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Virginia Century Farm Program Hits 1,200 Milestone

– Montcalm Farm Joins Crooked Run Orchard, Oakland Green And Other Local Properties Worthy of Prestigious Label –

The number of properties designated as a “Virginia Century Farm” has passed the 1,200 mark. As of early spring 2012, the program had recognized a total of over 1,200 farms since it was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1997.

“The Century Farm program honors the commitment and contributions of farm families who have owned and worked their farms for 100 years or more,” said a Century Farm spokesperson. “[The program] recognizes and pays tribute to those farmers whose continuing efforts have formed the back-

bone of the Commonwealth for more than 400 years,” said Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Commissioner Matthew J. Lohr. “These are the people who have made agriculture Virginia’s leading industry with an annual economic contribution to the state of \$55 billion. I am a fifth generation farmer and my family’s farm is a Century Farm. We take great pride in that heritage.”

Locally, you’ll find Virginia Century Farms in the throes of Purcellville’s

Continued on page 21



Crooked Run will be split in two by a new highway.



Montcalm Farm



Photo credit: Hugh Christy, US Forest Service

Hummingbird Moths (“Wait ... That’s An Insect?!”)

– By Andrea Gaines

The first time you lay eyes on the incredible species known as the hummingbird moth you just might exclaim ... what is that?!

The first time I saw one I was at, of all places (!) the Outlet

Mall in Leesburg. It was mid-spring and just coming on dusk, and there in a well-manicured bed of petunias was a plumb little flying thing whirling and buzzing from flower to flower.

At first I did think it was a

Continued on page 30

Bus Running Drivers “Caught On Tape”

– Persistent Parent’s Home Video Finally Getting the Attention It Deserves –

As the creative YouTube piece notes “A picture speaks a thousand words.” And, so does a video ...

In the fall of last year a concerned Loudoun parent began videotaping the highway scene where their child boarded the school bus every morning.

For some time, and with great alarm the parent had noticed car after car and truck after truck blatantly ignoring one of the most basic rules of school bus safety, that, by law, all vehicles on the road, in any lane and coming from any direction must come to a complete stop while children get on and off the bus.

Continued on page 12



And The Winners Are ...

– Flower & Garden Festival Draws Huge Crowds And Recognizes the Best –

It was one of the most spectacular spring days Loudoun had seen this year, and the beautiful weather, combined with the fantastic vendors and displays brought some 21,000 visitors to Leesburg’s downtown.

All were there for the 22nd annual Flower & Garden Festival, which welcomed roughly 21,000 visitors on Saturday, April 21. Sunday’s crowd was smaller, as event-goers braved wet and breezy conditions for most of the day. But, in total, the event saw about 24,000 guests.

One of the highlights of the annual event is the judged landscape competition. This year, ten area landscapers showcased their work.

One landscape competitor proudly proclaimed: “We

worked from 7:30 last night ‘til 7:30 this morning and think we have a real chance to win. Keep your fingers crossed!”

Landscape competitors are judged in a variety of categories. The 2012 winners at the 22nd Annual Flower & Garden Show were: River’s Edge Landscape of Bluemont, VA for “Best Overall Presentation”; West Winds Nursery of Sudley Springs VA for “Outstanding Technical Craftsmanship”; Wildwood Landscapes of Purcellville, VA for “Outstanding Creativity”; and River’s Edge Landscape of Bluemont, VA for the “People’s Choice”. The 23rd Annual Flower & Garden Festival is scheduled for April 20 and 21, 2013.

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Ask Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike, My husband and I are taking our three children to Disney World this Summer. We've waited as long as we have because our youngest son has autism, and we know the experience may be over stimulating for him. He's a great kid but reacts to long waits and loud noises. We certainly do not want to deprive our son (or other children) of the Disney experience, but acknowledge that we have to be careful with how we approach this. Do you think our 7 year old son can handle Disney, and do you have any tips for us?
– S., in Leesburg

S., I've dealt with this several times as a psychologist with Disney and other theme parks, so I do have a few tips for you. While I don't know your child's level of functioning, I do believe he could have a wonderful time at Disney if you prepare yourselves in advance. The first thing you're going to want to do is get a note from your son's pediatrician or from one of his treatment provider's (e.g., his psychiatrist or psychologist). The note should explain that your child has autism and the related difficulties in functioning from that condition. For example, you write that your son may become over stimulated by noises and long waits. Your doctor's note should explicitly state then that long lines



or waits alongside noise may be problematic for your son. When you arrive at Disney, you'll bring your letter to the Guest Relations window and request a Guest Assistance Card. The Guest Assistance Card will be good for all four parks. You should also request the Guidebook for Guests with Disabilities, which will be further informative for you on how to have a great time at Disney with your child. You will also find the Guidebook on-line at www.DisneyWorld.com if you want to review it in advance. A few more thoughts. You may also want to investigate where you are staying before you book your rooms. A loud hotel or hotel room isn't advised. Also, if your son has any dietary restrictions, make sure you know about what restaurants serve in advance, and call ahead for priority seating if needed. Also, taking breaks and/or naps to recharge is recommended – enjoy Disney over the course of a several small visits as opposed

to long, full days. You may also want to have some earplugs on hand, as some of the attractions will have loud sound effects or music. Lastly, as parents remember that it's all about having fun, and don't try to do too much. If your older children get frustrated with your pace, maybe you can separate so that they can fit more in. Disney is a magical place for all children, and I hope you and your family have a fantastic and memorable experience.

Dr. Mike, I only allow my children to have sugar on occasion, as I know it causes them to become hyperactive and difficult to manage. My neighbor tells me that sugar does not cause hyperactivity, and that's always just been a myth or wife's tale. She's wrong, right? Is there any research to support my position?
– T., in Purcellville

T., Hmmm ... how do I say that your friend is right, kindly? There isn't a single scientific study to date that supports a direct relationship between sugar and hyperactivity in our children. The idea that sugar or additives cause behavioral changes in children dates back to claims about food additives made by Benjamin Feingold, MD (the Feingold diet) in the 1970's that mostly haven't been supported. That's why our mom's were so adamant that sugar was a problem, but, as the old saying goes, "You can't believe everything you read." Researchers argue that parents tend to assume causation when really changes in

behavior with sugar in children have more to do with proximity. For example, when your child eats a big piece of chocolate cake with ice cream at a birthday party and gets too revved up, he's revved up because of the situation – lots of kids, noise, playing and having fun.

Dr. Mike, My husband and I do not believe in teen dating, yet our daughter is giving us a real run for our money. She is 15 and is attacking us hard with some great arguments – that all of her friends are dating, that we are too restrictive, that she gets A's and B's, that we don't trust her (that one hurt), etc. While all of her points are valid, we just don't see what good will come from dating at her age. To the contrary, my husband and I were once 15, and we are well aware of the problems dating at that age can cause – ranging from a broken heart to premature sex and pregnancy. She's our only child, and we want to get this right. Got any advice?
– B., in Leesburg

B., I agree that your daughter's arguments for dating are valid, and I would also agree that yours are too. In most relationship disagreements, however, being right isn't necessarily the solution, but rather reaching a place of acceptance and compromise is. At 15, it is normal for your daughter to be curious about and interested in boys, so I wouldn't discourage that. My recommendation would be for you and your husband to initiate open dialogue with

Continued on page 30

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Live music, Woven Green 2-4

Sat. May 12
Free glass apple wine for moms 2-4

Sat. May 19
Spring Farm Tour! 10-4
Live music, Acoustic Burgoo noon-3

Sat. June 9
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& live music, Acoustic Burgoo 5-7

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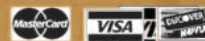
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The Land We Story, Part Two



“Land is our most precious commodity. The debasement of our land by disorganized and inefficient development is reckless and dangerous ... every road buries a thousand stories.”

Despite the fact that Virginia recognizes the ownership of land as a possession that by its nature, is very different from all other possessions, eminent domain abuse is rampant throughout the state. This November the citizens have a chance to curtail some of the worst abuses, which are those that have strayed most liberally from the Constitution. The taking of property, etc.

The taking of property is now routinely done for no other reason than to increase the revenues of a town. This is precisely what Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro said he wanted to do when he decided to annex three properties to the east of the town. However, that is one of many prohibitions in the Virginia Code. Any lawyer will tell you that most of these prohibitions are ignored with complete impunity. We are constantly being told we are a nation of laws, but it appears some laws are more "equal" than others.

Eminent domain has become one of the most unjust of all practices here and in most other countries, where, for example, officials

take farmland to build on without the slightest consideration for the farmers who have lived on that land for centuries. Unfortunately, that has happened many times in this country and in Virginia also.

A large portion of eminent domain is used to build roads. With the new Loudoun Board of Supervisors, road building will most likely continue at a breakneck pace. Since roads create congestion, congestion will get worse. In Loudoun, there are no roads less traveled. Roads are one of the few things that get worse the more efficiently they are used. In fact, we strive for congestion. As we grow, we build more, not fewer, roads – since no road is built with the condition that development not be allowed to follow in its path. Only minimizing the building of new roads lessens congestion, because removing roads forces commuters to adopt different travel habits.

Continued on page 28

My Time With Paul View From the Ridge

– By Tim Jon

It was things he said, and the way he said 'em: like, a chilly morning: “I tell ya, ya step outside, it gets yer attention, do-n't it?” Or, his drive in from Middleburg: “Traffic at Gilberts Corner was jus' outta this world.” And, the ubiquitous: “The cause o' the fire – as they say – is under investigation.” But food-talk was the holy of holies, in which Paul possessed an almost otherworldly talent: On deep fried turkey: “Like sittin' down to a meal with Jesus.” His favorite snack: “Chocolate's one of the basic food groups.” And, his beloved donuts: “We need some Krispy Kreme.” Paul was perfectly suited for local radio, because- most of all – he just plain loved talking to- and about – people.

I had the pleasure to work with Paul Draisey during the 10 years I spent as News Director at Wage Radio in Leesburg. Now, I was an outsider from Minnesota, but I bonded with the locality- and Paul – to me – embodied “Old Loudoun County.” It sounds like hyperbole, but he really did seem to know everything about everybody in this special little place. It wouldn't have surprised me if he brought in Sheriff Taylor of Mayberry. I did feel a bit overwhelmed by this Yogi the Bear personality, but my instincts said: “You can't beat this guy at his own game – so join forces.” And, the more Paul and I worked together, the more our personalities kind of formed a “Marmaduke and the Imp” scenario. We had our differences, but we bridged any gaps – and over time – our on-air trust solidified.

One time Paul asked me- live, on-air- against all unwritten rules of broad-casting, “Why did it fall?” My one-word reply: “Gravity.” He looked at me – a blank stare for a tenth of a millisecond- then he appeared to be expecting a child – then we both broke another rule: don't laugh on-air. We both chose to enjoy the unexpected – and then proceeded to the next topic.

Moments like these were common-place with Paul.

I pride myself on “making my own weather,” – but Paul was past Master at the

craft. The only instance I ever saw him “down,” was the day former County Administrator (and one of Paul's best buddies) Phil Bolen passed away. But- professional that he was – Paul rebounded, “cracked the mike” and shared that sad news bulletin with commiseration. The listener always felt that Paul was on their side. And, from sharing the studio with him, I can attest to that. That's partly why people didn't just like Paul – they loved Paul. It was a near mania. I'm the guy who answered the phone – I should know. Correct that. I answered only when Paul was too busy. Because he always wanted to know – who was calling – what did they want – what did they know. It wasn't selfish – he just wanted to know. When you're working with a force of nature like that, you just relax and enjoy it.

And then came September 11th. Paul normally signed off at nine every morning, but on that day, I think he stayed on the air, live, until about 1 pm – we interviewed everybody: Sheriff Steve Simpson, Mayor BJ Webb, Congressman Frank Wolf, Fire and Rescue personnel, you name it. You would have had a very serious wrestling match on your hands trying to get Paul off-mike that morning.

This story could go on for hours and days and weeks and months – and, as you know – it has a very sad ending. No one feels this more than I. Thinking of that empty chair in that abandoned building off Wage Drive in Southwest Leesburg where we both worked all those years – not only is he not there – he's nowhere to be found. It gives me a very lost sort of feeling. He was the guy I told the news to – often the first one to ever hear of breaking stories – moments before going on-air. He especially liked the little details associated with things. He even appreciated my coffee- not to mention my barbecued chicken. I'll cry for him, often.

Paul Draisey, called by some “The Voice of Loudoun County,” died in April at the age of 55. He lived in Middleburg.

Letters To The Editor

No Seat Belts in School Buses?

Dear Editor:

According to www.crashstuff.com, “Your chances of being involved in an aircraft accident are about 1 in 11 million.” As we climb on board we assure ourselves that “we are safer in the air than on the ground.” And yet, somehow we instinctively know that we are not going to get cheaper airline tickets or higher airline stock portfolios by eliminating seatbelts on airplanes. Seriously, can you imagine boarding a plane where the flight attendant says, “We're ready for take off. Sit back and relax, you are safer here than on the ground. That's why we stopped installing seatbelts. Besides, we're tired of constantly reminding you to buckle up. It's just not worth the hassle, for such a small margin of safety.”

And yet, that appears to be the rationale of

our Loudoun County School Board that recently chose to save a fraction of their budget by not installing seat belts in new school buses. What's worse, it appears that more than one Board member cited the difficulty of disciplining the students. The margin of safety is just not worth the hassle.

Really?

Before you trust them and shrug it off, I hope you'll research the site: www.ncsbs.org.

“Nine ambulances responded to the accident. Emergency workers took some of the children off the bus on backboards after fitting them with neck braces ...” after the school bus was hit from behind by a big box truck ... No seat belts were installed on the school bus,” reads one sample of several accident descriptions.

Both in fact and in symbolism, the LCPS

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Equalized Real Estate Tax But Car Tax Increase Maintained

The Purcellville Town Council has set the real estate tax rate at 22.5 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. This is a reduction in the tax rate of one half cent but amounts to an equalized tax rate.

What constitutes an equalized tax rate? There are two variables in computing the tax on a property: The assessed valuation and the tax rate. Loudoun County controls the assessment for all property in the county and annually reassesses every property in the county. This data is then passed to all incorporated towns within the county for property within the respective town's boundaries.

The equalized tax rate is that rate which will produce exactly the same revenue on the property within the jurisdiction (without considering new construction). In the past, the town has stated that they levied an "equalized rate" but have been a little loose with the rounding. The tax rate has been at 23 cents for the last two years. Last year the average assessment went up by 0.4 percent and this year the average assessment rose by 1.69 percent.

Since the last town election, the total assessment increase has been 2.09 percent. Hence a reduction of \$0.48 would constitute an equalized rate over the two year period. As stated, the town has set the rate at \$0.225 per \$100. This is within .02 cents of being exactly equalized for the two year period and given that the town did not reduce the rate at all last year, the round off should certainly favor the taxpayers this year.

This data flies in the face of the story on the front page of the Purcellville Gazette's April 12 edition. The paper claims that the equalized rate would have been 23 cents and the 22.5 cent rate is a reduction from the equalized rate. It then quotes Mayor Lazaro as claiming good fiscal management has allowed them to reduce the tax rate and then quotes Vice Mayor Joan Lehr as saying that the increased commercial tax base allowed them to keep taxes low.

The truth is that according to the Loudoun assessment report, the total

increase in commercial construction this year is zero. Next year will likely see the increase in the property currently under construction, but this year the only construction increase was approximately \$6 million in residential construction.

It is true, as stated by Ms. Lehr, that the town is likely to see an increase in the sales tax revenue and perhaps the meals tax revenue in addition to the return of the gasoline tax. The proposed budget for next year estimates the sales tax revenue to increase by 2 percent and the meals tax to increase by 36 percent plus the return of approximately \$225,000 in gas tax revenue. However, the 36 percent meals tax increase included a 1 cent rate increase that was not approved by the Town Council. Hence the budget balancing of withdrawing of \$500,000 from reserves will have to be increased or cuts made to the budget to offset this estimated revenue increase.

The big news is that the projected budget shows the town's reserve (commonly called the "rainy day fund") dipping from a high of \$4.5 million a year ago to \$1.2 million at the end of FY13. This amount is less than half of the town's policy of keeping a \$3 million reserve. This projection was made with the assumption of a 23 cent tax rate and a 25 percent increase in the meals tax rate. The revenue reductions already approved by the Town Council will decrease the town revenue by \$310,000 so that an equivalent amount of cuts to the general fund must be made or the rainy day fund will be further depleted.

The "car tax" is an entirely different situation. Quite frankly, they never consider equalizing it. The political logic behind that policy is that the taxpayers don't see it. But it is an ever increasing tax because the value of the cars we drive increases every year. Even during the current recession the values have been going up. But the taxpayers don't see it.

Suppose, for example, that five years ago, you purchased a car for \$20,000. Each year, you would see your assessed value decrease and the taxes you pay on the car are less so you naturally are happy because

Continued on page 28

Reform The Government Reform Commission

– By Malcolm F. Baldwin

Our Board of Supervisors established the Government Reform Commission (GRC) at its first meeting last January, as promised during its election campaign. Opting against broad-ranging bi-partisan participation, the Board appointed an all-Republican commission drawn from developer and other business interests, with no apparent experience in local government to apply to the effort of reforming ours. The Commission's work assumes the business priorities of the Board.

After considering public and Board suggestions the Commission chose its issues in negotiations with the Board. Its agenda supports two broad objectives and pillars of Republican political philosophy: (1) to reduce regulatory burdens on businesses and developers; and (2) to reduce the role of our local government's professional staff, while enhancing the power of the Board. Enactment of such changes create other changes: (1) reduced civic engagement in government, and (2) greater risk of abuse by those benefiting from relaxed regulations.

One cluster of Commission actions would consolidate county financial functions, replace the elected and autonomous Sheriff with a Chief responsible to the Board; alter our fire and rescue system to reduce the role of volunteers; create a new structure for Loudoun Water; and stagger Supervisors' terms.

A second and more immediately important set of initiatives popular with the Board's business constituency would help shape Board budget actions next year. These include proposals to:

- Change County planning and zoning processes to achieve more efficient "handling of applications by citizens and entities";
- Simplify and/or reduce special exception requirements that are now the public's best opportunity for comment and engagement on major

"Efficiency remains essential to any "core" local government function, but neither our Board nor the Commission considers what constitutes this "core." Does it include protection of Loudoun's economically important land, water, cultural, historic or archeological resources? What about programs to address poverty, substance abuse, mental health and other social services? Are these "core" functions?"

- new development proposals;
- Reduce or eliminate archeological reviews of developments "in certain cases" (not yet determined);
- Establish a "system of metrics" to assess government programs, such as a "formulaic construct linked to economic performance, revenue collected, assessed values and/or other such measures that guide and limit" future spending;
- Contract out or privatize county and/or public school functions "to promote long term savings to County taxpayers and a greater focus on core governmental services," (emphasis added) by reducing employee costs, dropping county landfill and affordable housing programs, and user fees for using the county's Geographic Information System; and
- Determine the feasibility of combining county government and public school system site selection, land acquisition, building construction and certain personnel functions.

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Continued on page 6

Letters To The Editor, continued from facing page

Board is choosing to put our children and grandchildren at risk. Their safety is not the highest priority of our leaders. I hope you will continue to express your dismay.

– S. Ann Robinson, Leesburg

Dulles Rail, Protecting Loudoun Families or Political Games?

Dear Editor:

The following is a letter I sent to Geary Higgins following last week's Town Hall Meeting held in Lovettsville, VA. Mr. Higgins says that he needs to look at all the information, he is "very concerned about the capital construction and long term costs associated with joining a system which is governed by unelected boards (MWAA and WMATA) that are controlled by Maryland and the District of Columbia," and "will not

support the project if it is to be laid upon the backs of Loudoun's families," but he is still unable to commit to a position of opposing the Loudoun Rail Project. Now is the time for true leadership in order to protect Loudoun County citizens from endless taxation, instead of political games. I offer my letter which was addressed to Mr. Higgins for the people of Loudoun County to consider, and I am still waiting to hear that Geary Higgins will publicly, clearly, and vigorously oppose the Loudoun Rail Project.

"Mr. Higgins, I attended tonight's Town Hall Meeting in Lovettsville, and while I do appreciate the fact that you showed up, you did not earn my respect when it comes to the issue of Loudoun County's involvement with METRO.

Your inability to acknowledge how this

project is bad for your constituents, and Loudoun County as a whole was disappointing. The people who you represent need someone willing to have the courage to state an opinion, recognize that this is bad for their future, and to be a leader in rallying support to defeat this measure, instead of someone who will sit on the fence and see which way the wind of public opinion is blowing that day.

I am curious, as you state that you want to look at the information, how much information do you have to see in order to say that this is bad for Loudoun County. I also wonder, if so many people are stating their support for building the Metro project in response to your email survey, where were they tonight? If these people are as passionate about building it as you mentioned tonight,


they certainly didn't believe in it enough to get off their couch and leave their home to come support it tonight. It takes a lot to get me to leave my family and my children in an evening to go out to something like this, but I did tonight because I truly believe this is a horrible idea for Loudoun County.

Sir, please do the right thing, have courage, be a leader, and take a stand as a leader to defeat this horrible idea of Loudoun Metro by publicly stating your opposition and opt out! Thank you." – Todd Morrison, Hillsboro

What do you call it when...

You spend \$4 to earn \$1, and
You listen to paid shells while ignoring credible opinions from your own studies that refute all claims of benefit, and
You let your county's big spending

Continued on page 6


 Barbara S. Williams
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Celebrated Local Photographer Donates Landmark Book

Sarah Huntington, a local photographer famous for her brilliant black and white, portrait, wedding and historical photographs has donated a copy of the book "In Their Own Words, Recollections of an Earlier Loudoun", to the Woodgrove High School library. Sarah published this oral and photographic history of Loudoun County with Gale Waldron in 2002.

Letters, continued from page 5

decisions be guided by the Washington Post Editorial Board instead of common sense, and

You partner with overpaid convicts whose past performance all but guarantees dismal results, and

You replace 45 minute commuter bus trips that cost the county \$2 per trip with a \$30 per trip, 1 hour and 15 minute train ride, and

You put the people who elected you as a fiscal conservative into permanent financial bondage because ... umm ... uh ... just because?

What do you call it? Answer: Metro To Loudoun.

Loudoun County's own low-ball cost estimates reveal a \$713 million loss on Metro over the first 24 years. This is based on Loudoun County-released information. Actual costs are likely to be far greater!

Only in government do you spend \$4 to get \$1 back and call it a success.

A recent series of articles from the Washington Times show a side of Metro. The articles cite examples of unimaginable practices, one after another, too many to mention.

In typical examples, quoting the article, "a man who spent eight years in prison for dealing PCP was promoted to a high-level management position soon after his release.

Only in government do you call joining with a dysfunctional body like Metro an investment.

Thank you Loudoun supervisors for making the effort to do your due diligence.

Loudoun can do so much better than this.
 — David LaRock, Loudoun Opt Out Group,
 Hamilton Virginia

21st Street Update

Discussions Continue As To What is Proper (Or Not) For Purcellville's Historic Downtown

Town deliberations on the direction that would or would not be taken in Purcellville's historic downtown district resumed in late April as the Purcellville Town Council Infrastructure Committee received input from prospective developers John Chapman and Mark Nelis on the 4-story hotel project they seek to build. The Committee's discussion revolved around road and sidewalk "improvements" the developers want the town to complete before the two partners will present formal development proposals.

As reported in our April edition, the improvements have been the subject of controversy, as they would narrow 21st Street in historic downtown, dramatically change the grade of the street, and significantly widen sidewalks.

In a letter to Town Manager Robert W. Lohr, Jr., developer Nelis, in referring to his earlier land purchase (with Chapman) in the area, said that "this land investment and loan exceeds \$4 million. But for the town's vision

to concentrate development in the [historic] district and the town's ability to obtain grants and invest funds in the district, Mr. Chapman and I would not have made this investment."

Several prominent shops and stores on 21st Street oppose the changes on the grounds that this will hamper their ability to service their customers, change the character of the historic area, and waste taxpayer dollars. Others question the scale of the proposed changes, concerned that this may jeopardize the status of the historic district.

Vice Mayor Joan Lehr stated that the improvements to 21st Street "are" mandated by VDOT. However 21st Street is not a VDOT road, and VDOT would therefore have very little input on any potential designs or work. She also said that the shops flood when it rains, and that was another reason for the potential work. Shop owners on 21st Street were asked to confirm if this was true and no one knew of any "water problem."

Purcellville Recognized By US Chamber For "Sustainability" Efforts

"The U.S. Chamber Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC) and Siemens Corporation [has announced] Purcellville, Virginia (along with Chicago, Illinois and Santa Monica, California) were chosen from among 132 communities across 40 states to become this year's Siemens Sustainable Community Award winners." reports Samantha Villegas, of Savi PR. Mayor Bob Lazaro accepted the award at a recent U.S. Chamber event in Atlanta.

The award recognized Purcellville for its "multi-disciplinary approach to sustainability which has positively impacted local businesses and enhanced the quality of life among its citizens ..."

In Purcellville's case, Siemens and the US Chamber focused on two specific projects that it believes support the concept of "sustainability": the renovation of the historic Bush Tabernacle near Fireman's Field (across from the new Town Hall) and the Purcellville

Gateway, a 110,000-square foot development situated on 16 acres of the original Cole Farm, anchored by a 53,407-square foot Harris Teeter grocery store.

Catherine Keller, Communications Director for the U.S. Chamber's BCLC said: "Sustainable development possesses both opportunities and challenges to America's cities and towns. Creating jobs and economic diversity while reducing consumption and being a good steward of natural resources requires a delicate balancing act."

Municipal awards of this kind take many forms. In some cases a municipality is nominated, with the nominating individual or organization completing the application necessary for a locality to be considered. In the BCLC Sustainable Community Award process, "the applicant decides whether to apply for the award, and they do it because they want recognition," said a U.S. Chamber representative.

Government Reform Commission, continued from page 5

The Board promises that being business – and developer – friendly will increase the business tax base and relieve homeowner taxes. That will only result if we attract new businesses well beyond the community of developers whose houses don't pay enough in taxes to cover the service needs they generate.

Will citizens also suffer from lack of transparency and fewer policy checks on abuse within a "streamlined" government? A few signs already look troublesome. Our new Board has reduced public comment time in front of the Supervisors and an audience of other interested citizens and the press. Citizen emails and Supervisor newsletters hardly offer a substitute. Our Board and the GRC strangely ignore a

Reagan-Republican reform of cost-benefit analyses with long-term horizons when proposing new regulations or deregulation.

What reforms need attention? We might foster civic dialogue to identify the "core" government functions of our wealthy county. Should we help our less affluent residents optimize their economic security and educational opportunities? How should we maintain the beauty and quality of life that residents and visitors cherish? Do we need a watchdog function – a small, permanent office of accountability -- to assess goals, efficiencies, and respond to citizen concerns?

We might start this broader dialogue with a reformed Government Reform Commission.

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What's That?

- By Carol Morris Dukas



Making Sense of the Stuff We Find in Our Back Yards



The Loudoun Farms Dairy was the name of Kathleen's father's creamery business in Purcellville, which dates to the 1940's and 50's.

Milton McDaniel and a family relative started pasteurizing milk in the early 40's, in a building located below the present-day Magnolia's restaurant on 21st Street.

"Loudoun Farms Dairy" was an amalgamation of numerous milk producers in Loudoun and was the first and only local pasteurization plant in the area. Local dairy farmers had their milk delivered to the creamery in tall cans - often by Gene's father, Henry Schneider - where milk was pasteurized, bottled and delivered to consumers in crates. In those days of home delivery, Kathleen often stood in as the "milkman" herself, when labor was short and business was brisk.

Sometime after the Second World War, the United States saw an increase in pasteurization

Continued on page 28

Mystery Solved! Loudoun Farms Dairy Bottle: An Update

Well, the mystery is a mystery no more. After sifting through emails and phone calls, we now know from whence the elusive milk bottle stamped "Loudoun Farms Dairy" (our March What's That! puzzler) originated ...

An email from Gene Schneider, son of a former milk deliveryman; and a phone conversation with Kathleen McDaniel Beaver from Purcellville, laid this story to rest.

We Need Help With Some Items Found On A Former Dairy Farm ... See Page 28.

Oh, go take a hike!

- By Molly Pinson Simoneau



From certain locations in Loudoun, you can look to the north and see, in the distance, a single hill that rises out of an otherwise flat landscape in Maryland. That rise is Sugarloaf Mountain, and it is covered in well-maintained, easy-to-navigate trails that make for a perfect afternoon exploring with your family, or perhaps your favorite furry (and leashed) friend.

For me, getting to Sugarloaf was almost as much fun as hiking it. The drive is very scenic, but I opted to cross the Potomac on White's Ferry, something I've enjoyed doing ever since I was a kid. The ferry is so much more special than a boring old bridge. (If you've never used White's Ferry before, a round-trip ticket will cost you \$8. Head north out of Leesburg on Rt. 15; signs for Whites Ferry road on the right.)

When you leave the ferry, make a left on Wasche Road, a right on Dickerson Road, and a right on Mt. Ephraim Road - which takes you to Sugarloaf.

There are several intersecting trails at Sugarloaf, all very well marked, and it's easy to choose a long or short, easy or more strenuous circuit. (Downloadable trail map at www.sugarloafmd.com.) I recommend fol-



lowing the blue trail to White Rocks. There are also horse trails for equestrians.

The East View parking lot has a picnic area with a beautiful vista. Why not bring a cooler with a picnic to leave in the car, spend the morning exploring the woods, then come back to your car and dine al fresco? Sounds like a perfect Saturday to me!

This time of year is one of my favorite times to hike. (Ok ... there's never a time that isn't one of my favorite times to hike!) It's the height of spring and you can just smell the earth coming to life. The redbud trees are blooming and leafing (Did you know they're native to our region?) and their purplish-pink blossoms are beautiful against the new green in the trees. So call up your favorite hiking companion and tell him to dust off his walking shoes! The high-season for hiking is here!

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



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Heritage Day is Back!

Purcellville's Heritage Day is on May 12, from noon to 6 pm at Fireman's Field, with a Grand Finale Big Band Dance from 7 pm to 10 pm.

There's something for everyone at this old fashioned County Fair.

Purcellville celebrates its rich history at the annual Heritage Day in the Park with live music, local food, a farmers market, its Wine & Spirits Garden, the Art Crafts & Book Nook, tours, children's activities and games, exhibits, displays, antique car show ... and more.

This year's festival focuses on western Loudoun in the 1940s during its "Greatest Generation" with Franklin Park's Big Band Dance as the grand finale and a special World War II re-enactment.



Woodgrove HS Student Brings School, Scouts and Local Landscape Company Together for Lessons Outside the Classroom.

Late last year Woodgrove High School student Kyle Sargent began brainstorming for his Eagle Scout Project. Kyle realized that revitalizing an underutilized outdoor area of the school would provide a beautiful, permanent place where students could gather, meet, or have lunch while getting some fresh air.

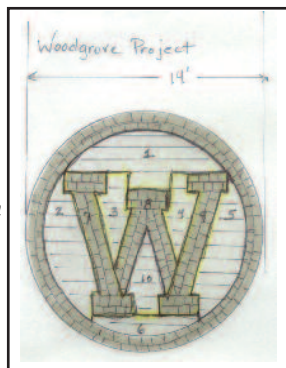
Kyle's next step was to figure out a way to make it happen. Recognizing that WildWood Landscape had done a lot of work in his neighborhood, Kyle initiated a meeting with its owner, Jason Dengler. After Kyle presented his concept, Mr. Dengler offered him guidance on how the project could be designed and implemented for optimum beauty, functionality and ease of maintenance. Equipped with this new information – and WildWood Landscape's offer to donate design, materials, labor and installation for this project – Kyle prepared a detailed plan and proposal (including a budget) and presented it to his school's administrators and Mark Rodgers, his Eagle Scout coordinator.

During the next few weeks, Kyle met with scouts from his troop (961, Hillsboro), parents, school officials, WildWood Landscape, and other business owners in the community (including Loudoun Milling, TW Perry and Abernathy and Spencer) to coordinate all the details to realize his project.

On Saturday, January 28, 2012 Kyle brought together 25 scouts (and their dads) to move eight tons of gravel onto the future courtyard. Mr. Dengler was there all day to oversee the project ensuring that the area was engineered for proper drainage. During the week, while students were in class, WildWood Landscape's team installed the courtyard with pavers that they had cut and pre-assembled from a master design in their shop in Purcellville.

The next big day was February 18th. Once again, the scouts came out to help Kyle lay two tons of decorative blue gravel dust, dig an area for a flower bed, and place mulch and edging around the new courtyard. With the arrival of warm weather, Kyle and his father planted roses to further enhance the area. Complete with picnic tables,

"Everyone learned from this experience," said Wildwood Landscape owner Jason Dengler. "... it demanded math, engineering, design, project and team management skills. Kyle did a great job of building a team and working together with a lot of people."



Phoyo by Kyle Sargent

Woodgrove High School students now have a great new place to enjoy. Assistant principal Ms. Cummings said "It looks great." Assistant Principal Mr. Panagos remarked, "I have received lots of compliments on it."

Kyle acknowledges that his success was possible due to the expertise and generosity of WildWood Landscape, "I am very appreciative of all the help, advice, services and materials [WildWood Landscape] offered ... I wouldn't have been able to do such a good job without his [Jason Dengler's] help".

Mr. Dengler is equally appreciative of the opportunity to be a part of a project that has so many benefits including the fact that it promotes kids spending time outdoors. "Everyone learned from this experience. [Of those involved] it demanded math, engineering, design, project and team management skills. Kyle did a great job of building a team and working together with a lot of people."

Mr. Dengler is equally appreciative of the opportunity to be a part of a project that has so many benefits including the fact that it promotes kids spending time outdoors.

"Everyone learned from this experience. [Of those involved] it demanded math, engineering, design, project and team management skills. Kyle did a great job of building a team and working together with a lot of people."

On the Market ... with Sam Rees



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On the Market... Real Estate Update: Current inventory CONTINUES to remain very low. In March, days on market Dropped to 64 days on market! (Data provided by RBI, an MRIS company.)

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- The Builder's Wife -

- By Cathy Little

The Evolution of Green

There's a lot of talk these days about Going Green. But, how much of it is reasonable and useful to do? Can we be kinder to the environment and reduce our utility bills without spending too much green to go green?!

Due to industry innovation many green technologies have improved in efficiency and come down in price in the last few years. Others are not yet practical options for Northern Virginia.

The feasibility of solar energy is getting better all the time, and in areas of the country where electricity costs more and/or there is plenty of sunshine it is making sense to incorporate it. The return-on-investment (ROI) isn't significant until you pay 18 cents or more per kilowatt hour. In Virginia, we pay about 10 cents. So we're not quite there yet. (However, in the homes we build, we beef up the roofs and install conduits so that panels can be added in the future.) Solar hot water heaters are also not quite ready for the big time in our area. Their ROI is poor.

It is far more important to give your home a cozy blanket; that is, maximize the insulation in your attic and replace inefficient windows. We recommend Renewal by Andersen for high-quality windows - well-built, long-lasting, and highly efficient; therefore, a great ROI. The more well-sealed your home is, the more it makes sense



"There's a lot of talk these days about Going Green. But, how much of it is reasonable and useful to do? Can we be kinder to the environment and reduce our utility bills without spending too much green to go green?!"

to add items like solar panels.

Light bulbs, especially, have gotten a lot of attention. When the incandescent phase-out was announced in 2007 it was a scary prospect. Even when the deadline was extended, it was too late for manufacturers like the GE factory in Winchester; one of the last places to make incandescent light bulbs had already closed their doors.

But, true to America's innovative heritage, industry stepped up and is creating some excellent alternatives. In attending the builder's trade shows and talking to vendors we've seen the price of LED fixtures drop from \$200 down to the \$60 range.

For the new home this is very affordable. Retrofitting your existing home if you flat out hate fluorescents, is also now well worth the investment. Our current favorite is the Cree LED (available at Home Depot). It lasts 20 years and uses 15% of the energy of the equivalent incandescent. Unlike fluorescents, they are dimmable and compatible with existing dimmer switches. The best part is that they don't have the ghastly overtones of fluorescent lighting.

In regard to plumbing, products continue to improve. We recently replaced a tradi-

Continued on page 28

Reviews of Movies Available For Home Viewing: *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011)*

- By Bob Rutzel

(Gary Oldman, John Hurt, Mark Strong, Colin Firth, Toby Jones, Benedict Cumberbatch)

Not Very Entertaining

In the 1970s, George Smiley (Gary Oldman) comes out of retirement to find the mole in MI-5 British Intelligence Service (also known as The Circus), who is upsetting covert operations. Sound easy enough? The hype over this story was staggering. It is said that the story, as presented, is an adult (read "intellectual") version of the Ian Fleming and Robert Ludlum spy stories. That sure sounds like Zzzzzzzzz time to me. I just had the feeling I would be looking at frozen facial expressions for long periods of time. (The more frozen expressions, the more professional critics call it artistic, intelligent, and thought provoking. Keep in mind, these critics only talk amongst themselves, in a language only they understand.)

So, here's the thing if you want to enjoy this movie: The mole is someone in the inner circle of The Circus. That is all you really need to know. Everything else is a distraction. Hey, I didn't give anything away. Knowing where the mole is still doesn't help, as we know absolutely nothing about these people. Nothing. So, how are we to know about clues when it comes to them? If there was some sort of character development for these people we might have had a chance. Is the mole Tinker, or Tailor or Soldier? Ok, so now you know where the

title of this comes from. Does that help? No. In the last 20 minutes, Smiley puts names to Tinker, Tailor and Soldier. Does that help? No.

For most of us, the most recognizable person within The Circus is Colin Firth as Bill Haydon. Is he the mole? (I honestly hoped he would say at some point: "You know, I used to be king." - little joke here.) Perhaps the book told more about the people who made up The Circus, but it didn't happen here. And, yes, a little humor would have gone a long way to a better entertainment rating. Didn't happen.

This was not entertaining. This was tedious, and we kept hoping Smiley would key in on someone to get this over with. The problem was, we couldn't read Smiley even a little. How do you read a frozen face? And, it wasn't just him. There were frozen or poker faces all around. And, yes, I was correct. I spent most of this movie watching frozen facial expressions. Not good. (5/10)

Violence: Yes. Sex: Yes, but this is viewed via binoculars into another building complex. You see nothing. Nudity: Yes, a man getting out of bed. Language: Yes. (Not many F-bombs. Mostly soft stuff.) Rating:C.

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

Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

- The Long-Term Care Dilemma: Insurers Leaving, Premiums Increasing -

- By Amy Smith

If you've planned for long-term care, you've done well because there's a pretty good chance you or your spouse will have a need for care at some point.

According to the National Clearinghouse for Long-term Care (www.longtermcare.gov) about 70% of people over age 65 will need some type of care during their lifetimes and more than 40% will require care in a nursing home. According to the National clearinghouse, in 2010 it cost an average of \$75,000 per year for a semiprivate room in a nursing home, while one year of care at home costs about \$19,700 per year.

The Life Insurance and Market Research Association (LIMRA) estimates over 7 million Americans have LTCI. However, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in 2010 there were over 40 million Americans age 65 and older. So only a small percentage of those who face the increasing prospect of long-term care have LTCI.

Companies leaving the business

In spite of the apparent need for LTCI, some of the largest providers of individual LTCI have either stopped selling individual LTCI or they're planning to do so, although some of these carriers will remain in the group LTCI market.

So if the need for LTCI remains, why are some of the biggest insurers getting out of the individual LTCI market? There are a number of reasons such as poor investment returns due to the chronic low interest rate environment, the fact that more policy owners are keeping their insurance instead of letting it lapse, the rising cost of long-term care, and the fact that people are living longer, leading to larger LTCI payouts.

If your LTCI carrier is getting out of the LTCI business, don't worry-you're still covered. Generally, insurers that leave the LTCI market must either continue to service existing policies or transfer that responsibility to another carrier.

Wolf Introduces Bill To Create Permanent Inspector General For Metropolitan Airports Authority

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10th) has introduced legislation to create a permanent inspector general (IG) for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA).

Wolf said he introduced the bill (H.R. 5322) in anticipation of the May 15 release of an interim report on the contracting, governance and transparency practices of MWAA being conducted by the IG at the U.S. Department of Transportation. Wolf requested the review in February 2011 after MWAA rejected his December 2010 request to hire outside auditors. He believes the interim report will show the need for a permanent inspector general.

Wolf said he has grown increasingly concerned by some of the board's recent actions, citing the fierce battle over the location of the Metro station at the airport,

Your LTCI premiums may increase

If you purchased your LTCI policy more than a few years ago, you could be in for a surprise when you get your next premium bill. Several states have allowed their insurers to increase their premiums. If your premium does increase significantly, you may be faced with a dilemma: Do you keep the insurance and pay the higher premium or should you stop paying for the insurance altogether and lose not only the insurance coverage but also all the prior premiums you paid?

Here are some alternatives to consider:

- Shorten the length of your insurance coverage. For example, if you have lifetime coverage, decrease it to 3 or 5 years. The National Clearinghouse estimates women need care on average for 3.7 years while men need care for about 2.2 years.
- Drop or change your inflation protection. This provision can almost double your premium in some cases. Depending on how long you've had your policy, your daily benefit might have increased enough over time to allow you to lower the inflation protection from say 5% compound to 3% simple interest and lower the cost for that protection or drop the inflation coverage completely.
- Consider replacing a current costly policy with a new one. Even though you are older, you may find that today's carriers offer fewer "bells and whistles" and at a lower average cost.

Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, is an independent firm. Amy is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA) and offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Ste. 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com. The opinions and recommendations here are those of the columnist. Content Prepared by Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc. copyright 2006-2012 Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved.

Oliver North To Speak In Hamilton

Guest speaker Oliver North will appear at the Hamilton Baptist Church for a prayer breakfast on Saturday May 12, 2012 as part of a Loudoun Men of Integrity (LMI) event.

LMI is a nonprofit men's ministry founded as an outgrowth of the national men's ministry, Promise Keepers.

LMI meets every quarter and is supported by many of local churches and crosses all Christian denominational lines. There is participation and support from Baptist, Methodist, Catholic and non-denominational churches.

For more information about the Loudoun

Men of Integrity and the schedule of meetings visit their website www.LMI4HIM.org. This site also has several links and lots of great information for men.

The LMI Prayer Breakfast will be held from 8 am to 10 am. Hamilton Baptist Church is located at 16 East Colonial Highway in Hamilton.

Oliver Laurence (Ollie) North is a retired U.S. Marine Corps officer, political commentator, host of War Stories with Oliver North on Fox News Channel, a military historian, and a New York Times best-selling author.

Vote For The 2012 Best Small Towns In America!

Just in time for summer, Rand McNally and USA Today are asking their readers and website visitors to register their votes for the Best Small Towns in America.

The categories are: Friendliest, Most

Beautiful, Most Fun, Most Patriotic, Best For Food. Why not nominate and vote for your favorite western Loudoun town or village? Visit www.RandMcNally.com and click on the "Best of the Road" symbol.

Local Elections Happening As The Blue Ridge Leader Went To Press ... Lovettsville Wins For The Most Spirited Campaigns!



Bus Running, continued from page 1

The Blue Ridge Leader got involved with this story after receiving a tip at tipline@BRLeader.com, and within days of posting links to the parent's original YouTube video on our website and Facebook page we were flooded with comments.

According to the parent, despite repeated calls and complaints to Loudoun County Public Schools, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, the State Police, Transportation Managers, and other state and local officials, vehicles continued to "run the bus" at dangerous speeds, "...with blatant disregard to the law."

In one sequence the video showed 100 vehicles running the bus, and, said the parent, "I only had my video camera at the bus stop 50% to 60% of the time."

One BRL Facebook posting said: "I don't know what is more shocking ... that this many drivers either don't know (or don't care about) the laws, or that there has not been any response or enforcement."

Another BRL Facebook posting noted that "There HAS been law enforcement at this stop (long before the video was posted). Unfortunately, even with law enforcement present, it not does not seem to reduce the number of cars that regularly run the bus. The bus stops at this stop 4 times each day. Yesterday, there was no less than 4-7 deputies at the stop for each of these 4 times. Cars ran the bus during 3 of these 4 stops in spite of HEAVY law enforcement presence. They caught a total of seven bus runners in just this one day. This level of enforcement at this one site, although greatly appreciated, is not going to solve the county wide problem. Bus runner cameras may offer a more

effective county wide solution than posting 4-7 officers at one stop. If LCPS would install bus runner cameras on a limited number of buses, they could rotate these buses through to the stops with the highest number of bus runners. This would create suppression of bus running as well as generate revenue (that would more than pay for the cameras). This one bus stop could probably pay for several bus runner cameras."

According to the parent doing the videotaping, they were told that bus cameras that could identify the drivers would not be installed because of legal issues and costs.

LCPS employees have stated that this kind of "Bus Running" happens frequently, all over the county, and that ours "is not even the most dangerous stop".

While this is an issue of law enforcement, there are simply not enough officers available to monitor every bus stop in the county.

However, if bus runner cameras are installed on the buses, it would provide a means of monitoring, deterrence and revenue from an issue that has been not taken seriously for far too long.

The Blue Ridge Leader contacted Wade Byard, Communications Director for Loudoun County Public Schools for comment. Byard said, "We have been aware of the situation depicted in the youtube video and have worked, and will continue to work, with the parent who filmed the video to find an alternate bus stop. We have been working with the Sheriff's Office to increase the tickets being given to people who pass stopped buses. Car should stop unless they are in the opposite lane of a four-lane divided highway."

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Polo For Piedmont



The seventh annual Polo for Piedmont benefitting Piedmont Child Care Center (PCCC), a non-profit organization, will be held at the Upperville Polo Field (corner of Route 50 and Willisville Road in Upperville, Virginia) on Sunday, June 24, 2012 from 2 pm to 7 pm. The cost is \$30 per car and ticket costs are tax deductible.

"This is our seventh year and has become a traditional event," says Alice Duggan, director of PCCC since its opening in 1984. "Polo is a wonderful sport and is exciting for the whole family."

Gates open at 2 pm with the feature match beginning at 4 pm.

New this year will be a kid's corner with moon bounce, face painting, and other activities to keep your children entertained.

Along with the exciting polo is the Silent Auction, offering an incredible hand painted chest by Cathy Zimmerman, Stella & Bean Merchandise, Middleburg Salon gift certificate, and much more!

General admission tickets are \$30 per car in advance, \$40 at the gate. Reserved Railside Car passes overlooking the Polo Field are \$100 in advance. Car passes admit up to 6 people per vehicle and be sure to bring your tailgate picnic!

All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit PCCC. For tickets call 540-592-3908 or visit www.piedmontchildcare.org. Save time, buy online!

PCCC is located at 9121 John Mosby Highway (Route 50) in Upperville, VA 20185, directly across the street from Trinity Episcopal Church. PCCC is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to providing quality early childhood care and education for approximately 87 children from diverse, multi-cultural backgrounds. Located in historic Upperville, Virginia, PCCC opened in 1984 and serves any family regardless of race, creed, disability, or country of origin. Contact: Sue-Ellen Taylor, www.piedmontchildcare.org

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 PRICE REDUCED 4 BR, 4.5 BA, 4741 sqft 5.56 acres Lovettsville \$599,990 LO7773702	 5 BR, 5.5 BA, 5385 sqft 1.02 acres Ashburn \$864,850 LO7757370	 PRICE REDUCED 4 BR, 6.5 BA, approx 7000 sqft, 3.93 acres Round Hill \$735,000 LO7775017
 UNDER CONTRACT 4 BR, 2.5 BA, Short Sale .53 acres Hamilton \$249,000 LO7734424	 UNDER CONTRACT 5 BR, 3.5 BA, 3654 sqft, .24 acres Purcellville \$465,000	 AND EVEN MORE ... Leesburg \$599,000 Commercial bldg. on .30 acres Lovettsville \$1,950 3 BR, 2.5 BA rental on .50 acres
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10th Annual Round Hill Hometown Festival May 26, 2012

The Town of Round Hill is pleased to announce the 10th Annual Round Hill Hometown Festival, to be held Saturday, May 26, 2012 in Round Hill. This year's event features a 5k race, parade, memorial ceremony, down hill derby, rides and games for kids, a community feast and a concert in the Town Park. According to Mayor Scott Ramsey, "... The success of our Hometown Festival over the years has been due to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers and the support of our local business community. This year's 10th Annual Hometown Festival promises to be another memorable event for all ages ..." For details, go to www.hometownfestival.org



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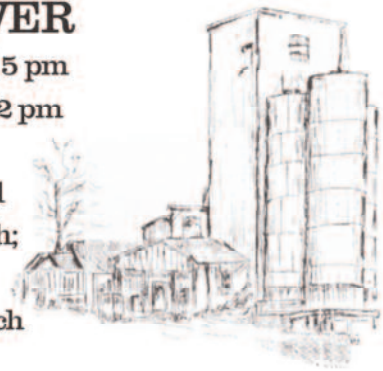
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Leave a Little Pokeweed ...



– By Donna Williamson

Those plants we see growing on the edges of our property, or in that place we never find time to “weed” may just be, well, something for which we should be thankful. This is certainly the case with the botanical jewel known as “pokeweed.”

Pokeweed is beautiful and dramatic.

With rich, dark purple berries and magenta stems, this five to nine foot tall, well-branched and lush beauty with big, lance-shaped leaves is a star in the fall garden. We often buy plants that will have this kind of presence in the garden – think Brugmansia or Angel’s Trumpet, elephant ears, canna. But, we can have this one free!

Pokeweed is an excellent source of food.

The berries provide a high-carbohydrate, low-fat, good protein form of nutrition for migrating songbirds in the fall. Good for birds that stay around as well – you are unlikely to see the berries remain for too long once ripe.

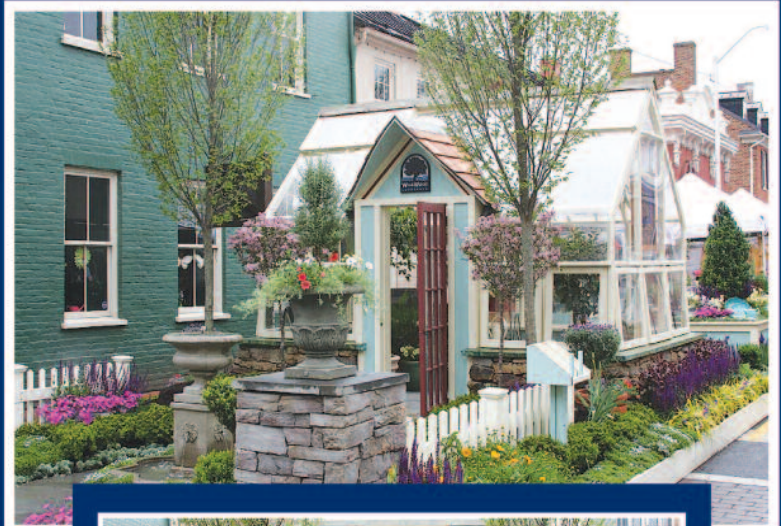
Pokeweed is native.

Pokeweed is an East Coast native typically growing where soil has been disturbed and dormant seeds have been brought to the surface. It loves a well-drained, sunny location with a bit of moisture and grows well throughout Virginia.

The Brits grow pokeweed as a specimen plant!

Those folks interested in emulating those beautiful British gardens could feel at home growing pokeweed – sadly, it has become invasive in Europe.

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 of The Virginia Gardener's Companion: An Insider's Guide to Low-Maintenance Gardening in Virginia, contact Donna at dvwfinegardening.com, 540-877-2002.



THANK YOU!

WildWood Landscape, LLC would like to thank everyone who came out to visit the Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival. We are happy to announce that we received the award for OUTSTANDING CREATIVITY this year! We greatly appreciate the dedication, tremendous talent and the hard work of our staff and your support.



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Philomont Girl's Death Inspires Gift of Smiles

On August 9, 2011, five-year-old Sadie Grace Ablard died from a head injury sustained at a birthday party. Her mother, Sara Ablard of Philomont, is turning tragedy into something positive by supporting a cause important to Sadie.

Sara said, "Since my daughter Sadie's death eight months ago, I've found some comfort for my heartbreak by channeling my energy into something positive that will help others: fundraising for SmileTrain." As often happens, it all starts with a smile. I clearly remember Sadie's first smile. Not just a reflex smile but her first real smile. She showed me that first gummy grin when she was eight weeks old and she never lived a day without beaming several times during the day. Even on grumpy days, she would find things to look delighted about ... a funny passage in a book, the crazy antics of goats on our property, finally getting through that difficult violin piece, finding colorful yarn for her next knitting project, watching a butterfly land on a flower ... Sadie found joy in so many areas of life."

Sadie wanted to give others the chance to smile too. Not just a partial smile but a wide-open grin.

She was troubled that some people are born with cleft lip and cleft palate and that ninety-five percent of children born with a cleft in developing countries never receive surgeries. Not only can they not smile, but they have trouble eating or speaking properly, and often aren't allowed to attend school, marry, or hold a job. They face difficult lives because they are too poor to afford a simple surgery.

Sadie first learned about SmileTrain while walking through Dulles Town Center. She saw banners promoting the cause with often-seen photos of children with cleft palate. She asked, "What's wrong with that boy?" Sara explained as best she could, then went home to learn more online.

First Annual
Sadie's Race
Raising money for
SmileTrain

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

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

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Sadie showed great compassion for these children and she wanted to help. That Christmas, she asked for donations instead of gifts, and raised \$500 which funded two "smiles" for children.

With Sadie's death, Sara is continuing her cause. "It's my goal to raise enough money in my lifetime to fund a child's smile surgery for every day that Sadie lived. That's \$250 per smile for 1,913 days for a total of \$478,250. It's a bold goal, but then Sadie lived with a bold heart and with much compassion for others", Sara said. "With each smile we fund, we help improve the life of a child, and we're doing so in memory of my joyful Sadie who blessed us with her beaming, contagious smile. She would be delighted to be contributing to sharing more smiles with others." So far, more than \$50,000 has been donated to Sadie's tribute fund with Smile Train.

One of Sadie's other passions was running. A 5K/Kid's Fun Run will be held on what would have been Sadie's sixth birthday, Saturday, May 12, 2012 in Purcellville. All proceeds going to SmileTrain.

Registration is open on Active.com or visit www.sadiesmilefoundation.org.



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» REAL ESTATE TICKER » HOME BUYERS ARE BACK

– By Carl Fischer



It's been a long wait, but residential homebuyers in the under \$500,000 price range in Loudoun County are back in sizable numbers. And they are carrying their checkbooks with them when they go house hunting!

After a very long five-year hiatus, homebuyers have finally emerged from wherever they were hiding, and on any given week-

end, especially when the weather is good, they wander about the countryside and throughout the individual subdivisions, either with their agents in tow, or armed with reams of data on every conceivable property that might fit their needs.

And they know what they are looking for. These are not the buyers of old. Today's homebuyers are very much up to speed on what questions to ask, what attributes to demand, what diversions to ignore.

And for the most part, they don't waste time with over-priced listings.

The model has changed

There once was a time when sellers

would price their properties based on their wishes, rather than on the carefully crafted research offered by the real estate professionals who advise them. The general belief was: "If they don't like my price, let them offer what they are willing to pay...."

That may have worked from time to time way back when, but no more.

If your property is not correctly "positioned" in the market, you may get no showings at all, or lots of showings and no offers.

But when you do it right: Nirvana!

One anecdote:

About three months ago, I was referred to

an out-of-town property owner who had a nice older house in a great neighborhood, and he wanted to sell it. After inspecting the home, I made recommendations for some work that needed to be done. And I recommended an offer price to be placed on the property when all that work was completed.

That's not exactly what he opted to do.

So the property was put on the market at the "final asking price" while he sought estimates for the work to be done. Buyer traffic began almost immediately, but the house was not in a state of repair to justify the asking price.

Continued on facing page

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

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

© 2011 by Vicki Whiting, Editor, Jeff Schirke, Graphics Vol. 27, No. 23

MEMORIAL DAY

Who served in your family?

Memorial Day is a day for Americans to honor soldiers who have died for their country while serving in the military. It is a day to appreciate the freedoms we all enjoy.

Most likely, someone in your family has served in the military at one time or another. Ask members of your family to find out who has served in the military.

Standards Links: Civics: Know how various symbols are used to depict Americans' shared values.

The motto of the United States Marine Corps is "Semper Paratus." Use the clues below to fill in the missing letters to reveal the meaning of this Latin phrase. The answer will appear in the boxes under the star.

"ALWAYS

1.	R			
2.			A	
3.		S		
4.			T	
5.	H			
6.				F
7.				N
8.		L		

CLUES

1. Short for "referee"
2. Another name for father
3. To take a little drink
4. Feline
5. A word someone might say when confused
6. Opposite of "on"
7. A good time
8. Everything or everyone

Standards Links: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

This bugle or trumpet call is played at ceremonies on Memorial Day, as well as wreath-laying and funeral services. It's also played nightly in military locations to signal day's end or "lights out." When it is played, as a sign of honor, service men, women and veterans will salute. People not in the military should place their right hand over their heart.

N R T J B A X
K P W V S

Circle every third letter to discover the name of this call:

Standards Links: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

the Online Scoop

Discover different ways to observe Memorial Day, send a Memorial Day card and much more at: www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

Together We Served

Now there is a special site on the Internet for people who served in the military. They can use it to find friends they served with and also create a keepsake of their military service to share with their family members and future generations.

The site is called Together We Served. You can find it at:
www.togetherweserved.com

Connect with Your Family History

Visit the Together We Served website with the military service people in your family and help them set up their page. Work together to answer the questions on the site. It is a great way to learn more about your family history.

Start by working with a family member to complete the profile below. Draw or paste a picture of the family member on it. Ask your teacher if you can post this in your classroom, too.

Name:	Service Years:
Branch of Service:	Where Served:
Current/Last Rank:	Medals/Recognition:

Standards Links: Language Arts: Research topics of personal interest.

Extra! Extra! Serving Our Country

There are many ways to serve your country and community. Look through the newspaper and find five examples of people serving your community or country. Write each name on a piece of paper and a description of each person's service.

Standards Links: History: Know how different people in the community take responsibility for the common good.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

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Spelling Words in the Newspaper

Find the letters that spell one of your spelling words in today's newspaper. Circle each letter and connect the letters in the order in which the word is spelled. Repeat with each spelling word three or more times.

Standards Links: Spelling: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

Write On!

Freedom Matters

Think about our freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion. Write about which of these freedoms you value most of all and why.

What a Character!™

Respect is ...

... taking time to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
HONOR

The verb honor means to show great respect.

Memorial Day is a time to honor those who died for our country.

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

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

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

REAL ESTATE TICKER,
CONTINUED FROM FACING PAGE

We had loads of traffic, but not one offer. Five weeks later, the repairs were done, but now the listing was "old" in the MRIS system, meaning that DOM (days on market) had become noticeably long, so wary buyers looked elsewhere.

What to do: lower the price by not that much (\$10,000) to get it into the "hot zone", based on the comparable alternatives.

Immediately, the feeding frenzy was on. The very next day an offer came in; too low, and the seller rejected it. The following weekend, with fourteen showings, five offers came. Two were too weak, one was unqualified, and two were serious.

With two knowledgeable agents doing the best they could for their clients, one "bidder" successfully presented an over-full-priced offer, and that property is now on its way to closing.

Lesson 1: With buyers present, price to sell!

No one knows how long this spurt will last. There have been fits and starts over the past six months, but none, in my opinion, rise to the level of activity that I am seeing in the market at this time.

It's still too early to tell if this market strength will extend into the higher price points, but one thing is for sure: the inventory of affordable homes in the under \$500,000 price range in western Loudoun is down dramatically from what it was a few short months ago. And so, when the competition for available properties heats up, prices rise, just as in the example above.

Lesson 2: If you're "buying up," you better move now...

Selling your existing home with a heated market gives you the best opportunity you've had to take top dollar now, and still have the advantage of a somewhat-depressed price for the more expensive home you may have set your eyes on ...

And remember, prices change in the market based on perception, not on reality. You don't get a chance to "wait for the comps to catch up;" it happens right before your eyes. Good luck!

Carl Fischer is the Broker/Owner of United Country Real Estate, specializing in commercial, investment, and selected residential properties, as well as Northern Neck of Virginia waterfront homes. He is licensed in Virginia and West Virginia, and is a member of the Dulles Area Association of Realtor (DAAR) as well as the Northern Neck Association of Realtors (NNAR). He has been in real estate since 1989. To contact Carl, email him at carl@uc-nova.com.

Virginia Century Farm Program, continued from page 1

growing pains (Crooked Run Orchard), on the outskirts of town (the newly designated Montcalm Farm, owned by former Purcellville Mayor John Marsh), and Oakland Green (a Lincoln area farm that has been in the family for 9 generations). Other Loudoun County properties designated as Virginia Century Farms include Benedum Farm, Clover Hill Farm, Fred Lee George Farm, Georges Mill Farm, Glenmeade Farm, Glenowen Farm, Grubstake Farm, Hillbrook, James Chapel Farm, Locust Grove, Lone Oak Farm, Montcalm Farm, Millers Farm, Orchard Crest, Inc., Potts Homestead, Rock Hill Farm, Rose Hill Farm, and Welbourne.

The Century Farm program is administered by VDACS. Century Farms are located across the state in 95 counties and cities (a list of the Virginia Century Farms added in the last two years, by county, appears below).

To qualify as a Virginia Century Farm, applicants must meet extremely strict criteria – a rare mixture of historical

"To qualify as a Virginia Century Farm, applicants must meet extremely strict criteria – a rare mixture of historical significance and personal family history – making them economic and culture jewels for the communities lucky enough to have them in their midst."

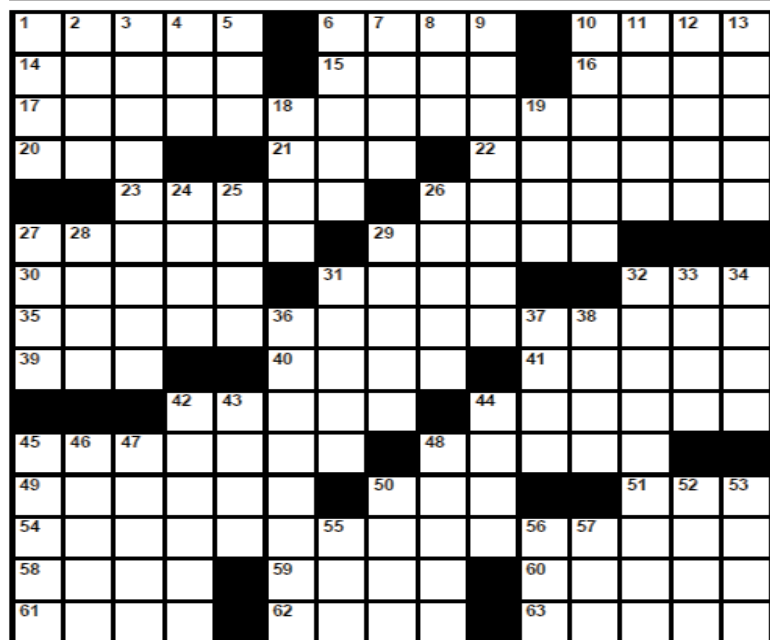
significance and personal family history – making them economic and culture jewels for the communities lucky enough to have them in their midst. Criteria include: 1) The farm must have been owned by the same family for at least one hundred consecutive years; 2) The farm must be lived on, or actually farmed by, a descendant of the original owner; and 3) The farm must gross more than \$2,500 annually from the sale of agricultural products. If the farm does not gross over \$2,500 in the sale of farm products, it still may qualify if it is used for a bona fide silvicultural purpose. This includes growing, tending or protecting trees for the purpose of eventually producing income or financial benefit.

**These New Virginia Century Farms (By County),
Added From August 2010 To March 2012, Put The State Over The 1,200 Mark**

Alleghany, Pleasant Valley Farm	Halifax, Alpine Place	Russell, 3C Livestock
Appomattox, Blue Jay Haven Farm	Halifax, Freeman Estate	Russell, Lyttle Farm of Copper Ridge
Augusta, Big Rock Dairy	Halifax, Emanuel Freeman Sr. Estate	Russell, Skeen Farm
Augusta, Flowing Springs Farm	Henrico, Colonial Acres Farm LLC	Russell, Smith Farm
Augusta, Pine Top Farm	Highland, Pleasant Brook Farms	Scott, Fugate Farms
Augusta, R. L. Moore Homestead	Isle of Wight, The J. B. Harris Farm	Scott, Fugate Farms (two Fugate Farms are on the list)
Augusta, Rollerdale Farm	Isle of Wight, The J.J. Crocker Homeplace	Shenandoah, Swover Creek Farms
Augusta, The Bashaw Farm	Lee, Elkins Sandy Spring Farm	Smyth, Anderson Farm
Bedford, Woodlawn	Loudoun, Montcalm Farm	Smyth, Cluster Springs Farm
Botetourt, Highland Grove	Louisa, Ceresco	Southampton, Burgess Farm
Botetourt, Jeter Farm	Lunenburg, Lunenburg Landscapes	Southampton, Gillette Farm
Brunswick, Jones Farm	Lunenburg, Rock Haven Farm	Southampton, James R. Holloman Farm
Campbell, Melrose Bison Farm	Madison, Lohr-Mallory Farm	Southampton, Turner Farm
Campbell, The Jones Farm	Montgomery, Morris Farm	Suffolk, The Morgan Farm
Carroll, Utt Farm	Northampton, Smiling Hill Farm	Suffolk (City), Grady Gardner Farm
Charlotte, Cub Creek Farm	Page, Longs Bend Farm	Suffolk (City), Seth Howell Farm
Charlotte, Elm Shade	Patrick, B. H. Cooper Farm	Surry, Appel Farm
Chesapeake (City), J.R. Lehman and Sons	Prince George, Burrow Farm	Surry, Pecan Knoll
Fauquier, Redwood Farm	Rockbridge, Rapp Farm	Sussex, Silver Hill
Franklin, Bow-knott Dairy Farm	Rockingham, Granview	Westmoreland, Cedar Hill Farm
Frederick, Lineburg Minebank Farm	Rockingham, Holsinger Homeplace Farms	Westmoreland, Monrovia Farm
Grayson, Phipps Hollow Farm		

Chanteuses

– By Sally York & Myles Mellor



Across

1. Certain bird
6. Keats, for one
10. "The Sound of Music" backdrop
14. Antipasto morsel
15. Biblical preposition
16. Gloss
17. George's aunt
20. Calendar abbr.
21. Puzzle
22. Put something on
23. Blast from the past
26. Reduces friction
27. Contradicted
29. Arouse desire
30. Bouquet
31. "___ No Sunshine"
32. "A pox on you!"
35. "Stony End" singer
39. Numbskull
40. Irritate
41. Salsa, for one
42. Mark
44. Colorful bird
45. Call a koala an elk, e.g.
48. Chipper
49. Secrets

Down

1. Microsoft product
2. African plant
3. Stains
4. Holiday lead-in
5. "Losing My Religion" rock group
6. Blender button
7. Black stone
8. "Yadda, yadda, yadda"
9. Bear
10. Ancient meeting places
11. Floor coverings
12. Newbie, of sorts
13. Eye sores
18. All fired up
19. Aces, sometimes
24. Arm or leg
25. Abby address?
26. Romance, e.g.
27. Cake with a kick
28. "-zoic" things
29. Deed
31. Line to the audience
32. Needlepoint, e.g.
33. Ancient Andean
34. "Our Time in ___" (10,000 Maniacs album)
36. Speech of old Syria
37. Matinee ___
38. Handel oratorio
42. "St. Elsewhere" singer, ___ Barkley
43. Eastern royal
44. Tip for the dealer
45. Court officer
46. Fit to be tied
47. Deep-six
48. Disloyal one
50. Cuckoos
52. Cheat, slangily
53. Lofty lines
55. Fair ___ doctrine
56. Engine speed, for short
57. Chinese dynasty

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

Lost Corner

Totally wild. Where the wild things are. The call of the wild. Something wild. If there's a place in Loudoun County where these expressions apply, I'd have to say it's up in Lost Corner. I've probably already lost you – no pun intended.



It's sort of a no-man's land region strewn between Lucketts and the Potomac River – up in the northeast corner of this varied jurisdiction. See – not many people live there – and there really isn't a major destination at the “end of the road,” like a shopping mall – or a bridge to Maryland – or even a 7-11 where you could score some java.

But there's space in scads – and in some Einsteinian way, it seems to affect the amount of time one spends here – you know – that whole time-space relationship thing; if you spend an hour or so driving along Lucketts Road, Lost Corner Road and Spinks Ferry Road, the whole experience may just take you for a real ride. Especially if you're a newcomer: it'll all be fresh. When I took my latest trip, I even turned around and retraced my “tracks” back along the same roads; so often, I find a unique place will offer

some surprising images you can only see from one direction.

And, if this writer were a better photographer, you'd probably be seeing some nice pictures of a few of the herds of whitetail deer that populate this little area. Well, trees, houses, hay bales and hillsides are a bit easier to capture, so you'll have to settle for some of those, I suppose.

And, speaking of images, I couldn't help noting – in my mind's eye – the stark contrast to a different trip to Lost Corner- under far more spartan circumstances. This was back a couple of years ago, when we had the Blizzard-Geddon, or whatever it was called; the US Postal Service makes a promise to at least try to deliver mail under the worst conditions imaginable, and this didn't take much imagination. It was almost eight o'clock in the evening, and I'd just finished a route in Leesburg, where I'd been helping out during the onslaught of snow (things were probably even worse in my “home office” of Purcellville – which includes routes in the mountains).

Well, I was instructed to head over to the Main Office on Catoctin Circle and finish one of their rural routes. Your stomach always churns with one of those assignments: there's something a little disconcerting about being ordered to deliver mail on unfamiliar roads – then you add little details like pitch-black night, several feet of snow and 20 degree temperatures, and – who knows

what around the next bend – pretty much a nightmare scenario.

Rural – this was like a trip to Himalayas, after that avalanche of snow! Well, we got the mail sorted and loaded by around nine – luckily, some had already been done, so I only had to worry about a couple hundred deliveries. By the time I'd reached my turnoff from Route 15 at Limestone School Road, I'd seen all the winter wonderland I'd cared to: the snow drifts had been sliced through on either side of the highway by some kind of mega-plow, and I could only imagine what may lie ahead – on the real country roads.

I didn't have long to imagine. How I didn't get stuck along those ‘roads’ is beyond me: I'm not a very religious man, but you might say my entire thought process on that delivery was in the form of a Snowbank-narrowed little dirt roads – spiced up with plenty of steep – slippery – grades and death-defying driveways (remember those parcel deliveries!) – not to mention that mailboxes were often hidden behind – or even within – the snow.

Well, I “got er done,” by around 10:30, headed back to Leesburg a changed man, and wondered when I'd be back on solid food: it takes hours to settle down after nerves and adrenalin levels are peaked for about as long as the body will take.

So – this was the experience from which I had



to compare my latest visit – which featured completely dry roads, a landscape barren of any snow cover – and the best of all – unhindered by the responsibility of delivering mail under the direst of circumstances. I had it made. All I had to do was keep my brand-new Forester between the ditches and watch out for deer – and not spill my early-morning coffee.

So – I was more than happy to let this adventure take me just about wherever the good Lord intended. And – despite the relative ease in which I found my “working conditions,” I still found the area up around Lost Corner to be pretty wild.

Senioritis Has Set In

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

As we begin the month of May, there are so many things to look forward to. Life is beginning to come together, and our paths to the future have started to align. This year has been incredibly draining though. Maybe this was due to having to fill out all of those college and scholarship applications or the fact that we did not have any snow days for the first time in our high school careers. But I feel like I have been sprinting for eight months, although things are beginning to slow down now. Classes are becoming a little bit easier, and extracurricular activities are drawing to a close. For the next three weeks reviewing for Advanced Placement (AP) exams is underway, as this is the final push before the end of the senior year of high school.

The hardest thing about the next three weeks will be battling through the senioritis. Senioritis is the condition that afflicts a second semester senior when one realizes that high school no longer matters. And, it is kind of frightening when you think about it. One of the sole goals of high school is getting into college, and once that occurs, the constant stream of busywork is no longer important. It is hard to motivate oneself to continue working once one knows that none of the work really matters.

But of course, this isn't completely true. There is always something to be learned, no matter how old one is or how many years of school one has attended. Sometimes one has to go looking for things that interest them instead of relying on high school courses to hold seniors' attention. I think a lot of high school seniors feel that they could have contributed more if given the opportunity. I hope more of those opportunities are given to high school students in



“I think a lot of high school seniors feel that they could have contributed more if given the opportunity. I hope more of those opportunities are given to high school students in the future.”

the future.

Regardless, senioritis gives us an opportunity to show our true character. How well we do when it doesn't matter as much tells a lot about who we are as people. Also, it isn't good to establish a habit of slacking off, because beginning in the fall, one will be paying a lot more money for one's education and it will definitely count more than ever before. A little senioritis isn't a bad thing, as we have a lot of decisions to make in the next month or two that will have to be made. I just submitted my deposit to Drexel University only to find out that I have to complete a mound of paperwork and submit my housing application. At this time we are also searching for a good internship opportunity and trying to spend as much as time as possible with our friends and family before we embark on the next chapter of our lives.

I find myself frustrated by the fact that I feel that I have only spent the past four years just simply trying to get into college. I wish I had been given more tools and resources to learn more about life and to make more of an impact in the community. I have chosen to make an impact in the community by the activities I have been involved in, and I hope to spend the last few weeks giving as much advice and mentoring to underclassmen as I can, finishing the marathon I have been running for the last four years well.

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

Woodgrove High School

Home of the Wolverines



– By Dane Mullins

Woodgrove Wild ... Hit The Lights The Show is About To Start: Once Upon a Mattress, a musical comedy made famous by comedian Carol Burnett. May 3, 4, and 5 at 7 pm and on May 6 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$10 and the proceeds will benefit the Theatre and Choral departments.

Watch for upcoming productions dates from Theatre Arts IQ, III and IV as well as a very special stand-outs senior showcase.

Congratulations Woodgrove Music Department: 104 band, guitar, orchestra and chorus students headed to Orlando, Florida on March 28 to participate in the Heritage Festival Music Competition and returned with honors.

- Guitars received a superior rating
- Choir, Band and Jazz Band. received a silver excellent rating.
- Orchestra received a bronze award.
- Chris Elliott received a special maestro award for his xylophone solo.

Other recent music events: April 21, Woodgrove hosted the Heritage Festivals & District Solo & Ensemble Festival at Eagle Ridge Middle School; April 26, All State Chorus at Lynchburg, VA; April 27-28, Woodgrove hosted the District Jazz Festival.

Cruz'n: Our inaugural senior class will be celebrating their accomplishments at Busch Gardens on May 29.

Wow: The Academic Team defeated every other county school by over 100

points in the county Scholastic Challenge. Squad included Chris Miller, Keegan Ottoson, Carolyn Saunders and Joe Ghiorzi. Team also appeared on NBC's “It's Academic” show on April 28. Florence Thompson was selected as a Gates Millennium Scholar and

plans to attend University of Virginia. **Spring Sports Update-Batter Up!** Softball – 9-1 district. Baseball – 9-2 district. Courtney Boganhas will play for Virginia Wesleyan. **Attack!:** Lacrosse – Girls 6-0 district, Boys – 3-3 district. Darren Baker will play for Randolph-Macon. **Breakaway!:** Soccer – Girls 10-0 district, Boys – 5-3 district. **Serving Up Some Love!:** Tennis – Girls 11-0 district, Boys 2-9 district. **Tie Those Laces!:** The Lady Wolverines took the team championships at April 22-17 team Wolverine Track and Field Invitational: Audrey Houghton 1st – 800 meters, Audrey Houghton, Lydia Cromwell, Alex Juzbasich & Florence Thompson 1st – 4x800 Relay; Audrey & Gaynor Houghton, Anna Harpster, Julia Ralston 1st – 4x400 Relay; Evan McCarthy 1st – 3200 meters run; Omar Safiani 4th – High Jump; Anna Harpster, 4th – Long jump, 2nd Triple Jump, 3rd 300 meter hurdles, 2nd 200 meter dash; Bailey Sternberg 3rd – Shot Put; Taylor Bonenberger 4th Triple Jump; Lydia Cromwell 3rd 1600 meter run.

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.)

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Children's Book Week Is May 7 Through 14

— Loudoun County Libraries Celebrate Youth, Books & The Value of Reading —

Children's Book Week is a national celebration of books and reading for youth. All ages are encouraged to visit Loudoun County Public Libraries May 7 through 13 to re-read a favorite book from your childhood, discover new library resources, and attend programs. All programs are free and open to the public. Programs/locations include:

2nd Annual Teddy Bear Picnic, with stories, songs and fun for ages 2 - 6. Be sure to bring your teddy bear along! May 7, 11:00 A.M., Sterling Library and 4:00 P.M., Cascades Library; May 9, 11:00 A.M., Middleburg Library, 1:00 P.M., Purcellville Library and 4:00 P.M. Lovettsville Library; May 10, 6:30 P.M., Rust Library, Leesburg and 7:00 P.M. Ashburn Library.

Caldecott Connection with Children's Librarian Tony Carmack ... Tony was a member of the 2012 Caldecott Committee and will offer an inside look at the history of the medal, the artists, the selection process and examples of some of the winning books. May 7, 4:00 P.M., Purcellville Library; May 9, 7:00 P.M., Ashburn Library; May 10, 1:00

P.M., Middleburg Library and 4:00 P.M., Rust Library (Leesburg); May 15, 4:00 P.M., Cascades Library.

Meet Children's Author and Illustrator Jarrett J. Krosoczka, illustrator and author of *The Lunch Lady*. In this graphic novel series for kids, Krosoczka will bring a sample of his photos, sketches, notes and artwork. Saturday, May 12, 10:30 A.M., Rust Library, Leesburg; 1:00 P.M., Cascades Library; 3:00 P.M., Ashburn Library.

Ashburn Library: 43316 Hay Rd, Ashburn, VA 20147. 703-737-8100; **Cascades Library:** 21030 Whitfield Place Potomac Falls, VA 20165, 703-444-3228; **Leesburg Library:** 380 Old Waterford Rd., NW, Leesburg, VA 20175, 703-777-0323; **Lovettsville Library:** 12 North Light Street, Lovettsville, VA 20180, 540-822-5824; **Middleburg Library:** 101 Reed Street, Middleburg, VA 20117, 540-687-5730; **Purcellville Library:** 220 East Main Street, Purcellville, VA 20132, 540-338-7235; **Sterling Library:** 20 Enterprise Street, Sterling, VA 20164, 703-430-9500.

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Towns & Villages News & Community Announcements

May

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☉ **Thursday, May 3, Cinco De Mayo Celebration, 6 pm to 8 pm** – \$20.00/Family, (all ages). Celebrate Cinco De Mayo as a community. Enjoy Betty's homemade chips, salsa, and Mexican fare. Reservations required! Middleburg Community Center. For more information, call 540-687-6375.

☉ **Thursday through Saturday May 3, 4, 5 & 6, Woodgrove High School presents "Once Upon a Mattress" (7 pm May 3-5, and 2 pm May 6).** Family-friendly comedy, with orchestra, is the musical version of "The Princess and the Pea". Tickets are \$10, Students - \$7, and \$5 for those ten and under. This show promises to be an all time family favorite!



Photo by Patty Schuchman Photography.

☉ **Friday thru Sunday, May 4 thru 6, Loudoun Valley High School Drama Department presents the musical "Pippin"** – 1970's hit on Broadway has been reworked to be family friendly, filled with song, dance and a sage moral in the end. Advanced ticket sales recommended. Friday the 4th and Saturday 5th shows, 7 pm. Sunday's Matinee is at 2 pm. Adults \$10 Students \$5. Order tickets online at: LVHSPippin@gmail.com.

☉ **Sunday, May 6, Jazz & Juleps at Oatlands Cocktail Party Fundraiser, 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm** – Cocktails and hors d' oeuvres under a tent on the mansion lawn, live jazz band, many raffle and silent auction items. Contact Patricia McNeal at 703-777-3174 or Tmcneal@oatlands.org.

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☉ **Thursday, May 10, Conversations in History Series, "Lead Like a General: Lessons for Today's Leaders from the Civil War"** – Paul Gilbert, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVAPA) will give a talk on the strengths and weaknesses of Civil War military leaders. Mount Zion Church. \$5 for adults, \$2 for students. Sponsored Mosby Heritage Area Association and NVAPA. Contact: 540-687-6681 or info@mosbyheritagearea.org.

☉ **Friday, May 11, Forum on the Chapman/Beverly Mill and the enslaved people who worked there.** 9 am to 12 noon discussion; 1 pm to 4 pm tours of the mill and archaeological sites associated with the mill. African American Historical Association at 4243 Loudoun Avenue, the Plains.

☉ **Saturday, May 12, Neersville Fire & Rescue Auxiliary Country Breakfast, 8 am to 11 am.** Country biscuits & sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, sausage patties, home fried potatoes, pancakes & more. Neersville Firehouse, 11762 Harpers Ferry Rd., (Rt.671). Free Will Offering. Contact: Val (540) 668-7005.

☉ **Saturday, May 12, The 3rd Annual Loudoun Bluegrass Festival.** The event is a fundraiser for scholarships sponsored by the Rotary Club of Dulles International Airport. More info: www.LoudounBluegrass.com.

☉ **Saturday, May 12, Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee Program** – Stories from the Mosby Heritage Area presented in first person by the Gray Ghost Interpretive Group. Program will explore the stories of Col. John S. Mosby and his Rangers. Presented by lantern light in and about the historic Mount Bleak in Sky Meadows State Park. \$4 per car admission. \$5 for adults and \$2 for students for the program. Sponsored by the Mosby Heritage Area Association and Sky Meadows State Park. Contact: 540-687-6681 or info@mosbyheritagearea.org.

☉ **Saturday, May 19, All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast** with sausage, biscuits, gravy and more. 8 am to 12 noon. Sponsored by Roszell Chapel United Methodist Church at Hunter Oaks Farm, 19530 Silcott Springs Road, Purcellville. Free-will offering. Call 540-338-5861 or 540-338-5862 to donate/for info.

☉ **Saturday, May 19, 3rd Annual AOL Spring into Summer 5K Race and Fun Run to benefit Loudoun Youth** – Event brings families, neighbors and friends into the Loudoun Youth experience. AOL will host a family fun area for the children from 8 am – 10:00 am. The 5K run/walk registration is \$25 through April 22, \$30 from April 23 through May 5 and \$35 on race day. Fun Run registration is \$10 through May 5 and \$15 on race day. More information at www.loudounyouth.org.

☉ **Saturday, May 19, Loudoun MADD's 3rd Annual Walk Like MADD 5K & Silent Auction.** Location: the football field at Dominion High School in Sterling. To view the complete list of items available in the Silent Auction and for Silent Auction & Race times, go to www.walklikemadd.org.

☉ **Saturday & Sunday, May 19–20, Plein Air Watercolor Workshop, 2 pm to 4 pm First Annual Lovettsville MayFest** – Island Ford Farm, a historic Shenandoah River front farm near "Low Water Bridge" in Warren County, north of Front Royal and just south of White Post. Participants age 18 – adult will paint watercolor scenes outdoors under the guidance of nationally known naturalist, watercolorist and illustrator Doug Pifer.

☉ **Saturday, May 26, First Annual Lovettsville MayFest** – event happens on the Town Green. Details at www.lovettsvilleva.gov.

☉ **Saturday, May 26, 10th Annual Round Hill Hometown Festival 5K, 8 am, Round Hill Elementary School.** Advance registration fees (prior to May 4th) for the 5k will be \$20 for adults and \$15 for youth under 18. Runners participating as part of an organized group of 25 or more may pre-register together for \$15 per runner. Groups, contact Sean Lloyd at sean.lloyd.roundhill5k@gmail.com. Online registration: www.hometownfestival.org.

☉ **Saturday, May 26, AARP-Loudoun Chapter Meeting, 11 am to 12 noon.** Open to the public. Loudoun Douglass Community Center, 405 East Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Contact: Sheila Kelly, Chapter President, at (540) 338-7012 or (571) 258-9493.

Recurring Events!

☉ **Marine Corps League, Loudoun Detachment 1205,** meets the third Monday of each month; American Legion Post, 112 N 21st Street, Purcellville, 7 pm. Virginia. www.loudounmarines.org.

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

☉ **Alzheimers Support Group** – first Thurs. of every month, 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 to 8

pm, Leesburg Presbyterian Church, 207 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176

☉ **Rust Sanctuary's Children's Nature Book Club** – Fridays, 10 am – 11:15 am, Rust Sanctuary, 802 Childrens Center Road Leesburg, VA 20175. Children 3-5. To register: julieg@audubonnaturalist.org or call 703-669-0000 x 1.

☉ **The Friday Night After Hours Teen Center** meets every Friday night from 7 pm to 10 pm at Cascades Library. Middle and high school age students. 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls, VA 20165.

☉ **CASH Bingo, 1st & 3rd Saturdays,** Doors open at 9 am, first game starts at 10 am American Legion Post 293, 112 N. 21st Street Purcellville VA 20132. Phone: 540-338-0910, alpost293.web.officelive.com.

☉ **Celebrations Saturdays, Middleburg** "Celebration Saturdays," is an event series that gives visitors to Middleburg a chance to experience the town's shops, galleries and restaurants in a unique way. **Starting May 19,** the town of Middleburg will come alive every third Saturday through December during normal business hours. Many shops and galleries in town will offer specials on these select Saturdays. Participating stores will display colorful balloons outside their doors. "We look forward to welcoming shoppers and diners

during Celebration Saturdays each month," said Punkin Lee, president of the Middleburg Business and Professional Association. "By offering specials on the 3rd Saturday of the month, both residents and visitors will have a chance to see a different side of Middleburg, as they stroll along our sidewalks and experience the unique ambiance of our village." The Celebration Saturdays is a combined effort of the local businesses, Middleburg Business & Professional Association and the Town of Middleburg.

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Sports Tid-Bits

Lady Vikings Win Again in Lacrosse



– By Mac Shuford

The Loudoun Valley Lady Vikings won again at home on Thursday, April 19th in district play against Potomac Falls High School, improving their record to 5-4 overall. They share the top spot in the Dulles District with Woodgrove, each with a 5-0 district record.

Valley maintained control throughout the game with senior Rachel Swan winning almost all of the draws in the first half. Valley's super sophomores were unstoppable offensively as Ashlyn DiLoreto, Courtney Schollian, and Sarah Ashworth all poured in 3 goals apiece in just the first half. The Lady Vikings took an 11-4 lead into the locker room for halftime. The second half was all Valley again; they shut out Potomac Falls 10-0, closing out the game at 21-4.

Leading all scorers was sophomore Ashlyn DiLoreto with 6 goals, followed by sophomore Sarah Ashworth scoring 4, with senior Rachel Swan and sophomore Courtney Schollian each pouring in 3. Junior Cortney Inman added 2 more, while sophomores Tara Davis and Brittany Raffa as well as senior Courtney Halterman had one goal apiece. Ashworth and Inman both dished out key assists as did freshman Lily Hamilton. Caitlin Gore and Katie Davis were both key in controlling ground balls in the Viking win. In goal was sophomore Kelsey Greene in the first half and senior Rebecca Solarzano who shut out Potomac Falls completely in the second half.

The 21-4 win gives the Lady Vikings a share of first place in the Dulles District with arch rival Woodgrove High School. The two teams are set to meet on May 4th at Woodgrove, but not until Valley spends the next three games on the road.

Vikings Athletic Association Update

Sport: Lacrosse – Men Viking Men Record Wins Over Cross-town Rival Woodgrove

– By John Steen and Tim Moore

News: Friday the 13th proved unlucky for the Woodgrove Wolverines as Loudoun Valley avenged last year's end-of-season overtime loss with a solid 10-6 victory at Leonard Stadium. Woodgrove struck quickly within the first minute, but Valley answered to set the tone for the teams to trade goals going into the second period. However, the Vikes pulled ahead with four unanswered scores to take a 7-4 halftime lead. Defensive play dominated the third quarter with Valley scoring the lone goal. The outstanding Wolverine squad mounted an early fourth period assault scoring two goals to cut the Valley lead to 8-6. But the Vikings eventually countered with a pair of their own goals to seal a 10-6 victory. Senior Will Geise stepped-up to lead the Vikings with 3 goals and 2 assists, whereas fellow seniors Greg Regan (1 goal, 1 assist) and Dylan Early (1 goal) each contributed to the Vikings' points totals. Other points were recorded by sophomore Chase Miller (1 goal) and the freshmen John Skinner (2 goals), Sully Warner (1 goal, 3 assists), and Andrew Cordani (1 goal). Aided by a strong D-pole core, freshman Nick Steen started and finished the night with 14 saves.

The JV Vikes also avenged an early season loss by besting Woodgrove 6-5 on 4/17. In a thriller at Leonard Stadium, the JV Vikings scored late and then held on to even this season's series with the Wolverines. After the Vikes took a 4-2 lead into halftime, the Wolverine squad stormed back to eventually even things up at 5-5 late in the fourth quarter. With some acrobatic efforts on a tight ride and a three-pass break, the Vikings put what proved to be the winning goal into the back of the net with less than a minute to play. The defensive squad prevented a last second attempt by the Wolverines to spoil the Viking victory. Overall, the contest was played in excellent fashion by players from both teams as a foreshadowing of the rivalry to ensue over the coming years. Woodgrove took the slight edge in face-offs won, but in the end the Vikings came out on top on the scoreboard. Points were recorded by sophomores Conner Stift (4 goals) and Myles Sullivan (1 goal); and freshmen Evan Klipple (1 goal and 1 assist) and Alex Klipple (1 assist). Freshman Jake Fournier recorded 11 critical saves and was aided by an excellent performance by the D-pole squad.

Upcoming:

Viking men hit the road to take on Potomac Falls in a district match, followed a week of home games versus district leader Briar Woods and then Heritage.

Sport: Varsity Softball Loudoun Valley Vikings Drop Close One to Tuscarora on the Road 6-4

– By Beth Richardson

News: The Loudoun Valley Varsity Softball team traveled to Tuscarora High School to play the Lady Huskies for the first time since Tuscarora opened two years ago. The Huskies took an early lead in the 2nd inning and eventually led 5-0 going into the top of the 5th inning until sophomore third baseman, Kylen Holtz, jacked a grand slam over the center field fence to cut the Huskies' lead to 5-4. The Huskies added one more run in the bottom of the 5th inning.

The Vikings played hard, but left runners stranded without stringing enough hits together to catch-up to Tuscarora's good start. Additional Viking offensive output came from seniors Allison Pentony (single) and Kelsey Richardson (single); junior Sam Adams (single and two sacrifice bunts); sophomores Blake Larson (single) and Addie Dietrich (single); and freshman Kailey Liverman (triple, single). On the mound, starter Sam Adams gave up 4 hits against 2 strikeouts through 4 innings with Kelsey Richardson appearing in relief to close out

Sport: Soccer – Women Lady Varsity Vikings Win One but Drop Two Following a Busy Week of Play

– By Tim Moore

News: The Lady Vikings had an up-and-down week playing Tuscarora at home, followed by road games against Park View and Loudoun County. The Varsity team unfortunately began the second half of their season winless after falling at home by a score of 0-4 to Tuscarora. Despite trailing only 0-1 in the first half, the Vikings couldn't find the net and allowed the Huskies to score 3 unanswered goals in the second half. Goals for the Huskies were

recorded by Steph Umstead, Tess Williams, Abby Downey, and Annie Hartmann. The Vikings' Ashley Moore (freshman) minded the goal for the entire match recording 13 saves.

The mid-week contest versus Park View proved more rewarding as The Lady Vikings started the second half of their season with a much needed win. Good, aggressive team play resulted in offensive opportunities and defensive stops in both



the first and second half. Makayla Lewis (freshman) popped one in at the 25:30 mark in the opening period which was followed by a pair from Ellie McLaughlin (junior) at 4:47 and then again at 3:20 (assisted by Makayla Lewis). In the second half, Andrea Garcia (junior) finished the Vikes' scoring with a nice goal at the 5:45 mark (assisted by Ellie McLaughlin). Ashley Moore (freshman) again played 80 minutes in goal and recorded 10 saves.

In the last game of the week, the Varsity Vikes fell 0-2, but showed improvement in giving the Loudoun County Raiders a good test. Contrary to the previous meeting, the Lady Vikings held the County Raiders scoreless until nearly mid-way through the second half. The Vikes manufactured several scoring opportunities throughout the game but were unable to put any balls into the net themselves. The Raiders showed their experience and finally got goals midway, and then late in the second half to garner their 7th win of the season. Ashley Moore (freshman) played start to finish in goal for the Vikes and recorded 19 saves.

Continued on page 29

Classifieds

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Part Time Bookkeeper

Small septic company in western Loudoun County looking for a part time bookkeeper that is Quickbooks proficient. Please fax resume for consideration to 540-668-7299.

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Answers to crossword puzzle from page 21

W	A	D	E	R	P	O	E	T	A	L	P	S		
O	L	I	V	E	U	N	T	O	G	I	L	T		
R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y	C	L	O	O	N	E	Y
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The Land We Story, continued from page 4

Land is our most precious commodity. The debasement of our land by disorganized and inefficient development – particularly for more roads – is reckless.

And, every road buries a thousand stories.

One of the most chilling aspects of eminent domain is the status of the land for the road once it has been condemned for building. Condemned land is stripped of all characteristics and all attributes. It might have been prime farmland, a view shed, or the "open space" that we refer to now as an almost mystical place where children explored for hours during a summer afternoon and all time and care blissfully disappeared. The land's biology, archeology, history, topography, connection to its community – all are obliterated. It becomes, simply a right of way.

This distancing ourselves from things we destroy by demeaning them is a common aspect of human beings, even to the point that we designate certain people as having no significance.

Our forefathers believed that the ownership and protection of private property

was the basis of all prosperity and virtue. No man will work as hard to advance the well-being of someone else as he will to advance the well-being of his own family and heirs.

Non-democratic forms of government have made it glaringly apparent that "common" ownership only demeaned and reduced the productivity of its citizens. No one actually "owned" anything ... except the state, which owned everything. That is exactly how Virginia and every other state behaves when they take a man's property. The state, in fact, owns everything, but only practices its power over its citizens when it needs a particular piece of land. The depth of the abuse in Virginia and elsewhere creates the same result; livelihoods that are often damaged or completely destroyed.

Seven out of nine of the new Board of Supervisors voted against tightening eminent domain abuse – and was it so they could take land cheaply and easily, alleviating as many impediments to the developers as possible?

There go those wonderful stories ...

Tax Rates, continued from page 5

your taxes went down. Consequently, politicians are not under pressure to equalize the rate for the car tax as they are for the real estate tax.

What happens when you trade in your car that you paid \$20,000 for five years ago. You will find that the equivalent car now costs much more than \$20,000, perhaps closer to \$30,000 and so now the same tax rate will be applied to \$30,000 and yikes, the bill hits hard.

You are now seeing the effect of not equalizing the "car tax" rate. You have the equivalent car as five years ago but the tax will likely be 50 percent higher than it was when your previous car was new. Look at the statistics from the town. As an example, the FY11 actual car tax collected was \$335,000 and the estimate for next fiscal year (FY13) is \$349,000 or an increase of approximately 4 percent. Keep in mind, that this is a recession and that many people have put off upgrading their vehicles until times are better. Still the hidden increase is observed.

Perhaps the biggest driver of tax increases and utility fee increases is the debt the town has amassed under the current

town administration. On a per capita basis, a more fair way of looking at the debt since it accounts for the huge growth in population, the debt has increased from approximately \$2,000 per person when Lazaro first joined the council to more than \$9,000 per person today. Purcellville's total debt as of last year is \$70 million.

Another way of looking at it is the percentage of debt service in the budget. For the general fund (town expenses less water and sewer), the operating budget (proposed) for FY13 has approximately \$1.4 million in debt service. Without the debt service, the budget would be \$8.8 million, equating to 16 percent of the non-debt related operating budget.

For the wastewater fund, the debt service is larger than the remaining operating budget. Specifically, the debt service is \$2.4 million out of a \$4.5 million budget or 114 percent of the non-debt service budget.

The water fund budget, while not as out of proportion as the wastewater fund, has debt service of \$1.2 million out of a \$3.2 million budget, or 60 percent of the non-debt related budget.

The Builder's Wife, continued from page 11

tional toilet with a dual-flush version, which uses as little as .8 gallons in a half flush and 1.6 gallons in a full flush compared with older conventional toilets which can use five or more gallons. They have improved greatly over the last decade so if your home was built in the early '90's consider replacing those poorly made, first-round, low-flow versions.

Remember those first water-saving showerheads? You couldn't get the shampoo out of your hair. Nowadays, new technology has provided much-improved models. I wondered why that was the case and learned that basically it works by injecting air into the water stream, which increases the space between water molecules giving it more volume and making the water seem softer. Additionally, if you have hard water, a water-saving showerhead will make your water seem softer and enable you to use less soap. Older showerheads use between 5 and 10 gallons per minute. A water-saving showerhead, according to the U.S.

Department of Energy's Energy Star Program, will only use from 2 to 5 gallons per minute. In case you're wondering, the Waterpik PowerSpray+ is our current favorite (also available at Home Depot). If you live in a jurisdiction with metered water, these water-saving devices are really a big money saver. If you're on well water, you still save in electricity costs and are conserving that precious water for the future.

In short, there are plenty of alternatives that do make a difference and make sense. Just be aware of the ones that aren't yet practical. I'm betting that ingenuity will make them feasible one day soon.

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What's That?, continued from page 8

technology and production. Milk trucks replaced milk cans, and stores began stocking their shelves with cheaper, mass-produced dairy products. The Loudoun Farms Dairy creamery was sold in the early 1950's.

During their short heyday, the Loudoun Farms Dairy bottle design changed a few times. Kathleen was more than surprised to learn that one of her dad's bottles recently sold at auction for \$700. Now, put that in your straw and sip it!

Our thanks to Kathleen Beavers and Gene Schneider for putting a face to the Loudoun Farms Dairy.

As a footnote, Kathleen added that her dad, Milton, made his mark in Purcellville in other ways, as well. He was Chief of Fire Co 2 for several years, starting when he was only 17. He was instrumental in bringing sirens to the area to call in volunteers to fight fires, installing the first one on the building now known as the Purcellville Restaurant. The

Purcellville Restaurant, I'll betcha, thanks a subsequent Fire Chief for moving it, later.

Ok ... So What Are These Interesting Items?

The two items below were found on a



property that functioned as a Quaker dairy farm in the mid 1800's.

One is, of course, a horseshoe ... or maybe a muleshoe?

We'd love our readers to weigh in on what they know about how you tell what kind of animal would have worn this shoe and how the

animal might have been used. The shoe measures about 7 inches by 7 inches and has two tabs near the front and four strong bolts – two at the top and two heavier ones at the bottom (open end).

The second item is a heavy piece of circular metal with four holes that look like they might have been used to bolt the item to the side of a building or another piece of metal. The piece measures about 4-1/2 inches across, and has a scalloped edge and a large metal loop. Can you help us unearth some information about these two items? Until next time! ...

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

Hunt Country Gourmet's RESTAURANT REVIEW

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

Market Table Bistro and the Lovettsville Cooperative Market Launch a New Tradition

– By George Humphries

On the evening of Wednesday, April 25, more than 50 residents of the greater Lovettsville area met at the town's Market Table Bistro restaurant for a dinner in celebration of and support for the planned Lovettsville Cooperative Market. The meal was a testament to the excellent products that are being produced locally and how they can be the foundation of an haute cuisine dining experience.

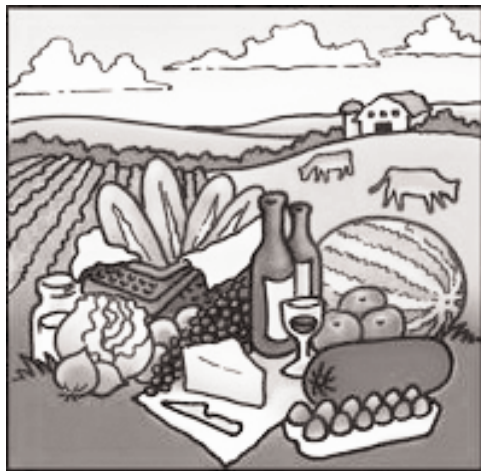
Entitled the Second Annual Farmers' Feast, the event also kicked off the Lovettsville Summer Farmers' Market, a joint venture of the Cooperative and Market Table Bistro. A precursor to the Cooperative. The Market will open for business on Sunday, June 3 and operate every Sunday throughout the summer.

In a high-ceilinged room in which noise usually is decorously subdued, the overflow crowd filled it with a happy and excited din. The diners were efficiently served a menu whose main elements were locally produced.

The meal began with a salad composed of Quarter Branch Farm salad greens and Cherry Glen Farm goat cheese, along with shaved pears and a citrus-vanilla vinaigrette. For the second course, a fricassee of asparagus and spring mushrooms featured Dog Star Farm products blended into a creamy herb risotto with Parmesan cheese and truffle oil. An incredibly tender Bay Haven Farm Berkshire pork accompanied by rice and black-eyed peas made up the main course. North Carolina strawberries topped with Champagne Sabayon and Grand Marnier completed the meal.

Fittingly, local wines were featured, with a selection of Notaviva Viognier, 8 Chains North Merlot, and North Gate Cabernet Franc. About 40% of the latter, we were told, came from grapes produced by Malcolm and Pamela Baldwin's Weatherlea Farm just north of Lovettsville.

It was a feast notable for its excellence as well as its local sources. The preparation and service were testimony to the experience and skill of Market Table Bistro owners Chef Jason Lige and Rebecca Dudley, whose talents for preparing and serving gourmet food to large assemblies was evident in the efficiency of the entire operation.



The Lovettsville Summer Farmers' Market will be set up behind the Bistro on the adjacent parking lot of dentist Dr. Carroll Johnston. In addition to local farmers who will be onsite, it will offer the same goods featured the previous day at the Saturday Leesburg farmers' market.

According to Cooperative Chairman Pamela Baldwin, "This will be a ramping up effort toward a bricks and mortar establishment that we will eventually have. It will showcase the types of goods we will sell at the Cooperative."

The market plans to offer produce, meats, and other goods from at least six farmers from the Lovettsville area, as well as some others, she reports.

Chef Lige stressed the importance of having local purveyors. "Of every dollar spent here, 40 cents goes back into the local community. A farmers' market is a great economic multiplier," he said.

Market Table Bistro owners Lige and Dudley have led the way in providing gourmet dishes using local providers. They visit each farm and note the conditions. Meats and fish are butchered and prepared at the restaurant, much of it done at a counter in the main room where diners can watch. The Bistro owners are strong partners in the development of the Lovettsville Cooperative Market.

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

Sushi ... "Tails" From the Barnyard

Buck Wheat! Buck Wheat!
Buck Wheat!

Have you ever been to my farm? Fields of Athenry Farm?

I love Sundays. No work, sitting on the patio with my family, grilling steaks, a dog bone or two and just hanging together. Hanging together always means a belly scratch – yes belly scratches – as we dogs love belly scratches not belly scratches! There is a big difference you know. Just ask a dog and he or she will tell you in the way they roll over belly up for a good old fashioned scratch.

I love Sundays because Mrs. B. loves her Sundays. Sundays are for family and rest, as the bible says and so says she – Mrs. B. The Fields of Athenry Farm family has learned not to cross Mrs. B. on this point. Don't test Mrs. B. on a Sunday, to open her shop to the public, because it is just that – a Sunday! Keep holy the Sabbath, period! And after church keep the rest of the Sabbath for family fun.

That is exactly how it is at Fields of Athenry Farm and as far as a dog goes that means real body massages because the people who love us the most dote over us as if we are part of the family – which of course we are! And let me tell you – US DOGS DO BELLY UP! Sitting around the grill on the patio we lean and smile and grin as our masters and family members chit and chat while scratching an ear, a chin, a belly – we



"... everyone of us were gathered round the farm patio playing games, grilling dinner and just talking about everything and anything when the air was broken by the shrill cry of "Buck Wheat! Buck Wheat! Buck Wheat!"

lean in and the rub'in gets even better. Now around here that's a lot of belly's to rub, let me set the scene for this particular Sunday in May. May, the month that celebrates mothers, and there are many mothers at Fields of Athenry Farm.

Clover the Bullmastiff, Nelly the Border Collie, Tiki the Chihuahua and her daughter Puka Shell. Peach, the white faced lamb, Millie, the goat, Gnarly Gander, the China Goose and the rest of the goose gang, loads of ducks, Tink, Halle, and Betty, the horses, Sadie, (Oh Sadie), the most beautiful and perfect pony ever; you will notice her from all the rest as she is very flashy, perfect and pretty; pretty is as pretty does (so she will stand out!), and turkeys strolling around the farm grounds. This is the view from the patio.

Now the Boland girls with their hair in curls as they had been to the races – horse races that is; were sitting at the tall wooden oversize table with the Paul Bunyan size chairs everyone loves to sit in. In fact, Clover the bullmastiff thinks she is queen bee sitting in one of those chairs. You should see her – with that big, big, mug of hers and that smooched up nose raised to the sun warming herself as if she owned the place!

Continued on page 30

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, "Tiki" and her daughter "Puka Shell" are Chihuahuas, "Millie" is a goat, "Sadie" is a pony, "Tink", "Halle", and "Betty" are horses, "Helmet Head" is a male Guinea fowl, "Peach" is a lamb.

Vikings Update, continued from page 27

Sport: Lacrosse – Men Viking Men Record Wins Over Potomac Falls and Heritage

– By John Steen and Tim Moore

News: Viking Varsity men squeak by Potomac Falls, 8-7, in a nail-biter on the road: The Vikings had to dig deep to overcome a 2 goal halftime deficit at Potomac Falls High School. Taking advantage of a struggling Viking offense, the Panthers extended their lead to three early in the third quarter. However, the Vikes clawed back with four goals to eventually tie the game at 6-6. Two final fourth quarter strikes put the Vikings ahead for good as the Viking defense stuffed the Potomac Falls offense late to allow just one last goal for the Panthers. Freshman John Skinner led Valley scoring with 3 goals and 1 assist, followed by senior Will Geise with 2 goals. Seniors Dylan Early and Greg Regan, and freshman Patrick Hopkins each scored a goal, and freshman Sully Warner had an assist. Freshman goalie Nick Steen started and finished the game with 6 saves. Steen's efforts were aided by a solid



defense led by seniors Lucas Clark and Donald Devine, and junior Zach Allison.

Earlier in the evening, the JV Vikes enjoyed a little more cushion in their 10-4 victory over the JV Panthers. The Vikes executed a well-balanced offensive campaign with scoring coming off of fast-break opportunities and set offense. The Viking D-poles also held the JV Panthers in check, allowing very few scoring opportunities and forcing many turnovers. Face-offs were even, and Viking points were recorded by

Continued on page 31

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Sushi, continued from page 29

What a beautiful Sunday and now we were all gathered round the farm patio playing games, grilling dinner and just talking about everything and anything when the air was broken by the shrill cry of “Buck Wheat! Buck Wheat! Buck wheat!”

Everyone turned to look as a group of Guinea Fowl raced up the long farm drive. One, two, three, four, guinea hens crying Buck Wheat!” louder and louder running as fast and as furious as their legs could carry them.

Clearly they were on a mission alerting the world that something must be amiss. Bringing up the rear was the cock with his helmet head stretched up and out chirping as he ran after his harem.

Suddenly Helmet Head stopped in his tracts as the hens kept running up the drive. He looked all around him and became very upset. We all sat watching as to what this funny looking bird would do next? Helmet Head raced back down to the barn, chirping and calling as he went. Frantic he darted here and there all around the barn yard, searching, searching ...

Mrs. B and the girls got up to go see what Helmet Head was looking for. Helmet Head suddenly went quiet. The ladies approached cautiously as they observed the cock peering curiously into some old black tires. The soft cooing sound of a mother guinea protecting her nest could be heard. The cock perched himself on top of the tires and shrieked in warning not to come any closer.

“Suddenly Helmet Head stopped in his tracts as the hens kept running up the drive. He looked all around him and became very upset. We all sat watching as to what this funny looking bird would do next? Helmet Head raced back down to the barn, chirping and calling as he went. Frantic he darted here and there all around the barn yard, searching, searching ... ”

Now, the commotion started all over again as the other guinea hens realized they had run up the long farm drive and had been left by their male escort! Buck wheat! Buck wheat! Buck wheat! and the screaming started all over again. Down jumped Helmet Head and raced back up the drive towards the rest of his flock. Mrs. B. and the girls laughed as we watched the commotion of the crazy guinea birds antics start all over again. Guineas make great watch dogs and love to eat ticks, but they can be noisy creatures. I guess we each have our thing, if you know what I mean? I’m just glad I am not a guinea bird! It’s fun on a farm. There is always something to do and plenty of entertainment, especially this time of year as all the mothers and fathers create new life. Wishing all of you mothers out there a blessed and perfect mother’s day! Come visit us here at the farm as there are lots of new babies to see!
– 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!

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

her on the topic with a focus on your concerns and not your restrictions or rules. In your discussions, I would emphasize the importance of developing sound friendships with boys first even if there’s also attraction. You seem like very involved parents, so I am sure you’ve already modeled a healthy intimate relationship for your child, and I would discuss those things with her; how you and your husband respect one another and have shared values. Perhaps you could agree to group dating initially to see how your daughter handles that. High School is also going to provide dating opportunities for her (e.g., homecoming and prom), and I would allow those moments to unfold. Look, your daughter will likely be headed off to college in a few years, and you will not be there to supervise or protect her as a young adult. This is your daughter’s time to slowly become more and more independent, and you need to let go enough for her to do that. Eventually your daughter will have her heart broken, and she will also probably make her fair share of mistakes in relationships, and she will also learn from them just like you did. It seems to me that what might be most difficult for you and your husband at this point is accepting the reality that your baby girl is growing up and is no longer a child with only childhood interests. This is understandably an anxiety producing time for you as parents, so be good to yourselves as you come to terms with adjustments that come with the territory of raising a teenager.

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, email askdr mike@BRLeader.com.

Hummingbird Moth, continued from page 1

hummingbird ... but at night? And, when I looked closer I realized it was not a bird but an insect, and probably not, I was thinking, a butterfly, as they are daytime creatures.

The only other thing I could think of was that this was some kind of moth, so I rushed home and got out my guide to moths and butterflies and sure enough, there it was, a “Hummingbird Moth.”

In the low light at the mall I couldn’t tell what color the insect was. But, from the photo in my book I could see that like many moths this insect was quite furry, but also quite colorful, with clear wings tinted with a little red and brown, a bright, emerald green back and a rust-colored “tail” that opened into a fan. (I have to say, coming from New England originally, this creature kinda looked like a little flying lobster somehow – it had a tail like a lobster!)

Later that summer I was weeding in my garden and got a full and long look at a hummingbird moth drawing nectar from a thick, blooming stand of bee balm.

Unlike butterflies which move away as soon as you approach, the hummingbird moth stayed and let me get a good look at it. And, it was also

on a very strict schedule, visiting the same place in my garden at the same time every day.

Hummingbird moths fly and move like hummingbirds, body suspended in the air with wings fly-spinning and almost invisible, traveling from flower to flower in quick spurts.

You can hear them – they hum like a hummingbird. And, they are just mesmerizing in color and movement.

Like the majority of moths and butterflies, adult hummingbird moths feed on nectar from a variety of flowers, but their larvae need more specific food plants, such as several species of honeysuckle, dogbane, or some members of the rose family such as hawthorn, cherries, and plums.

Adult hummingbird moths start moving around in early spring – in this area when the bluebells are still blooming.

But, they are most active in the situation I saw in my garden, in summer, in a mature stand of blooming bee balm. This moth also frequents phlox, honeysuckle, and verbena, and in my garden, sturdy, woody butterfly bush.

And before it becomes a flying moth?

Hummingbird moth caterpillars are fat and green and have a horn at the

end of their body. When they are fully grown, the caterpillars drop to the ground, spin a cocoon and “pupate,” partially covered in leaf litter. Leaf litter, and those dry, broken down stems we love to remove from our gardens in the spring also deprive insects like the hummingbird moth from the habitat and resources they need to move through their life cycles.

There is something about the hummingbird moth. Maybe it is the fanned tail, which when I first saw it reminded me of a lobster’s tail and brought back some memory of my youth in New England.

Maybe it is the memory I have of growing up on Long Island and helping my mom tend her flower garden. She would give me a penny for every “hickory horned devil” I pulled off the roses and other plants.

Now I understand that those worms might have grown into hummingbird moths, and my mom and I would be in that same garden cultivating flowers like bee balm and phlox and leaving leaf litter in place in the hopes we’d see the results in summer ... a hummingbird moth visiting the same place in our garden at the same time every day.



Vikings Update, continued from page 29

sophomores Conner Stift (2 goals), Myles Sullivan (2 goals), Drew Washington and Aidan Kilrain (1 goal each). The freshmen were led by Austin Moore and Darius Degree (each with 1 goal and 2 assists), followed by Mikey Shouse (2 goals) and Evan Klipple (1 assist). Jake Fournier was solid in the net recording 7 saves.

Viking Varsity men offensive output rebounds against Heritage resulting in 20-2 victory: In a Dulles District match the Loudoun Valley Vikings added to their win total as they overwhelmed the Heritage Pride on the road to increase their record to 7-2 overall and 4-1 in the district. The tempo of the game was set early when the Vikings scored 9 seconds after winning the opening face-off. The Pride got on the board in the first quarter with two well-executed plays, cutting the Valley lead to 4-2 before the vaunted Viking defense dug-in to shut the Heritage offense down the rest of the way. The Valley offense built an essentially insurmountable 15-2 halftime lead, allowing a talented Viking bench to finish the game. Valley finished with the edge in face-offs with 19 out of 26. Leading the Viking scorers were Senior Will Geise with 5 goals and 2 assists, sophomore Chase Miller with 5 goals and 1 assist, and freshman Sully Warner with 4 goals and 2 assists. Other Viking contributions came from brothers Greg Regan (senior) and Matt Regan (sophomore) with 1 goal each, senior Chris Fiedler (1 goal), Junior Zach Thomas (1 goal), freshman John Skinner (1 goal, 2 assists), and freshman Patrick Hopkins (1 goal). Senior Dylan Early and freshman Andrew Cordani each had an assist. Freshman goalie Nick Steen started the game, and was relieved by junior Jim Shanks in the second half. Each had 2 saves.

The JV Vikes were also successful against the JV Pride, winning 9-1. The JV Viking mid-field did the heavy lifting in winning face-offs and ground ball battles, setting the table for the Viking attack to get the finishing credits. As in the varsity contest, every available Viking saw playing time to contribute to the win. The D-pole starters Will Finn, Andrew Kinney, and Alex Jacobson kept the heat off goalie Jake Fournier most of the night as he recorded 2 saves. Leading the Vikings offensive performance was freshman Austin Moore (hat trick plus 2 assists) followed by sophomore Conner Stift (2 goals and 2 assists) and freshman Mikey Shouse (hat trick). Sophomore Aidan Kilrain contributed one goal and Christian Krommenhauk (junior) and Myles Sullivan (sophomore) each had one assist.

Upcoming: Viking LAX men will be busy in the upcoming week with games against George Mason, Tuscarora, and Woodgrove.

Sport: Varsity Softball Loudoun Valley Vikings Fall Short Against Dominion and Loudoun County

– By Beth Richardson

News: The Lady Vikes Varsity Softball team traveled to Sterling, VA, on April 24th to take on the Lady Dominion Titans in blustery wind and winter-like temperatures. The Vikings took an early lead, scoring 1 run in the 1st and then another in the top of the 5th, before the Titans were able to manufacture their first run in the bottom of the 5th. Then Brittanne Gasser, who had been quiet at the plate all game, hit a 3-run homer over the right center fence to put the Titans up 4 to 2. Unfortunately, the Viking

offense couldn't answer and the game ended with Dominion on top. The Viking bats were led by senior shortstop Cassandra LaFonte (2 singles), whereas junior pitcher/outfielder Sam Adams, freshman second baseman Kailey Liverman, senior catcher Cabrina LaFonte, and senior pitcher Kelsey Richardson contributed singles. Kelsey Richardson took the mound to start for the first time since her return to the team. She walked 2 batters, gave up 4 hits, and struck-out 10.

On Wednesday, April 25th, the Vikings hosted the Loudoun County Raiders in Purcellville for their second match of the season. Despite starting the game with cold bats for the first 3 innings, the Vikings battled-back and played hard the entire game. The Vikes left 8 runners stranded throughout the game but still came close to capturing their first district victory after loading the bases in the bottom of the 6th with no outs. Unfortunately, the Vikes couldn't capitalize and the Raiders eventually emerged victorious, 7-6. A defensive highlight of the game came in the top of the 5th when freshman second baseman, Kailey Liverman, shut down County's offense with a double play. Viking offensive output included: senior first baseman, Allison Pentony, and junior pitcher/outfielder, Sam Adams, each with doubles; bunts by Liverman and Adams; and singles by seniors short stop, Cassandra LaFonte, and pitcher, Kelsey Richardson. Richardson started on the mound for her 2nd game on back-to-back nights allowing 7 hits, walking 4, and striking out 5.

Upcoming: The Vikings travel to Briar Woods on May 4th.

Sport: Varsity Women's Soccer Tough Week Against the District Leaders: the Lady Varsity Vikings Drop Two at Home

– By Tim Moore

News: The Lady Vikings had a tough time matching-up with the Dominion Titans and the Dulles District current third place team took advantage to score 8 goals in a contest played at Leonard Stadium. Titan play was consistent through both halves in which Dominion exerted tremendous offensive pressure on the Viking defenses. The Vikings did manage to break through with a goal of their own late in the game coming off the foot of junior Ellie McLaughlin (25:58 in the second half) to make the final score 8-1. The Vikings' Ashley Moore (freshman) minded the goal for the match facing a barrage of 49 shots on frame, but also recording a season high 28 saves.

The end-of-week contest at Leonard Stadium featured the Vikings hosting the Dulles District current first place team, Woodgrove High School. In another game in which the Vikings played mostly on their defensive end of the field, the Wolverines only managed to find the back of the net twice; once late in the first half and again midway through the second half. Good play by the Viking's seemed to frustrate Woodgrove's efforts, as two Wolverine players received yellow cards during the match. However, the Vikings were unable to score a goal of their own despite mounting some promising attacks throughout the game. In the end, the Lady Wolverines emerged victorious, 2-0, to keep their undefeated season alive. Ashley Moore (freshman) minded the net for 80 minutes and recorded 15 saves.

Upcoming: The Vikings travel to Briar Woods on May 4th.

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