town put up and how it prevents the Browns from freely operating their 250 year old working farm.

The fence goes right across the road Sam uses to access the remainder of his property. This stops Sam from farming and harvesting his crops on the southern forty four acres and conducting the annual hayrides that thousands of children have loved over the years.

The Town also took much more land than they needed to build the road. Gone is access to seventy fruit-bearing apple trees (now in peak season), ten cherry trees and a Kieffer pear tree planted by his grandfather Edwin Brown in 1910 ... over one century ago.

Thousands of dollars of good edible fruit will rot on the branch by the Town’s action. In addition, the annexation took away thirty five percent of the Browns’ parking space and a barn that was not only home to Sam’s 19 year old pig, but also used to store his farm equipment. The bottom line: if this “wall” remains, the very existence of this 250 year old historic farm is at risk.

You see, if the Browns want to lease back the land that the Town has acquired via “Quick Take,” they must pay all the roll back taxes on the property, twice the usual insurance for simi-

lar leases the Town has granted in the past, and a \$5,000 deposit (refundable only when the road is fully completed). When the Browns tried to communicate with the Town’s staff concerning the terms of the lease, there was no response ...

The question arises, why did the Town put up the wall so quickly? It’s not as if the road will be put in tomorrow. Because, it will take years before all the studies, environmental impact statements and state and federal permits are completed.

The only answer for this cruel action might be that it serves as retaliation for opposition the Browns have shown to the Town’s plans to urbanize the eastern end of Purcellville. They are being penalized for trying to keep their farm from being destroyed.

This shouldn’t be happening in America.

Which is why many see this as the worst case of eminent domain abuse in Loudoun County. Yet the Blue Ridge Leader seems to be the only media

outlet determined to stick with the story.

We hope others will have the courage to visit Crooked Run Orchard and see for themselves. In the meantime all we can say is, “Mr. Lazaro, tear down this wall!”



The fence makes large portions of Sam Brown’s orchards inaccessible.



80 year old boxwoods were either removed or heavily damaged, just 15 feet from the Brown’s home.



The now unuseable farm road on the Brown’s property.



Blue Ridge LEADER & Loudoun Today

Since 1984

Publisher & Editor
Valerie Cury Joyner

Art Direction
Andrea E. Gaines

Carol Morris Dukes
Advertising

128 South 20th Street, Purcellville, VA 20132
Email: blueridgeleader@aol.com

Copyright 2011 Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today – all rights reserved.

Candidates for Loudoun County Board of Supervisors – Catoctin District

The Blue Ridge Leader recently interviewed Malcom Baldwin and Geary Higgins, candidates for Catoctin District Supervisor.

Mr. Baldwin lives in Lovettsville on Weatherlea Farm, with his wife, Pamela. He has worked on the White House Council on Environmental Quality under four presidents of both parties, and is a rural business owner. He has been active in local politics. This is his first run for Supervisor.

– Malcom Baldwin –

1. What are the important issues for Loudoun County in the next four years? Loudoun's critical issues arise from rapid growth over the past two decades matched only by a handful of other counties in America. Among the most critical issues:

- Rising transportation congestion;
- Maintaining a world-class school system while accommodating increased numbers & new school needs;
- Water challenges and conflicts – water rates outside Leesburg, groundwater pollution in limestone areas and protecting surface water quality;
- Protecting Loudoun's rural economy and its historic and natural resources; and
- Paying for Loudoun's past and future growth without raising tax burdens on Loudoun's residents.



2. What is the common ground between the east and the west? Suburban and rural residents share concerns about taxes, schools, business development, traffic, water resources, and government efficiency. The suburban east offers jobs, shopping, services and recreation, while the west offers tourism, open space, food, wineries and equestrian recreation. Both add to the overall uniqueness and value of Loudoun.

3. What is the role of the Villages? Catoctin's incorporated towns of Lovettsville and Hamilton, and its villages of Lincoln, Waterford, Taylorstown and Lucketts, are among Loudoun's most vibrant communities. Towns and villages want to maintain their small elementary schools, where many community activities thrive. Lucketts' trash collection, organized by the Ruritan Club, doubles as a weekly gathering place. Lovettsville and Lucketts have lively community centers managed by the county. Towns and villages offer much-appreciated small-town life.

4. What is your position on the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance? How do we address Loudoun's water issues? Following failure to reestablish its stream protection ordinance after court rejection on procedural grounds in 2004, the current Board proposed the CBPO. I opposed the September 2010 draft because of its onerous and costly provisions. After stakeholder meetings the Board considered a revised draft, and I testified that the ordinance should pass only with additional changes to regulatory burdens and overlapping staffing responsibilities. Following the Board's rejection of those changes and ultimately the ordinance, I believe stream quality problems remain, and the county will soon need to meet new state and EPA requirements.

5. What are your qualifications for being a supervisor? Every year since retirement from a

(Interview continued on page 27)

Mr. Higgins lives in Waterford with his wife Gail. He is currently the VP of Labor relations of NECA, Inc. in Bethesda, MD. He served on the School board from 2000 to 2004. This is his third run for Supervisor.

– Geary Higgins –

1. What are the important issues for Loudoun County in the next four years? I believe the most important issues facing Loudoun right now are taxes, debt, traffic and tolls.

We have the highest taxes in our region and I do not mean just northern Virginia. The average property taxes paid by our homeowners are higher than Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Prince William and the entire south. We must get control of our spending now.

Over the next year or two our debt service will pass the upper limit of 10% of the County's budget. This limit is a policy set by our board to protect our credit rating. If our county debt service exceeds this limit, we will likely experience a decline in our credit rating and an increase in our cost of borrowing.

The traffic in our county continues to worsen with no end in sight. I commute to work just like everyone else. Sitting in traffic is stealing our time and polluting our environment. There are a number of "choke points" affecting our district that can be addressed without major changes that I will address below.

Finally, I am already working with Congressman Wolf to get a handle on controlling Dulles tolls. These tolls are currently \$13.50 a day for residents commuting from our district and they are predicted to be over \$25.00 a day by 2015. This is becoming unaffordable for many families and will push people onto Route 7, a road that is already at capacity.

2. What is the common ground between the east and the west? While there are some differences, I believe there is mostly common ground between eastern and western Loudoun. We want safe neighborhoods, good schools, safe and reasonable commutes, access to recreation and responsible government. I do not subscribe to inflammatory "east verse west" rhetoric. I believe that we can work through any differences and we all want basically the same things.

3. What is the role of the Villages? In western Loudoun, our small villages are an important part of our social, historical and cultural heritage. My wife and I moved to Bluemont 6 months after we were married. We immediately recognized it was a gem that needed to be preserved and we set out to get it on the National Historic Registry. This took countless hours of work in the days before computers. We had to research the history and architecture of every structure in the village. After doing the research, we had to write it up and then convince each property owner that this was a good thing for them and not an unnecessary intrusion into their privacy or property rights by the government. My family also donated the E. E. Lake Store in Bluemont to the county. We were ultimately successful and Bluemont was recognized as a historic district by the State, Federal and County governments.



(Interview continued on page 27)

Letters to the Editor, continued from page 4

centers, 1 million square feet of office space, warehouses, health and fitness centers, a carry-out restaurant and a firearm range, among other uses.

To develop the land into a business park, the Supervisors had to rezone the area from a transitional residential area to a planned development-industrial park, in direct contradiction to the Comprehensive Plan.

So, what is the Comprehensive Plan, and the thousands of hours the residents of Loudoun County put into developing that plan. worth? Apparently, nothing. At least, not in the face of the \$50 million in tax revenues the County has its (greedy?) eyes on.

Stonewall Creek offered all kinds of "concessions" to secure the Board's vote – including a 75-foot buffer area for the surrounding community, a double row of pine trees, sewer and water lines and a security fence, as well as cash contributions to connect trails to the W&OD trail. It will also "relocate" any existing colonies of wood turtles.

But isn't Supervisor Lori Waters' (R-Sterling) comment that "the Comprehensive Plan was out of date" the most telling comment of all? Clearly, opponents of the current Comprehensive Plan and their supporters on the Board think it's not only ok to simply sidestep the

County wide zoning plan that took years of debate to build, but to rewrite it – instead of changing it through the proper, public and legal means. – Andrea Gaines, Lincoln

Follow the Money

Dear Editor:

We may believe that "money can't buy you love" or possibly even happiness (although more are beginning to doubt this), but we obviously do believe it can buy you an election. So much so, in fact, that campaign effectiveness is often judged almost solely on who has raised the most money in the shortest amount of time. Is that true? Should we just add up the total amount raised and declare the winners without going through all the bother of stuffing envelopes, "dialing" phones, and knocking on doors in 100 degree weather? (Recipients of those annoying robocalls are probably shouting "yes!" at this point.)

Maybe. Maybe not.

Large contributions do convey a message: In the Blue Ridge District of Loudoun, the Republican challenger had not only raised \$44,730 as of June 30 (including in-kind donations), but had already spent \$34,300 of it (from www.loudoun.gov). She obviously must be

expecting much more to come in; November is still a long way off. Almost all of these contributions are from real estate developers, brokers, agents, builders, contractors, financial management, attorneys and insurance – many of whom are located outside the District: (There is one Round Hill contributor listed as "farmer," but when I looked up the name and address, an entity appeared on the web as "Financial Management Services.") Three donors are from outside the County: Herndon, VA, Alexandria, VA, and Catonsville, MD.

This clearly represents a full frontal attack on the current zoning of western Loudoun. More housing development, strip malls, chain stores, office buildings and traffic. Is that what you want?

We have over 30 million square feet of industrial and office space approved by the county and waiting to be constructed now, in addition to the 14% vacancy rate of existing buildings. A "no holds barred" approach to unfettered growth could likely result in more stalled commercial projects surrounded by houses which will be sold on the promise of a tranquil life in (rapidly disappearing) rural Loudoun. After which it will be even harder to convince businesses to fill the vacant buildings, considering our biggest draw is the beauty that surrounds us. So, the commerce we actually get may very well come in the form of fast food, strip malls and big box stores to

Continued on page 19

Blue Ridge LEADER & Loudoun Today

Advertise With Us & Fetch Great Results for Your Business!

Discounts for Non-profits, Realtors & First-Time Advertisers

THANKS FOR SENDING US YOUR FETCH PHOTOS!
Send us a photo of your dog "fetching" the Blue Ridge Leader ... email to blueridgeleader@aol.com.



1



3



2



4

Photo #1: "Anny", 13 year old Pembroke Welsh Corgi, submitted by Clarissa & George Bergeman; Photo #2 "Redford", 1-1/2 year old Australian Kelpie Cross submitted by Jen Williams; Photo #3: "Maddie", submitted by Jackie Phillips; Photo #4: "Pedro", submitted by 12 year old Alexandra Dukes.

Print Newspaper

Business card ads (actual size)
\$25, or \$88 for 4 months.
(COLOR \$40, or \$152 for 4 months)

Eighth of a page
5-1/8" x 2.8" \$175
(COLOR \$275)

Quarter page

5-1/8" x 5-7/8" \$250
(COLOR \$300)

Front Page Special Runner
10-1/2" x 2" \$400 (COLOR)

Half page

10-1/2" x 5-7/8" \$450
(COLOR \$525)

Full page
10-1/2" x 12-3/4" \$700
(COLOR \$800)

Online Ads at www.brleader.com (Run for one month)

\$50 for numerous placements; \$100 for Home Page placement with "click thru"

Contact us about advertising!
Leave a message in our voicemail (540) 338-6200 or speak to Carol at (703) 727-5576. (carolbrleader@yahoo.com)

Running Totals ... in praise of frugal living

DIY Savings: Cleaning Fine Rugs

– By Cat Morris

When we lived in Denver, a girlfriend used to take her rugs to Robert Mann Oriental Rugs for cleaning. She had a beautiful antique rug and a several high quality woolen pieces that she'd clean about every six months, owing to her son's severe asthma. This quality conscious friend, owner of many fine antiques and the most beautiful linens I have ever seen, informed me that Robert Mann's was the best place in town for expert rug repair and cleaning. The best.

When my husband and I invested in a small, good quality wool rug, I splurged and took it to Robert Mann for cleaning once. As I paid, I caught sight of a worker on the other side of the warehouse space washing a rug. I was so surprised by what I saw that the folks in the shop invited me to observe the process. I couldn't believe it:

1. A worker ROLLED OUT the rug onto a concrete floor with a drain.
2. He HOSED IT DOWN WITH water from a green garden hose,
3. SQUIRTED LIQUID SOAP onto it, and ...
4. Stood on the rug while he SCRUBBED every inch with a PUSH BROOM. After a thorough scrubbing

5. And a good RINSE,
6. He laid the rug OUTSIDE TO DRY.

"What kind of soap do you use on the rugs?" I asked. The answer was dishwashing liquid from the grocery store – no particular brand.

"No!" I exclaimed.

"Yes," they said. And here's how the rest of the conversation went:

"So you scrub the rugs with any old dishwashing liquid and a push broom, and that's ALL?"

"We wash the finest rugs this way, cotton or wool, unless they're extremely fragile. You can do this yourself on your driveway."

"I should put something under the rug to protect it from the driveway, right?" I asked.

"No, put it right on the driveway – but not on any oil spots! Also, test for color fastness before you wash your rug. Place it in the grass to dry."

"That's it?"



"That's it."

I learned something that day! We don't have wall-to-wall carpet, so we have a lot of rugs that need to be washed from time to time. When spot cleaning isn't enough, I take the entire piece outside for a good scrub down, confident that I am not ruining it. No harsh chemicals, no special tools needed--just liquid soap and some elbow grease!

I never paid another person to wash my rugs. No way.

Next month's topic: 10 things you can do this month to save money.

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



In my first column, I talked about the myths of money and why, along with "it's crass" and "it's too complicated," many people feel that "talking about money is impolite."

It isn't. Especially if you are one of the 77 million "baby boomers" born between 1946 and 1964 turning age 65 and beginning to retire in 2011. With a reported 44 percent saying in a recent Associated Press poll that they have little faith they'll have enough money when their careers end, this could be one of the most important conversations you'll ever have with yourself.

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. I like to begin this conversation with clients by asking some questions:

What are you passionate about? What are your dreams? Where do you want to be in five years? In ten years? What does that look like? What will it take to get there?

Coming up with the answers to these questions may be more difficult than you think, depending on your background and how you're wired. When contemplating retirement, most people have not visualized what they will do when the day comes that they are no longer generating a paycheck. If they do have a concept, it's often an idea ingrained in their minds since childhood. Some have a specific retirement date or activity in mind, usually based on their parents' experience. "My Dad retired at age 62 so I'd like to do the same thing." Others respond by saying, "I love what I do. I can't imagine not working. I'd be bored." Yet another response is, "I'll retire when I can afford it!"

It's shocking to hear people who dismiss this conversation because "my husband/wife takes care of the money." It's your responsibility to participate in the conversation with your spouse, not delegate it or defer it to some other time. Start paying attention. Life happens.

Retiring on your own terms so you can potentially have the financial freedom to live your dreams with enough

money left to provide independence to pursue your passion, whether it's gardening, golf, travel or volunteer work, is one reason to begin today to set your financial goals. Life is like a puzzle, and financial matters are many of the pieces we need to fit into the picture of our lives.

With advances in healthcare and medicine, we are likely to be living longer. The life expectancy for both women and men is increasing, and this trend is not likely to change. If we are living longer, we will need more money to survive. This is another important reason for starting the financial planning process now.

Like the beginning of a long road trip, it helps to have a road map with a destination in sight. You need to know where you're going in order to get there. If you wait until retirement to do your planning and implementation, you've missed an opportunity to take advantage of compound investing – what Albert Einstein referred to as "the eighth wonder of the world." The more time you have to potentially build your wealth, the more likely it will be there waiting for you when you need it.

As the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu said, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." You need to get started. Doing nothing won't get you to your destination. Even if you're not rich, you want to start thinking and acting like you are. Paying attention to your wealth is the best way to help you get there.

I welcome your comments. Just send me an email at Amy.V.Smith@RaymondJames.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, Ste. 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com.

The opinions and recommendations here are those of the columnist.

Virginia Civil War Trails Marker Installed on NOVA's Campus



On Monday, May 9, a Virginia Civil War Trails Marker was installed on NOVA's Loudoun Campus. The marker commemorates the 1864 Battle of the Ankers' Shop, a cavalry skirmish between Lieutenant Colonel John Singleton Mosby of the Confederate forces (Mosby Rangers) and Captain J. Sewall Reed of the Union forces. The marker recognizes the site of the Ankers Family Memorial Garden as hallowed ground.

During the Civil War, the Ankers homestead – the current Loudoun Campus – was used as a field hospital.

According to family history, Henrietta Ankers cared for wounded or otherwise ill soldiers of both the Northern and Southern armies.

To honor the Ankers family and the historical significance of the land, a living memorial garden was designed by Joyce Harris, a former NOVA Horticulture Technology student. The garden, a joint project between the Ankers family and NOVA, will highlight the entrance to the Loudoun Campus. It will also give students, staff and visitors the opportunity to learn, reflect and recreate.

The unveiling and groundbreaking took place on Saturday, July 16 at the Loudoun Campus.

News From Blue Ridge District School Board Representative Priscilla Godfrey

When I last wrote, the Washington Post Challenge Index had just been released with several Loudoun County high schools listed including Loudoun Valley High School. Just after graduating over 3,800 seniors, we received the great news that according to the Newsweek magazine, Loudoun had 3 of its twelve high schools in the top 200 high schools in the nation: Stonebridge, Freedom and Briar Woods.



work is a result of years of youth football leagues, summer swim teams, Little League and Babe Ruth baseball, Loudoun Ballet and children's theatre performances. From preschool to senior year, our children are the beneficiaries of countless adult volunteers. On behalf of the school system and the county in general, we thank the community and all its organizations for their continuing care of children everywhere. This love and guidance is evident in the students' confidence

and motivation to learn in our classrooms. 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.

As I reflect on the success of our public school students, it occurs to me that our students are indeed raised by a village of civic organizations, youth sports leagues and churches. Our students' desire to serve and volunteer is a direct result of their experiences in Interact Clubs (Rotary International), Key Clubs (Lions Clubs), Ruritan Clubs, and church-led summer work camps and mission trips. Our students' spirit of sportsmanship and team-



Basketball Skills & Development Sessions At Loudoun Country Day School With Coach Glenn Hagan Aug 8-12 and Aug 15-19

\$125 for each week of five sessions or \$25 for each individual session.

Morning Session: Session I (Aug. 8-12) and Session II (Aug. 15-19);
9:00 – 10:30 (for boys and girls ages 7-9); 10:30 – 12:00 (for girls ages 10-14)
Afternoon Session: Session I (Aug. 8-12) and Session II (Aug. 15-19);
1:00 – 2:30 (for boys ages 10-11); 2:30 – 4:00 (for boys ages 12-14)

For more information,
call Loudoun Country Day School at 703/777-3841.

Coach Glenn Hagan played briefly
with the Detroit Pistons and was a star in the Continental Basketball Association.

Loudoun Country Day School, 20600 Red Cedar Drive, Leesburg

On the Market... with Sam Rees



New Listing! Round Hill- 4 bedrooms on 1 Acre! Newer systems. Ready to move in! Deck/Patio and Fence! \$350,000



Just Listed! Lot 6 Sunny Ridge Road Round Hill. 3 acre lot (new paved road) Beautiful Views! Minutes to downtown. \$175,000



Travel Back in time- "Sunnyside Farm" - Leesburg Rarely available historic home (Circa 1739) 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. \$1,195,000.



Carr Lane-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! \$629,990. MODEL HOME CONDITION.



Live, Work and Play at Foxfield Farm - Leesburg High on a knoll overlooking horse fields & stocked lake this spectacular Toll Brothers home features a new pool, 6 beds/6.5 baths & professional caliber office w/multiple suites, conference area & separate entrance. Home & grounds are Wheelchair accessible w/main floor bedroom/bath, 6 stall barn w/kitchenette, bath & room for covered truck and trailer. Completely board fenced w/excellent ride-out on the WO & D Trail. \$1,295,000. LO7594571



To see a virtual tour of all of Sam's listings, please scan this code with your smart phone or visit:
Sam.Rees.PCRagent.com



Every Real Estate Market has Great Opportunities

Do you have a real estate question about your current home or one you would like to purchase?

Call **Sam Rees, Associate Broker Prudential Carruthers Realtors**
Cell: 703-408-4261 sam.rees.pcragent.com • samvrees@yahoo.com

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.



Congratulations Hibbs Bridge

The Snickersville Turnpike Association is pleased to announce the recent addition of Hibbs Bridge to the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Both the national and state registers comprise the official list of properties deemed historically important to the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Built by the Snickers Gap Turnpike Company in 1829, Hibbs Bridge is one of only a few remaining stone arch bridges in Virginia and is the third oldest in Loudoun County.

In addition to its architectural significance, the bridge was recognized for its association with the Snickers Gap Turnpike, one of the earliest operational turnpikes in Virginia and the young nation, and now a Virginia byway. In 1990 the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) announced plans to replace Hibbs Bridge, which they considered unsafe and inadequate for modern transportation needs. Thus began a 17-year effort by Loudoun County and, since its inception in 1994, the Snickersville Turnpike Association's instrumental leadership, together with local and state officials, to preserve and restore Hibbs Bridge.

This united effort was successful, and in November 2007 the Virginia Department of Transportation completed the rehabilitation of Hibbs Bridge. Original dimensions were fas-



tidiously observed, the roadbed above the two barrel arches was strengthened, and the "hump" feature of the bridge was maintained.

"We are proud to have Hibbs Bridge recognized by our state and our nation," said Henry Plaster, chairman of the Snickersville Turnpike Association board of directors. "Both designations secure the historical significance of Hibbs in perpetuity, helping ensure its use and enjoyment for another 180 years."

The Snickersville Turnpike Association is a 501(c)3 charitable organization consisting of citizens living along and near this Virginia byway and is devoted to maintaining the good health of the turnpike, its historically significant features, its beauty, and rural community values.

For more information, visit us at www.snickersvilleturnpike.org or call 540-554- 8591.

Making Sense of the Stuff We Find in Our Back Yards

– By Mike Clem with Bob Shuey



This prehistoric stone tool was found by a BRL reader off Harmony Church Road, South of Hamilton.

It was made of quartz during the Archaic Period.

Projectile points and related tools have been categorized into hundreds of types based on where they were found, their shape, size, and method of production. Within the types there is a great deal of variation. This small point – the size of a quarter – was probably worked down from a larger point of the same basic shape that became dull or broken through use. It features a slightly concave base that is thinned in the center, notches that flare upward to rounded shoulders, and resharpened excurvate blades that end in a rather dull tip. It is thick for its small size. These traits lead me to identify it as a modified Stanly Stemmed projectile point dating from 5000 to 6000 B.C. Mike Clem believes it is more similar to a modified Halifax Notched Point dating to about 3,500 B.C. Either way, it is fine evidence of the people who lived in Loudoun County long ago.

What's That?



Angelo Iasiello submitted this item found on his property off of Flint Farm road in Round Hill. The property used to be a peach farm.

According to Mike: It's an interesting piece related to the farm heritage of the area. The item is a mower guard from an old sickle mower. These mowers were first used in the late 1800s and were horse drawn. They are still used today on tractors but to a lesser degree since regular rotary mowers have replaced them. Generally, sickle mowers were used to cut hay and straw. The item is a guard that protected the blades of the mower. I can't tell you exactly how old it is since they've changed very little over the past century. I'd guess that it's from the mid to early 1900s based on the wear and rust. I've attached a picture for you to look at – it is an old 1909 advertisement. You could also stop by any farm equipment store and see a new one too. Thanks so much for the photo!



Here are some answers that have come in to the BRL so far on this object, featured in a prior issue ... (The object has yet to be identified, but these are some good guesses, sent in by our readers!) Woody: looks like an old animal trap to me ... Carole: A stirrup? Looks like it would hang from the saddle from the ring. The 'U' shape of the attachment has the shape of a stirrup. I love looking at old finds and trying to figure out the usage ... Emily: An old hand cuff? Like from slave days? (Final opinion having just looked online at other ones) Horse hobble? I think the square part went around a 4 X 4 post, the two pointy things in the middle kept it from sliding down the post, and the round thing hung down and was used to tie up horses or something ... Rita: looks like an old rudimentary horse bridle ... Karen: A rusty piece of metal.



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 or mail it to Blue Ridge Leader, 128 South 20th Street, Purcellville, VA 20132.



Mike Clem

Bob Shuey



Cobbler Kim's

Shoe Repair Shop

Heels ■ Soles
Stitching ■ Lifts
Stretching ■
Shining ■ Dyeing



Call us
for your
equestrian
needs

Craftsmanship

for your most beloved things ...

715 Main Street, Purcellville, VA 20132
Loudoun Valley Shopping Center
540.338.3171 Mon. – Fri. 8 am to 7 pm, Sat. 9 am – 5 pm



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

Lickey Mill Road

There's a place – barely a stone's throw from the Town limits of Purcellville – which, nevertheless remains virtually unknown and untouched by human activity ... at least by the swarming masses. The more civilized portion of Lickey Mill Road cuts off from Silcott Springs Road just south of the community, but that's the more familiar, domesticated section; the part that gets 'hairy' during anything like inclement weather or other challenging conditions – like the sun going down – lies on the northern corner of the road, where it intersects with Tranquility – yep – the same friendly, familiar little lane which runs past the eastern edge of Franklin Park and the manicured subdivisions on its other side.

But even Tranquility transforms itself into something more akin to the Outback than the backyard by the time it gets to know Lickey Mill a bit better – down by the little 'bridge' which spans the North Fork of Goose Creek, as it trickles eastward out of Sleeter Lake near Round Hill. Yeah, it's a tangled little conflux of geography: hills, water, vineyards, croplands, horse and cattle spreads, dirt roads, stands of timber, a fair share of isolation – and even in places – considerable neglect.

But, if you've waded through any of my previous articles on this favorite subject of mine – the special places of Loudoun County – you'll already know that this would be right up my alley.

And don't get me wrong, I love big cities – I lived in Manhattan for a full year, navigating by subway, negotiating the heavy foot traffic through Midtown, Chinatown, Tribeca and everywhere in between; having said that, I've always had- I almost hesitate to say this- sort of a divine connection with spots left more or less untouched by human hands: often shady, silent, still and at least a little bit mysterious.

I've been up to the end of Lickey Mill Road hundreds of times – the part which cuts west of Tranquility just off the Goose Creek Bridge – in all sorts of weather, in all sorts of conditions. And, I've felt the same sensations – to a greater or lesser degree – every time I've been back there.

Maybe it's the rock. There's this huge, out-jutting piece of ancient Appalachian mountainside underlying part of the roadway – you can't miss it (if you were crazy enough to try it, you could easily become airborne going over this thing- and end up in the Creek); the thing stands there as if guarding the Gates of Somewhere: moss-covered, weather-beaten, tire-trodden, yet indomitable to all these effects. Yep, the rock definitely adds to the atmosphere along the back portion of Lickey Mill Road.

Then there's the swimming hole. It's private property, and, like the woods in the Robert Frost poem, I don't know to whom it belongs, but I've enjoyed its visual appeal on many occasions. The few visitors I've ever seen at the spot have been here at the stiller, deeper pool along the newly born North Fork of Goose Creek.



I've always figured: either they're part of the owner's family, or have permission, or just don't care; I've considered it outside the boundaries of my concerns. They certainly haven't been hurting anybody, as far as I could ascertain. Let 'em be.

I feel that there should be places in America where anonymous free spirits can jump into local watering holes. I used to. No one ever reported me, either.

So you've got the rock, the swimming hole – and, oh yeah – don't forget the little bridge spanning the Creek. As you cross the thing, it seems no wider than a ping-pong table – and, if you're fortunate, you'll notice at least a slight space between the water level and the little slab of concrete holding you up; if there's been heavy rain – or melting snow – you can expect the water running over the bridge and leaving you wondering: “Do I chance it?”

I never have. I've never wanted to explain to my superiors why I chose to run a flooded bridge when I could see the



water running over the thing. I wouldn't recommend it, either. Doesn't take much floodwater to wash a vehicle off the roadway – and you don't want to be washed off of this portion of Lickey Mill and Tranquility Road.

Now, in the span of just a couple hundred yards, we've seen the swimming hole, the rock, and the little bridge; some of the other more subtle effects make their presence known, as well: the hillsides covered by mature forest, the dense population of birds, animals, insects and a variety of greenery, the narrowness, unevenness, and changeability

in the roadway itself – forcing you to keep eyes front and hands on the wheel – even if you are moving at a snail's pace.

The end of the state-maintained portion of the road makes an impact, as well: there's just about enough room to turn a vehicle around and head back to somewhere a bit more civilized; the residents who live beyond this point have their own road grader, as I've noticed in making package deliveries up that way.

Now, some folks driving up Lickey Mill Road will doubtless respond with “Is that it? Is that all? What's the big deal?”

And, in turn, my response would be: “Yeah – that's it, that's all – that's the big deal. If you can't feel it, see it, hear it or otherwise sense it, maybe it's not for you.” Just as well. The kids in the swimming hole know what I'm talking about.

WOLF AGAIN PUSHES FOR DISTANCE-PRICING ON THE GREENWAY

Congressman Says Greenway Should at Least be Required to Study a Pricing Plan

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) expressed his frustration that a recently appointed group to make the Dulles Greenway more commuter friendly is not going to address the issue of distance pricing.

In a letter to Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton, Wolf said he was "disappointed" that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) was not going to allow the group to discuss toll rates or distance pricing.

VDOT appointed the group at Wolf's request and Wolf had hoped the group would address the road's toll structure and work to ensure that more signs are erected to better inform drivers of the cost of using the road.



Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA)

Wolf also said he was disappointed that no local elected officials or members of the General Assembly were named to the group.

"It was my hope that this committee would be a way for commuters to sit face-to-face with the elected officials who exercise authority over the state

law that encompasses the current agreement and know that their concerns about the toll structure would be heard," Wolf stated.

"Sadly, this will be impossible under the structure outlined at the initial meeting."

Wolf pointed to the New Jersey Turnpike and the Indiana Toll Road as examples of public and private roads using distance-pricing, a toll structure based on where a driver enters and exits the road, rather than payment of a toll based on the full length of the road no matter how far the trip. "At the very least, the Greenway should be required to do a study on distance-based pricing," wrote Wolf.

Is anything more important than your family's security?



Do You Have a Will and Living Trust?
Estate Planning Is An Act of Love!

Lorren T. Johnston, PC

Estate Planning

307 East Market Street • Suite 100 • Leesburg, VA 20176

tel 703-443-1455

lorren@lorrentjohnston.com



Across

1. Young salmon
6. Kisser
10. Droops
14. Lowest point
15. ___ believer
16. Small gull
17. 1952 novel, with The
20. Split
21. Rowboat adjunct
22. Not too brainy
25. ___ Rebellion of 1857-59
26. Twisted
30. Hoodlum
32. Fuse
35. Sniff out
41. Author of 17 and 63 Across
43. Meager
44. Broad view
45. Square
47. Che or gen followers
48. Item with a ladder
53. Pastoral poems (var.)
56. Wheels for mom
58. Lest
63. 1929 novel
66. Cost of living?
67. Ashtabula's lake

Down

68. Exhaust
69. Deuce topper
70. Turned blue, maybe
71. Interesting
1. Prig
2. French Sudan, today
3. Betting data
4. Beer garnish
5. ___ housing
6. "Harper Valley ___"
7. Ashes holder
8. Logic game
9. "La Scala di ___" (Rossini opera)
10. Inscribed stone
11. Greek moralist
12. Artist, with El
13. Sinuous
18. ___ degree
19. "48 ___"
23. Yen
24. Sang like a canary
26. Scores high
27. Do the trick
28. Doctor Who villainess, with The
29. Big bang matter

31. Beam
33. Sixth sense
34. Peeper problem
36. "Walking on Thin Ice" singer
37. Shrek, e.g.
38. Holiday opener
39. Weak
40. Young falcon
42. Lots
46. Napa Valley area
48. Sting
49. Certain inmate
50. Empty
51. Kind of pool
52. "Give It To You" rapper
54. Illuminated
55. Muzzle
57. Blown away
59. Hombre's home
60. "Iliad" warrior
61. Blue books?
62. See
64. Go horizontal
65. Directed

Papa's Gems by Myles Mellor and Sally York

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17					18					19				
20								21						
					22		23	24			25			
26	27	28	29			30			31					
32				33	34				35	36	37	38	39	40
41								42						
43								44						
						45	46					47		
48	49	50	51	52		53			54	55				
56						57			58		59	60	61	62
63								64	65					
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

Loudoun Supervisors Agree to Purchase Historic Toll House Property

The Broad Run tollhouse property in Ashburn – which sits at the intersection of Routes 7 and 28 off the Broad Run – once served as a stopping point for weary travelers. More than a century later, the historic site may once again function as a center for trekkers to cool their heels.

County officials are hoping the more than 200-year-old property can serve as an educational trailhead for hikers along the planned Broad Run Trail and Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail near the soon to be developed Kincora property.

Loudoun supervisors on July 6 agreed to purchase the property for \$230,000, contingent on favorable studies of the site. County officials are hoping to have studies completed by the end of September. If the site is found to be in sound condition, plans for renovation and a designated use of the tollhouse would still have to go before a commission and get legislative approval, said John Merrithew, Assistant Director of Planning.

The tollhouse and accompanying stone bridge were built in 1820, a result of 1809 legislation from the Virginia General Assembly that created the Leesburg Turnpike Co. The company was tasked with building a toll road from Leesburg to the Little River Turnpike in Alexandria.

The tollhouse, once constructed, was where travelers paid a fee to continue on Leesburg Turnpike.

The toll road was abandoned at the onset of the Civil War. However, the toll house continued in use for several more decades, with travelers still paying a fee to cross its bridge.

During Prohibition, according to local historian Eugene Scheel, it was also a place where thirsty travelers would purchase illegal alcohol.

The Broad Run tollhouse and bridge ruins are the only such combination in existence in Virginia today, according to Lori Kimball, president of the Loudoun Preservation Society. The structure was one of the first properties in the state to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

The bridge, constructed out of huge stones from quarries in the Blue Ridge Mountains, was destroyed in 1972 by flood waters from Hurricane Agnes.

The property, which was purchased by a private owner in 2002, was foreclosed on in 2007.

In May 2010, during Loudoun supervisors' discussions over whether to approve Kincora Village – a 424-acre mixed-use property that will accompany a minor league baseball team – developers of the project agreed to purchase the tollhouse property for \$300,000 if a nonprofit group took responsibility for its renovations.

Kincora's developer, Norton Scott LLC of Ashburn, set a deadline on the agreement for Dec. 31, 2010.

However, no nonprofit group ever stepped up to take on renovations of the tollhouse, Kimball said.

"A group of us did try to find organizations that might be interested," she said. "But it's a tough time with the economy to raise funds to do that."



Kimball said a trailhead is probably the best use of the property, given its location.

"It's in a tough location so it would be difficult to be used for some other purposes," she said.

The tollhouse could easily serve as an educational center to visitors about the history of transportation in the area.

"It could tell such a story about how the turnpike was built and just the history that it's seen," Kimball said.

18th Street, from page 1

The rezoning application and proposed change of use which included placing an entrance on 18th Street ignited a firestorm of controversy in Purcellville. More than 400 residents signed a petition opposing the zoning change and entrance on 18th Street which is a 16 foot wide, dead-end residential street. What was particularly frustrating to the residents of the neighborhood was the fact that many on the Planning Commission seemed more interested in supporting the rezoning rather than listening to the concerns of the residents.

Dr. Stewart has made a concerted effort to repair the public relations damage his application has caused with the residents of the 18th Street neighborhood. He has met with several residents and apologized for the problems that were caused. Dr. Stewart reported to the Blue Ridge Leader on July 19: "We realized how much anguish the project was causing. We did a lot of soul searching and we thought it would be best for us and the community to leave the current zoning as is. Currently, we are going door-to-door to apologize

to the neighborhood and we look forward to helping keep historic Purcellville stay residential."

The rezoning request did not comply with the current Town Comprehensive Plan and would have required a special exception permit. The Comprehensive plan is currently in the review process as per state law. Residents of Purcellville are encouraged to participate in this process by attending upcoming Planning Commission hearings on the matter.

This is not the only recent controversy involving re-zonings in Purcellville. Many residents of Old Dominion Valley were opposed to the new Taco Bell/KFC drive-thru restaurant on Hirst Road. Even more residents of Kingsbridge opposed the special exception for the Harris-Teeter shopping complex now under construction at the historic Cole Farm. What made a difference in this situation seems to be a combination of the level of organization by the affected residents, a strong petition drive, media coverage and the sensitivity of the applicant, Dr. Stewart.

Mountain Lion, from page 1

a mountain lion/cougar sitting there on the hill, approximately 120 feet from the house! He sat there for at least 20 minutes and by the time I found my camera he was gone. To my dismay, the mountain lion/cougar showed up Monday morning in the exact same spot on the hill and sat there for approximately 20 minutes again."

On the second day Donna alerted local authorities and neighbors. A couple just down the street from the Mihalco's – Brian and Lyrae Pucket – told her they'd heard "what sounded like a woman screaming" on Saturday night/Sunday morning. Wildlife biologists say that bobcats make this kind of sound ... but still, 20 minutes – on two different mornings – is a long time to look at an animal and get it wrong ...

Mountain Lion Facts

- Also known as a puma, cougar, and catamount.
- Widest ranging cat in the world, present from Northern Canada to the tip of South America.
- Prefers deer as prey, although they also eat smaller animals such as coyotes, porcupines, and raccoons.
- Hunts at night or during the hours of dawn and dusk.
- Once roamed nearly all of the United States. By the dawn of the 20th century, mountain lions were eliminated from nearly all of their range in the Midwest and Eastern U.S. (although the endangered Florida panther survives).
- Whitetail deer populations have rebounded over much of the mountain lion's former range and a few animals have appeared in more eastern states such as Missouri and Arkansas.

A mountain lion was hit by a car and killed in June 2011 in Milford, Connecticut. DNA tests showed the cat was native to the Black Hills of South Dakota, 1,800 miles away, and its DNA matched that of an animal collected by chance in 2009 and 2010 in the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Could Fruits & Vegetables From YOUR GARDEN OR FARM Help Feed the Hungry in Loudoun County?

– By Laura Lieberman

While we live in one of the most affluent counties in the United States, Loudoun County has some alarming statistics of its own when it comes to hunger.

Feeding America recently did a study mapping hunger, conducted by Neilson, and Loudoun had a 6% hunger level. A staggering 69% of those individuals do not qualify for any assistance.

If you live in Loudoun and make enough to pay rent and utilities you have made too much to qualify for government assistance. Unfortunately that does not mean you have enough left over to buy groceries to feed your family. Therein lies the quandary of living just above poverty level in such an affluent county. That is why Loudoun Interfaith Relief food pantry, in Leesburg, has become one of the only resources for many of the county's hungry. They serve several groups of people, including the unemployed and under employed, the handicapped and the disabled, veterans, and

the homeless.

In mid July Loudoun Interfaith Relief's Director of Operations, David Dwyer, deemed the need for fresh fruits and vegetables as "dire".

Local Loudoun non-profit, Feed Loudoun Plant a Row, has donated over 5,000 pounds of produce so far during the 2011 growing season but that has barely put a dent in what is needed. In June LIR served 6,601 people. LIR likes to give everyone that has a family at least four portions of vegetables per visit. They give all families with school-aged children an extra day of food to help with the loss of the school breakfast and lunch programs. This means LIR needs 26,500 portions of fruits and vegetables a month to give out the minimum amount to their clients. Last summer LIR provided more than 5,000 meals to Loudoun County children alone. In all of 2010 LIR provided enough food to provide almost 700,000 meals.

Feed Loudoun Plant a Row has ramped up their efforts to

reach out to individual gardeners, farmers, and farm markets to donate their surplus fresh produce to LIR.

Now in the peak of growing season there is usually a surplus of fruits and vegetables. Feed Loudoun's belief is that there is no reason anything should rot on the vine or go to waste. With such an urgent need Feed Loudoun asks that the gardeners, farmers and agri-businesses make the extra effort to donate whatever they can to LIR.

All fruits and vegetables are accepted. Herbs and eggs are accepted as well. Feed Loudoun is willing to help with pick-ups and deliveries of larger donations as well as providing gleaners to pick surplus crops for donation to LIR. Please visit Feed Loudoun at www.feedloudoun.org or on Facebook at Feed Loudoun – Plant a Row.

Donations can be taken directly to Loudoun Interfaith Relief in Leesburg. They are located in the industrial park on Miller Driver, Suite A-1, just before the Leesburg Airport.



We deliver our fresh weekly meats to Middleburg's Red Fox Inn. Let us bring the same healthy & fantastic flavors right to your door!

HOME DELIVERY BY YOUR LOCAL FARMER ... YOUR WEEKLY ORDER of pasture-raised, hormone & antibiotic-free pork, chicken, lamb & beef – delivered right to your door. Also now taking orders for **Thanksgiving Turkeys & holiday specialties.**



New customers!
– complimentary
"Taste of Fields of Athenry" raw milk cheese and sausage sampler with your first purchase ... **\$15** value

Whose farm is on your table?®

How does home delivery work?
Call or stop by our Farm Shop: 703.300.5765, open Monday, 11 am to 6:30 pm, & Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 11 am to 6:30 pm.

Fields of Athenry Farm, 38082 Snickersville Turnpike, Purcellville, VA 20132

© Copyright 2011 Fields of Athenry Farm

Go to www.FieldsofAthenryFarm.com to Place Your Order Convenient Home Delivery is Just a Click Away!

A - Z

FASHION AND IMAGE CONSULTING

Providing ...

- In home closet visits ■
- Head to toe make overs ■
- Assisted shopping trips ■

Services tailored to your priorities

*In a funk?
Want to look
better ... feel
better?*

Call me for your complimentary consultation:
540.535.9030



Ann West

Ann West, Stylist ■ awest105@gmail.com

Pick your own!

It's August ...
and Crooked Run
Orchard is brimming with ...



BLACKBERRIES ... PEACHES ... APPLES ... !

~ Blackberries \$3 lb. ~ Peaches \$1.50 lb. ~

~ Apples \$1 lb. (Tydman Red, Paula's Red, Gallas coming!)

Farm is open 7 days a week, 8 am to 6 pm

(We provide the picking containers – just bring yourself ...)



We close the farm on **HEAT ALERT DAYS**, so ...
Please call the farm phone 540.338.6642 for periodic farm schedule & fruit availability updates.

Visit our website – www.crookedrunorchard.com.
(No dogs allowed on the farm, please – safety first!)

Crooked Run Orchard, 37883 Main Street, Purcellville, VA 20132, at the intersection of Business 7 & Route 287.

We Welcome
Dr. Kelly M. Lincoln



To Family Dentistry
Gregory S. DiRenzo
D.M.D.P.C



540 E. Main Street
Purcellville, VA 20132
540-338-6262
800-338-7054



FROM THE FARM

Uta and her husband Sam operate Crooked Run Orchard.

By Uta Brown

The birds have discovered the elderberries. I have half a dozen varieties, including sambuca canadensis, which bushes are so heavily fruited this year the branches are almost touching the ground. I was surprised to find robins eating the fruit in the heat of the day (considering this heat!) and was torn between delight and jealousy, as I had planted the bushes to make elderberry juice. Elderberry extracts are purported to be effective against flu, even swine flu, and people take the extract on a daily basis for immune support. After inspecting some ripe bunches, I found that about a quarter or third of the berries in each bunch were gone. I could see the branches flickering as the birds proceeded from one luscious bundle to another. I'll order my elderberry extract on line, I guess!

Elderberries!

One of the delights of growing in your own garden, and one of the blessings of having a lot of space to grow, is the ability to experiment with all sorts of varieties that are never sold in the store. Almost everyone has eaten popcorn, but few people have grown it. You would think that there were only two kinds of popcorn.

Sorghum White Popping Corn

White and yellow. Or the kind that has few hulls or the kind that has all those hulls you need to keep picking out of your teeth. But there are probably dozens. I'm growing three on the farm and the most intriguing is sorghum white popping corn. Sorghum grain is very different from corn. The fresher the corn the better it will pop. Popcorn is, in fact, a wonderful way to diet. If you only eat popcorn after six o'clock (I put nutritional yeast on my husband's) you would be amazed how it will take weight off. Isn't there a book called The Popcorn Diet?

Tomatoes

This year I am growing my tomatoes on trellises and pruning them. Since we needed to put a deer fence all around the garden I had a perfect trellis. Pruning consists of getting rid of all the bearing growth on the bottom of the stem and forcing the growth more to the top. So far, it looks as though the tomatoes are responding well to this procedure. We'll find out how successful this is if I'm selling tomatoes in a month. That puts me way behind my more capable competitors who already have tomatoes.

Papaloquitas


The epazote and papaloquitas are heat loving herbs and are doing great. I would love to introduce you to these herbs if you are not familiar with them. The epazote is used in soups in Latin America but I think it would make a great tea. (I think every herb, almost, would make a great tea). It is spicy, minty and hot. Plants that bite you back do wonders for your health!

The papaloquita is an herb popular in Bolivia but whose taste cannot be described. It is a beautiful plant to grow. Papalos are offered in some catalogs but this one is somewhat different than the round-leaf varieties. I think the flavor is better also. I saved my seeds from last year. This was fortunate, as the only catalog that I could order it from (as quillquina), Seeds of change, no longer offers it. That isn't surprising. It is very rarely grown. The taste may be somewhat unusual and may need time to get used to. It is used as a tea to lower blood pressure.



CREATING SPACES

FOR LIFE



WILDWOOD
LANDSCAPE
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

CALL US AT 540.338.7190 TO SET UP A FREE CONSULTATION.

404 BROWNING COURT, PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA 20132
OFFICE 540.338.7190, FAX 540.338.6905
WWW.WILDWOOD-LANDSCAPE.COM | VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

Horse Country Fashions

From Horse Country, Warrenton, VA

Left: Today's riding breeches are made with high tech materials in popular styles and colors. Microfiber cloth is cool in summer heat and wicks away moisture quickly. This pair is designed with the Euro-seat details. Black leather riding boots, made in Italy, zip up the back for easy on and off.

Right: T-tops. Athletic cut tee shirts are the go-to top when riding in summer. Horse Country's 40th anniversary shirt (available in other colors and cuts) and HC ball cap provides eye shade from the sun.

Below, Center: Traditional Appeal. Summer riding jackets are made in tropical weight Italian wool in dark colors while bright colors pop from stripes and windowpane patterns. Ventilated show shirts in Coolmax and other lightweight tech fabrics help keep riders cooler while showing.



Left: Off to do a job! Youngsters like to dress in riding clothes, too. Smart pink rubber boots, riding jodhpur pants with knee straps and a navy jacket are the look of the day. Pink satin Horse Country hair ribbons are good luck charms for many young riders.

Right: Denim breeches for everyday riding. Low rise breeches in black denim with white stitching. Perfect for town and country, Gold Cup rubber boots have all the horsey hardware including spur straps and buckles.

Products and photographs provided by Horse Country Saddlery, 60 Alexandria Pike, Warrenton, Va 20186. Open Monday through Saturday. Telephone: (800) 882-4868 or order online at www.horsecountrycarrot.com. Photos: Copyright 2011 Horse Country, Warrenton, VA.

Support Local Business Owners & Neighbors!



LINDA CULBERT
REALTOR®, ABR
Leesburg
508 E. Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176
Office: 703-777-2900
Cell: 703-431-1724
Office Fax: 703-777-3627
linda.culbert@longandfoster.com
www.LindaCulbert.com




Jon A. Sonkin
Breaking • Riding • Training
540-974-2503
jumpingjonny1@juno.com
www.jasstables.com

JAS

State Farm®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Mike Bushey CPCU®
Agent
11 Catoctin Circle, SE
Leesburg, VA 20175

Bus. 703-779-7600
mike@mikequote.com

For a quote visit www.mikequote.com

Barn at Babbett's
Now upstairs at
It's Bazaar on 21st Street
540.751.9260
antiques, primitives, crocks, local art, books
& neat stuff ... cheap

NOVA
Computer Systems
Diagnostics • Repairs
Upgrades • File Recovery
We Service All PC Brands
703-777-8493 Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5; Sat 10-4
9 Catoctin Circle, SE, Leesburg, VA 20175
www.novacomputersinc.com

TERRY'S
TOWING
AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
AUTO DETAILING - PINSTRIPING - LETTERING

MOBILE: (540) 454-3209 **Terry Reed** HAMILTON, VA (540) 338-4386

LOUDOUN GARAGE DOOR, INC.
Residential/Commercial/Sales/Installations

- ✓ 24 Hour Emergency Service
- ✓ Low Prices & Monthly Specials
- ✓ Licensed & Insured
- ✓ Free Estimates on Replacements

– Visit us: www.LoudounGarageDoor.com –
703-327-3059 & 540-545-8800

HOUSECLEANING
Brenda Gonzalez
One time, weekly, monthly, short notice
I have great references!
Western Loudoun/Leesburg
540-514-5455 or 571-294-5500



HYPNOTHERAPY
Are You Ready To Make A Life Change?
NO NEED TO FEEL ALONE OR STUCK.
Use The Power Of Your Subconscious Mind To Make The Shift.
With The Expertise, Skill And Guidance Of
Master Clinical Hypnotherapist.



Vanessa Lindgren, MHR, DCHC
540-454-0713
vanessalindgren@yahoo.com
www.modernhypnosisworks.com

Cobbler Kim's
Shoe Repair Shop

HEELS/SOLES/ STITCHING/ DYEING/
STRETCHING/SHINING/SHOE LIFTS/

715 East Main Street
Purcellville, VA 20132
{ Loudoun Valley Shopping Center }

540-338-3171
Hours of Operation
M-F 8am - 7pm
Sat 9am- 5pm

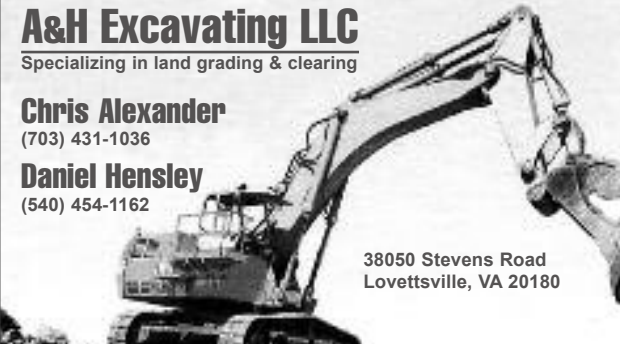


A&H Excavating LLC
Specializing in land grading & clearing

Chris Alexander
(703) 431-1036

Daniel Hensley
(540) 454-1162

38050 Stevens Road
Lovettsville, VA 20180



Muddy Paws
Pet Sitting “Reliable, friendly
care for your best
friend.”

Ph: (540) 338-9545
M: (571) 528-4420
westietude@comcast.net

<http://home.comcast.net/~westietude>



MUSIC JOY
Piano & Vocal Lessons
Open up your creative life!
- For all ages, 2 to 92 -
- In-Home Visits -

Caprice Fox, BFA, Executive Director
CreateMusic3@comcast.net 703 451-0649



– R&D CLEANING SERVICE –
Exceptional Residential &
Commercial Cleaning Service
.....
Move In, Move Out
.....
Experienced, References Available,
Reasonable Rates, Free Estimates





Call Maura: 703 303-1364
MarlenePerucha_13@hotmail.com

Your Business Card Here!
\$25 per month, \$40 for color!
Call Carol 703.727.5576, or
Carolbrleader@yahoo.com.

*On the Market ...
with Sam Rees*

Samantha Rees
Associate Broker
Cell: 703 408-4261

Licensed in Virginia
Prudential Carruthers Realtors, Leesburg

Hair Designs by Rosemary

Master Haircutter Since 1989

- Stylized Perms & Coloring
- Precision Haircutting
- Facials & Massages
- Bridal Parties

Bluemont
540-554-2214
10 Years at this location.

Mary Kay Beauty Consultant: 703-771-9311



Lakepoint Sheet Metal
Roof Repair /Installation
Tin-Copper-Pre-painted Metals-Shingles

Luis Gonzalez 571-223-8171



▶▶ REAL ESTATE TICKER ▶▶

– By Carl Fischer

It's been a long, hot summer so far (hottest June on record for us), and the residential market is truly reflecting the "dog days" of summer.

The mid-Atlantic MRIS system indicates that year over year (2010 vs 2011) the market is off 15.77 percent. Northern Virginia is off 11.27%, but Loudoun County only lags last year by 2.3%. Things could be worse.

So if you have any doubts about where the market is trending, base your real estate decisions on the reality you are facing right now.

Our area enjoys the best circumstances of any jurisdiction in the Baltimore-Washington market, but it is still not a rosy outlook as we drift towards the end of 2011.

Wells Fargo, one of the largest lenders in the country, recently invited me, and a number of top real estate professionals from this area to attend a two-hour presentation at the River Creek Country Club, where they laid out a careful analysis of the residential market nationally, as well as locally. And their view was sobering to even the most seasoned agent in attendance.

For me, they provided a much better sense of the magnitude of the oft-mentioned "shadow inventory" (houses which have non-performing loans, but as yet,



have not been included in the foreclosure process for a variety of reasons. Just know that this accumulation of properties will continue to counter-balance any likelihood of price point increase in the next 12-18 months, thereby assuring that present price levels will likely not rise during that period.

Bottom line: make your buy, sell, or hold decision based on today's reality. And augment your own beliefs and understanding of the market dynamics by utilizing the services of an arms-length 3rd party professional ... your experienced, locally knowledgeable real estate agent.

Carl Fischer has lived in Loudoun since 1969. Formerly in residential construction management and land development, he has been in real estate since 1989.



Dear Doug

– Real Estate Q&A –

Dear Doug:

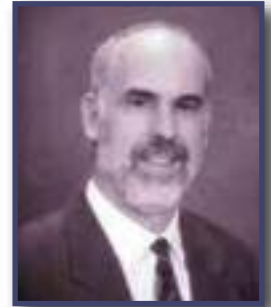
I was looking at a house and the realtor said it was a quit claim? What the heck does that mean?

Dear Prospective Buyer:

Beware of the "quit claim" deed. It transfers the ownership interests of the person conveying the quit claim deed to the new buyer. However, that ownership interest could be nothing at all.

The property could still have a title with many other people on it, or it could be encumbered by a number of liens and issues. One could buy a property using a quit claim deed, but you would need to make sure that the contract is contingent on the buyer getting a title search with "free, marketable, and unencumbered" title to the property, and having a title insurance company issue a full title policy on it. Only then can the new buyer be sure that the property conveys to them with a truly marketable title. Good luck!

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!)



Letters to the Editor, continued from page 6

service a sprawling residential demographic that works in Tysons Corner. Are you really ready to give up the idea of Smart Growth? (Drive slowly by Rt. 15 N in the vicinity of WalMart and Target before you answer.)

Although outside money is intent on buying access to the open space, if you disagree with this goal, you don't need to despair of being able to defeat that intention since the conventional wisdom about elections being all about money is not necessarily true: I noted with interest that in the Leesburg Town elections last year, Mayor Kristen Umstatt was re-elected even though she spent far less than other candidates during her campaign (approximately \$2.60 per vote received compared to challenger Dunn's \$5.50). Similarly Councilman Kevin Wright's tally calculated at only \$3.75 each, while Reid spent a whopping \$7.00. Winning does not always require heavy fund raising and expenditures; it can be done with experienced name recognition and a history of trusted service.

The incumbent, Jim Burton (I) has a 16-year history on the Board of Supervisors as a strong supporter of Smart Growth (See www.loudoun.gov and wikipedia.org/wiki/Smart_growth) and the county's Comprehensive Plan. Contrary to the other Blue Ridge candidate, all of the donors on his recent financial report actually live in the Blue Ridge District that he represents.

Why did you move here? Why do you stay? This year's elections, possibly more than any other, will determine the future shape of Loudoun County. The choice is between quick speculative profits for outside development firms – or sustainable economic development for a diversified area. It's time to pick a side and make a stand. – S. Ann Robinson, Leesburg

Congratulations Lincoln – Your 4th of July Sparkled!

Dear Editor:

All of the fauna, people and animals, who participated in and stood cheering curbside, were part of an event to be kept in proud memory. Ducks, geese, chickens, goats, Pink Flamingos, Cub Scouts, unicyclists and assorted other fauna, music by Acoustic Burgoon, and a groaning board pot luck from the kitchens of Lincoln were part of a continuation of the ideas of community set forth by Thomas Jefferson

and his motely crew in the Declaration of Independence!

Citizens of Lincoln and neighbors, you did yourself proud!

– Ed Leggett, Lincoln

Retail Leakage

Dear Editor:

I have some comments about your last issue. I very much agree with Kelli Grim about the crucial importance of successful locally-owned businesses, and the many advantages they provide to our local economy. I also strongly agree about the desirability of revitalizing the commercial core of the town. However I disagree that "retail leakage" is a myth. It seems obvious that a demographic with the income level of our surrounding population could support a much higher level of commercial activity than we are currently seeing. Multiple surveys provide reinforcement for this view.

More to the point is what kinds of activities are desired and where to locate them. If we are not going to expand at our borders, we need to increase the size and or density of the commercial center of town. This can lead to friction between residents and businesses, such as pointed out in your article about the proposed rezoning of the property at the corner of 18th and Main. One importance issue that this particular situation highlights in terms of transportation and safety is the negative impacts of the lack of traffic and road grid connectivity, as embodied in the lack of any alternate route to and from 18th Street. This is something we need to be aware of in all of our town redevelopment considerations.

The process of converting residential property to commercial uses on Main Street, Hatcher Avenue, Nursery Avenue and other areas at the edges of downtown has been occurring steadily for years. Properties adjacent to and across the street from this corner property have commercial zoning and/or uses. This kind of redevelopment is a natural part of the life of a town. Particularly in projects where the grand old houses on Main Street are preserved, there is good potential for the rezoning to be a net positive to the community. I hope the issues there can be worked out, or there will be another business which is going to locate in a strip mall at the periphery of the town rather than downtown. – Robert Lauten, Purcellville

Likes Bob FitzSimmonds

Dear Editor,

I have known Bob and Debbie FitzSimmonds for fifteen years and am writing in support of his campaign for the Virginia Senate.

In 2007, Bob ran against the longest-serving state senator in Virginia history. Despite a tough race in a tough year, Bob almost won. Then Democrat redistricting moved Bob out of his old district and into the newly-created 13th District.

The thing I most respect about Bob is his willingness to stick to his convictions and fight tough battles, whether running against a 33-year incumbent or taking on major issues.

For example, a lot of candidates say they are "pro-life," but Bob took practical steps to advance the pro-life cause by helping to start 3 crisis pregnancy centers in Northern Virginia. He also started an abstinence program in middle and high schools, which he still leads as a volunteer.

Bob didn't wait to hold office or a title to take on the issue of taxes. When both Democrats and Republicans tried to raise taxes on Northern Virginians, Bob joined with others to form the Prince William/Manassas Taxpayers Alliance and fought that tax increase as well as several others.

I believe Bob FitzSimmonds when he says that fixing Northern Virginia transportation is one of his top priorities because I have seen him take on equally tough issues in the past.

He will not rest until Northern Virginia is receiving back its fair share of the transportation dollars it sends to Richmond.

In 2007, the Farm Bureau exclusively endorsed Bob, even though he was running against one of the most powerful senators in Virginia, because they appreciated his views on land use and his commitment to conservation easements.

Bob gained valuable Virginia Senate experience by serving as Legislative Director for then Virginia Senator Ken Cuccinelli for four years. The relationships he forged when he worked for Mr. Cuccinelli will enable Bob to "hit the ground running" once he is elected.

I hope you will vote for Bob FitzSimmonds in the primary on August 23rd. You can learn more about him at his website, www.vote4bob.org. – William Cook, Round Hill

... health notes *Children & Chiropractic*

— By Christina VanDerHurst, D.C. and
Perry J. VanDerHurst, D.C., F.A.S.A.

Many times when a new patient comes to our office and sees a child or infant being adjusted, the initial reaction is, “I didn’t know you could adjust children.” There is usually a lot of curiosity as to how gentle the adjustment is and why a child would even need adjusting.

Think about this: the spine goes through stresses every day, and they began with the birth process. Tremendous pressure is placed on the spine during labor, especially if there is any pulling on the infant’s head to aid in delivery. In fact, most of the spinal misalignments, or subluxations, that we see causing pain in adults are a direct result of a traumatic birth.

Dr. Abraham Towbin, a Harvard Medical School pathologist found that approximately 85% of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) is a result of trauma to the infant’s spine during the birth process.

Dr. Gutmann, a German medical doctor found that 80% of children have a subluxation in the upper part of the neck,

which leads to lowered resistance to infections, frequent colds, ear infections, etc. There is also clinical research that these problems respond very well with chiropractic care.

Subluxations can be caused by a variety of factors including wearing diapers too tight, playing in “Jolly-Jumpers”, and being held in poor positions. Later in life, they come about from tumbles when learning to walk, falls off bikes, and falling down stairs.

Many times, we see these uncorrected subluxations show up as a scoliosis (curvature) of the spine. If allowed to remain, these misalignments are the starting point to nervous system and body malfunction. The problems continue into adulthood, leading to degeneration of spinal discs and arthritis.

Proper spinal care is essential

to a child’s health...not just for the early years, but for decades of living a quality, healthy life!

Drs. Christina and Perry VanDerHurst practice chiropractic and acupuncture in their office, Blue Ridge Chiropractic & Acupuncture, in Purcellville, VA.

Host Families Needed for Exchange Students

Center for Cultural Interchange (CCI) seeks volunteer host families to host exchange students for the 2011-12 school year. Each year, CCI provides over 1000 exchange students from over 50 countries the opportunity to study in local public high schools for a five-month semester or a 10-month Academic High School Year.

“Host families make all of the difference,” said Allison Graham, Outreach and Training manager. “They influence a young adult’s life, changing world views and making dreams come true. When the family is so willing to give, they have just as many rewarding and enriching experiences as the student.”

Volunteer host families provide:

- Open communication, encouragement, patience and sound advice;
- A separate bed, which can be in a shared room with a host sibling of similar age and same gender and a quiet place to study;

- Three daily meals;
- Local transportation (students are not permitted to drive while in the program);
- Treatment as a member of the family, which may include household rules, responsibilities and privileges.

While host families are not compensated, the Internal Revenue Service has authorized families to claim a \$50 per month charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns.

Students have their own accident and health insurance and bring their own spending money. Students are encouraged to participate in school-sponsored activities, community service and environmental programs. CCI provides regular communication and support to both host families and students. Host family applications are being accepted now through August 15.

For more information, visit <http://www.cci-exchange.com/usprograms/host.aspx>, email ayp@cci-exchange.com or call 800-634-4771.

It’s Back to School Time ... And We’re Here For You!



Send your kids back to school in style by shopping smart ... which means shopping at your favorite Renewable Fashion Boutique!

Here are a few tips on how to shop sensibly:

- Make a list before you go shopping. It will keep you on track and save you from impulse buying.
- Do an inventory of what you have so you can build on it by looking for coordinating pieces. Show kids how they can do their part in recycling by giving clothes a second life.
- This is also a good time to recycle clothing your children have outgrown, by consigning at your favorite consignment store, giving you cash to spend on this year’s clothes.
- Get started early and visit your favorite consignment shop often, as new things come in every day.
- You do not have to buy everything at once. You can add during the year as you discover great new bargains at your favorite upscale consignment store.




Kelli Grim, President / CEO
“Chief Everything Officer”
Kelli Grim

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

Mon. 1 to 5:30 pm
Tues. – Fri. 10 am to 5:30 pm
Sat. 10 am – 5 pm
Closed on Sun.
Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter



Loudoun County Acupuncture

*Deeply healing therapies
& care from Barbara Mikula
MSOM, L.Ac.*

*Give yourself welcome relief from Stress, PMS,
Premenopausal Symptoms, Fertility Issues,
Hormone Regulation and more.*

Acupuncture and Traditional Oriental Medicine are ancient healing systems suited for modern times. Call to discuss your needs & dreams for healing – 703.328.6648

www.LoudounCountyAcupuncture.com • 117 North 21st Street • Purcellville, VA • 20132

Serving all of your Music needs

IN YOUR HEART A SONG

Musical Instruments
Consigned and New
Music Accessories
Books and Gifts

with SHAMROCK
music shoppe
PURCELLVILLE - VIRGINIA

Rentals
Recording Studio
Rehearsal Space
Lessons
Live Performance

108 N 21st Street, Historic District Purcellville, VA 20132
Shop: 540-338-3313 Cell: 571-400-1433
scott@shamrockmusicshop.com
www.shamrockmusicshop.com

The Blue Ridge Leader is pledged to the letter and spirit of Virginia’s and HUD’s Equal Opportunity Housing Policies. Virginia’s Fair Housing Law makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status and handicap. This newspaper will not knowingly accept advertising for real estate that violates the Fair Housing Law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in the paper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. For more information about Virginia’s Fair Housing Law, or to file a Fair Housing complaint, call the Virginia Fair Housing Office at 804.376.8530; toll-free 888.551.3247; for the hearing impaired: 804.527.4290; email – fairhousing@dpor.virginia.gov; web: www.fairhousing.vipnet.org.

Marina Genn: World Class Athlete, Trainer & Visionary

The Woman Behind The American Academy of Equestrian Sciences

By Carol Morris Dukes

They're lined up, dressed alike, facing forward, shoulder to shoulder. Tallest first, the line angles downward according to height. The last one is an alert, tiny girl. Her eyes are fixed on the imposing figure at the head of the line; lunge whip in hand. The light is dim, the walls dark. They're standing in an arena, moments before performing. The black and white photo captures a pivotal time for little Marina Genn, taken in her early years of riding instruction with German trainer and mentor, Adi Jachmich. A tiny spitfire, Marina was 13 years old when that photo was taken.

I admit to knowing little or nothing about riding – or about horses for that matter. My curiosity has everything to do with Marina. She's not an ordinary woman, and from the moment she pauses from the unrelenting demands of her work and zeros in on you, you sense an energy that belies her petite form. She has that sort of aura; a charisma. A rare thing to have – it begs the question: Who are you?? And, finding out was not particularly easy. Marina is not exactly forthcoming about herself. Despite her bright smile and happy demeanor, she's actually a bit shy.

Born Marina Ridder in Gelsenkirchen, Germany in the 1950's, Ms. Genn can't claim horsemanship as a birthright.

Marina would discover her passion for horses later – after she back-flipped her way onto, then off of, the German Women's Olympic Gymnastics Team. A natural-born athlete, born to natural-born athletes, Marina was exposed to rigorous physical activity and enjoyed a competitive camaraderie with her older brother and her father, who pushed themselves to their athletic physical limits.



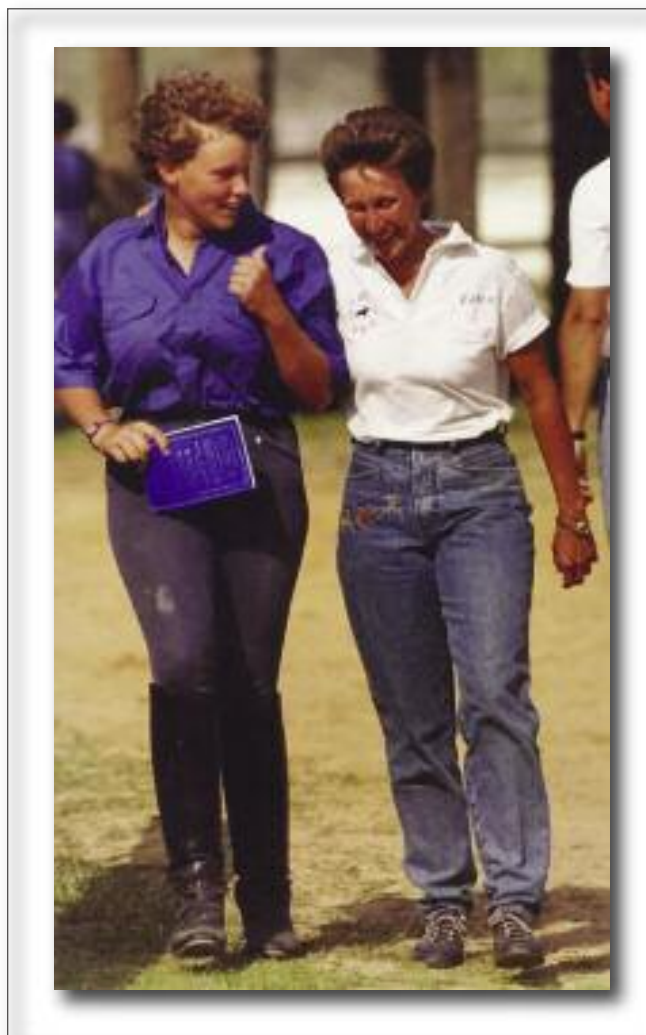
Marina and her brother remain very close.

Marina remembers her first 100 mile bike ride with her dad – in one day, in pouring rain – when she was 9 years old. No small feat when you consider the rolling terrain of the German countryside. Swimming, skiing, biking, running, jumping – she was taught to approach every sport and school competition with the expectation of winning. Her parents told her: "When faced with a challenge, set a goal. If you're not up to the challenge – fake it!

By telling yourself you WILL do it – and picturing yourself mastering it, you'll accomplish that goal." With that belief, she always strived to be number one – the fastest, smartest, strongest, jump-igest amongst her peers.

A petite child, Marina's skill and limitless energy was funneled like a power nozzle into Germany's well-honed gymnastic arena. She rose to the top of her sport and at 11 she was short-listed for the Women's Olympic Gymnastic Team. Years of rigorous training came to an abrupt end when her parents pulled the plug: the Olympic Team trained in another city and Marina would have to move there under the tutelage of her coaches. "Verboten!" her parents declared. They wouldn't turn their daughter out at such a young age. "My world came crashing down," described Marina; "All those years of training for nothing." An emotional letdown – but not the end of the world.

Feeling bored, and searching for a new challenge, Marina stumbled upon a riding stable near her home and discovered Vaulting – a sort of circus



Marina, right, with daughter Carina.

gymnastics on horseback. Marina was a shoe-in.

She had never ridden before, but she loved animals and knew something about tumbling. Never mind that this tumbling was on a moving target. Enter Adi Jachmich, the riding and Vaulting instructor who would become her mentor. "He was the most incredible person I have ever known," she reflected: "It was his selfless care and influence, in combination with the extremely structured upbringing by my parents that gave me my inner drive and made me the person I am today."

Herr Jachmich instructed with an eye toward precision. Students stood at attention and arrived for class spit and polished. He demanded excellence in everything. Marina was his tiniest student, but quickly became his best. One day Adi had a contest in which he asked his students to vault from the ground, up onto a cantering horse and back down again – up and down, up and down, as many times as they could. One by one each student was drilled and would typically tire out after 10 or 15 rounds. The oldest and tallest boy in the class "wowed" everyone by vaulting 50 times. When it was little Marina's turn, she nervously and silently vowed to beat the record, and proceeded to vault up and down, over and over, until everyone was watching and pointing, and until Adi finally told her to stop. By then he'd gone over 175 rounds! That drive to keep on going is exactly what makes Marina, well, Marina.

Armed with mentors like Adi Jachmich and her parents, Marina rode, read and researched (the three R's!) in earnest, developing a keen interest in the anatomy and physiology of horses (a top student, she was being groomed for Medical School). Her interest in Vaulting eventually took a back seat to the highly respected, German-dominated sport of Dressage Jumping and Eventing. A natural, Marina could read horses like a book. They understood one another. Over

"Marina would discover her passion for horses later – after she back-flipped her way onto, then off of, the German Women's Olympic Gymnastics Team."

the following years, Marina became exceptional, and competed in the Show Jumping Ring and Three Day Eventing course. And began winning. A lot.

A rising star, Marina became sought after as a trainer. She married a fellow equestrian, took the surname, Genn, and in the late 1970's, her barn became the top center in Germany for the training and breeding of fine competition horses. Marina competed against, and trained with, the elite in World Class Dressage. In 1982, her family moved to Ontario, Canada and she was soon operating the largest equestrian importing business in North America, producing top-quality horses – including 37 international-caliber athletes – while advancing her notoriety in the show ring.

In 1987, Marina Genn was long-listed for the Canadian Olympic Equestrian Team, riding Woodstock ... her second Olympic-level achievement. Soon, Marina was spending much of her time criss crossing the US in private planes provided by well-heeled equestrians eager to learn from her. She was in demand – and riding high. And then, in 2005, Marina arrived on the local Loudoun County equestrian scene. Just south of Leesburg on Route 15, Marina Genn's American Academy of Equestrian Sciences is hard to miss. The finely appointed AAES advertises itself as a "full service, indoor equestrian facility...From beginner through the Olympic levels in Dressage, Stadium Jumping, and Three Day Eventing, our equestrian programs are second to none." A clue to her move here appears on her website: "The formation of the Academy as a training base ... marks a new era of horsemanship education in the United States."

"Training base?" "New era?" For all of her past accomplishments, Marina's goal, it appears, has not yet been real-



ized: Her keen training skills and affection for horses may help to re-write the book on American Dressage. Trying to find ways to help reduce injury and the reliance on heavy equine medical care, Marina hopes to help usher in compliance with standardized training methods in the US Dressage industry. And when Marina decides to do something, well, she does it.

“Our long term plans include University accreditation for both our Rider and Instructor Certification Programs, as well

Continued on page 23

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

Ouch! What Was that?

It's just hot and muggy out. The girls, Bernie and Laino are busy having fun at the Loudoun County Fair all week long and dogs are not allowed this year!

I have to entertain myself, so I trotted on down to my favorite creek bed, Beaver Dam Creek. Sniffing, sniffing, and sniffing along my well worn paths my nose twitched under a large flat field stone not to far from the water's edge. Ouch, a little triangular stone prick my soft little black nose. This was not just any ordinary stone ... nothing like I had ever seen. It was almost shiny and clearly had been shaped around the edges ... to a pointed end that had just stuck me! A treasure!, I thought, and carried the little sharpened stone back home

I knew that Tiki – the small but very wise farm Chihuahua – would tell me all about it. Tiki knew everything about history, as she belonged to Bernie and Bernie is a real book worm. She reads every night to Tiki and that is why Tiki knows everything.

Upon my arrival home, just as I thought I would, I found Tiki sunning herself on the front porch. Oh boy, does she love the hot weather. I carefully placed the almost shiny, triangular stone right under her nose. Twitch, twitch, sniff, sniff, she didn't bark a word. She gently picked the stone up in her tiny white teeth and slowly walked toward the cool shade, under the story tree. I followed politely.

Tiki gently turned the stone over and over. Her eyes gazed intently, inspecting the shape and size, looking at the ridges and notches carefully. It was as if the stone spoke to her in a conversation all their own. “Hmmm, hmmm,” she hummed to herself, as she dropped the stone and then sniffed it, inhaling deeply while closing her eyes, her little eye brows twitching.

Oh, this is the part I loved best about being under the story tree with Tiki. When Tiki hmmm's and closes her eyes, it is my clue to get comfortable, lie on my back and listen. So that's just what I did.

Tiki began: “Sushi, you are a Great and Mighty Cairn Terrier who lives his life hunting the Sly Ones in the deep, dark forbidden woods. You know, my dear little man, there were many great hunters here long



Indian arrowhead

before your time. The hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains are full of spirits, including the spirits of the earliest men who lived and roamed this region perhaps as long as 10,000 years ago – people known archeologically as the Paleo-Indian group.”

Tiki continued. “This treasure, the special rock you found down by the creek, is an arrowhead – a piece of stone shaped to a point that would be lashed to a spear for hunting. With the introduction of the bow and arrow, at about the same time as the coming of pottery-making – generally assumed to be about 2,500 B.C. – the life of the Paleo Indian became much easier. The bow and arrow enabled him to bring down his game from a greater distance and with less risk to himself ... since he no longer had to creep up within throwing distance of his prey.”

“There are many kinds of arrowheads, or ‘projectile points,’ ” Tiki explained, “and lots of things are used to figure out when they were made and who used them and for what!”

“For example,” said Tiki, still gazing at my treasure but clearly drifting off into some kind of arrowhead wonderland, “is the arrowhead nearly oval shaped or square shaped? Can you identify any markings on the arrowhead. Are there ridges, notches or designs etched onto the arrowhead? Does the arrowhead have a stem? It is crucial to identify as many details as you can so you can narrow your matching down to a few possibilities (instead of a hundred!).”

“Another example,” continued Tiki, “the Yuchi tribe of Virginia had wide flat arrowheads that were nearly square-shaped, while Cherokee arrowheads were long, narrow and triangular ...”

Triangular ... narrow ... notches ... stems ... great

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

She cherishes the joy of providing her customers with fine fresh meats and products. You can order our fine meats and products at www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com ...



hunters ... lying there on my back I realized that it was I who had drifted off to sleep under the wonderful storytelling of the farm historian and wise Chihuahua, Tiki.

She had trotted off down towards the barn, Nellie the Border Collie in tow. But, right there by my side was my little stone treasure, gleaming in the now lower sun. My arrowhead. What a lovely day. And, lovelier still since the girls would soon be back from the Loudoun County Fair and Mrs. B. would be cooking in the kitchen and the coolness of the evening would set in and all would be beyond perfect in my world.

Next time you're down by a creek, or anywhere rocks can be found, don't be surprised if you stumble across one. And don't be afraid to do a little investigating. A tip from Bernie ... Read More About How to Identify Indian Arrowheads in Virginia at www.eHow.com. Type in “identifying Indian arrowheads”.

To the next adventure ... and ... until then ... I am forever yours and all yours, the Great and Mighty Carin Terrier, Sushi.

Wow! I now have my very own email address!

[Sushi@fields of Athenryfarm.com!](mailto:Sushi@fieldsofathenryfarm.com)

I would love to hear from you ... please email me (with arrowhead reports or whatever!).

– Love Again, Sushi

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

- Does the daycare or preschool have a parent orientation or events for parents to meet with other parents and the workers or teachers?
- Does the daycare or preschool allow you to speak with parents who currently have their children enrolled?
- Does the daycare or preschool allow your child to visit during the application process? If so, observe your child closely and the ways in which he interacts with other children and the staff.
- Does the daycare center or preschool have training programs on abuse for its workers or teachers?
- Does the daycare or preschool have a child psychologist-consultant who assists the director and teaching staff with agency/employee concerns or concerns involving students?
- Does the daycare or preschool allow parents to drop-in and visit their children at any time or volunteer?
- Does the daycare or preschool have adequate security and emergency protocols (e.g., cameras, locked doors and signed authorizations for releasing your child)?

- Does the daycare or preschool allow you to meet with adjunct staff that may still have contact with your child (e.g., janitors, food service workers and bus drivers)?

If you are choosing a smaller, family day care for your child, you will need to rely more heavily on the provider's references and reputation amongst friends, neighbors and others in the community since the same licensing protocols may not apply.

Although the most recent incident at Chesterbrook Academy is upsetting, I ask parents to keep in mind that the majority of child daycare workers and teachers are responsible and caring individuals who adhere to high standards. We all know that Loudoun County has an excellent reputation for both public and private education. I see the incident as an invitation (albeit a tragic one) for daycare and preschool directors in Loudoun County to enforce better screening measures and to improve staff education and parent involvement. Our children mean everything to us, do we really have a choice?

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



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

A Nearby AT Section, Wildcat Mountain and a Word About Bears

It is hot outside. This time of year, I like to take a short hike first thing in the morning, and then spend the rest of the day lazing by the pool. Here are a couple of short, nearby trips that are perfect for just that.

The first is a stretch of the Appalachian Trail just south of the heavily trafficked Bears' Den area. Heading west on Rt. 7, past Bluemont, turn left on Blueridge Mountain Rd., and follow it along the ridge for a little over 4 miles. Turn right on Morgans Mill Road, and find the trailhead after about a mile and a half.

Begin heading north on the white-blazed trail, past a sign marking 6.25 miles to Rt. 7. This is true Appalachian old growth forest, filled with truly colossal Elm and Tulip trees. After a little more than half a mile, the trail crosses a stream. Just beyond that stream turn right on an unblazed path that follows the stream uphill. Be extra careful here, as the wet rocks can be surprisingly slippery. After a short climb upstream there is a picturesque set of falls, which are at their best after a rainstorm.

Upon returning to the main trail, continue heading north, past the old stone foundation of a small cabin which has long since disappeared.

Eventually, the trail passes through a clearing filled with fat-leaved green plants about as tall as a person. These seem to have colonized in an area of the forest which was cleared out by a fire. The last leg of this hike is a steep climb up Buzzard Hill. This section is tough, but the burned out forest affords a pleasant view. Best of all, if you make this trek at the right time of year, you'll be rewarded at the top of this final climb with wild blueberries!

After you've had your fill of berries, head back the way you came. The round trip total is a little less than 4 miles.

One of our area's hidden gems is the Wildcat Mountain Nature Preserve near Marshall, maintained by the Nature Conservancy. To get there, from I66, take exit 28 and turn left onto Rt 17. Take your first right on Rt. 691. In about 5 miles turn left on England Mountain road, and park at the information kiosk.

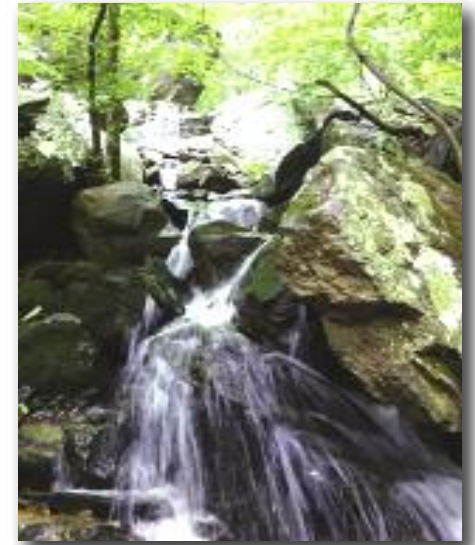
Follow the yellow trail markers for a quiet 3 miles, wandering along a stone fence, and past an old farm with a beautiful

stone spring house. The meadow here is a perfect picnic spot.

This farm was donated in the 1960's by the Arundel family to the Conservancy who allowed nature to take over. Still mostly undiscovered by hikers, Wildcat Mountain is home to plenty of wildlife, like red and gray foxes, bobcats, skunks, and black bears. In fact, I happened upon a bear when I was hiking at Wildcat Mountain just a couple weeks ago.

Spotting a bear in the wild is very exciting, but it's important to be smart around these beautiful, powerful animals. First of all, and I hope this is common sense, never try to approach a bear or other wild animal. It's a good idea to hike with binoculars in order to be able to observe wildlife from a safe distance. Bears become dangerous when startled so it's important to avoid accidentally sneaking up on one. Make noise when you hike, if you're not chatting with your companion or crunching dry leaves, you might whistle a tune, or clap your hands occasionally. Bears can be attracted to food carried by hikers so make sure you keep your lunch in a sealed container.

Fortunately bear attacks are exceedingly rare. A hiker is far more likely to be in a car accident on the way to the trail than to be attacked by a bear. That said, if you encounter a bear that appears aggressive,



you should speak in a loud, deep voice, or throw rocks. This is sure to frighten a bear away. In the very rare event that a bear does attack, fight back and the bear is likely to back down. The chance of coming face to face with a bear should make Loudouners more eager to explore our wildernesses, not scare us away.

Molly Pinson Simoneau grew up in western Loudoun and enjoys hiking most weekends.

Marina Genn, continued from page 21

as establishing a relationship with the US Dressage Federation and the American Horse Show Association to aid in enforcing uniform licensing and certification programs by providing an educational backdrop for riders and instructors alike," Marina explained. In places like Germany, Dressage trainers follow a standard curriculum proven to reduce injury to horses, while still turning out World Class Champions. Once this program is established here, she plans to expand and open satellite facilities in strategic locations across North America.

Change takes time, but Marina is a patient woman and she has a plan, starting with her well-advertised Camp Koda, which offers after-school and summer riding camps to kids, and her AAES Riding Academy which offers riding instruction to kids and adults of all skill levels. Students can take traditional riding lessons, or the structured Rider Certificate Courses involving classroom training with an emphasis on Theory.

No longer wanting to travel internationally to work with trainers, Marina supports her vision through other, non-horse related businesses she owns and manages, both in the US and abroad. She's an entrepreneur extraordinaire with a work ethic that harkens to her early days of limitless energy.

She just goes and goes and goes. Ever the spitfire, Marina is unflinching in her expectation for success. Her parents and Adi taught her well. As if to emphasize this

point – Marina shows me a photograph taken a few months ago. She passes me the picture, her eyes twinkling as she grins broadly. Holding the glossy in my hand, I am astounded to see Marina poised upside down, toes pointed, doing a perfectly executed shoulder stand on the back of a horse. Challenged by a student, she just couldn't help herself. Typical Marina Genn.

She has had a lot of successes, but she beams with pride when she discusses her handful of young equestrians that are beginning to show promise as the first wave of Dressage upstarts that began when she first opened AAES in 2005. They are now beginning to fill the ranks of young trainers, themselves, and Marina feels satisfied that her vision for creating a standard for Dressage education in the US has a foothold. Forget her gymnastic and riding fame. She's on to something big.



BLUE RIDGE CHIROPRACTIC & ACUPUNCTURE, LLC

~ NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS ~

Christina M. VanDerHurst, DC
PJ VanDerHurst, DC, FASA

Chiropractic Physicians

205 E. Hirst Rd Suite 102

Purcellville, VA 20132

PH 540-338-3190 Fax 540-338-3695

www.blueridgechiropractic.com

TOWNS and Villages

PHOTO COURTESY OF FIELDS OF ATHENRY FARM

LINCOLN – By Anne Tiffany

Lincoln's Fourth of July parade, picnic, and festivities were a huge success. There were 27 entries in the parade, and almost as many in the two dessert contests, for the adults as well as the kids. We consumed 140 grilled hot dogs and made short order of the Bar-B-Q beef. The kids enjoyed games, many of which included buckets and balloons of water. 2011 is an odd year so The Pink Flamingos once again brought up the rear of our parade. After several patriotic readings, we were treated, for the third year in a row, to the lively music of the Acoustic Burgoo. Many flags lined our street, and our little village looked proud and quite festive in red, white, and blue.

The Lincoln Community League wishes to thank to all of you who had anything to do with our patriotic celebration - whether you came and were part of the enthusiastic audience, or you helped coordinate the entire celebration. It was such fun because so many of us took part in the day.

Keep Loudoun Beautiful, KLB, just sent the Lincoln Community League a \$100 check thanking them for their help with the April clean up. A special thank you goes out to all the LCL members who helped clean up Lincoln area roads this year; and to Jilori Whyte and Suellen Beverly for their work in heading up Lincoln's KLB Campaign.

Clint Good, AIA has been appointed by the governor to the Art and Architecture Review Board. This entails a monthly meeting in Richmond to review projects that are being constructed by the Commonwealth. It is for a four year term.

Many Lincoln families must be away this month as I received very little news. When the call goes out for more news in August, please let me know where you vacationed and what you and your family did this summer. Email Anne Tiffany with Lincoln news: jtiff70519@aol.com.

ROUND HILL

– By Susan Kahler

The Woodgrove High School Athletic Department is pleased to announce Ms. Katie Smith as the new Varsity Cheer Coach at Woodgrove. Ms. Smith, a Loudoun native and former Assistant Gymnastics coach at Briar



Woods, comes to Woodgrove after graduating and competing at Potomac Falls High School and graduating and competing in cheer at George Mason University. Katie joins the faculty at Woodgrove as a Physical Education teacher. Katie's extensive competitive cheer background compliments the cheer program well. Heidi Raymer will assist with the varsity program and Tammi Gryniuk will coach the

Junior Varsity. Both Ms. Raymer and Ms. Smith will coach the Freshmen program.

Woodgrove Wolverines Athletic Booster Club is sponsoring an Inaugural Charity Golf Tournament Monday, September 19, 2011 at Stoneleigh Golf and Country Club in Round Hill. Proceeds will benefit the WWABC Scholarship Fund and the mission of the WWABC. \$125 per player includes range balls, greens/cart fees, 18 holes of golf, a BBQ lunch, drinks and a Wolverine goodie bag. Immediately following the tournament will be a silent auction. Contact Jan Lokie, WWABC Golf Tournament Chair at semiole84@aol.com for additional information.

Back-to-school Woodgrove High School dates to keep in mind:
August 25th – Student Orientation
August 29th – First Day of School
September 19th – Back to School night. Back to school supplies and clothing Virginia sales tax free holidays August 5-7th – During this three-day period, purchases of qualifying school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and purchases of qualifying clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from sales tax. Retailers may also choose to absorb the tax on other items during the holiday period

U.S. TRAIL RIDE (USTR) invites equestrians to join them in a Benefit Pleasure Ride, Sunday, August 7, 2011 in Neersville, Virginia. Join them for a day of riding on the beautiful, shaded trails of the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES) in Neersville, VA, located between Hillsboro and Harpers Ferry. The ride will be approximately 10 miles long over mixed terrain, including bridges and creek crossings. Trails will be marked by ribbons and riders will "go as they please." Ride out will be between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Proceeds from the ride will benefit The Blue Ridge Center (BRCES), the non-profit educational organization that stewards the 900 acre historic landscape. Registration Postmarked by July 29th – \$30
Registration Postmarked after July 29th or Day of Ride – \$35. For more detailed information, visit www.ustrailride.org

Another local riding group, Tri-State Riding Club, is sponsoring a Poker Ride Sunday, August 14, 2011 at Camp Highroad in Middleburg, Virginia with proceeds going to benefit the Camp. The ride will go through some lovely countryside and as you go, you receive cards along the way to play a game of 5 card draw for a prize of \$100 for the best hand. Trails will be well marked for riders to go at their own pace. Cost is \$30 pre-registered or \$35 the day of the ride. Snacks and water will be provided. Registration begins at 9 a.m. For a form and waiver, visit <http://www.tristatec.org/signup11.pdf>. Update for Alabama tornado relief efforts: A school supply drive for Tuscaloosa City and County Schools is underway...information on the continuing effort to provide support to the survivors of the Alabama Tornadoes can be found on www.vaforal.org along with a complete list of school needs, drop sites, and contact info. Send your Round Hill news to Susanne at:

kahlerohana@comcast.net.)

Special message from the Blue Ridge Leader ... before we leave the Round Hill news ...

Chris "Cricket" Pearson's vigilent cat alerted him to a rather unusual "item" under his porch last week. It was about 8 am on Thursday, July 28th and what did Chris see staring back at him? A four foot rattle snake. Kudos to Tori Pearson, who took this photo. Be aware of your surroundings!



HAMILTON – By Terry Moon

It's back to school time, hard to believe isn't it? Remember to buy extra school supplies to donate for school children who won't have them. Most of the stores have bins to collect the

school supplies.

The Town Council honored Bill Gallant for his many years of service on the Planning Commission. Bill and Vicki have sold their house and will be moving closer to their adult children.

Bill and Vicki have been active members of Harmony United Methodist Church and have both served the town in volunteer and appointed positions. Vicki has also been active with the Hamilton Book Club. They are friendly, outgoing and helpful people. Bill and Vicki, all of us will miss you!

If you've missed the town logo on the sign at the west end of town it will be returning. Mayor Greg Wilmoth reported that the sign was vandalized and has been removed for cleaning.

The Mayor is urging all citizens to report any trucks which appear to be discharging into the town's sewer system. You don't need to check what they are discharging but public dumping into our sewer system is not permitted. Call 911 and inform the Town Office.

WHAT IS THE CARVER CENTER?



CARVER CENTER IS A CHARMING & HISTORIC COMMUNITY/SENIOR CENTER LOCATED IN BEAUTIFUL PURCELLVILLE. THE CENTER OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF CLASSES & ACTIVITIES SUCH AS FITNESS CLASSES, TAI CHI, YOGA, LINE DANCE, COMPUTER CLASSES, BALLET, CHESS CLUB, KICKBOXING, LATIN GROOVES, AND MORE! SENIORS 55 & BETTER WHO PURCHASE A YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FOR \$25 GET FREE ACCESS TO THE FITNESS CENTER, COMPUTER LAB, AND MANY, MANY CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES.

THE CARVER CENTER HAS AN ASSORTMENT OF ROOMS TO FIT YOUR RENTAL NEEDS - FROM SMALL ROOMS FOR AN INTIMATE GATHERING, TO OUR GRAND HALL THAT CAN FIT 200 PEOPLE!

THE CARVER CENTER IS A HIDDEN GEM. COME CHECK US OUT!

For more information, stop by the Center or give us a call!
200 Willie Palmer Way – Purcellville, VA 20132 – 571-258-3400

 www.loudoun.gov/carver

Thanksgiving Roses – By Donna Williamson

Want an easy-care rose that's also beautiful? The Buck roses are hardy and beautiful. They are easy-care roses that are proven to thrive in areas with hot summers.

When spring comes, it comes in a mad rush. As a garden designer and coach, it is a busy time of year for me. When the rush is over, I have time for my own garden. Of course, by then the weeds are as tall as a teenager!

But I also have time to look at my roses. I'm a picky rose grower – no time for disease magnets, so I grow many of the Buck roses. If you haven't met them yet, you're in for a treat.

Griffith Buck hybridized roses in Iowa for many years and tested them by placing them outside the greenhouse with no special care. If they survived the hot, humid summers without developing blackspot and other leaf-dropping diseases, the plants might make it through the winter and then, get a name.

Dr. Buck is no longer with us, and he gave away many of his roses, but folks all over the country are tracking them down and propagating them for us.

Buck's 'Quietness', an exquisite white/pink shrub rose, has been named as the top rose by the New

York Botanical Garden rose folks. Other favorites of mine include 'Hawkeye Belle', 'Allamand-Ho', 'Distant Drums', 'Country Dancer', 'Pearlie', and 'Winter Sunset'.

You will need to find them through mail-order sources, as they are not often part of the "rose assortment" sent to landscape nurseries each year by the mega-rose companies. As an extra bonus, most of these mail-order roses are on their own roots rather than grafted. That means that if the young ones die back to the ground in winter, the roots may survive and it will grow back as the same rose, not some lanky multiflora. Google "Buck roses" for lots of other information and mail order sources.

The photo at right shows a variety of Buck roses I brought indoors for Thanksgiving last year. All roses take about three years from time of planting to look terrific. Don't get impatient and lose heart. They will be glorious!

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.



Blue Ridge LEADER & Loudoun Today



Are You a Natural Salesperson?????

Come Join the Advertising Team
at the Blue Ridge Leader!

– **VERY GENEROUS COMMISSIONS!** –

Contact Carolbrleader@yahoo.com;

703.727.5576.

Community & Business announcements

August

Thursday, August 4, 11 a.m. - noon, Blood Pressure, Glucose & Cholesterol Screenings, Lovettsville Community Center 57 E. Broad Way, Lovettsville

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

Sunday, August 7, 3pm Meet the Artist, Joan Gardiner, Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road, Leesburg – Ceramic tile artist, Joan Gardiner will present a fascinating overview of American Art tile from its beginning during the Craftsmanship Movement of the early 1900's to its re-emergence in recent years and today. Many examples of tile and installations past and present from across the US will be shown, including a history of tiles made for children in schools and libraries. Joan will share examples of her own work and talk about the processes and materials as well as have examples of plaster molds and extra tiles that weren't used in the Rust Library installation. Joan says, "The history of art, of painting in particular, is complex with so many influences breaking off and branching away in many directions. There are so many painters and schools to memorize and identify. But, looking at the history of tile is so much simpler and direct. Starting in China, through Africa, then Spain and Italy where one tile maker married a woman from Antwerp Belgium and voila! Dutch tiles!" Joan works at her studio, Unison Pottery and Tile Works in Unison, VA.

Monday, August 8, 4 - 7 p.m., Blood Pressure, Glucose & Cholesterol Screenings, Town of Purcellville, 130 E. Main Street, Purcellville

Thursday, August 11, 10 a.m. - noon, Blood Pressure, Glucose & Cholesterol Screenings,, Carver Center 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville

Thursday & Friday, August 11 & 12, 7:00 PM, Growing Stage Camp: Back to the 80's – Experience the thrill and creativity of a theatre setting by participating in acting, dancing, singing, and set construction. Campers will perform in front of a live audience. Set in the USA, Back to the 80's tells the story of the senior class of William Ocean High School that graduated in the 1980's. The Growing Stage Theatre, Inc. is a non-profit theatre group that has been producing musical theatre camps and workshops in Loudoun County, Virginia since its inception in 1994. This is a Free Event, Reserve by calling 540-338-7973

Saturday, August 13, 7:00 PM The Immortals – The Immortals are a group of teen musicians who have achieved amazing success in Loudoun County. Formed from students of Frank Keims' Loudoun Music Instruction in Lovettsville, The Immortals have performed at Youth-Fest, Rock the Field and were even invited to play at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame! This will be the final concert before college for some members! Tickets: \$7 All Ages. Reserve by calling 540-338-7973

Saturday, August 13, Gary Smallwood -7-9 PM-Acoustic on the Green 25 West Market Street, Leesburg

Thursday, August 18, 11 a.m. - noon, Blood Pressure Screenings, Lovettsville Community Center, 57 E. Broad Way, Lovettsville

Friday & Saturday, August 19 & 20, 8:00 PM Theaterpalooza Camp: Cinderella – This musical is the story of Cinderella, a young girl forced to do all of the menial tasks in the home she shares with her coldhearted stepmother and homely stepsisters. The king and queen invite

every young maiden in the kingdom to a royal ball so that the crown prince can find a girl to marry. While Cinderella daydreams, she is visited by her fairy godmother, who makes it possible for her wishes to come true. This is a magical musical, perfect for the whole family. Tickets: Contact Theaterpalooza Directly at 703-728-4021

Saturday, August 20, Michael Sheppard, 7-9PM, Acoustic on the Green, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg

Sunday, August 21, 4:00 PM The Polka Dots – Singers and musicians from a young age, sisters Aislin and Nora Kavaldjian became the Polka Dots at ages 15 and 13. After a year learning mandolin and fiddle from Fiddlin' Dave Van Deventer, he suggested the girls perform at Watermelon Park Fest as their recital. Since then the group has grown, adding good friend Olivia Zook on the bass, and many, many more songs, traditional, antique, and original. They have played at venues large and small from folk festivals to farmers' markets. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$8 Seniors/ Students. Reserve by calling 540-338-7973

Thursday, August 25, 10 a.m. - noon, Blood Pressure, Glucose & Cholesterol Screenings, Carver Center 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville

Friday & Saturday, August 26 & 27, 8:00 PM Theaterpalooza Camp: Rapunzel – The beautiful Rapunzel with her 70-feet of long hair, has been held captive in a tower her entire life, and she is curious of the outside world. Rapunzel strikes a deal with a charming thief to act as her guide to travel and is about to have the most exciting and magnificent journey of her life. This hilarious musical is fun for children of all ages. Tickets: Contact Theaterpalooza Directly at 703-728-4021

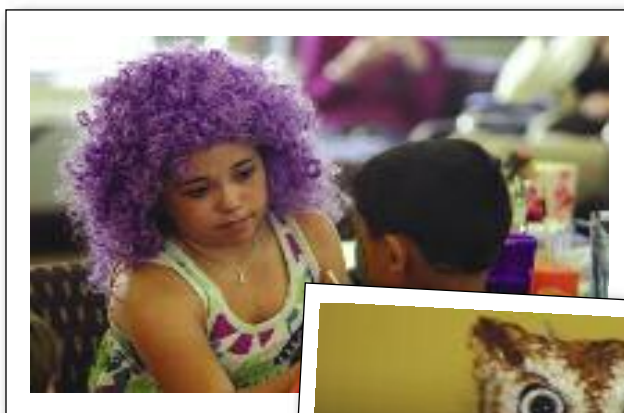
Saturday, August 27, Jennifer Daniels 7-9PM, Acoustic on the Green 25 West Market Street, Leesburg

CARVER CENTER FUN & EDUCATION

National Night Out Free Family Fun Dance, 6:00-8:00 PM Tuesday, August 2, Free

(All ages) Get a free taste of Carver while helping to strengthen neighborhood spirit by coming out for this family-centered community event. We will be offering tasty refreshments and DJ Sky Dantine will be spinning lively upbeat tunes for dancing in our beautiful and spacious Grand Hall.

Entertainment and Refreshments Provided by Morningside House of Leesburg.



ZOO DAY!, 10:00 am-1:00 pm, Friday, August 12, Free, but please bring a donation for Animal Ambassadors (call

Carver Center at 571-258-3400 for ideas). Carver welcomes visitors of all ages to enjoy a special presentation by the Animal Ambassadors at 11:00, as well as displays of farm animals, greyhounds and pocket pets, face-painting and barrel-train rides. A hot dog lunch will be available for a modest fee.



Advisory Board Yard Sale, 8:00-3:00, Saturday, August 20, Free

There will be something for everyone at Carver's upcoming Yard Sale. Browse for bargains in air-conditioned comfort in the newly re-opened Grand Hall! The Advisory Board will be selling hot dog lunches for a modest fee.

If you are interested in renting a table, please call the center at 571-258-3400 ASAP and ask to speak with Myrtle. There may still be tables available when this newsletter arrives in mailboxes. If you miss your chance at a table this time around, join us for our Holiday Bazaar, December 2 and 3.



Wow! We have soooo much more on our online Calendar of Events @ www.brleader.com.

On the web with daily updates at www.brleader.com

Candidates for Loudoun County Board of Supervisors – Catocin District, continued from page 6

– Malcom Baldwin –



career in environmental law and international development, I've engaged in county affairs concerning land use, schools, taxes, water, energy and the rural economy through reasoned advocacy, dialog and consensus-building. While on PEC's Board I took independent positions on certain issues while respecting PEC's overall efforts to protect Loudoun's environment and quality of life. I helped to defeat an unneeded power line that would have destroyed many properties in northern Loudoun. This engagement has given me insight into any different views and interests, and I have become known as someone who can help disparate groups find common ground.

6. Given the fact that a majority of previous boards changed the zoning in Loudoun County to allow rapid growth, how do you think this has affected Loudoun County's taxes and budgets? Loudoun has consistently ranked first to third nationally in its rapid growth. Loudoun's past decisions neglected the real costs of growth, so we have massive traffic problems, rising taxes to pay for schools and public services, increased debt and more difficult budget cycles. Residences pay in property taxes approximately 70% of their costs in schools and public services.

7. How would you pace growth? Our challenge is to manage growth to maintain the best attributes of Loudoun and keep our fiscal house in order. To achieve "growth we can afford," we must consider all long-term costs and benefits of our growth pace, level and character. Response requires much better analysis of economic, environmental and other costs of zoning changes and development proposals. The BOS should reject rezonings, special exceptions, and CPAMs for major new housing development unless residential increases are offset by reductions elsewhere. It should oppose rezoning from commercial to residential as a matter of general policy.

8. How do you see Western Loudoun County changing in the next four years? On the positive side, the rural economy will continue to grow, led by tourism, wineries, growing buy fresh/buy local businesses, the equestrian sector and recreational attractions. A recovering economy will improve the housing market and business opportunities, but this could also bring sprawl and intense fiscal pressures. After opening only its second high school in 50 years, western Loudoun will continue to face pressures for new schools at all three levels and this need will require smarter siting and construction policies. It will be especially important to maintain the integrity of the current Comprehensive Plan for the rural policy area.

9. What are your proposals for increasing the commercial tax base? What percentage of commercial should we have in Loudoun? Loudoun's commercial tax base has averaged about 20% of revenues. Increasing the commercial tax base of the county must be a high priority of the next BOS. The next Board should:

- Disapprove rezoning requests from commercial to residential unless offset by reductions in residential development elsewhere;
- Make county regulations affecting commercial development more efficient and business-friendly;
- Limit new approvals where high vacancies in retail and other commercial space currently exist, while offering incentives to occupy such vacant spaces;
- Explore where residential areas in and around established towns might be rezoned commercial for small and rural businesses while maintaining the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

10. Do you support the outer beltway? No, I am on record as consistently opposing the outer beltway for reasons of cost, impact on communities and farmland, the traffic-dumping problem on Routes 50 and 7, and Maryland's inviolate opposition to a new bridge crossing. We need to focus on the needs of Loudoun citizens first, with priority given to our east-west traffic problems.

11. How can we control the school budget? About 70% of our county taxes go to school operation, construction and debt, and the need for cost reduction is compelling. We cannot afford more \$90-\$100 million high schools (such as Woodgrove and Tuscarora) with enormous land parcels and lavish facilities, and we need to reduce the proportion of funds spent on bus transportation and school administration. Among the obvious needs:

- Higher salaries and more training and mentoring for entry-level teachers to improve retention and skills;
- Better targeting of costly new technologies (interactive white boards, iPads and so forth) to ensure that they are deployed where it makes most sense;
- Eliminate duplicative county staffing and resources for school construction and construction planning.

– Geary Higgins –

4. What is your position on the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance? How do we address Loudoun's water issues? I do not support the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance, because it is an intrusive and unnecessary regulation that will add huge expenses and bureaucratic red tape to the citizens, rural farms and vineyards and other businesses of Loudoun. It was never intended for non-tidal areas like Loudoun County when it was passed by the state legislature.

The counties own stream assessment does not indicate that the water chemistry of our streams is "stressed." If we have a specific stream with a problem, then let's address it, but to coin a phrase, I do not believe in "killing flies with a shot gun." I believe that any regulation like this should be studied for its impact, before it is ever considered.

I am all for clean water, but the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance is not designed to improve the quality of Loudoun's ground water, will have little affect on our streams and will have virtually no affect on the Chesapeake Bay as Loudoun only makes up 0.08% of the Bays watershed.

5. What are your qualifications for being a supervisor? I have been active in our county for almost 30 years. I have experience in local government and represented the Catocin District on the School Board from 2000-2004. I have been active in my church and I am currently on the Board of the Loudoun Museum. Additionally, in my profession I have many years of experience in negotiations, mediation and arbitration. In two words, I am a professional "problem solver."

6. Given the fact that a majority of previous boards changed the zoning in Loudoun County to allow rapid growth, how do you think this has affected Loudoun County's taxes and budgets? Growth has certainly affected Loudoun's taxes and budgets. I would make an observation that of the last three boards, the first one and the last one ran on slowing growth and the current board (the last one) has not done anything to change the down zoning that was passed in 2007. The challenge will be to responsibly manage the growth that is already in the pipeline while respecting the current down zoning to control future growth.

7. How would you pace growth? I support the down zoning that was passed in 2007 and have no intention of changing it. This should help us keep future growth in check.

8. How do you see Western Loudoun County changing in the next four years? I would like to see western Loudoun change as little as possible. I do not want to see western Loudoun's beauty and history destroyed. I do believe that we need some reasonable and necessary infrastructure improvements to maintain our quality of life.

9. What are your proposals for increasing the commercial tax base? What percentage of commercial should we have in Loudoun? The only long term solution to solving our residential property tax problem is to grow our business tax base. Our business tax base is currently only 18%, this is unacceptable. We must become business friendly and encourage businesses to come to Loudoun that bring good jobs. Prior boards have long talked about not wanting Loudoun to be a "bedroom community". When are we going to do something about it? I drive the Dulles Toll Road everyday and I see a "who's who" of all the companies that did not come to Loudoun and many of them tried. Dulles Airport is the largest economic engine in the region and we are not taking full advantage of it.

To bring business to Loudoun, we must reduce unnecessary regulation and red tape. The regulations that we have must be applied fairly and consistently. And finally, we should not consider untested and unnecessary regulations like the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance. The uncertainty of regulations like that only serves to scare business away.

10. Do you support the outer beltway? No, this is really a non-issue, because the state of Maryland is adamantly opposed to any river crossing. However, there are a number of road projects in our district that are priorities and will have a positive affect on our traffic congestion. Recently the state has provided funding for two of these on the Route 7 Bypass in Leesburg; the Sycolin Road overpass and a third lane on the Route 7 west of Leesburg to Clarks Gap. Additionally, there should be a ramp added at Route 690 in Purcellville to provide access to Woodgrove High School and a right turn lane on Route 9 west at Route 287.

11. How can we control the school budget? Since I left the School Board in 2004, the enrollment has grown by 50%, but the budget has doubled. Having been on the school board, I know that it is not a one to one proposition for every new student, but I also know that it is not two to one either.

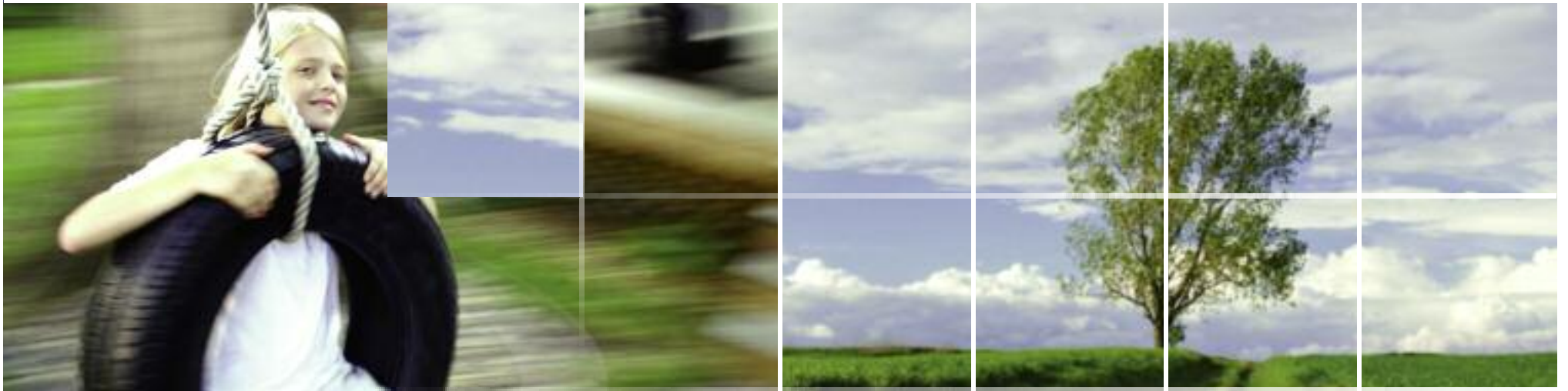
I think we need to step back and evaluate our core mission; a good education. Studies show that the keys to a good education are getting and keeping good teachers, a solid curriculum and parental involvement. We need to evaluate all new and existing programs for their effectiveness, slow down the technology chase, reduce overhead and focus our resources on the classroom.





ASHBURN PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

CHILDREN  ADOLESCENTS  ADULTS  FAMILIES



BECAUSE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MATTER MORE THAN ANYTHING ... WE AT ASHBURN PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES ARE HERE.

Ashburn Psychological Services is Loudoun County's premier private mental health practice. Our clinicians have been featured on the Today Show, Good Morning America, Nightline, Larry King Live, NPR, the Discovery Channel, and other well known media outlets. Our clinicians assess and treat individuals between 2 years through the life span, and we offer the following services:

- Pediatric, Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry and Medication Management
- Child, Adult, Couples, Group and Family Therapy
- Neuropsychological Testing
- Diagnostic Testing for Developmental Concerns, Psychological Concerns,
- Learning and Educational Concerns and Private School Placement
- Divorce and Custody Evaluations
- Cogmed: An Evidence Based and Advanced Treatment for ADD and
- Parent Consultation and Guidance
- Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology Evaluations (family, civil and criminal)
- Health Psychology (smoking cessation, addiction and recovery, weight loss, chronic pain, pre and post surgery, and other areas)
- Speech and Language and Auditory Processing Testing
- Executive and Career Coaching
- Social Skills Groups



Dr. Michael Oberschneider "Dr. Mike" is the Founder and Director of Ashburn Psychological Services. See his column on page 2 "Ask Dr. Mike."

Contact us at: (703) 723-2999 to discuss your needs and how we can best be of service to you. We also invite you to visit us at: www.ashburnpsych.com to review our doctors and psychologists bios and to learn more about our services.

We are home to Loudoun County's only Washingtonian Magazine "Top Doc" and "Top Psychologist" and the only psychiatrist in the "Top Doctors in America" database.

(703) 723-2999 ■ www.ashburnpsych.com

Ashburn Psychological Services is located at 44110 Ashburn Shopping Plaza, Suite 251, Ashburn, VA 20147