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January 2012

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Board of Supervisors Holds First Meeting of the New Term – More Liberalized Approach to Development, Zoning and Eminent Domain Top Agenda –

On Tuesday, January 3, 2012 the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors met for the first time as a newly-elected body. Old faces included Chairman at Large Scott York (first elected to the Board in 1995) and Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio (first elected in 1999). New faces, first elected in 2011 included Supervisors Ralph Buona, Janet Clarke, Geary Higgins, Matt Letourneau, Ken Reid, Suzanne M. Volpe and Shawn Williams.

As is traditional, the Board prepared and presented to the public an agenda meant to set the tone for the issues the Board intends to address as it begins its new term, an agenda which included: 1) a new "Loudoun County Government Reform Commission", 2) liberalized rules for certain commercial and industrial zoning cases; and, 3) a challenge to the State of Virginia's proposed new eminent domain restrictions.

Loudoun County Government Reform Commission

Taking into consideration "the realities of the current economic situation", and the "often painful financial choices" that need to be made by "citizens, businesses and government alike," Chairman York summarized that the purpose of the new Govern-

ment Reform Commission was to, among other things, reduce costs and increase efficiencies that will "result in a leaner, more cost effective and responsive County government."

Some members of the public noted that the Reform Commission was created in a rather closed and narrow process, with no opportunity for individuals or members of the broader business, educational, nonprofit or social services community to apply. Nominations for the Commission are heavily weighted with developer interests, and the public was not invited to make their own nominations.

For example, many of those nominated for the 13 member Commission have commercial and/or residential development interests.

Commercial and Industrial Zoning Cases

Currently, property owners in commercial/industrial zones are required to go through what is known as a "Special Exception" process when proposing changes to a particular property's normal use. (Putting in a drive thru where one is normally not allowed ... going beyond the square footage limit in a particular area ... or



The all-Republican Board of Supervisors, left to right, top row: Geary Higgins (Catoctin District), Matt Letourneau (Dulles District), Eugene Delgaudio (Sterling District), Shawn Williams (Broad Run District), Ken Reid (Leesburg District); left to right bottom row: Suzanne M. Volpe (Algonkian District), Janet Clarke (Blue Ridge District), Scott K. York (at Large), Ralph Buona, (Ashburn District).

bringing high density residential uses such as condos into a commercial zone ... for example.)

The Special Exception process requires that the proposed change be made public and allows for public input.

Under the change proposed, commercial and industrial properties could bypass the

Special Exception process and apply for a zoning change under the "by right" process – eliminating the requirement for advertising the change to the public and providing the opportunity for public comment. Under the new proposed rules, a neighborhood next to a commercial area

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Wild Loudoun



Photo by Valerie Cury

SPECIAL REPORT

Chilly & Windy Christmas Bird Count Records Lots of Surprises!

– By Andrea Gaines

The two American bald eagles in the picture above were photographed just off Lincoln Road on Saturday, December 17 at about 10:20 in the morning.

It was a fortuitous sighting, coming just 11 days before the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's (LWC's) Annual Christmas Bird Count, which started in the early morning hours on December 28th and concluded

in the early evening with a festive "Tally Rally" at the Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg.

The Christmas Bird Count is actually a national phenomenon started by the National Audubon Society over 100 years ago, in 1899. LWC has coordinated the effort locally since 1997 with the Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count.

Nationally, the goal of the count is to

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Republican Loyalty Oath Sparks Controversy

– Delegate Marshall Wants Provision Rescinded –

Del. Bob Marshall is urging Virginia's GOP leaders to ask the State Board of Elections to rescind its ruling that voters, before taking part in the March 6 Republican presidential primary, must pledge in writing that they intend to support the party's White House nominee in the Nov. 6 general election.

"Ironically, requiring a loyalty oath will bar even former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich from voting in the primary because he already has said unequivocally that he will not vote for Ron Paul for president if he's the Republican nominee,"

Marshall (R., 13th District) noted last week.

"Virginia's Republican leadership wants to mandate a loyalty oath when Virginia's Republican officials are in court fighting the Obamacare mandate? This sends the wrong message."

Gingrich, a McLean resident, is running for the GOP presidential nomination. His name, however, will not appear on the primary ballot because he lacked enough petition signatures to qualify. Only two Republican presidential candidates – Rep. Paul (R., Texas) and former Massachusetts

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Local Business Owners Optimistic About 2012

Going into a new year, the Blue Ridge Leader surveyed area business owners to gauge their optimism that the economy is in store for some improvement in 2012.

We asked local business leaders "On a scale of 1 to 10, what is your level of optimism that 2012 will be a better year, and why?"

Nolan Barzee, owner of Mr. Print in

Purcellville puts his level of optimism at an 8, noting that in the United States we operate in "a great enterprise system" and can make the best of it if we want to. Nolan recently expanded his printing business to do more digital work, investing in both more space and more equipment.

Elaine Boland, owner of Fields of Athenry Farm, a local, hormone and

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Ask Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike, every year my husband and I come up with New Year's resolutions, and every year we fail to achieve them. Any advice on breaking this horrible trend of ours? I'd like to lose 20 pounds, and he'd like to quit smoking.

– K. in Loudoun County

K., first of all, I don't think you should be so hard on yourselves. According to surveys, over 90 percent of New Year's resolutions fail with close to 50 percent of those failures occurring by the close of January. While New Year's Eve has always been a time to reflect on the changes we want (or need) to make and to resolve to follow through on those changes, for most of us, sticking to our goals for positive change is difficult. Every year clients of mine tell me their lofty plans for New Year's resolutions – lose weight, work less, spend more time with family, quit smoking – and inevitably, like most people weeks later when I ask about the progress of their resolutions, they confess that they have abandoned their goals. I hope that you and your husband can sustain your resolutions this year by following my four basic steps.

Step 1: Reset reasonable expectations if you've already lost focus or direction. Too often we set the bar too high. If you set unrealistic goals you will be doomed from the start. You will find yourself discour-



aged, lacking motivation and eventually facing failure. Be reasonable with your expectations of yourself- instead of a goal to lose twenty pounds, try to first lose one to five and then reassess from there. If you believe your goal is attainable, then you will be driven to meet it.

Don't be overly ambitious. It is hard enough to focus on making one positive change at a time, yet many people overload themselves with several resolutions. Trying to quit smoking, to better manage your finances and to start exercising regularly is a lot of responsibility to take on all at once. Tackling goals one by one will be far less overwhelming and will improve your chances of success. Remember, January isn't the only time of year we can resolve to improve our lives; once you meet your goal, then plan to tackle another.

Step 2: Determine an action plan and the steps you will take to meet your goal. So, if one of your goal's is to lose weight, define the steps you will both take to get there – eat four fruits and vegetables a day,

get at least eight hours of sleep, develop a manageable exercise routine, schedule a physical, etc. Make sure these steps are reasonable for you, as discussed above, and don't make your action plan more than you can handle. A resolution without a plan of action is merely wishful thinking.

Step 3: Develop a support system. If you are committed to making change, share your plan with your family and friends. They can help push you and encourage you along the way. Your goals of losing weight and quitting smoking make be too much to take on by yourselves. Consider seeking out a support group in the area or online if you need it. Talking to people who are struggling with the same changes as you can help you move forward and meet your goal; it helps to know you are not alone.

Step 4: Reward yourself. Recognize the positive changes you've made and reward yourself along the way. Take pride in your accomplishments and share your progress with others. Once you pass certain milestones, plan a treat for yourself, for example – once you hit your weight lose goal treat yourself to a night out. By setting rewards for yourself you have something to look forward to in addition to the self satisfaction you will feel.

As the old saying goes, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Remember, if you fall off track, don't wait until next year to try again. Here's to a healthy 2012 to you both!

Dr. Mike, are you familiar with Parental Alienation Syndrome? My hus-

band and I are separated, and he is saying horrible things about me to our children, which in turn is creating real problems for them. I believe that they are suffering emotionally as a result of his trying to turn our children against me. I recently met with an attorney who told me about Parental Alienation Syndrome and my rights to fight my husband in court for custody due to his husband's behavior. What are your thoughts? – A. in Loudoun County

A., Parental Alienation Syndrome was first termed by forensic psychiatrist, Dr. Richard Gardner, in response to growing custody litigation in the 1980's. It essentially involves the brainwashing of a child by one parent against the other parent with the child's active participation over time in the denigration and alienation of a parent. The justification of the denigration and alienation is unfounded. As a disorder, it is seen primarily during child-custody disputes and cases. The syndrome is controversial, and in my opinion and experience, most courts are conservative when considering it unless there is convincing evidence that a child is being psychologically harmed by a parent. You mention that your children are "suffering emotionally" due to your husband's behavior. If your attorney intends on arguing that your husband is alienating your children from you, your attorney will need to prove that by having psychological evaluations and parenting capacity evaluations conducted on your husband and children.

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Town Hall Shines – But At What Cost?

By Valerie Joyner

So ... at long last the major kitchen renovation you'd been planning for years is complete.

Dealing with the contractor was difficult, the cabinets still don't close exactly right and your costs were much higher than originally estimated.

But, in the end, you decided to cut your losses and just get the thing finished!

Residents of Purcellville are in the same position with the new \$8.5 million (and counting) Town Hall. But, importantly, just like that dissatisfied homeowner, they can choose not to be in that position again. The homeowner can choose to use a different contractor next time around, and the

citizens of Purcellville can decide not to return the current Mayor and Town Council to office come May's Town elections.

Here's a list of issues for this nearly \$9 million project residents should keep in mind come May ...

Town Council Chambers Space:

The new Purcellville Town Hall is equipped with a nice elevator. It also has all sorts of bells and whistles in the old church sanctuary, now the Town Council chambers. For that area, the Town claims an occupancy load of 172 with seating capacity of 112. Actual current occupancy limit is 99, per fire marshal, with 76 seats in place, but who's counting – it holds all that can be

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Town Hall Costs

Item	Cost	Item	Cost
Engineering/Architectural /Environmental:	\$537,791	Listed Miscellaneous Item:	\$219,231
Bond and Financing:	\$88,274	Engineering:	\$244,408
Legal Services:	\$79,051	Professional Services:	\$303,239
Bond and Financing:	\$10,000	Metal Roof:	\$28,670
Property Acquisition:	\$1,950,000	Motorized Blinds:	\$4,975
Blue Ridge Realty Services & Fees:	\$365,423	Generator:	\$248,950
Waterproofing:	\$154,900	Phase 1, 2 & 3 Parking Lot:	\$1,101,633
Purchase of adjacent home for parking:	\$170,000	Parking Lot Design:	\$153,002
Legal and Realty fees:	\$10,000	Tree Removal:	\$19,137
Furniture:	\$121,689	Audio/Visual System:	\$127,461
Renovation:	\$2,600,867	Landscape:	\$53,250
		Total to Date:	\$8,591,951

View From the Ridge

The Biggest Challenge in Journalism

The 500 page-plus agenda that kicked off the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors' "inaugural" meeting of the year had plenty of controversy to it.

But nothing could compare to the combative approach newly elected Blue Ridge Supervisor and Vice Chair Janet Clarke took in rejecting the reappointment of local vineyard owner Stephen Mackey to the County's Rural Economic Development Commission (REDC), whose term expires in December.

Individuals nominated and serving on the Commission represent a wide variety of local business interests, and, although the Board of Supervisors hand selects its members, appointment is generally considered to be a nonpolitical event.

Stephen Mackey has been very vocal in his support of Sam and Uta Brown, whose farm is smack dab in the middle of the development and road debate surrounding Purcellville's proposed Southern Collector Road.

He was visited by then candidate for Blue Ridge District Supervisor Janet Clarke and (then) Purcellville Vice Mayor Dr. James Wiley at his vineyard back in September. Ms. Clarke and Dr. Wiley hoped to "educate" and "persuade" Mr. Mackey that the condemnation action the Town of Purcellville had taken against the Browns was just ... and that, "after all" as Clarke said "you have your reputation to think about."

Stephen Mackey wrote about this visit in our paper last year, making the point that, subtle or not, it was not the role of candidates for public office or those serving in public office to "persuade" in this manner. Mackey also spoke before the Purcellville Town Council in the fall of

"It is not only unfortunate, but bad news that Ms. Clarke and the new Board would make a raw political move like this one of their first actions in representing the citizens of the Blue Ridge District and the County."

last year to set the record straight when Dr. Wiley publically disputed that the visit to Mackey's vineyard had any character of intimidation at all.

So now it's 2012, and, in Board of Supervisor proceedings to fill the seats on REDC, Supervisor Clarke has singled out Mackey as an individual "not fit to serve", stating that Mr. Mackey's "heated exchange" at that 2011 Purcellville Town Council session was contradictory to the "positive approach with the community, with the towns, with the businesses" favored by the REDC, stating: "I don't think that people who hold themselves contrary to the position should be allowed to serve."

"Heated" exchanges aside (although it wasn't either heated or any kind of exchange", as the tape of that session or anyone who was there will tell you), citizens have the right to correct the record and challenge their elected officials without threat of recrimination.

It is not only unfortunate, but bad news that Ms. Clarke and the new Board would make a raw political move like this one of their first actions in representing the citizens of the Blue Ridge District and the County.

And, that's the biggest challenge in journalism. Putting your personal feelings of absolute shock aside at how heavy handed and political some elected officials can be.

Letters to the Editor

Support China's Victims

Dear Editor: Falls Church resident Qiuying Wang was lucky to make it out of a Chinese prison alive. The 65 year-old had been arrested and tortured simply for her belief in Falun Gong, a spiritual practice that teaches honesty, kindness and forbearance. While in labor camp, she was forced to squat for 17 hours and shocked with an electric baton if she moved. Going months without a shower or a change of clothes, she developed scabies. Qiuying survived but many others did not. Over the past 12 years, the Chinese Communist Party has put hundreds of thousands of innocent Falun Gong practitioners into forced-labor camps, tens of thousands have been tortured, and thousands killed. While the U.S. cannot control the Chinese regime, it is important to let the Communist Party know that America does not turn a blind eye to injustice. A resolution introduced in the U.S. Senate voices opposition to the persecution and expresses support for all Chinese people who are peacefully pursuing freedom and dignity in the face of repression. Last month, 1,256 Virginians signed on to a letter to Senators Webb and Warner urging them to voice their support by co-sponsoring Senate Resolution 232. Qiuying helped collect signatures. She

hopes that, during this holiday season, our senators will give countless victims persecuted in China the gift of hope by letting them know they are not forgotten. – John Yu, Chantilly VA

Thank You BRL

Dear Editor: The Mosby Heritage Area Association thanks the Blue Ridge Leader for printing Leah Carlson's article on the Historic Loudoun County Scavenger Hunt in the December 2nd issue.

Mrs. Carlson beautifully portrayed our goal in developing these historic scavenger hunts. Loudoun has one of the most amazing cultural resources around in its historic landscape; it is due to the individual and group efforts of so many caring citizens through many years. It becomes our proud duty as inheritors of this historic gem to continue to be its stewards.

– Richard Gillespie

Constitutional Showdown Over Property Rights in Virginia

Dear Editor: The Virginia General Assembly will reconvene on January 11, 2012. One of the most exciting accomplishments of the 2011 session was the first passage of HJR 693, the Property Rights Amendment.

In Virginia, amendments to the

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What Might Be Coming to Loudoun?

– By Bob Ohneiser

The new year is a good time for prognostications. I hope the following does not occur but if it does Loudoun may need to finally stop its residential growth. Here is one scenario to consider:

1. Loudoun commits to metro thereby encumbering a few hundred million of capital that would otherwise be available to work down the almost \$1 billion in backlogged Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) projects.
2. Our President mentioned on 60 minutes that mortgage deductions are on the table for negotiation. If mortgage interest deductibility stops then high end housing assessments in Loudoun will drop thereby putting upward pressure on the tax rate and severely challenging the LCPS budget.
3. The LCPS budget is likely to include higher costs to open John Champe High School, more students, salary improvements, VRS increases, technology initiatives and full day kindergarten increases, etc.
4. The state is pushing counties to take over road maintenance/improvements which will crimp Loudoun's operating and capital budget.
5. The rating agencies are threatening to lower Loudoun's bond rating which increases borrowing costs for Loudoun to meet the recently approved school bond interest cost to pay for four new schools in the Ashburn area.
6. The federal government is threatening to lessen the tax avoidance aspect of municipal bonds also putting increased cost pressures on counties like Loudoun that are growing.
7. The contribution rate allowed to support Loudoun's current bond rating is very near if not at the top meaning any of these occurrences could force Loudoun to stop being able to borrow money at

the best rates.

The status of Loudoun as one of the wealthiest communities in America can backfire as the rest of Virginia does not seem to have much empathy for our plight. Its unlikely the rest of Virginia will cave in on state programs (composite index) which deliberately reduce state aid to Loudoun. We all know what flows downhill and apparently the only entities lower on the totem poll than the feds, the state and the county are us taxpayers. It will be an interesting scenario to watch but I hope none of the above pushes us into collapsing an excellent school system nor increases our tax rates. Its time for some creative business development not more high density, tax worsening, student generating, high density housing developments!

Happy New Year (hopefully).

And, want to act on these facts? Simple.

* Stay vigilant and don't let the legislators we elect make speeches without acknowledging they will resist the flow down of tax increases from the federal to the state and then to the local level.

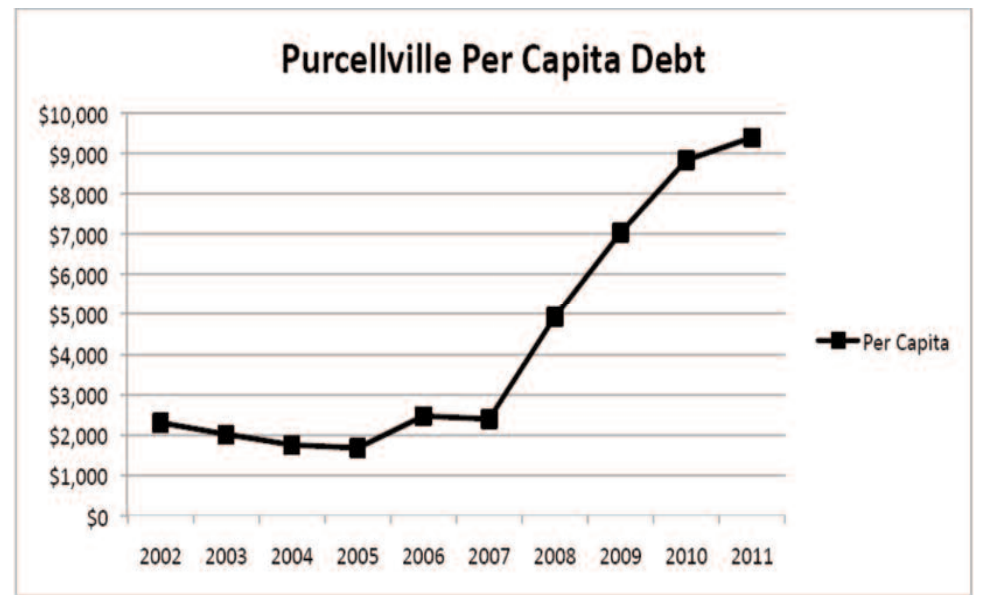
* Tell legislators the elimination of the mortgage deduction would hurt Loudoun.

* Tell legislators the elimination of non-tax treatment of municipal bonds would hurt Loudoun.

* Tell legislators the continued approval of high density student generating residential developments by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors hurts Loudoun.

Bob Ohneiser practices law in Loudoun County including being recently admitted to the United States Supreme Court. Upon his completion of his second term on the Loudoun County School Board, he is adding school law to his practice which primarily has focused on family, domestic, tort, entertainment and contract law.
OhneiserLaw@Verizon.net

Purcellville Town Audit Report Is In



– By Valerie Joyner

The Town has released the audit report for FY 2011, ending on June 30th. Formally called the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), it is available on the Town's web site under "Finance Department Documents." Although, most of the report is mundane there are a few parts that shed a light on the town's financial status. Overall, the town "passes" the audit in that the financial data provided by the town to the auditors reflect the actual status. In other words, the town is not hiding anything from us. That does not mean that the town politicians do not try to put the most favorable spin on the town's status.

Passing an audit report is akin to the town receiving an award for the budget, which it has for several years. The budget award is for the presentation of the budget items, not for the content. Indeed the town does tell the community a great

deal of financial and budget information but with the budget being over 300 pages and the CAFR being over 100 pages, who has the time to read it let alone analyze it. While the town is very transparent in the planning process, they seem to be much less transparent when details of the execution of the plan are concerned.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the town's finances is the amount of debt that this very small town has taken on. The General Fund debt went up by more than \$6 million last year alone. Above is a chart showing the ever increasing debt on a per capita basis. Each citizen of Purcellville must ask themselves if they are comfortable with the town putting you in debt by almost \$9,500. (By contrast, Loudoun County is in debt by approximately \$4,000 per capita, and that includes all the school system debt.)

The other important aspect of the Purcellville budget that residents need to

Continued on page 7

Letters to the Editor, continued from facing page

Constitution must be approved by both houses of two separate elected legislatures, so HJR 693 must be voted on again in 2012.

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

Until the laws are changed to support citizen sentiment that is strongly against eminent domain abuse, only "the people" can voice their opposition to their elected officials and make it clear they do not want this to continue in their town, city, and county.

Upon reading the recent statements in the news that have caused quite a lot of misinformation to be put forth to the public with outlandish claims about HJR 693, I decided to ask for a clarification from the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia.

Below is the response I received from Brian Gottstein, Director of Communications provided:

"We are aware of the misinformation

that is circulating regarding the eminent domain amendment. This amendment will not affect a community's ability to close off a road temporarily for events, parades, festivals, etc. The locality will not have to pay businesses when they host events. That is clearly not the intent of the amendment and is a deliberate misrepresentation. The amendment only speaks about fair compensation for loss of business profits and loss of access [emphasis added] WHEN A LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY IS TAKEN by the locality through the eminent domain process. That is obviously not the case when a road or sidewalk is temporarily closed for an event. The amendment has four reforms:

- * Private property can only be taken for true public uses, not for enhancing tax revenues, economic development, or private gain;
- * The cost of taking property must be borne by the public, not by the individual property owner. Fair and full compensation must be given when property is taken – this includes loss of business profits and loss of access (which will be defined by the General Assembly through legislation);

* No more property can be taken than is necessary for the project; *The burden of proof that the taking is for a true 'public use' is on the entity taking the property.

I appreciate you taking the time to seek clarification and getting the truth out to the public."

At the December 2011 Purcellville Town Council meeting, I asked the Mayor and Town Council to issue a Resolution supporting HJR 693.

No comments or response were made by the Mayor or any Council members at the meeting, and I have not received any response as of January 2, 2012.

This property rights issue and many more very serious initiatives can be found posted in the 500 page expanded agenda on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors website, issues the Board took up at its January 3rd first meeting of the new all Republican Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. Importantly, public comments WERE NOT HEARD prior to this BOS gathering as has been customary the evening before a meeting.

Does anyone really know where the Purcellville Town Council stands on the issue since every meeting ends with a

"closed session" that freely invites developers to attend and excludes the residents? (although actions do speak louder than words). One has to wonder whose property is next in the name of public use and increasing the tax base?

It appears that the Loudoun Board of Supervisors will oppose the eminent domain/condemnation legislation that is to be put to a statewide vote for "the people" to decide in Virginia.

We do deserve to know why Purcellville and Loudoun County are so adamantly against this. Whose side is the BOS and the Town of Purcellville on anyway?

Do they work for "all the people", or just the "people with all the money." It is all too apparent to me that residents, small businesses, farms, wineries, and other rural properties are at great risk if this legislation does not pass.

Tell your elected officials to get behind this legislation in the same big way that they are behind big national chains, major developers, and local landowners assisting with the ordinance changes that remove public input from the equation and are planning to pave over our western Loudoun paradise.

– Kelli Grim, Purcellville

What's That?



Making Sense of the Stuff We Find in Our Back Yards

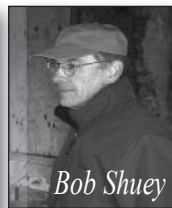
– By Bob Shuey & Mike Clem

These are some examples of the pottery produced here in Loudoun and throughout the region prior to the arrival of Europeans. All of these shards of clay pottery were found here in Loudoun along the Potomac. Pottery is a relatively recent innovation in the life of the native people of the area. It wasn't until about 1200 B.C. that it was introduced or invented here. Prior to that the people living here generally roasted their meat or perhaps cooked in tightly woven baskets into which they dropped hot stones. The first solid vessels used were steatite or soapstone, flat-bottomed bowls that looked like modern flat baking dishes or perhaps Dutch ovens. These eventually gave way to formed clay bowls that resembled the earlier

stone bowls, and these were soon replaced by conically shaped bowls which were produced by coiling strands of clay and then using a wooden paddle to smooth the sides. Several surface treatments evolved over time while the basic shape remained fairly constant. Some bowls have a cord marked exterior, some have a net marking and some are left plain. A few varieties have some decorative elements added to the upper lip of the vessel. For the most part they are made of local clay and are fired in open flames and tend to be reddish or blackened from the fire. The temper, or material mixed with the clay, ranges from sand to crushed stone to crushed shell.

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Send a photo and brief description of your unusual backyard finds to carolbrleader@yahoo.com or mail it to the Blue Ridge Leader, PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325. 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.



“Boodacades” – The Name Just fits!

– By Andrea Gaines

As owner Boe DeLashmutt tells it ... “I took my son snorkeling when he was 4 years old. Back into the boat he asked me, ‘Did you see that Boodacade?’ I replied, ‘Buddy, I have no idea what you mean, what is a Boodacade?’ At the house he put a book in my lap that showed a picture of the ‘Great Barracuda’ saying ‘This is a Boodacade!’ I told him that it was a ‘Barracuda.’ He looked at me in bewilderment and said, ‘That’s what I have been telling you!!!’”

Boodacades is a family oriented casual restaurant – whether it be the “Kid’s Corner” with its 128 square feet of chalkboard or the 4 flat screen TV’s with NFL Sunday Ticket. Born and raised in Purcellville, DeLashmutt felt the town was missing an affordable, casual restaurant, so he created it! Kids entertain themselves in “Kid’s Corner” – adults can sit back and enjoy a wide variety of sports programming.

Boodacades has twelve beers on tap, an eclectic bottle beer selection, and a variety of wines from Loudoun County vineyards. And, customers can also bring their own [unopened] wine for a nominal corkage fee.

But, the most impressive aspect of Boodacades is the food. Meat is smoked on site using DeLashmutt’s own recipes and techniques. The pork is pulled by hand to ensure the leanest pork possible.



The smoked chicken is also hand pulled and offers a subtle smoked flavor which can be accented by one of the restaurant’s signature sauces.

For steak lovers, Boodacades offers a shaved “tri-tip” – sirloin tips thinly shaved and piled high on a split top bun. One of the most popular items is the smoked wings – hand prepared with a signature rub and smoked for over 6 hours.

And the ribs! Boodacades ribs are also hand rubbed and are literally “fall off the bone” delicious.

For those looking for a fun place to meet up with friends and just relax, the bar area is a great place to do just that. Activities include Karaoke, Virtual league bowling, Dance Revolution, and trivia; Madden Football 2012 for the NFL playoffs and NCAA March Madness are also being offered!

More information and frequent diner programs at www.boodacades.com.

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Special Report: What is "PUGAMP" & Why Should the Residents of Western Loudoun Care?

Supervisors of Loudoun County, Virginia, Plaintiff v. Town of Purcellville, Virginia and Town Council of the Town of Purcellville, Virginia, Defendants.

Purcellville Mayor Lazaro has consistently said that the current Town/County lawsuit is to stop the Southern Collector Road. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In the fall of 1994, Loudoun County and the Town of Purcellville entered into an Annexation Agreement. The agreement:

1) Established an Urban Growth Area (UGA) of approximately 3,100 acres surrounding the Town for future expansion of the Town.

2) Required the development of a joint plan that would govern the development of properties within the UGA. The joint plan was to contain, among other policies, phasing guidelines, with "the desire for orderly development and development at a pace that would not overwhelm the existing Town of Purcellville," and would link the UGA development to the Town's ability to provide central utilities. The Town did not have the capacity to provide utilities to the entire UGA; thus phasing was necessary to prevent the Town from being overwhelmed. (This joint plan, known as the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (PUGAMP), was adopted by the Town and the County in 1995.)

3) Established a Joint Policy Review Committee, with two members from each jurisdiction, to make recommendations on individual applications for annexation, policy changes to the PUGAMP, and disagreements over the interpretation of the PUGAMP and the Annexation Agreement.

In 1999 the Town and County amended PUGAMP to include Phasing Guidelines and to identify specific properties bordering the Town that could be annexed unilaterally by the Town by ordinance, i.e., without County

agreement. This amendment, referred to as Phase I, established a 10-year preferred development plan which was tied to the Town's ability to provide central utilities. UGA properties outside of the Phase I area could only be annexed if both Town and County agreed.

All went well for a few years, until 2006. During that period the Town and the County met repeatedly to discuss revisions to the PUGAMP and agreed on many proposed revisions. However, the discussions ended with no action taken because the Town insisted upon including language in the revised PUGAMP that would have prevented Woodgrove High School from being built on Fields Farm with an on-site sewage system. The County could not agree to that provision. Thus, the efforts to amend PUGAMP came to a halt.

In the summer of 2009, the Town, believing that phasing as a concept had expired and was no longer required, began the process of annexing, unilaterally, properties that were outside the Phase I area. The County disagreed with the Town's interpretation and objected to its actions. The Town ignored the County's objections, its requests for meetings to discuss the dispute, and to provide requested information regarding the Town's ability to provide utilities to the proposed annexations. In August and December, the Town adopted two Annexation Ordinances totaling 82 acres, which would become official on December 31, 2009.

The details of the communications between the County and Town during the summer and fall of 2009 are outlined in the sidebar, which quotes paragraphs 20-33 of

The following material is taken from the County's legal complaint against Purcellville (Board of Supervisors of Loudoun County, Virginia, Plaintiff v. Town of Purcellville, Virginia and Town Council of the Town of Purcellville, Virginia, Defendants. Civil Case No. 59426, filed December 28, 2009.)

14. The 1995 PUGAMP also established a process and criteria for consideration of out-of-phase development (development in the area outside the 10 year preferred development area). These provisions for out-of-phase development are included in Chapter 7, Section A of PUGAMP.
15. In 1996, the Town adopted a "Water and Wastewater Utilities Facilities Master Plan" that showed its ability to provide water service to the UGA is severely limited beyond 2009 without substantial new surface water sources.
16. In July 1999, the PUGAMP was amended to include the "phasing Guidelines for Land in the Urban Growth Area" ("Phasing Guidelines"), which address the timeliness and appropriateness of the development and annexation of property located in the UGA.
17. The Phasing Guidelines include a Phase I Urban Growth Area Map ("Phasing Map") and provide as follows:

"Until such time as these guidelines are amended by the joint action of the Town of Purcellville and the County of Loudoun, property, to be eligible for annexation must be located within the ten year growth plan identified as Phase I of the Urban Growth Area, as that area is shown on the Phase I Urban Growth Area Map dated May, 1999, incorporated herein by reference."

18. The Phasing Guidelines further provide that:
"Any landowner of property contiguous to the Town, but outside of Phase I, as shown on the Phase I map, may request an amendment to these guidelines and the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan to allow for the out of phase development of such property in accord with the policies set for in Chapter 7, Section A of the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan."
19. In 2008 and 2009, the Phasing Map was amended by the Town and County to add land to the Phase I area.
20. The Town does not currently have the ability to provide water and sewer utilities to all of the UGA beyond the Phase I area shown on the Phasing Map, as amended.
- 2009 Annexation Ordinances
21. On August 11, 2009, the Town adopted an ordinance purporting to annex

Article and sidebar continued on page 14

Purcellville Audit, continued from page 5

Purcellville Budget			
FY 2011			
(Structure & Amount)			
	General Fund	Wastewater Fund	Water Fund
Operating Budget	\$8,061,425	\$4,720,588	\$3,309,889
Capital Budget	\$9,476,896	\$150,000	\$661,000
Total by Fund	\$17,538,321	\$4,870,588	\$3,970,889

understand is the structure of the Town's budget. Divided into three distinct budget funds, each has an Operating Budget and a Capital Budget. The figure below shows the budgeted amounts for FY 2011 – what the Town was required to spend.

Much ado has been made in the past of reported surpluses. This is where the politicians in Town put their spin on the situation. According to the audit report, "The unassigned ending fund balance [defined as monies not yet spent/allocated] for the Town's general fund was \$4.4 million, an increase of approximately \$5,000 over the prior year." The Town's press release on this issue talked of another "surplus." But, the auditor's report does not refer to it as a surplus. The spin only mentions the amount by which the General Fund Operating

Budget unassigned fund balance increased, calling it a "surplus." For this year's report, the auditor stated that the General Fund increased its debt by over \$6,000,000. Yes, they had \$5,000 more left unspent in their checkbook for that particular fund. But, in order to accommodate the entire budget for FY 2011 the Town had to increase its debt by over \$6 million – that is hardly a surplus.

If the citizens are happy with this amount of debt –with the politicians claiming to have a surplus when the Town actually went further into debt – then they should re-elect the Mayor and Town Council members this May. If they are concerned about this, perhaps they should vote for a non-incumbent who runs on a platform promising fiscal conservative management.

Loyalty Oath, continued from page 1

Gov. Mitt Romney – have been certified for the primary ballot by GOP State Chairman Pat Mullins.

By a 3-0 vote Wednesday at the request of state GOP leaders, the Board of Elections agreed to invoke a state statute permitting political parties to require loyalty oaths in the nominating process.

The Elections Board approved forms on which voters, before being eligible to cast ballots in the primary, must sign and print their names below a line that reads: "I, the undersigned, pledge that I intend to support the nominee of the Republican Party for president."

The board also approved a sign to be posted at all polling places advising that "Section 24.2-545 of the Code of Virginia allows the political party holding a primary to determine requirements for voting in the primary, including the signing of a pledge by the voter of his intention to support the party's candidate when offering to vote in the primary."

"I understand Republican leaders not wanting Democrats to make our decision for us," Marshall said, "but a loyalty oath is not the way to address that circumstance."

Gingrich's statement that he will not support Paul was made in a CNN interview Tuesday.

"Loyalty oaths are detested by many

good Republicans who solidly back our party's principles and who have never voted for a Democrat in their lives," Marshall said. "And there are other concerns."

"In November, Virginia House Speaker Bill Howell and Virginia Attorney General Cuccinelli, both Republicans, supported an Independent for Henrico County Commonwealth's Attorney over the Republican nominee. Does this make them suspect Republicans?"

"How many conservative Democrats voted for Ronald Reagan in 'Republican' primaries in 1980? Would they have voted in a Republican primary that required a loyalty oath when Reagan was probably the only Republican they would vote for? I doubt it."

"Requiring Virginia election workers to enforce a Republican loyalty oath in a primary paid for by the general taxpayer is a markedly questionable use of tax money."

"Republicans I know want to defeat President Obama and his liberal Democrat supporters in Congress. I believe the great majority will vote for the Republican nominee over Obama. I question whether beating Barack Obama, which I am working hard to do, is furthered by requiring a loyalty oath in this presidential primary."

Town Hall, continued from page 4

reasonably expected at a normal Town Council meeting.

For those who do not regularly attend these meetings, there are two parts. To start, there is an awards/recognition session where the town acknowledges a wide variety of worthy individual achievements. This is followed by the business portion of the meeting. On a typical night, the major attendance is for the awards portion. Only a handful of people are usually present during the business portion of the meeting – i.e. not much space is really needed.

Town Employee Space: The Town advises that the new facility provides space for all 33 current staff members and for growth of up to ten additional summer interns, etc. However, the new facility does not provide that much extra “people space.” The preliminary arrangement only provided an extra 1,500 square feet of actual people space, because the space utilization in a building now used for something other than what it was built for is often not very efficient.

Cost Accounting: It has been very difficult to track all the costs associated with this project.

If it was the purpose of the Town to conceal the total costs of the project, they could not have done a better job than what was done. For example, the house adjacent to Fireman’s Field was purchased with the intent to raise the structure to provide more parking. Before the Town Hall moved, there was sufficient parking. Consequently, it would be reasonable to associate this cost with that of the Town Hall. Also, the planning document for Fireman’s Field stated that the paving of the parking lot was delayed to coincide with construction on the Town Hall. As a ball field, a cinder parking lot was just fine. As a parking for the Town Hall, an improvement was needed. Consequently these costs should be associated with the Town Hall and not the park since they support the Town Hall function, not the park function.

A shining Town Hall, but at what cost? Keep it in mind in May.

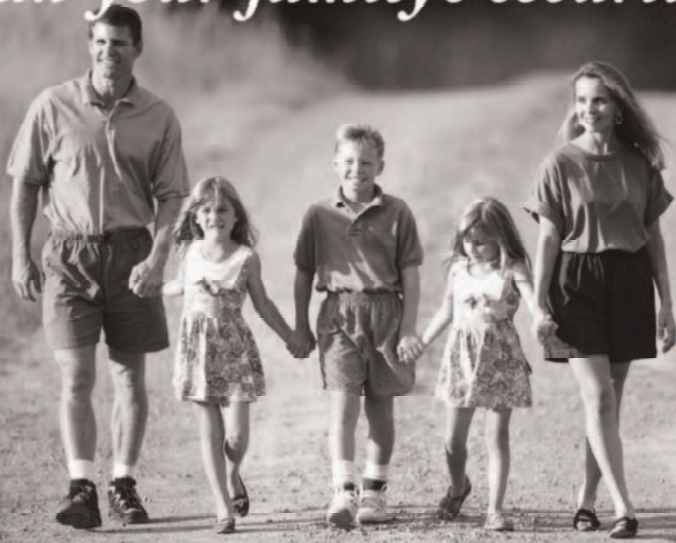
Town of Purcellville Sports Funding Application

The Town of Purcellville is accepting applications from local organizations for the Annual Sports League Funding. There is \$5,000 in this year’s budget.

Send your completed application to (or call Jennifer Christie, Parks and Recreation

Coordinator 540 751-2391): Town of Purcellville, Annual Sports League Funding, 221 S. Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, Virginia 20132. All applications are due by 4pm January 23, 2012. More information at www.purcellville.gov.

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Amy V. Smith’s Money Talks

– 7 Steps to Increase Your Wealth –

– By Amy Smith



Being rich is not hard. It’s a matter of adopting the right attitude.

After all, the woman convinced by her mother that she’ll always be poor is unlikely to take steps to attain substantial wealth. And the couple who plays it safe to ensure a comfortable lifestyle for the kids won’t take perceived risks to change their financial situation.

But there are ways to get past our financial programming, to make a difference in our lives by paying attention to matters that many of us tend to ignore.

If you follow each one of these steps, your financial situation will improve. How much your circumstances improve will depend on varying factors, but this is a great beginning:

1. Realize that it’s important to track what you spend. Recap last year’s expenses and create a budget for the current year. This isn’t a diet and you can adjust as you go along, so don’t avoid this step. Look at it as a way to make simple adjustments in your mind set to increase your wealth.
2. Evaluate your net worth. After all, you don’t want to forget about money left in an account or a drawer, or a piece of jewelry hidden in the back of the closet. Forgotten assets can add up and should be maximized for value.
3. Review your estate planning documents. Make sure to do this at least once every five years. If there’s a change in circumstances, such as a new child or grandchild, sale of a vacation home or an unexpected inheritance, you’ll want to do this right away.
4. Prepare your income tax return data early. No one really likes compiling all the figures, but the sooner you get this information to your tax planner each year, the better.
5. Rebalance your portfolio with target allocations. If one particular stock took off and made you a bundle, take

“Dare to imagine your ideal financial picture. Envisioning a desirable scenario will help empower you to turn it into reality.”

some off the table. If you needed to dip into your emergency fund, rebalance to reflect this withdrawal.

6. Meet with your financial advisor at least once a year to review steps one to five above. Just the process of talking things out with an objective advisor will help determine a course of action that will maximize your wealth.
7. Dare to imagine your ideal financial picture. Envisioning a desirable scenario will help empower you to turn it into reality.

© 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. Please note: changes in tax laws or regulations may occur at any time and could substantially impact your situation. While we are familiar with the tax provisions of the issues presented herein, as Financial Advisors of RJFS we are not qualified to render advice on tax or legal matters. The opinions and recommendations here are those of the columnist.

Business Owners Optimistic, continued from page 1

antibiotic-free meat producer located on Snickersville Turnpike between Purcellville and Middleburg split her level of optimism into two parts.

Citing a great quality product and loyal customers who really appreciate what she does, for her own business she is very optimistic ... “off the scale.” She feels decidedly less optimistic about “the politicians” ability to get out of the way of small businesses, instead of putting up “roadblocks” to their success.

Sarah Huntington, who runs a fine photography and video business is still thinking about how very difficult 2011 was.

She puts her level of optimism for 2012, though, at a 7, citing increased business over last fall due to her new studio location in Purcellville and greater interest in her services from the business community.

Scott Kinney, owner of Shamrock Music Shoppe in Purcellville was unabashedly optimistic about 2012 – “It’s going to be a

10 ... no question!” Mr. Kinney and other small businesses in the historic part of town are enjoying expanded customer parking in their area and are proud of the role they had in making their commercial area more accessible.

Mary Beth Barbagallo, co-owner of 29 Vines, a new wine tasting room in Purcellville, gave us an 8 on the optimism scale. She wished more people looked at things that way, explaining the optimism breeds success.

Long and Foster real estate agent Joy Thompson, whose business card reads “Experience Life with Joy!” gave us 8, saying “people want to get going” in the new year, “live a little.”

And finally, Tom Inman, Purcellville Sports, gave us a 9. “I pledged never to be below a 5 on any kind of scale.” “Life is better that way!”



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Hunt Country Gourmet's RESTAURANT REVIEW *Eiffel Tower (Le Tour Eiffel)* *A Real French Restaurant in Rural Virginia*

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

– By George Humphries

The Eiffel Tower Café has its contradictory aspects, but excellence in food and service are not among them. First, it is hardly a "café," in the traditional sense. The Eiffel Tower is a full-scale French restaurant in the best sense. Second, Sosnitsky (owner Madeleine) and Canizzaro (Chef Gregory) are hardly French surnames. But regardless of those seeming non-French hints, take it from someone who has lived and traveled throughout France, it is authentically French if a little adapted to American expectations. And after all, the restaurant fare throughout France itself varies widely: Normandy is not Provence is not Alsace is not Cannes is not Orleans, and none are Parisian.

So rejoice and enjoy food prepared with French attention to ingredients, preparation, and presentation. In these French attributes, the Eiffel Tower exemplifies and excels.

Some of the outstanding features of the luncheon menu include Fricasse d'Escargots, House Pate with Cornichon, Salad Nicoise, a Wild Mushroom Salad with Goat Cheese, Tarragon Chicken on Croissant, and Grilled Trout. All are reasonably priced, most around the \$10-12 range with only Lamb Chops with Olive Oil Roasted Tomatoes at \$16.95.

We had a lovely Christmas Eve dinner with friends at the Eiffel Tower. The menu featured Roasted Pork Tenderloin wrapped with bacon, apples confit, and port wine sauce. It was tender and juicy and there were so many slices that it



provided another meal for two at home. Roasted Duck Breast with plums and pears was also pronounced excellent, and accompanied with a serving of tasty red cabbage. A salmon steak was lightly seasoned and the sauce was served on the side as requested by a diner with health concerns.

The non-holiday menu also features entrees with shrimp and pasta, chicken, and lamb shanks. Dinner prices range from just under \$20 to just over \$30.

The holiday dessert was a Buche de Noel, or Christmas log, a concoction of cake rolled with lavish layers of chocolate and finished with a loglike pattern in the frosting. The regular menu features typical French desserts and cheeses.



All told, the claim of "a taste of France" is accurate. The price of a meal is miniscule compared to airfare, and a delicious authentic bargain.

George Humphries is a retired Navy aviator who began cooking at the age of 10 and has managed several large restaurants. He has lived in Loudoun Country since 1984.

Retiring Supervisor Sally Kurts Honored



Delegate Joe May was one of several brave Republicans who joined a large crowd of Democrats at Tuscarora Mill Restaurant in Leesburg on December 28, 2011 for a surprise party toasting retiring Supervisor Sally Kurts for her 12 years of

service to Western Loudoun on the Board. Much of the praise for Sally (second from right in our photo) was for her no-nonsense approach to governing and for her untiring work on behalf of Western Loudoun's rural economy.

Students Rally for The Hundreds of Fellow Students Lacking Adequate Housing

At a Good Shepherd Alliance (GSA) Youth Committee meeting in November 2010, Executive Director Vickie Koth offered up a unique idea for a charity event: consider the publication of a Children's Poetry and Essay book with submissions by Loudoun County students.

Last year's student board members and Youth Committee already had fund raising events planned at high schools throughout Loudoun County so they passed on the idea. Youth Director Steve D'Argenio brought up the idea again in the fall of 2011 to Student Board Directors Nicole Levinson (Loudoun County) and Samuel Moore-Sobel (Stone Bridge). The committee ultimately decided to collect poems or essays about what "home" or "homeless" means. Submissions were limited to elementary students from 3rd to 5th grade. Drawings by the children were also collected.

As one of the richest counties in the country, it is easy to assume that Loudoun's youth all have permanent homes and stable lives. Yet recently, 658 young students were identified as homeless or precariously housed. Many of these young people do not have a guardian or parent in their lives. They sleep in with relatives or "couch surf" among their friends. The GSA housed 62 homeless children last year, but recognizes through our counseling and outreach services that hundreds of children in Loudoun County are living in unstable situations that could lead to homelessness.

GSA currently operates four homeless facilities housing forty people on any given night. The non-profit's outreach and resources and referral programs help prevent homelessness by providing stop-gap services for financially struggling families. Nicole and Sam believed that the thoughts and views of school children are rarely taken seriously or into account. The GSA Youth Committee was determined to change that paradigm by publishing a poetry book written by elementary school chil-



dren. Sam obtained the corporate sponsors and Nicole had a friend, Melissa Quinones, a senior at Loudoun County High School, design the poem and essay book cover.

The Youth Committee collected a total of 426 essays and poems from ten different elementary schools in Loudoun County on what "home" or "homeless" means to each student. The book is titled From Our Heart to Your Home. Some children focused more on their fears of homelessness, while others focused on what having a home, parents and family means to them. The poems are really quite touching and evocative. They tell a story only a child could compose.

Included in the book is a section on how the community can help. It identifies the GSA mission and how folks can donate and assist GSA homeless services and programs. The minimum donation of \$22.00 covers only the book printing cost. Any gift amount over the \$22 would help support the GSA Emergency and Transitional housing programs.

The GSA Youth Committee desires to bring a huge awareness to the community about homelessness and also raise needed funds for GSA. The book is expected to be published in January 2012 and will be sold in the GSA thrift stores and at numerous GSA Youth Committee events. For more information regarding obtaining a copy of the book, contact Executive Director Vickie Koth at 703-724-1555 or visit www.goodshepherdalliance.org.



CAN PLANNING ACTUALLY BE FUN?

Absolutely! Just open one of the many delicious seed catalogues available right now; it's hard not to start jotting down ideas for the spring garden.

One of the first steps to planning is finding inspiration. For ideas, we will explore a variety of sources – like the work created during a specific period in history. For example, the Arts and Crafts movement that flourished during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It's amazing how a simple pattern from a ceramic tile or an architectural detail can provide the foundation for a unique garden.

Planning and creating a landscape design that conveys your unique style is one of the reasons we love what we do. If you are considering a new garden in 2012, call us today at 540.338.7190 for a free one-hour consultation with one of our talented designers. We look forward to working with you.

Step One



Pour through seed catalogues, garden magazines and websites.

Step Two



Clip pictures of the flowers and designs that you really like and put them in an "idea" folder.

Step Three



Grab a piece of graph paper and sketch your ideas, referencing images in your idea folder.

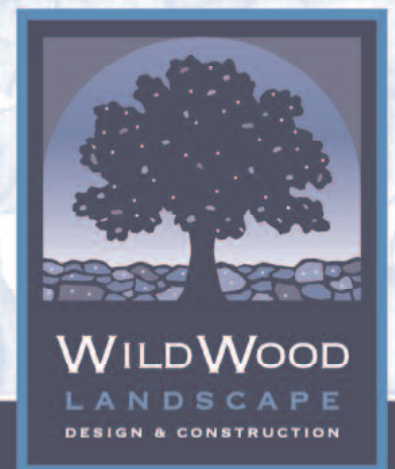
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Christmas Bird Count, continued from page 1

gather data to help the conservation and scientific community better understand bird populations and trends. Over 57,000 people participated in last year's effort through more than 2,000 local Christmas Bird Counts, such as the Central Loudoun Count. The program "counts" approximately one percent of every bird in North America.

Loudoun's 2011 count included approximately 120 participants divided into 20 teams. And, overall, well over 100 bird species were counted.

Long time bird count participants and leaders Joe Coleman and Phil and Ellie Daley noted that while some unusual species were seen on this year's Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count, the cold and windy weather that dominated the day probably reduced the overall number of birds seen. But, the highlights were many

– This year a Barred Owl was sighted near the Dulles North Wetlands and a Screech Owl was sighted near Oatlands Plantation. Worldwide, there are 134 species of owls. Loudoun has eight species that either live here or pass through. Year round residents include the Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Barn Owl and Great Horned Owl. Occasional owls include the Northern Saw-Whet Owl, Long-eared Owl and Short-eared Owl. The Snowy Owl is seen passing through in a rare year.

– A pair of Bald Eagles were seen at the Dulles Wetland, and five Bald Eagles, including four adults and one young bird were seen at The Glebe, an area not far from where the pair on the cover of our newspaper were photographed in mid-December. Eagles were also spotted near Oatlands Plantation.

– Multiple birder teams saw large groups of wild turkeys. The wild turkey is one of the largest birds in North America. An adult male can grow up to four feet long from beak to tail. Wild turkeys live in open fields and woods and nest on the ground, surviving on insects, grasses, nuts, and berries. (A group of turkeys is called a "rafter" ... and baby turkeys are called poult!) 19 Turkeys were sighted in the Lincoln area and 62 were sighted at the Dulles Wetlands South.

– Another fun (and rare) sighting was a Greater White Fronted Goose, recorded by birder Steve Makranczy on the Raspberry



Pink circle in map below identifies the area covered by the LWC's annual bird count.

Falls Golf Course norther of Leesburg (among a large group of Canada Geese).

– A Peregrine Falcon (the world's fastest member of the animal kingdom, clocking in at over 200 MPH in diving mode) was sighted over the Potomac River near Rockland Farm and White's Ferry. Both Peregrine and Bald Eagles populations are on the rebound following the ban on the insecticide DDT, which had been causing the birds to lay thin, fragile eggs incapable of supporting the care and development of the chick inside.

– Birder Bob Abrams spotted 16 Kill Deer and a Snow Bunting off of Evergreen Mill Road south of Leesburg – both are relatively rare birds.

– Other sightings included Kingfishers, Loggerhead Shrike and a very rare Merlin Falcon.

In addition to sponsoring the Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is three years in to a significant five-year project known as the Loudoun County Bird Atlas, a citizen-science project to establish a comprehensive list of birds across the County.

Unlike other atlases which collect data only on breeding birds, the Loudoun County Bird Atlas will collect data year-round for both breeding and non-breeding birds.

More information on LWC's conservation work and how you can participate/assist can be found at www.loudounwildlife.org.



Photo collage courtesy of Constance Chatfield-Taylor.

The Bright Side of Tent Caterpillars

– By Donna Williamson

On a sunny day this winter, look at the branches of ornamental cherry, apple, and crabapple trees in your landscape. Toward the outside end of a branch you may see a short, shiny black plastic-looking swelling around the branch. This is the egg case of the tent caterpillar. It's brittle in winter and you can easily snap it off. Drop it on the ground to be eaten by scavenging mice, voles, or other critters.

Most folks are offended by tent caterpillars in the spring and I have been among them until recently. These furry native caterpillars will munch on your Mt. Fuji cherry or Golden Raindrops crab apple, but they really prefer the native wild black cherries that fill our woodlands.

While they can defoliate a wild cherry, the trees are able to recover and send out

new leaves. Cuckoos, warblers, mockingbirds, white-breasted nuthatches, Baltimore orioles, blue jays, and chickadees eat these caterpillars. The tent material provides nesting material for many birds.

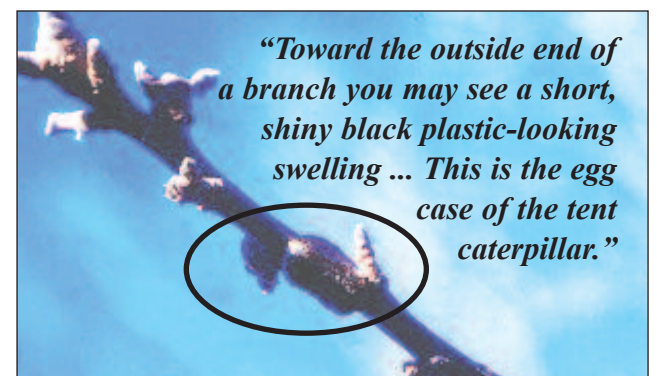
I spend most of my career destroying these nests until I heard Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, and others talk about landscape diversity and sharing our spaces. Now, I have to admit, I want to leave them for the birds to feed their babes in the spring.

If you snap off the egg cases in winter, it will save you from trying to get the nests out of your ornamental or fruiting cherry. By the time the forsythia blooms, the egg case has become tan and gummy with the caterpillars hatching. If you must, when you start to see the small tents being woven, take a stick or a broom handle with a nail or cup hook in the end. Wind up the tent and the

caterpillars. Or leave them if you can as even the ornamental trees will recover.

Don't use a propane torch or other fire source. Your tree can catch on fire ... a bigger problem than munching caterpillars. Sprays are often ineffective as the tent is quite protective. It continues to expand with new sections as the interior sections fill with poop and debris.

These caterpillars feed baby birds that cannot eat seeds from the feeder. If you want to know more, think about attending the spring conference "Tomorrow's Landscapes: More Birds, Butterflies, and Bees for Your Garden" and check out www.tomorrowlandscapes.org for more info. Doug Tallamy will be there too!



"Toward the outside end of a branch you may see a short, shiny black plastic-looking swelling ... This is the egg case of the tent caterpillar."

*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*,*

► REAL ESTATE TICKER ► LIFE RETURNS TO THE MARKET

– By Carl Fischer



Despite the ups and downs of all reported indicators, there's a growing sense among folks here in this area that "what is" in the real estate market now, is "what will be" for the next 12 to 18 months at least. What that does for everyone is to free their thinking to enable them to assess their present situation, and decide whether or not they would like to move forward in their lives, or remain hostage to the uncertainty that has plagued most of us for the past three and half years.

Many people are just simply deciding to move forward now. Local and regional statistics bear that out. Closings are holding steady month-over-month, while new sales are showing a marginal uptick in activity. Unsold inventory continues to creep downward, and there's no sign of any change of substance in foreclosures. All sectors of the residential real estate market here in Loudoun County seem to be reflecting that truth. In the commercial market, end-users are once again showing up in increasingly significant numbers. Leases for both office and retail space are on the rise, even though rates are historically low. If you are an end-user, you cannot afford to "wait and see" what will happen. The Loudoun market area is notorious for having limited supplies of property zoned appropriately for commercial use, so waiting now as the activity levels are starting to build is NOT likely to be in your best interest. What we have learned repeatedly over the past thirty years is: Once you are aware that "something has changed in the market", you are usually too late to take advantage of the opportunities that were available to you. Everyone else has figured it out, too, and the race is on. Finally, keep in mind the potentially negative impact to your bottom line of even a slight uptick in interest rates.

For a very long time, it has been a moot point, since no one seemed to want to borrow, and banks, notwithstanding their representations to the contrary, did not want to actually make loans. Though you seldom had the benefit of a direct "No", you found yourself in an endless stream of "just one more thing ..." demands that seldom ended up in a loan being given.

Since most people determine how much house they can afford based on how much it costs them by the month, even a slight increase in interest rates has a significant impact on the total cost of the property they can afford to buy. So buy now, or trade up, if either option is in your long term plans.

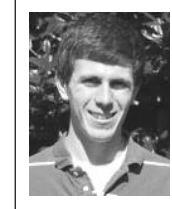
Another aspect of real estate sales is beginning to change as well. A traditional broker who only can offer a "bricks and sticks" solution to a property owner who needs to sell and move away, probably can only help in one small portion of that process. What's really needed is a real estate service that can not only sell the hard assets, but the business and business inventory as well. And some of these new business models are starting to turn up. One such model, combines the best of the traditional listing process which rolls over to an auction at a point in time, utilizing a very sophisticated marketing and advertising model to guarantee that the right buyers will be present should the auction card be played.

In this scenario, the seller pays for the marketing services up front, but then pays NO COMMISSION on the sale; that is picked up by a "buyer premium" at time of auction. This latter process is great for specialty or niche properties that just don't "fit" into typical residential or commercial real estate sales models.

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



– By Dane Mullins



Woodgrove made quite a large impression at the Purcellville Christmas Parade on December 10 getting the crowd into the spirit of the season and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Marching Wolverines led the procession playing a festive holiday repertoire. Mascot, Walter the Wolverine and the Woodgrove Cheerleaders followed the band. All were decked out in their holiday finery.

Winter Sports Update:

- Basketball: Varsity, Girls 9-1, Boys 6-3. Freshman and JV teams are all playing hard and scoring well. WOW – Brad Gilson #52 reached 1,000 point scoring total milestone December 16 in the game against Heritage. His total is based upon points scored during his entire high school career (9th-12th).

- Gymnastics: Amanda Huebner is ranked 3rd overall and Olivia Becker is ranked 10th overall. Team ranked 5th.

- Wrestling: Team took 5th in 33rd Annual Sterling Lions Terry McGowan Invitational.

- Swimming: Girls – 9th 50 freestyle, Kristen Garner; 10th in 100 breast stroke, Kristen Garner; 9th 200 freestyle medley, Hannah Taylor, Michelle Crowley, Erin Martin, Kristen Garner; 10th 400 freestyle medley, Gabrielle Harbour, Michelle Crowley, Jamie Thomas, Shannon Song. Boys – 9th 200 IM Ethan Bloomfield, 5th 100 fly, Adam Hoff, 500 freestyle 4th, Christian Banister, 9th, Andrew Ray, 200 freestyle relay 10th, Ethan Bloomfield,

Adam Hoff, Nico Song, Christian Banister, 100 breast stroke 10th, Christian Banister, 400 freestyle relay 7th Andrew Ray, Adam Hoff, Ian Whitefield, Evan Goodman.

- Cross Country: Alex Juzbasich and Katherine Bruton were named Cheer Sports athletes of the month for November.

- Soccer: Junior Brittany Basinger has made a commitment to play for NCAA Division 1 Penn State in 2013, Lexi Clarke committed to Division 1 Stony Brook, Tabitha McHale committed to Division 1 UNC Greensboro, Charlotte Ratcliff committed to Division I Coastal Carolina.

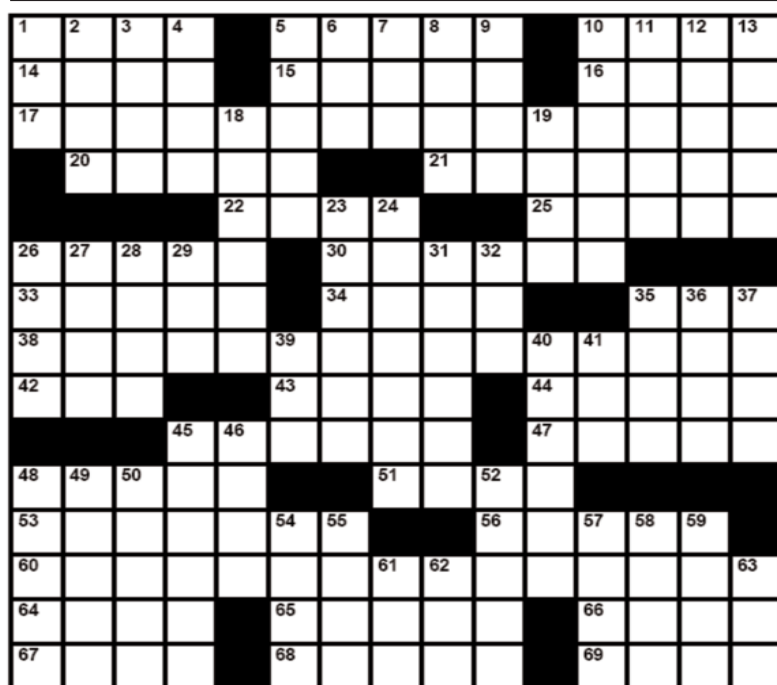
Mo's Sports Garage: Mo Queirolo, a Woodgrove High School sophomore was injured in the Briar Woods game. During his recuperation his love for sports led him to create Mo's Sports Garage. Many of us have sports equipment that is in good shape but no longer in use. Please check your garage and home for items to donate and bring them to Woodgrove High School for Mo's Sports Garage boxes. Mo will be working with Pam Hayba, Parent Liaison to find children in need of the equipment.

Count down to graduation has begun!

The Woodgrove Project Graduation Committee has planned an All Night Graduation Celebration event for June 12, 2012 at Adventure Park USA. The Project Graduation Program began in 1987 and is a celebration across our state committed to promoting a safe, supervised and a memory-filled All Night Graduation Celebration in an alcohol-free and drug-free environment. To help make this event possible, contact Rhonda Wells at 540-571-2600.

Dane Mullins is a native of western Loudoun. He attended Loudoun Valley High School and is dual enrolled at Woodgrove High School and Northern Virginia Community College. Dane grew up on a farm and has a passion for tractors. He has been the owner and operator of Dane's Hometown Services since 2008 (estate maintenance, landscaping, farm & welding services, etc.)

Part of a Straight? – By Myles Mellor



Across

1. Book part
5. "Cut it out!"
10. Five-time U.S. Open champ
14. Almond
15. Auspices
16. All-night party
17. Gardening guy?
20. Boreal forest
21. Old Germans
22. ___ and aahs
25. Dentist's direction
26. "Blue ___"
30. Opens
33. Brilliance
34. Denials
35. Eerie gift
38. Romantic guy?
42. Haw partner
43. Ricelike pasta
44. Diminished by
45. More lively
47. Sportscaster Musburger
48. Ski trail
51. "Get ___!"
53. Profound
56. Contradict

Down

60. 1991 Tinka Menkes film
64. Took advantage of
65. Zeno, notably
66. Assortment
67. Sea slitherers
68. Old Roman port
69. Don't believe it
27. Yearn
28. Hypothetical form of matter
29. Symbol of strength
31. Earlier
32. Wednesday tree?
35. Coastal raptor
36. Bowl over
37. "Check this out!"
39. "___ any drop to drink." - Coleridge
40. Insignia
41. Cause of inflation?
45. Mounts
46. ___ Station
48. Arouse
49. Sign on a plane facility
50. Brace
52. Banana variant
54. C-worthy
55. New newts
57. Come into view
58. Deeply
59. Cut, maybe
61. "i" lid
62. "Rocky ___"
63. Scale note

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

Lincoln, VA

The bucolic, little community of Lincoln – just south of Purcellville – contains all kinds of visual (and otherwise sensory) appeal, whether to the casual visitor or its longtime residents: unique, historic homes, meeting places and commercial structures, quiet, tree-covered lanes, the stately hush of still churchyards, even its diminutive size lends a kind of 'cute' quality to the whole picture. Yep, Lincoln's a special place where you just feel good to merely 'be' for a spell.

But, for me – and me alone, I imagine – there is one star attraction. Probably not at the top of everybody else's list – or anyone else's, for that matter – which pops up when I think of little old Lincoln.

Ya ready?

It's the Jackass.

Huh?

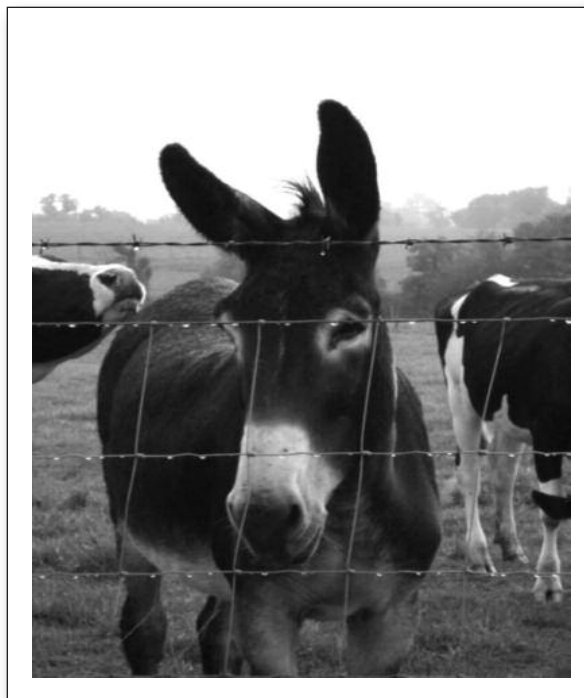
The what?

You heard me. The Jackass. Just bear with me on this.

Motorists who make the short run from Purcellville to Lincoln will no doubt know of whom I speak: the large, mostly-black-with-a-bit-of-white-mule-like specimen about half-way between the two communities, who, for all intents and purposes, presides over a herd of dairy cows in his own private field just as you enter the village.

He came under my attention during my intermittent mail carries to the little branch Post Office. It seemed – rain or shine, snow or heat wave – this notable character would be standing guard, as it were, over his charge of bovine milk-producers.

I've heard that donkeys and mules will keep other herd animals safe from coyotes and other predator depredation; whether



that's true or not, it's a good story – and I always like one of those.

So, if you have such good taste in stories, how can you write one about Lincoln by focusing on a ... a ... one of those beasts?" Point taken.

Now, I want to assure you that I absolutely revere the overall character as well as the many beloved landmarks in this community. But, my choice of a favorite symbolic icon is simply one of personal preference – my own idiosyncratic whim of a Jackass.

But, I've come to know Lincoln – through time and toil – I'm familiar with its special attractions, and I developed my affection for this member of the equus genus after a great deal of thought and effort. I had the pleasure of taking part – several years back, when I could afford the expenditure of time and energy – volunteering in a theatrical production at the Goose Creek Friends Meeting



House,

and came to love the quaint old building and its storied history. I've been negotiating the narrow lanes that wind through this unincorporated 'town' for over a decade, walked the off-the-beaten-path to Mount Olive Cemetery, and have become visually acquainted with many of the historic landmark-status homes in and around this

little 'burg. I enjoy driving past Abernethy and Spencer's Greenhouse – the oldest in Loudoun County – with Lincoln Elementary School right across the street. I even relish my visits to the little Post Office in the heart of the community.

Well, just about.

Those who really love her know that our little Lincoln has a lot to offer, and I'm quite aware of its many attractions.

I just so happen to favor the Jackass.

I'd be hard pressed to explain why. He certainly exudes personality – spunk, even. He stands on his own patch of ground in the midst of a herd of cattle – not a bad example for us human members of the animal kingdom.

This guy even reminds me of a great many residents in Loudoun County. And they shouldn't take umbrage at this remark. I consider it an honor.



My dear Mother, God rest her soul, often reserved the term 'Jackass' for some of our most revered leaders in Washington. And the term seemed to apply – more times than not. So, if the one-word description was good enough for her, it's good enough for

me – and my political news-makers. I'm sure the President has been called much worse – and I'd like to think that Lincoln's namesake – Honest Old Abe – would have appreciated the use of the term to describe some of his own follies. (Certainly the slate of would-be Republican Presidential Nominee-Seekers have earned the right to bear this famous and time-honored title.) The Lincoln 'Jack' has even reminded me of myself, on the odd occasion, which I consider quite an honor. Now, back to my Mom's colorful use of English vocabulary, I'm sure she didn't mean to insult any true, legitimate Jackasses in her use of the moniker; just so, I in no way shape or form intent to sully that fine, time-honored name in this story about Lincoln, Virginia.

Apologies to any Jackasses out there who may take offense at the remarks herein – and I mean those who perambulate on two legs as well as four.

And, yes, I do realize that this seven-letter nickname more correctly applies to members of the species *Equus Africanus Asinus* – the true donkey – than the mule – but who's counting?

This guy's a real Jackass, in my book.

Special Report: What is "PUGAMP," continued from page 7

the Complaint filed in December 2009 by the County against the Town. (They are worth reading, especially paragraphs 25-33. Clearly the Town did not want to enter into any dialogue with the County until the proposed annexations became official on December 31.)

Since the Town would not enter into any meaningful discussions to resolve the dispute before the annexations became official, the County filed suit on December 28, 2009, to prevent the annexations from becoming official. Litigation occurred throughout 2010 and into the fall of 2011. Twice the Town failed in its attempts to have the County's case thrown out of Circuit Court. In October 2011, the Circuit Court decided to request the Virginia Supreme Court to appoint a three-judge panel to hear the case, as often happens in annexation disputes. The three judges have been appointed, but a hearing date has not yet been scheduled.

Why is this issue important?

Strictly speaking – money if you are a

Town or County taxpayer; inconvenience if you are a Purcellville resident. Here's why.

Over the past decade or so, the Town has had difficulty in providing water and sewer service to a growing population. A voluntary water restriction was imposed in 2006 and mandatory restrictions in 2007.

In January 2007, the Town hired the consultant team of CH2M Hill and GeoTrans to conduct a Water Resource Study. Their report concluded that there would be significant deficits in both maximum daily demand and average daily demand for water compared to available supplies beginning in the fall of 2010.

The consultants recommended that, in the short term, the Town acquire additional water from local sources, which the Town did.

The proposed long-term solution consisted of two options, both expensive and controversial:

A) Withdraw water from Sleeter Lake

From the County's legal complaint against Purcellville

- approximately 16 acres of land for development, including property outside the Phase I area. ("August 2009 Annexation Ordinance"). The August 2009 Annexation Ordinance states that it is to become effective on December 31, 2009.
22. The August 2009 Annexation Ordinance does not include provisions regarding the extension of utilities, as required by the Annexation Agreement.
23. On December 8, 2009, the Town adopted an ordinance purporting to annex approximately 66 acres of land for development, including property outside the Phase I area. ("December 2009 Annexation Ordinance"). The December 2009 Annexation Ordinance states that it is to become effective on December 31, 2009.
24. The County believes that the Town may take further actions to attempt to annex land outside the Phase I area shown on the Phasing Map, as amended.
- County Attempts to Resolve the Matter
25. The County and its representatives have made repeated, unsuccessful efforts to resolve this matter with the Town both prior and subsequent to the Town's adoption of the August 2009 Annexation Ordinance and the December 2009 Annexation Ordinance.
26. By letter dated August 5, 2009, the Interim County Administrator wrote the Town Manager that the proposed August 2009 Annexation Ordinance was not valid until the PUGAMP Phasing Map was amended. The Town ignored this letter and adopted the August 2009 Annexation Ordinance.

Article and sidebar continued on page 17

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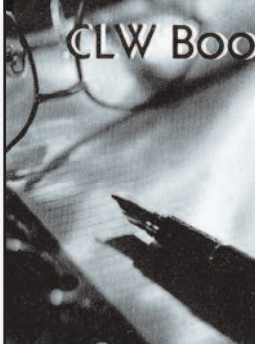
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Round Hill United Methodist Church, Round Hill, VA. Salary \$10.00/hr. Mature person needed each Sunday morning from 7:40 to 12:30p.m. Responsible for the care of children (birth to 48 months). References and background check required. Please submit a current resume to Office@roundhillumc.org.



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Board of Supervisors, continued from page 1

would be cut out of the discussion, as would a neighboring business who might object to a change based on increased traffic, light pollution, larger parking lots, etc.

Eminent Domain

HJR693, legislation proposed by Virginia State Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli seeks to amend the Virginia Constitution to limit a locality's eminent domain powers. The legislation is making its way through the Virginia General Assembly in response to several nationally celebrated cases of eminent domain abuse.

The new Loudoun County Board of Supervisors wants to "oppose any legislation to further limit the power of localities to exercise condemnation powers for public

projects as well as any legislation to expand the existing statutory and common law definitions of "just compensation?"

Critics say that the Board is pursuing opposition to Virginia's effort to limit eminent domain powers under pressure from groups such as the Virginia Association of Realtors, the Virginia Association for Commercial Real Estate, the Dulles Area Association of Realtors and other developers and real estate lobbyist groups.

Other Items

Public Input Sessions:

Under the previous Board's rules, the public enjoyed comments sessions twice every month, where individuals, businesses, nonprofits and others were invited to come

before their elected officials and speak on any issue of importance to them. These public input sessions are spirited, popular and well attended, often going well into the night, particularly when major zoning or budget issues are moving through the Board of Supervisors' decision making process or are close to a vote.

Under new rules, public input sessions have been reduced to one per month. (Chairman York has indicated public input sessions have not been reduced, but the language is clear: "Public input/general Business meeting will be held once a month on the Tuesday previous to the Wednesday business meeting at 5 pm,

"Under the new proposed [Special Exception] rules, a neighborhood next to a commercial area would be cut out of the [zoning] discussion, as would a neighboring business who might object to a change based on increased traffic, light pollution, larger parking lots, etc."

with public input to start as early as 6 pm.") There will be a public "comment" opportunity at the second Business meeting when needed, but, it will occur at the end of the meeting after a long agenda is completed.

A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People

KidScoop.com

This Week: Snowflakes

© 2004 by Veki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 29 No. 5

Let It SNOW!

Earthlings say that no two snowflakes look identical!

That's funny. They all taste the same!

Snowflake Man

People say no two snowflakes are alike. This fact was discovered by a man named Wilson A. Bentley. In 1885 he was the first person to photograph a single snowflake! He figured out a way to attach a microscope to a camera.

Bentley went on to photograph more than 5,000 snowflakes during his lifetime, never finding two alike.

Standards Link: Earth Science: Weather can be observed, written and described.

Are snowflakes frozen raindrops?

No. Rain that freezes when it falls is called sleet. Sleet doesn't have the fancy shapes of snowflakes and it forms differently.

Here's how sleet and snow are made.

water vapor → water drop → ice → SLEET

water vapor → ice → SNOW

Look closely: Find the differences in these two pictures.

About Snowflakes

What we usually call snowflakes are little crystals of ice called snow crystals.

The water molecules in ice form a six-sided, or hexagonal, crystal. That is why most snowflakes have six sides.

Although no two snowflakes are exactly alike, their shapes do fall into several categories. Here are four kinds of snowflakes.

Read the descriptions. Then find each kind of snowflake on today's KidScoop page.

Stellar Dendrites

Stellar means "star-like" and dendrite means "tree-like." Put together it means these kinds of snowflakes look like stars and have branches like trees.

Hollow Columns

Most snowflakes are this kind. The columns are hexagonal, like a wooden pencil. Can you find 4 or more hollow columns?

Spatial Dendrites

Not all snowflakes are thin flat plates or slender columns. Some snowflakes are made of many ice crystals jumbled together. Can you find 6 spatial dendrites?

Sectored Plates

These crystals have flat, plate-like arms or sections. Can you find at least 10 sectored plate snow crystals?

Standards Link: Investigation: Recognize similarities and differences in common objects.

Snowflake Pattern Time

Draw the snowflake that comes next in each row.

Standards Link: Math: Extend simple patterns.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's KidScoop stories and activities.

SNOWFLAKE
WATER
BENTLEY
ICE
PLATES
ALIKE
DENDRITES
FROZEN
PENCIL
CAMERA
TOOL
FALL
STARS
THIN
SNOW

W R A T S B S E E S
T N R R L E R K P E
H E E E L P A I E T
I Z M T A L T L N I
N O A A F A S A C R
I R C W T T J P I D
C F O O Y E C I L N
G N O I B S N O W E
S L Y E L T N E B D

Standards Link: Letter sequencing, Recognizing identical words, Skim and scan reading, Recall spelling patterns.

BEYOND KidScoop

Hot and Cold

Select a newspaper picture and have a friend guess what it is by asking you questions that can be answered "yes" or "no." If their guess is close, tell them they're "hot" or if it's not say, "cold."

Standards Link: Listen and Speaking Strategies: Ask questions that seek information.

Write On!

The Woman I Most Admire

Who is the woman you most admire? Give your reasons for this choice.

Send to: Blue Ridge Leader, PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325

Deadline: Feb. 22, 2004. Published: Week of March 21, 2004. Please include your school and grade.

Kid Scoop Together: Weather Symbols

Match each of the symbols below to the kind of weather it describes.

FOG
PARTLY CLOUDY
WINDY
SUNNY
CLOUDY
THUNDER SHOWERS
RAIN
SNOW
FROST
THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **VAPOR**

The noun vapor means invisible particles of moisture floating in the air.

Clouds and steam are examples of vapor that we can see.

Try to use the word vapor in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Winter Gardening Classes From BRL Contributor Donna Williamson

Expand your gardening toolbox by covering gardening, pruning, and landscape basics with four weeks of solid, no nonsense garden information and activities, then go on to design a real garden, developing new skills and hands-on experience.

In this series of classes, participants will move easily through the basics and then develop actual sustainable, lower maintenance landscape designs for their homes. Drafting skills are NOT required!

These classes will help you sort through all those mountains of bewildering and conflicting gardening and plant information to understand the approaches and tasks that really work in Virginia and can make a difference in your landscape.

Gardening with deer and the latest in vegetable gardening will be included.

Ornamental and native plants can partner in your landscape for more diversity. Develop your design concept, and figure out which plants will work best where.

Classes will be held from 10 am to 2 pm on Tuesdays, from February 7 to March 27 in the Tasting Room at the Village Winery &

Vineyard on Brown's Lane in Waterford.

The first class (4 sessions) on basics runs from February 7 to February 28. Fee is \$96. The fee for all 8 classes is \$180.

Registration is required. Class size is limited. Go to www.dwfinegardening.com and click on "classes," e-mail or call: donnawilliamson2002@earthlink.net (540) 877-2002. Register by sending name, address, email and check to Donna (PO Box 252, Clearbrook, VA 22624).

Donna Williamson has taught classes in Waterford, Warrenton, Shenandoah University, Oatlands, and Blandly State Arboretum for more than 20 years.

She was founder and editor of GRANDIFLORA Mid Atlantic Gardening magazine and has a new book out: The Virginia Gardener's Companion: An Insider's Guide to Low-Maintenance Gardening in Virginia.

Donna continues to provide garden design consultations and loves to grow tomatoes and magnolias in Virginia.

A Senior's Hopes and Dreams

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

As the New Year begins, many are making lists of resolutions and changes that they want to make to their lives. Others are compiling their hopes and dreams for the coming year.



I think most people hope for the same general things such as good health for themselves and their families, success in their jobs or in school, and good relationships with family and friends. But for a high school senior, there are some unique things hoped for in the New Year.

The number one topic on high school seniors' minds heading into the New Year is college acceptances. Many have already heard from colleges but most will hear in the spring. The most important dream a high school senior has at this moment is getting into college. The second dream gets a little more practical and it concerns money. Many are looking for ways to pay for college, especially if they have already been accepted to a college to which they really could see themselves going. I have been accepted at Drexel University in Philadelphia. It is highly ranked with a great co-op program in one of the best cities in the country. I really like the school ... until I see its price tag of \$39,000 a year excluding room and board. Typical of many of my peers, I am desperately trying to find a way to fund my education as I am not eager to bankrupt neither myself nor my parents. Many of us are hoping to either win a large scholarship from the many competitions we apply to, or to be offered a large financial aid package by a college in the spring.

Beyond all of the concerns about furthering his or her education, a senior is begin-

"Beyond all of the concerns about furthering his or her education, a senior is beginning to think about the legacy they are leaving behind ... We hope to see the programs we have either participated in or started to extend beyond our time and have an impact long after we are gone."

ning to think about the legacy they are leaving behind. Many hope that the New Year will bring a good close to their high school career. We've worked hard for four years, and have established relationships that will last long after high school. We hope to see the programs we have either participated in or started to extend beyond our time and have an impact long after we are gone. For example, I can't wait to see the great things that "PEER" accomplishes in the future. PEER stands for Positive Experiences in Educational Relationships. As a member of PEER I have listened to students one-on-one in my high school and have mentored middle school students as well as given presentations to elementary school students. We have championed the cause of "Bulldogs Don't Bully," putting on an assembly each year. I hope that in the future this 16 student member organization goes on to do amazing things. As we look back on our time in high school, I think we all hope that we left our mark and that the things we did really mattered. So here's to hoping that all of our hopes and dreams come true in the New Year.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a senior at Stone Bridge High School and currently serves as a member of The Good Shepherd Alliance Board of Directors.

What's That?, continued from page 6

Various types of pottery have been found in association with datable objects such as charcoal or seeds which are radiocarbon dated. When enough samples of pottery were associated with good dates in this manner a pattern of trends became obvious to archaeologists in the development of pottery. It is by comparing the type of temper, the

shape, the decoration and other stylistic factors that archaeologists are now able to categorize the pottery when they find it and determine the age of it.

If you ever find anything similar to what is seen in this picture let us know. You likely have found a significant site that would be worth investigating!

Special Report: What is "PUGAMP," continued from page 14

and replace it with treated effluent from the new sewage treatment plant, which would then be recycled into drinking water for the Town;

B) Run central water lines out the Route 7 corridor from Leesburg to Purcellville.

In a December 2009 *Leesburg Today* article, Mayor Lazaro announced that the Town had acquired additional water resources totaling 300,000 gallons per day (gpd), with the ability to expand ultimately to 500,000 gpd.

The Mayor indicated that was sufficient to meet the Town's needs through 2048 for those properties already annexed. The Town has yet, however, to provide proof to the County of this claim (see Sidebar paragraphs 27 and 30).

Although the Mayor made no claim about the need for water for build out of the UGA, the consultants' report did examine several scenarios concerning future build out. Their report states: "Goal: To address the Town's water supply deficit over the 30-year planning

period, projected in 2045 to be 1.27 mgd [million gallons per day] on an MMD [maximum monthly demand] basis and 1.92 mgd on an MDD [maximum daily demand] basis." Simply put, in 2045, the Town would not be able to supply water to its residents, even with the recent additional purchases of water supply.

How does PUGAMP play into this?

Given the future water situation, it is obviously imperative that the Town and County sit down together and develop new phasing guidelines for the future development of the entire UGA.

Failure to do so could eventually cost the taxpayers of both the Town and the County large sums of money to bail out the Town if it overextends itself.

And, unless this is resolved, future Town residents could be faced with increasingly tight water supplies requiring restrictions, not just during droughts, but on a daily basis.

From the County's legal complaint against Purcellville

27. By letter dated September 21, 2009, the County Chairman wrote the Town Mayor requesting the Town to provide information on its utilities plans in light of the Town's attempts to annex beyond the Phase I area shown on the Phasing Map. The Town did not respond.
28. By letter dated October 13, 2009, the County Chairman wrote the Town Mayor restating the County's objection to the August 2009 Annexation Ordinance attempting to annex land beyond the Phase I area shown on the mutually approved Phasing Map and requesting that the matter be taken up by the Joint Urban Growth Area Policies Review Committee ("Joint Committee"). The Chairman specifically requested that the Town take no further action to annex land outside the Phase I area pending the attempt to resolve this matter through the Joint Committee. The Town refused to schedule a meeting of the Joint Committee.
29. The County, through its Chairman, called a meeting of the Joint Committee to be held on November 16, 2009, to take up the matter raised in the Chairman's October 13, 2009, letter. The Town members of the Joint Committee did not attend the meeting, and no action could be taken.
30. By resolution dated December 1, 2009, the County invited the Town to present plans for the expansion of its utility systems that would support revisions to the phasing policies. A copy of the County's resolution was sent to the Town prior to its action on the December 2009 Annexation Ordinance. To date, the Town has not provided the requested information to the County.
31. Prior to the Town's action on the December 2009 Annexation Ordinance, the County, made another effort to schedule a meeting of the Joint Committee. The Town acted on the December 2009 Annexation Ordinance prior [to] responding to the County's request for a meeting of the Joint Committee.
32. After its action on the December 2009 Annexation Ordinance, representatives of the Town agreed to a meeting of the Joint Committee, but limited the items for action only to the adoption of procedural rules.

– Sushi ... “Tails” From the Barnyard – *Happy New Year!*

2011 was an amazing year. A year's worth of extra hard work to make dreams come true, dreams that have been in the plans for many years, one year building off of the prior. Where does the time go? And here it is; a new day in 2012.

Oh how I love a new day – the chance to show my master, Mrs. B. that her family and farm and fine-feathered and furred friends will never be better protected – by me, the mighty Cairn Terrier, Sushi – than they will be, today. That I will be out patrolling before the sun has lit up the sky, working tirelessly, checking on chickens and sheep and geese and whatever moves to make sure no OUTSIDE FORCES disturb the tranquility and light that is Fields of Athenry Farm. Working, working, working ...

And when the days' work is done I have the perfect place to lie down and just chill – the new patio out back. (Designed by a very talented local stone mason Mr. Chip McCauley – my “rock” man.) I can only imagine the glorious times to come that will

take place on our new patio!

It's not quite finished yet but the foundation is done and the gardens around it planted, ready to burst into bloom this coming spring! Mrs. B. has fun, fun, fun plans for this space and it

includes a big fire place, grill and seating for all to enjoy. You didn't hear it from me but I tell you I have heard Mr. B. and Mrs. B. secretly call it the future wedding patio – they do have five daughters you know! Mr. B. really is blessed amongst women! I have my corner all picked out so I can keep a sharp eye on the entire goings on! It has been a busy year working hard to make our dream come true. I have big plans for 2012 and hope you will continue to follow me and my farm antics throughout the coming year.

Meanwhile, enjoy my little one-more-look-at-2011 photo essay. I am so clever!

To you and our friendship in 2012 – Love Sushi and everyone at Fields of Athenry ...

P.S. MY MASTER, ELAINE BOLAND RUNS FIELDS OF ATHENRY FARM. ORDER HER FRESH MEATS AND PRODUCTS AT WWW.FIELDSOFATHENRY-FARM.COM AND DO COME SEE US AT THE FARM!



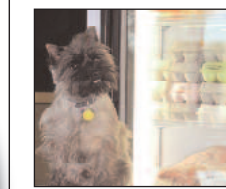
Bernie was the picture of love at our 2011 Mother's Day celebration



This Border Collie pup “showed up” last year. I tried not to love her ... but failed.



I kept everyone in line here at the farm during 2011. Unless I was napping.



Me, me, me all smiles at the coldcase.



The little white thing upper left? A new 2011 Chihuahua puppy. Sleep deprived “I give up” thing on right? His mama!



Our new patio – finished in the fall of 2011. My new “sunspot.”



Our 2011 “barnraising”. I supervised.



We lost one of our mama sheep last year ... but Clover stepped in to protect her lamb.

Answers to crossword puzzle from page 13

L	E	A	F	C	E	A	S	E	G	R	A	F		
E	C	R	U	A	E	G	I	S	R	A	V	E		
T	H	E	J	A	C	K	O	F	S	P	A	D	E	S
T	A	I	G	A	T	E	U	T	O	N	S			
				O	O	H	S	R	I	N	S			
B	A	Y	O	U	U	N	B	A	R	S				
E	C	L	A	T	N	O	E	S	E	S	P			
T	H	E	K	I	N	G	O	F	H	E	A	R	T	S
H	E	M	O	R	Z	O	M	I	N	U	S			
			S	P	R	Y	E	R	B	R	E	N	T	
P	I	S	T	E	R	E	A	L						
I	N	T	E	N	S	E	B	E	L	I	E			
Q	U	E	E	N	O	F	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	S
U	S	E	D	S	T	O	I	C	O	L	I	O		
E	E	L	S	O	S	T	I	A	M	Y	T	H		

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

Your husband's attorney, may however, request similar evaluations of you and your children with an independent evaluator of his own. The involved attorneys may also eventually order a formal custody evaluation to determine issues of visitation and custody if you and your husband are unable to resolve your differences as a divorcing couple. Of course, my points are all general here not knowing the specifics of your situation. I recommend you follow your attorney's lead on this but keep in mind that Parental Alienation Syndrome cases can be hard to prove and win.

Dr. Mike, my husband agreed to my purchasing Christmas decorations after the holidays to get better deals on them. I responsibly purchased all sorts of things and found some great deals. I thought he'd be proud of me, but instead he became very upset with my spending and made me return all of the purchases. Any advice on how to deal with Mr. Scrooge?!

– B. in Loudoun County

B., it seems to me that your husband and you have two very different ideas on what responsible spending looks like. Next time

you agree on purchasing things, I would suggest that the two of you come up with a budget in advance. By having clear limits established in advance, you avoid being disappointed and he avoids feelings of frustration from your overspending.

It seems there was a definite miscommunication or misunderstanding. You did put in the time to go hunting for the deals, and it's unfortunate you have to return everything. Let your husband know about your feelings and understanding of the situation. Likely he will see your side and you both can reach a compromise and return only some of the items.

In the future, you may consider going bargain hunting together. By working together your spending will likely be more thoughtful and measured and the two of you could even have some fun.

Dr. Mike, my pediatrician recently told us that our 6 year old son may have PANDAS given his history of multiple strep infections alongside OCD symptoms. She asked that we see a specialist in Maryland for a consultation. I've researched the condition online, and it just seems very

odd to me. My son was initially diagnosed with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and now I am being told that he may have PANDAS? Your advice is appreciated.

– C. in Loudoun County

C., approximately 25% of children with OCD have the Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) subtype or form. This is because the same brain region, the basal ganglia, is associated with the conditions. While PANDAS is a clinical diagnosis (meaning that there is no lab test to diagnose the condition), there are certain known differences between the PANDAS form of OCD and typical OCD. First, there is an association with group A Beta-hemolytic streptococcal infection (a positive strep throat culture) for the PANDAS form of OCD. Second, the onset of PANDAS induced OCD is rapid, as opposed to the slower developing typical OCD. Third, PANDAS induced OCD typically occurs between the ages of 3 and prior to puberty. Fourth, the PANDAS form of OCD usually involves tics or involuntary movements. Children with PANDAS have also been reported to experience

greater mood instability, increased anxiety, nightmares and novel bedtime rituals and sensory, math and fine-motor problems. OCD is typically treated with medication such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI's) and/or cognitive-behavior therapy. The PANDAS form of OCD may require additional medications (e.g., antibiotics). PANDAS is a controversial disorder so you are not alone in being skeptical or careful as you learn about it for your son. If you believe in your pediatrician, I recommend you follow her lead and get the consultation. You may also want to consider receiving a second local pediatric opinion or meeting with a pediatric and child psychiatrist for a more accurate diagnosis.

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 call (703) 723-2999.

TOWNS & Villages News

& Community Announcements

January

For a complete listing, please visit our Events Calendar on our website at www.brleader.com.

To see your community event here, please send us an email to: advertise@brleader.com!

.....
January 8, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Secrets Art Show Reception, Franklin Park Arts Center: The public is invited to the opening reception for the "Secrets winter art show, on view through January. A secret is incorporated into each of the art works featured in this exhibit. Viewers who match the most works with their secrets will be entered in a drawing at the end of the show for four tickets to a spring season performance of their choice. Contact: 540-338-7973, www.franklinparkartscenter.org.

January 8, 7:00 pm, Getting Publishers to Say, 'Yes!': Free talk at Lightfoot Restaurant in Leesburg. Bestselling author, publishing consultant and writing coach offers insider information on how to land contracts with literary agents and publishers. Refreshments served. RSVP: (540) 454-4495. Walk-in OK.

January 14, 8:00 am, Birding Banshee: Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve for the monthly bird walk. Because of its rich and varied habitat, this part of the county is a birding hot spot. Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

January 14, 8:00 am to 11:00 am, Neersville Fire & Rescue Auxiliary Country Breakfast: Country biscuits & sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, sausage patties, home fried potatoes, pancakes and more. 11762 Harpers Ferry Rd., (Rt.671). Free Will Offering. Contact: Val (540) 668-7005. Please bring a canned good to be donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry.

January 15, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm, Butterflies in Winter: Learn how butterflies overwinter, where they can be found, and how you can encourage them to over-winter in your backyard. Tour a habitat restoration area and see signs of butterflies. Free program, sign up online, Rust Library, Leesburg. Contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org

January 21, 8:00 am, Winter Bird Walk: Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy free bird walk at Bles Park. Admission to the park is free and there is ample parking. Contact Andy Rabin at stylurus@gmail.com.

January 21, 9:30 am, Tree Identification in Winter: Join Dr. Emily Southgate at her home outside of Middleburg as she shows how winter trees are distinctive in their skeletons and buds. Registration Required as space is limited: contact Emily Southgate at ewbsouthgate@gmail.com or 540-687-8291.



January 21, 7:30 pm, Bluemont Concert Series, Contra Dances at the Old Stone School in Hillsboro: Dance workshop begins at 7:30 pm and the Contra dance at 8:00 pm. Contra Dancing is a popular form of partnered folk dance usually danced in two facing lines. The music is provided by a live band playing traditional music. A caller instructs the dancers in the steps for each dance. All age dancers and levels of experience are welcome, so it is very family friendly. Participants may come with a dance partner or singly and find partners at the

OH! BABY! The first baby of the New Year born at Inova Loudoun Hospital was a girl. She was born at 0101 on 01/01/12!

dance. In the dance workshops prior to the dances the Caller teaches beginner dancers the basic steps. (Dancing continues February 18, March 17, April 21, and May 19!)

January 22, 1:00 pm, Sunday in the Preserve: Join a naturalist from the Friends of Banshee Reeks and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a free informal, family walk. For information call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316.

January 22, 1:00 pm, Searching for Birds of Prey: Join Liam and Laura McGranaghan on a winter raptor search. Drive the back roads of Loudoun County with frequent stops to find and identify the many hawks and an owl or two. Registration required. Sign up online or contact Laura at lmcgranaghan@loudounwildlife.org.

January 28, 8:00 am, Birding the Blue Ridge Center: Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy leads a free bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES, a beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

CA\$H Bingo American Legion Post 293 Purcellville Doors open at 9:00 AM, first game starts at 10:00 AM, 1st and 3rd Saturdays of month, 34 total bingo games with early birds, specials and TWO \$500 Progressive JACKPOTS, food and beverages available, American Legion Post 293, 112 N. 21st Street Purcellville, VA 20132, Phone: 540-338-0910, alpost293.web.officelive.com. CA\$H Bingo calendar events for 2012:

Month	1st Saturday	3rd Saturday
Jan.	Saturday, Jan. 7	Saturday, Jan. 21
Feb.	Saturday, Feb. 4	Saturday, Feb. 18
Mar.	Saturday, Mar. 3	Saturday, Mar. 17
April	Saturday, April, 7	Saturday, April, 21
May	Saturday, May, 5	Saturday, May, 19
June	Saturday, June, 2	Saturday, June, 16
July	Saturday, July, 7	Saturday, July, 21
Aug.	Saturday, Aug. 4	Saturday, Aug. 18
Sep.	Saturday, Sep. 1	Saturday, Sep. 15
Oct.	Saturday, Oct. 6	Saturday, Oct. 20
Nov.	Saturday, Nov. 3	Saturday, Nov. 17
Dec.	Saturday, Dec. 1	Saturday, Dec. 15

News From the Village of Lincoln: – By Ann Tiffany

Happy New Year. About sixty folks of all ages gathered at Lincoln School the evening of December 22 to walk and sing carols from the school to the parking lot opposite the Goose Creek Meeting House where a large, warm bonfire awaited them. While they gathered around the fire, they sang more carols, visited with neighbors and friends, drank hot cider and chocolate, and roasted marshmallows. The rain came after it was over, just in time to help Phil and Ellie Daley put out the fire.

Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. on January 7, the board for the Lincoln Community League will hold its monthly meeting at Phil and Ellie Daley's house. Ellie always has coffee, juice and muffins on hand to entice the members to get there on time. Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m.. This is when the Lincoln Community League will sponsor its second lecture series by Rich Gillespie. Rich is an historian and a former history teacher of Loudoun Valley High School. He will be continuing his lecture from a year ago on Loudoun's involvement in the Civil War. The event will take place at the Goose Creek Meeting House and there will be a charge of \$10 for an individual or \$20 for a family of two or more. Light refreshments will be served.

In late October, Peter and Mary Gayle led a team of 14 volunteers to Santa Rosa de Copan in the western highlands of Honduras for their annual Habitat for Humanity Build. The town was very peaceful and the people

were extremely friendly. This was Peter's seventh and Mary Gayle's fifth build. The team members came from all over the United States. Eight of the volunteers had been on a Habitat build before including three who had been with the Holdens in the past.

The team worked on one house all week. The home owner was a single mom with three boys. The house was long and narrow, so they were able to spread out and lay block all day without getting in each other's way. At the end of the week, most of the walls were near completion.

The local affiliate of Habitat did an excellent job introducing the team to the local economy. They took the team to different restaurants each night and different industries at the end of each day. The team visited a coffee bean processing plant, a hand rolled cigar factory, and an orphanage for girls. Several team members explored the town during early morning walks before breakfast and met many locals on the streets as they started their daily routines.

At the end of the week, the team traveled to the Mayan Ruins at Copan in the northwest corner of Honduras. This area was in the southern most region of the Mayan Empire. The whole trip was extremely satisfying to each of the volunteers. If you are interested in one of these builds, do not hesitate to contact Peter and Mary Gayle Holden. They are working on a build in Guatemala for next summer.

This is a reminder that LCL dues are now due. They are \$20 per family; checks can be made out to LCL and given to Anne at the Lincoln Post office.

Live Music at Loudoun County Public Libraries

Music From Around the Corner! features local musicians with world-class style and sound. Free and open to the public.

2:00 pm, January 14, Rust Library, Leesburg: Furnace Mountain is lively and raucous with spirited fiddle melodies and sublime vocal harmonies, beautifully interpreting some of the oldest songs ever written. David Van Deventer, Aimee Curl, Morgan Morrison and Danny Knicely will perform original tunes and enduring favorites.

2:00 pm, January 15, Ashburn Library: Rob Martino performs original music and arrangements on the Chapman Stick a unique stringed instrument that combines elements of guitar, bass, piano and percussion. The strings are tapped and held onto the frets, rather than plucked or strummed, enabling both hands to play complete and expressive multi-part arrangements.

2:00 pm, January 22, Purcellville Library: Marcolivia, the violin duo of Marc Ramirez and Olivia Hajioff, will perform music of many regions including Bartok duos, Jazz selections and The Magic Flute.

2:00 pm, January 28, Lovettsville Library: The Woodsheddners bring together the diverse influence of American Country, Rhythm & Blues, Old-Time, Bluegrass and Gypsy Jazz to perform and original and dynamic new sound they call "Indie Roots Americana." Lead singer and guitarist, Dwayne Brooke is joined by upright bassist Ryan Mayo, fiddlin' David Van Deventer, mandolinist Jared Pool, and drummer Jesse Shultzaberger.

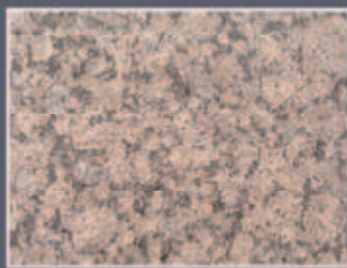
1:00 pm, February 25, Lovettsville Library Willie Barry, 17-year old singer and songwriter performs original selections and country and folk hits on the acoustic guitar for the Lovettsville Library's 22nd birthday!

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