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April 2012

Planned Destruction Of Historic Purcellville Causes Alarm

Kenneth and Donald Nichols, owners of Purcellville's Nichols Hardware Store have expressed deep concern about proposed renovations of 21st Street, the center of the Town's downtown historic area.

The "21st Street Project" as it is known, includes plans for a four-story hotel and will likely result in the destruction of a large swath of Purcellville's Historic Downtown, with construction and that will impact existing businesses well into 2014.

In a sharply worded submission to the Town, the Kenneth and Donald made the following points:

1. "There is NOTHING wrong with the current street and sidewalks. Why "fix" something that is not broken: What are the reasons for wanting to change things and how can these possibly be justified?"

2. "The proposed renovations – which include destruction of a historic street and sidewalks – will negatively impact

vehicular and pedestrian traffic; this will SEVERELY hamper the ability of the merchants on 21st street to conduct business. The town of Purcellville's 'track record' on previous such projects (e.g. the changes done on 23rd street and the north section of 21st street, and the renovations of the Baptist Church and the roller skating rink) indicates that this proposed 21st project will take much, much longer than initially projected. In these current economic times, this is completely unacceptable; one day's worth of lost business is not acceptable or justifiable."

3. "Narrowing the street to 16 feet will interfere with passage of larger vehicles (e.g. delivery trucks and emergency vehicles). There is a big difference between having painted lines on the street – which are present now and which can be driven on if necessary – and having concrete barriers such as sidewalks and potted trees."

4. "How much is this going to cost and who is going to

pay for it? Just because the funds may come from Richmond and/or the federal government does not justify wasting taxpayers' money on an unnecessary and frivolous project."

The 21st Street Project is a multi-phase effort to transform one of the oldest parts of the Town into a "Tourism Zone" as provided by the Virginia State Code. The purpose of the zone is to "increase the Town's tourism base by providing economic incentives and regulatory flexibility to eligible business entities." Eligible businesses are defined as new businesses that invest \$250,000 or more within the boundaries set out for the zone and create and sustain five or more new jobs. Businesses currently within the zone are not eligible for the specific tax and other benefits that may flow to new businesses. One of the new business seeking to locate within the Tourism Zone is a four-story hotel. The challenge that historic communities face in establishing Tourism Zones

Continued on page 19



Wild Loudoun

Frogs: Thawing, Peeping and Snoring Their Way Into Spring

Looking at the delicate body of a frog, you'd never guess that, depending on the species, it might have spent the winter in a frozen state ... tucked under some leaf litter in your back yard. That seemingly dead, frozen creature you found one winter, deep under the edges of a wood pile, probably wasn't really dead at all.

In late February, while we humans were still worrying about the prospect of snow, Loudoun County's Wood Frogs were waking from their deep freeze, and, well, literally, thawing out. Once warm they were on the move, migrating from their upland winter habitat back to the seasonal vernal pool from which they had originally emerged, first as a

Continued on page 24

The \$900 Consignment Boot

– By Judy Harbin

The ReLove-It consignment store had just opened its doors for the day on Saturday morning when Wendy Bye and her son, Dylan, went browsing for women's boots.

Wendy found some tall black leather boots and sat down to try them on. She slipped her right foot inside, but ... "Wait!

What's that? There's some paper stuffed in the toe ..." And, not just any paper, as it turned out ... but NINE ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS!

Quietly, and without so much as a YEE HAW!, Wendy walked up to the cashier waving the bills in front of him and asked: "Do you think these are real?"

Continued on page 12

Purcellville Resident Bill Conover To Run For Council As a Write-IN

Seeing that the three candidates for the May 1, 2012 Purcellville Town Council Elections were running unopposed, Bill Conover, a Purcellville resident of 14 years, has decided to run as a write-in candidate to provide the citizens of Purcellville a choice.

The only names that will appear on the ballot for Town

Council are Councilwoman Joan Lehr, Councilman John Nave, and Patrick McConville.

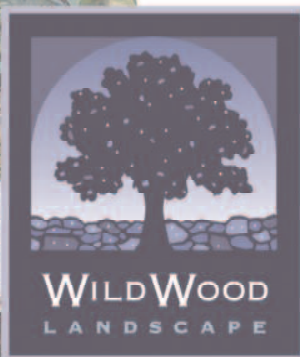
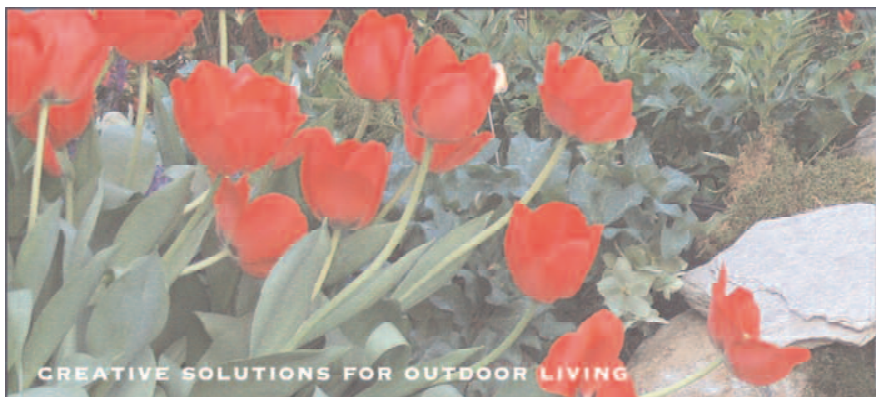
"Stepping into the election is, for me, all about giving the citizens of Purcellville a choice at the polls on May 1st," said Mr. Conover.

As Conover related to the Blue Ridge Leader, he

Continued on page 18



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Ask Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike,
My husband and I recently went to a restaurant for lunch, and I requested a kid's meal portion size off the menu since I am on a diet and didn't want a large meal. I also wasn't in the mood to spend \$12 on an entrée. The waiter refused to take my order and argued with me that their kids' meals are for kids only. The manager supported the waiter's position. We ended up leaving that establishment without ordering upset and have no intention of returning. In my opinion, in this economy the restaurant should've been thankful for my business, regardless of what I ordered. And, this is a free country, so shouldn't I be able to order what I want, right? – I. in Loudoun County

I., Yes, this is a free country, hence a privately owned restaurant can determine how they wish to price and sell their food, and you as a patron are free to take your business elsewhere if you are not in agreement – as you did. I spoke to Mr. Gregg Nelson, the owner of the Urban Bar-B-Que Company in Ashburn, (one of my new favorite lunch spot's in Loudoun County) about your letter. As a restaurateur, Mr. Nelson expressed that his place offers a children's menu as a courtesy to the public because he recognizes how costly it can be today for a family to dine out. He understood your position on cost-effectiveness as



a patron, but asserted that it would not be cost effective for restaurants to offer the children's menu to everyone. Regarding your diet, more and more restaurants are offering health conscious options for those who simply want to eat more lightly or more healthily. I wish you the very best on your diet.

Dr. Mike,
My husband and I have a very rambunctious 2 and a half-year-old boy. Our boy loves to run and run and run wherever he goes. We do our best to control him, but he's just an active, lively boy who has a hard time staying still. I've been worried about our boy's activeness for a few months now, however, my husband thinks that I am making too much of a big deal out of it since our boy is only 2. Our visit to Target the other day as a family is a good example of how my husband and I do not see eye to eye on this. At the store, our boy refused to stay in the cart and instead chose to run up and down the

aisles. My husband chased after him, and while we managed to do our shopping, it was very embarrassing and stressful for me. My husband's reaction was different in that he seemed to have fun running around the store with our boy. Any thoughts? – E. in Loudoun County

E., Your son, at 2 and a half, will be prone to excitement, and at times over excitement, as he explores and experiences the world around him. He does not yet have the capacity to self-regulate fully, and will be vulnerable to following his whims and impulses. Life, however, is going to start to become more structured for your son, and he is in turn going to be expected to manage his emotions and behaviors in certain situations. If your son does not begin to comprehend "no" now, he may start to have some very real struggles ahead. I think you and your husband need to agree on how you plan to handle your son better to avoid his becoming overly excited in social situations. You should be in agreement with how you manage him before, during and after events. I would discuss as many situations as possible to make sure you are in agreement with how you should be as parents in these moments. Certainly, you would not allow your active son to run out into the street if he chose, but what about running around a restaurant, a doctor's office, an airport or airplane, a church, etc. So, in your Target example, your husband, your son and you could've had some basic ground rules before even entering the store. And, you and your

husband could've been in agreement with how you then handled your son behaviorally when he started to become too active in the store. You could've then praised him for his positive behavior to reinforce what he did do right for next time. With improved communication and agreement with your husband, and consistent reinforcement of your son, your son should learn how to better manage his excitement when necessary.

Dr. Mike,
My neighbor's lawn is an eyesore. We've been neighbors for years, and while I think he is a great guy, he really does a horrible job caring for his property. I finally complained to the HOA anonymously last year because I couldn't take it anymore, but nothing came of it. Here we are at the start of Spring, and his yard already looks bad. I fear that nothing will change unless I address the problem with him directly, but I don't know what to say without upsetting him. Your advice is appreciated. – W. in Loudoun County

W., It seems that your priority for a nice looking lawn and yard differs from your neighbors. Short of your neighbor breaking some sort of County ordinance or code (e.g., his grass being too high), I do not believe there is much you or your HOA can do to motivate him toward having prettier space. I suppose you can broach the topic with your neighbor directly as you mention, but I would caution you that the talk should require excellent tact and timing on your part. Being too frank or direct

Continued on page 24

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Did You Know You're Building A New Hotel?

It seems like Loudoun County lives in a bubble. While Detroit's much-reduced population struggles to get back a sense of community, and is building gardens where there were once houses, Loudoun continues to "pave over," building office buildings, big box stores and taxpayer-funded hotels. Although Loudoun has always been a sweet place for developers to build, it just got a whole lot sweeter.

Developers are supposed to ease the disruption and inconvenience caused by their projects by offering proffers to compensate for these extra burdens on the community – extra burdens such as traffic, infrastructure and the need for new services. Houses, for example, cost over fifty thousand dollars each for the taxpayer in terms of services, schools, and roads. But, for at least a decade, now, developers who build in Purcellville have not had to make meaningful proffers. For example, the Southern Collector Road was supposed to be developer-funded. And, the Town keeps saying that each section of the road was built by the developer as the subdivisions such as Locust Grove and Hirst Farm were built.

Here's the reality. The section of the road that the developers built would have had to be built anyway. In addition, any needed improvements for the future impact of development on those sections of the road were never addressed. No thought was given to the long term impacts on the middle school when the "proffers" were negotiated. Neither was any consideration given for future plans to widen the road, add roundabouts and relocate utilities, which will result in many more properties being condemned or taken for public use. Moreover, the Hirst Farm section of A Street was constructed so poorly it will have to be replaced down to the subgrade, despite how nice it looks with the current town band-aid of two inches of asphalt. No performance bond was ever secured. The proffers and

bonds would have ensured there would be money for two roundabouts, and that all the public/private improvements would be completed. But, again, the Town failed to get proffers in writing, and no performance bond for the expensive storm water management pond conversion was ever secured. Guess who is going to foot the bill ... you.

At the March 13, 2012 Purcellville Town Council meeting, one of the largest downtown land owners, John Chapman came before Council to thank them for the continuation of the downtown beautification and redevelopment projects. He also thanked them for the commitment of the Mayor in his State of the Town Address to create a downtown "Tourism District" which will help Mr. Chapman when he builds his four story hotel on 21st Street. (This new tax district is set for public hearing at the next Town Council meeting on April 10, 2012.)

The draft Tourism District document guarantees him or any other "new" downtown business up to nine years of tax relief for the minimum investment of \$250,000 and five new jobs.

Coincidentally, a feasibility study for the O Street project – where he owns two and a half acres – was done at a cost to the Town of \$15,000. The town is planning to open O Street at 151 Hatcher, a two story brick house owned by Mr. Chapman. The home will no doubt have to be torn down, or moved but it is not clear who will bear the infrastructure cost for this project.

Through many more grant programs dependent on town contributions, the downtown and surrounding areas will be changed forever. This is money spent to make so called improvements that a developer should have proffered. To date the State and Federal grants have exceeded \$2 million dollars and still required a 20%

Continued on page 8

View From the Ridge A Matter of Priorities

Budget decisions often reveal the real priorities of a Board. Competing needs and limited resources force any Board to fund its highest priority items. In that light, there are two decisions that the Board made during its budget workshop sessions that are especially worthy of note.

First, on the evening of March 21st the Board adopted a School Budget that will require the School Board to cut an additional \$25.5 million from its proposed FY13 Budget. The School Board, a majority of whom are fiscal conservatives, had already reduced the Superintendent's proposed budget as far as it felt that it could without causing serious harm to the school system. An additional \$25.5 million in cuts will almost certainly lead to that end and do harm to the system.

If no additional funds become available from the State, and if the Supervisors confirm their workshop decisions when they meet April 4th, then the School Board will be forced to implement some or all of the draconian measures which it has already identified as necessary to comply with the Supervisors' decision. These measures include, among others, eliminating some benefits for certain employees and laying off others, closing small Western Loudoun elementary schools, increasing class sizes, and reducing special education programs.

Second, on the very same evening, after the Board directed massive cuts in education, the Board, at the request of Vice Chair Janet Clarke (R-Blue Ridge District), approved adding funding to the County Budget for building a youth sports league lighted football stadium at Fields Farm and for additional lights for playing fields at Franklin Park. The \$2.5 million for these two efforts had not been included in the County Administrator's proposed budget.

The Upper Loudoun Youth Football League had promised to build the Fields Farm youth football stadium with private funds several years ago, after the County paid \$486,000 hookup fees to the Town of Purcellville for water and sewer service

for the stadium. Unfortunately, the League has been unable to raise the necessary funds privately to complete their portion of the project, and the stadium has never been built. Now, the same Supervisor has requested public funds to complete what began as a public-private partnership.

As to Franklin Park, in 1995 the Board of Supervisors approved the Special Exception permitting the development of Franklin Park as a regional park. Conditions of Approval require that if lights are ever installed at the baseball/softball complex in the center of the Park, they must be extinguished by 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday nights, 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, and not used at all on Sundays. In addition, lights cannot be installed within 500 feet of the property lines. This last condition prevents lights from being installed on the football/soccer fields on the upper plateau. To further protect the neighbors, densely planted, landscaped berms were also required along Tranquility Lane, Lakefield Road, and the upper plateau property line bordering several family partnership properties.

These conditions were agreed to in April 1995 after numerous public input sessions in front of the all-Republican Board, in order to balance the need for active and passive recreation for the community at large with the quality of life of the many residents whose homes already existed on the borders of the park before the parkland was purchased.

It now appears that the current Board of Supervisors is poised to renege on the County's promise to those neighbors of Franklin Park. How? In addition to the request for funding for more lights, the Board also agreed to go through a second Special Exception process to alter or eliminate the lighting restrictions established in 1995. In other words, the Board is about to demonstrate, not to just the neighbors of Franklin Park but to the County as a whole, that the County's word is not worth a plug nickel.

Letters To The Editor

Likes Bill Conover for Purcellville Town Council

Dear Editor:

My Wife and I would like to inform you and our community about a friend of ours, Mr. William "Bill" Conover who has decided to announce his intention to run as a write in candidate for Purcellville town council on May 1st. We are long-time residents of our town, and are writing to express our full and endearing support for Bill's decision to accept the challenging effort to help guide the growth and sustainment of our community. It is quite a remarkable step that Bill is taking but in essence, it reflects exactly who Bill is and why he is clearly a providential candidate, right for the time and right for our community.

Bill is great communicator. He is a commanding orator; a leader with great poise. Bill has an innate ability to build and lead a

team, set a course with a clear vision for success, and ultimately – complete a daunting task efficiently. I know this from firsthand experience because I have served under him as a Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy. I am not surprised that he has accepted this latest challenge, but my experience with him in both the Navy and for many years in the commercial engineering world has shown me that Bill will always be a great success.

We believe the town of Purcellville would benefit greatly to have Bill Conover serve on the town council. Like a breath of fresh air, with his energy and enduring drive, he'll be successful because he understands that small town citizens can cooperate and support each other across whatever isle the many issues may divide – because as neighbors – we share a common bond. Bill's simple, grass roots campaign is based on fostering greater

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Editor (letters to the editor & press releases): editor@BRLeader.com

Hot News Tips: tipline@BRLeader.com

Webmaster: webmaster@BRLeader.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325

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Fact vs. Fiction – April 2012

Western Loudoun citizens really need to pay attention. The pro-big box (vs. pro-smart growth) majority which took over the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors (BOS) last November is feeling its oats. From this newspaper's perspective, one of the new Board of Supervisors worth watching is Blue Ridge Supervisor Janet Clarke, who replaced long-term

Western Loudoun BOS member Jim Burton. On a variety of issues, from transportation to zoning to public safety, Ms. Clarke, who occupies the very powerful Vice Chair seat on the Board seems to be not only out of touch with Western Loudoun, but also not very willing to speak the truth. In this first edition of Fact Vs. Fiction, we tell readers what we mean.

In her February 2012 newsletter to constituents, Supervisor Janet Clarke (R-Blue Ridge District) made several statements that were, at best, misleading.

Aldie Fire Station:

Commenting on the previous Board of Supervisors' purchase of a site for the new Aldie Fire Station, Ms. Clarke said: "Public input was not conducted for the original site selected!"

Fact: In the fall of 2008, the County purchased a site in the Little River Farms subdivision on Route 50 east of the village of Aldie, next to Gilbert's Corner. According to County records, only two of the 21 lots in that subdivision had been purchased by private individuals when the County purchased its site, and

only one of those two purchase contracts had been to settlement. Therefore, there was no community in existence for the County to meet with prior to the decision to purchase the land in that subdivision.

Franklin Park Commuter Park and Ride Lot:

Ms. Clarke criticized the County for proposing a Park and Ride lot at the entrance to Franklin Park: "Unfortunately, public input was not conducted for the site selection!"

Fact: The County held a public input session on this proposal at the Barns of Franklin Park on September 8, 2011. Ms. Clarke attended that meeting, voiced no objection, made no comment, and asked no questions.

Continued on page 8

Opportunities Missed

– By Malcolm F. Baldwin

Over its first three months, our 9-0 Republican Board of Supervisors has followed a predicted course – cuts to the County budget for lower taxes and the pursuit of a business-above-all agenda. But, given Loudoun's quadrennial political shifts in recent years, a Board that won with the vote of only 16% of the electorate might be wiser to follow a strategy designed to hold its political advantage and appeal to the larger electorate – the roughly 14% of those who voted in opposition and the 70% who didn't vote at all.

A board intent on long-term objectives would adopt an ethics policy to avoid charges of favoritism to its donors. It would appoint balanced, bi-partisan advisory boards. It would work toward a budget that balances short-term savings against long-term costs. Having campaigned with goals of greater efficiency through a Government Reform Commission, it would be wise to appoint a balanced Commission of leaders from business, social service, environmental, and other, and representing Democrats, Republicans and Independents capable of achieving that goal. It would have entertained applications from the

public. And, before empowering the commission to seek solutions, it would have first identified precisely the problems for which it sought the Commission's advice.

But, instead the predicted actions prevail: no ethics policy, advisory boards appointed with business, donor and party favoritism (with a few exceptions), and a Government Reform Commission of only Republicans and business and development interests. Meanwhile, the Board ratifies the transportation priorities of Loudoun's Chamber of Commerce, pushing the expansion of Northstar Boulevard and Belmont Ridge Road to six lanes to connect to the TriCounty Parkway and the entire Outer Beltway corridor. It opens up reviews of zoning and regulatory programs to eliminate constraints on developers. It moves to facilitate Big Box stores in commercial zones by right. Its endorsed affordable housing programs are those favored by the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association (a major donor to all the Board members). The Board's reluctance to broaden its political support stems from contradictory and still-unreconciled goals.

Its quest for a 5% property tax cut prompted

Continued on page 8



One of the many "Big Box" stores going up in Purcellville ...

Are You Ready to Exercise Your Right To Vote For the Local Officials Who Will Control Your Future? Local Election Day 2012 is Tuesday, May 1st.

Local representatives up for re-election include:

Hamilton: Incumbent Councilmen Ken Wine and John Unger are up for re-election. Brent Campbell is also running for Town Council.

Lovettsville: Bob Zoldos and Tim Sparbanie are running for Mayor. Rodney Gray, Jim McIntyre, Bing Lam and incumbent Mike Senate are running for Town Council.

Middleburg: Mayor Betsy Davis is running unopposed and incumbents C.C. Bundles Murdock, Trowbridge Littleton, Kathy Jo Shea are running for Town Council.

Purcellville: Mayor Bob Lazaro is running unopposed and Council Members Joan Lehr and John Nave (Nave appointed to Council), Patrick Mc Conville and Bill Conover (running as a write-in) are running for Town Council.

Round Hill: Mayor Scott Ramsey is running unopposed, with incumbents Mary Ann Graham, and Clarkson Klipple for Town Council.

The last day to register to vote is Monday, April 9th.

The Purcellville voting location is Emerick Elementary School; polls are open from 6 am to 7 pm. For Hamilton, Lovettsville, Middleburg and Round Hill, visit the Town website for polling times and locales.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: The last day to appear IN PERSON to vote by absentee ballot is Saturday, April 28th at 5pm. The Voter Registration Office will be open on April 28th for absentee voting on 8:30am to 5pm (address below), and, until then, the office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5pm. The Absentee Ballot MAILING DEADLINE – the date by which your Absentee Ballot must be post-marked – is Tuesday, April 24th at 5pm.

HOW TO VOTE FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES: To write in a candidate ON YOUR BALLOT, the "WRITE IN" oval must be shaded in, and, then, you must write in the candidate's name.

The Voter Registration Office's address is 750 Miller Drive SE, Suite C, Leesburg, VA 703 777-0380.

Letters To The Editor, continued from facing page

transparency and clearing the air in all financial and growth matters. In addition, I hope he can help resolve ours and every parents concern about safety, sidewalks, traffic-calming, and keeping the small town feeling we all love about Purcellville.

We urge you to consider posting the above section of this letter in the editorial section. The "word-count" is 328. We ask you to help notify the residents of Purcellville that there is a new, independent, "write-in" candidate who wants to help guide our town's future. His name is Bill Conover.

– T. & C. Kelly, Purcellville

Where's the Crossing?

Dear Editor:

In the March 15, 2012 issue of the *Loudoun Times Mirror*, Margaret Morton states in the

article, *Roundabout Operational, SCR Bid Awarded*, "The road construction will include an at-grade crossing to permit Crooked Run Orchard owner Sam Brown to get to his land on the other side of the road, which bisects the farm." A few weeks ago I reviewed a plan for the unfinished section of the Southern Collector Road (SCR) which the Town of Purcellville submitted to VDOT for its approval. Nowhere on this plan did I observe a crossing for "yours truly" and my farm equipment and I don't believe the plans for a crossing exist. I believe the Town lied to Ms. Morton to cause her to publish an untruthful statement. I believe there are absolutely no plans or any intention on the Town's part to build a road for me or my equipment to get across the newly contributed highway. I will

have to use this new section of the SCR to access my farm with slow moving farm equipment at any time of the day.

– Sam Brown, Purcellville

P.S. The Town is refusing to allow me to appear before the committee that deals with these issues – just like any other citizen. Instead, they had a policeman hand-deliver a letter requesting to meet with me "in private." Town business should be discussed in public.

Editors Note: The Blue Ridge Leader has confirmed with Town staff that there is indeed no crossing in place that would allow Mr. Brown to access the back 45 acres of his 96-acre farm.

Fond April Fools Memories ...



Dear Editor:

We had friends who lived in P-ville and

every April Fools we played jokes on each other, always trying to out do the one played the previous year. These friends had an entrance to their home that faced a busy road, a winding driveway with the house tucked way back and out of sight. The entrance to the drive way was framed by a stone wall on either side.

Our friend had his old Princeton college friends visiting from out of town and it just so happened that AF landed on a Saturday that year. Perfect timing for our prank!

My boys and I made 2 huge signs that read: "Huge Yard Sale Today." In the dark on the eve of April Fools Day we hung the 2 signs on the stone wall, inviting all to come to the Yard Sale that never was. My friend and his Princeton friends were enjoying coffee on the front

Continued on page 8

What's That?



An Email From One of Our Readers!

"I ran across your article when searching for milk bottles online. Milk chilled in glass is so much better than from a plastic jug. :-)



The mother of one of my mom's best friend grew up in Purcellville in a house directly across the street from Food Lion and next to BB&T bank. Long story short we were at her house and I noticed other milk bottles and told her how I liked milk cold from old style bottles. She took me downstairs in her basement and pulled out 2 of these that I use to this day. Don't know how this helps, but thought you may like to see one with the same name from your article. - Rich Boyer, Round Hill, VA"

Exhaustion and Joy ... Behind the Scenes of *The Merry Widow*

- By Molly Pinson Simoneau

Around ten 'til seven, I arrive at the church building, gather what I need out of the back seat of my car and walk inside where I find my fellow cast and crew members already gathering and preparing to rehearse *The Merry Widow*. I set my score, water bottle, and character shoes down next to Erin Winkler, a soprano with impeccable comedic instinct, who is singing the role of Natalie in our performance.

"How's it going?" I say, as I sit down to change my shoes. "Pretty good, how are you? Feeling better?" She asks, remembering that I had a throat infection last week. "I'm much better, but still not totally healed. My voice is still tiring out easily, you know?" "I know. I'm still not 100 percent yet either." She says. She had come down with laryngitis a few weeks ago, but recently has been sounding as good as ever, and I told her so. Sometimes it seems like all we singers talk about is our various ailments, and how to cure them. When your instrument is literally a part of your body, it becomes a priority.

I notice that Quong Van, Loudoun Lyric Opera's music director and pianist, just walked in, and I have something I want to discuss with him. "Hey Quong, can I go over something in the Can-Can with you?"

"Sure." He gets his score out of his backpack and opens it to the scene that takes place

at the iconic Maxim's restaurant in Paris.

I've been having some trouble with breath-management in the number, trying to reconcile dancing and singing at once. "If we can take a bit of a longer pause here," I say pointing to a place in the score where the music sort of shifts gears, "Then I think I'll have a chance to catch my breath." I explain that I'd like to be able to fully exhale and then inhale again before moving on.

Quong agrees that it should work, and by the time we're done discussing it, it's time to begin rehearsal. We start with a sing-through of the very same number and try it with the longer pause.

"Ok," says our stage director, Meredith Bean McMath (a name Loudoun's theater goers should recognize as the head of Run Rabbit Run productions, and author of the locally popular play *All for the Union* based on an episode of Loudoun's civil war history), "let's do the whole number with the choreography, from the top." She talks through a quick review of some choreography that was added to the beginning of the number a week before as everyone makes their way to their opening places.



Quong begins playing the music that opens the scene on the upright piano in the corner; it echoes the Act I aria about the carefree atmosphere at Maxim's, sung by baritone Gregory Stuart who is playing the lead role of Count Danilo. Then, I hear my cue line and the music shifts from a lilting waltz to a sort of gallop. I prance out with six other can-can dancers or "grisettes," and together, we perform the show-stopping can-can, which frenetically increases its pace with each iteration of the refrain, "Ritantou! Ritantirelle! Et voila, que je suis belle!"

By the end we're kicking our feet up fast and I can't help but get caught up in the sheer fun of it, when finally we strike our last pose, and the tenor next to me whispers in my ear,

Continued on page 11



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Mailboxes! Finally!

After a nine month wait, businesses in downtown Purcellville have their mailboxes (mid March 2012) making good on a request made in July of 2011.

Most businesses in the downtown area had P.O. boxes, which presented a problem because many business-related items – from supplies to customer orders to large deliveries – will not ship to P.O. Boxes. In addition, the physical addresses listed on local business websites are different than the P.O. Box address. So, even payments and important correspondence were being marked “return to sender” or listed as “no such address.”

In an email to Town Manager Rob Lohr, Above Ground Winery owner Mary Beth Barbagallo wrote, "As a business owner in Town, receiving mail is a vital part of our business ... Many of our

vendors need a street address instead of a P.O. Box." Continued Mary Beth, "Mr. Lohr's response was that he needed to meet with me to discuss it further. He stated that he wanted to talk about the role the Town should take in determining whether a business has a P.O. Box or street delivery. This is normally the responsibility of the U.S. Postal Service and individual businesses ... local government don't get involved."

Along the way, on October 7, the Town sent a signed approval letter to Mrs. Barbagallo's business ... only to have the letter returned because there was no mailbox.

The Town then hand-delivered the letter some three weeks later. "The Town really didn't consider this a priority ... why else would they put business owners to such an inconvenience?", said Mary Beth.

New Potomac River Bridge – Godsend Or Boondoggle?

Virginia Governor McDonnell and Maryland Governor O'Malley are discussing new Potomac River Bridges in Northern Virginia.

Virginia Secretary of Transportation Connaughton said the discussion was "long overdue."

Stewart Schwartz of the Coalition for Smarter Growth has said: "That's flat wrong. It has been studied already ... The 2004 Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) 'origin-destination' study indicates the vast majority of traffic needed a direct fix on the Beltway and American Legion Bridge and along radial corridors like I-270."

A 2001 study initiated by Virginia Congressman Frank Wolf showed that any route for the new bridges and highways would cause huge damage to communities on both sides of the river. Secretary

Connaughton, however, is claiming that construction of a new bridge would result in major traffic relief: "Imagine if you can get one out of every eight to nine cars off the [Beltway]. There's not another improvement we can make with that sort of impact on traffic."

Reacting to the Secretary's comments, Stewart Schwartz notes, "Now that's hyperbole that we've heard before" ... "Remember the Intercounty Connector? Has it fixed Beltway traffic? Other bridge opponents agree.

"It is very odd that Virginia officials keep pressing for a bridge for that would divert scarce public dollars away from urgent needs like fixing existing roads, highways and transit. Maryland has consistently pointed to many truly urgent road and transit needs, and this isn't one," said Dru Schmidt-Perkins of

1000 Friends of Maryland.

"The Virginia Governor and his Secretary of Transportation seem to have completely forgotten both the VDOT 2004 study and Congressman Wolf's 2001 study, conducted by the Federal Highway Administration," said Caroline Taylor, Executive Director of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. "... Where do they want to put it? McLean, Great Falls, Potomac, the Palisades, eastern Loudoun, the Agricultural Reserve?"

In a Fairfax Times article dated May 29, 2001, "[Congressman] Wolf said communities in northern Fairfax and Loudoun counties and those in southern Montgomery County, Md. – particularly on the proposed bridge corridors – were simply too densely packed with homes."

Fact vs. Fiction, continued from page 5

Why the selection of Franklin Park in the first place? Two years ago, VDOT offered to donate land to the County for a Park and Ride lot, free of charge, at the intersection of Hirst Road and Route 287, across the street from Patrick Henry College. VDOT even offered to build the lot at no charge to the County. A portion of the lot was within the Purcellville town boundary. The Town Council strongly objected to having a Park and Ride Lot anywhere within or adjacent to the Town, even though PUGAMP called for a lot in that vicinity. Having recently settled the Woodgrove High School dispute with the Town Council, the County chose not to pursue VDOT's offer and open up another dispute. Plans for a Park and Ride lot at the site were abandoned, and Franklin Park was chosen instead.

Route 690/7 Interchange:

Ms. Clarke said: "I have initiated getting this item back into the budget. The prior board took it out of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) in 2008 due to budget constraints. The community has been clear in expressing that this is a top priority need, particularly with the arrival of Woodgrove High School that opened two years ago."

Fact: It is true that in 2008 the County removed \$500,000 for a preliminary engineering study due to fiscal constraints (one of nine CIP projects removed that year). This was after the Town Council, in 2006, removed the Interchange from its own priority list of projects. Ms. Clarke was a member of the Council at that time. The interchange remained off the Town's priority list every year thereafter, from 2006 until 2011, when it was placed back on the list in time for it to become an election-year issue.

Even though the Board removed the preliminary funding from its CIP in 2008, it did not give up on the project. Instead, since it is the State's responsibility to build the Interchange, the County requested

State funds from the Commonwealth Transportation Board for that purpose, and has done so every year since 2008. Ms. Clarke's characterization of what happened is misleading at best, and overlooks her own role as a Council member in moving this intersection forward.

Lights at Franklin Park:

Ms. Clarke said: "These lights have been in the master plan for over 20 years and have not been completed, thus negatively affecting youth sports and park activities."

Fact: The Franklin Park Master Plan makes no mention of lighted ball fields anywhere within its text. Appendix D has a one line entry identifying the costs of lights at \$260,000 in 1991 dollars. The text of the Plan goes to great length to balance the need for active and passive recreational uses with protecting the quality of life of the neighbors surrounding the Park. The layout of the park facilities was the result of numerous community meetings and a survey of 9000 Western Loudoun residents.

In 1995 the all-Republican Board approved the Special Exception for the development of the park with conditions that, if the ball fields in the center of the park were ever lighted, lights would have to be extinguished by 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, by 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Lights could not be used on Sundays at all, and setback restrictions would prevent lighting any of the four football/soccer fields on the upper plateau because of proximity to neighboring homes.

The Future:

Is Ms. Clarke developing a pattern of these kinds of misleading or inaccurate statements? If so, you can expect Fact vs. Fiction, Part 2, to make an appearance, and if necessary, Part 3, etc. will follow as needed.

Opportunities Missed, continued from page 5

drastic cuts in school, cultural, energy efficiency and social programs, while it seeks to compete with Fairfax County for new business and commercial investment. But Fairfax, which had a far higher tax rate during its high-growth period than Loudoun has ever had, now proudly advertises its support for excellent schools, art, music and other cultural and social programs. Fairfax understands that businesses want these attributes for their employees.

Our business-oriented Board espouses efficiency and fiscal conservatism but neglects cost-benefit analyses of short term versus long-term cost savings. It de-funded Loudoun's Drug Court to save \$94,000 despite the program's long-term savings shown by the staff's economic analyses, and despite the lives saved and crime reduced. It eliminated the County's Master Gardener Program despite economic benefits throughout the county from 167 volunteers who have provided the county with 14,000 volunteer hours producing fresh food for the needy and helping Loudoun homeowners facing pest, fungus and water problems. It de-funded aid to for the Loudoun Symphony. It eliminated the County's only qualified archaeologist and eliminated the

phase-one archaeological reviews of development sites.

This Board considers these community services, along with the needs of Loudoun's broad-based and growing number of small and rural businesses, as outside "core" government functions and less important than a 5% tax cut. The Board pursues a narrow economic development model that fails to employ or enhance Loudoun's unique competitive advantages.

In short, we see from our Board's priorities what the commentator Roger Lewis observed recently in the *Washington Post*, writing about short-sighted cost-cutting in Metro expansion: "a recurring American tendency to make expedient, process-driven decisions while ignoring or sacrificing long-term performance and aesthetic benefits." Long-term business calculations alone would favor our Board's taking another road to achieve competitive, tax-relieving, and community quality objectives. We need positive actions – such as approving Metro's extension and enhancing a vigorous rural economy – while preventing short-sighted Board proposals that will harm Loudoun's future.

New Hotel, continued from page 4

contribution from the town.

But the biggest assault on the taxpayer still comes from the Big Box Stores and franchises which do not keep their tax dollars in the community ... while requiring all sorts of services and demands on the roads and utilities. Using grant money is a clever way of keeping citizens from feeling an immediate impact. Ultimately, development costs money: and, when done in this manner, lowers the tax base and increases the public debt. More chain stores will increase congestion on the town's roads, as Purcellville is morphed into a tourist destination, which slowly places residents in last place on the tax resources list. The citizens should be deciding how they want the town to grow, not the developers who are using their money.

Letters, continued from page 5

porch when car after car came down the driveway inquiring about the HUGE sale ... confused, they did not know what to think and then realized, she got us, again!! Needless to say, the signs came down right away! – Judy D. Harbin, Purcellville

Crosswalks Needed!

Our community continues to evolve and "Old Town Purcellville" has seen a regeneration with numerous new stores and offices dotting the historic area. I have had the good fortune to watch a growing number of people, children and families, young and old alike, walking past the windows of my new store (Purcellville Sports) at the corner of Main Street and 21st Street. My windows now provide a view that reminds me of the town of my childhood many years ago. And I smile.

But I have a nagging concern that perhaps others can echo to appropriate officials.

Continued on facing page

Loudoun Valley High School Yearbook Staff Wins National Award



Loudoun Valley High School's yearbook staff, The Saga, received a Gold Crown for the 2011 Yearbook. The Columbia Scholastic Press Association announced its top awards for the scholastic publications at the 88th annual Scholastic Convention in New York City.

Kristina Anderson, co-editor of the 2012 Saga and assistant editor of the 2011 Saga accepted the award, along with Advertising Manager Hope Wiseman, and DUD Editor and staff members Jackie Hoffmann and Rebecca Soloranzo. The Awards Convocation took place in the Arledge Auditorium, Lerner Hall, located at Columbia's historic Morningside Heights campus, Friday, March 16, at 2:30 p.m.

Of the 68 print yearbook crown finalists, Saga was one of 22 to receive a Gold Crown, and one of three Virginia books to bring home this honor.

This year 1,351 printed magazines, newspapers and yearbooks and 182 digital publications of the current CSPA member were eligible to enter the Crown Awards. Judging for printed publications took place at Columbia University from December 17-19, 2011 by the Board of Crown Judges. Publications were judged on writing/editing, design, content, concept, photography, art and graphics.

Editors of the 2011 Saga were Casey Crouse, Jessica Finn, Emily Grunwald, Jaimie Gutch, Connie Lewis and Mahima Saini. Current yearbook Editors Kristina Anderson and Choe Spillane were co-editors of Saga 2011.

Photo above: At the 2012 Columbia Scholastic Press Association's (CSPA) Scholastic Crown Awards Convocation Saga 2012 members pose with C. Bruce Watterson, Chair of the Columbia Scholastic Press Advisers Association's (CSPA) Committee on Judging Practices after receiving a Gold Crown for the 2011 Saga. They are Saga staff members Rebecca Soloranzo, Jackie Hoffmann, Waterson, 2012 Co-Editor Kristina Anderson, Hope Wiseman and Adviser Martha Akers

Waterford Native Receives National Award From Marine Corps Heritage Foundation

Marshal Ivan Kanred, who grew up in Waterford, Virginia, and currently resides in Silver Spring, Maryland, has been named the recipient of the 2012 Sergeant William Genaust Award.

The Sergeant William Genaust Award is given for a documentary and short subject (40 minutes or less) dealing creatively with United States Marine Corps heritage or

Marine Corps life.

The award will be presented at the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's Annual Awards Ceremony on April 21, 2012 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia. Kander is being honored for "Survive. Recover. Live.," which documents the recovery process of his friend Rob Jones, who lost his legs in Afghanistan.



Second Annual Run Me Home 5K/10K Race and Fun Run in Leesburg

The starting gun sounded for the Run Me Home races, Saturday, April 30th, 2011 on the scenic W&OD trail in Leesburg, Virginia, and 419 runners registered for the 5K, 10K and Fun Run events. The event raised approximately \$9,000 to benefit children in the Loudoun County Foster Care and Adoptive Services Programs.

This year the race will be held April 28, 2012 on the scenic W&OD trail in Leesburg and begin and finish at Catoclin Elementary School, in Leesburg.

Loudoun County Foster Care and Adoption (LCFCA) currently support around 100 children in our local community through a variety of programs and services. In particular youth adoption numbers are on the rise.

While adoption support has been solid, there is a particularly strong need for tem-

porary foster families that can offer flexibility, as well as a loving environment for children in our community. There is an ongoing need for financial support to assist with: scholarships for youth entering college and trade schools, transportation needs, computer equipment, summer camps, and so many other extras normal children take for granted.

Teens of all ages in the program are in need of mentors to provide the youth with connections to the community and assistance in developing the skills necessary to become successful adults.

The mission of this race is to help bring children in need into the care of loving homes. The event will benefit children



Photo credit: Whritenour family.

right here in Loudoun County by raising awareness and funding for Loudoun County Foster Care and Adoption, as well as INOVA's Mobile Hope Program.

For more information email RunMeHome10K@gmail.com.

LVHS Principal and Student Council Receive Awards

Loudoun Valley High School (LVHS) Principal Sue Ross was named the Virginia Student Council Association (VSCA) Secondary Principal of the Year at the VSCA Convention March 23 - 24, 2012 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Nominated by the LVHS Viking Student Council, the surprise announcement was made at the convention's March 24 banquet. Ms. Ross will receive the award at the spring conference of the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, the co-sponsor of the award.

At the same banquet, the LVHS Student Council received the 2011-2012 Achievement Award for the group's varied and meaningful activities throughout the school year. In addition to presiding over the weekend's activities, Woodgrove Senior Kelsey Briel, VSCA President, and Loudoun Valley Senior Katie Stevenson, VSCA Vice-

President, addressed banquet attendees.

On several occasions during their remarks they referenced the working "family" of leadership and excellence that they believed led to Valley's SCAs success during the school year.

Representing the LVHS student council, 31 students, three advisers and two faculty chaperones traveled to Williamsburg Friday, March 23 for the annual convention.

Weekend events consisted of bonding activities between schools, leadership workshops, guest speaker presentations and a session with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).



Mr. Wes Dick (second from left) makes the award announcement over the PA to the student body. Principal Sue Ross is shown at far left.

In the session with the VDOE, student leaders had the opportunity to give their feedback on topics ranging from SOL testing to teacher support and online courses.

Letters, continued from page 8

There are three crosswalks at the intersection of Main and 21st Streets. I use these every day to come and go. Most folks are quite courteous and aware of the requirement to allow pedestrian right-of-way. But once in a while, I hear the screech of tires as someone avoids a pedestrian. I pray each time for the safety of those as they crossed the street.

So, ... I'd like to see more visible markings ... then even folks who are traveling though Purcellville for the first time will heed the need to go slow and be careful. Perhaps "white paint hatching" within the crosswalk areas or larger signs or a sign in the middle of the street would help. There are certainly numerous ways to illuminate the need for care at this intersection.

It would be tragic if the screech of tires ever preceded harm to a small child or a parent.

— Thomas S. Inman, Purcellville

Using a Well, Spring or Cistern? Drinking Water Clinic is for You!

Learn more about the quality of your water – participate in the Drinking Water Clinic sponsored by the Loudoun County Cooperative Extension Office.

1) At a brief informational meeting, pick up a sample kit and get instructions to collect your household water sample. 2) Collect a sample from your tap at home & complete a short questionnaire. 3) Drop off sample at a designated location & time. 4) About 4 weeks later, come back to get your confidential test results, an explanation of what the numbers mean, & info on how to handle any problems.

April 30, 7:00 pm, Rust Library, Leesburg; Kick-off/Information Meeting; **May 2, 7:00 - 10:00 am**, Water Sample Drop-off, Loudoun Extension Office; **June 4, 7:00 pm**, Rust Library, Leesburg, Follow-up meeting.

Cost for the sample analysis is \$45 and includes testing for bacteria and selected mineral and chemical constituents. Testing for Arsenic and Lead has been added this year. Results are confidential.

To register contact: Loudoun Cooperative Extension Office, 703-777-0373; or snaille@vt.edu.

Keep Loudoun Beautiful Kicks Off

– By Laura Lieberman

Thanks to the on-going effort of Keep Loudoun Beautiful, hundreds of bags of litter are collected each year. Keep Loudoun Beautiful (KLB) invites you to participate in the 2012 Spring Cleanup campaign anytime during the month of April. KLB provides trash bags, gloves and vests. VDOT picks up the bags. April is KLB's best known and most popular cleanup as it gives county residents, civic groups, churches, and Scouts the opportunity to do volunteer trash pick-up in their own communities. KLB formed in 1972 when a group of concerned citizens took the County's litter problem into their own hands. KLB continues to work with a host of community and government organizations to keep Loudoun environmentally healthy and attractive. April 28th is KLB's watershed clean up of Goose Creek and tributaries. Canoes, rafts, paddles, life jackets and professional river guides are provided. Please visit www.keeploudounbeautiful for specific details of the 2012 Spring Cleanup Campaign.



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- The Builder's Wife -

- By Cathy Little

A Plan You Can See

Whether you're building a detached garage or a whole new home it is important to have a good picture of what you want it to look like. People often have an idea of the style of home they're looking for and they typically have a wish list of what the layout might be. Communicating these desires to a designer is another matter. Three-dimensional home design software has been around for over 20 years and in the last ten has become first-rate; there's no longer any reason to rely on two-dimensional drawings. This software (of which there are several options) will give you a sense of the final product right down to the grain and stain of the kitchen cabinets and what knobs are the best match.

We frequently have clients who look at a piece of property and cannot imagine where to place their home or how the finished result will look. With this tool you can include your topography and trees, and even add landscaping providing you with a good idea of how your house will look on your property.



In this example, the client wanted to turn the house for the best views and also have large windows in an in-ground basement. She was able to have a reasonable idea of the outcome before the first shovel went in the ground.

This software enables you to "walk" through your home with a virtual tour before construction even begins. There is no better way to discover that you don't like the style or placement of a window or that your furniture doesn't fit. It's also useful for remodeling, interior design, kitchens and baths, even decks and landscaping. Needless to say, it is definitely easier and cheaper to try out new ideas before actual construction starts.

If you purchase a house plan on the internet or choose a model from a builder, ask for a 3-D version so that you can see what those rooms actually look like and how the home will appear on your property. The key is to find a designer/architect/builder who uses this technology.

Or, for smaller projects, you can purchase a simplified program and do it yourself!

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Film Review: *The Descendants* (2011)

- By Bob Rutzel

(George Clooney, Shailena Woodley, Amara Miller, Patricia Hastie, Robert Forster, Beau Bridges, Nick Krause.)

Very Good Story: Matt King's (George Clooney) wife Elizabeth (Patricia Hastie) had a boating accident and is in a coma. Now he has to find a way to deal with his daughters, who were closest to their mother; and then he learns Elizabeth was having an affair and would have divorced him. On top of all that, he has a big decision to make: to sell or keep 25,000 acres of prime Hawaiian real estate before the trust runs out; and most of the family wants him to sell. Matt King has a lot on his plate.

George Clooney does a remarkable job as one in shock trying to keep everything together knowing he has mountains to climb to get next to his daughters plus just finding out that his wife was about to leave him before the accident. He has an amazing ability to convey his emotions via his facial expressions and we really don't need a lot of his dialogue to see this. We care for him and hope all turns out well. An unexpected alliance with eldest daughter Alex (Shailena Woodley) has a somewhat stabilizing effect.

This is a good story and the acting by all is exceptional. Yes, there is a lot of language in the beginning mostly by the older daughter Alex, who has issues with Matt and also with her mother who is still in a coma. Children using foul language seems to be a common trend now in Hollywood movies, and I guess that tells children and adults who see this movie it's okay now to spout off in

this way. Hollywood has taken to heart the ploy of the Camel's head in the tent. Pretty soon it will be open season for children to use foul language so get ready to see the entire Camel inside that tent.

We see many beautiful shots of the landscapes in Hawaii, and we wished there could have been more. However, since the setting is Hawaii, we did expect to see some shots of surfers in heavy surf and some hula dancers. Didn't happen although there was that opportunity. Some quick shots is all we asked for. Was that too much to ask? Apparently so. The accompanying Hawaiian music was good and appropriate at times.

There were some attempts at comic relief in here with Nick Krause as Sid, Alex's boyfriend. When he wasn't annoying, he was pretty good. George Clooney was nominated for Best Actor. Didn't get it. The movie was nominated for Best Picture, Best Editing, and Best Director. Didn't happen. It did win an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay and that made sense.

There should be an Oscar for Best Facial Expressions as sometimes the whole story can be seen right there. And, if there were such an Oscar, George Clooney would win hands down. Violence: Not really, but Sid (Krause) is popped in the face. Sex: No. Nudity: No. Language: Yes, and by children, too. Rating: B

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

- There's Still Time To Contribute To An IRA For 2011 -

- By Amy Smith

Good news! There's still time to make a regular IRA contribution for 2011. You have until your tax return due date (not including extensions) to contribute up to \$5,000 for 2011 (\$6,000 if you were aged 50 by December 31, 2011.) For most taxpayers, the contribution deadline for 2011 is April 17, 2012. Normally, your tax return must be filed by April 15. However, the IRS has extended the deadline to April 17 this year because April 15 is a Sunday and April 16 is a holiday in Washington, D.C. (Emancipation Day).

You can contribute to a traditional IRA, a ROTH IRA, or both as long as your total contributions don't exceed the annual limit. You may also be able to contribute to an IRA for your spouse for 2011, even if your spouse didn't have any 2011 income.

Traditional IRA

You can contribute to a traditional IRA for 2011, if you had taxable compensation and you were not age 70-1/2 by December 31, 2011. However, if you or your spouse was covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan in 2011, then your ability to deduct your contribution depends on your filing status and whether your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is within prescribed limits. Even if you can't deduct your traditional IRA contribution, you can always make nondeductible (after-tax) contributions to a traditional IRA, regardless of your income level. However, in most cases, if you're eligible, you'll be better off contributing to a Roth IRA instead of making nondeductible contributions to a traditional IRA.

Roth IRA

You can contribute to a Roth IRA if your MAGI is within certain dollar limits (even if you're 70-1/2 or older.) If you file your federal tax return as single or head of household, you can make a full Roth contribution if your income is \$107,000 or less. Your maximum contribution is phased out if your income is between 107,000 and \$122,000, and you can't



contribute at all if your income is \$122,000 or more. Similarly, if you're married and file a joint federal tax return, you can make a full Roth contribution if your income is \$169,000 or less. Your contribution is phased out if your income is between \$169,000 and \$179,000, and you can't contribute at all if your income is \$179,000 or more. And if you're married filing separately, your contribution phases out with any income over \$0 and you can't contribute at all if your income is \$10,000 or more.

Even if you can't make an annual contribution to a Roth IRA because of the income limits, there's an easy workaround. If you have not yet reached age 70-1/2, you can simply make a nondeductible contribution to a traditional IRA, and then immediately convert that traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. (Keep in mind, however, that you'll need to aggregate all traditional IRA's and SEP/SIMPLE IRA's you own (other than IRA's you've inherited) when you calculate the taxable portion of your conversion.)

Finally, keep in mind that if you make a contribution to a Roth IRA for 2011-no matter how small-by your tax return due date and this is your first Roth IRA contribution, your five-year holding period for identifying qualified distributions from all your Roth IRA's (other than inherited accounts) will start on January 1, 2011.

I welcome your comments. Just send me an email at amy.v.smith@raymondjames.com. All names and identifying questions will be kept strictly confidential unless written permission is given for their use.

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Merry Widow, continued from page 6

"Breathe," as I pant hard, trying to recover.

I admit, I'm not quite as physically fit as I'd like to be. But, there's no time to worry about that, because we're getting notes from Meredith and our choreographer, Kelly Gray, and getting ready to run it again. In French, the word they use for practice or rehearsal is "répétition," and it is absolutely apt. We run the can-can three more times before everyone's satisfied.

Later on in the evening, our two stars, Gregory Stuart and Melissa Chavez, a glittering soprano who is playing the title role of Hanna Glawari sing their final duet, also known as the Merry Widow Waltz. As someone who is not just a performer of opera, but a huge fan, one of my favorite things about rehearsal is just listening to my fellow singers practice their craft.

For a small, young company, Loudoun Lyric Opera has some truly amazing talent among its ranks. As Melissa and Gregory sing, I relax and just enjoy the music - but

not for long, because now it's time to rehearse the final number which uses every voice in the cast. We haven't visited this one in a while, but after a quick review of the choreography we're going full tilt.

When we're given our last notes and reminders for the evening, everyone disperses and begins packing up their things. Melissa and Gregory decide to go over their duet one more time. Everyone's saying "Good night," and "See you Friday," when we get to do this again. I'm exhausted, as I expect my cast mates are as well, but I also couldn't be happier. Doing opera is a joy, and seeing opera is a joy too. I think I speak for the entire cast and crew of Loudoun Lyric Opera's Merry Widow when I say how I just can't wait to share all this fun with the rest of Loudoun County.

The Merry Widow opens at the Franklin Park Arts Center on Friday, April 13 and runs through April 22. For more information, visit www.LoudounLyricOpera.com.

The Charm And Economic Power of Loudoun's B&Bs and Country Inns.

Loudoun's country accommodations businesses are represented by the Loudoun County Bed & Breakfast Guild, which has 25 members and approximately one dozen partners, including wineries and restaurants.

These exquisite places are known for their charm and beauty. Representing nearly 100 beds, what is not quite so well known is the economic punch they pack, and the critical role they play in the County's rural economy.

Jean Brown, Secretary of the Bed & Breakfast Guild, said: "Guests at Loudoun's many Bed & Breakfast businesses have a kind of 'ripple effect' economically. They come to our great B&B's and use them as a cozy home base to visit other places and businesses. Members of our Guild report that their guests go to area restaurants, historic properties such as Oatlands, Dodona Manor and Morven Park, shops, wineries, farm markets, artist studios, farms and horse-related businesses, hiking & biking spots – or just enjoy our beautiful countryside. The best thing of all, the dollars spent by Loudoun's B&B guests stay in the county and nourish the immediate community, enhancing its tax base." Jean's family owns Oakland Green Bed & breakfast, a business

that not only adds to the local economy through its B&B and beef sales, but preserves history. The Oakland Green home has been in the family for nine generations and may one day be passed on to Jean's grandchildren – making it a tenth generation residence.

Guild Membership Chair Louise Lynn noted, "One study showed that a moderately sized wedding at one of Loudoun's B&B/Country Inns generated \$55,000 in total spending in the county – including charges at the location, and spending in the area for transportation, shopping, meals and more."

Barbara Baroody, who runs Creek Crossing Farm, talked to us about the "personal touch" side of the B&B as well as the economics. Barbara maintains her property as a small farm and has 600 bushes producing organic blueberries (which she sells in season), along with free-range eggs. "I maintain the farm as a agritourism destination, and I am a family oriented facility. I feature local meats and dairy products and fresh produce in season," said Barbara.

Loudouners have followed many different paths to find themselves the proud owner of one of these unique establishments. Malcolm and Pamela Baldwin oper-

ate The Milk Cottage at WeatherLea Farm in Lovettsville, minutes away from the MARC train to Washington, DC.

The Baldwins began hosting weddings in 2007, the was a demand to rent the cottage, which was once used to milk the cows when the farm was operated as a dairy.

The Milk Cottage is a full apartment which sleeps up to four. Known as a "farm stay" guests enjoy a fridge with full breakfast provisions. "There is a significant demand for accommodations on the farm, where visitors can enjoy the animals and vineyard, and take advantage of all of the historic, rural and recreational amenities in the area," said Pamela. "Our convenience to DC is another plus."

The Guild's partners see the economic value of these business, too. Matt and Mary Beth Barbagallo are owners of the Above Ground Winery in Purcellville and very involved in programs such as Visit Loudoun and Virginia Wines. "It's so exciting to be a



part of the tourism industry, especially with partners like the Loudoun Bed and Breakfast Guild. I love being able to refer my visitors and customers to the fantastic B&Bs and Country Inns we have here," said Mary Beth.

The Bed and Breakfast Guild sponsors an annual tour of properties. The 4th Annual Bed and Breakfast Open House will take place April 29th from 1 pm to 5 pm. This year's tour features 14 stops from Middleburg to Purcellville to Leesburg. The self-guided tour is free of charge and features wine tastings, food, art and more.

More information can be found at www.LoudounBandB.com.

\$900 Consignment Boot, continued from page 1

Owner, Michael Oaks, looked at the bills carefully and concluded that they were, indeed, real.

The consigner of the boots was notified. (She remains anonymous to protect her dignity!). And, that's when the story really got interesting.

When the consignor came into ReLove-It to retrieve her \$900, she explained that she was not only a single mom, but had just lost her job and health insurance. At the same time, she needed to see a doctor for a medical issue. The consignor's mother had also

recently passed away, and the boots had been hers. So, from the consignor's perspective, the money turned out to be a very special and much-needed gift from her mom!

How many of us are guilty of stuffing money in odd places around the house? How many of us forget where we put it?

Hats off to Wendy for being such a good and honest shopper ... and thanks, Michael, for keeping things exciting at ReLove It on 21st street! P.S. The grateful consignor gave Wendy a hefty tip for her honesty ...

PR/Communications Firm Hired By Purcellville

At the March 13 Purcellville Town Council Meeting, Council approved adding a Public Information and Communications Services Agreement person for \$90.00 per hour. The position went to SaVi Pr, LLC of South Riding, owned by Samantha Villegas.

The purpose of the hire is for Town communications, media and community relations services and programs, which have been identified as one of the Town's priorities. The proposed duration is for one year, but may be renewed for four additional one-year periods.



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New Exhibit in Williamsburg

Just in time for summer vacation planners, Colonial Williamsburg has opened a new exhibit bringing to life its connection to the industrial craft of blacksmithing and its history as a site that supported Virginia's effort during the Revolutionary War.

Last weekend's ceremony featured Williamsburg's famous Fifes and Drums Corps, which lead guests through the Historic Area along Duke of Gloucester Street to the new exhibition site – the James Anderson Blacksmith Shop and Public Armoury. The site is named after James Anderson, who was appointed public armourer in 1776 by the General Assembly of the newly independent Commonwealth



Master blacksmith in the new forge at the James Anderson Blacksmith Shop and Public Armoury.

of Virginia.

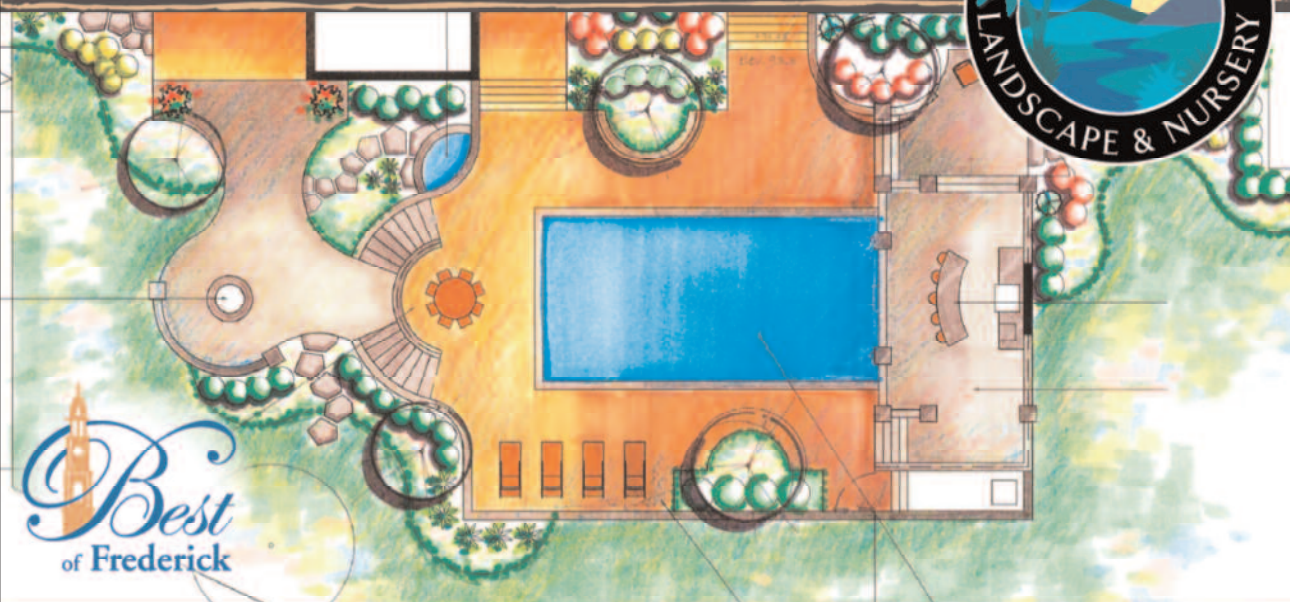
Following remarks from Colonial Williamsburg President Colin Campbell, actor-interpreters dramatized the urgency of the war effort early in the American Revolution.



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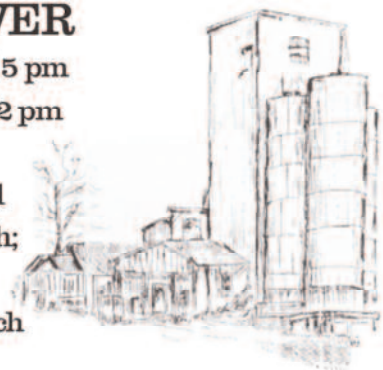


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I Love Orange!

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– By Donna Williamson

The Having read as many garden eye-candy books as any good gardener can, I have been enchanted by the books of Christopher Lloyd. His bold use of color has been instructive and tempting.

He makes excellent use of the wonderful David-Howard-Perennial-Dahli. It's a dark-leaved dahlia with a medium-size apricot-orange flower.

This dahlia brings me to orange. I have completed this year's winter design classes. Folks typically think pink, purple, and blue shades are acceptable for their gardens. This years group of interested gardeners loved orange!

In northern (and British) garden photos, the pale sun makes pastels glow. In Virginia, the brassy sun washes out pastels – colors need to be bold and bright to have an impact.

I love orange in the garden. Sugary pinks get washed out. Reds are so dramatic and, at a distance, wash into a magenta-pink that's unappealing.

But orange ... orange is warm, welcoming, cheering, convivial, full of vitality, lively, vigorous, animated, energizing, and spirited!

You need only look at the fiery fall land-

scape to appreciate the wide range of oranges and how they connect with magenta, blue, grey-green, and burgundy.

When you look at the landscape this summer, notice the way brick homes have vibrant orange tones and then notice the way bright raspberry-pink geraniums or bright yellow marigolds clash with them. If the geraniums were salmon, shrimp, bright orange, or any of the apricot to brown tones available in plants, the look would be charming.

Don't get me wrong. I grow pink dahlias. I love purple Verbena bonariensis and magenta Callicarpa spp. I love blue and grow every different catmint variety there is.

But orange is the backbone of summer color for me, in all its tones and range. It lights the way of my garden. Give it another look.

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.

Historic Garden Week April 21-28

– House & Garden Tours Offered Locally & Statewide –

Every April in Virginia, visitors are welcomed to more than 250 of the state's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks during what is called: "America's Largest Open House." Historic Garden Week gives visitors a rare opportunity to see sumptuous gardens at the peak of Virginia's springtime color, as well as beautiful houses graced with fabulous flower arrangements, many of which are rarely if ever open to the public.

Virginia Garden Week focuses on over two dozen local areas, and includes a multiple of magnificent properties. Loudoun, Fauquier and Clarke County feature some of our local hotspots, but other nearby counties are included as well. A full list of the areas represented is reprinted on our Community Calendar on page 23. Local hotspots include:

Middleburg and Upperville: Sunday, April 22 and Monday, April 23. The properties in these two charming areas provide wonderful views of the Piedmont landscape. There are four country estates and back-to-back tour days. One includes a series of garden rooms, organized loosely in color group-



ings with a watercourse leading to woodland plantings and ponds.

Clarke County: Saturday, April 21. As the Garden Club of Virginia reports, located near the West Virginia and Maryland borders, this area remains relatively unchanged since a young George Washington erected the very first "white post" to direct travelers in the mid 1700s. Included are Farhill, built in 1882, and White Post Restoration ... the pre-eminent antique and classic car restorer in the country.

Details at www.vagardenweek.org



IT'S GARDEN SHOW TIME!

We are gearing up for the Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival on April 21st and 22nd. Please make sure to drop by and see our exhibit!

In the meantime, it is not too early to start planting some cool-crop vegetables in your garden and hardy perennial flowers like Lily-of-the-Valley.

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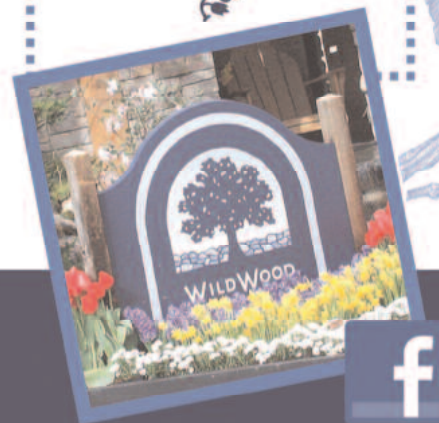
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As the days draw near to the Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival be sure to visit our Facebook page to see how our garden exhibit develops!



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- Sushi ... "Tails" From the Barnyard Ahhh, Spring ... but wait!

What I love most about spring are the smiles and laughter around the barnyard. Chasing fireflies just for the fun of it, digging worms and getting our paws as muddy as mud could be, and listening to Freddy Frog and Tommy Toad singing amphibious songs by the light of the moon. Children giving me free body massages and pieces of cheese!

Yum, and oh yes – spring, spring, spring means daffodils poking their yellow heads from the ground followed by the tulips and plush mossy green earth that the leprechauns love to play in.

There is nothing better than chasing Leprechauns, unforgettable the way they leap and fly and bounce and land right on top of your head rolling and holding their bellies in laughter.

This only happens at night you know, because Leprechauns just won't be seen in day light hours. Leprechauns flit and flutter from limb to limb in our towering ancient evergreen trees the way candles flicker on a

fireplace mantle, glowingly full of mischief. If you listen closely between the hoot owls calling to each other in the early spring you can hear the lilting tunes of a flute being played. A magical Irish flute that has been handed down for thousands of generations.

Little Jimmy, as Lord Percy the barnyard rooster calls him – was playing this exact flute to Miss Clover for her birthday.

Yes, Clover's birthday party continued into the wee hours of the night after all of you left the farm on Saint Patrick's Day once the shop closed at five pm.

Gnarly Gander the China Goose had finally convinced me to quit moping around from being jealous of all the attention Clover received. I smartened up and turned on my white toothed grin and joined in the



fun. Thanks goodness I did, because if I had continued to be a party pooper and feel sorry for myself I would have

never witnessed a great legend that will definitely be told for many years to come here at Fields of Athenry Farm.

It all went down like this ... Lord Percy heard the magic flute being played by Little Jimmy. He flew to the top of the Chicken Palace and decided he must swoon and croon to his favorite delight in his harem, Lady Miss Gracious. Lady Miss Gracious fluffed and puffed her feathers to the excitement of Lord Percy. He stretched his long English neck further and further reaching notes that would give you goose bumps. Cock-a-doodle-doo! Coak-a-doodle-doo! he crooned. Animals were gathering 'round the base of the pines from far and wide. Clover was centered under the largest of the ancient pine trees where Little Jimmy sat on the highest branch above while the other lads

BARNYARD CHARACTERS: "Sushi" is a Carin Terrier, "Clover" is a Bull Mastiff, "Lord Percy" is an English Game Rooster, "Gnarly Gander" is a China Goose, "Lady Miss Gracious" is a Buff Orpington Hen, "The Sly One" is a fox.

and lasses did their Leprechaun dances throughout the branches!

In the midst of all the celebration The Sly One had snuck up in close to Lord Percy. He was disguised in the shadow of the trees that swung their branches back and forth to the sway of the night breeze right by the Chicken Palace wall. Changing his voice into a pitch of bravado, The Sly One sang Lord Percy great praise encouraging him to sing louder. Lord Percy loved hearing how grand his voice was.

The Sly One crept in closer until he was right beneath where the beautiful rooster perched himself. "Lord Percy, you are magnificent! Close your eyes and sing, sing, sing to the high heavens!" The Sly One said while licking his chops!

Lord Percy stretched his neck, closed his eyes and sang, sang, sang. Then, The

Continued on page 18

Keep Your Head Up!

- By Samuel Moore-Sobel



As spring begins, everyone's allergies start kicking in ... crushing every student's dream of a last minute winter snow-storm. But this is not the main topic of conversation among high school seniors at this time. The conversation instead revolves around college acceptances and yes, the rejections as well. Instead of enjoying the nice weather, many of us are focusing on the colleges we were rejected from and what could have been – if only we had been accepted.

This kind of thinking is pervasive in a high school senior's mind. Everyone wants to win and to be successful no matter how old they are. This Northern Virginia area seems to be especially ambitious causing many students to feel inadequate even when they are accepted into colleges that are highly ranked. But we often forget that getting into a college does not determine our future success or our ability to get a job in the future.

Even though Bill Gates and Steve Jobs didn't go to college, they were able to get to the top of their fields and truly made their mark on the world. Although this is comforting, the common response is, "Well I am not as smart as them." And, that may be true. But still, college is what you make of it. Whether you attend Harvard, or Northern Virginia Community College, one can be successful and go on to do amazing things. One must also remember that it isn't personal. None of these colleges really know who you

are; they just know your test scores and grades, which don't truly show who you are as a person.

I believe everything happens for a reason. I myself was rejected by four colleges but I still have three good choices to decide on. I knew that a few of those colleges were long-shots, but even so, it doesn't feel great to be rejected. I went to an event over the weekend for a college that I never would have applied to unless they sent me an e-mail stating that they would waive the application fee for me to apply. After attending this event, I was intrigued and drawn to the school more than in the past. It struck me how I had envisioned a much different plan for myself just six months ago. But, it may work out better than I ever could have imagined.

Those of us who are able to attend college must realize what a gift this truly is, as so many other people do not have the opportunity to do so. I am grateful that my parents are willing to help give me an opportunity that so many aren't able to give their children. I am grateful that I will be only the second person in my father's immediate family to obtain a college degree. And, I am grateful that no matter where I go to college, I can still be successful, making my mark upon the world in an important way. So, to all high school seniors who have been rejected from college, keep your head up, because the best is yet to come.

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

Honor Award for Woodgrove Student

Ashley Morris, a freshman at Woodgrove High School, received a scholarship to attend Nature Camp in Vesuvius, Virginia located in the George Washington National Forest for the June 2012 session. This award, presented to her by The Garden Study Club of Loudoun marks her second year attending Nature Camp. In June of 2011 Ashley chose natural art, forestry and astronomy for her curricu-

lum. She enjoyed nature hikes, morning bird walks and swimming in mountain pools and streams. Classes were held daily and workbooks were required on each subject. Only two students were selected for awards of excellence in the overall program, and Ashley was one of them. *(An Honor Student at Woodgrove High School, Ashley lives with her family outside of Hillsboro.)*



- By Dane Mullins



Everything is in bloom.

Saturday Share and Shop will take place April 14 from 9-12 at the Woodgrove High School Cafeteria. Please donate gently used clothes, shoes and formal wear (Woodgrove's Prom is April 28), sort and label clothing by size and gender, and household items and sports equipment are welcome. Donations will be collected at Woodgrove High School, Harmony Middle, Lovettsville, Ken Culbert, Mountain View, Waterford Hillsboro and Round Hill Elementary Schools. Come to Woodgrove and shop! Items are FREE call Pam Hayba at 540 751-2600 or email at pam.hayba@lcp.org or contact your parent liaison.

Ah! The Sweet Sounds Of Spring!

Once Upon A Mattress, a musical comedy will take place on May 3, 4, and 5 at 7pm and on May 6 at 2pm and tickets are \$10. Attention Loudoun Business there is still available space in the program, business card ads are \$10, half page ads are \$50. and full page ads are \$100. Talented tailors and seamstresses needed you can make or would like to contribute one or two costumes. Contact Director David Noland at 540 751-2605.

Congratulations Woodgrove Music Department the Wind Ensemble attended the VBODA District 16 concert festival March 3rd and they received a Superior rating in Sight Reading and Excellent rating for their stage performance.

The Woodgrove Orchestras attended the District Assessment on March 10th. Advanced Orchestra received a "Superior" rating on Performance and Sight Reading and the intermediate Orchestra scored an "Excellent" rating on Performance and a "Superior" rating on Sight Reading.

The Woodgrove Choirs attended the District Assessments on March 24th and the Men's Choir received a "Superior" rating on Performance. The Advanced Women's Choir earned a "Superior" on Performance and Sight Reading.

The Music Department (Band, Chorus, Strings, and Guitars) is packing up and heading to Orlando, Florida on March 28 to participate in the Heritage Festival Assessments.

The Theatre and Art Departments will be traveling to New York City April 12 to experience Broadway and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Woodgrove hosted the Regional Science Fair on March 15th. Congratulations to the following Wolverines: Justin Virts – 1st place, Chemistry; Saajid Hasan – 3rd place, Chemistry; Cailey Oswald – Honorable Mention, Chemistry; Madeline Warndorff – 2nd place, Animal Sciences; Amanda Dukinfield – 3rd place, Behavioral and Social Science; Michael Erb – Honorable Mention, Behavioral and Social Science; Kyle Sargent – 3rd place Mathematical Science.

The Woodgrove Academic Team will return to compete again on NBC It's Academic show April 28. Don't miss it.

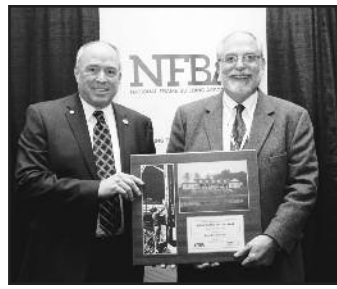
Batter Up! It's time for spring sports: Baseball – 3-1; Softball – 3-1. **Attack!** Lacrosse – Girls 0-1; Wolverine Moving On: Ashlyn Dacy to play Lacrosse for Mary Washington. **Breakaway!** Soccer – Girls, 4-0; Boys 4-1. **Serving Up Some Love!** Tennis – Girls 5-0; Boys 1-4.

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.)

“Green Structure” By Fuog InterBuild Wins National Award

A "green structure" build by Fuog/InterBuild, Inc., received the National Frame Builders Association "Judges' Award" and the 2011 Building of the Year" at the March 1 2012 Frame Building Expo in St. Louis, MO. constructed using only sustainable wood species, energy efficient technology and as many recycled elements as possible, the St. Brides Horse Barn and Equestrian office "represents on the aesthetically and functionally exceptional barns in the Virginia Piedmont region" according to the NFBA. The St. Brides Barn will be part of the 2012 – 58th Annual "Upperville Barn Tour". More than 1800 visitors are expected to tour the facility as part of the annual event.

Fuog Inter/Build's entry was selected out of over a hundred contest entries from around the U.S., taking top place in the "3,000-10,000 square foot Horse Barn" category. The structure utilizes a combination of post frame and conventional frame



Owner John Fuog (right)



design and construction. Post Frame lends itself to the best use for equestrian facilities with conventional framing atop stem walls for longevity and greater weather tightness.

These awards are the latest of many won by Fuog/InterBuild, Inc., a Class A Licensed General Contractor and Post Frame Builder with more than 30 years industry experience. Past NFBA awards include 1999 NFBA Building of the Year, in both the

Horse Barns over 3000 Square Feet and the Agricultural/Farm Building categories, 1992 NFBA Building of the Year: Machine Storage/Worship and several awards for National Foreman of the Year. NFBA is the only national trade association that represents post-frame industry professionals.

Fuog/InterBuild provides design-build services with CAD capability to take projects from conception to completion. With

more than 2000 projects successfully completed, Fuog/InterBuild is an ICC and NFBA member and a Butler Builder Distributor (the world's leading producer of pre-engineered metal buildings).

To see more examples of Fuog/InterBuild's work, visit their website www.fuoginterbuildinc.com, or contact them at sales@fuoginterbuildinc.com; phone number: 540-338-2306.

Hunt Country Gourmet's RESTAURANT REVIEW – South Street Under

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

– By George Humphries

You can quickly judge an eatery by looking at its longevity together with the degree of its current popularity. Some restaurants have an outstanding opening year or two, but for whatever reason, dwindle to a tenuous existence thereafter or simply close. It is to rejoice when an initial success is followed by years of continued good performance.

We were at Tuscarora Mill on opening night – or nearly so anyway – and after almost 28 years, there it remains with excellent service and excellent food – consistency not only having prevailed but its success spawning a series of several other popular, if notably different, eateries in the area.

But, we come not to praise Tuskees, but to note the unique and equally long term success of its lower level sibling, South Street Under (SSU). Located in the northwest corner of Market Station, South Street Under is a bustling triple success enterprise, at once a bakery, a deli, and a casual-fare restaurant. And, it excels in all three categories.

If you doubt this, visit SSU on any week day lunch hour and try to find a table or a stool at the bar. But go a little early or a little after the noon hour and treat yourself to an amazingly fresh and tasty sandwich, soup, salad, or quiche, or pick it up to go. And in the good ole summertime, find tables and chairs outside in the Mill complex's courtyard. Giving a party? SSU offers most

of the same items on trays and the food is notably superior to supermarket and chain store party platter alternatives.

The South Street Under menu is a modest 28 items, four of which are “kid’s stuff.” There are four menu categories – soups, salads and specialties, cold sandwiches (6), and warm sandwiches (8). When you find an item that is really outstanding, it’s hard to make yourself try something else. That’s the way the Tarragon Chicken Salad on ciabatta or the Rare Roast Beef with Swiss and horseradish mayo on black olive rosemary bread are for my wife. Other cold sandwiches include egg, chicken, turkey, tuna, and BBBLT (check the extra bacon). Among the other warm sandwiches are smoked ham and brie, Reuben, hoagie, and almost Italian (no carne).

A slice of hot cheese-broccoli quiche large enough for two accompanied by a cup of potato leek soup made an excellent meal for me on a recent visit. That soup, available to take out in quart size, tops any others that we have had. Pureed to a creamy texture, light seasoning accentuated and complemented the natural flavors of the leeks without being overpowering. Other soups offered include vegetable and a soup of the day, as well as a local beef chili and a stew of the day.

The salads start with a “Bowl of Romaine,” with either vinaigrette or buttermilk ranch dressing. There are 10 special salads, among them four chickens, tuna, egg,



bean, and slaw.

Like the upstairs Tuskee's, ingredients are very fresh, locally obtained wherever possible, and prepared daily on the premises. You can peer over the counter and watch the baker knead dough, season the bread and prepare dessert items.

The lunch scene is crowded, there being only a dozen or so small tables inside in inclement weather and a continuous crush of take-out customers lined up at the counter. Warmer weather should triple the seating space as the outdoor tables, surrounded by flower boxes, will become irresistible.

South Street Under is a rousing continuing success story that matches the achievement of Tuscarora above it.

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, continued from page 17

Sly One grabbed Lord Percy by his neck. Little Jimmy, almost toppled right out of the tree, latched onto the branches for dear life, but dropped the magic flute right onto Clover's massive Bullmastiff head. Stunned for a split second Clover stood to her feet. She realized the dirty red fox had stolen Lord Percy by his neck strings!

Gnarly gander honked his trumpet for all to join in the chase to get Lord Percy back. Lady Miss Gracious buried her face into her wings and sobbed. Lord Percy gathered his wits about him – flopping up and down, up and down between the foxes powerful jaws. Thinking fast, Lord Percy mustered all his strength and crowed, “Mr. Foxy Loxy; are you not going to take a stand against a silly bullmastiff on her birthday? For heaven sakes ... she’s a girl!” Ah, this got the best of The Sly One’s ego. He could not help himself; he had to reply to the insulting Lord Percy.

“I’m not afraid of a girl!” the red fox snarled back. With that, Lord Percy fell from the trap of the Sly One’s jaws and flew to the top of the ancient evergreen trees and took his perch right next to Little Jimmy. Ah ... Spring!

Until next time – Lots of Love – Sushi!

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

Write-In Candidate, continued from page 1

believes that his private sector program management experience, coupled with his leadership skills and can-do attitude will bring a new, fresh, independent perspective to the Purcellville Town Council. He also believes that ensuring fiscal responsibility is paramount to Purcellville during these tough economic times.

Mr. Conover, who is a program manager for QinetiQ North America is a retired 25-year Navy veteran. He is 48 years old, has been married to his wife, Amy for 26 years and has two daughters, Danielle and Kit. Conover is a member of Harmony United Methodist Church, and, in his spare time,

volunteers as a coach for youth sports and enjoys gardening, golf and swimming.

Conover currently serves on the Town of Purcellville Traffic Calming Committee. In addition to his desire to give voters a choice and focus on the Town’s fiscal responsibilities, Mr. Conover wants to serve the citizens of Purcellville and make it the very best community for all residents. “I want Purcellville to remain a family friendly town for years to come.” Mr. Conover continued, “I have chosen to raise my family in the community that I care deeply for and am committed to keeping the small town feel alive in Purcellville, with help from citizens

who share the same vision.” “I’d be disappointed to look back on our treasure known as Purcellville in 15 years and see a sprawling, over-built community that resembles more urban-style communities we are all too familiar with to the east.”

“Purcellville needs to keep taxes at a fair rate while continuing to provide essential services,” said Conover, adding, “I support smart growth via well thought out growth management strategies – that’s the way you keep taxes down, while nurturing a positive business environment to stimulate employment opportunities for residents.”

On the topic of traffic calming, as a

write-in candidate for Town Council, Mr. Conover supports specific measures throughout the Town to ensure public safety. “Purcellville needs to complete the sidewalk network to provide for safe passage of residents, reduce local traffic, and promote local business patronage,” he noted. “Purcellville has an aging road infrastructure that needs attention and I support the town making necessary improvements.” Mr. Conover adds, “I hope the citizens of Purcellville are looking for an independent candidate who will work hard to represent them, be willing to take on the hard issues, and also be their advocate on the Town Council.”

Historic Purcellville, continued from page 1

is the oversized infrastructure required to service new businesses – infrastructure that requires wider sidewalks, major changes to roads and side streets, upgraded utilities and new parking. In the case of Purcellville's Tourism Zone, the changes have resulted in four "quick take" actions by the Town, with the result that some existing business have lost business features they had long depended on, such as loading zones.

The Nichols Hardware Store is a Purcellville Virginia Landmark, originally founded just a few days before Christmas in 1914. One of the more well know features of Purcellville, Nichols is the subject of a documentary film "The Last Hardware Store." It, along with other historic structures such as the old train station (now a public space), an old mill (Magnolia's at the Mill restaurant), and the Trails End bicycle shop serve as an anchor for Purcellville's Historic Downtown. The area is also home to many newer businesses, and, while some business owners welcome the change, many others, like as the Nichols are concerned that their ability to survive and service their customers may be jeopardized by the Town's vision for the area as a tourist destination.

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► REAL ESTATE TICKER ► TODAY'S REAL ESTATE PARADOX

– By Carl Fischer



For some months now, there seems to be a sense of hope spreading throughout the residential real estate market in our area; homes are selling in noticeably larger numbers. It's been a very long time since more than a few individuals believe that is true.

But what is not immediately clear is: "At what price?"

In an intriguing article I read recently, an analysis was done on 40 specific cases where the costs and benefits of individual home ownership were closely scrutinized, and in EVERY CASE, without exception, it was economically better for the owner to have rented rather than owned, when all of the true costs of ownership were taken into account.

How could that be possible?

When you think about it, the answer gets remarkably clear.

In the many years I have lived here in Northern Virginia, property values typically have increased by high single, or low dou-

ble-digit percentages, and with very few exceptions (think 1989 thru 1992), that was the norm.

While attending an in-depth review of the real estate industry conditions delivered by Peter Guise and United Country president and CEO, Dan Duffy, in Orlando last month, I looked at charts depicting the profile of typical real estate downturns and their subsequent recoveries. And what I learned was of great interest.

The average duration of the preceding four downturns in residential real estate markets lasted, on average, about five years from the point of first decline to the point of

significant stabilization of property prices. And in each of the preceding declines, recover was moderate once it began. But this one is different.

While we have been experiencing this 30% (+/-) decline in home values for nearly five years now, the indicators for price recovery are not encouraging. Working with a typical concerned homeowner with a newer 3200 square foot upscale home in Cascades this past week, I had my second round of discussions trying to share what I could about the state of his immediate local

Continued on facing page

Kid Scoop THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

© 2012 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 28, No. 10

“Like” Kid Scoop on Facebook!

The Bunny Buddies' Giggle Garden

Why did Bart Bunny get arrested for running through the farmer's garden?

Use the clues to fill in the missing letters. The letters in the second vertical row reveal the punchline to this riddle:

How does Brianna Bunny stay healthy?

1.	C			
2.		A		
3.				Z
4.			E	
5.	M			
6.		B		
7.				E
8.				N
9.			H	

CLUES

- Your teacher writes on a blackboard with this.
- What ghosts like to do to houses.
- A reward for winning.
- Farmers plant these to grow crops.
- Another word for engine.
- The opposite of below.
- What you are when you need rest.
- A very large expanse of sea.
- What is left after something burns.

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

What did Bella Bunny say to the last bite of her carrot?

Circle every third letter to reveal the answer.

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

How does Bosco Bunny make gold soup?

Do the math to reveal the answer to this riddle:

15 - 10 = _____
21 - 8 = _____
9 - 6 = _____
24 - 8 = _____
36 - 28 = _____
26 - 12 = _____

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences.

Why did Bayley Bunny swim across the Atlantic?

The letters along the correct path reveal the answer!

Eggstra! Eggstra!

Scrambled Easter Eggs

Look through the newspaper for words that spell "Easter Eggs." Cut them out. With your buddy, take turns mixing up the letters and spelling a new word. A player gets one point for each letter used.

Standards Link: Spelling: Recognize common spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Each of the Bunny Buddies below has at least one look-alike, except for one. Can you find the unique bunny?

How do you catch a unique bunny?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Online Scoop For lots more Easter puzzles and games, go to: www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

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

ARRESTED
GHOSTS
CARROT
BUNNY
ENGINE
GARDEN
REVEAL
SEA
EGGS
SWIM
RIDDLE
PAGE
LAST
NEW
USE

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Silly News Story

Mix and match news stories to create silly stories. Select a **who, what, when, where, why** and **how** from different stories. Write a silly news story with these facts. For extra silliness, use quotes from other news stories.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write in a variety of forms and genres.

Write On!

Easter Bunny Spotted

The Easter Bunny has been spotted and you're the reporter covering the story. Be sure to tell **who, what, when, where, why** and **how**.

Kid Scoop Funny Filler

Have a buddy give you each type of word to fill in the blanks. Then, read the story aloud for lots of laughs!

Growing Problems

"This can't be right," said Baxter Bunny as he looked at his garden. Instead of a row of carrots, there were _____

ADJECTIVE _____ NOUN _____
sprouting from the _____ NOUN

He used a _____ NOUN to dig into the _____ NOUN

Bobbi Bunny saw her brother carrying a _____ ADJECTIVE basket of _____ PLURAL NOUN "INTERJECTION" she cried. "How will we make _____ NOUN stew for dinner with nothing but _____ ADJECTIVE _____ PLURAL NOUN?"

Baxter said, "Don't worry, Sis. I have a _____ ADJECTIVE idea!" He painted a sign that said: "Buy one _____ NOUN, get a _____ FREE!" NOUN

_____ PLURAL NOUN came from _____ PLURAL NOUN miles around as word spread.

Baxter and Bobbi soon had enough money to buy a _____ ADJECTIVE _____ NOUN of their favorite _____ PLURAL NOUN

"Who knew there was a market for _____ PLURAL NOUN?" said Bobbi as they walked to the _____ NOUN

Standards Link: Spelling: Recognize common spelling patterns.

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,
CONTINUED FROM FACING PAGE

market as it relates to his pricing for his property.

In the two months since I had given him my original analysis, nine properties of similar size and amenities had come on the market. Four more had gone under contract, and only one had actually sold. So the absorption rate for homes of his type was not good.

But of much greater concern is what I found when I dug a bit further. Of the nine new listings that had come on the market, seven were "distressed properties", meaning either Short Sale or Foreclosure offerings. What's the reasonable likelihood that any of these will bring full price with no concessions by the Seller? Based on my experience in the past five years: not many (any?).

Since it costs on average, about eight percent (8%) to sell a house, once you add commissions, pro-rated taxes, closing costs, and necessary repairs, if you no longer have price escalation or inflation to offset these expenses, on a home such as I have described, these costs weigh in at about \$45,000! If you don't have market conditions offsetting these costs, those funds come right out of your discretionary cash account or reserves.

So here's the paradox: "If the notion that you can enjoy the pride of owning your very own home and not pay a dime for the time you live there" is no longer true, would you still buy a home?

As best I can determine, the answer is: "It depends ...".

From a strictly economic standpoint, even with today's rising rental prices, for the next 3 to 5 years at least, it's probably considerable less expensive to rent than to own.

But keep in mind that as a renter, there are many things you cannot, or will not likely do. Such as: 1) landscape extensively, 2) add a deck, garage, pool, patio, outdoor grill, privacy fence, balcony, skylight, bath, or extra room.

However, if you own your own home, you can do any or all of these (if your pocketbook is big enough), but how many of those \$\$\$\$ will you have to leave on the table when you sell?

For every individual or couple, the answer varies. But for the first time in my personal experience, we each need to have an honest discussion about what is really important to us, knowing that the general "lift of the market" no longer gives us a free ride!

Carl Fischer has lived in Loudoun since 1969. Formerly in residential construction management and land development. He has been in real estate since 1989. To contact Carl, email him at carl@uc-nova.com.



Dear Doug

— Real Estate Q&A —



Dear Doug:

My rental property is under water. My mortgage balance is \$140,000 but the house is currently worth only \$112,000. I paid \$170,000 for it 7 years ago. I am able to pay the monthly mortgage without a problem, but my rental income is not sufficient to cover my costs and I have to pay \$200/month above what my tenant pays me. I hear about people walking away from properties like this all the time. I feel strongly that investing in real estate, like investing in anything, carries no guarantees and once I sign on the dotted line, I need to keep my end of the bargain and pay my note each month. Just like the stock market, losses and gains are not predictable. My hope is that in a few years, prices will return to normal and I can sell my rental property and at least break even. My friends say I'm stupid to throw my money away each month and I should get rid of this baby. They say I should try to negotiate a short sale and stop losing money each month. I am curious: is this sound advice, or am I right to keep paying and wait for the housing market to get better? — J.G.

Dear J.G.; Tough question! I see it played out in my business every day. This may sound funny, but the answer will speak to your character and your integrity. Financially, I see people walking away from situations you are describing. Before they walk, they collect as much rent as they can, don't make any more mortgage payments, let the house go to foreclosure and let the tenants get kicked out by the new owners (depending on the lease situations). By collecting rent, they feel they are recouping their losses. If it takes a year to foreclose, then they are in better shape. Their credit is shot, but the wallet is fatter. I have seen people then declare bankruptcy, to get cleared of all debts. Other people go the short sale route. They stay current on their mortgage payments, but put their house on the market for less than is owed, with the provision that the price is subject to

"third party approval." That means the bank has to approve "eating" the difference between what you owe and what it sells for. Beware, though: the IRS may say this is a taxable event since the debt is forgiven. Check with a financial adviser before attempting. Credit again takes a hit, but far less than it would with a foreclosure.

Another version of the short sale is to list it for less than is owed and then stop paying the mortgage. That usually gets the banks attention, and forces the "third party approval" quicker from the bank. Let's be clear, I DO NOT recommend any of these solutions. I am just re-telling what I see done every day in the market.

The final solution is the one you outlined: you signed up for the debt, you can pay it even though it is \$200 negative per month, and you are hoping the market returns, and/or you pay down the mortgage. That is considered the "right" thing to do, even though your friends may see it as foolish. Personally, I am in a similar situation, and I am doing the same thing you are. I see the market returning, and I see my negative equity dwindling slowing. My feeling is similar to yours: you are keeping your end of the bargain. The end you signed up for, when you bought it. I have flipped homes since I bought my cash-eater, and made money on those. Should I only keep up my end of the bargain when it suits me??? In the end, J.G., only you can say which solution best fits your lifestyle. Personally, I agree with what you are doing, but that does not mean it makes the most sense financially. Sometimes answers and decisions go beyond the dollar and cents that are involved—and into how people believe their lives should be lived—and that's why some people toss and turn at night, while others may sleep just a bit more peacefully. I hope that helps. Good luck with your decision, and please let me know what you decide.

— 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!)

To submit a question to Doug, email askdrmike@BRLeader.com.

Waiting Room Distractions

— By Sally York & Myles Mellor

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20				21			22					
	23	24				25		26				
27	28				29		30		31	32	33	34
35					36		37		38		39	
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55	56	57				58		59		60	61	62
63						64			65			
66					67				68			
69					70				71			

Across

1. Cores
6. Tacky chic
10. Enhances
14. Courtyards
15. Sea position
16. Hawaiian tuber
17. Mags
20. Increase, with "up"
21. Poetic palindrome
22. WWII battle site
23. Crackers
26. Mandela's org.
27. Stimulant ingredients
29. Kuwaiti, e.g.
31. Land of leprechauns
35. Profits
37. Indonesian roamer
39. Australian runner
40. Rags?
43. Addition
44. Affectation
45. Cow fuel
46. Some beans
48. Campaigns
50. Some bays
51. Family dog, for short

Down

1. Perry Como's "___ Loves Mambo"
2. Any thing
3. In Aruban fashion?
4. Cool
5. Vendor's mistake?
6. Linked series of writings
7. "Aladdin" prince
8. Exec's note
9. Gotcha moments
10. Immediately
11. "Two Years Before the Mast" writer
12. Attracted
13. Bean used to make miso
18. Time piece?
19. Time div.
24. Catch
25. Alain Robbe-Grillet novel, with "The"
27. "Who ___?"
28. Kind of molding
30. Aardvark's tidbit
32. Worthy of comment
33. Candidate's concern
34. Certain posers
36. Quail food
38. Disney workers
41. Fed. construction overseer
42. Brio
47. Sirhan Sirhan, e.g.
49. Fuse mishaps
52. Back when
54. Churchill's "so few," (abbr.)
55. Creep
56. Bird beak part
57. The America's Cup trophy, e.g.
58. Gull-like bird
61. Neuter
62. To be, to Tiberius
64. Paranormal ability
65. Line



Starting

April 2, 2012

Virginia Regional Transit

New Local Bus Routes:

◆ **Herndon Monroe Express**

(Dulles Town Center to Herndon Monroe Park and Ride Lot)

◆ **Sugarland Run Connector**

(Local route from Sugarland Run to Dranesville Road and Sterling Park)

Changes to Local Bus Routes:

- **7 to 7 on 7:** No more flag downs—must be at a bus stop sign along the route; added stops along Russell Branch Parkway; Route ends at Mirror Ridge Dr./Potomac View Rd (NOVA).
- **Sterling Connector/Countryside Connector:**
These routes are now two separate routes that meet at the Dulles Town Center.

New schedules are online at www.vatransit.org
540-338-1610 or 1-877-777-2708

Towns & Villages News & Community Announcements

April

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

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☉ Saturday, April 7, "The Mountain Music Project" Film & Live Concert, 7 pm, Franklin Park – Franklin Park Arts Center.

The Mountain Music Project: A Musical Odyssey from Appalachia to Himalaya follows the journey of two traditional musicians, Tara Linhardt and Danny Knicely from their roots in the hills of Virginia to the mountains of rural Nepal, where they explore the extraordinary connections between Appalachian and Himalayan folk music and culture, particularly with the traditional musicians of the Gandharba caste. Tickets: \$15 All Seats. Call 540-338-7973 to reserve.

☉ **Wednesday, April 11, Waterford Quilters' Guild Auction, 10 am to 1 pm** – Anything related to quilting plus! Live and silent auction, cash and carry. St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Contact: Sally Keefer, 703 777-9229.

National Library Week! April 8-14, 2012

Join the celebration during National Library Week and enjoy special programs and events for all ages at Loudoun County Public Library!

☉ **April 9:**
10:30 am, Lovettsville Library – Special storytime for ages 0 to 24 months with caregiver. **11 am, Purcellville Library** – Pat the Bunnies with Loudoun 4-H Rabbit Club. Learn about caring for rabbits. Program for all ages. **1 pm – 2 pm, Cascades Library** – Visit with Library mascots, Smartie & Birdie. Bring your camera and take a photo with the owl mascots! **2 pm, Rust Library** – The Wright Brothers performed by Rainbow Puppets. Orville and Wilbur loved to read and had great faith in their own abilities. For all ages.

☉ **April 10**
10:30 am, Middleburg, Library – Storytime with activities to create bookmarks and mini posters to take home. For all ages. **4 pm, Ashburn Library** – Free to Read! Bring your favorite book and participate in stories, songs, and activities. For ages 6 – 11. **6 pm, Rust Library** – Gamer's Union for Teens with Asperger's. Teens play games while parents relax and share information. For ages 12-21.

☉ **April 11**
4 pm, Rust Library – It's a Fairy Tale! Enjoy a selection of Hans Christian Anderson's tales with related activities. For ages 4 – 6. **4 pm, Purcellville Library** – Art and Books with Birds of a Feather Art Studio Create art based on favorite books. For ages 6 – 11. **7 pm, Rust Library** – Poetry Slam. Recite your original poetry for others to enjoy! For ages 12-18.



☉ **Saturday, April 14, Mosby, Scout Along the Turnpike, 12 noon to 5 pm** – Mount Zion Church: 40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie; Aldie Mill: 39401 John Mosby Highway, Aldie; Rector House: 1461 Atoka Road, Marshall. Visit any or all three sites in any order at any time in the afternoon. Members of the Gray Ghost Interpretive Group will give a first-person interpretation of life along the Ashby Gap/Little River Turnpikes.

☉ **Sunday, April 15, 2 pm, Lovettsville Historical Society Lecture: "Before There Was Lovettsville: The German Settlement in the 19th Century"**. St. James United Church of Christ, 10 East Broad Way. Contact: Tom Bullock, 540-822-9777

☉ **Saturday, April 28, Arbor Artist will host the Kid's Club at Arbor Day at Morven Park, 10 am to 3 pm.** Contact Barbara at Arbor Artist, Inc. for more information: 703-777-8806.

☉ **April 12**
11:00 A.M., Middleburg Library – Storytime with activities to create bookmarks and mini posters to take home. For all ages. **4 pm** – Ashburn, Cascades, Lovettsville, Purcellville, Rust and Sterling Libraries. National D.E.A.R Day Celebration at all branches. Join families across the nation and Drop Everything And Read together for 30 minutes. Enjoy special activities at your branch! **4 pm – 6 pm, Cascades Library** – Support Teen Literature Day: You Review! Write short reviews to entice others to enjoy your favorite teen lit! For ages 12 – 18.

☉ **April 13**
7 pm – 9 pm, Ashburn Library – Live Jazz and Poetry. Performers include Kwame Alexander, Joanna Crowell, and Deanna Nikaido. For teens and adults.

☉ **April 14**
2 pm, Rust Library – Instrument Petting Zoo with the Loudoun Symphony. Hear, touch, and try to play a variety of instruments. For all ages.

☉ **April 9-14, Ashburn Library** – Children's Mad Lib(rary) Stories. Turn in your story by April 14 for a small prize. For ages 5- 11.

☉ **April 9-14, Sterling Library** – Love Your Library? Tell us Why! Illustrate what you love about your library and turn in your creation by April 14 for a small prize. For ages 5 – 11.

National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

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. Active for many years, Detachment 1205 provides a continuing home for Marines of all ages & backgrounds. 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** 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. To register: julieg@audubonnaturalist.org or call 703-669-0000 x 1.

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 Albard. 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 Friday Night After Hours Teen Center** meets every Friday night from 7 pm to 10 pm at Cascades Library. Exclusively for middle and high school age students. Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls, VA 20165. For more information, stop by your local library or visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

☉ **CA\$H Bingo**, 1st & 3rd Saturdays, Doors open at 9 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. Phone: 540-338-0910, alpost293.web.officelive.com.

Vintage Redefined

Now a days the shabby-chic movement has gone to the next level of comfortable home decorating called, affectionately, "Vintage Redefined". Still the comfort of very unique, one of a kind decorating, but in most cases telling a story with a sense of humor and history. It takes Shabby Chic to the next level. This is certainly the story behind the business model at LUCIOLE, the vintage home goods shop located in Historic Downtown Winchester.

The name Luciole is French for Firefly, and is evidenced by the great Mason jar lamps hanging in the beautiful windows surrounding the store.

When Luciole opened its doors last May it was to embrace and enchant the city of Winchester with a great store to visit by all the local neighbors while walking downtown for all the wonderful events and activities on the walking mall.

It soon became a favorite of many locals who come often to see what is new because the store can be a completely different store from week to week. Then it also developed into a hot

"When Luciole opened its doors last May it was to embrace and enchant the city of Winchester with a great store to visit by all the local neighbors while walking downtown for all the wonderful events and activities on the walking mall."

spot for folks making the trek out to Winchester from Washington DC or passing by on highway 81.

Folks always find it entertaining and fruitful if looking for that very interesting thing not found anywhere else.

The owner, Melinda Kramer, brings in things to the store from just about any source. It could be a nice antique or just a very trendy piece of furniture! It could be a beautiful metallic painted dresser, or a church steeple found in the back alley! And as all the locals know, you have to take your picture sitting on the antique sandstone lion in front like just about everyone who comes by does!

One thing for sure, it will be unique and worth the trip.

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

Bull Run

Private air strips, horse farms, rows of town-homes, run-down (or fall-en down) shacks, foreboding 'troops' of evergreens, quarries, road construction: all of these strewn helter-skelter upon the landscape, sometimes adjacent to one another, creating a world gone mad. An apt scene for a yet-to-be-made David Lynch movie. This was my dream. This was my nightmare.

Oh, it all started so innocently, way back then. See, I had thought about this place for almost 15 years, ever since (or maybe even before) I'd moved to Loudoun County; I'd been curiously drawn to that southeastern tip and all it had to offer – lying so close to the Historic Manassas National Battlefield – you know, the Battle of Bull Run – even us Northerners'd heard of that. It must be a pretty special place- somehow enshrined for my visiting pleasure. I'd pictured a serene little stream, carefully en-shouldered by its pristine, manicured banks, the whole vision made complete by perhaps a wayside rest adjacent to the (it simply had to be) carefully tended, historic bridge spanning the 'hallowed ground.'

But, in reality – ahhhhh, not so much. What I found, in the semi-shrouded darkness of a frozen pre-dawn morning, was two-lane traffic barreling down on me from both directions, signs indicating not only private property, but promises of



defense by firearm if I so much as stepped out of my vehicle at one of the adjacent lots.

My instincts told me to 'can it' and get the heck out of Dodge, but I spied a level patch of roadside grass a few yards up the way – with just enough turn-off space to safely miss the speeding trucks and cars. My parking accommodations featured what appeared to be a drainage ditch (maybe it was actually designed to house conduit for high-tech communications cables?) running parallel to the road – ending in a sort of delta of eroded soil sporadically filled with some very unfriendly-looking boulders – looking oddly out of place among the sandy earth and the good, old, reddish, Virginia clay. This roughly two-by-two foot trench abruptly ended a half-dozen yards or so to my left, having come down the hill toward the stream – only to kind of peter out into a washed-out morass of uninviting mud – now frozen hard as the accompanying rocks. An image worthy of one of HP Lovecraft's stories. Even the boulders were playing tricks.

It was still early enough for a half-moon to look down on all this, as well as the familiar sight of a string of telephone poles and wires, also running parallel to the roadway – headed for the creek of my dreams. I couldn't imagine what the morning commuters must have thought of my presence here- some insomniac nut with a camera – in the middle of this!

“Go home and enjoy your day off, for Pete's sake!”

The thing is: I was enjoying my day off. That

is, I would have been, had I found the actual Tip o' the County to be anything like that of my fantasy of the place. As it was, I felt just a little bit cheated – having driven 20 miles in early-morning rush-hour traffic along Evergreen Mills and Gum Spring Roads. I was even sidetracked by a wrong turn- ending up along the God-neglected (if not forsaken) Ticonderoga Road, with its spray-painted 'signery' and man-made mountain of muck- all this presented for my viewing pleasure, of course. It was not to be a 'day at the beach,' so to speak.

I got the impression, on my trip down to this site, that some of the land owners had won their property through some nameless act of violence- or perhaps in a card game. If ever the word 'ramshackle' would apply to the overall (and specific) landscape features, it'd be here. The wilderness appeared to have not easily given up its sovereignty over the land: pine, cedar and other unidentified evergreens crowded close to the corridors of the roadways, and earth was piled high in places of earlier skirmishes with bulldozer, dump truck and caterpillar.

But, these man-made behemoths were nowhere to be seen. Like the dinosaurs which had come before, these monsters had also retreated, but left their effects upon the land. All grist for the mill of my visionary experience.



So, here was I, standing at the roadside at 7 am, in 20 degree temperatures, with a camera, looking for appropriate images for a nice, cuddly, enjoy-your-tea-and-cookies kind of story; what I actually witnessed, however, is that sometimes- just every so often in our lives – the Big Tour Guide in the sky plays us a carefully crafted, snidely sarcastic, very practical joke. He knew that I'd dreamed of this place for over a decade; He knew that I already had images in my mind which would be suitable for such a reassuring, warm-hearted, good-for-the-soul kind of story.

Well, I found lemons in the 'Loudoun County Places' aisle at my grocery store, so I made some literary lemonade. Hope you were thirsty.

Frogs, continued from page 1

single dark spec within a larger egg mass, and then as free-swimming tadpoles.

Once there, they were finding a mate and producing eggs of their own, and after that, moving to the moist woodlands, forested swamps, ravines, or bogs where they would spend the summer.

Loudoun County has eight species of frogs: Wood Frogs, Spring Peepers, Pickerel Frogs, Cricket Frogs, Upland Chorus Frogs, Green Frogs, Bullfrogs, and Gray Tree Frogs.

Not all of them spend the winter in a frozen state. But, all do go through a rather magical transformation as winter turns to spring.

As the Wood Frog passes into its frozen state, species such as the Spring Peeper find deep cracks in logs or in rock, or simply borrow down as far as they can into leaves and other organic matter, returning to the water when spring arrives. Other frogs drift down to the bottom of sufficiently deep water or borrow into mud and wait to be awakened by warmer temperatures.

A Frog's Song

We often think of frogs as “croakers”, but the frog voices we hear as winter turns to spring vary from species to species. The Pickerel Frog sends out a low-pitched snore, while the Wood Frog lets out a short clucking sound, making you think there's a duck quaking in the distance. Grey Tree Frogs make a loud flute-like trill, and are often heard on hot humid and rainy days in the summer. Spring Peepers are unmistakable, emitting a series of high-pitched peep-peep-peeps. The Upland Chorus Frog lets out a loud “creek” or “preep” ... like a finger running down the edge of a comb. Bull Frogs are easily recognizable; the loud, deep-

throated “rum ... rum ... rum” that resonates in your ear tells you one is nearby. Green Tree Frogs produce a series of squeaks and could be what you see splashing into the water as you approach.

Breathe ...

Frogs exchange oxygen through their skin, and can't breathe unless their skin is kept moist or wet. This is why you see so many frogs out on the road during early spring rains, or after a rain while the pavement is still wet. Many of these frogs are migrating ... using the moist air to enable them to breathe ... moving safely from where they spent the winter to where they will breed and/or spend the spring and summer. A reverse migration occurs in the fall as frogs enter their winter cycle, again, under cover of moisture.

Importantly, while the anti-freeze like chemicals in a frog's body keeps it alive through freezing temperatures, frogs are very sensitive to habitat disruption.

As with several salamander species, some frogs are “obligate species”. In the case of frogs, this means they cannot survive without vernal pools, shallow often small bodies of water that come with the spring and disappear with the summer. Vernal pools can support the tiny Fairy Shrimp, but they do not support the fish populations that feed on frog eggs. Smart, those frogs! Smart, and when it comes to spring, magic in the way they shake off the frozen lands of winter and sing their way into our hearts – signally they are just as joyful at the warmth of spring as we are.

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is an invaluable resource for this column. More information at www.loudounwildlife.org.

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

may offend your neighbor and hurt your relationship. You might start by talking about your lawn and yard and by sharing some of your landscaping ideas for the Spring and Summer. You might even ask him for his advice if you are planning to plant new flowers or plants. Paradoxically, by talking about your yard with your neighbor, he may in turn begin to talk about his. If he does, you can then offer him some neighborly advice and guidance. Heck, you might even offer to give him a hand since the appearance of his yard bothers you as much as it does.

Dr. Mike,

I am in love with someone I work with, but I am not sure he truly loves me. We've been dating for months now and things are mostly very good. Our attraction is strong and mutual, we share several common interests, we have similar values, and we have a ton of fun whenever were together ... but something is missing. I seem to want more from him than he is willing (or able) to give. When I told him that I wanted a bigger commitment, he told me not to rush a good thing. He's been divorced for two years, and I know his ex-wife did a real number on him, so maybe I need to be more sensitive to that. My instincts on guys and relationships are usually pretty good, and I am afraid that my Mr. Right has too much baggage to love me fully. I don't want to end things now because that seems drastic ... and I also don't want to be alone. Does it make

sense to move on from a good situation that you want to be great? Help. – T. in Loudoun County

T., I think you need to give things more time. With time, your relationship will either grow into something more meaningful for you both, or it will not. It seems that you could potentially ruin things by continuing to ask your boyfriend for a larger commitment at this point. Perhaps your instincts are right as you suggest, but perhaps your need for larger commitment now has more to do with you than it does him. It's not clear. What is clear to me though is that you want to be more than friends with benefits, and that is what is making you most anxious at this time. I do not think it makes sense at this point to move on from a good situation that you want to be great, as you write, which is why I would give things more time to unfold. Eventually the cream will rise to the top, as the old saying goes, and you will see things for what they are.

Michael Observantine “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. To submit questions to Dr. Mike, email askdr mike@BRLeader.com.

Sports Tid-Bits



Winners of the 2012 Husssa Basketball Tournament 6th Grade Girls Champions Western Loudoun Basketball League 6th Grade All Stars. Coach Ahlers, Sydney Ahlers, Natalie Blankenship, Paige Williamson, Taylor Donches, Katie Cox, Maddie White, Caroline Roden, Maddy Hegerich, Virginia Carpenter, Assistant Coach Carpenter.

Lady Vikings on a Roll

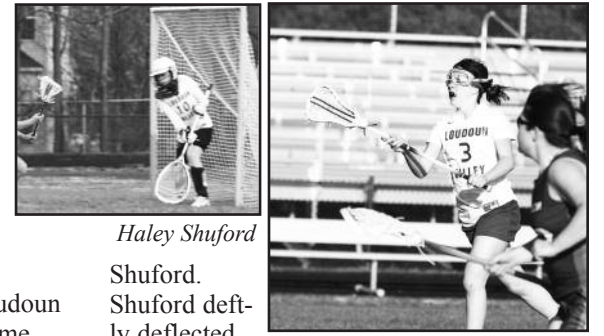
– By Mac Shuford

The Loudoun Valley Lady Vikings Lacrosse team is on a roll. Recent wins put their district record at 3-0, and they now sit atop the Dulles District.

On March 26th, the Lady Vikings played host to the Park View Pride. The Lady Vikings got off to a scorching start in the first half. They scored repeatedly on back-to-back possessions as senior Rachel Swan won nearly every draw, giving Valley near constant possession of the ball. The offensive onslaught ended at halftime as Valley took a 13-2 lead into the locker room. It started right back up in the second half, however, with 12 Lady Vikings recording goals on the night. Senior Payton Boyer had a breakout game all over the field claiming 2 interceptions, 3 ground balls, 3 goals, and 1 assist. The offense was led by sophomore Sarah Ashworth who led all scorers with 4 goals on the night, followed by sophomore Corley Simons with 3 goals and 2 assists. The trio of Courtney's, Courtney Halterman, Courtney Schollian, and Cortney Inman, followed with 2 goals and 1 assist each. Sophomore Ashlyn DiLoreto was impressive with 4 ground balls, 4 assists, and a goal herself. Megan

Williamson, Rachel Bowyer, Caitlin Gore, and Katie Davis all rounded out the Lady Vikings' offensive effort with a goal apiece. Williamson also added 3 assists. In goal were Haley Shuford, Kelsey Greene, and Rebecca Solarzano, recording 2 saves each on the night. It was a great night for the young Loudoun Valley team as they closed out the game with a 22-3 victory over the Park View Pride.

Valley's finest hour came three days later, on Thursday night, March 29th. Loudoun Valley took on the Raiders of Loudoun County High. The first half of the game was an offensive smorgasbord resulting in an 8-8 score at the half. It broke down into a defensive struggle in the second half as it came down to an 11-11 tie with about a minute remaining. Junior Cortney Inman broke the game wide open as she powered through two defenders on sheer determination and slammed home what turned out to be the winning goal giving the Lady Vikings a 12-11 lead. As the seconds ticked down, the Raiders gained possession off the draw and pressed desperately for a shot. County fired repeatedly from point blank range at freshman goalie Haley



Haley Shuford

Courtney Inman

Shuford. Shuford deftly deflected two shots in rapid succession and then caught a third, securing the win for the Lady Vikings.

On the night, Ashlyn DiLoreto led all Valley scorers with 5 goals, followed by Courtney Halterman with 4, Cortney Inman with 2, and Sarah Ashworth with 1. Senior midfielder Rachel Swan dished out 3 assists on the night as Corley Simons and Ashlyn DiLoreto claimed one apiece. In goal, Kelsey Greene and Haley Shuford recorded 2 and 5 saves respectively. Coaches Tracey Albro and Kaitlin Quigley have to be ecstatic at both the win and the tremendous future of such a young team who only fielded 7 upperclassmen this year. One can only imagine how far this team will go as they continue to gain confidence and momentum with every game they play.

PONY Nationals Softball Returns to Loudoun

PONY™ Baseball & Softball and the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services (PRCS) have a three-year agreement to hold the PONY™ Nationals Fastpitch Softball Tournament in Loudoun County. The county hosted this tournament for eleven consecutive years before the event moved to North

Carolina in 2007. Loudoun will host two divisions in 2013, three divisions in 2014, and two divisions in 2015. The tournament will bring 250 games over six days in August of each year. "PONY's decision to bring this tournament back to Loudoun was based on the county's quality facilities, our ability to maintain fields at the highest stan-

dards and our experience hosting successful large national events," said PRCS Sports Division Manager Dave Carver. Games will be played at Phillip A. Bolen Memorial Park, Potomack Lakes Sportsplex, Edgar Tillet Park, Trialside Park, Brambleton Park, and Claude Moore Park.

VILLAGE NEWS! TOWN NEWS! VILLAGE NEWS! TOWN NEWS!

News From Lincoln!

– By Anne Tiffany

The Lincoln Community League is in full swing with its new board members. The board met for three hours on March 25 at Ard and Virginia Geller's lovely home on Foundry Road to discuss LCL's mission statement and what to include on its new website. Website: www.lincolncommunityleague.org; this is still a work in progress, but so far, it seems to have been well received and a great success.

The new LCL board was voted in at the beginning of this year. Our LCL president continues to be Phil Daley who continues to do so much for our community. Our vice president is Jilori White; secretary, Harriet Wegmeyer; treasurer, Jeff LeSourd; and the at-large members are Jean Brown, Leah Cole, Jean Dawson, Ard Geller, Pete Holden, Kristin O'Rourke, and Frannie Taylor. The board meets at the Daley's house at 8 a.m. the third Saturday of each month.

Congratulations to Scott and Sarah Brown Maison for the birth of their son, William Arthur Brown Maison. William joins his sister, Hannah, as being the 10th generation to live at Oakland Green. Jean Brown is their proud grandmother.

The kick-off for Keep Loudoun Beautiful was held on March 31; and now it is up to all of us to pitch in and help clean up the front of our properties and along our roads. Jilori White is Lincoln's contact person for this event. Sign up at the Lincoln post office for the area that you will be monitoring. This county wide program goes on through the month of April and prizes are available to those communities who participate. Lincoln often receives a prize each year.

Lincoln's annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lincoln School. This event is for all children up to 12 years old. Bring your Easter basket and a dozen eggs to hide. There will be games and prizes for the young; and food for all to enjoy.

Phil says that spring is indeed here and that birds are returning to the area. He has already sighted hummingbirds; and Frannie Taylor has seen her first Baltimore Oriole for this year. We should soon be seeing barrels filled with flowers along main street.

Please submit any news to me by the 25th of each month: juff70519@aol.com.

News From the Town of Lovettsville!

NEW: Town Hall Informational Open House – Monday, April 9th, 6PM – 8PM: Mayor Walker will continue the series of Informational Open Houses on April 9th at Town Hall with newly appointed Councilman Jack Burden. Citizens are encouraged to drop by, meet the Mayor and the Councilman and discuss their interests and concerns.

NEW: Little League Baseball Opening Day – April 14th: Lovettsville Baseball "Opening Day" will be held at the Lovettsville Elementary School on April 14th. This day will include little league games, a team procession, MLB-style opening ceremonies and a free baseball movie on the field at dusk.

NEW: Loudoun Health for Life Day – Saturday, April 14th: Annual event promotes a healthy lifestyle for all Loudoun residents through good nutrition, physical fitness, and preventative

healthcare. There will be screenings, demonstrations, tastings and activities for the kids between 11am and 3pm at the Cascades Library (221030 Whitfield Place) in Potomac Falls. For more info visit www.loudoun.gov/healthcouncil.

NEW: Lovettsville Mayor and Council Candidates Forum – Monday, April 16th 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM: The Lovettsville Business Association will host Candidates Forum for the candidates for Town office on Monday, April 16th at the Lovettsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. For more info, visit www.lovettsvilleba.com.

SAVE THE DAY: MayFest – Saturday, May 26th: Join your friends and neighbors for Lovettsville's first annual MayFest Family Picnic on Saturday, May 26, 2012 on the Town Green.

Answers to crossword puzzle from page 21

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

Historic Garden Week in VA April 21-28 www.vagardenweek.org

- ☉ Albemarle County, Sun./Mon., April 22-23
- ☉ Old Town Alexandria, Sat., April 21
- ☉ Arlington, Tues., April 24
- ☉ Ashland, Sat., April 21
- ☉ Chatham, Sun., April 22
- ☉ Clarke County, Sat., April 21
- ☉ Danville, Thur., April 26
- ☉ Eastern Shore, Sat., April 28
- ☉ Franklin Sat., April 21
- ☉ Fredericksburg, Tues., April 24
- ☉ Gloucester-Mathews, Sat., April 28
- ☉ Harrisonburg, Wed., April 25
- ☉ Lake Gaston, Bracey & Ebony Sat., April 21
- ☉ Lexington, Sat., April 28
- ☉ Lynchburg, Tues., April 24
- ☉ Martinsville, Wed. April 25
- ☉ Middleburg & Upperville, Sun. & Mon., April 22-23
- ☉ Middlesex County – The Middle Peninsula, Fri., April 27
- ☉ Newport News – Hampton, Wed., April 25
- ☉ Norfolk, Thurs., April 26
- ☉ Northern Neck – Lancaster County, Wed., April 25
- ☉ Orange County, Sat., April 28
- ☉ Petersburg, Thurs., April 26
- ☉ Portsmouth, Sat., April 21
- ☉ Richmond – Ampthill/Wilton Area, Tues., April 24
- ☉ Richmond – The Boulevard Wed., April 25
- ☉ Richmond – Three Chopt/Westhampton, Thurs., April 26
- ☉ Roanoke, Sat., April 28
- ☉ Staunton, Sat., April 21
- ☉ Virginia Beach, Wed., April 25
- ☉ Williamsburg, Tues., April 24

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Thursday, April 19th
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Thursday, April 26th
6:00 pm

Sunday, April 29th
3:00 pm

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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**



JUST LISTED!

Leesburg \$589,000

Six Bedrooms- fabulous unique floorplan with 3 finished levels ABOVE GRADE. Gourmet kitchen, wood floors, 3 car garage. MINT condition.



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.



JUST LISTED!

Ashburn Belmont Country Club!

Toll Brother 2 car garage, backs to common area and trees. Mint condition, light, bright, 3 finished levels. **\$409,990 LO7800688**



JUST LISTED!

Sterling, VA

Bring your bathing suit! 5 bedroom, 3 bath home. Highly upgraded and efficient home with inground pool. New Carpets, Newer roof. Completely Updated. **\$389,000 LO7707420**



SOLD!

Historic Sunnyside, 25.1 Acres

Restored & Updated! Five bedrooms/3 baths upper level. Barns, Creek & Fenced for Horses! **SOLD! \$998,000**



SOLD!

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

Sam's Market Update Current inventory remains VERY low. In February days on market was only 77 days. Please call me to find out if this is the right time to put your home on the market.

Call Sam Rees, Associate Broker, Prudential Penfed Realty

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



Sam.Rees.PFRAgent.com

Every Real Estate Market has Great Opportunities

