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March 2012

Purcellville Residents Brace For Change ...

Board Votes to Dismiss County Lawsuit – Purcellville Moves to Eliminate Barriers to Development

At its recent February 14 meeting, the new Board of Supervisors, on a motion by Supervisor Clarke, voted to direct the Loudoun County Attorney to dismiss a County lawsuit that had challenged the Town of Purcellville's authority to ignore a longstanding Town/County agreement designed to uncontrolled land annexations.

The following week, the Joint Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (PUGAMP) Committee, consisting of Purcellville's Mayor Lazaro and Councilman Priscilla, both representing the Town, and Supervisor Clarke and Planning Commissioner Douglas representing the County, met and voted unanimously to rec-

ommend that the County and Town nullify the Annexation Agreement and eliminate PUGAMP altogether. It is reasonable to assume that this recommendation will be followed.

Background

PUGAMP is a joint plan between the Town of Purcellville and the County which directs how the land surrounding the Town is developed.

PUGAMP, together with the accompanying Annexation Agreement, provides a process for the Town to expand its borders by annexing land within the designated Urban Growth Area (UGA) in Phases, over a period of many years, and is based on the

Town's ability to provide sufficient water and sewer service for future development in those areas. The Phasing allows for growth to be managed at a sustainable pace in partnership with the County.

Phase I of the PUGAMP and Annexation Agreement, however, allowed for the Town to annex a small portion of land inside the Urban Growth Area without County approval; annexation of land outside of Phase I required agreement by both the Town and the County. It was when the Town of Purcellville, ever expanding its borders, started to annex land outside of Phase I without County approval, that things got hot and the Town was presented

"The consequences for the residents of Purcellville will, in both the near and distant future, be significant. Every resident of the Town will be affected."

with a lawsuit.

By the summer of 2009, the Town had annexed all of the land in Phase I and continued annexing land outside of Phase I (2.24 acres of Brown's Farm, 8.67 acres of the O'Toole property adjacent to Brown's Farm, and the remaining, undeveloped 66 acres of Patrick Henry College) without County agreement or participation. The Town Council believed that phasing as a

Continued on page 11

Wild • Loudoun



Winter Weather Ways – Part 2

Hibernation is the practice among certain animals of spending part of the cold season in a more or less dormant state, apparently as protection from cold when their normal body temperature cannot be maintained and food is scarce. This deep sleep allows them to conserve energy and survive the winter

with little or no food. Hibernation is caused by a chemical trigger released by the brain when the animal experiences extremes of temperature, lack of food, or decreased amounts of daylight. Most hibernators prepare in some way for the winter. Some store

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Loudoun Valley High School Graduates Mourn a Loss That Hits Home

Mike Quin

"Mike Quin was a classmate of mine at Valley, and very popular ... his death is unbearably sad news ..."

So said Blue Ridge Leader columnist Molly Pinson Simoneau upon hearing that Michael Quin, 28, a fellow

graduate of Loudoun Valley High School was among seven Marines who died when two helicopters crashed near the Chocolate Mountains of Arizona during a training

Continued on page 10



Attorney General Cuccinelli Reacts to General Assembly Passage of Property Rights Amendment

The Virginia Senate and House of Delegates passed identical resolutions for a constitutional amendment that would protect citizens' private property rights against eminent domain abuses. The constitutional amendment has now passed two sessions of the General Assembly and will head to the November ballot for voters to decide if it will become part of Virginia's constitution.

Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, a long-time proponent of property rights, helped write the constitutional amendment, which passed its first hurdle of General Assembly approval in 2011.

"It has been seven long years of effort, but with today's vote, our citizens are one step closer to enshrining in the Constitution of Virginia the protections they deserve from overzealous governments and the developers who use them to take away Virginians' homes, farms, and small businesses," said Cuccinelli. "I have fought every year since the 2005 Kelo decision to strengthen property rights in the commonwealth through various bills and three attempts at a constitutional amendment."

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HOT OFF THE PRESS ... Transparency D.O.A. at Purcellville Town Council, PAGE 10

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*garden exhibit at the Leesburg
Flower and Garden Festival.*

Ask Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike, What is your position on Loudoun County Public School's action to take parents to Court for their children's excessive tardiness? My husband thinks it was the right decision; that all parents have a duty and obligation to make sure their children get to school on time. He refers to the two families who have been charged as being "special" since these parents do not appear to feel they have to abide to the same rules the rest of us need to. I see his point but feel that the Loudoun County Court House isn't the forum to settle the matter. It seems extreme and aggressive on the part of the school system. – O. in Loudoun County

O., As you likely know, the story was recently hot in the media with many being outraged by the County's decision to take these parents to Court over excessive school tardiness. Over the past few weeks, more details have come to light with information that appears to support both sides. I actually agree with both you and your husband. Yes, parents have an obligation to teach personal accountability and respect to their children, and that includes getting their children to school on time. Excessive tardiness for a child is a very real problem for the child, the teacher and the classroom. On the other hand, I am not sure that the school needed to pound these families with a legal sledge hammer.



I would have preferred the school system take more of a stepwise approach involving parent meetings with graduated punishments or consequences for those parents. One thing is for certain, in Loudoun County at least, I imagine many parents are now making a more concerted effort to be on time.

Dr. Mike, My husband recently proposed that we arrange trust funds for our three children. We both came from humble beginnings and have acquired the success we now have through hard work and discipline. I am concerned that if we make life too easy for our children by giving them too much, they won't develop the same work ethic that drove my husband and me to succeed. My husband thinks I am being ridiculous since we both work hard to install good lessons and values in our children. Any thoughts? – A. in Loudoun County

A., Your children are going to internalize your examples and teachings whether they

have a trust fund or not. The trust fund in question is not going to shape what sort of adults they become. Rather, the 18 years you spend shaping and guiding them will determine that. A compromise for the trust would be to not let your children know that the trust exists until much later. With this approach, your husband would be able to lovingly give his children the financial security and advantage he did not have as a child or young man, and your concerns about that gift's impact on their characters would be minimized. As parents, it is normal for you to want your children to improve their opportunities and social station in life. Keep in mind that the financial security you are now able to provide to your children is a positive. Without needing to worry about money, you are in a position to focus your attention on the things that matter most – their emotional, social, academic and behavioral functioning.

Dr. Mike, I am turning 50 years old next week and am thinking about getting a tattoo. My 20 year old daughter is definitely encouraging it, but I'm just not sure if it would be a mistake. How will I know if I am ready to permanently ink myself? – K. in Loudoun County

K., As a psychologist, I typically encourage my clients to pursue their interests and adventures. However, the fact that you're turning to an advice columnist to validate your decision tells me that you are looking for someone to talk you out of it. If you were confident enough to move forward in

your decision to get a tattoo, my opinion or your daughter's opinion would not matter. Perhaps you might want to commemorate your landmark birthday with something less permanent, such as a party, a make-over or committing to running a 5K.

Dr. Mike, For many years, my mother frequently gave my sister and me extra money here and there. My mother passed away last year, and in turn, the money stopped coming in. As an adult, I always enjoyed the surprise checks in the mail, but I didn't rely on them. My sister, on the other hand, did rely on the extra money to make ends meet. She has now turned to our stepfather for help and this has strained things. Our stepfather has recently started to see someone new and is losing his patience with my sister's constant requests. I'm happy that my stepfather is moving on, and I understand his new position. However, now my sister is hinting at me more than ever about needing money – being behind in bills and in paying the mortgage. My husband and I live frugally to keep our retirement goals attainable, and I don't want my sister's needs to jeopardize things for us. – N. in Loudoun County

N., Your sister needs to learn to stand on her own two feet and adjust her lifestyle to what she can afford without any additional help from family members. This will likely be a tough lesson for her to learn since it seems that a dynamic of dependency has been in place for many years. It does not seem that she was ever expected to pay

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Is Loudoun About To Lose Its Highly Ranked School System?

At its first meeting for the term, the Board of Supervisors instructed the County Administrator to prepare a draft FY2013 budget with two options: A zero percent increase in the average homeowner's tax bill option and a minus five percent option. The Board also directed that two-thirds of the budget would fund the schools and one-third the County government.

The instructions came on a motion by Chairman York, which passed unanimously with no debate and no questions to County staff on the possible consequences. This raises two questions: 1) was the guidance ideologically, rather than fact-based; and 2) are the Supervisors communicating in private – bringing what are, in essence, done deals to the table.

Because of the recession, the previous Board held school funding for the past three years to a lower level than four years ago, even though over 3,000 new students entered the system each year. One could argue that fiscal constraint forced the school system to become more efficient, eliminating duplications and weeding out less important programs. While there undoubtedly are still areas where cuts could be made, at this point they are probably few and far between.

Since the recession has eased and the local economy is showing signs of improving, one could expect the Supervisors to resume a more normal pattern of funding for the fastest growing school system in the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, that does not appear to be the case. The cuts forced upon the School Board by the Board of Supervisors go beyond the realm of improving efficiency.

To the new School Board's credit, it thoroughly examined many options for reducing the Superintendent's proposed budget to a level consistent with the Supervisors' request. But in the end, even this School Board, the majority of which profess to be fiscal conservatives, could not bring itself to implement the reductions

necessary. Eliminating benefits for hundreds of employees, closing small Western Loudoun elementary schools that have been the heart of their communities for the better part of a century, increasing class sizes, and reducing special education programs were actions the School Board majority could not bring itself to embrace.

As a result, the School Board's adopted budget is greater than that asked for by the Supervisors.

As the Supervisors begin their budget deliberations, it is safe to assume they will adopt a final budget more restrictive than the zero-percent option. The mismatch between the School Board's budget and the final appropriation for schools will increase, and the School Board will once again have to consider draconian cuts.

The question we need to consider is whether or not four consecutive years of serious constraints on school funding – while the approximately 12,000 new students entered the system (3,000 per year) – will cause significant harm to what has been, up to this point, an outstanding school system. As the debate over this issue unfolds, it is important that ideology be set aside and that discussions be fact-based. There must be a complete understanding of the consequences of these crucial budget decisions.



View From the Ridge – by Malcolm Baldwin In Pursuit of Efficient Economic Development

Our new, self-described fiscally-conservative Board seeks business-friendly economic development for Loudoun County – a worthy goal. But, the Board's path toward that goal reflects a narrow economic vision that neglects long-term costs and promising economic trends and opportunities already evident in Loudoun.

Despite the national recession, Loudoun businesses grew substantially over the past four years. Data reported by Loudoun's Economic Development Department show exceptional growth in our employment, labor force, commercial building permits, business establishments, industry information and communications technology, life sciences, finance data storage and other industries: a remarkable record.

So what economic development problem did this Board seek to solve when, at its first meeting, the Board established a Government Reform Commission (GRC)?

Rather than await the GRC's definition of our economic development problem, the Board has proposed unanimously, without debate, economic development proposals to:

- Revise our zoning ordinances and Facility Standard Manual to ease environmental restrictions and facilitate more commercial development, and
- Allow big box stores by right in commercially-zoned areas, without public review or Board approval.

The Board apparently does not expect its Commission members, all business-oriented Republicans, to provide sufficiently timely recommendations on economic development reforms.

We might define our economic development problem as our failure to base economic decisions on good economic analysis. Past reports to Loudoun's Chamber of Commerce reveal that unlike commercial development, residential development costs about 40% more in public services than it reaps in property taxes. But past Boards and County staff in the 1990s or 2000s never established procedures to examine these costs of residential growth.

One example: the neglected costs of the Board-approved residential developments in Loudoun's limestone region, which ignored the significant, well-known water problems. Now we wrestle with the high cost of supplying safe and dependable water supply to residents who bought new homes in those areas.

Efficient government would have routinely required cost-benefit analyses of residential expansion plans before their approval. Loudoun could then have avoided accelerating costs for schools, water and other public services.

Experience demonstrates that a forward-looking, prudent Board would

“Experience demonstrates that a forward-looking, prudent Board would require comprehensive cost-benefit analyses of every major economic policy, transportation plan or development project proposal. Analyses of their direct and indirect economic, social and environmental impacts require basic skills and common sense, not rocket science.”

require comprehensive cost-benefit analyses of every major economic policy, transportation plan or development project proposal. Analyses of their direct and indirect economic, social and environmental impacts require basic skills and common sense, not rocket science.

But new (and revisited) proposals raise the same old issues. Unless we retain our present special exception requirement for big box store proposals, county staff cannot assess their transportation and environmental impacts and the fiscal returns to the county and impacts on county employment, versus the returns from the small, Loudoun-grown retail businesses that we know to become endangered when the big boxes arrive.

Three quarters of Loudoun's 8,500 businesses employ ten or fewer people, largely in services and retail. Looking forward, Loudoun's most promising and practical economic development lies with actions that foster our most vibrant sector – locally-owned small businesses selling Loudoun-made products and services – to fill vacant commercial space and keep revenue and profits in Loudoun. In addition to local retail, we should seek to accommodate the ongoing nationwide shift in employment trends, as more professionals become solo workers or “free agents” (now approaching 44% of the workforce, from 19% as recently as 2006), and companies steadily increase their use of temporary workers.

Loudoun's comparative regional economic advantage lies in pursuing economic policies, backed up by facts and cost-benefit analyses that put Loudoun's welfare first and make it an increasingly attractive place for our growing cadre of independent workers and entrepreneurs to live and work.

If our Board and its Reform Commission focus on the encouragement of home-grown small businesses and independent workers, our chances for sustainable economic development will rise.

This strategy may not carry the (highly unlikely) cache of seeking to attract, say, a large aerospace contractor, but it will make practical sense in serving the needs and the talents of our people, our existing businesses and our taxpayers.

Blue Ridge LEADER & Loudoun Today

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Layout

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In a letter that the Blue Ridge Leader obtained from Crooked Run Orchard owner Sam Brown, Mr. Brown addressed the Purcellville Town Council concerning the Southern Collector Road (SCR) and the seizure of nearly 8 acres of his land. Mr. Brown is concerned about whether he can keep his farm operations viable. We are printing Mr. Brown's letter to the Town with his permission.

Dear Purcellville Town Council:

My planting and pruning season is beginning in the next few weeks. I will be unable to access my own back forty-five acres on which I have a peach orchard, and where I need to plant pumpkins for pick-your-own as well as make hay. I have ordered 170 new peach trees which I need to get into the ground. Since you have also put Jersey barriers across and down the sides of the road in the Village Case development, there is no way I can get to my fields the back way, either.

Ordinarily, when access is needed, the owner of bought or condemned land simply gives the farmer an easement to get across. You did not choose this widespread and reasonable solution: your dollar-a-year lease was full of extremely burdensome and punitive conditions. I have read leases you have made with other business owners in town such as Phil Messenger (Fireman's Field Concessionaire) and Juanita Tool (Community Farmer's Market) and noticed a very fair and reasonable attitude in your dealings with them.

I have even greater concerns for the future. There is no doubt that the Southern Collector Road will have to be widened to four lanes in the next five years because of all the traffic that will be generated by new development along the road (your 80 foot right of way more than accommodates this). Apparently, the Walmart you are planning is supposed to be "to the south" of town or across from the Harris Teeter Mall. More commercial development and 60 new homes in Valley Springs II, which just by itself will generate 600 daily new trips on the road, is also planned, and, of course, all the people from the south coming up to shop at the new Harris Teeter will bring additional traffic. Then there is the 84 acres that a developer just bought south of Hirst Farm. Hirst Farm already has the right-of-way for a four lane road. Because the Town placed the Harris Teeter Shopping Center, the Catocin Corner Shopping Center and the O'Toole property commercial center all at the 287 intersection with Main Street, you have assured that the road will become a busy highway in a very short time and four lanes is probably already in your plans. Obviously, widening will have to be done in front of Blue Ridge Middle School to prevent it from becoming a disaster zone. It will also make it impossible for me to cross the road. There is no way my tractor, hauling farm equipment, can make it across easily and safely – either for me or the commuters who will be using the road. This will force me to use town streets.

My other concern is how I will get to my

back fields during road construction. What kind of access would be available? The road will require the cutting down of dozens of large trees and the bulldozing of mountains of dirt. That was apparent in the bulldozing of the Cole Farm and we are talking here about much more massive amounts of earth. You are also going to change the course of the creek and that will require entire reconstructions of the creek beds and more disturbance of the natural woods. You are going to destroy one of the favorite features of our farm, the undisturbed woods families walk through and enjoy as they go to the back fields.

My other concern is the building of the roundabout; that is, the second roundabout, which will be right in front of the farmland the Town seized by quick-take. The handout given during the proposal-for-bid meeting states that construction for the roundabout should not start until September 12, 2012. There is no reason given. This is the busiest time for picking fruit, bringing the largest number of children and adults to my farm.

With construction of the roundabout taking place, multiple traffic barrels will be placed in front of my farm entrances and traffic flow in and out will be compromised. This will negatively impact my business and may even cause accidents. The number of people who dropped in to buy a Christmas wreath this past season was a fraction of our usual visitors and I worry it was because of construction chaos. The Town provided me with none of the signage given to other businesses when

“ ... how I will get to my back fields during road construction ... What kind of access would be available? The road will require the cutting down of dozens of large trees and the bulldozing of mountains of dirt ... You are also going to change the course of the creek and that will require entire reconstructions of the creek beds and more disturbance of the natural woods. You are going to destroy one of the favorite features of our farm, the undisturbed woods families walk through and enjoy ... ”

construction threatens to disrupt their operations. If this happens during the picking season you will destroy my business. That, and preventing me from getting to my back fields will be devastating. This seems to be a pattern on your part; you schedule the highest interference during my busiest season, as you did last year when you had surveyors crawling all over my land. The timing of these activities seems too coincidental to be an oversight.

Finally, although the Town's hired lawyer, Mr. Huber assured our lawyer that he would be issuing a Petition of Condemnation "soon," that was months ago. Without the petition we have no legal recourse to fight the destruction of our land. We have heard nothing from him. Soon it will be a year since the Town seized the land. That is plenty of time to deliver a routine petition form, and we can only suppose the delay is a purposeful effort to prevent us from taking legal action to save our farm.

Sincerely, Sam Brown

“But, it was just my ‘magination ... running away with me ...”

Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro is still using the sound bite that he has “taken 1,000 residential homes off Purcellville's planning map,” and he did so again at the Purcellville/County Joint Committee meeting on February 21 when he said that Purcellville does not want anymore residential housing. However, in reality, residential use is still being recommended for undeveloped land within the Comprehensive Plan, which is being reviewed by the Planning Commission.

But, as the song goes ... “it's just his ‘magination ...”

Let's take a look at where these phantom 1,000 future homes might have been built. You'd think that the eliminated units were planned for land currently not in use, i.e., open, or undeveloped land.

But, the Mayor's calculations are not based on undeveloped land, but rather, on land

already developed, including the Town Library and Loudoun Valley High School.

For example: there was a potential of 113 new dwellings if there would have been a “build out of Town owned Properties.” This included the current \$6 million maintenance building, the old Town sewage plant, the Miller parking lot on 21st Street, the Town Hall, the Hatcher Street Town parking lot, the recently built Basham Simms Wastewater Facility, the Maple Avenue water tank and more.

Next in his claim of eliminating 1,000 residential units would have been the “Potential Residential Build out of County Owned Properties.”

These include Loudoun Valley High School, Blue Ridge Middle School, Emerick Elementary School, Loudoun Valley Community Center and the Carver Center.

So, that would mean that to have developed these properties before the zoning was changed, one would have had to, for example, buy the Purcellville Library from the County, tear the structure down, and put up houses instead!

In the older neighborhoods, where some homes have more land than newer homes, residential units were “eliminated” by down zoning, and changing the lot size requirement from 1,000 square feet to 1,500 square feet. For example, a homeowner could have torn down their house and put more than one dwelling back on the lot.

In other words, instead of downzoning undeveloped in Town properties, the Town arrived at their number via already-developed properties that were highly unlikely to ever have been re-developed for residential use.



Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Before the war on women continues down the path recently begun by Virginia's Republican men and a Republican candidate for president, we might do well to review what life was really like for women before the Civil Rights Era and the Women's Movement.

My first memory is being told by the bank manager where I worked part-time while in college, that my male counterpart (who had barely passed high school with a D average, whereas I was the school valedictorian)

deserved twice my wage per hour, because he was a man and I was a woman. No other reason needed to be given.

Shortly after that, I took a course in Business Law at the University of Texas, where I read a chapter on contracts with this subheading: “Morons, the Mentally Ill and Married Women are Incompetent to Contract.” Everything a married woman owned was in her husband's name. He was allowed to beat her physically with impunity. There were no women's shelters. Divorced

women were scorned and denied credit access. Job applications required a photograph before being considered for an interview, and hiring often took place based on how attractive the woman was. During an interview you were grilled as to your husband's job and status, your own plans for pregnancy and if not married, why not. In spite of all of this, I excelled at the University, graduating with honors and obtaining a position with an Insurance Company that soon promoted me as the first woman supervisor of

a department – at half the salary made by male supervisors. The reason given by the Human Resource Manager was (and I quote) “Women should not make that much.”

Now, if you are a younger woman who has been told that “radical feminists” ruined this society, ask yourself honestly: Do you really want to go back to 1963? Is that a better world than the one you live in now? Women voters outnumber male voters. Take charge of yourselves and choose. At least we gave you that choice. – S. Ann Robinson, Leesburg

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

What's That? (Or ... Whose Milk Bottle Is This?)



This milk bottle was found by Angel Steppe on her property near Dogwood Farm on Lincoln Road. While our archaeologists are fairly expert at identifying prehistoric stone relics and pottery shards, it looks like this fairly recent piece of Loudoun's dairy history is a puzzler to our distinguished panel.

This is a milk bottle from the 1940's labeled "Loudoun Farms Dairy Purcellville, VA." Bob Shuey looked into local books on Loudoun's Dairy Farm Industry and there was no mention. A shout-out to long-time local Loudouner's via Facebook also came



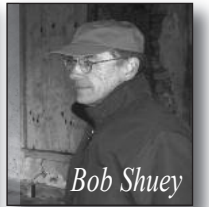
out flat. Living next to the last surviving Dairy Farm (Dogwood), one would think the answer is obvious. But, no the bottle is not from Dogwood Farm.

Without resorting to a visit to the County Courthouse to pour over land records, the source of this bottle

remains a mystery. Was it a bottle of milk comprised of an aggregate of several farms in the area? Or was there a lone dairy named Loudoun Farms Dairy? Inquiring minds want to know! Send us your answers, please, to carolbrleader@yahoo.com. Meanwhile, the BRL staff is contemplating the rapid march of time and how quickly our history, unprotected, is lost!



Mike Clem



Bob Shuey

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.

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HOME - FARM - ESTATE

Baileywyck Shoppes

– Off the Beaten Track, a Standout for Antique Lovers –

– By Carol Morris Dukes

Grinning like a kid in a candy shop, my first step into this antique wonderland was a lesson in self-control. I've seen my fair share of antique shops in my life, but this is a standout!

Baileywyck Shoppes is an antique treasure trove owned by siblings Lisa and Jim Vella and located in a 4000 square foot converted barn tucked behind Lisa's home at Baileywyck Farm outside of Middleburg. I had passed their shop sign a million times on the back roads between hither and yon, but I never had the time to stop before. On this day, I drove past the sign at the end of Lisa's driveway once again – but this time I stopped, turned around, and went back. I was alone – had nothing on my to-do list – and thought I'd finally check it out.

Wow. No – WOW! The Vella's collection of fantastic furniture pieces run the gamut from elegantly detailed French furniture to mammoth, hand painted architectural pieces from Brazil and Africa. They have everything from rustic industrial furniture to graceful European armoires. The place is brimming with linens, artwork, fine collectibles, rugs and textiles from all over the world. Equestrian items abound (Baileywyck is located in the heart of Virginia's hunt/horse country, after all ...) and include artwork, tableware, furniture, a large selection of British pub signs and antique carousel horses in all shapes and sizes and every level of fine and funky. There is ceramic and pewter tableware as well, with a selection from Vietri, Arte Italica and Vagabond House. This place has got it all.

Their taste leans toward unusual, artistic, one of a kind finds that one usually sees in upscale magazines, but never in real life. "I started the shop because I am an avid shopper and I love traveling. I lived in



England for a few years and while visiting abroad I saw so many beautiful things and soon realized it wasn't difficult to have items shipped to the US, so I made arrangements with dealers to do so," explained Lisa.

It only took a few short years for Lisa and her brother to form relationships around the world in order to acquire just about anything potential customers may need. She moved to Middleburg on St Louis Road and opened her shop six years ago. Today, her business is thriving and she recently opened an eBay store as well. A visit to Baileywyck Shoppes is a feast



Dreams Therapeutic Riding Center, which Lisa founded in 2007, combines her love of horses with her belief of helping those in need. A portion of Baileywyck Shoppes' sales goes to support Golden Dreams.

Since its founding, Golden Dream has enriched the lives of many children and adults. Riding lessons are given by certified instructors assisted by up to three volunteers per rider. Golden Dreams currently provides services to plus-or-minus twenty riders, utilizing six horses and with the help of over twenty dedicated volunteers. In addition to riding lessons, Golden Dreams offers Special Needs and Awareness Programs for regional schools and the community at large.

As a nonprofit 501 (C) (3) public charity, its operations are funded purely by private and public donations. Golden Dreams is

currently raising funds for its 2012 operational budget (for example, annual care and maintenance of each horse is about \$5,000), as well as for improvements to the program, including installation of arena footing. Further information on the program, including how to donate or volunteer, can be found at www.goldendreamsriding.com.

A visit to Baileywyck is a must-do. Skip the big town traffic and meander the back roads to one of Loudoun's best-kept secrets. Enjoy shopping for one of a kind home furnishings, and help make dreams come true for others while you do!

for the eyes. Located at 21197 St Louis Road in Middleburg, be sure to check their website for operating hours (www.baileywyckshoppes.com).

Located on a country road, Lisa says that she chose the location primarily to start her other passion: the non-profit organization, "Golden Dreams Therapeutic Riding."

Golden Dreams Start Here

As if traveling the world and buying antiques and art were not enough, Lisa began a charity, also located on Baileywyck Farm in Middleburg.

Individuals with cognitive, physical and/or emotional disabilities can benefit from therapeutic riding through safe and supervised interaction with equines. Golden



Virginia Gold Cup Celebrates 87 Years

One of the nation's largest steeplechase races celebrates its 87th anniversary this year on Saturday, May 5, 2012. Approximately 50,000 people will gather at Great Meadow in The Plains, Virginia to socialize and watch some of the finest horses in the world compete over the lush green course. Held every year on the first Saturday in May (the same day as the Kentucky Derby), the

Virginia Gold Cup enjoys a spectacular setting in the heart of Virginia horse country with the Blue Ridge Mountains serving as the backdrop.

Race day features six hurdle and timber horse races, Jack Russell Terrier races, tent, tailgate and hat contests, and over 30 vendor booths for shopping.

www.VAGoldCup.com
Photo by Tyler Keeler

Raising Money For A Smile Train

The first annual Sadie's Race will be held Saturday May 12, 2012, in Purcellville, Virginia. Start time is 8 a.m.

Sadie Ablard passed away at age 5 from a tragic accident. Despite her young age, she was passionate about helping others.

Proceeds will benefit Smile Train, helping children all over the world enjoy a more normal life.

In addition to the 5K race, there will be a kids' fun race and many activities for the entire family. To register, visit active.com.

First Annual
Sadie's Race
Raising money for
SmileTrain

Sign up NOW!
May 12th, 8am,
Purcellville, VA
**5K &
Kids Fun Run**

Join us for a great day raising money for Smile Train in memory of Sadie Ablard. Scenic 5K course and lots of fun activities for the kids. Deals on early registration! For Sponsorship opportunities email us: sablard@gmail.com

Register online at www.active.com TODAY!!!

May 12th, 2012
Saturday, 8:00am
Purcellville, VA

- The Builder's Wife -

- By Cathy Little

Where Do You Begin?

So you're thinking of building a home in Loudoun. What should you do first? Buy land? Hire an architect? Or hire a builder? Land (as in single lots, not large tracts) is selling again and prices are on the rise, so your first impulse might be to run out and grab some before it gets too pricey.

Then again, you might not be quite ready to make that commitment. It might sound more appealing to sit down with an architect and put your dreams on paper.

Realistically, however, a custom home builder is in the best position to help you set up a budget for your land and house, with a clear knowledge of all the parts and pieces involved. Architects have vision but most are not aware of the hard costs of the components in your home. All too often, customers have brought us plans for homes that they will never be able to afford.

We also frequently see customers who have paid dearly for a piece of land without knowing whether it is buildable or what the cost of improvements (well, septic, drive-ways, grading, etc.) might be. (Take for example the client with the beautiful view

from the mountainside who would never be able to get a concrete truck up the hill without spilling its contents!)

So, I recommend that you talk to a builder first. A good builder will get an idea of the level of quality you want in your home and the size you are looking for. With that information we can give you a general budget. Then you're ready to talk to a mortgage banker who can determine what you can afford and can explain the



unique construction-to-perm financing that you'll need for this project. Now you're ready to look for that land. Find a realtor familiar with the land listings in the area you want to live and start exploring the countryside. Once you've found the property of your dreams you're ready to sit down with an architect, budget in hand, and design a home that best fits that lot

as well as your desires. Finally, you can return to the builder to bring your dreams to reality. Be sure you find a builder who will help you navigate the process and who will build you a high-quality, energy-efficient home that will last.

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Film Review: The Greening of Whitney Brown

- By Bob Rutzel

(The Greening of Whitney Brown [2011], starring Sammie Hanratti, Aidan Quinn, Kris Kristofferson, Brook Shields)
 Impression: Bob, the horse, drew me in!
 Review: A somewhat spoiled young Whitney Brown (Hanratti), who was just elected Class President of her High School Class in the city of Philadelphia, is told by her parents that her father lost his job and they have to move. She is crushed and doesn't like it one bit. They move out to the country, and now all of them have to start over.

This movie is a true Sleeper. I saw the promos for this - saw the horse and laughed at what I saw, and knew I had to see this movie. I was hoping the funny promo wasn't the only funny thing in it - and it wasn't. I laughed all the way through, and for me that is saying a lot. The real winners here are Sammie Hanratti and Bob, the horse. Whitney's grandfather (Kristofferson) says the horse has a mind of his own and is almost human. Her parents (played by Brooke Shields and Aidan Quinn), and the rest of the cast were very good, but they were not the story. Whitney and the horse were.

Bob, the horse, gets you to LOL first and it's kind of shocking the way it happens. Very funny. You'll have to see for yourself. Whitney is a chatty baby and her incessant chattering is a breath of fresh air. Her dia-

logue is quick, funny and right on with her being stranded in the sticks with no friends - well, except for her friend Bob, the horse. Her constant chattering is her way of complaining to no one in particular, but Bob seems to know and understand more than most humans. Maybe he was almost human. Hard to figure out.

I honestly didn't want this to end. I don't think I have enjoyed a movie this much for the longest time. This delivered a good story and tons of LOLs all the way to the end. Sequels? Hey, I'm there. This is a movie the whole family will enjoy for a long time.

FYI: Bob the Horse is a Gypsy Vanner. At first glance you might think he is a Clydesdale.

If the title left out the word "greening" it might stand a chance of being seen and appreciated. What would I choose as the title? Why, "Whitney and Bob the Horse" of course. Read "The Greening of Whitney Brown" this way: The Revitalization of Whitney Brown. Now, you got it. Violence: No. Sex: No. Nudity: No. Language: No. Rating: A

Bob Rutzel lives in Lovettsville and enjoys doing movie reviews, from an entertainment perspective, for busy friends who don't have time to watch movies, but need to know what movies are suitable for their children.

Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

- The Power of Dividends in a Portfolio -

- By Amy Smith



It wasn't so long ago that many investors regarded dividends as roughly the financial equivalent of a record turntable at a gathering of MP3 users - a throwback to an earlier era, irrelevant to the real action.

But fast-forward a few years and things look a little different. Since 2003, when the top federal income tax rate on qualified dividends was reduced to 15% from a maximum of 38.6%, dividends have acquired new respect. Favorable tax treatment isn't the only reason, either; the ability of dividends to provide income and potentially help mitigate market volatility is also attractive to investors. As baby boomers approach retirement and begin to focus on income-producing investments, the long-term demand for high-quality, reliable dividends is likely to increase.

Why consider dividends?

Dividend income has represented roughly one-third of the total return on the Standard & Poor's 500 since 1926. According to S & P, the portion of total return attributable to dividends has ranged from a high of 53% during the 1940s - in other words, more than half that decade's return resulted from dividends - to a low of 14% during the 1990s when investors tended to focus on growth.

If dividends are reinvested, their impact over time becomes even more dramatic. S & P calculates that \$1 invested in the Standard and Poor's 500 in December 1929 would have grown to \$49 over the following 80 years. However, when coupled with reinvested dividends, that same \$1 investment would have resulted in \$1,259. (Bear in mind that past performance is no guarantee of future results, and taxes were not factored into the calculations.)

If a stock's price rises 8% a year, even a 2.5% dividend yield can push its total return into double digits. Dividends can be especially attractive during times of relatively low or mediocre returns. In some cases, dividends can help turn a negative return

positive; they also can mitigate the impact of a volatile market by helping even out a portfolio's return.

Finally, many dividend-paying stocks represent large, established companies that may have significant resources to weather an economic downturn, which could be helpful if you're relying on those dividends to help pay living expenses.

Look before you leap.

Investing in dividend-paying stocks isn't as simple as just picking the highest yield. If you're investing for income, consider whether the company's cash flow can sustain its dividend. If you're interested in a dividend-focused investing style, look for terms such as "equity income," "dividend income," or "growth and income."

For additional investment insight, please visit my website amysmithwealthmanagement.com. Click on "News and Resources," where you'll find the most recent Investment Strategy Quarterly and other investment insights from Raymond James experts.

Remember, slow and steady wins the race. I welcome your comments. Just send me an email at amy.v.smith@raymond-james.com. All names and identifying questions will be kept strictly confidential unless written permission is given for their use.

©Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, is an independent firm. Amy is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA) and offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Ste 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com. The opinions and recommendations here are those of the columnist.

The information contained in this report does not purport to be a complete description of the developments referred to in this material and does not constitute a recommendation. The information has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete. Dividends are not guaranteed and must be authorized by the company's board of directors. Investing involves risk and you may incur a profit or loss regardless of strategy selected.

New Property Tax Relief Program for Seniors Who Qualify

Loudoun's Commissioner of the Revenue, Robert S. Wertz, Jr., has scheduled free information sessions during March to familiarize residents with the eligibility criteria for the County's generous real estate tax relief program.

Loudoun County residents age 65 or older or with disabilities who own a home or vehicle, and who are below established income and wealth limits may benefit from a reduction in the amount of property taxes they pay. Qualified applicants for real estate relief must have a gross combined income less than \$72,000, and net worth less than \$440,000, excluding the home. For personal property relief, the income and net worth limits are \$52,000 and \$195,000, respectively. Program participants saved more than \$7 million in real estate taxes last year.

Commissioner Wertz will be holding workshops at the following locations to explain the county's tax relief program and answer residents' questions: Purcellville, Tuesday March 6, 10:15AM at the Carver Center, Leesburg, Monday March 12, 10:30 am at the Leesburg Senior Center, Ashburn, Tuesday, March 13, 10:00 am at the Ashburn Library, and Sterling, Friday, March 16 at 10:30 am at the Cascades Senior Center.

No appointment is required to attend these free sessions. Residents may also call 703 737-8557 to have a form mailed to them or they may pick one up at the Commissioner's offices in the County Government Center in Leesburg or the Loudoun Tech Center in Sterling.

Additional information about the program online at www.loudoun.gov/taxrelief.

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Upper Loudoun Little League Needs Umpires!!!!

It is a warm spring evening, the grass has just been cut, and the clean smell of freshly raked earth permeates the air. The senses are on overtime.

There is a routine rhythm to putting on the equipment. The shin guards, the chest protector, check the mask, the shoes are polished. In the near distance you can hear the kids talking, the parents are filing in. The lights are warming up as the sun slowly falls to the western sky. It is almost time. Last minute talks with your partner and the walk to the field. The stomach churns, the mind races through the scenarios that may occur. The gate squeaks as you and your partner walk on the field. It is now yours.

The fans and players look to see you stride toward the dugout. Coaches watch as you inspect the equipment, players say "hey blue." It is baseball, America's pastime, and you are in charge. You hear the coaches yell last minute instructions to the players, the pop of ball hitting gloves as the defense warms up. "Coaches to the plate." The plate conference, ground rules, lineup. Your partner heads to first; you pull the brush, clean the plate. Everything looks in place. The first batter walks nervously to the plate. You tap the catcher on the helmet – "you ready? – yes sir," ... "batter you ready," ... "yes sir." You check with your partner, he gives you the sign. You look at the pitcher and tell him "Play ball."

The game begins and you are the plate umpire. The game needs you and so do we.



Upper Loudoun Little League (ULLL) wants and needs umpires. Young men or women 13 or older wanted to umpire Little League in western Loudoun. It is a great way to be a part of the game, have a good time and make a few dollars as well.

We are very proud of our program, the young and not so young officials that make this game work so well. Training provided in the preseason clinics, on and off field. Some of the best in the area help you learn, the adults, most of who have been to state or regional playoffs, some that have gone to the LL World Series. One of our recent rookies, Reid Joyner, just completed Pro-Umpire School in Florida and made it to the evaluation course. We are quite proud of him. Be the next to start and possibly become a pro umpire – or just have a good time on a Spring Day.

Upper Loudoun Little League
www.ulll.org
Email: cabrillo22@gmail.com

Did You Know...



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\$275,000
LO7721870

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Lovettsville
\$624,900
LO7773702

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\$675,000
LO9001460

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LO7779768

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Lovettsville
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LO7748854

UNDER CONTRACT
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Home Identified As Part of the Original “Bush Meeting Grounds” Will Be Torn Down For Parking

A private home listed as part of the original Bush Meeting Grounds – in the Historic Overlay District and purchased by the Town of Purcellville approximately one year ago – will be razed to provide additional parking for the Fireman’s Field/Town Hall complex.

The home is located next to what is known as the Bush Tabernacle, a structure with important Civil Rights/Purcellville history which was recently restored.

Bits of history associated with the home, including the fact that it was once owned by the Warner family in Purcellville, are part of archival records from the Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg.

Photo Above: the old house at 301 20th Street was originally part of the Historic Bush Meeting Grounds; Photo at Right: the Ambrose and Clifton Warner family.



Michael Quin, continued from page 1

mission.

Quin graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2006 and was “winged” as a naval aviator in 2008. He was preparing to be deployed to Afghanistan this spring and had just become engaged to his long time girlfriend in January.

Family members expressed shock, disbelief, and, above all, a deep sense of love and respect for the fallen Marine. “He had a strong sense and love for his family,” said his mother, Betsy Quin – “He was loyal, faithful to people.”

“He was a perfect son because he was kind of self-motivated and deferential to others, respectful of people around him,” Brad Quin, Michael’s father, said of his

only son.

“When I think about this loss and what it means to me and my family, it wells up. We all live through our kids ... and I’ve lost my boy and I’m never ever going to recover from that,” he said.

The six other Marines who died, all part of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, were listed as Maj. Thomas A. Budrejko, 37, of Montville, Conn.; Capt. Benjamin N. Cerniglia, 31, of Montgomery, Ala.; Sgt. Justin A. Everett, 33, of Clovis, Calif.; Lance Cpl. Corey A. Little, 25, of Marietta, Ga.; Lance Cpl. Nickoulas H. Elliott, 21, of Spokane, Wash. and Capt. Nathan W. Anderson, 32, of Amarillo, Texas.

House of Delegates Votes to Set Solar Free – Bill Heads to Governor’s Desk –

The House of Delegates, in a bipartisan vote, passed Senator Chap Petersen’s bill (SB627) to allow homeowners the freedom to use solar panels to power their homes without the threat of litigation by homeowner associations.

Senator Petersen (D-Fairfax City) expressed satisfaction that finally, Virginians will be able to use solar panels regardless of where they live, or under what homeowner association rules they are subject to: “The passage of SB627 is the result of a multi-year effort to allow all Virginians to take advantage of clean solar energy. This is a bipartisan bill that will bring high-paying, skilled solar panel installation and manufacturing jobs to Virginia. I am pleased to have worked with

a number of Senators and Delegates from both parties to pass this bill, and I am very pleased that we could all come together to pass this common sense bill.”

Delegate David Ramadan (R-Loudoun) praised Senator Petersen’s bill, and defended it on the House floor: “I commend Senator Petersen for bringing this bill through, and I was happy to present and defend it on the house floor. This is a private property issue for homeowners, and it’s a matter of choice so that people can pick what sources of energy are useful for them.”

SB627 will allow Home Owner Associations (HOAs) to regulate placement and size of solar panels, but will not allow HOAs to have an outright ban on solar panels.

Transparency Dead On Its Long Arrival To The Purcellville Town Council

The ongoing pursuit for open and transparent government policies that resident and business owner, Kelli Grim and others asked Purcellville to adopt over a year ago has come to a dead stop. “Real Parties of Interest Disclosure” – which requires that the names of individuals and businesses with interests in zoning and/or legislative matters before governmental bodies be available to the public – died in the Purcellville’s Ways and Means Committee, after going back and forth from the Council to the Committee to the Purcellville Business Association and back. Purcellville Town Councilwoman Joan Lehr said that there would be no way to enforce the disclosure, and that Council members are already subject to some disclosure requirements. Supporters of the Real Parties of Interest – in force at the county level in Loudoun since 2007 and the standard for

countless other counties, cities and towns in the Commonwealth, as well as at the Virginia State level – argue that not only are such requirements easily enforceable, but that Purcellville’s current minimal disclosure requirements prevent the public from seeing a full and complete list of all parties with an interest in a particular development project. Purcellville’s current rules, for example, effectively exempt from disclosure the names of the attorneys, engineers, architects and other professionals involved in a particular project, in some cases masking the name of either the effective owner of a property and/or other individuals with a financial stake in the outcome of Town Council decisions. They also fail to shed light on any possible conflicts of interest, in cases where companies or individuals have made financial contributions to an elected official’s political campaigns.

Area Students Selected as National Youth Delegates for Prestigious Summit on the Environment

Two local students are among only 250 individuals nationally to be chosen as National Youth Delegates to attend the Washington Youth Summit on the Environment at George Mason University.

Lana and Kara Vaillancourt of Hamilton, both students at Loudoun Valley High School, have been selected to represent Virginia, joining a select group of students from all across the country to participate in an intensive week-long study of leadership in environmental science and conservation. Students are chosen based on academic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest and excellence in leadership in the sciences and conservation studies.

George Mason University, along with partners National Geographic and the National Zoo will welcome the nation’s leading youth scholars to Washington, D.C. With distinguished faculty, guest speakers, and direct access to elite D.C. practitioners, the Washington Youth Summit on the Environment offers aspiring environmentalists an unparalleled experience. The week-long program will be held at George Mason University’s state-of-the-art campus June 24-29, 2012, encouraging and inspiring young leaders who desire a unique experience focused on successful careers in this dynamic industry.

Deep Staff Cuts Proposed to Environmental And Historic Protection Programs

Loudoun’s newly elected Board of Supervisors has received recommendations for significant reductions in staff for programs that help ensure basic protections for the County’s environmental and historic assets. In one case, staff cuts will signal the end of an entire program.

The recommendations seek to eliminate two full time positions within the County’s Water Resources Management Program (WRMP), which collects data and develops management plans to protect water sources.

Opponents of the cuts, including the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy say that “Cutting the Water Resources Program by 25% ... will make it difficult to continue the program ... Approximately 100,000 Loudoun residents rely on wells for their drinking water.

Without adequate staffing for groundwater monitoring, the County cannot assess groundwater quantity or quality, or provide an action plan for what to do if/when another

Continued on page 19

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

your mother back, and now this burden of unending giving has befallen your stepfather. If you are not careful, I am concerned that you too will likely become part of the problem. The timing of your stepfather’s new relationship affords you the opportunity to discuss the problem with your sister proactively. You could let her know that with your stepfather moving on, he should no longer be expected to supplement her income. If your sister does end up approaching you for money, you could offer her a loan with the clear understanding that you expect to be paid back. You can even address the specifics of repayment (e.g., a payment plan or

schedule with an end date). If your sister has personal items of worth or interest to you, you could retain those items as collateral and return them to her once the loan is repaid. Money can ruin relationships, so I caution you to handle your needs and your sister’s situation with respect and love.

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.

Residents Brace for Change, continued from page 1

concept had expired and that it had the authority to annex any or all of the remaining land in the UGA without County agreement. The County strongly disagreed.

The County Administrator, and then Board of Supervisors Chairman York sent letters of objection to the Town requesting meetings to discuss the disagreement. These requests were ignored. Chairman York, in his letter of September 21, 2009, stated "This [annexation] represents a substantial demand for public utilities, which I believe far exceeds existing capacities." The basis of York's comment was a Town consultant's study (known as the "CH2MHill" study) which concluded that the Town, in 2007/2008, did not have enough water to meet its maximum daily demand and would not be able to meet its average daily demand beyond the fall of 2010.

The Town would not agree to meet to resolve the disagreement nor agree to a third-party arbitration. So, in December 2009, two days before the annexations were to become official, the County filed an injunction with the court to block the annexations and have the court decide whose interpretation was correct. The trial, following several delays, was set to start in Spring 2012. Now, with a newly elected pro-development Board of Supervisors, it appears that the lawsuit will be dismissed, PUGAMP will be dead, and significant development is likely to proceed without delay and without County input. The consequences for the residents of Purcellville will, in both the near and distant future, be

major. Every resident of the Town will be affected. Changes will include:

- **Traffic and Sprawl:** The Route 287 corridor from the Route 7 By-Pass to Business 7 will have significant increased traffic. The Harris Teeter shopping center, plans for retail and office space at the O'Toole property (which will be on the Southern Collector Road), the planned Catoclin Corner shopping center (approved for six commercial businesses, four of which are drive thru's), and the expansion of Patrick Henry College to 1,600 students, 400 faculty and staff, and a "chapel" to seat 2,000 will saturate that area. According to its own traffic analysis, Patrick Henry College alone will generate approximately 3,800 vehicle trips per day, some fifty percent more than Woodgrove High School. The roundabout at Business 7/Route 287 may become clogged because of new traffic lights in close proximity.

- **Historic Old Town Purcellville:** The planned expansion of commercial/ retail enterprises in the Route 287 corridor will likely have a negative effect on the business establishments in the downtown area. This has been the typical result in many small towns across the nation where new commercial activity on the edge of town or on a bypass strangled the economic viability of the older sections of town.

- **Water:** Mayor Lazaro has announced that the Town has purchased five new wells as recommended by the CH2MHill study, thereby increasing the Town's capacity from approximately 1/2 million gallons per day (GPD) to 1 million. He also claims that the

Town is working on other projects that will add another 1/2 million GPD in the future and that the Town now has enough water for the next 20 years. The CH2MHill study contradicts that claim and suggests the Town's water capacity, without further annexation, will need to be in the neighborhood of 1.9 million GPD by 2032. Councilman Priscilla has announced that the Town has changed its method of calculating future demand for water, so things look better for the future. *(Editor's Note: Revising future estimates to present a rosier picture is a highly practiced art form by politicians.*

It doesn't mean the new estimates are true; just rosier!)

- **Future Annexations:** At the Joint PUGAMP Committee meeting, Mayor Lazaro stated that the Town does not plan to annex any more land beyond the three properties in question (Brown, O'Toole, and Patrick Henry). While that may be the Town's current position, there is nothing to prevent future annexations. Since PUGAMP is now dead, the Town stands unprotected from whatever an adjoining landowner might dream up.

Specific Potential Consequences of Eliminating the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan

With the elimination of the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan, there are several properties that were in what is known as the plan's "Phase II" and could be on the horizon for very "fast and dense" development.

For example, the Bowman and McDonald family recently donated fifteen acres of what is known as the Moorcones Subdivision to the Town for a park. This land is not in the Town of Purcellville. If annexed, water and sewer could then be provided to the eighteen remaining residential lots that are part of that subdivision.

There is also a great deal of town

buzz about the possibility of significant future development in the area of Route 690 and A Street with the Hirst Farm II parcel (contiguous to the recently donated park land). Hirst II, which is 84 acres on Route 690 and is currently not within the Town's boundaries, was recently purchased by a developer.

All of this potential development and annexation activity could now go forward without the Town of Purcellville having to demonstrate that it was capable of providing adequate utilities such as water and sewer and otherwise manage its growth in a prudent manner.

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Public Input Needed For Future Park Land on Lange Drive

The Town of Lovettsville Parks Committee is seeking Public Input on the Draft Concept Plan for the Town owned Park property on Lange Drive. The Work Session will occur at the Lovettsville Elementary School on March 14, 2012 from 7:30 -9:00 PM. Any interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Some of the park elements being considered include: apiary, community garden, fire pit, dog park, formal gardens, informal play field, trails, open space wooded area, picnic area, play area, as well as housing a Maintenance/Storage Facility for Town and Park use. Other options are being considered and will be discussed at the meeting. Citizen input is critical to ensure the Park design reflects the needs and desires of the Town residents.

For those that are unable to attend, more information and opportunities to share input will be available on the website www.lovettsvilleva.gov after the meeting.

Purcellville Community Garden Opens

The Town of Purcellville is pleased to announce the new Purcellville Community Garden, open to any resident of the town in order to provide gardening space for those who don't have suitable space of their own and who wish to grow their own produce. The Community Garden will be located in the town park behind the Village Case community. Access to the park is for garden renters and their guests only. The Community Garden will be an organic garden with pesticide use prohibited.

The Community Garden is owned and operated by the Town of Purcellville and is a project of the Committee on the Environment and the Parks and Recreation Department.

To learn more and to obtain an application, visit www.purcellvilleva.gov or contact Paul McCray at 540/751-2350 or pmccray@purcellvilleva.gov.



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“Pollinators” to Star in Upcoming Conference – April Event at Shenandoah University Also Features – Nationally-Recognized Authors & Experts

– By Donna Williamson

The great plantsman, Neil Diboll, says “There is no right or wrong; there are only consequences.”

Some of the consequences have been felt in places where pesticides have decimated the bee population. I have heard that people hand-pollinate fruit trees in China where bees are no longer available in significant enough quantities to handle the work.

Pollinators are crucial to the development of nuts, blueberries, sunflowers, and other plants that we relish. And we love the birds, butterflies, and bees that are part of our home landscapes. We just need to be a little more hospitable and share our environment in a more effective way.

Piedmont-Blue Ridge Horticulture Society has partnered with Shenandoah University to bring a star-studded lineup of experts to the area to talk about how citizens can enjoy more pollinators. *Tomorrow’s Landscape: More Birds, Butterflies, and Bees for YOUR Garden* will be held on April 14 at the Student Union at Shenandoah in Winchester. It will be a full day of solid information, with information about plant choices specific to the mid-Atlantic climate and soils.

As development overtakes our natural environment and current agricultural methods destroy habitats that support biodiversity (and thus, life), home gardeners can make a difference.

Speakers include: Doug Tallamy, chair of the Department of Entomology at the University of Delaware and author of *Bringing Nature Home*, Jim McCormac, wildlife expert, Janet Davis, native perennials expert, Jeff Lowenfels, author of *Teaming with Microbes*, Vincent Simeone, with special expertise about trees and shrubs suited to the Virginia landscape, and Stephen Orr, garden editor at Martha



Stephen Orr, Author of *Tomorrow’s Garden*, is a presenter at the conference.

Stewart Living and author of *Tomorrow’s Garden* that documents extraordinary gardens and the people who make them across America.

Registration is \$99 and includes coffee and a box lunch. Pre-registration is required and all registrations will be handled on-line; early registration is encouraged as space is limited.

Go to www.tomorrowlandscapes.org for information and to register.

Donna Williamson is a master gardener, garden designer, and garden coach. She has taught gardening and design classes at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Oatlands in Leesburg, and Shenandoah University. Author, The Virginia Gardener’s Companion: An Insider’s Guide to Low-Maintenance Gardening in Virginia, dwfinegardening.com, 540-877-2002.

Leesburg Flower And Garden Festival

Historic Leesburg will kick off the spring season with the Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival.

The festival showcases lush landscapes and gorgeous gardens with a two-day family friendly event with food, music, children’s entertainment and crafts.

More than 100 vendors from around the region will display landscape designs, gardening supplies, outdoor living items, plants, flowers, herbs and more.

Dates and Times

April 21 - 22, 2012

Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Held Rain or Shine

* On the Main Stage, located at the Loudoun County Courthouse, local

and regional bands perform a range of music from relaxing reggae tunes to classic rock favorites.

Artists include local favorite Gary Smallwood and country sensation Jay Henley the Stone Broke Band.

- * The Children’s Stage features hourly entertainment to keep youngsters enthralled while moving and grooving to the sounds of Uncle Pete’s “Up with Kids,” as well as other interactive, live entertainment. The fun doesn’t stop there as crafts, face painting, and other activities will also be on the scene.

For more information, call Ida Lee Park Recreation Center at 703-777-1368 or visit www.idalee.org.





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Since it has been such a mild winter, we are rolling up our sleeves and getting out in our own gardens: Planting early greens and peas, pruning, and getting a jump on the spring clean up.

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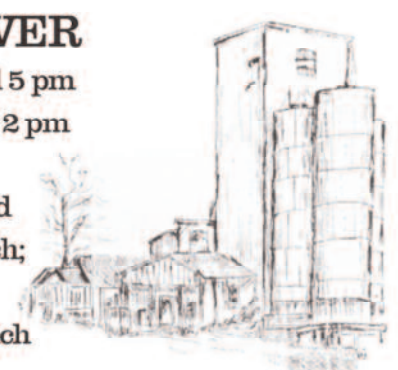
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Four Short Plays At Loudoun Valley High School

Loudoun Valley Drama Department is presenting four short plays March 13 - 18, 2012. Director Ike Stoneberger has named them "Two by Two: Boys and Girls."

The girls' plays are ELEMOSYNARY and STEEL MAGNOLIAS. The boys' plays are TRUE WEST and LONE STAR.

Elemosynary was written by Lee Blessing. It depicts the relationships between three women; Dorothea, a grandmother, who is eccentric and has suffered a stroke, her daughter, Artie, who had suffered under the force of her mothers' will, and abandoned her daughter, Echo. March 13, 15, 17.



Steel Magnolias is a well-know production written by Robert Harling. It depicts the relationships of six southern women who live on Louisiana and centers on a beauty parlor owned by Truvy. March 13, 16, 17.

True West was written by Sam Sheppard. It explores the difficulties and intricacies of sibling rivalry between two brothers; Lee the eldest, a drifter and a thief, and Austin the younger, a screen-writer. March 14, 16, 18.

Lone Star is a play written by James McLure. Brothers re-unite after the elder returns after a hitch in Vietnam. March 14, 15, 18.

The plays will be performed in the Black Box Theatre. Limited seating. Tickets available at the door for \$5 for students/\$10.00 all others. For information, call LVHS at 540-751-2400.

Prodigious Ukrainian Pianist at Shenandoah Conservatory

Twenty-three-year-old pianist Alexej Gorlatch will perform as the fourth installment of this season's The World of the Piano Series on March 25 at 3 p.m. The program includes Brahms' "Ballades, Op. 10" as well as major works by Beethoven and Chopin. The New York Times acclaimed after a recent recital, "Gorlatch played with finesse and maturity that belied his youth."

Gorlatch has already experienced worldwide success, claiming numerous awards at international piano competitions from the age of 11. He has given recitals at numerous renowned concert halls, including Carnegie Hall, the Salle Cortot in Paris and the Kioi Hall in Tokyo. Among his long list of achievements, he has won the ARD competition in Germany, the Axa Piano competition in Dublin as well as the Steinway competitions of Berlin and Hamburg. As champion

of the 2009 Dublin International Piano Competition, Gorlatch won the opportunity to perform on The World of the Piano Series.

Shenandoah Conservatory's The World of the Piano Series will present Alexej Gorlatch on Sunday, March 25 at 3 p.m. in Armstrong Concert Hall on the campus of Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Shenandoah University Box Office at (540) 665-4569 or visit www.conservatoryperforms.org. Group discounts are available.



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

Ida Lee Park

I couldn't tell you why, but I always feel like a bit of an outsider here. It doesn't make sense, I know; I've built up my 'legitimacy' in this spot with good, old-fashioned, hard work and sweat equity. I really have spent a lot of time at, and compiled some treasured memories from, Ida Lee Park on the north side of Leesburg. Maybe it's because there's so much other activity (for so many other people) here: the Town's sports complex, the Public Library, the Park and Rec headquarters in the old Rust farmhouse, the Master Gardeners' plot just down the hill, as well as the familiar gazebo, the various community meetings and periodic events make this a very busy – and often, crowded place.

And you know I like my solitude, so the jam-packed times wouldn't be my first pick for a visit. No- give me an off day- preferably at sunrise- and I'm right at home- with the majority of humanity at (at least) arm's length.

But, let's go over some of those storied events from my Ida Lee past: I covered the 'Bon Voyage'- and the 'Welcome Home' for the Leesburg National Guard's tour in Bosnia in 1997-1998, I drove – and tossed loads of candy – in many a Leesburg Halloween Parade, which lines up at Ida Lee, I've performed readings at Rust Library – and at the nearby Recreation Center- for about 10 years, I rehearsed the temporarily-resurrected trials for Court and Market Days (in 2007 & 2008) in the community rooms,



and I even cast my votes for elections at Ida Lee's Rec Center.

There've been lots of other events over the years, too: Fourth of July celebrations (waiting for the parade to start down King Street, or supporting the entertainment activities later in the day and evening's fireworks, the Freeze Your Gizzards of November, and the less formal, solitary tramps I've taken alone- across Ida Lee's expansive acreage. I've walked up on many a white-tail deer along the Park's northern, less cultivated section; I've even heard young fox kits whimpering and playing in their den in this more or less uncharted territory. Pretty cool stuff. So, it's not like I've never been here, or lack the proper introductions, or need a stronger invitation than my knowing it's there, waiting for use.

It just goes to show: you can spend a great deal of time in one spot, over the course of over a decade, in a wide variety of circumstances (all very positive, I might add), and still feel just slightly like a trespasser when you're there. I don't understand it, either. But, hey, that's OK; I'm glad that Ida Lee serves as host for so many well-attended activities for so many of the Town's (and County's) residents. I guess I still just need to get used to the fact that other people come here, too.



It also just goes to show: you can feel like a bit of an outsider in any given location – maybe it's an ancient burial ground, or some local 'vortex,' or maybe (like me, perhaps) you're a little bit cuckoo – like I say, you may feel out of sorts in a certain place, but that doesn't mean you can't go there and enjoy yourself – and even arrive at some sort of peaceful coexistence with it (and maybe more importantly, with yourself) on your own terms.

So, having said all this, and hopefully shared at least the gist of it with you, go ahead: hit the Rec Center for swimming, weights and handball, enjoy the tennis courts and athletic fields, take advantage of the expanded facilities at Rust

Library, fly your kites, play with your kids, till that earth, or just walk aimlessly about the open, green spaces. I'm glad you're here, really.

But, if you want to see me, I'll probably stick to the outskirts- like the semi-darkness of some pre-dawn morning – before the crowds get to the fair, so to speak. I won't make much noise, I'll hardly make an impression that I've been here at all. Just some footprints - off the trodden paths taken by others, of course.

There's plenty of space for new discoveries- behind that rock – through that tall grass, around those trees, in that shadow. ("What's that over ... there?")

I'll probably be gone with the first hour of the sun. Then it's yours. Enjoy.

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Get Ready! Coming Soon: Relay for Life

Every Spring, the purple comes out at Heritage High School when approximately 1000 community members of all ages join together to fight back against cancer by participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.

This is truly a community event as rival high schools work together to raise money for cancer research and to provide services to local cancer patients. This year's Relay will be a 14 hour event beginning with youth activities 2 hours prior to the Opening Ceremony, at which time survivors are celebrated as each one's name is announced and they walk the first lap

"This is truly a community event as rival high schools work together to raise money for cancer research and to provide services to local cancer patients."

together with a caretaker or escort.

The idea of the Relay is to: Walk in the light of day and under the moon and stars of the night, because cancer never sleeps and for one night nor shall we as we Celebrate, Remember, and Fight Back.

Please join us in the fight.

– Cheryl Weaver, Western Loudoun
Relay For Life Event Chair

Winter Weather Ways, continued from page 1

food in their burrows or dens, to eat when they awaken for short periods. Many eat extra food in the fall while it is plentiful, and store it as body fat to be used later for energy.

Hibernators have two kinds of fat: regular white fat and a special brown fat. The brown fat forms patches near the animal's brain, heart, and lungs. The fat sends a burst of energy to warm these organs first when it is time for the animal to wake up. Hibernating animals are able to store enough food in their bodies to carry them over until food is once again obtainable. They do not grow during hibernation. Their bodily activities are reduced to a minimum; in fact they may have only one or two heartbeats every minute. This energy-efficient dormant stage enables the hibernating animal to have periods of inactivity that last for weeks or even months.

True hibernators go into such a deep sleep that they are difficult to wake and may even appear dead. Their body temperature drops, and their breathing and heart rate drop significantly. For example, the groundhog, or woodchuck, is one of our true hibernators. It spends most of the summer in fields and in tunnels it has dug below. During winter, the groundhog finds its way to the deepest recesses of those tunnels where it will hibernate. A hibernating groundhog's heart rate slows from 80 beats to 4 beats per minute, and its body temperature drops from 98F to as low as 38F. If its temperature falls too low, it will awaken slightly and shiver to warm up a bit.

If an animal lives in an area where the winter is mild, it may hibernate only briefly, or not at all. However, even when the winter is severe, hibernators may wake

Continued on facing page



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

Explore the Bull Run Mountains in Early Spring!

The best thing about hiking in early spring is enjoying relatively pleasant weather while bare trees afford vistas obscured in the high season. The Appalachian Trail (AT), as it makes its way through Northern Virginia, is perfectly suited to taking advantage of this opportunity. Hikers can take their pick of any stretch of the trail, long or short. But, I have a specific spot to recommend which isn't part of the AT: Bull Run Mountains Conservancy (BRMC), just off of I-66 near Haymarket. This picturesque nature preserve is a great area in which to get a morning of exercise ... before perhaps getting brunch in nearby Middleburg or Manassas.

To get to BRMC, take I-66 to exit 40, which takes you to Route 15. Turn left onto Route 15, and take the first right onto Route

55 (John Marshall Highway). Turn right on Turner Rd, crossing I-66, and left onto Beverly Mill Drive. Follow the road to the parking area by the trailhead kiosk. There is a trail map at the kiosk, which is also available at the Conservancy's website: www.brmconservancy.org.

When I go to Bull Ridge Mountains Conservancy, I begin on the orange-blazed Fern Hollow Trail, which passes the ruin of a picturesque old mill before heading uphill to intersect with the Chestnut Ridge Trail. This trail follows the ridge, which allows winter hikers to take in views of the Shenandoah Valley through the bare trees. The Chestnut Ridge trail is eventually met on the left by the Ridge Loop Trail. Straight ahead before bearing left onto Ridge Loop is a really grand vista ... just watch out for the "No Trespassing" signs, signaling private property.

Follow the Ridge Loop trail back down

the mountain and turn left at the next intersection onto the Catletts Trail. A right on Mountain Road leads back to the trailhead for about a five mile hike.

BRMC is also host to many public naturalist programs, a calendar of which can be found on their website. March features include an observation of the preserve's woodcock population and a survey of its wonderful amphibians!

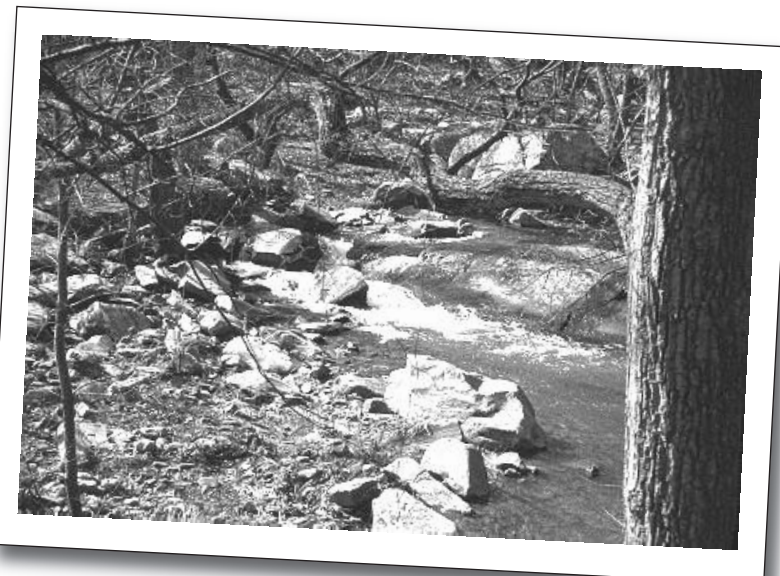


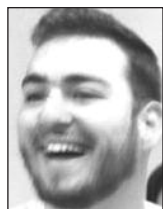
photo credit: Harry Leach

Bearded And Soon To Be Graduated

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

As graduation continues to inch closer and closer, many high school seniors are beginning to think about life beyond high school. Many are looking back and seeing what they accomplished, how they failed, and discovering ways in which they can improve in the future. They also reviewed their changing image and what worked and what did not. For me, I grew a beard for "No-Shave November," and I decided I really liked it. One of the main things coming out of this process was the desire to get more respect. Here we are in March, I still have the beard, and the funny thing is, I receive more respect. People think I am older and seem to be impressed that as a young man I can grow a beard.

In our culture there is the expectation that all teenagers have attitude problems, are apathetic, party and engage in substance abuse. This simply is not the case. Sure, there are some teenagers who might fit this description, but this is definitely not the majority.



We also see that there are many adults who engage in these activities and traits, proving that it is not simply a teenage phenomena.

But the image is imbedded in many people's minds when it comes to teenagers and it affects how much respect we receive. I am involved in many activities, for example I serve on the board for The Good Shepherd Alliance, am involved as a Piedmont Foundation Student Grantmaker, and volunteer with a program at my church that serves special needs children. Also, I am involved in a lot of 'adult' arenas, yet I still feel I don't get the respect I deserve.

Hameeda Naimi, a senior at Loudoun Valley High School, is doing a great project organizing a sleep out to benefit the Good Shepherd Alliance. As a member of the Key Club, she is working with many peers to have participants "camp out" at the Loudoun Valley football stadium. This event is meant to simulate the homeless experience, helping people raise awareness of what it is like to

Continued on page 22

Winter Weather Ways, continued from facing page

up for short periods every few weeks to use their "toilet rooms" and eat if food is available. Animals such as raccoons, skunks, and some chipmunks are light sleepers and are easily awakened. They may sleep during the most severe weather and wake to roam and forage for food in milder weather. Some insects spend their larval stage in a state of hibernation.

Our largest hibernator is the bear. Bears are unique because, unlike other hibernators, they do not eat, drink, or excrete at all while hibernating, which can be as long as six months. Although the quarters are cramped, female bears give birth and nurse their cubs during hibernation. Other true hibernators include the jumping mouse, little brown bat, the eastern chipmunk, and some species of ground squirrels. Unlike bears, bats do not sleep continuously throughout the winter. Instead, their hibernation consists of alternat-

ing periods of arousal (wakefulness) and torpor (deep sleep), generally for two week periods. Because each arousal uses a tremendous amount of energy, it is extremely important not to disturb hibernating animals so they will have enough energy to get through the entire winter.

Our winged neighbors have the ability to relocate to more suitable environments when resources like food, water, and cover diminish with the onset of winter. Some birds are able to adjust to these changes and remain in the same environment all year. We call these our resident species. However, other species must change their location in order to survive. Migration is the regular, periodic movement of a species to an area with more suitable environmental conditions. A single round-trip may take the entire lifetime of an individual, as with the Pacific salmon; or an

Continued on page 22



– By Dane Mullins

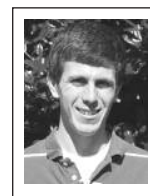
Woodgrove Wolverines Athletic Booster Club Spring Mulch Sale: Double Shredded Hardwood Mulch, 3 cubic foot bags, \$4.50 per bag, \$4.00 on orders of 40 bags or more. Preorder by March 3, 2012. Delivery or pick up mulch at Woodgrove High School on Saturday, March 17, 2012, 8 am to 4 pm. FREE DELIVERY of orders of 10 bags or more within 10 mile radius of Woodgrove. Monies raised will go towards athletics program and more.

Hypnosis – The Show featuring Comedy Hypnotist, Jimi Gibson. When: Saturday, March 10, 2012 7:00 pm; Where: Woodgrove High School Auditorium; Tickets: \$10 (Available online) at Woodgrove High School homepage and "Project Graduation." Don't miss this entertaining performance.

Bowl A Thon! March 17, 2012, 6 pm to 9 pm, Village Lanes Bowling Center, Leesburg, VA; \$25.00 per player – includes food, drinks, shoe rental and unlimited bowling; Limited to 24 teams, 4-6 players per team ... all are welcome. Strike Up Some Fun and Play to Win! See if you have the Luck of the Irish and Win the Pot of Gold. Players will seek community support for their team by collecting donations to benefit Project Graduation.

Mardi Gras Auction and Showcase a great success. The Woodgrove Music and Arts Association would like to thank the community, parents, teachers and the local businesses (Savior Fare, Sugardust Cakes and Tillett and Damewood Auctioneers) for their support. Special thanks goes to all the student displays and performers.

Congratulations to the Woodgrove Academic Team. On February 25 the team traveled to The College of William and Mary for the State AA Competition



and proudly placed 6th. Congratulations to the team Tara Saunders, Jocelyn Westray, Kristina Haney, Jillian Lineburg, Chris Miller, Keegan Ottoson, Carolyn Saunders, Marissa Gillwald, Adam Lenhart, Joe Ghorzi,

Julia Hiser. They are coached by Bob Kane and Louise Spicer. The team will return to compete again on April 28.

Winter Sports Update ... WOW What a season! Basketball: Girls are District Champs and they will be advancing to the State Tournament on Saturday at VCU in Richmond to take on James Monroe at 4:30 pm. Good luck Lady Wolverines!! Stephanie Purnell and Sarah Hardison named to 2012 All Region II 2nd team. Sarah Hardison also recognized as Cheer Sports January Athlete of the Month.

Boys – Brad Gilson named to 2012 Region II Boys Basketball 2nd team and recognized as Cheer Sports January Athlete of the Month. **Gymnastics:**

Amanda Huebner named Dulles District All-Time Winners for floor and qualified for states. Amanda was also recognized as Cheer Sports January Athlete of the Month. **Wrestling:** Joe Cavallaro took 7th at the State AA tournament. **Football:** Mike Skinner has been named Woodgrove head football coach. He brings a winning spirit and know how to the Wolverines.

Soccer: Brittany Basinger was named to United States Under 17 National Girls Soccer Team. Way to go Brittany! College bound -Katie Beebe-Longwood, Lucy Etro-Wofford, and Addie Healy-Washington and Lee-Congrats.

Lacrosse: Denis Radcliffe has signed with Stevenson College – Congratulations.

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.)

Hunt Country Gourmet's RESTAURANT REVIEW – Forlano's Market ... A Pleasing Visit to Hunt Country

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

– By George Humphries

A Pleasing Visit in Hunt Country Forlano's "Market" is part of the multi-faceted enterprise of the multi-talented, classically trained, and widely experienced restaurateur Nick Forlano. We visited the restaurant part of Forlano's empire for lunch recently. While the premises are small, Forlano's also includes a deli, a butcher counter, and a bakery featuring local hormone-free meats, free-range chicken, breads baked on the premises, and other farm-grown products.

Obviously, it is wildly popular with the surrounding community and undoubtedly attracts daytrippers out for a drive in the country. Located on the main street of the hunt country village of The Plains, on a Friday, the little restaurant was, at about 11:45, filled to capacity with what appeared to be "locals." That is to say, the kind of up-scale citizens one would expect to see in a village where the roads leading to it are lined with hunt country jumps in the fences of expansive pastures and hay fields. Proof of its popularity with locals is the fact that none of the silverware matches. That,

our waiter told us, is because when Forlano acceded to requests that he expand from just being a deli to serving meals on the premises, he had no silverware. The patrons solved that problem by bringing in their own.

The lunch menu consists of a featured mushroom soup and a daily special. Seven sandwiches comprise the rest of the lunch menu. Our party had the Angus steak wrap, a vegetable wrap, and a very special BLT. The steak was tasty and tender, the vegetables were roasted and interestingly seasoned, and the BLT was a treat on a homemade ciabatta roll with caramelized onions, Swiss cheese, thick, flavorful bacon, and fresh lettuce and tomato. Other offerings included a roasted turkey sandwich with cranberry sauce, stuffing, and homemade mayonnaise; a homemade meatball sub with melted Provolone and marinara sauce; and an Italian Hoagie with 10 ingredients plus oil, vinegar, and oregano. All of these were available at around \$9, and an excellent value at that.

The dinner menu, still to be tested – is most enticing. It contains 18 items, including Osso Bucco, Stromboli, Calzone, Beef

Broccoli, Pork Chops, Stuffed Quail, Lamb Shanks, Short and Back Ribs, among other favorites. If that weren't enough, there are 13 likely sides and vegetables that include such enticing items as antipasto salad, roasted cipolin onions, sautéed haricot verts with shallots, roasted beets with goat cheese, and panzanella. It's an ambitious menu for a small space, but Nick Forlano has been in the restaurant business since he was 14 years old and headlined the Ashby Inn for a number of years. He pulls it all off with panache.

A selection of wines and beers are also offered.

The deli side of Forlanos features local natural beef products, homemade sausage and bacon, Italian meats, pizza, and five kinds of house-baked breads. Gourmet catering is available for picnics, point-to-points and steeplechases, and other events. Wine tasting and other private parties also



can be arranged on the premises.

In addition to all these ventures, Nick Forlano also hosts cooking classes.

The restaurant is highly recommended. The only fault we have is the distance from our own location. Forlano's is about 10 miles from Middleburg and about 25 miles from Purcellville.

Forlano's is open from lunch daily 11-3, and dinner Wednesday through Saturday 5:30 and 8:30.

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.

– Sushi ... “Tails” From the Barnyard

Hi there, it's me, the Mighty Carin Terrier Sushi.

It is a cool but sunny spring day here at Fields of Athenry ... little baby lambs bouncing around in the sun under my watchful eye ... Mrs. B., my master, greeting farm guests and doing what she does best – attending to every detail of this beautiful farm and farm shop life. But despite the daily spring gala 'round here, I'm kinda feeling a little invisible. I mean, do you ever feel like a prune? Right now I feel like a prune!

My dad use to sing to me a silly song and I can't get it out of my head right now: “A baby prune is like his Dad, but he's not wrinkled quite so bad. Prunes have wrinkles on their face, prunes have wrinkles every place!” Yepper; now, how could my life be so bad that I would want to be a prune you ask? Well, let me tell you; it's all about that stage-stealing farm bull mastiff that I love but envy at times – Clover! You would think the world stopped because she is turning two years old. Oh, and did I mention that Miss Clover's birthday is on Mrs. B's

third favorite holiday of the year outside of Christmas and Easter. Yepper; you guessed it – her queenship's B-day is on Saint Paddy's day, this coming March 17th. The dog isn't even Irish! She's English for goodness sake and you know how the English felt about the Irish – so how this is all going down is beyond me! Clover this and Clover that. The dog can do no wrong. It is so annoying. Seriously, I think Mrs. B has gone out of her mind! She is throwing a birthday bash for a dog! You have got to be kidding me I said, but no one listens to me anymore. I'm just a salt and pepper wiry haired Cairn Terrier with a bright toothed grin, but I don't feel much like grinning. No one even notices me anymore. I am so sad. I am going to trot off down to the barn and be miserable all by my lonesome, I guess ... Oh no! Here's that silly goose! “HONK! HONK!” Go away Gnarly Gander, I don't feel like talking to you or anybody else! “Sushi; what's wrong little man?” Gnarly asked.



“I'll tell you what's wrong! Everything is all about Clover, notices me anymore. Clover this and Clover that.”

“Awe, Sushi, you know Mrs. B. and everyone loves you; but more than that Clover is crazy about you! Just the other day Clover asked me “What do you think SUSHI thinks I would look best in during my birthday festivities? A green hat?” she asked? With green clovers and the kind of sparkly things Sushi loves to see on me? Sushi is always so good to me ... I just want to look perfect for Sushi during my birthday party! I owe a lot to that little Carin Terrier, you know. I don't talk about it much, but I do owe a lot to Sushi ... even on the day I'm supposed to be celebrated, I owe a lot to Sushi.”

Well, that did it. I looked at Gnarly Gander, a glint of tear in my eye and said, “You know, when one of us is down, here on the farm, another one of us always knows how to lift us up, remind

us we are part of a plan, part of a family. Thanks, Gnarly, for reminding me of that. It's not about one of us, it's about all of us. Now, what do all of you out there reading this think Clover wants for her birthday?”

I think Clover would love for all of you to join us in celebrating her birthday – Come to Fields of Athenry Farm, Saturday, March 17th! We will celebrate Clover and Saint Paddy, from 11am until 5pm at which time Mrs. B. will be putting all the animals to bed and then her tired feet up! It does feel good to lift my little Cairn terrier spirit to celebrate in Clover's joy ... how could I have been so selfish? Won't you join me in our farm family celebration? (Get directions & RSVP at www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com) We need those RSVP's because Clover freaks out when we run out of sausage and beer – she really is an Irish Lass at heart!

So for now, I bid farewell with an Irishman's toast; sláinte mhaith "cheers and to good health" to all and to all my love ... Sushi.

Property Rights, continued from page 1

A property rights amendment to Virginia's constitution is the ultimate protection Virginians need, and voters will finally have a property rights amendment to vote on in the November ballot."

The attorney general commended the legislators who sponsored the property rights amendment and led the bipartisan effort to get it passed. The constitutional 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 or damaged - 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; and

* The burden of proof that the taking is for a true "public use" is on the entity taking the property.

Cuccinelli has promoted the amendment

for months in media interviews and in public speeches across Virginia.

While a state senator, Cuccinelli successfully sponsored a bill in 2007 to create a law that protected homeowners, farmers, and business owners from having their property taken by government and handed over to private entities for the primary purpose of increasing tax revenues or creating jobs. The attorney general gives this example: "The law stops a city from taking a local family business or a series of homes and turning the land over to a private developer so a shopping mall can be built. If the

mall wants to be there, it is the developer's job to make a convincing offer to the landowners; it is not the city's job to force people out of their homes or businesses for the developer."

Although that 2007 law was a major step forward in the protection of private property rights in the commonwealth, because it is a statute, it can be chipped away by future sessions of the General Assembly. Putting property rights protections in Virginia's constitution ensures that the only way they can be changed is by a vote of the people.

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Environmental and Historic Program Cuts, continued from page 10

severe drought occurs." Current WRMP staff have stormwater expertise and assist with erosion and sediment law implementation. Many question why, with three new Erosion and Sediment control positions currently advertised, existing staff will be replaced with new staff that will be charged with the same duties.

Another proposed cut affects the Archaeological Review staff within the Environmental Review Program. In Loudoun County, an estimated 75% to 80% of development sites have archaeological sites on them, with archaeological finds ranging from very small to large and nationally significant. The man hours proposed for cuts provide archaeological oversight of land development proposals. Developers are not required to preserve finds, but merely identify them. Having qualified staff working with the development community is critical to guiding development in ways that honor Loudoun's history.


It is also proposed to cut one full-time staff in the Urban Horticulture Program. This position trains Master Gardener volunteers (167 active) who to date have given 14,000 hours to the community, providing information on topics including turf management and the use of pesticides and herbicides, informing residents on how to help keep Loudoun streams clean, and supporting agricultural programs such as Loudoun's Annual Farm Tours and 4-H Day, as well as Family and Youth development and data collection on the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug.

A fourth proposed area of cuts includes two positions in the Energy Program, effectively ending the effort. Opponents of the cuts argue that more than \$2.1 million in energy cost savings were achieved for the County through Energy Conservation Coordination, Energy Audits Implementation, Energy Efficiency Projects and other initiatives.

The public is invited to comments on the proposed cuts by e-mail at loudoun-budget@loudoun.gov, or by calling the Citizen Comment Line, 703-777-0115. Information/sign up for the upcoming public hearing addressing these cuts is available by calling 703-777-0200.

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General Assembly Passes Petersen's Bill to Improve Police and Firefighter Benefits – Bill Heads to Governor's Desk

The full General Assembly has passed Senator Chap Petersen's bill (SB171) to permit localities the flexibility to improve retirement benefit packages for first responders such as police, fire fighters, EMS personnel and correctional employees. The Senate voted on February 3rd to pass the original bill by a vote of 38-0. The House of Delegates passed a substitute version of the bill, 97-0, which was then agreed to by the Senate.

Local areas affected are Berryville, Fauquier County, City of Fairfax, Clarke

County, and the Town of Warrenton.

Many localities, particularly towns and cities, initially included first responders in their VRS contribution rates in order to establish pension benefit stability. Today, many of these localities need to change their first responder pension benefits in order to continue to attract talented personnel.

Senator Petersen: "SB 171 is a common-sense measure which will give flexibility to the 64 small jurisdictions, including Fairfax City, which cover firefighters, EMT's, police,

and correctional employees in their VRS plans. As a result of this bill, smaller localities – like the larger cities and counties – will be able to provide enhanced benefits to uniformed personnel in high-stress positions. Essentially, this bill will allow these localities to give competitive benefits so they can continue to hire qualified individuals."

Any localities that elect to use the options available in SB 171 will bear the full cost of any additional funding. The bill now moves on to the Governor.

Save the Date Lincoln: Saturday, March 10th!

Lincoln Elementary would like to invite Lincoln Community League members to its annual Silent Auction and Raffle at the Loudoun Golf and Country Club, Saturday, March 10th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Help support our village school while enjoying a fun, casual night out with friends. Some of the auction items include a round of golf, dinner at Tusksies, local art, even a 3-night stay in NYC! The \$30 per person ticket price includes hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages (cash bar available). Advanced tickets may be purchased at Lincoln Elementary School by February 24th (tickets at the door will be \$35). We hope to see you there!

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more at: www.kidscoop.com

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, is the day that people everywhere wear green. Born in Great Britain during the time of the Roman Empire, St. Patrick was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland where he worked as a shepherd. He fled to France but eventually returned to Ireland as a missionary. He is the patron saint of Ireland.

Leprechaun Gold

Look at the words on each of the gold coins. Put them in the pot in alphabetical order before the Leprechaun disappears with all the gold!

The Blarney Stone

The Blarney Stone is a rock slab set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the village of Blarney.

According to legend, an old woman cast a spell on the stone to reward a king who had saved her from drowning. Kissing the stone gave the king the ability to speak sweetly and convincingly.

Kissing the stone is not an easy task, because it is difficult to reach. Anyone who wants to try has to lie on his or her back, bend backwards and downwards, and hold on to iron bars for support.

It is said that those who kiss the Blarney Stone are given the gift of gab, or Blarney. The skill to get anyone to do what he or she wants. This is persuasive talk!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use reading skills to understand a variety of texts including legends.

How to Draw a Leprechaun

How many shamrocks can you find on this page in three minutes? Now have a friend try. Who found the most?

Leprechaun Maze

Follow the trail to find the gold coin. Add or subtract the numbers along the correct trail. Write the total on the gold coin.

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Starting at the upper left clover, leap across the shamrocks, adding and subtracting numbers as you go. Find a path that totals 30. Avoid the toadstools!

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|--------|
| START | +2 | +8 | -4 | +2 | +9 | |
| | +7 | +13 | | +3 | -4 | +2 |
| | +11 | +4 | +10 | +6 | +12 | +2 |
| | -6 | +1 | +2 | -6 | | FINISH |

Standards Link: Number sense: Calculate sums and differences.

Double Double Word Search

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

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BLARNEY | N | U | A | H | C | E | R | P | E | L |
| IRELAND | L | T | E | A | R | O | N | K | D | H |
| KISSING | O | N | W | K | C | T | I | N | E | C |
| LEPRECHAUN | O | I | L | K | C | S | A | L | S | O |
| STONE | K | A | E | P | S | L | T | G | P | B |
| CASTLE | T | S | E | I | E | S | O | O | A | B |
| SPEAK | Y | E | N | R | A | L | B | V | N | L |
| CLOVER | K | G | I | C | D | N | E | B | E | E |
| COBBLER | E | L | L | W | O | B | N | I | A | R |
| RAINBOW | | | | | | | | | | |
| SAINT | | | | | | | | | | |
| GOLD | | | | | | | | | | |
| TALK | | | | | | | | | | |
| ROCK | | | | | | | | | | |
| BEND | | | | | | | | | | |

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

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Abbreviations

St. is an abbreviation for Saint. Clip six examples of abbreviations from the newspaper. Write the whole word for each abbreviation.

Standards Link: Vocabulary: identify abbreviations; know the words that are abbreviated.

Write On!

All that glitters...

Finish this sentence and then write a story with this as the first sentence.

Kid Scoop Together: Lookalike Leprechauns

Each leprechaun below has a twin. Draw a line between each twin but remember: Leprechauns can be VERY tricky! Look closely.

Standards Link: Research: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's phrase: **GIFT OF GAB**

If someone has the "gift of gab," it means the person is a good talker. The word *gab* comes from *gab*, the Irish word for mouth.

Katie had the gift of gab, which sometimes got her in trouble for talking too much during school.

Try to use the phrase gift of gab in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Send your "Write On!" submissions to: Blue Ridge Leader, PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA, 20134-0325

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

» REAL ESTATE TICKER »

Commissioner to Hold Real Estate Tax Relief Sessions

**65 or Older or Have a Disability?
Find Out About Loudoun's Real Estate Tax Relief Program
March Workshops Scheduled**

Loudoun's Commissioner of the Revenue, Robert S. Wertz, Jr., has scheduled free information sessions during March to familiarize residents with the eligibility criteria for the county's generous real estate tax relief program.

Loudoun County residents age 65 or older or with disabilities who own a home or vehicle, and who are below established income and wealth limits may benefit from a reduction in the amount of property taxes they pay.

Qualified applicants for real estate relief must have a gross combined income less than \$72,000, and net worth less than \$440,000, excluding the home.

For personal property relief, the income and net worth limits are \$52,000 and \$195,000, respectively. Program par-

ticipants saved more than \$7 million in real estate taxes last year.

Commissioner Wertz will be holding workshops at the following locations and times to explain the county's tax relief program and answer residents' questions:

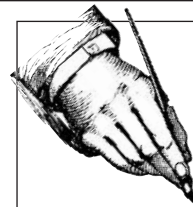
No appointment or RSVP is required to attend these free sessions. Interested Loudouners may obtain an application online at www.loudoun.gov/taxrelief-forms.

Residents may also call 703 737-8557 to have a form mailed to them or they may pick one up at the Commissioner's offices in the County Government Center in Leesburg or the Loudoun Tech Center in Sterling.

Additional information is available online at www.loudoun.gov/taxrelief.

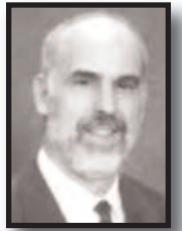
Real Estate Tax Relief Sessions

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|----------|------------------------|
| Purcellville | Tuesday, March 6 | 10:15 AM | Carver Center |
| Leesburg | Monday, March 12 | 10:30 AM | Leesburg Senior Center |
| Ashburn | Tuesday, March 13 | 10:00 AM | Ashburn Library |
| Sterling | Friday, March 16 | 10:30 AM | Cascades Senior Center |



Dear Doug

- Real Estate Q&A -



Dear Doug,

I just wrote a contract on a condo that I really LOVE, but now I am wondering what I need to look out for between now and settlement, since I hear so many horror stories about buying condos? Thank you, Beverly B.

Dear Nervous Bev,

I get this question all the time, but usually before someone makes an offer. My pre-offer speech includes warning buyers about the condo complex as a whole, as well as the particular unit, itself. As for the unit- that is where the home inspection comes in. Have it inspected by a Certified Inspector. (American Society of Home Inspectors, ASHI, is the only one I know that has a certification process). He won't look at the condo through the rose-colored glasses that you are wearing. He will see the nuts and bolts. If the furnace is old and needs replacing, he will note it. If the windows are single pane and leaking, that will be noted, too. If he see what he thinks is asbestos around the furnace, he will also note that, and recommend further evaluation. He will not be blinded by the emotions that you are currently caught up in. Or, he may find that it is in perfect and impeccable shape, and needs nothing, although that is quite rare. As for the complex itself, there are a number of things you want to know. First of all, the deal is contingent on you getting a current copy of the Condo Documents, where replacement reserves, pending law suites, architectural violations of the unit, and facts pertinent to the complex will be addressed. In Virginia,

once you have received the Docs, you will have three days to accept, or reject, the whole deal, and get your earnest money deposit back. Sellers dislike this rule, since you may not like the color of the binder that you get it in, and you could kill the deal because of that. No reason needs to be given to cancel the deal based on the docs. You just have to be within the time frames in the contract. Once you get the docs, there will be a ton of info to go over, so I suggest you call the management company that is listed in there and review your concerns about replacement reserves like: are they adequate? any special assessments coming up?, any pending lawsuits, etc? Also, review the Docs with your agent. If you have any doubts whatsoever about any facts or figures, PLEASE get the answers before the 3 day review session is over. When you call the management company, make sure you check on the ratio of owners to investors in the complex, and how many accounts are in default. Both numbers can affect you getting a mortgage, and/or re-selling it in the future. I also suggest calling your lender and making sure the complex is on the FHA approved condo sight. Even if you are not buying the condo using an FHA loan, I would make sure it is an FHA approved complex, which would make it easier for you to re-sell in the future. I would also check to see if it is VA (Veterans Administration) approved, although those loans are not used as much as FHA. So, sound like a lot

Continued on page 22

Classics - By Myles Mellor

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
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| 55 | | | | | | 56 | | | | 57 | | |
| 58 | | | | | | 59 | | | | 60 | | |
| 61 | | | | | | 62 | | | | 63 | | |

Across

- Certain sandwich
- Broodish
- Sky box?
- Celestial
- City in Rio de Janeiro
- It gets pumped
- Classic film
- Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
- Carry away, in a way
- Floppies, e.g.
- Ticket info, maybe
- Floor items
- Stephen King title
- Threat word
- Drink from a dish
- Group of eight
- Horned mammal
- Old Italian bread
- Classic film
- Bolted
- Lions' prey (pl.)
- Great success
- Load from a lode
- Arctic sight
- Underline
- "Go ahead!"

Down

- "M*A*S*H" extra
- Garlicky mayonnaise
- Car accessory
- Classic film
- Carpet type
- Moss-like
- Org. with a mission
- Seafood selection
- Executive branch, informally
- Calendar span
- "Lord of War" star
- Old Spanish kingdom
- Garden decorations
- Departure announcement
- Happy face
- Turkic language
- Real
- Crushing defeats
- Hong Kong actress, Sally
- Fuzzy fruits
- Pupil's place
- Honky ending
- Aims
- "Go ahead!"

19. Periphery

- Bait
- Military acronym
- "All for one and one for all," e.g.
- Greek god liquid
- Cubic measurement
- Provide, as with a quality
- Fine thread
- Met expectations?
- Agreements
- With footnotes, e.g.
- Ill-gotten gain
- Unappealing fruit?
- Kind of unit
- Central points
- Electrical transformer
- Dreary song
- Omnivorous mammal
- Physics calculation
- Canyon sound
- East Indian lentil sauce
- Mosque prayer leader
- Braveheart hillside
- Civil rights icon, to friends
- Apple spray
- Place for sweaters?
- Unspecified number

Bearded, continued from page 17
 not have a home. This is just one project. There are countless other young people, without facial hair, working hard to make a difference in the community. Sometimes I wonder how many of the adults who criticize teenagers are actually organizing events and becoming involved in the community?

Some may argue that I am a special case since I began reading the newspaper at age 5, started writing Congressman Wolf by the age of 9 and worked on my first political campaign at the age of 12. There are many teenagers who are involved in countless activities and projects that the community is not aware of.

But what about the thousands of high school seniors who can't grow a beard? Is respect for a high school senior contingent upon their ability to do so? I think many of us worry about how the rest of our lives will turn out. Will we constantly be begging people to take us seriously? Will we be chasing respect for the rest of our lives? We just want to be taken seriously and to feel like we matter. Teenagers are human

Answers to crossword puzzle from page 21

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

beings just like adults; just a little younger. Therefore, we deserve our hard earned share of respect. So adults, please allay our fears by simply giving us our fair share of recognition, with or without a beard.

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

Dear Doug, continued from page 21

to be nervous about? Not really. Yes, you do have to do your homework but it is worthwhile knowing that you are buying into a financially and physically sound building and association. While you may be blinded by the emotions brought on by the granite and the killer views, the Condo Docs and the inspector will help you take a more objective approach to your large financial decision. Good luck, Beverly! I

hope all the inspections and scrutiny pay off in the end, and the place turns out even better than you thought it would!

Sincerely, Doug Frank

Douglas Frank holds a BA degree in English from Rutgers University and is a licensed realtor with over 20 years experience. Doug is now with Prudential PenFed Realty. Doug and his wife and two sons live in Fairfax, Virginia. (Opinions expressed here are ... only opinion!)

Winter Weather Ways, continued from page 17

individual may make the same trip repeatedly, as with many of the migratory birds and mammals. More than one-third of the world's bird species migrate each fall and spring. The animals may travel in groups along well-defined routes; or individuals may travel separately, congregating for breeding and then spreading out over a wide feeding area.

Various factors determine the initiation of migration. In some cases, external factors such as temperature, drought, food shortage alone may cause the animals to seek better conditions. In many species, migration is initiated by a combination of physiological and external factors. In birds the migratory instinct is related to the cycle of enlargement of the reproductive organs in spring and their reduction in fall. Studies have shown that variation in day length is the chief external stimulus for this cycle: light received by the eye affects the production of a hormone by the anterior pituitary gland, which stimulates growth of the reproductive organs.

Much study has been done on how migrating animals navigate, although the subject is still not well understood. Studies show that salmon depend on their olfactory sense to locate and return to their stream of origin. Herbivorous mammals often follow well established trails and probably also use their sense of smell. Bats, whales, and seals use echolocation to navigate in the dark or underwater. Some whales also appear to take visual bearings on objects on the shore

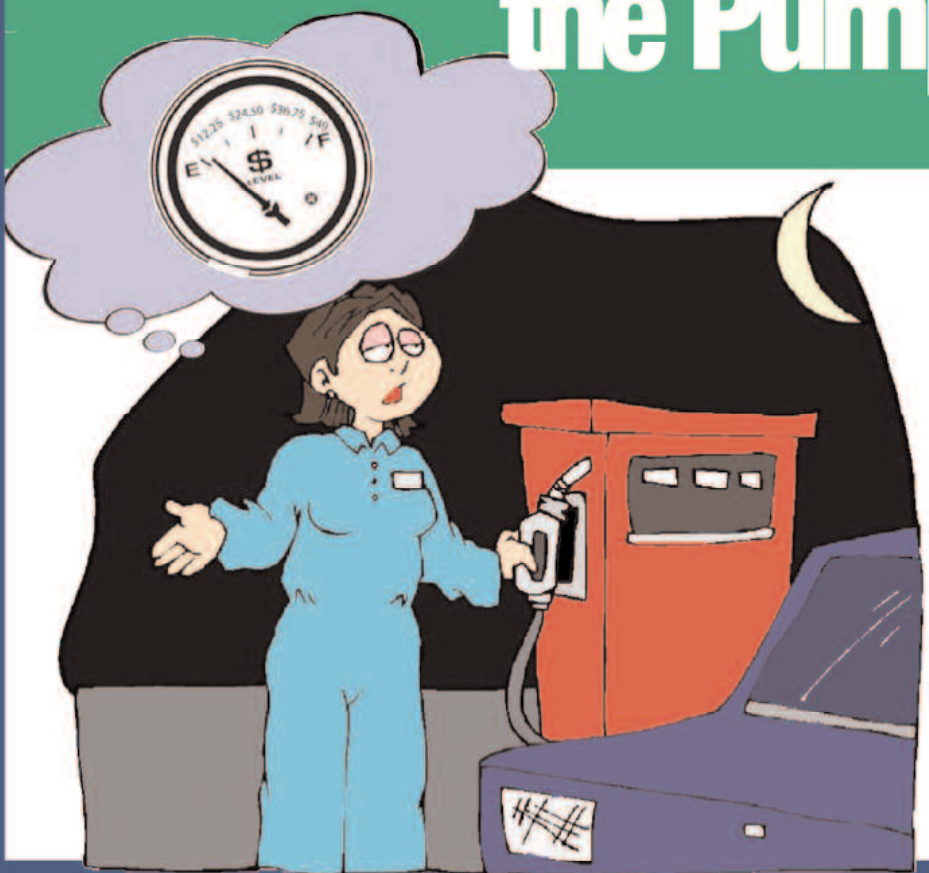
during their migrations.

Migratory birds are believed to use the stars, sun, and geographic features as guides. Night migrating birds are sometimes disoriented by prolonged heavy fog. Day-migrating birds navigate by the sun and make use of geographic features, particularly shorelines. Most migratory birds travel within broad north-south air routes known as flyways.

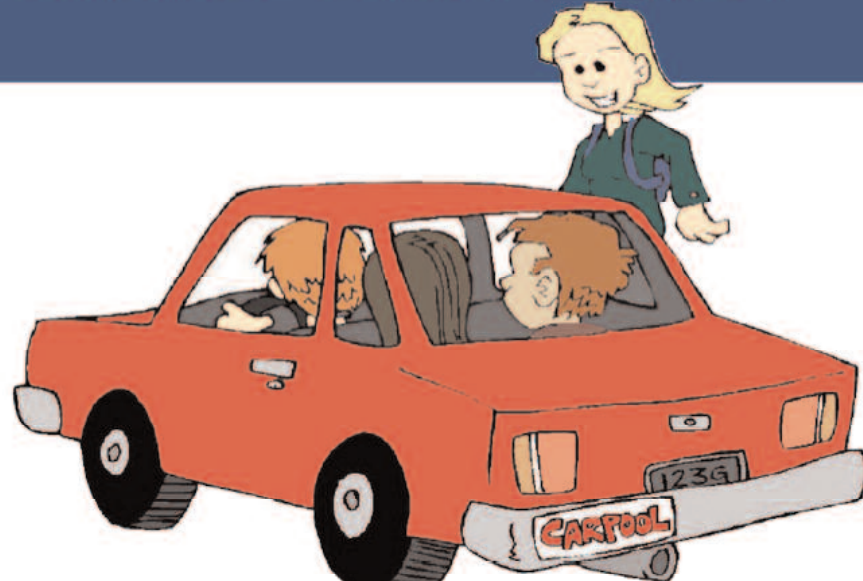
There are four major flyways in North America: the Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic. The space within a flyway that is used by a particular group of birds is called a corridor. The breeding grounds of a bird species are regarded as its home territory. Some migratory birds winter only a few hundred miles from their breeding grounds, while others migrate between the cold and temperate zones of the two hemispheres. Such migration is seriously affected by the increasing rate of destruction of the natural habitats. The longest migration journey is made by the arctic tern, which alternates between the Arctic and the Antarctic.

The monarch butterfly has a north south migration pattern that resembles that of many birds. One monarch population that inhabits the northeastern and mid-western regions averages a flight speed of 12 mph as the butterflies head for winter quarters in Mexico's Sierra Madra mountains. Monarchs begin their return trip in the spring, but they breed along the way and then die; the new generation completes the journey.

Don't Pay the Pump




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SHARE THE RIDE - SHARE THE COST!
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Loudoun County Office of Transportation Services Transit and Rideshare staff can help you find carpool and vanpool matches or send you a bus schedule.

Give us a call at 703.771.5665
 or visit the website at www.loudoun.gov/commute



Towns & Villages News

& Community Announcements

March

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!

☉ **Sunday, March 4, 8 am and 10:30 am St. Peter's Episcopal Church Centennial**, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Purcellville. Everyone is invited to join us with Bishop Ted Gulick's Episcopal visit and services of confirmation, reception, and Eucharist – a living reminder of the hundred years of St. Peter's faithful witness in Loudoun County – followed by a potluck luncheon at noon.

☉ **Monday, March 5, 2012, 6:30 pm: Pet Remembrance Candlelight Ceremony**, St. James Episcopal Church, 14 Cornwall St., Leesburg, VA. Please join us for a night of celebrating our beloved pets! This year's service promises to offer music, readings, and inspirational words from our speaker. All human family members are invited to attend, but please leave any four-legged friends at home! Please feel free to submit a jpeg image of your pet to be included in the Roll of Honor to: petcandlelightceremony@gmail.com by February 24, 2012. Contact: Dr. Krisi Erwin (571) 438-0339

☉ **ANNOUNCEMENT: The Round Hill Community Garden is filling up fast for the 2012 season! Deadline is March 11, 2012.** All plots have been conditioned and include irrigation and secure shed onsite. Garden mentors stand by to help with your crop! Contact Tony Derrow: 540-338-8980; registration instructions www.roundhillgarden.org.

☉ **Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 7 pm: An Evening with Richard Louv**, Tuscarora High School, Leesburg. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for students and can be purchased online. Richard Louv introduced the term "nature-deficit disorder" in his best-selling book *Last Child in the Woods*, as a way to describe the growing gap between children and nature. He wrote, "Our children are the first generation to be raised without meaningful contact with the natural world." *Last Child in The Woods*, which has helped to start an international movement since it came out in 2005, explores the increasing divide between children and the natural world. It also presents a growing body of research indicating that this divide threatens people's health, our creativity, our spiritual life, and our stewardship of the environment. A few years later, Louv recounts, a woman literally grabbed him by the lapels and said, "Listen to me, adults have nature-deficit disorder, too." He says, "She was right, of course." Her assertion became the starting point for Louv's newest book *The Nature Principle*, which explores ways that adults can bring more nature into our everyday lives – where we live, work, and play. In

both books, Louv offers a positive vision for the future in which people of all ages reap extraordinary benefits by connecting, or reconnecting, with nature. Louv cites many studies that describe the changes we see in our children (and ourselves), and apparently it reflects throughout our society in subtle and not-so-subtle ways. One example is references to animals and nature in Caldecott Medal winning children's books. A study of those winners written from 1938 to 2008 shows a dramatic drop in natural settings and references to animals. Join us to hear how we've become disconnected, explore the many ways we can bring the natural world back into our lives and get inspired to reconnect with the great outdoors!

☉ **Saturday, March 17 7:30pm-Bluemont Concert Series, Contra Dances at the Old Stone School** in Hillsboro. The 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 dance. In the dance workshops prior to the dances the Caller teaches beginner dancers the basic steps.



☉ **Monday, March 19, 7 pm: Marine Corps League Meeting, Loudoun Detachment 1205**, meets the third Monday of each month. Meeting starts 7:00 PM at the American Legion Post, 112 N 21st Street, Purcellville, Virginia. The detachment has been active for many years, providing a continuing home for Marines of all ages and backgrounds, keeping alive our links with The Corps and serving the community. Contact www.loudounmarines.org.

☉ **Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25, 2012, Loudoun County Master Gardeners' Third Annual Gardening Symposium**, Holiday Inn at Leesburg Carradoc Hall. The Third Annual Gardening Symposium hosted by the Loudoun County Master Gardeners Association offers two days packed with gardening inspiration and practical information from knowledgeable and engaging speakers. This year's line-up of eleven speakers and topics offers something for every gardener and lover of the landscape. Network with others, pick-up new ideas and get in gear for spring. For more information visit <http://www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org>.

**Tomorrow's Landscapes:
More Birds, Butterflies & Bees
for Your Garden**

April 14, 2012
Full Day Conference With
SIX NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SPEAKERS
Presented By Piedmont-Blue Ridge Horticultural Society
& Shenandoah University

Register at
www.TomorrowsLandscapes.com

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy March Programs!

☉ **Thursday, March 1, 7 pm, The Loudoun County Master Gardener Lecture Series** presents Carrie Blair, from the Virginia Native Plant Society, who will talk on the Benefits of Using Native Plants versus non-native invasive plants. Info at www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org.

☉ **Sunday, March 4, 2 pm – 4 pm Stream Monitoring Introduction.** Rust Library in Leesburg. Registration Required: Sign Up Online.

☉ **Wednesday, March 7, 7pm, Dark Skies - Reducing Light Pollution.** Light pollution comes in many forms and affects all of us in our daily lives, not just a few environmentalists and astronomers. Come learn about it from Milt Roney, the International Dark Sky Association's Associate Director. Rust Library in Leesburg.

☉ **Saturday, March 10, 8 am Birding Banshee.** Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and Friends of Banshee Reeks at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve for the monthly bird walk. Joe Coleman, 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

☉ **Saturday, March 10, 10 am – 4 pm Introduction to Amphibian Monitoring.** Interested in frogs, toads, and salamanders? We need your help to monitor them. Program for adults and families, Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship. Registration Required: Sign Up Online or contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org.

Interested in Woodcocks? ... Vernal Pools? ... A Film on Frogs? ... More Birding and Outdoor Experiences? Many, Many More March Programs at www.loudounwildlife.org!

Recurring Events!

☉ **Marine Corps League, Loudoun Detachment 1205**, meets the third Monday of each month. Meeting starts 7 pm at the American Legion Post, 112 N 21st Street, Purcellville, Virginia. The detachment has been active for many years, providing a continuing home for Marines of all ages and backgrounds, keeping alive our links with The Corps and serving the community. Contact www.loudounmarines.org.

☉ **Middleburg Duplicate Bridge, every Wednesday at 12:45 pm** at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 15 West Washington Street. Open game. \$5.00. Contact: MiddleburgBridge@aol.com.

☉ **Alzheimers Support Group Meeting** meets the first Thursday of every month at 10 am. Spring Arbor of Leesburg Assisted Living, 237 Fairview Street NW Leesburg, VA 20176.

☉ **Nar-Anon Meeting for families of addicted loved ones**, Thursdays, 7 pm – 8 pm, Leesburg Presbyterian Church, 207 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176

☉ **Rust Sanctuary's Children's Nature Book Club** meets Fridays 10 am – 11:15 am, Rust Sanctuary, 802 Childrens Center Road Leesburg, VA 20175. Join our book club with your 3-5 year old child. Each week come listen to a nature themed book appropriate to the season, and then enjoy activities, games and nature walks related to that theme. Dress for the weather. Members: Free; Non-members: \$3. To register: julieg@audubonnaturalist.org or call 703-669-0000 x 1.

☉ **The Friday Night After Hours Teen Center** meets every Friday night from 7 pm-10 pm at Cascades Library. Exclusively for middle and high school age students. Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls, VA 20165. Every Friday includes pizza and a special event in addition to the gaming, computers, music and art supplies that are always available. Participation is free with a signed permission slip that is kept on file for returning participants. For more information, stop by your local library or visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

☉ **CA\$H Bingo**, 1st & 3rd Saturdays, Doors open at 9:00 a.m., first game starts at 10 am American Legion Post 293, 112 N. 21st Street Purcellville VA 20132. 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.



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On the Market ... with Sam Rees



Round Hill, Purcellville, Bluemont, Hamilton,
Leesburg, Lovettsville, Waterford



FEATURED LISTING



FEATURED LISTING

Lakefront home in Shenstone - Leesburg \$1,095,000

Motivated seller has reduced this six bedroom home by 200K! Incredible 4 acre property with paddocks and custom barn with kitchen and bath. Professional office, putting green, gardens, play area and top of the line 8000SF home! 600 yards from WO&D trail. LO7594571



COMING SOON!

Carr Lane, Waterford

6.39 Acres - 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, formal dining room, library and bonus playroom/office on main floor. Finished lower level with bath. Upscale kitchen and family room lead to entertainment scaled deck for country entertaining. Views of rolling countryside from every window.



SOLD!

Historic Sunnyside, 25.1 Acres

Restored & Updated! Five bedrooms/3 baths upper level. Barns, Creek & Fenced for Horses!
NEW PRICE \$1,145,000



SOLD!

SOLD - Multiple Offers - Listed for \$319,900 - Round Hill



SOLD!

SOLD - Listed for \$325,000 Sweetgum Place - Round Hill



SOLD!

Waterford

Waterford - 6 bedroom estate on 35 acres.
Listed for \$1,650,000



NO HOA!

Lot 6 Sunny Ridge Road, Round Hill - Bring Your Own Builder
3 acre lot (new paved road) Beautiful Views! Minutes to downtown.
\$149,900

Sam's Market Update

GREAT NEWS! Median Sold price for January 2012 was up 18.5% over January 2011 and 3.2% from December 2011. Inventory in Western Loudoun County remains very low. Average Days on Market still remains very attractive at 68. Now is a strategic time to list your home. Data Source: Real Estate Business Intelligence, LLC. All rights reserved.

Call Sam Rees, Associate Broker, Prudential Penfed Realty

Cell: 703-408-4261 sam.rees.pfragent.com samvrees@yahoo.com



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shoes ... etc.

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